



The Official Newsletter of the German
National Tourist Press Office

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Editor's Choice: Luebeck's Icy Art Highlights Comic Heroes

The Hanseatic city of Luebeck will be presenting its Ice World starting December 8th and running through the 28th of January. Featured this year is "Ice Age 2" with figures such as Manny, the wispy mammoth, Sid the Sloth, and Diego, the saber toothed tiger, all carved from snow and ice. A 148 foot toboggan runs around the entire presentation. Over 150,000 kilos of ice will be used to carve these fantastic figures up to 6 meters high. > www.iceworld.de

Feature: Germany's Cities are Abuzz with Art and Cultural Events in 2007

Germany is all abuzz with its preparations for its art and cultural highlights for next year. Taking place against a rich backdrop of existing collections and in museums designed by some of the most important architects of the 20th and 21st centuries, the openings in Germany's major cities are mind boggling.

In Munich, teams of workers are getting ready for the opening of the new and enlarged BMW Museum > www.bmw-welt.com as well as the new Jewish Museum on Jakobsplatz > www.muenchen.de. Berlin is looking forward to the re-opening of the Vitra Design Museum > www.design-museum.de while an astonishing 130 French impressionist paintings from MoMA will be hung in Mies van der Rohe's New National Gallery from June 1 to October 7. > www.neue-nationalgalerie.de (German only)

Cologne will be hosting ART Cologne in its spring debut from April 18 to 22. > www.artcologne.com Starting April 27th, Cologne will also host the MusikTriennale, an every three year eclectic music festival with musicians from around the world. > www.musiktriennalekoeln.de Trier, the only Roman imperial residence in Germany, is preparing for its state wide exhibit, "Constantine the Great", from June 2nd to November 4th. The exhibition examines Constantine's pivotal role in Europe. > www.konstantin-ausstellung.de

Kassel is readying for documenta12, an every five year contemporary art show, which will take place from June 16 to September 23, and is considered a seismograph of the contemporary art world. > www.documenta12.de Not far away, Muenster is preparing for 35 sculptors

Special Deals

Cruise to the Classic Holiday Markets from Frankfurt to Nuremberg

Frankfurt to Nuremberg -
Eight Days starting at \$1,998
including airfare!

Discover Christmas
Wonderland Germany with its
long Christmas traditions
which have become American
icons, such as the origins of
gingerbread cookies, candy
canes, and the Christmas tree.
Explore Heidelberg with its
castle perched above the
town, Wertheim and its Glass
Museum, with displays of
centuries-old glass. Watch
artisans creating precious
Christmas ornaments and visit
the Wuerzburg Residence for a
holiday wine tasting. And
don't forget to taste mulled
wine and gingerbread on the
Christmas Markets in
Nuremberg and the UNESCO
World Heritage city of
Bamberg. The prices for the
eight day cruise from Dec 2 to
Dec 9 start from \$1,998. >
www.uniworld.com

Bavaria's Legendary Christmas Markets

Nine days starting at
\$2,799.00 including airfare

The famous Christmas
markets of Bavaria, including
Munich, Prien am Chiemsee,
Oberndorf, Salzburg,
Nuremberg, Rothenburg,

around the world who will install their contemporary creations for the Muenster Sculpture Show in and around the city from June 17 to September 30th. > www.skulptur-projekte.de

One of the most famous women from the Middle Age in Europe, St. Elizabeth of Thuringia, will be honored from July 7 to November 19 on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of her death. St. Elizabeth, daughter of King Andrew of Hungary, dedicated her life to works of charity and died between the poorest in a hospital she built. Her former home, the Wartburg castle, will host the exhibit. > www.wartburg-eisenach.de

As if this were not enough! Of special interest to the 42.5 million Americans of German heritage, the new emigration center, Ballinstadt, will be opening in Hamburg on July 4th with a gala event. There, German Americans can research their roots as a special feature is the integration of the research project 'Link to your roots', a database that displays all passenger lists between 1850 and 1934. > www.ballinstadt.de

Then it is down to Saarland to the Voelklinger Iron Works, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where a big exhibition of Duane Hanson's life-like sculptures of every day people will be shown from October 20 to March 30, 2008. > www.voelklinger-huette.org

All of these openings are taking place in a landscap already rich with art and architecture and hundreds of arts festivals. In the past, Germany has germinated many now famous art movements, including the Jugendstil, Bauhaus and Expressionism. Today the country is still a hotbed of creativity in the fields of art, architecture, design and fashion. One only need visit the Leipzig New School, the galleries of Berlin and Cologne, fashion designers in Hamburg and Hombroich Island in Neuss to get a sense of the creativity and initiative that are at work and play around the country.

Regional Focus and Special Events: Cultural Capital and Christmas Markets

Munich, the capital of Bavaria, is regarded as one of the most beautiful and charming cities of Europe. Numerous Christmas markets take place in Munich between the last Sunday in November and December 24. The most famous one is located on the Marienplatz. The city's Alte Pinakothek is one of the world's oldest museums housing more than 800 masterpieces by European artists from the Middle Ages to the end of the Rococo period. Outstanding works of European art and sculpture from the late 18th to the beginning of the 20th century are in the spotlight of the Neue Pinakothek while the Pinakothek der Moderne focuses on contemporary and modern art. > www.muenchen.de

Berlin is certainly Germany's cultural capital and offers visitors an almost inexhaustible variety of possible activities and nightlife. Everyone associates something different with the city: the famed Museum Island, for example, is a unique ensemble of museum buildings which illustrates the evolution of modern museum design over more than a century. Berlin's 45 Christmas markets feature prominently on Germany's calendar of yuletide events. The market around the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, amidst the bustle of shoppers on the high street between the Kurfuestendamm and Tauenzien, is perhaps the most beloved for locals and tourists alike. Nov 27 - Dec 23. > www.berlin-tourist-information.de

Founded by the Romans, Cologne is the oldest of the major German cities and is still characterized by its 2000 years of history and its famous cathedral. The collection of the Museum Ludwig comprises one of the most important collections of pop-art outside of the U.S. including Roy

Dinkelsbuehl and Heidelberg will come alive during this nine day tour. All of your senses will come alive with the smell of gingerbread, the taste of hot, mulled wine, the feel of cold air during your stroll with the nightwatchman in Rothenburg, seeing the traditional Christmas handcrafted, wooden toys and glass ornaments and hearing the wonderful Christmas concerts and bells. Two nights at Munich's first class Kings Hotel; 2 nights at the first class Luitpold am See in Chiemsee, 2 nights at Rothenburg's charming first class Tilman Riemenschneider Hotel and 1 night at Heidelberg's deluxe Marriott will bring sparkle to your holiday beginnings. Departure date: Dec 3. > www.generaltours.com

New Year's Eve package Crowne Plaza Hotel Hamburg

Have you ever celebrated the start of the New Year on the water? New Year's Eve in Hamburg is an unforgettable experience: Gigantic fireworks against the backdrop of Hamburg's harbour! Spend the last hours of 2006 on a barge docked in the Port of Hamburg and the first hours of 2007 in the comfortable beds of the Crowne Plaza Hotel Hamburg. The New Years Special starting at \$496 per person includes two overnight stays including breakfast at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Hamburg, a three course New Year's Eve menu at the hotel, a barge trip to see the fireworks in the Hamburg harbour as well as a the Hamburg CARD for the free use of public transportation. Cheers! > www.hamburg-travel.de

Start Relaxed into 2007!

Join a New Year's Eve Party in Berlin without feeling exhausted the next morning! On Dec 31 the CentroVital hotel in Berlin is throwing a thermal spa party for all guests booking the three day wellness package. Enjoy the last day of the year with a New Years Eve buffet,

Lichtenstein's "Maybe", Andy Warhol's "Brillo Boxes" and George Segal's "Restaurant Window". ▶ www.museenkoeln.de

Six Christmas markets in Cologne ensure a festive atmosphere during the season of Advent. Wherever you look, there are festive, pleasurable and contemplative things to discover. Of course, at all markets there are mulled wine and roasted almonds, but each market has its own special flair. Nov 23 - Dec 23 ▶ www.stadt-koeln.de

Contact Information

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Next Issue: Art & Culture and Carnival!

sparkling wine and fireworks on the roof terrace at midnight. The package also includes the daily use of the exclusive 3.500 square meters wellness spa area, a dinner buffet on Dec 30 at the restaurant "Kochkunst" and a New Year's morning brunch buffet with sparkling wine. Prices for the three overnight stay including breakfast start at 352 Euro per person in a double room. ▶ www.berlin-tourist-information.de

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