

Events in Northern Germany 2026

Schleswig-Holstein

Date: 21/02/2026

„Biikebrennen“

This north frisian custom was recently recognised as an example of German cultural heritage. Countless bonfires blaze along the North Sea coast of Schleswig-Holstein to drive away the winter spirits.

Link: <https://www.nordseetourismus.de/biikebrennen-nordsee>

Date: 14/03-15/03/2026

Crocus Blossom Festival in Husum

When the Schlossgarten in Husum transforms into a sea of blossoms each year, the town celebrates in style for two days. Highlights include the crowning of the Crocus-Blossom Majesty and a Sunday with shops open especially for the occasion.

Link: <https://www.husum-tourismus.de/Vor-Ort/Veranstaltungen-Events/Krokusbluetenfest>

Date: 02/05/2026

World Fish Sandwich Day

Because the people of Schleswig-Holstein love this famous delicacy so much, they have dedicated a whole day to it — the World Fish-Roll Day. On this day at the Baltic Sea coast of Schleswig-Holstein, the fish roll is celebrated with a maritime supporting programme.

Link: <https://www.ostsee-schleswig-holstein.de/entdecken/essen-und-trinken/fischbroetchen>

Date: 14/05-17/05/2026

Flensburg Rum regatta

Once a year, Flensburg visits the Caribbean – when the “historic commercial vessels with sails” meet in the Museumshafen and recall the old tradition of maritime trade with harbour festivals and regattas. There will be many opportunities for joint celebrations for all guests, whether on land or water, with live music and selected delicacies in the port and on the ships.

Link: <https://www.flensburger-foerde.de/en/events/events/FLE/49719f47-1479-4235-abc2-23faa5eb39d0/flensburger-rumregatta>

Date: 25-28/06/2026

JazzBaltica

JazzBaltica is one of the most famous jazz festivals in the world. Every year in June, world-famous jazz musicians and up-and-coming talents play and offer an unforgettable experience. Several thousand listeners flock to Timmendorfer Strand year after year to enjoy the concerts by the sea, which is overseen by Swedish trombonist and singer Nils Landgren as artistic director.

Link: <https://jazzbaltica.com/startseite>

Date: 20/06-28/06/2026

Kiel Week

It is the largest sailing event in the world and, with around 3 million guests every year, the largest summer festival in northern Europe - Kiel Week. Around 2,000 events from the fields of entertainment, culture, science, politics, business and sport merge for nine days to create a unique experience. During Kiel Week, the world's elite and recreational sailors compete in sailing regattas and engage in exciting races. Visitors can book accompanying trips to the windjammer parade, sailing trips on traditional sailing ships and regatta accompanying trips and be there up close.

Link: <https://www.kieler-woche.de/index.php>

Date: 04/07/-30/08/2026

Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival

Founded in 1986, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival (SHMF) is one of the largest regional festivals in the world. It takes place in Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg, as well as in parts of Denmark and Lower Saxony. The focus is on classical music, but other genres such as pop, jazz, theatre, electro, klezmer, comedy, readings and others are also performed. Next summer, the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival will focus on the Swedish city of Stockholm, considered one of the most exciting music cities in the world—shaped equally by classical tradition and globally successful pop culture.

Link: <https://www.shmf.de/de/stadt2026>

Date: 24/07 – 23/08/2026

“Flensburger Hofkultur”

Flensburger Hofkultur is a special annual summer festival, that transforms the historic merchants' and craftsmen's courtyards into a stage during these summer weeks. Musicians and bands come from all over the world to make summer in Flensburg a very special experience.

Link: <https://www.flensburger-foerde.de/en/events/events/FLE/22a19d95-cbc1-4007-9a56-a21b4d3ac793/flensburger-hofkultur>

Date: 27/08-06/09/2026

NORDEN – The Nordic Arts Festival

In Schleswig, on the idyllic beach of the Baltic Sea fjord Schlei, an open-air festival has been taking place in late summer since 2018 that is unique in Northern Europe due to its design, its cross-genre, topical cultural programme and its family and sustainable orientation. With a view of the Schlei, the site is embedded in the park landscape of the Königswiesen. The NORDEN offers a creative and exciting cross-section of current pop music, street theatre, literature, DIY courses, film and sporting activities for culture enthusiasts, families and students at small prices.

Link: <https://www.norden-festival.com/en/Home>

Date: 29/07-01/08/2026

Wacken Open Air

Every year on the first weekend in August, the world changes in the small community of Wacken. With its 240 hectares, it is now internationally renowned. For over 30 years, more than 85,000 people have visited the Wacken Open Air to experience one of the biggest heavy metal festivals in the world, with more than 150 artists performing on the festival's nine stages. **Link: <https://www.wacken.com/en/>**

Date: 09/09/ – 13/09/2026

20 years of Green Screen Film Festival

The GREEN SCREEN International Nature Film Festival is the most popular festival for nature documentaries in Europe and an important international industry meeting place for professionals. Every year, thousands of nature-loving film lovers watch the best films from all over the world at GREEN SCREEN. A diverse youth programme rounds off the festival days in September.

Link: <https://www.greenscreen-festival.de/en/>

Date: 06/06 – 04/10/2026

NordArt, Schleswig-Holstein

Hardly any art exhibition shows modern Nordic art in such a special atmosphere as NordArt in Büdelsdorf. Since 1999, Nordic works of art have been presented in large production halls on an old industrial site. In the meantime, it has become the largest art fair in Northern Europe. The purist industrial design and the imaginative art become a cultural experience for art lovers.

Link: <https://www.nordart.de/en/>

Date: 05/08 – 05/10/2026

Baltic Soul Weekender

The legendary soul festival returned to Weissenhäuser Strand in 2018. Soul music, as the name suggests, is music for the soul. It makes people happy. All over the world. The Baltic Soul Weekender offers a music festival with a unique line-up on five separate indoor dance floors in an incomparable location.

Link: <https://www.weissenhaeuserstrand.de/en/events/festivals/baltic-soul-weekender>

Date: 12/08/-16/08/2026

Husum Harbour Days

Join the festive waves of Husum! For five lively days around the harbour, the biggest maritime folk-festival on Schleswig-Holstein's North Sea coast shines with live music, participatory fun, culinary treats and an open-for-business Sunday — the perfect outing tip for your North Sea holiday.

Link: <https://www.husum-tourismus.de/Vor-Ort/Veranstaltungen-Events/Husumer-Hafentage> (DE)

Date: 22/09/-27/09/2026

„Dithmarscher Kohltage“

The cabbage harvest in Europe's largest contiguous cabbagegrowing region is celebrated with the „Dithmarscher Kohltage“ or „Cabbage Days“. They are packed with entertainment, games and fun. A classic North German autumn festival.

Link: <https://www.echt-dithmarschen.de/en/typically-dithmarschen/dithmarscher-kohltage>

Date: 17/10-18/10/2026

Husum Crab Days

A special festival has been dedicated to the North Sea crab in Husum: The „Husumer Krabbentage“ (Crab Days). Simply on a bread roll or straight from the cutter – this



weekend at the maritime Husum Harbour Mile at the North Sea, everything will revolve around this popular delicacy.

Link: <https://www.husum-tourismus.de/Vor-Ort/Veranstaltungen-Events/Husumer-Krabbentage> (DE)

Date: End of September – End of November

See of lights along the Baltic Sea

To welcome the cold winds, the towns of the Baltic coast are bathed in a sea of lights. Experience stunning illuminations, torchlight walks and exciting fire shows.

Link: <https://www.ostsee-schleswig-holstein.de/entdecken/winterschoen/winterevents/lichtermeer#/lichtermeer/events/list>

Date: From September – March, every year

Schleswig-Holstein Gourmet Festival

Trend-setting guest chefs from all over Europe cook up a variety of gourmet cuisine at various events and locations in Schleswig-Holstein. First-class products and exciting cooking techniques presented in authentic restaurants and hotels run by hosts with a lot of passion. A visit to SHGF is definitely worthwhile.

Link: <https://www.gourmetfestival.de/> (DE)

Date: End of November - 31/12/2026

Christmas Markets in Schleswig-Holstein

The true north is always worth a visit - especially at the end of November and in December, Schleswig-Holstein is unique. Because everywhere - in the countryside and in the cities - sparkling Christmas markets open their doors. It smells of pine cradles, roasted almonds and mulled wine. Festively decorated stalls with beautiful handicrafts offer countless gift ideas for Christmas. With Christmas music in your ears and cheerful people around you, the pre-Christmas season by the sea is a real joy!

Link: <https://www.sh-tourismus.de/en/christmas-and-new-years-eve>

Date: 01/01 – 31/12/2026

Regional events in Schleswig-Holstein

Throughout the year, Schleswig-Holstein delights locals and guests with small, fine events. Whether culinary regional specialties at the Husum Crab Days or Dithmarsch Cabbage Days, torch-lit walks or festivals of light, events that celebrate nature, such as the Crocus Blossom Festival in Husum or the Garden Romance in Mölln. Anyone on holiday here will find something very special at any time of year.

Link: <https://www.sh-tourismus.de/en/holidays-in-schleswig-holstein/events>

Lübeck

Date: until 13/04/2026

“The Nobel Laureate Next Door: Günter Grass and Lübeck” at Günter Grass-Haus

The Günter Grass-Haus explores the special connection between Grass and Lübeck. The exhibition focuses on themes of origin, home, and belonging, presenting him as an artist, neighbour, and human being. Original drawings, watercolours, manuscripts, as well as audio and film stations offer personal insights into his life – from departures to arrivals. Interactive elements invite visitors to reflect on their own sense of home and share personal memories.

Link: grass-haus.de/grass-und-luebeck

Date: 2. – 10/05/2026

34th Brahms Festival

Johannes Brahms is one of the outstanding composers of the 19th century. His music continues to fascinate to this day. The Brahms Festival of the Lübeck University of Music (MHL) is unique in the German-speaking university landscape. Since 1992, lecturers and students of the MHL have annually presented symphonic and chamber music at the highest artistic level. The 34th edition in 2026 takes place under the motto “Freedom”, with around 250 lecturers and students exploring this theme in concerts and formats throughout the festival.

Link: www.mh-luebeck.de/en/events/brahms-festival

Date: 5. – 7/06/2026

HanseKulturFestival

Every two years, a district in Lübeck's old town is transformed into a colourful festival venue for the HanseKulturFestival! In 2026, the festival will take place in the traditional seafaring quarter. The district is transformed into an authentic experience and a lively stage full of music, cabaret, acrobatics and regional delicacies. Become part of the local community, dance in the streets, let yourself be enchanted and discover the real Lübeck through the people who live here!

Link: www.visit-luebeck.com/culture/hansekulturfestival

Date: 7/06/2026

UNESCO World Heritage Day

UNESCO World Heritage Day is an annual event held on the first Sunday in June. It aims to raise awareness of the importance of cultural and natural heritage. Under the motto “Together for Peace and Understanding”, Germany's 55 World Heritage sites invite visitors to explore a wide range of activities and special programmes. Numerous sites open their doors, offering guided tours, exhibitions, and interactive experiences that provide a fascinating look behind the scenes and show what makes them so unique.

Link: www.unesco-welterbetag.de/en

Date: 12. – 14/06/2026

SUPERKUNSTFESTIVAL

Germany's largest inclusive cultural festival will transport you into a true cultural frenzy! National and international artists from the worlds of music, art, theatre, film and circus will thrill audiences on six stages with around 80 shows. People with and without disabilities will come together to create this special event. Under the motto ‘Music against racism’,

diversity, creativity and togetherness will be celebrated.

Link: www.superkunstfestival.de

Date: 19. – 21/06/2026

Church Music Festival of the North Church

The Church Music Festival invites you to an inspiring weekend celebrating the diversity of Protestant church music. Choirs, brass bands and bands from the North Church will perform together in Lübeck's historic churches, the University of Music and other venues. Visitors are welcome to sing along, enjoy concerts and soak up the special atmosphere.

Link: kirchenmusikfest2026.de/was

Date: 17. – 26/07/2026

Travemünde Sailing Week

One of the largest sailing events in the world, with over 2,000 sailors from 20 nations taking part. Every year, almost a million visitors come to enjoy both the maritime sailing event and a great supporting programme on land.

Link: www.travemuender-woche.com/en

Date: 29/08/2026

Lübeck Museum Night

With just one ticket, the whole world of Lübeck's museums, galleries and cultural institutions opens up. A diverse accompanying programme runs through Lübeck's UNESCO Old Town. Streets, alleys and courtyards come to life and are transformed into a stage for around 100 atmospheric events.

Link: die-luebecker-museen.de

Date: 3. - 6/09/2026

TraveJazz Festival 2025

This live music event is all about jazz, funk and soul. Well-known artists, as well as bands with a special relation to Lübeck perform all over the city.

Link: www.travejazz.de

Date: 17. – 19/09/2026

Magic of lights

When the summer by the sea slowly comes to an end, a very special kind of magic unfolds in Travemünde. The Festival of 1,000 Lights enchants Travemünde with sparkling lights in Godewind Park.

Link: www.visit-travemuende.com/events/magic-of-lights

Date: 4. – 08/11/2026

Nordic Film Days Lübeck

The film industry from Northern and Eastern Europe gathers in Lübeck every year to present their latest movies, documentaries, and short films. However, guests don't just come to watch but also to actively participate - a festival for the audience awaits with discussions, seminars, and round-table talks!

Link: www.nordische-filmtage.de/en

Date: 23/11 – 30/12/2026

Lübeck Christmas Market

As the “Christmas City of the North”, Lübeck invites you to a pre-Christmas visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The glow of the festive Christmas lights and the Christmas decorations in the old town streets create an atmospheric flair over the Hanseatic city.

Link: www.visit-luebeck.com/culture/christmas-city-of-the-north

Date: 23/11 – 23/12/2026

Historical Christmas Market

In the churchyard of St. Mary's, you can go on a journey back in time to the Middle Ages. All kinds of craftsmen present themselves here, showing off long-forgotten skills and offering their wares for sale. In the evenings, it gets particularly cozy: candles and countless red poinsettias bathe the square in a magical light.

Link: www.visit-luebeck.com/culture/christmas-city-of-the-north/christmas-markets/historical-christmas-market

Date: 24/11 – 14/12/2026

Indoor Craft Market at St. Peter's

Every day artisans from northern Germany present their work in the historic ambience of St. Petri Church, which was built around 800 years ago. The selection of handicrafts offers high-quality gift ideas for Christmas and invites you to take a relaxed stroll through the magnificent church space with the lovingly designed artisan stalls.

Link: www.visit-luebeck.com/culture/christmas-city-of-the-north/christmas-markets/craft-market-in-st-peters-church

Date: 29/11 – 6/12/2026

Craft Market in the Hospital of the Holy Spirit

In the church hall, in the living quarters that were inhabited until the 1970s, and in the cellar vault of the medieval hospital from the 12th century, around 150 artisans from Germany, Scandinavia, Great Britain and the Baltic States demonstrate the variety of new and old craft techniques.

Link: www.frau-und-kultur.de/weihnachtsmarkt.html

Hamburg

Date: 18/04/2026

The Long Night of Museums

During the Long Night of Museums, culture enthusiasts can discover over 50 exhibitions and special programmes in Hamburg with just one ticket. In addition to guided tours, workshops and a children's programme, events in various languages ensure an unforgettable experience.

Link: <https://www.hamburg-travel.com/see-explore/events/long-night-of-the-museums/>

Date: 08/05/2026 – 10/05/2026

837. Hamburg Port Anniversary

Every year, Hamburg's Port Anniversary opens with a grand entry parade. When tugboats dance ballet on the Elbe, this is the only place in the world where you can experience it. Watching ships from the inside and outside at the "Open Ship" event makes many a light sailor dream of the seven seas. Along the colourful harbour mile, you can enjoy music and culinary delights, from typical fish sandwiches to delicious cocktails.

Link: <https://www.hamburg-travel.com/see-explore/events/hamburg-port-anniversary>

Date: 05/06/2026 – 22/09/2026

Art exhibition: Triennial of Photography Hamburg

The Triennial of Photography Hamburg is an international festival held every three years in collaboration with leading museums and cultural institutions. What makes it distinctive is the citywide program of exhibitions under a unifying theme alongside an extensive symposium with talks, lectures, portfolio reviews, and a conference.

Link: <https://www.hamburg-travel.com/see-explore/events/events-calendar/triennale-der-photographie-2026-1/#c29535187>, <https://phototriennale.de/en/>

Date: 10/07/2026 – 11/07/2026

Elbjazz

ELBJAZZ presents live jazz across Hamburg's harbour, with open-air stages and special concerts in the Elbphilharmonie. What makes it unique is the mix of maritime backdrops and concert hall settings across more than 30 acts, including international headliners.

Link: <https://www.hamburg-travel.com/see-explore/events/elbjazz/>

Date: 01/08/2026

Christopher Street Day

Every year, the colourful and diverse HAMBURG PRIDE demonstration marches through Hamburg's city centre. It is the highlight of PRIDE WEEK and a spectacular parade with more than 15,000 participants that attracts thousands of people along the route. The event concludes with the annual CSD street festival on Jungfernstieg and Ballindamm along the Binnenalster.

Link: <https://www.hamburg-travel.com/see-explore/events/christopher-street-day>



Date: 16/09/2026 – 19/09/2026

Reeperbahn Festival

The Reeperbahn Festival is Europe's largest club festival and platform for international pop culture. For four days in September, the Reeperbahn becomes a meeting place for artists, audiences and the industry.

Link: <https://www.hamburg-travel.com/see-explore/events/reeperbahn-festival>

Date: 20/03/2026 – 19/04/2026, 24/07/2026 – 30/08/2026, 06/11/2026 – 06/12/2026

Spring DOM, Summer DOM, Winter DOM - Folk festival with tradition

The Hamburg DOM takes place three times a year, in spring, summer and winter! It is considered the largest public festival in the north and attracts millions of visitors. Over 200 showmen offer attractions, rollercoasters and nostalgic rides for the whole family on the 1.6 kilometre-long DOM mile.

Link: <https://www.hamburg-travel.com/see-explore/events/hamburger-dom>

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**Date: 13/03/2026–22/03/2026****Festspielfrühling Rügen**

From 21 to 30 March 2025, the “Festspielfrühling Rügen”, initiated by Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, will usher in the 2026 season on Germany’s largest island with a musical programme. Artistic direction will be provided by Festspiel Prizewinner and violist Timothy Ridout. A total of 23 events will take place across the island, including spa, chamber, and orchestral concerts at exceptional venues such as the Badehaus Goor, the Sellin Pier, and the Kurhaus in the seaside resort of Binz.

Link: www.festspiele-mv.de/en/**Date: April 2026****Rügen Spring Hiking Festival**

During the 14th Rügen Spring Hiking Festival in April 2026, numerous themed tours will be offered across Germany’s largest island. Participants can go on photo safaris, join guided village tours, or explore favourite spots presented by local residents. The full programme will be published in spring 2026 at www.ruegen.de.

Link: www.ruegen.de/aktiv-und-natur/wandern/wanderfruehling (DE)**29/05/2026–30/05/2026****“Mecklenburger Seen Runde”**

On 29–30 May 2026, the twelfth edition of the “Mecklenburger Seen Runde” cycling event will take place, expecting around 5,000 cycling enthusiasts. With a 300-kilometre route for all participants via Mirow and Penzlin, and a 100-kilometre women’s route through the Feldberg Lake District, sports fans can choose between two main routes. Children can take part in the “Mini Mecklenburger Seen Runde”, offering distances from two to six kilometres depending on age.

Link: www.mecklenburger-seen-runde.de/en**14/05/2026 – 17/05/2026****Müritz Sail in Waren (Müritz), Rechlin and Röbel**

During the Ascension weekend from 14 to 17 May 2026, the 24th edition of Müritz Sail – the largest maritime folk festival in the Mecklenburg Lake District – will be celebrated in Waren (Müritz). Highlights include sailing competitions, scenic flights in a seaplane, a jet ski show, and a culinary mile. The full programme will be published in spring.

Link: www.muertzsail.eu (DE)**16/05/2026****ÖTILLÖ Swimrun Rügen**

This exceptional event format, originating in Sweden, combines running and swimming into a spectacular race set amid nature. As part of the renowned ÖTILLÖ Swimrun World Series, Rügen joins international hosts such as Sweden, England, France, Switzerland, Malta, and the USA.

Link: otilloswimrun.com/races/rugen-germany/**23/05/2026 – 25/05/2026****“KunstOffen” in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**

During the Whitsun weekend from 23 to 25 May 2026, several hundred artists between the

Baltic Sea and the Lake District will open their workshops and studios to visitors as part of the statewide event "KunstOffen", held for the 32nd time in 2026. Traditionally, artists signal their participation with a yellow umbrella or a blue-and-white flag at the entrance.

Link: www.visit-mv.com/art/plastics

29/05/2026 – 07/06/2026

Environmental Photo Festival »horizonte zingst« 2026

From 29 May to 07 June 2026, the 19th edition of the »horizonte zingst« environmental photo festival will take place in the Baltic health resort of Zingst on the Fischland-Darß-Zingst peninsula. Participants can take part in photography workshops, visit exhibitions, and attend lectures on climate change, the dangers of marine plastic pollution, and biodiversity conservation.

Link: www.horizonte-zingst.de (DE)

20/06/2026 – 21/06/2026

"MittsommerRemise – The Long Night of Nordic Manor Houses"

To celebrate the summer solstice, numerous manor houses across Mecklenburg and Vorpommern open their doors for culture enthusiasts during the "MittsommerRemise". The programme begins on 20 June 2026 in Mecklenburg, where estates can be visited from 13:00 to 21:00. On the following day, manor houses in Vorpommern welcome guests between 10:00 and 17:00.

Link: visit-mv.com/castles/midsummer-premise, www.mittsommer-remise.de

Summer 2026

"Naturklänge" Open-Air Concert Series on Fischland-Darß-Zingst

From June to September 2025, visitors can look forward to the 25th season of the "Naturklänge" open-air concert series on the Fischland-Darß-Zingst peninsula. Guests experience outdoor concerts in exceptional natural settings such as Wieck Harbour, the High Shore between Ahrenshoop and Wustrow, and the rhododendron park in Graal-Müritz. Programme details will be published in spring 2026.

Link: <https://www.fischland-darss-zingst.de/en/activities/kunst-und-kultur/theater-konzerte-festivals/konzerte-und-festivals/> (DE)

20/06/2026 – 05/09/2026

Störtebeker Festival

With the play "Likedeeleer", the 32nd season of the Störtebeker Festival will welcome visitors from 20 June to 05 September 2026 at the open-air stage in Ralswiek on the island of Rügen. Tickets are available online, by phone at +49 3838 31100, or at all known advance ticket offices.

Link: www.stoertebeker.de (DE)

28/05/2026 – 08/2026

Schwerin Castle Festival

The Schwerin Castle Festival enchants visitors every year with unforgettable open-air theatre and concert experiences. The 2026 summer programme includes the international ballet gala "Connexion #5", Brecht's classic *The Threepenny Opera*, the popular picnic concert "MeckProms", festive castle concerts for all ages, and the Low-German rock revue *Krawall in'n Hühnerstall*. Performances take place in the castle courtyard, on the open-air

stage, in the theatre tent, or at the Mueß open-air museum.

Link: www.mecklenburgisches-staatstheater.de/schlossfestspiele (DE)

From 14/06/2026

Statewide “Offene Gärten” (Open Gardens)

On the weekends of 13–14 June and 12–13 September 2026, more than 120 gardens and showgrounds will be open to visitors during the statewide “Offene Gärten” event. Guests can explore individually designed gardens and speak directly with the gardeners.

Link: www.offene-gaerten-in-mv.de (DE)

From mid-June

Festspielsommer Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

The three-month Festspielsommer Mecklenburg-Vorpommern from mid-June to mid-September 2026 brings music to manor houses, churches, palace gardens, and industrial halls from the Baltic coast to the Lake District.

Link: www.festspiele-mv.de/en/

06/09/2026–09/09/2026

35th Hanse Sail in Rostock

The Hanse Sail, the largest maritime folk festival in northeastern Germany, will attract thousands of visitors to Rostock and Warnemünde from 06 to 09 August 2026. More than 100 traditional sailing ships will sail along the Warnow River and offer the opportunity to join sailing trips. Numerous concerts, exhibitions, and markets will take place across the city. Information on public ship visits and sailing opportunities is available online or via the Hanse Sail booking office at +49 381 38129 74.

Link: www.hansesail.com, www.hansesail.com/mitsegeln

20/08/2026 – 23/08/2026

Sweden Festival in Wismar

The 25th Sweden Festival from 20 to 23 August 2026 commemorates Wismar’s 155 years under Swedish rule (1648–1903). As the largest Sweden Festival outside Scandinavia, the event fills the Old Town and the Old Harbour with stage programmes, sports events, and a historical parade.

Link: www.wismar.de

22/08/2026 – 23/08/2026

Sail GP in Sassnitz (Island of Rügen)

Since 2025, Germany has hosted a tour stop of the legendary premier class of sailing, comparable to Formula 1 on the water. With the impressive chalk coast of Rügen in the background, teams from all over the world compete against each other in state-of-the-art, lightning-fast catamarans and engage in exciting races. The race can be watched directly off the coast from XXL grandstands.

Link: tickets.sailgp.com/sassnitz/en/

09/2026 - 10/2026

Usedom Music Festival

The Usedom Music Festival, one of the region’s cultural highlights, takes place from



September to October 2026. Classical music can be heard in atmospheric churches, villas in the resort architecture style, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's largest industrial monument – the Peenemünde power plant.

Link: www.usedomer-musikfestival.de

10/2026 – 11/2026

Schlösserherbst (Castle Autumn)

A cultural highlight in autumn is the statewide Schlösserherbst series, during which numerous castle owners between the Baltic Sea and the Lake District open their doors. Planned events include guided tours, concerts, exhibitions, and theatre performances in historic settings.

Link: visit-mv.com/schloesserherbst

Bremen

Date: 27/03 – 12/04/2026

Osterwiese - Bremen's Spring Fun Fair

Every spring, Bremen's beloved Osterwiese turns the city into a colourful fairground — a two-week festival on the Bürgerweide that delights families, friends and visitors from near and far. With over 200 vendors and around 21 rides, from a giant Ferris wheel to classic carousels and thrill rides, there's fun for all ages. The aroma of roasted almonds, cotton candy, bratwurst and fish sandwiches fills the air. Expect lights, laughter, whistle-stop rides and nostalgic charm.

Link: <https://www.bremen.eu/osterwiese>

Date: 22 – 25/04/2026

jazzahead! Bremen

Since its founding in 2006, jazzahead! has become one of the key gatherings of the international jazz community. Every spring, Bremen transforms into a vibrant hotspot where artists, industry professionals, and jazz fans from around the world come together. From rising talents to established stars, the festival brings the scene together to connect, perform, and fill the city with creative energy. A must-visit for jazz lovers from everywhere.

Link: <https://www.bremen.eu/tourism/culture-and-events/top-events/jazzahead>

Date: 11 – 14/06/2026

LA STRADA Bremen

Every year in the summer, the street-art festival La Strada puts on a breath-taking show in the public spaces of Bremen. And the whole thing is free of charge. For three fun-filled days, onlookers can experience theatre, dance, and acrobatics up-close in a way seldom otherwise possible. The Marktplatz, Domshof, and Wallanlagen are transformed into performance spaces for various artists.

Link: <https://www.bremen.eu/culture-and-leisure/top-events/la-strada>

Date: 01 – 05/07/2026

Breminale

The Breminale is a five-day open-air festival on Bremen's Osterdeich, taking place every summer. The festival offers a wide-ranging programme for everyone. The programme includes live music in circus tents, art, jugglers and jesters, games for kids, as well as theatre, dance and readings. Numerous food stands sell delicious international specialities. A day out at the Breminale can easily carry on into the night.

Link: <https://www.bremen.eu/breminale>

Date: 16/08 – 05/09/2026

Musikfest, Bremen

The festival Musikfest Bremen was founded in 1989 by Prof. Thomas Albert and is since then a highlight of the cultural life every August and September in the Hanseatic city and selected venues all over north-western Germany. At the end of every summer, both up-and-coming and established stars of the classical music scene come together in Bremen and the surrounding area for the Musikfest.

Link: <https://www.bremen.eu/tourism/culture-and-events/top-events/musikfest>

Date: 16/10 – 01/11/2026

Freimarkt, Bremen

„Ischa Freimaak!“ The biggest carnival of the north attracts as many as four million happy customers every year. Over 300 carneys arrive every October with their booths, stands, and rides to ensure the fair stays rich in tradition - and rich in fun! There's plenty to explore on the fairgrounds of the Bürgerweide as well as at the "Kleinen Freimarkt" (little Freimarkt) in the city centre.

Link: <https://www.bremen.eu/tourism/culture-and-events/freimarkt>

Date: 23/11 – 23/12/2026

Bremen Christmas Market

The area around the Town Hall and the Roland statue (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) is transformed into a festive wonderland. With over 170 decorated stalls, the atmospheric Bremen Christmas Market is an ideal place for a leisurely browse. The historic setting, lovingly decorated stalls and stands, and romantic Christmas lights create a very special atmosphere.

Link: <https://www.bremen.eu/tourism/culture-and-events/christmas-markets/christmas-market>

Date: 23/11 – 23/12/2026

Schlachte-Zauber

Every year for the advent season, the Weser promenade is transformed into a magical maritime winter market: The Schlachtezauber. In cosy wooden huts delicacies from various regions await you. When the sun goes down, the Schlachte becomes bathed in a blue light. The rustic atmosphere transports visitors to a bygone time.

Link: <https://www.bremen.eu/tourism/culture-and-events/christmas-markets>

Niedersachsen

Date: 01/01/2026

New Year's Day dip in the North Sea

Traditionally on 1 January, intrepid locals and visitors take to the chilly waters of the North Sea in various coastal resorts in Niedersachsen to welcome the new year. Afterwards, hot drinks, live music, and barbecues warm up participants and spectators, making it a festive start to the year.

Link: www.niedersachsen-tourism.com/event/neujahrsschwimmen

Date: 22 – 25/01/2025

Licht Kunst Biennale EVI LICHTUNGEN in Hildesheim

Artists transform public spaces into an extraordinary light-art trail that explores current issues of social relevance. This time, the interior spaces of the St Mary's Cathedral and St Michael's Church will be highlighted through striking light installations, with façades once again becoming canvases. The main route leads through the city centre, with all visitor information and programme booklets available at the market square.

Link: www.evilightungen.de

Date: 6 – 8/03/2026

Mystica Hamelon in Hamelin

A medieval fantasy market brings to life knights in armour, medieval craftspeople, jugglers, and musicians, with myths and legends unfolding. Clad in traditional costumes, enthusiasts from across Europe make their annual pilgrimage to the town of the Pied Piper to join the festivities on the marketplace.

Link: www.hameln.de/de/veranstaltungen/mysticahamelon (DE)

Date: 22 – 26/04/2026

39th European Media Art Festival in Osnabrück

Since the 1980s, EMAF has been a key hub for international media art, bringing together artists, curators, and enthusiasts. The festival shapes the future of media art with a programme featuring experimental films, installations, performances, digital formats, and hybrid forms, offering both contemporary and historical perspectives.

Link: www.emaf.de/en/

Date: 24/04 – 03/05/2026

10th Wilhelmshaven Schweinswal-Tage porpoise festival

The southern coast of Wilhelmshaven provides the backdrop for a unique spectacle of nature: Each spring, pods of porpoises gather in Jade Bay. For seven days, boat and land excursions offer porpoise-watching, while 'porpoise criers', photo walks, nature documentaries, and presentations by researchers complete the programme.

Link: www.schweinswaltage.de (DE)

Date: 25 – 26/04/2026

Altes Land Blossom Festival in Jork

In Altes Land region, cherry trees blossom first, followed by apple trees, turning Germany's largest fruit-growing region into a pink and white fairytale. The Blossom Festival (Altländer

Blütenfest) features half-timbered buildings, traditional costumes, dances, and the highlight: the crowning of the Blossom Queen.

Link: www.urlaubsregion-altesland.de/event/altlaender-bluetenfest-in-jork (DE)

Date: 29/04 – 18/10/2026

Landesgartenschau (State Garden Show) Bad Nenndorf

In the spa town of Bad Nenndorf, located just 30 kilometres from Hanover, the 8th State Garden Show of Niedersachsen will take place across roughly 30 hectares under the motto “Where Diversity Blooms”. Visitors can look forward to a combination of impressive garden landscapes, themed gardens, nature experiences, culture and leisure activities, with more than 1,000 events held over 173 days.

Link: www.landesgartenschau-badnenndorf.de (DE)

Date: 30/04/2026

Walpurgis Night in the Harz Mountains

The Walpurgis Festival, a traditional European celebration with pre-Christian roots, dates back over a thousand years. Originally celebrated by the Harz mountain inhabitants to welcome spring by offering various sacrifices, it is now marked in over 20 towns, with Bad Grund, Braunlage, Sankt Andreasberg and others as the festival's heart.

Link: en.harzinfo.de/festivals-events/walpurgis-night

Date: 14 – 25/05/2026

Göttingen International Handel Festival

The International Handel Festival in Göttingen is the world's oldest festival of Baroque music. The concerts will take place in different locations across the town and whole region, at both covered and open-air venues, featuring well-known stars from the Baroque music scene as well as talented newcomers.

Link: www.haendel-festspiele.de/en/

Date: 16/05 – 19/09/2026

34th International Fireworks Competition in Hanover

Every year, visitors to the Fireworks Competition are mesmerised by the beautiful works of art in the sky created by the world's leading pyrotechnicians, set to atmospheric music. Germany's first fireworks competition has long since become a classic in its field.

Link: www.feuerwerk-hannover.de/en/

Date: 22/05– 7/06/2026

KunstFestSpiele in Hanover Herrenhausen

The international KunstFestSpiele is a performing arts festival featuring music theatre, concerts, theatre, performances, and installations. Over 20 productions will be presented at around 60 events in the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen and the city of Hanover, offering a diverse mix of installations, premieres, and more.

Link: kunstfestspiele.de/en/

Date: 22 – 24/05/2026

Norderney White Sands Festival

Traditionally, the Whitsun weekend marks a special date in the calendar for sports fans and party-goers on the island of Norderney. Thousands of visitors flock to the North Sea island to watch Germany's best windsurfers and beach volleyball players. At night, the festival grounds on the beach transform into a party animal's paradise.

Link: www.whitesandsfestival.de (DE)

Date: 29 – 31/05/2026

35th Emden Matjestage herring festival

The Matjestage festival in Emden celebrates over 450 years of herring fishing tradition. Boats from Germany and abroad moor in the inland port and Ratsdelft harbour basin, bringing with them a touch of maritime nostalgia. Live bands and the Matjeslauf (herring run) provide fun entertainment.

Link: www.matjestage.de/

Date: 3 – 10/06/2026

36th Emden-Norderney Film Festival

The International Film Festival by the North Sea is one of Germany's most respected, attracting industry representatives from Germany and Northwestern Europe. With 100 films shown on seven screens, the festival draws around 24,000 visitors who value the warm, personal atmosphere and the chance to see filmmakers up close.

Link: www.filmfest-empden.de/en/

Date: 7/06/2026

UNESCO World Heritage Day

Since 2005, World Heritage Day is celebrated annually in Germany on the first Sunday of June at all World Heritage Sites. In Niedersachsen, these include the Fagus Factory in Alfeld, St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Michael's Church in Hildesheim, the Rammelsberg Mines, the Upper Harz Water Management System, Goslar's Old Town, and the Wadden Sea.

Link: www.unesco-welterbetag.de/en

Date: 19 – 21/06/2026

Hurricane Festival in Scheeßel

Three days of the finest bands: around 65,000 fans are expected at this indie, rock, pop, electronic and hip-hop festival every year. International stars, German acts and emerging artists will be there to rock the four stages again this year.

Link: www.hurricane.de/en/

Date: 21/06/2026

Fête de la Musique in Hanover

The world's largest music festival is free and open to all, even in Hanover. With a variety of musical styles, anyone can join in, whether as a soloist or ensemble, spontaneously or planned. With many locations in the city centre, the festival offers a truly communal experience, Northern Germany's biggest Fête de la Musique.

Link: www.hannover.de/Kultur-Freizeit/Freizeit-Sport/Feste-Saisonales/F%C3%A4te-de-la-Musique

Date: 3 – 12/07/2026

Marksmen Festival (Hanover Schützenfest)

The command "Im Doubliertritt, Marsch!" ("In double step – march!") traditionally opens the world's longest procession of marksmen, a festival highlight since 1529. On the first Sunday, around 10,000 members of marksmen, folklore, and carnival groups march through the Old Town. Over ten days, the world's largest marksmen festival offers thrilling rides, lively marquees, Bruchmeister (ceremonial stewards), shooting skills, and Hannover's iconic Lüttje Lage – beer and a shot, served separately but drunk together!

Link: www.hannover.de/Kultur-Freizeit/Freizeit-Sport/Feste-Saisonales/Sch%C3%BCtzenfest-Hannover

Date: 3/07 – 16/08/2026

Summer festival in the Autostadt

The summer festival in the Autostadt features 20 national and international artists, creating a vibrant festival atmosphere. A lively supporting programme with workshops, play areas, and climbing towers round off the event. A special highlight is the Cool Summer Island, an offshore floating island at the harbour basin's sand terraces.

Link: www.autostadt.de/en/events/summer

Date: 16 – 19/07/2026

Deichbrand Festival at Cuxhaven Sea Airport

This popular four-day rock festival welcomes all ages, with discounted admission for children aged between eight and twelve years old accompanied by an adult. Around 60,000 fans of indie, rock, pop, electronic, and hip-hop beats are expected. A dedicated festival supermarket offers everything attendees need during the event.

Link: www.deichbrand.de/en/

Date: 22/07 – 09/08/2026

Maschsee Festival in Hanover

Niedersachsen's largest local festival offers a 19-day experience of holiday vibes and maritime flair. Visitors can enjoy international cuisine, free concerts, water sports activities, open-air dance evenings, and a fun program for children, ensuring a non-stop holiday feeling for everyone.

Link: www.maschseefest.de/en/

Date: 29/07 – 2/08/2026

Summertime @ Norderney

This music festival is held on Norderney's north beach. A festival of different genres in a maritime setting. There's something to suit every musical taste – pop, rock, party music and even classical feature every year.

Link: www.summertime-norderney.de/ (DE)

Date: 31/07 – 2/08/2026

14th International StreetArt Festival in Wilhelmshaven

The International StreetArt Festival in Wilhelmshaven transforms the city into a vibrant open-air gallery every year. International street artists create impressive graffiti, murals,

and sculptures. Visitors can watch the artwork come to life and enjoy a unique atmosphere of creativity and culture.

Link: en.streetart-wilhelmshaven.de/

Date: 5 – 9/08/2026

ConQuest of Mythodea in the grounds of the Rittergut Brokeloh manor

Since 2004, Brokeloh has hosted the ConQuest of Mythodea, a live action role-playing event. Held at Rittergut Brokeloh, a 100-hectare feudal estate 50 km west of Hanover, the event brings the mythical continent of Mythodea to life. This major event attracts around 6,000 players and 1,500 spectators every year.

Link: mythodea.de/en/

Date: 7/08 – 13/09/2026

Magic of Light in the Park of Gardens in Bad Zwischenahn

From 8 PM to midnight, the park shines in a spectrum of colours under the theme "Illumination – Magic of Light in the Park." A blend of garden light design, event lighting, and creative light objects creates a unique experience, featuring light sculptures, projections, and captivating patterns.

Link: www.park-der-gaerten.de/en/

Date: 8 – 9/08/2026

M'era Luna Festival Hildesheim

M'era Luna is a metal, gothic rock and industrial music festival in Hildesheim, attracting around 25,000 fans in quirky dress every year. Held at the Drispensstedt airbase, the festival features 40 bands, readings, a vibrant market, and the iconic Gothic Fashion Show, making it a key event in the dark music scene.

Link: meraluna.de/en/

Date: 9/08/2026

90th Duhnen mudflat racing in Cuxhaven

The world-famous horse race on the seabed, held since 1902 in the Wadden Sea off Duhnen, is one of the most spectacular events in the racing calendar. It's a unique equestrian spectacle, where racehorses and harness racers compete against the backdrop of one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Link: www.duhner-wattrennen.de/ (DE)

Date: 22/08 – 9/09/2026

Burgplatz Open Air in Brunswick

One of the highlights in Brunswick is the annual music theatre open air event at Burgplatz, set against the impressive historic backdrop of the Cathedral and Dankwarderode Castle. Carl Maria von Weber's *Der Freischütz* is performed outdoors, delighting music lovers.

Link: www.staatstheater-braunschweig.de/produktion/der-freischuetz (DE)

Date: 4 – 5/09/2026

Pflasterzauber in Hildesheim

At Pflasterzauber (Pavement magic), nine venues in central Hildesheim host



performances by German and international artists. Niedersachsen's biggest street art festival has been held annually since 2008, captivating thousands of visitors with fantastic, whimsical, and astounding performances of the highest standard.

Link: www.pflasterzauber.de/ (DE)

Date: September 2026

33rd International Film Festival in Oldenburg

Every autumn, the International Film Festival brings a touch of Hollywood glamour to the former royal seat. As one of Europe's largest independent film festivals, it showcases innovative cinematic contributions. Celebrities like Nicolas Cage, Til Schweiger, and Veronica Ferres have attended in previous years.

Link: www.filmfest-oldenburg.de/en/

Date: 2 – 4/10/2026

24th Sailing-CUP in Wilhelmshaven

Every year in autumn, the oldest regatta for traditional sailboats on the German North Sea coast takes place. One of the highlights is the closing parade through the Kaiser Wilhelm swing bridge, offering a spectacular photo opportunity. There's fun both on the water and onshore for all to enjoy.

Link: www.wilhelmshaven-sailing-cup.de (DE)

Date: 10 – 18/10/2026

17th Annual Migratory Bird Days at the Wadden Sea National Park of Niedersachsen

For nine days in October on the North Sea coast of Niedersachsen and on the East Frisian Islands, everything revolves around the migratory birds that flock to the Wadden Sea from the far North. Thousands of bar-tailed godwits, dunlins and other wading birds stop off here to gather strength for their onward flight to their wintering grounds in Southern Europe and Africa.

Link: www.zugvogeltage.de/ (DE)

Date: 9 – 15/11/2026

40th Brunswick International Film Festival

Founded by 20 university students dissatisfied with local cinema offerings, the Brunswick International Film Festival is the oldest in Niedersachsen. Over seven days, it showcases new films, classics, and documentaries. One highlight is the presentation of ten film awards and special honours for debut films and acting.

Link: www.filmfest-braunschweig.de/en/

Date: December 2026

Winter wonderland in the Autostadt Wolfsburg

In the run-up to Christmas, the Autostadt in Wolfsburg transforms into a magical winter wonderland. Visitors can enjoy a winter market, snowy fun for kids, and a spacious play area. The illuminated stalls offer winter decorations, culinary treats, and unique gift ideas for all.

Link: www.autostadt.de/en/events

Please note: The information is for guidance only and may be updated or changed.