



Marxell Hof along the Rhine river, March 2024 – more info below

Dear Expats,

Spring is the time for moving from indoor to outdoor activities. Cafes have already opened up their outdoor spaces; the lines are (sometimes) long at the ice cream parlors; the beautiful magnolias and other flowering trees are bringing color to the local landscape – or have already lost their blooms after a heavy wind. A sure sign of spring in Karlsruhe is that the trains through the palace gardens are running again, the gondolettas in the Karlsruhe Zoo are ready for guests and water is flowing in many of the public fountains.

Remember to change your clocks on **March 31st!**

Easter

Easter decorations, Easter bunnies and chocolate. Many Germans decorate real eggs – some are hollowed out and hung as decorations while others are hard boiled to be eaten on Easter Sunday. Easter egg hunts are popular for smaller children. If the weather is nice, a trip to the zoo can be fun – there's a new polar bear! If the weather isn't great, many of Karlsruhe's museums are open – [Natural History Museum](#) (Fr, Sa, Su and Mo from 10 am to 6 pm), [ZKM](#) (Sa, Su, and Mo from 11 am to 6 pm), [Badisches Landesmuseum \(Palace\)](#) (Fr, Sa, Su and Mo from 10 am to 6 pm), [Städtische Galerie](#) (Sa, Su and Mo from 11 am to 6 pm).

March 23 — April 6 — Easter holidays for the Karlsruhe school system.

March 29 — Good Friday (Karfreitag) is a national holiday in Germany. All stores and government offices are closed. Some museums are open. Fish is traditionally eaten on this day — pick yours up from the grocery store on Thursday or make reservations at your favorite fish restaurant.

March 29 - April 1 — If you purchase and validate a [Day Ticket](#) on the local public transportation system on March 30th, the ticket is valid through April 1st, i.e., pay for one day, travel for four days! You can also validate the ticket on March 30th or 31st or April 1st and it will be valid through April 1st. It's a good way to see the region for cheap. Be aware that holiday schedules are in effect, so the frequency of the trams and trains is reduced.

March 31 — Easter Sunday (Ostersonntag).

April 1 — Easter Monday (Ostermontag) is a national holiday in Germany. All stores and government offices are closed. Some museums are open, even though it is a Monday.

Note: All grocery stores are closed on Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1, so be sure to get your shopping done on Thursday, March 28 or Saturday, March 30.

Strikes

- **Lufthansa** — As of this writing, the ground crew has reached an agreement.
- **ver.di and public transportation** — Slowly but surely negotiators are reaching a consensus. During negotiations, usually no strikes take place.
- **Deutsche Bahn** — As of this writing, the strike is over!

What to do in Karlsruhe in April

Regular English Language Events

Karlsruhe's **English-Speaking Meetup Group** (sponsored by [Relocation Service move-in](#)) is a means 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 pm until around 10:00 pm. The **April Stammtisch** is on **Tuesday, April 9th** at Gaststätte Alte Post in the Rüppurr neighborhood of Karlsruhe – closest tram stop is Dammerstock. Other popular events are hiking and jazz concerts. Anyone can participate or organize, but it helps the organizers if you sign up first – and remove your name if you can no longer attend!

The **American Library** has regular events in English for kids and adults.

For adults: LitNight (April 2 & 16), New(s) Views (April 9), Poetry?Please! (April 23).

For kids and teens: Storytime in English for Kids 3 to 5 (April 10 @2pm and April 24 @4 pm), Stories for Kids 6 & up (April 12 & 26), TeenTime (April 12 & 26).

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

Calendar of Events

If you have an event you would like advertised, please let us know a few days before the end of the month (info@expat-ka.com). Keep in mind that it should be something of general interest or specifically of interest to an English-speaking community.

March 8 – May 26 — **Lily Greenham: An Art of Living** at the Badischer Kunstverein. Artist, author, composer, sound poetry, lingual music, op, kinetic and computer art.

March 30 – April 7 — **Frühlingsfest der Schausteller** (Spring Fair) at the Messplatz Karlsruhe (Durlacher Allee 66). Temporary amusement park with rides, food, music, and stuff to buy. Fun for the whole family. Open daily from 2 to 11 pm (Sundays from noon to 11 pm).

April 9 — **Stammtisch** organized by the English-Speaking Meet-Up group. This time at Gaststätte Alte Post in the Rüppurr neighborhood of Karlsruhe from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

April 10 — **MovieTalk Reloaded** at the [American Library](#). Watch a movie together with other cinéastes (in English with English subtitles) followed by a discussion in English. Start is 6:30 pm.

April 10 - 14 — **23. Independent Days International Filmfest (IDIF)** at the Schauburg movie theater.

April 11 – 14 — **French market** in front of the Ettlingen castle parallel to the Champagne Fest (see below). Five stands selling pastries, cheese and more.

April 12 - 14 — **Champagne Fest** in nearby Ettlingen in the castle (Schlossgartenhalle). Seven wineries from Epernay (partner city) are represented. Entry fee charged.

April 20 — **Book and Bake Sale** at the [American Library](#). Gently used books and yummy homemade cakes for sale! Great atmosphere. 10 am to 2 pm.

April 23 — **German Beer Day (Tag des deutschen Bieres)**. Beer is a part of German culture – more than 1300 breweries produce over 5000 different beers! Head to your nearest beer garden (weather permitting) and have a taste.

April 23 — International Day of the Book (Welttag des Buches) sponsored by UNESCO. Visit your local bookstore or [library](#) and pick up a good book! Reading is healthy.

April 27 – 28 — Fest der Sinne in the inner part of the city and Durlach. Music, street artists, special markets. Sunday shopping from 1 to 6 pm.

April 30 — Tanz in den Mai (Dance into May). Dance til you drop at various venues throughout the city. The following day is a holiday! In other parts of Germany, this is Walpurgis Night also known as Witches Night and is celebrated on the Brocken in the Harz Mountains.

May 1 — Maifeiertag (International Worker's Day). Official public holiday in all of Germany.

[Hofgut Maxau](#) (photo above)

If you are looking for an Easter outing, consider Hofgut Maxau, at the very edge of Karlsruhe near the Rhine river. Parking is available. The S-Bahn stop (Marxau) is about a 10-15 minute walk away. Take a leisurely walk around the nearby Knielinger See (about 7 km) or just sit on the dam and watch the boats pass by along the Rhine. A playground for kids and a number of eating opportunities round out the day – especially if the weather is good. Check the website for opening times. This is a working organic farm and a lot of the food in the restaurants comes directly from the farm. The land is owned by the City of Karlsruhe and used to be an island (set of islands) before Johann Gottfried Tulla (a Karlsruhe native) straightened out the Rhine river. The Rhine river used to meander within a floodplain. With each flood, the path of the river changed and often threatened villages along its path. As the river is also a border river, it was of interest to keep this border constant. Also there was a desire to reduce stagnant waters which brought illnesses, and to increase arable land. Between 1817 and 1879, the Rhine river was straightened between Basel and Bingen – one of the first avulsions took place in Knielingen where this Hofgut lies. Nearby residents were not happy because they feared a loss of their fishing areas. As a result of the “straightening”, the Rhine river is shorter (81 km), in some areas the ground water sunk, with the increase in the river gradient and the water flow, a greater risk of flooding was seen in the towns downstream, and many of the natural landscapes of the area were forever lost. The middle of the Rhine river is now the border – on the other side of the river from Hofgut Maxau is the Rhineland-Palatinate (Rheinland-Pfalz).

Want to improve your German?

[Sprecht miteinander! Speak with each other!](#)

Practice your spoken German in a relaxed atmosphere. People of similar language ability form groups moderated by a volunteer. Free and no registration required. Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Bürgerzentrum Mühlburg (BZM) Weinbrennerstr. 79a 76185 Karlsruhe
Just stop by!

The [IBZ](#) offers practice in speaking German via Skype on Mondays and in person on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. More info [here](#).

Relocation Service move-in

With more than 20 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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