

Newsletter – November 2019

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expat-karlsruhe

Dear Expats,

November in Karlsruhe can be gray, cold and dreary. It's dark when you leave in the morning and it's dark when you return. Here are some suggestions for indoor activities:

[Opera](#) fans — many of the performances at the Badisches Staatstheater have English surtitles (marked with a British flag in the brochures).

[Music](#) fans — something is going on almost every night, either at the larger venues or in smaller clubs.

[Theater](#) fans — the new season is in full swing, but a pretty good grasp of German is needed.

[Museum](#) fans — art, natural history, transportation, digital — something for everyone. For example: *The Whole World a Bauhaus* (and many other) exhibition(s) at [ZKM](#), *Emperor and Sultan* at the [Landesmuseum](#) in the castle or *Hans Baldung Green* starting on November 30th at the [Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe](#). In addition, the [Natural History Museum](#) has its annual Open House on November 9th.

[Movie](#) fans — look in our Cinema section for information about movie theaters in Karlsruhe.

If it's really cold and miserable outside, how about a soak in a nice warm pool? Local indoor pools are listed under [Swimming](#). In addition, curative waters can be found in the baths in nearby Bad Herrenalb, Baden-Baden, Bad Bergzabern, Bad Wildbad, Gaggenau, Bad Rotenfels & Waldbronn. Some baths and saunas are textile-free (except for a towel or bathrobe). If you are uncomfortable with this, find out beforehand which baths are textile-free and during which times. Some baths & saunas have special times or days for women only — with and without bathing suits. Medicinal and wellness options are available, but you'll need an appointment. A fee is charged for bathing and additional services.

The annual Christmas markets in the region open at the end of November and are a good reason to go outdoors again! More below and in the next newsletter.

Important dates in November

October 26 - November 2 — Autumn holidays for the Karlsruhe public school system.

November 1 — All Saint's Day. Holiday in Baden-Württemberg and 4 other German states. All stores and government offices are closed.

November 11 — Martinstag (St. Martin's Day). A traditional - but not official - German holiday. Children parade through the local neighborhoods, usually with their school classes, singing and carrying homemade paper lanterns. For instance, in Durlach the parade is on November 11th starting at 17:45. Goose is often eaten — you will see many German restaurants offering goose from now until Christmas. It is also a time to eat Dambedei, a yeast dough formed like a man, sometimes with a pipe.

November 17 — Volkstrauertag (Day of Mourning) commemorates all those who died in armed conflicts or as the victims of violent oppression.

November 24 — Totensonntag (Sunday of the Dead) is a German religious holiday observed in the Protestant churches and remembers those lost in the past year.

November 28 — Thanksgiving is not celebrated in Germany. However, fresh cranberries and turkeys are available in many supermarkets and at the [food markets](#) in Karlsruhe.

Christmas can begin!

The traditional German Christmas baked goods (Stollen, Lebkuchen, etc.) have been in the supermarkets for a while already. At the end of November, the Karlsruhe Christmas Market and ice-skating rink open (**November 26**), and some weekend Advent markets take place at the end of November (See below or under [What's Up](#)).



Two opportunities to sing Christmas carols with others are:

- **November 29** — [Christmas Carol Sing-Along](#) at the [American Library](#) starting at 6:30 p.m. A family-friendly relaxed way to begin the holiday season. Sing together in English (texts provided), listen to Christmas stories and poems, do a little quiz, help decorate the library tree. Afterwards munch on cookies, drink some punch and socialize. Admission free; cookies and Christmas ornaments cheerfully accepted! Please call or stop by to sign up (0721 7 27 52).
- **December 14** — [Christmas Carol-Singing](#) at the Kleine Kirche in the middle of Karlsruhe. Organized by the German-English Friendship Society and the Protestant Church in Karlsruhe. Start at 4 p.m. Come early — it fills up fast.

Bureaucracy

November is the month to review your contracts. If you would like to terminate a contract by the end of the year, now is the time to do so as many contracts have a 4 to 8 week term of notice. Read all the fine print to determine the terms of your contract and under which circumstances you can terminate, if necessary.

This is especially relevant for car insurance which can be switched up until November 30th — your new policy will start in January 2020. It often pays to compare insurance rates. If you find a lower rate for your car and model, it also often pays to ask your insurance company if they are willing to reduce their rate.

New tourist information center

One of the most modern tourist information centers in Europe will open in November in Karlsruhe on the Marktplatz — *Schaufenster Karlsruhe*. In addition to the usual information about special events and highlights in the city, the organizers promise that it will be a place to digitally experience Karlsruhe. An interactive tour via touchscreens, video walls and surround sound await visitors as well as longtime residents. There's always something new to discover in Karlsruhe.

Winter Tires

A winter tire requirement does not exist in Germany, but it does in some other EU countries. Check before you plan your winter holidays. In Germany your vehicle must be appropriately equipped for the existing weather conditions. This means that if there is snow, sleet, ice, black ice, freezing rain, etc. you must have winter tires mounted on your vehicle - in extreme cases tire chains are required. More info [here](#).

What to do in Karlsruhe in November

Regular English-Language Events

Karlsruhe's very own [English-Speaking Meetup Group](#) (sponsored by [expat-karlsruhe.com](#)) is a way for anyone to organize events and activities. The most popular regular event is the monthly Stammtisch where you can meet nice people who speak English in a relaxed atmosphere. Start is 6:30 p.m. until around 11:30 p.m. It's a mix of young and old and all those in-between, who come and go throughout the evening. The next one is November 19th.

The [American Library](#) has regular events in English for kids and adults: **LitNite** (November 5 & 19), **Poetry, Please!** (November 26), **MovieTalk** (November 13), **Storytime for kids 3-5** (November 13), **Teen Time** (November 15 & 29) and **Storytime for kids 6 and up** (November 15 & 29).

The [Karlsruhe Toastmasters](#) meet every 1st, 3rd and 5th Monday of the month from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. to practice public speaking in English with friendly, relaxed support from speakers from around the world.



Improve your German

[Sprecht miteinander!](#) Practice your spoken German in a relaxed atmosphere. People of similar language ability form groups moderated by a native speaker volunteer. Free and no registration required. Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. at Bürgerzentrum Mühlburg Just stop by!

The IBZ (Internationales Begegnungszentrum Karlsruhe - International Meeting Center Karlsruhe) offers a number of projects to help with language and integration. A listing in English is available [here](#).

Calendar of Events

For a current listing, please look in the [What's Up](#) section of our website.

October 26 - November 3 — [offerta](#) at the Messe Karlsruhe. The largest consumer trade show in the region. Lots of hands-on things to try and taste. Admission charged.

November 1 - 11 — [Karlsruher Mess'](#) is the big temporary amusement park in the eastern part of Karlsruhe at the Messplatz on Durlacher Allee. Fun for the whole family with rides, food etc.

November 2 & 3 — [Craft Fair \(Kunsthändlermarkt\)](#) in nearby Ettlingen - in and around the castle - from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free.

November 3 - 23 — [Dance Festival \(tanz karlsruhe 2019\)](#) at various venues throughout Karlsruhe - Tempel, ZKM, Tollhaus, Staatstheater, Kinemathek. New choreographies, experimental performances, international contemporary dance etc. Well worth it!

November 7, 8, 9 and 11 — [Martinsmarkt in Durlach](#). From 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. A cozy market of hand-made goods and food in the Durlach Rathaus (city hall of the Durlach neighborhood of Karlsruhe) - entrance from the Pfinztalstrasse. Free.

November 9 — [Open House at the Natural History Museum in Karlsruhe \(Naturkundenmuseum\)](#). Take a behind-the-scenes tour and visit the labs and other parts of the museum you wouldn't normally see - or have a look at the exhibits - new exhibit of photographs of water opens on 07.11. Free admission on this day. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

November 9 — [Creative Writing Workshop](#) from 1 to 3 p.m. at the American Library. To promote the English-language short story competition "Strasbourg Write a Story 2020", Hal D'Arpini will lead a creative writing workshop. For more information and to sign up please see the website www.sxb-write-a-story.org. Please sign up in advance as the number of participants is limited!

November 15 - December 1 — [Karlsruhe Book Fair \(Karlsruher Bücherschau\)](#). Guest country is Iceland. Browse, listen to lectures and podium discussions or readings - most in German - at the Regierungspräsidium in Karlsruhe. Admission charged.

November 16 — [JuBi - Jugendbildungsmesse - Fair for Youth](#) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Around 100 organizations provide information about year abroad, work&travel, Au Pair, language-learning holidays etc. At the European School in Karlsruhe. Free.

November 16 — [Book & Bake Sale & Apollo 12 Anniversary Fest](#) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the [American Library](#). Shop till you drop at our book sale! Indulge in a cup of coffee/tea and delicious cakes and cookies. Build a spacecraft paper model - different levels of difficulty for different age groups. All are welcome!

November 17 — ["Wunder"-Kunst-und Designmarkt](#) at [Die Stadtmitte](#) in Karlsruhe from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Start your Christmas shopping early. Mulled wine, music and lots of handmade quality goods for sale.

November 19 — [Stammtisch](#) organized by the Karlsruhe English-Speaking Meet-Up group at [Vogelbräu](#) in Karlsruhe starting around 6:30 p.m.

November 26 — [Opening of the Karlsruhe Christmas Market](#).

November 29 - December 1 — [Durlach - Artvent#19](#) in the Orgelfabrik. Art and Craft. Craft and Art. More than 20 regional artists and designers sell their work on the first weekend of Advent. Free.

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Relocation Service move-in

With 15+ years of experience in the region, [Relocation Service move-in](#) can help with your move to Karlsruhe, your move from Karlsruhe and with all those day-to-day problems expats experience.

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info@expat-karlsruhe.com <http://www.ypat-karlsruhe.com>