

Schützenfest

“Schützenfest” in Paderborn usually takes place in the **beginning of July (this year: 6th – 9th July)**.

It is a **folk festival**, which derives from the regular meeting of **brotherhoods or shooting clubs**. In the course of the festival the best shooter is usually determined in a **shooting competition** and then called “Schützenkönig”. Some local customs identify the “king” through other competitions, such as ring piercing, bird shooting, target shooting with arrow and bow. As a rule, the competition takes place over six days. The process can vary a little bit depending on the club.

At very large festivals, there are **frequent carousels** and **other rides**. In general, “Schützenfest” takes place in **summer or late spring**. People celebrate in big tents and outside and usually they drink much beer, listen to music, dance and have fun.

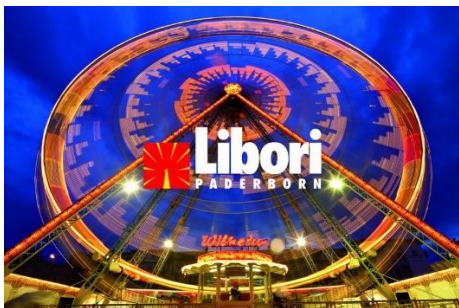
In Germany at least **even the smallest village** has its own “Schützenfest”, so from spring to summer you can go to another “Schützenfest” every weekend, if you like to.



Libori

Libori begins in the **end of August (this year it began on the 23rd August)** and lasts **over one week**. With this festival the deceased holy man **“Liberius” is celebrated** and there is a **funfair**. Liberius’ bones are placed in the cathedral of Paderborn and are carried through the city on one day in this week, usually in a golden box.

Libori is an **annually celebrated** nine-day folk festival in Paderborn and **one of the largest and oldest folk festival in Germany**. For the city of Paderborn, it is the most important and most traditional festival. There is also a second funfair called “Herbstlibori” (Libori in autumn), but the festival in summer is even more important.



Oktoberfest

“Oktoberfest” takes place in the **end of September and beginning of October (this year from the 22nd of September to the 29th of September)**. It’s funny that it is called “Oktoberfest” although it is mainly celebrated in September.

It is celebrated in **Munich** and many breweries brew a special beer for this festival. Usually people come together to drink big glasses of beer, to dance, to visit the funfair and to have fun.

The “Oktoberfest” is celebrated, because in 1810 crown Prince Ludwig (a very important person in Bavarian history) and princess Therese married, so it is about **celebrating their marriage** up to today.

There are a lot of small “Oktoberfest” in villages all over Germany, but the one in Munich is the real one. Traditionally people wear “**Dirndl**” and “**Lederhose**” for the “Oktoberfest”.



Deutscher Wiedervereinigungstag

“Deutscher Wiedervereinigungstag” (German **reunification**) takes place on **the 3rd of October**, because in **1990** the **Berlin wall fell** and since then our country was called Federal Republic of Germany. The wall was built in **1961** to separate the **two German states** that were created after the World War II. in **1949** (German Democratic Republic known as the “DDR” and West Germany). As the wall separated families etc. and people living in the German Democratic Republic were often not allowed to leave it, **people were happy** when the wall was destroyed.



1957-1990



Nach 1990

Reformationstag

“Reformationstag” is celebrated on the **31st of October**. The day became important because **Martin Luther**, a German church man, posted his **95 theses** on the **Wittenberg Castle Church door in 1517** to tell the church and the people that their way of thinking and dealing is wrong. He for example claimed that freeing people from sins with help of money is not the right way, only God could forgive sins.

When Germans celebrate Reformation Day each year, they remember **Europe’s religious reformation**. “Halloween” is celebrated on the same day.



Rosenmontag

Rosenmontag (also called: Carnival) takes place in the **end of February or beginning of March (this year: 12th February)**, it's different every year as it is always the Monday before Ash Wednesday, a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. On this day we **celebrate the last day before the Lent** and to expel the winter ghosts.

We usually **put on costumes and make-up** and celebrate this day on **big parades**. The most important cities in connection to "Rosenmontag" are **Cologne, Düsseldorf and Mainz**. On the parades people **throw candies** etc. from his self-made vehicles and call things like "Helau" or "Alaaf". There is also one of these parades in Paderborn each year, they call "Hasi Palau" when they drive through the city with their wagons. Although everything seems to be funny, people also try to criticize things that go wrong in politics on this day.

"Rosenmontag" is not a holiday, so most of the people have to work or go to school. A lot of schools allow students to wear costumes on this day or they decide to have special school holiday.

