



The Krautkopf Brunnen at Gutenbergplatz in the Weststadt of Karlsruhe

Dear Expats,

The meteorological spring starts on March 1st, while the astronomical spring doesn't start until March 20th (at 4:06 am to be exact). As the days get warmer, be sure to take a stroll through the Botanical Gardens (part of the Schlossgarten) to see the first blooms. Especially lovely is the sea of blue flowers (Blaustern – Spring squill) underneath some of the older trees. It's hard to miss because that's where everyone will be taking photographs.

Ready for outdoor swimming? The Sonnenbad opens for the season on March 15th. Expect water temperatures between 25 and 28°C. Fee charged. Info in German [here](#).

Remember to change your clocks on **March 31st!** "Spring forward, fall back."

Important Dates in March

March 8 — International Women's Day.

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 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** — Various groups of workers at Lufthansa are striking, thinking about striking, planning on striking including: technical staff, pilots, ground crew, etc. In some (but not all) cases, it means a severe reduction of flights.
- **ver.di and public transportation** — If there are strikes in Karlsruhe, the Trams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 17 and 18 and S2, NL1, NL2 are **not running**. Most, but not all busses, are **not running**. The trains S1, S11, S12, S4, S5, S51, S52, S6, S7, S71, S8 und S81 are **running as usual**. To see if your scheduled train/tram is running, you can check [here](#).
- **Deutsche Bahn** — As of this writing, no new strikes are planned, but negotiations are not going well, so expect disruption in service.

Other news

- Some of you may have noticed problems with trash pick-up within Karlsruhe. As of January 1, recyclable pick-up has been outsourced, and is no longer done by the City of Karlsruhe. The residents should not have seen any changes in service. However, trash was left standing and info flyers were distributed offering services at extra cost. Negotiations are underway to resolve the issues.

Registering for Secondary Schools (Karlsruhe)

If your child will be starting 5th grade in the fall, now is the time to register at the secondary school of choice – Werkrealschule, Realschule, Gemeinschaftsschule or Gymnasium. The dates to sign up are **March 5th through March 8th**. Information from the city of Karlsruhe in German is available [here](#) and [here](#), specifically which documents are necessary, where the schools are located, etc. More general information about the German education system can be found on our website [here](#).

What to do in Karlsruhe in March 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 **March Stammtisch** is on **Tuesday, March 12th** at Erste Fracht Braugasthaus across from the main train station in Karlsruhe (see below). 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 (March 5 & 19), New(s) Views (March 12), Poetry?Please! (March 26).

For kids and teens: Storytime in English for Kids 3 to 5 (March 13 @2pm and March 27 @4 pm), Stories for Kids 6 & up (March 8 and 22), TeenTime (March 8 and 22).

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 2 — Flea market at Stephanplatz (behind the Post Gallerie) from 8 am to 4 pm.

March 9 — Open House at the [European School in Karlsruhe](#) from 9:30 am to 2 pm.

March 10 - 24 — International Weeks Against Racism Karlsruhe (Internationale Wochen gegen Rassismus). Over 80% of those living in Karlsruhe were not born here and one fourth have non-German roots. Take a moment to think about stereotypes, prejudices, latent and blatant racism and how to prevent discrimination. Most of the events (lectures, discussions) are in German.

March 12 — Stammtisch organized by the English-Speaking Meet-Up group. This time at Erste Fracht Braugasthaus across from the main train station in Karlsruhe from 6:30 to 10 pm.

March 14 – 16 — Easter Market in Durlach from 10 am to 7 pm in the Rathausgewölbe. More than two dozen crafty people selling Easter and spring decorations.

March 14 — After Work Party — Isle of Coding at [ZKM](#) from 5 to 10 pm.

March 15 — April 14 — The Cage. An outdoor installation. At Friedrichsplatz in Karlsruhe as part of the International Weeks Against Racism.

March 17 — St. Patrick's Day. Head out to your favorite Irish Pub and wear some green.

March 17 — St. Patrick's Day Parade. A Karlsruhe tradition. The year the parade starts around 4-ish, which could mean sometime between 3:30 and 4:30 pm. This time the route goes from [Scruffy's Irish Pub](#) to [Linden's Irish Pub](#). Live music. Join in the fun!

March 23 — Tea Time at the American Library starting at 2:15 pm. Tea, scones; poetry & short stories read aloud. The event is free but sign-up is required by March 17. 0721 7 27 52.

Gutenbergplatz

On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, this area is teeming with people enjoying the open-air market: fruit, veggies, flowers, French pastries, Italian breads, fine cheeses, fish, meat, etc. Saturdays are especially busy with over 40 stands selling goods. For a list of all the outdoor food markets in Karlsruhe, look [here](#). On that page is also a list of when which fruits and vegetables are in season (in German). Look under *Saisonkalender für Obst und Gemüse*. On the other days, the open space is a parking lot, but the area around the Krautkopf- und Pelikanbrunnen (Cabbage head and pelican fountain) is free of cars. In the summer the area around the fountain is covered with tables and chairs from the nearby cafes and restaurants. The area was laid out between 1900 and 1904. The fountain used to be much larger and grander, but various pools were filled in in the 1960s. The pelican, which is now standing alone, but was once part of the larger ensemble, was once meant as a drinking fountain – and still is! Usually in June, the Lindenblütenfest takes place in the square with live music and other fun activities.

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](#) also 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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