



News from Germany

Issue No. 12

The Official Newsletter of the
German National Tourist Press Office



**Gearing up for the
FIFA Soccer World
Cup**

Germany is gearing up for the 2006 World Cup and is inviting the world to experience Germany as a "Time to Make Friends." Each of the 13 host cities is getting ready for soccer and to show case their wonderful cultural offerings, including top notch architecture, museums, concert halls and restaurants. The German National Tourist Office will soon have a "Vibrant Cities" brochure highlighting the host cities and the many other enchanting towns in Germany. Already there is a new World Cup Soccer Brochure, "An All-Around Experience – FIFA World Cup 2006," in house. To receive copies of these brochures, please call (800) 637-1171.

From June 9 to July 9 in 2006, Germany will come alive with soccer and already the country is abuzz with the preparation for its welcome, "A Time to Make Friends." Munich will stage the opening match, with games played throughout Germany before the tournament reaches its climax with the final in Berlin. For the first time after the reunification of the country and 32 years since it last hosted the world cup, the entire world will look to the new

"2005 Parades In with Carnival"

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Henkelmännchen International

On Friday, February 4, "Henkelmännchen International" is a party in Cologne like no other! Visitors from around the world can buy tickets and are introduced in English to the Carnival satire and theater, costuming and traditions as well as Cologne specialties, such as the "Koelsch" beer. One of the highlights will be the musical performances by two of the famous carnival associations from Cologne. At the end, visitors are conferred the Carnival Diploma. Those on the press trip with the German National Tourist Office this year may receive such a diploma!

Carnival Comes Alive for Visitors

The Carnival season in 2005 in Germany begins in early February. It is a time of wild parties, satirical theater, elaborate parades, hand carved masks and costume-balls. The "Fifth Season" officially starts on "Elften Elften, Elf Uhr Elf" (the 11th day of the 11th month at 11:11 a.m.). The festivities continue at a low-key pace until the "Tolle Tage" (Crazy Days) which climax on "Rosenmontag" (Feb, 7, 2005) the 42nd day before Easter, with big street processions and elaborately decorated floats.

Although Carnival is associated with festivals of the Christian Church, it can be traced back to pagan times when it was celebrated to drive out the evil spirits of winter and encourage the coming of spring and good crops. Ugly masks worn for this purpose are still worn in carnival festivals in southern Germany. Carnival was also a pagan Roman festival, which may explain why Cologne and Mainz, two ancient cities with Roman history, have such large carnival celebrations.

Every region in Germany puts its own spin on the carnival season: in the Rhineland area around Cologne and Düsseldorf, they celebrate "Karneval" with elaborate parades and comedy stage performances. Cries of "Alaaf," Cologne's Carnival cheer, resound starting on Thursday, February 4, 2005, at the "Weiberfastnacht" (Women's Carnival), where women run up and playfully kiss the cheeks of costumed strangers and cut off the ties of any man who dares to walk the streets in a suit. The saying goes: "If you are not a fool on Carnival you will be a fool for the rest of the year." On Rose Monday, scores of decorated floats, about 130 bands, hundreds of horses, brightly clad groups – all pass through the streets which are tightly packed with millions of onlookers. Mainz hosts the children's costume parade--nearly 4,000 costumed youngsters, many in elaborately decorated floats flood the streets.

In the Black Forest in southern Germany, they celebrate "Allemanische Fasnacht" with hand carved wooden masks and street festivals. Very popular are the "Wise Fool" masks with a smooth pale face, scary witches with grotesque features, animal masks and masks of mythological characters from local lore and history. Groups of people emerge all wearing the same costume, walking the same and behaving the same.

Germany, situated at the heart of Europe.

In 2005, the German Soccer Association and the Organization Committee of the World Cup will focus on presenting Germany as a nation of arts and culture in connection with soccer. The World Cup's emblem, the SOCCER GLOBE, 20 meter high (66 feet), weighing 60 tons to be located in Munich, is now touring the 12 German FIFA World Cup Host Cities giving visitors an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the topic of soccer culture in a light-hearted manner that appeals to the emotions.

The draw to decide the groups for the final competition will be held in Leipzig in December 2005. For updates on the World Soccer Cup, go to www.fifaworldcup.com. Next year we will feature in each newsletter the host cities of Berlin, Cologne, Dortmund, Frankfurt/Main, Gelsenkirchen, Hamburg, Hannover, Kaiserslautern, Leipzig, Munich, Nuremberg and Stuttgart.

As a prelude to the World Cup, the FIFA Confederation Cup will be played in Germany from the 15th to 29th of June 2005. The tournament will be held in five of the following six German cities: Hannover, Leipzig, Cologne, Nuremberg, Frankfurt and Kaiserslautern. The eight-team field for next year's seventh FIFA Confederations Cup will include Germany (host nation), Brazil (reigning world champions), Tunisia (African Cup of Nations 2004 champions) and Mexico (CONCACAF Gold Cup 2003 champions), along with the winners of this year's Asian Cup: Copa America, OFC

In Munich, Fasching is celebrated with over one thousand costume balls that sparkle with light and festivity. Always popular are the "Black and White" balls, "The Washerwomen's Ball," and the Gaudi-Wurm parade on Monday, February 7, 2005.

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Special Deals

Berlin

This package is the perfect excuse to see a truly remarkable city. Berlin is not only historical but it boasts boasts three opera houses, over 150 theatres and stage companies, 800 choirs, about 170 museums and collections, about 300 communal and private galleries, over 250 public libraries, 265 cinemas and numerous other cultural institutions! Prices based from 1/6/2005, starting at \$559 for a double room. Price depends on Hotel. Package Includes: Roundtrip flights on scheduled air carrier; 06 nights hotel accommodations, Continental breakfast daily. Visit go-today.com for details.

Roundtrip to Munich

New York City to Munich, - \$635 per person - Sample 3-night vacation includes flight, hotel (3 nights), and taxes. Sample prices are per person based on double occupancy and vary by dates, availability and departure city. Conveniently serviced by a subway station, Holiday Inn Munich City Centre, formerly the Forum Hotel, is just minutes from the cosmopolitan entertainment of downtown. Tasteful decor and modern amenities accent all 580 rooms. For more information, go to Yahoo! Travel.

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Contact Information

For comments and enquiries, contact Victoria Larson, PR Manager, at the German National Tourist Office: 212-661-7175 or victoria.larson@d-z-t.com.

Also, please register on our press extranet (if you haven't already done so) at www.germany-extranet.com.

Next Issue:

Be on the Outlook for 2005 Events, Jubilees, and Music Festivals!

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