

Independent Traveler Infos # 11 TGAC

Local public events – a special tip for independent travelers: Germany's calendar is loaded with annual fairs, festivals, concerts and parties and most of them don't cost a penny. In early spring Carnival is celebrated with great enthusiasm. It is a time of elaborate street parades, masks, balls and official madness, and generally takes place seven weeks before Easter. Towns famous for their Carnival celebrations include Aachen, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Mainz, Munich and Münster. Germany's summer brings with it a whole host of fun events. Fall is when Germany's most famous event and the world's largest beer festivals take place. Every year, the Theresienwiese fairground in Munich is transformed into a city of beer tents, amusements, rides and kiosks selling snacks and sweets for the world-famous Oktoberfest. Around the same time in the second half of October, the „Day of the Regions“ takes place with countless food and harvest related festivities focusing on local handcrafts and seasonal local culinary specialties. Beer and Wine Festivals are only two examples. These events culminate at the first weekend of October – the official harvest festival date for the German equivalent of Thanksgiving. Late in November or early in December, hundreds of Christmas Markets open their doors throughout Germany. Every year people from all over the world come to visit colorful stalls which sell mulled wine, arts and crafts, grilled sausages, gingerbread and much more. There are no entrance fees and you'll be able to enjoy free Christmas concerts and find very reasonable priced handmade items and traditional Christmas decorations to take home. Germany is also famous for its colorful local town and theme festivals where local and international artisans and craftsmen show the making of their artistic and traditional products at a market setting. You can find „Onion Market“ (Zwiebelmarkt), „Pottery Market“ (Toepfermarkt) and „Wickerwork Market“ (Korbflechter Markt) as well as festivities celebrating famous inhabitants such as Martin Luther, Johann Sebastian Bach as examples. Another insider's tip are the countless open air summer concerts for little or no money in churches, abbeys, palaces, garden and parks. A special highlight are the numerous romantic „Castle Nights“ with live classical music, performing arts, fireworks and culinary delights. Take the time to search the websites of local tourism information for event calendars – or take advantage of TGAC's Individual Trip Planning Service for your unique tour. With our small group tours we always search for local public events and implement them in our flexible itineraries.

http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/Individual_Traveler_Info.html

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