

# travel*tips*

GNTB international press service for Destination Germany

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## Film and TV in Germany

Hollywood comes to Saxon Switzerland: The Elbe Sandstone Massif provides an impressive backdrop for many famous feature films and TV movies. Its rugged, rocky crags put in an Oscar-winning performance in 'The Reader', starring Kate Winslet, and director Quentin Tarantino shot parts of his World War II drama 'Inglourious Basterds' in Saxony. The bizarre rock formations and castles that characterise Saxon Switzerland attract around 30 film crews every year from all over the world, who come in search of original locations.

[www.saechsischeschweiz.de](http://www.saechsischeschweiz.de)

Films have been made in Potsdam for almost 100 years. Whilst Studio Babelsberg celebrates its centenary next year, Potsdam is hosting a number of events this year under its 'city of film' banner. Studio Babelsberg has produced classics such as Fritz Lang's 'Metropolis' and, more recently, Roman Polanski's 'The Ghost' and Roland Emmerich's 'Anonymous'. At Babelsberg Film Park, visitors can explore cinematic history on original sets and get close to the action at the daredevil stunt show. But Potsdam has much more to offer than just film history. All the city's cultural attractions belong to a UNESCO World Heritage site, so there's lots to see and do.

[www.filmjahr.potsdam.de](http://www.filmjahr.potsdam.de), [www.filmpark-babelsberg.de](http://www.filmpark-babelsberg.de)

Many people associate Munich with the Hofbräuhaus beer hall, but the Bavarian capital has also produced a number of famous films. Among them is the cinematic classic 'Das Boot' by Wolfgang Petersen, who enjoyed international success with his epic U-boat drama. The adventures of Asterix and Obelix were also shot in Munich. The Bavaria Filmstadt studios brought the comic heroes to life with Gérard Depardieu in the starring role. But it's not only stars who come and go in the studios. Visitors too can peek behind the scenes on guided tours or watch an amazing show at the futuristic 4D cinema. The Bavaria Filmstadt studios are open daily.

[www.filmstadt.de](http://www.filmstadt.de)

As a media centre, the city of Mainz is quite unique. Indeed it was here on the Rhine that mass media first began. Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in Mainz, and the city is home to ZDF – one of the largest TV broadcasting companies in Europe. The television studios occupy an impressive position upon Lerchenberg hill, high above the city and its 1,000-year-old cathedral. It's well worth the climb, as ZDF offers free tours of the studios. On Mondays, visitors can even watch a live broadcast.

[www.zdf.de](http://www.zdf.de)

## Health & Wellness in 2011 – thermal baths

### Healing minerals in the Spree Forest

There is no need to wait for the colder months to visit one of Germany's thermal baths. The minerals contained in the water have a therapeutic and soothing effect. Salts, for example, are deposited in underground layers, before being returned to the surface by thermal springs in the form of natural brine. These salts are particularly beneficial for the treatment of rheumatic conditions. The Spree Forest, between Dresden and Berlin, has saline spring waters which feature iodine as their primary mineral. In the Spree Forest town of Burg in southern Brandenburg, the thermal waters well up from a depth of 1,300 metres and contain almost as many minerals as the Dead Sea. These high mineral contents, in particular of iodine, means the curative treatments are particularly effective for skin and vascular complaints. The thermal waters can also help psychosomatic problems. Burg, which recently became a state-approved health resort, offers a fine programme of cultural entertainment and is situated at the heart of a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

#### Information

Touristeninformation im Haus des Gartens  
Am Hafen 6  
03096 Burg (Spreewald)  
Tel.: +49 (0)35603 750 160  
info@burg-spreewald-tourismus.de  
www.burg-spreewald-tourismus.de

### Health and lifestyle in Baden-Baden

Germany, the birthplace of both Sebastian Kneipp and Emanuel Felke, has a strong tradition of alternative health treatments. These harness the benefits of everything from thermal springs and sea water to 'health mines' and mud. Thermal springs of varying temperatures can be used for a number of therapies, including bathing, inhalation and drinking cures. Germany has 350 quality-certified spa resorts, many with a long and distinguished history. The thermal springs in Baden-Baden were discovered 2,000 years ago by the Romans. Baden-Baden, on the edge of the Black Forest, became the 'summer capital' of Europe in the 19th century. The healing powers of its twelve thermal springs were enjoyed by monarchs, aristocrats and artists, as well as ordinary people. Much of the town's charm still emanates from the buildings and monuments of this era. The Kurhaus, the music pavilion and the public thermal baths all date from this period. The thermal waters in Baden-Baden contain high levels of sodium chloride, which makes them ideally suited to the treatment of heart and circulatory problems, rheumatism and joint complaints. Metabolic and respiratory disorders can also be alleviated using the town's waters. Baden-Baden has developed from a traditional spa resort into a modern destination that combines luxury, lifestyle and shopping with health treatments and wellness.

#### Information

Baden-Baden Kur & Tourismus  
Solmsstrasse 1  
76530 Baden-Baden  
Tel.: +49 (0)7221 275 266  
bbt@baden-baden.com  
www.baden-baden.com

### Bad Füssing – healing waters from oil drilling

It was pure coincidence that the thermal waters in Bavarian Bad Füssing were even discovered at all. The drilling undertaken in 1938 was expected to yield oil, but instead brought 56°C spring water gushing to the surface. The town started running the spa facilities in the 1950s. In 1969, the town of Füssing was finally granted the additional title 'Bad' in recognition of its resort status. After waking from its slumber, Bad Füssing grew in fame and popularity and now records more than three million overnight stays a year. It's the composition of the water, which gushes from a depth of 1,000 metres, that makes it so beneficial. This includes a special kind of sulphur that is especially effective for joint complaints.

#### Information

Kur- & Gäste-Service Bad Füssing  
Rathausstrasse 8  
94072 Bad Füssing  
Tel.: +49 (0)8531 975 580  
tourismus@badfuessing.de  
www.badfuessing.de

### Stunning surroundings in Bad Driburg

Bad Driburg in North Rhine-Westphalia is Germany's only private spa resort. Situated in the Teutoburg Forest, it can proudly look back on 225 years of history as a mud and mineral spa resort. People come to Bad Driburg to avail themselves of the sulphurous mud and carbonated mineral springs. This mud can be used to treat rheumatism and conditions affecting the joints and spine. The town and surrounding region have received several awards. In 2008, Bad Driburg was named the number 1 spa resort in North Rhine-Westphalia. Walkers, meanwhile, can look forward to the Eggweg – a premium trail that bears the Wanderbares Deutschland quality seal.

#### Information

Bad Driburger Touristik  
Lange Strasse 140  
33014 Bad Driburg  
Tel.: +49 (0)5253 98940  
info@bad-driburg.de  
www.bad-driburg.de

### Healing waters and live music in Bad Homburg

Although the skyline of Frankfurt is still visible from Bad Homburg, the quality of the air is another thing altogether. It was once hailed by an English countess as 'champagne air'. Bad Homburg was formerly the spa resort of the Electors and boasts six cold, carbonated saline springs, a saline spring and two chalybeate springs. The spring waters in Hessen are especially suitable for drinking and are useful in alleviating stomach and intestinal problems and metabolic disorders. For the past 100 years, visitors have gathered in the town's spa gardens to take the waters or attend a concert.

#### Information

Kur- und Kongress-Gesellschaft  
Postfach 1845  
61288 Bad Homburg v. d. Höhe  
Tel.: +49 (0)6172 178 3710  
tourist-info@kuk.bad-homburg.de  
www.bad-homburg.de

## 125th anniversary of the motor car

### The world's first car is in Munich

Carl Benz revolutionised the world of transport on 29 January 1886. That was the day on which the Imperial Patent Office granted a patent for his 'vehicle operated by a gas engine' – and the rest is industrial history. His three-wheeled vehicle was the first car to have a roadworthy internal combustion engine. The car could achieve a maximum speed of 18 kilometres per hour with its 0.8 horsepower engine. At first, Carl Benz was ridiculed by the public who laughingly referred to the vehicle as a 'horseless carriage'. In his own lifetime, Carl Benz donated it to the German Museum in Munich, where it can still be seen today. This patented car forms the centrepiece of an exhibition in honour of Carl Benz and his invention that opens on 28 January. It features Benz's achievement, the technology used in his car, the early history of the Benz company and the development of the automobile before 1900. The alternatives to the internal combustion engine, such as the steam-driven and electrically powered vehicles that were developed at the time, can also be seen.

#### Information

German Museum Transport Centre  
Theresienhöhe 14a  
80339 Munich  
Tel.: +49 (0)89 500 806 762  
verkehrszenrum@deutsches-museum.de  
www.deutsches-museum.de/  
verkehrszenrum

### Coach-built classics in Bremen

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the car, and the Bremen Classic Motor Show gets into gear for 2011 with a whole fleet of classic cars. The automotive market has not always been dominated by well-known production models, so this special show is entirely dedicated to coach-built German cars that were produced in small numbers. One of these classic cars, a 1938 2.5l Adler Autobahn, is the show's defining image. At a time when most cars were little more than square boxes, Berlin-based carmaker Ambi-Budd introduced a model created for the new fast autobahns that utilised the theory of aerodynamics. A special exhibition of German motorcycles with bought-in engines will also appeal to motor bike fans. German motorcycles have always been victorious on the racing circuit but robust enough for everyday use. The Sachs, J.A.P. and ILO engines that mechanics retro-fitted were key to their success. The trade fair also offers visitors the opportunity to buy certified classic cars. These modern classics date from the 1960s to the 1990s and are maintained in their original condition. The Bremen Classic Motor Show attracts 550 exhibitors from eleven countries and over 36,000 visitors. It runs from 4 to 6 February and is open from 9am to 6pm each day.

#### Information

WFB Wirtschaftsförderung Bremen  
Geschäftsbereich Messe Bremen  
Findorffstrasse 101  
28215 Bremen  
Tel.: +49 (0)421 350 5525  
info@classicmotorshow.de  
www.classicmotorshow.de

### Off-roading in Rostock

In 2011, the theme of the 18th Auto Trend show is 'Walk in – drive out'. The show at the HanseMesse exhibition centre will feature a wide range of brands from compact cars to luxury models. The outdoor, off-road track attracts large numbers of car fans keen to put their driving skills to the test and to try out different makes of all-terrain vehicle. On 27 March, the circuit for modified cars will see drivers of souped-up vehicles compete for the 'Tuning Cup' for the seventh time. Auto Trend also features vans, motor cycles and racing accessories. There are childcare facilities and a model car exhibition that will appeal to children, as well as road safety promotions for kids. Auto Trend 2011 is open from 10am to 6pm on 25, 26 and 27 March.

#### Information

HanseMesse Rostock  
Zur HanseMesse 1-2  
18106 Rostock  
Tel.: +49 (0)381 440 0609  
r.harms@hansemesse.de  
www.hansemesse-rostock.de

### Classics old and new in Stuttgart

Alfredo Ferrari, known as 'Dino', developed V6 engines until his death in 1956. To preserve his memory, his father, Enzo Ferrari, named all models with a V6 engine 'Dino' and only selected dealers were authorised to sell these special cars. A specialist exhibition at Retro Classics Stuttgart in Baden-Württemberg gives visitors the opportunity to experience rare vehicles such as these. This will be the trade fair's eleventh year. Its themed exhibition halls occupy an area of 100,000 square metres and feature famous names as well as lesser known classic cars. Each of the eight halls highlights a different aspect, such as pre-war vehicles, modern classics and racing cars. Retro Classics Stuttgart runs from 11 to 13 March.

#### Information

Stuttgart Trade Fair Centre  
Messeplazza 1  
70629 Stuttgart  
Tel.: +49 (0)711 185 600  
info@messe-stuttgart.de  
www.messe-stuttgart.de

### Aston Martin at Oldenburg Motor Show

Oldenburg Motor Show in Lower Saxony features much more just the region's car dealers showing the latest models from major producers. Visitors to the Weser-Ems Hall can also feast their eyes on Dodge, Aston Martin and Lamborghini vehicles. The exhibition provides a good overview of the international car market and the organisers are expecting more than 10,000 visitors. Exhibitors include car dealerships, the media and motor sports clubs. The show is open on 26 and 27 March from 10am to 6pm.

#### Information

E & M Marketing  
Markt 23  
26122 Oldenburg  
Tel.: +49 (0)441 205 090  
info@em-marketing.de  
www.automesse-oldenburg.de

## 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Liszt

### Musical life lines

Franz Liszt has been called a citizen of the world, a visionary and even a revolutionary. His unconventional lifestyle also took him to Weimar where he spent the most productive time of his artistic life. As a conductor, Liszt brought the works of controversial composers such as Berlioz, Wagner and Cornelius to the stage in Weimar which transformed the town into a European centre for classical music. Young musicians flocked to the city to seek inspiration and to share in the spirit of optimism that Weimar still preserves to the present day. Three of the most famous classical composers, Liszt, Bach and Wagner, lived and worked in Weimar and many concerts and festivals feature their works today. The Staatskapelle Weimar orchestra opens Thuringia's year-long celebration of Liszt with a special concert entitled 'Lebenslinien' (life lines) featuring works by Liszt, Strauss and Wagner. The performance begins at 7.30pm on 16 February in the main hall of the Weimarahalle congress centre.

#### Information

Thuringia State Theatre  
Theaterplatz 2  
99423 Weimar  
Tel.: +49 (0)3643 755 334  
presse@nationaltheater-weimar.de  
www.nationaltheater-weimar.de

### Prelude with music and words by Brendel

Alfred Brendel is one of the 20th century's leading pianists. He is a virtuoso interpreter of Liszt's works and he always focuses on the intellectual side of each piece. Brendel is multi-talented: even while he was studying music he also turned his mind to painting, literature and philosophical texts. He first put in a word for composers in essays about Franz Liszt in 1961. Fifty years later, the title of the event to launch 2011 as Franz Liszt year is 'Prelude with Brendel'. The pianist is to be awarded the Franz Liszt Prize at a ceremony at the Liszt School of Music on 16 February, the same day that he delivers the address at 'Lebenslinien', the Liszt year's inaugural concert. He will be in attendance as patron of the Franz Liszt Competition for young pianists at the Belvedere Palace School of Music on 20 February. Finally, he is to give two readings on his distinctive style of piano playing in the main hall of Weimar's Fürstenhaus building. The theme of the first, on 18 February, is 'The nature of music', while his second reading on 19 February is entitled 'Light and shadows in interpretation'.

#### Information

Tourist Information Thüringern  
Willy-Brandt-Platz 1  
99084 Erfurt  
Tel.: +49 (0)361 3742 218/219  
pressestelle@thueringen-tourismus.de  
www.liszt-2011.de  
www.thueringen-tourismus.de

### Liszt's later life in pictures

Franz Liszt enjoyed success all over Europe as a composer and piano virtuoso although his achievements as a conductor and court director of music in Weimar brought him fame. These episodes in his life are well documented but little is known about the 25 years he spent in Rome and Tivoli between 1861 and 1886. During this time, he turned to Catholicism which had become his guiding emotion. Ernst Burger's picture exhibition is the first to illustrate Liszt's later work in Rome and Tivoli at a time when he was composing unusual, experimental pieces that remain striking in the world of music to this day. They combine Romanticism with the Second Viennese School and thus link two very different eras. Burger portrays this period in Liszt's life in pictures, some of which were previously unpublished. An image of 19th century Rome emerges that exerted a strong influence on his late works. Burger will present his book 'Franz Liszt. The years in Rome and Tivoli' in the banquet hall of Stadtschloss Palace in Weimar on 17 February.

#### Information

Weimar Classics Foundation  
Markt 10  
99423 Weimar  
Tel.: +49 (0)3643 545 400  
info@klassik-stiftung.de  
www.klassik-stiftung.de

### Celebratory music at Liszt School of Music

In 1835, Franz Liszt himself came up with the idea of establishing Germany's first orchestra school, which he wanted to call the 'Advanced School of Music'. However it was not until 37 years later that his pupil, Carl Müllerhantung established the Liszt School of Music in Weimar. At first, it was limited to teaching orchestral instruments but soon voice, opera, drama and composition were added. To mark the 200th anniversary of his birth, internationally acclaimed young musicians are dedicating an academic ceremony to Franz Liszt. It takes place on 16 February in the school's concert hall on Am Palais street.

#### Information

Liszt School of Music  
Platz der Demokratie 2 + 3  
99423 Weimar  
Tel.: +49 (0)3643 555 159  
presse@hfm-weimar.de  
www.hfm-weimar.de

### Gottschalg, Liszt's 'legendary' cantor

Franz Liszt worked with his close friend and cantor, Alexander Wilhelm Gottschalg, for thirty years, so the 200th anniversary of Liszt's birth merits a special exhibition about Gottschalg who was the court organist and organ music reviewer. Liszt often sought his advice about compositions for the organ and entrusted him with making fair copies of his works and having them printed. Gottschalg reviewed Liszt's compositions in specialist organ music journals for which Liszt showed his gratitude by dedicating three organ pieces to his close confidant, whom he called his 'legendary cantor'. This exhibition in Luther's House, Eisenach, runs from 20 January to 20 March.

#### Information

Luther's House and Bible Café  
Lutherplatz 8  
99817 Eisenach  
Tel.: +49 (0)3691 29830  
www.lutherhaus-eisenach.de

## Film festivals in 2011

### The world of cinema at the Berlinale

With 300,000 visitors, 400 films and a roll-call of stars and starlets, the Berlinale has a global reputation for combining cinematic art and glamour. It is one of the major European film festivals and attracts international celebrities to Berlin. Pop icon Madonna has announced that she will be presenting her new film project ‚W.E.‘ at this year’s festival. Films of all genres, lengths and formats will be playing in the 14 festival cinemas across Germany’s capital city. The festival is divided into a variety of categories: major international movies will feature in the ‚Competition‘ category, independent and arthouse films in the ‚Panorama‘ category, and children’s films in the ‚Generation‘ category. German films will be shown in the ‚German Cinema Perspective‘ category, while experimental films will be in the ‚Forum‘ and ‚Berlinale Shorts‘ categories. The ‚Retrospective‘ category is dedicated to a famous cinematic personality. This year it’s the Swedish legend Ingmar Bergman. The competition for the coveted golden bear is undoubtedly the focal point of the film festival, and this year two German films are in the running. The traditional gala evening at the Berlinale Palace on 10 February marks the opening of the festival and we expect to see a whole host of movie stars on the red carpet. The festival ends on 20 February.

#### Information

Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin  
Potsdamer Strasse 5  
10785 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 2592 0707  
press@berlinale.de  
www.berlinale.de

### Oberhausen International Short Film Festival

Short films are a multi-faceted expression of art, a source of innovation and an experiment. They can take the form of a feature, a documentary or a cartoon and are able to capture a non-cinema-going audience through DVDs, the internet and at festivals. Roman Polanski and Star Wars director George Lucas started their careers with short films and they presented their first works at the international film festival in Oberhausen. This year’s festival will be held from 5 to 10 May. Organisers are expecting around 18,000 visitors to converge on the new home of the festival at the ‚Druckluft‘ youth and arts centre in Oberhausen. The primary objective of this year’s festival is to bring artistic movies to a wider audience of young people. Around 500 shorts will be presented at more than 100 showings. The theme for this year’s festival is ‚Cinema and animals‘. The perspectives range from Konrad Lorenz’s drive theory to Pavlov’s reflex theory and behaviourism. In a series of art films, movie-makers from Joseph Beuys to Oleg Kulik examine the relationship between man and beast.

#### Information

Oberhausen International Short Film Festival  
Grillroststrasse 34  
46045 Oberhausen  
Tel.: +49 (0)208 825 2652  
info@kurzfilmtage.de  
www.kurzfilmtage.de

### DOK.fest Munich: chronicles of our time

Documentaries show genuine people and events, without a script and without acting. The very first moving pictures were, by definition, documentaries. They showed exactly what was happening at that moment in time. Individual scenes from real life were projected directly onto the big screen. Munich’s DOK.fest looks at the main documentaries of the previous year, examines the work of film-makers and supports projects in ‚low production‘ countries. Last year, 12,000 people watched 72 films at multiplexes and arthouse cinemas in the heart of Munich. Organisers of this year’s festival, which takes place from 4 to 11 May, are hoping to build on this success.

#### Information

Internationales Dokumentarfilmfestival  
München  
Landwehrstrasse 79  
80336 Munich  
Tel.: +49 (0)89 5139 9788  
info@dokfest-muenchen.de  
www.dokfest-muenchen.de

### Movies, made in the capital Berlin

The film festival entitled ‚achtung berlin – new berlin film award‘ is dedicated entirely to local films. It showcases around 80 movies that have been wholly or partially produced in Berlin or the surrounding Brandenburg region. The festival includes a number of premieres and there are always some productions that have enjoyed international success. The films come from all genres, including documentaries, dramas and thrillers. Fifty films compete for the ‚new berlin film‘ award in various categories of the ‚Made in Berlin-Brandenburg‘ section. This year, the popular ‚HeimatDokumente‘ series includes a section entitled ‚HeimatFilme‘. The ‚achtung berlin‘ festival will take place at various venues in Berlin from 13 to 20 April.

#### Information

New Berlin Film Award  
Veteranenstrasse 21  
10119 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 263 969 813  
kerstin.altrock@limelight-pr.de  
www.achtungberlin.de

### Behind the scenes at the Munich Film Festival

The Munich Film Festival has been captivating audiences with feature films, documentaries and short films since 1983. During this time, more than 1.3 million people have visited the festival and watched a total of 4,000 films. The VIP section will be open to the public for the first time this year. This is a great opportunity for cinema-goers to take a look behind the scenes and to get to know the film-makers in person. The festival runs from 24 June to 2 July.

#### Information

Internationale Münchner Filmwochen  
Sonnenstrasse 21  
80331 Munich  
Tel.: +49 (0)89 3819 0430  
presse@filmfest-muenchen.de  
www.filmfest-muenchen.de

## News and dates

### Walking without backpacks along the Moselle

Hiking without the hassle along the Moselle Hills Trail as your luggage is transferred to your next destination. The latest holiday brochures from Moselland Tourism are packed with great holiday ideas such as this. Travelling on foot from Trier to Zell in a week is just one possibility that is available to book from 1 May onwards. And anyone who finds that a little too daunting can opt for the three-day version. Alternatively, why not explore the vineyards and countryside by bike? In its latest brochure for the 2011 season, Moselland Tourism has put together more than 70 packages on the themes of wine, city breaks, wellness, walking and culture. The 'Holidays in the Moselle Region' and 'Cycling in the Moselle Region' brochures are available free of charge.

**Information**

Moselland Tourism  
Kordelweg 1  
54470 Bernkastel-Kues  
Tel.: +49 (0)6531 97330  
info@mosellandtouristik.de  
www.mosellandtouristik.de

### Museum of Agfa Film History in Wolfen

Amateur photographers have been using Agfa films for decades to take their holiday snaps and family photos. Founded in 1873 as a company making photographic chemicals, Agfa is an acronym of the original German name 'Aktiengesellschaft für Anilinfabrikation'. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Agfa established its film manufacturing plant in Wolfen, eastern Germany. The factory remains in a good state of preservation today, but it has been transformed into a museum. Guided tours not only reveal the history of Agfa, but give visitors an insight into the entire history of German camera production. The museum is a treasure trove with more than 800 items of photographic equipment. The exhibition on the industrial history of the region documents the transformation of the region from rural landscape to industrial hub.

**Information**

Industry and Film Museum  
Bunsenstrasse 4  
06766 Bitterfeld-Wolfen  
Tel.: +49 (0)3494 636 446  
info@ifm-wolfen.de  
www.ifm-wolfen.de

### Free app for finding youth hostels

There is now an iPhone app that provides all the important information about the German Youth Hostel Association's 550 establishments throughout Germany. Known as the 'DJH Reiseführer', it can be downloaded free of charge from Apple's App Store. The iPhone app not only allows you to search the entire network of youth hostels in Germany, with details about the facilities on offer, but also provides information on places of interest in the vicinity of the hostels and directions on how to get there. The application incorporates a variety of maps and many helpful checklists for organising group trips or individual travel plans. The youth hostel app also has suggestions for games and a multitude of other hints and tips.

**Information**

German Youth Hostel Association  
Leonardo-da-Vinci-Weg 1  
32760 Detmold  
Tel.: +49 (0)5231 99360  
service@djh.de  
www.jugendherberge.de

#### 30 January

Music and food for thought. Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra explores new territory with its Sunday concerts, combining classical hits with the worldly wisdoms of Christian Ehling.

**Information**

www.dticket.de

#### 9 February

Baroque love arias with mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kozena and the Cologne Philharmonic Orchestra, presenting melodies for all music lovers under the enigmatic theme of 'The beauty of sighing'.

**Information**

www.koelner-philharmonie.de

#### until 20 February

Joan Miró exhibition in Nürtingen's Kreuzkirche church. Featuring more than 100 original prints by the famous Spanish surrealist, including some rare pieces from the 1930s.

**Information**

www.nuertingen.de

#### 20 February

The 'Arschleder Sledding World Championship' in Sehmatal is a very unusual competition, originally invented by Erzgebirge miners. Competitors slide down a snow-covered slope on the seat of their pants.

**Information**

www.sehmatal.de

#### 4 February to 26 June

Frankfurt's Liebieghaus Museum is staging an exhibition of baroque ivory sculptures. These majestic pieces once adorned the Viennese court and were crafted by the most famous ivory sculptors.

**Information**

www.liebieghaus.de

#### 26 February and 26 March

Night-time tour of Stuttgart. This guided tour of the city includes the biggest Pig Museum in the world with over 40,000 exhibits. And, of course, pork is on the menu.

**Information**

www.stuttgart-tourist.de