

Newsletter – September 2018

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Dear Expats,

This is a free English-language monthly newsletter from expat-karlsruhe.com. Feel free to pass it along. Full versions (with working links) of the current and past newsletters can be found on our website. Please contact us if you have any suggestions, questions or comments or if we are missing any events you think might be interesting &/or useful to the expat community.

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Summer and the extreme heat seem to be over and we can all breathe a bit easier. With September normal life returns after the summer holidays.

For those new to the area – Welcome! If you have any questions about life in Karlsruhe, please drop us a line and we will try to help you. This offer goes out to long-time Karlsruhe expats as well.

The schools are still closed through September 9th and the major summer construction plans for the inner city should be completed by then. However, a big area of construction is in and around Mendelsohn Platz. A car tunnel is being constructed and the disruption to tram service in this area is expected to last until at least the middle of November. Automobile traffic is also affected.

If you haven't been to the [Schlosslichtspiele](#) yet this summer, you still have time until September 9th. Well worth it! Tip: If you are driving, the parking lot underneath the castle costs €1 for the evening if you park after 6 p.m. on weeknights or after 5 p.m. on weekends.

Wine and Beer

The [Bier Börse \(Beer Market\)](#) is in the Schlossgarten of Karlsruhe from August 31 to September 2. Around 60 stands with over 500 different beers to try, from local to global.

For expensive beer, try the Oktoberfest! The event, which started out as a harvest festival, begins at the end of September and runs through the beginning of October. The two largest festivals are in [Munich](#) (September 22 – October 7) and Stuttgart (September 28 – October 14). In Stuttgart, the event is called the [Canstatter Wasen](#). Both have an amusement park and fun for the whole family. Because of heightened security measures, you may no longer bring backpacks into these venues. Travel light.

Karlsruhe will be hosting its 6th Oktoberfest at the Karlsruhe Messplatz (Durlacher Allee) on Sept 28th & 29th as well as Oct 2nd, 5th and 6th. You **must reserve** in advance [here](#).

Many Karlsruhe bars and breweries will also be celebrating — but on a smaller scale.

The wine season in the region is beginning with the main grape harvesting starting in the middle of September, although perhaps earlier this year. Because of the hot dry summer, the prognosis is lots of wine of good to very good quality. Keep an eye out for larger and smaller wine festivals in the area such as:

[Oechselfest](#) in nearby Pforzheim from August 24th to September 9th

[Wine Fest in the Durlach](#) section of Karlsruhe on September 15th and 16th.

Lots of wine festivals in the Palatinate (Pfalz) – [a list of festivals is available here](#).

Attention Mushroom lovers

August through October — Many wild mushrooms can be found in the area, especially in the Black Forest. However, some are poisonous! Take advantage of the free mushroom "help desk." Mondays



from 5 pm to 7 pm in the back of the Natural History Museum ([Naturkundenmuseum](#)) at the side entrance of the Pavilion in the Nymphengarten.

New laws and changes in September

If you are planning on buying a **new** car, your [German car tax](#) may be higher than you anticipated. The tax is based on how much fuel the car uses and how much exhaust is emitted. A different standard, the Worldwide Harmonized Light-Duty Vehicles Test Procedure, is being implemented starting on September 1st, which should more accurately measure vehicle performance under real use conditions. This change only affects new vehicles.

Halogen lamps with an energy efficiency value of C or worse are no longer allowed to be produced. This is an EU law. Some exceptions apply, for instance lamps for automobiles.

What to do in Karlsruhe in September

Regular English-language Events

Karlsruhe's very own [English-Speaking Meetup Group](#) (sponsored by expat-karlsruhe.com.) is an informal platform allowing for the organization of events, activities and adventures — a hike in the Black Forest, dancing in a club or hanging out with Mom's and kids are a few examples. The most popular regular event is the monthly German-English Stammtisch where you can practice your English or German and meet nice people in a relaxed atmosphere. Start is 6:30 p.m. until around 9:30 ish. It's a mix of young and old and all those in-between, who come and go throughout the evening.

The [American Library](#) has regular events in English for kids and adults: **LitNite** (Sept. 4 & 18), **Poetry, Please!** (Sept. 25), **MovieTalk** (Sept. 12), **Storytime for kids 3-5** (Sept. 12 & 26), **Teen Time** (new event!)(Sept. 28) and **Storytime for kids 6 and up** (Sept. 14 & 28).

The [Karlsruhe Toastmasters](#) meet every 1st, 3rd and 5th Monday of the month at 7:15 p.m. to practice public speaking in English.

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. Just stop by!

Bürgerzentrum Mühlburg (BZM)

Hardtstr. 37 A/2 76185 Karlsruhe

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

Calendar of Events

August 24 - September 9 — [Oechslefest](#) in nearby Pforzheim. A 17-day celebration of local wine with over 200 wines in 30 booths. Oechsle is a scale to measure the ripeness and sugar content of grapes for wine-making. This festival celebrates Mr. Oechsle, who lived and died in Pforzheim. Open to the public.

August 31 - September 2 — [Bier Börse \(Beer Market\)](#) in the Schlossgarten of Karlsruhe. 60 stands with over 500 different beers to try, from local to global.

September 1 & 2 — [Opening of Open Codes II. The World as a Field of Data](#) at [ZKM](#). Part I of this popular project showcased the many different types of code. Part II explores the world driven by data.

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Workshops, performances, discussions as well as a party! Everyone is welcome to explore this educational experiment!

September 6 — [Loose Lips Storytelling](#) at KOHI-Kulturraum from 8 to 10 p.m. Want to tell your story? Or listen to others? It's not a contest. The story must be true and should take about 5 to 10 minutes to tell. The topic is ENDINGS. In English.

September 7 & 8 — [Südlcihe Waldstraße Fest](#). The part of Waldstraße between Stephanplatz and Sophienstraße is celebrating. Music and food. Most of the shops have special events or deals.

September 7 - 9 — [3rd Foodtruck Convention Karlsruhe](#) around the Karl-Friedrich statue in front of the castle.

September 8 — [Elephant'ß Castle at Kronenplatz](#). The covered area, also known as the elephant hall, will be removed in the Fall. Before that happens, celebrate with Die Anstoß - music and more, just not mainstream. From 1 to 11 p.m.

September 9 — [Open House: Historical Monuments \(Tag des offenen Denkmals\)](#). This German-wide event allows you to peek into buildings sometimes otherwise closed to the public. The theme this year is roughly translated "Discover what unites us" (Entdecke was uns verbindet). Over 60 venues in Karlsruhe with more in the surrounding towns. Most information and tours in German. Musical events in some venues. Free.

September 11 — [English-speakin Stammtisch](#). A [Stammtisch](#) is very German thing. It's a good way to speak in English and meet people. Organized by the [English-Speaking Meet-Up Group](#). This time at [Vogelbräu](#) in Karlsruhe starting around 6:30 p.m. People come and go.

September 15 — [Theater Festival \(Theaterfest\)](#) from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Badisches Staatstheater to welcome in the new theater season. Behind-the-scenes tours, costume auction, open rehearsals, events for kids and more!

September 16 — [Westwind](#) at Gutenbergplatz. Music, activities for kids and more. Noon to 10 p.m.

September 23 — [Baden Marathon](#) (registration ends on Sept 9). Most categories start at the Europahalle and end at the Carl-Kaufmann-Stadion. Cheer on the runners in the largest local marathon. Be prepared for temporary street closings &/or rerouting of public transportation.

September 29 — [Arts and Crafts market](#) at Stephanplatz - around 100 booths of handmade goods. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

October 3 — **Day of German Unity (Tag der Deutschen Einheit)** is a national public holiday. All stores and public institutions are closed. Many museums and restaurants are open.

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. Look [here](#) for more information about the services offered.

If you enjoyed this newsletter, please pass it on!

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