



For Immediate Release

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Baden-Württemberg Presents Soccer and Festivals in 2006

Baden-Württemberg, Germany's most southwestern state, presents soccer, festivals music and culture in 2006! Stuttgart, one of the 12 official host cities of the World Soccer Cup (June 9-July 9), will host six matches in the Gottlieb Daimler Stadium.

Over 5.8 international visitors went to Baden-Württemberg last year from January through October – an increase of 4.2 percent compared to the same period the year before. The state, known for its Black Forest and beautiful Lake Constance, takes pride in preserving and keeping alive its history, culture and traditions but Baden-Württemberg always has something brand new to present: In May the new Mercedes Benz Museum with its modern design and impressive exhibition of individual mobility will open its doors to the public for the first time.

Throughout the year there is a whole string of colorful festivals and events in Baden-Württemberg. In February, traditional carnival parades and balls command your attendance. Spring and summer are the time for grand festivals; in autumn, boisterous wine harvest celebrations and the world's second largest beer festival take center stage. Winters mean strolling through beautifully illuminated and atmospheric Christmas markets that will truly restore your sense of wonder. Apart from that there are countless other exciting, merry and traditional festivals which give even those people on a fleeting visit a deeper understanding of the region.

January:

International Dog Sleigh Race in Todtmoos (Jan 18 - 29)

The Black Forest is covered in snow, the air is charged with excitement at the racing track with 1000 huskies waiting for the starting gun. Mushers have been meeting here for the last 20 years for the annual race in Todtmoos Schwarzenbach, where in 1994 the first European World Championship with 40,000 spectators was organised. The international competition is one of the most famous Dog Sleigh Races in Germany but there are others in the region, including Bernau, Herrischried or Furtwangen. (www.todtmoos.de)

February:

Fools Leap in Rottweil (Feb 27 - 28)

The traditional carnival events of the 'Alemannic Shrovetide' take place in many towns and communities around the Lake of Constance and in the Black Forest. One of the best-known carnival events not to be missed is the Fool's Leap (Narrensprung), a famous "Fas'net" procession in Rottweil. Countless fools in traditional costumes and hand-painted wooden masks roam the streets of the town and drive the city crazy for two days.

ECLAT – New Music Festival Stuttgart (Feb 9 - 12)

With its programming, Eclat aims to search out and introduce all of the innovative movements in contemporary music today. Non-musical art forms, music theater and interdisciplinary projects will play central roles in the festival's schedule. Eclat intends to serve as a forum for young artists, to support the new generation and provide it with performance opportunities.

March:

International Theatre and Music Festival 'Heidelberg Springtime' (Mar 24 - Apr 4)

For the tenth time the 'Heidelberg Springtime' will change the whole city into a Mecca for all music lovers in the region. Having "Thoughts are Free" as a motto, about 80 events will be held at historical venues in and – for the first time – also in the vicinity of Heidelberg.

April:

International Lake Constance Festival (Apr 4 - May 28)

The International Lake Constance Festival (Bodenseefestival) offers a colorful range of classical concerts, literary events, exhibitions and theater performances. The festival's extraordinary program of events covers regional aspects as well as European and international themes. This year's theme is "Spirituality and Love of Life". Artist in residence is the soprano Juliane Banse.

May:

Opening of the Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart (May 19)

The new museum near Stuttgart will open its doors to the public for the first time this May. Not only the architecture will fascinate all visitors but also the exhibition of individual mobility. The core of the museum's design is concentrated through two routes which spiral down from top to bottom. The first leads the visitors chronologically through the 120 year legendary history of the brand, whilst the second lays out spectacular collections of vehicles since the company was founded. (www.mercedes-benz.com).

June:

FIFA Soccer World cup in Stuttgart (Jun 09 - Jul 7)

For four great weeks visitors from all over the world can experience the soccer fever at the World Cup festival in Stuttgart. Altogether 6 matches: 3 group matches, 1 second-round match and the 3rd and 4th place playoff will be held in Stuttgart's Gottlieb Daimler Stadium. In Stuttgart's inner-city area around the Schlossplatz (Palace Square) and the Eckensee Lake, there will be numerous cultural, musical and sporting events to choose from between 9th June and 9th July. In addition to all the cultural events, there will of course also be live broadcasts of all the World Cup matches. Another big World cup party with live broadcasts is as well celebrated in Heilbronn (www.fifawm2006.stuttgart.de)

Peter and Paul Festival in Bretten (Jun 06 - Jul 3)

At this one weekend in summer you can see medieval men-at-arms, shepherds, musicians, jugglers as well as Biedermeier styled families and militias all over the small town of Bretten. The historical event in Bretten usually attracts up to 80,000 visitors. The main attractions are

the numerous performances in countless camps and in the medieval lanes in the old town. On Sunday, a huge procession of dressed up citizens and guest groups takes place.

July:

Oath Monday with river parade in Ulm (Jul 24)

Oath Monday is the anniversary of the City constitution of 1397 and brings a big celebration for all inhabitants of Ulm. At 11.00 a.m. in front of the Oath House the Lord Mayor holds a speech and makes a traditional oath. At 3.00 pm a turbulent procession takes place on the river Danube, the "Nabada". Thousands of visitors are watching the spectacular wet procession. It finally finds its conclusion at different places in the city and in the municipal park. (www.tourismus.ulm.de)

August:

Lake of Constance Night-Festival (Aug 12)

The Lake Constance Night Festival is the biggest event of the year in the area. It is renowned for its magnificently choreographed fireworks. About 40,000 visitors came to see the fireworks and cultural events.

Stuttgart Wine Village (Aug 8 - Oct 9)

At the end of August, wine connoisseurs and wine lovers from all over the world return to the beautiful state capital of Baden-Württemberg to sample the fruits of summer at the popular "Stuttgart Wine Village". More than 350 wines from Baden-Württemberg are sold in more than 120 lovingly decorated vine bowers on Marktplatz and Schillerplatz around the old Palace. (www.stuttgart-tourist.de)

September/Oktober:

Cannstatt Beer Festival in Stuttgart (Sep 23 – Oct 10)

When the barrel is tapped and the obligatory gun salutes crack through the air, the 161st Stuttgart Beer Festival will be opened in September. There are not only the big tents of the breweries for more than 5000 people each and countless food stalls but also breakneck fun rides and a traditional grocers' market. The Cannstatt Festival is the second-largest fun fair and beer festival in the world. (www.stuttgart-tourist.de)

Mozart Festival in Schwetzingen (Sep 9 – Oct 10)

Germany is celebrating the 250th anniversary of Mozart and the town of Schwetzingen is one of the cities offering a top-class program. The 31st Mozart Festival of the Mozart Association is taking place in the Castle of Schwetzingen with concerts and exhibitions. Even the bakery shops and cafes of the town have huge plans for this special event: On the 8th of October they are trying to bake the largest transverse flute in the world with a total length of 50 meters at the Palace Place.

November/December

Stuttgart.Christmas Market (25.11. - 23.12)

From the end of November to the 23rd of December, Stuttgart, as well as every other town in Baden-Wuerttemberg, can boast about its "Christmas Market of Europe." It was first mentioned in documents dated 1692! Concerts in the courtyard of the Old Palace (Altes Schloss) contribute to the festive setting with stalls offering crafts and Christmas decorations as well as mulled wine (Glühwein) and food. (www.stuttgart-tourist.de)

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