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# PLAN AHEAD

By Katie Wells



## BAVARIA

**Nürnberger Volksfest,  
Nürnberg**

**AUG. 29–SEPT. 14, 2025**

Twice a year on the fairgrounds by Dutzendteich Lake in Nuremberg, the smell of classic Franconian fair food draws up to two million visitors for festival fun. There is dancing, music, and tried and true culinary specialties like the Nürnberger sausage (I like to add a dash of horseradish and mustard to mine). Guests from different countries around the world are invited every autumn to share aspects of their culture whether it be food, drinks or artisanal crafts. Over the two weeks, there are a variety of events planned such as a keg tapping, parades, brass bands and fireworks. There will be a family day for visitors with kids where rides on carousels, roller coasters and one item at each stand will be half off.



## KAISERSLAUTERN

**Dürkheimer Wurstmarkt,  
Bad Dürkheim**

**SEPT. 12–16, SEPT. 19–22, 2025**

This is one BIG festival, just 40 minutes from Kaiserslautern, it has been celebrated for over 600 years and has had many transformations: from a church festival to a medieval fair to a sausage market to what is now a sausage and wine festival (the largest in the world). Despite the name, wine is the highlight at the festival today and there are plenty of varieties to try. I recommend a Schorle which is a spritzer cut with sparkling water. The wine is served by the half-liter in a *Dubbeglas*, or dotted glass which a local butcher invented to better grip his beer while he worked. Much like Christmas market mugs, the Dubbeglas have a pfand and you can choose to keep yours as a collectible. The fest features plenty of things to do for all ages: towering rides, carnival games, food, fireworks, live music and the crowning of the newest wine princess.



## STUTTGART

**Flammende Sterne Fireworks Festival, Ostfildern**

**AUG. 22–24, 2025**

The 21st Flaming Stars Fireworks Festival will be a thrilling show and competition where pyrotechnics teams visit from all over the world to light up the sky with unique designs and vibrant colors hoping to be named the winner. While fireworks and laser shows are the main attraction, each evening, at 6 p.m., there will be additional festival flair and a market to shop. Live music will fill the air, fire artists and other performing artists will dazzle crowds and the Ochsenfurt play construction site will have a selection of games, hands-on activities as well as a puppet show for families and children. Purchase tickets online at [flammende-sterne.de](http://flammende-sterne.de). There are two options: a "day ticket" which grants you access to the event area and a "seat ticket" which includes sectioned-off seating to watch the fireworks displays more comfortably.



## WIESBADEN

**Museumsuferfest,  
Frankfurt**

**AUG. 29–31, 2025**

During the last days of summer, fall swiftly approaches on the scenic museum embankments of the Main River during this cultural festival. Every year, a unique and creative program is curated. The museums have special offers and stay open late into the evenings. Visitors can shop from many stalls offering international culinary specialties and high-quality handmade crafts. You can take a break from the festival to turn your attention to the river and watch the dragon boat races (the second oldest of their kind in Germany). When ready to rejoin the fun, explore the Art Meadow and Antiquarian Book Mile or listen to music as you stroll the Organ and Choir Mile as well as visit Sound in the Monastery. Don't miss the musical fireworks display on the last evening of the festival. ■

Scan here to see what is happening  
in your community.





# MWR GO

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**JUNE 2025**



## SUMMER FUN WITH MWR

### KIDS BOWL FREE

From June 2–August 29, more than 1,500 bowling centers around the globe provide two FREE games of bowling each day during the summer. This program is designed to give back to the community and provide a safe, secure and fun way for kids to spend their time this summer. Register on [kidsbowlfree.com](https://kidsbowlfree.com). Learn more about the program by visiting [wiesbaden.armymwr.com/happenings/kids-bowl-free](https://wiesbaden.armymwr.com/happenings/kids-bowl-free).

### BASIC CAR CARE

The Wiesbaden Auto Skills Center holds a basic maintenance class geared towards spouses on June 4 from 5:30–7 p.m. Learn important car care skills such as jump-starting a vehicle, changing a tire and performing an oil change. Fees are \$25. Register at Auto Skills.

### DISNEY'S ALADDIN KIDS

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse invites you to the youth-produced musical adaptation of Disney's *Aladdin KIDS* on June 6–7 at 7:30 p.m. and June 8 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices and performance location TBD. Please contact the AEP or visit our website for the most up-to-date information.

### SUMMER READING CHALLENGE: LEVEL UP!

Join the Wiesbaden Library for a special fun-filled summer reading kickoff on June 8 with events happening every hour from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.! Register for the Summer Reading Challenge and get a FREE t-shirt while supplies last. This is a free event. Register at the Wiesbaden Library or [usagwiesbaden.beanstack.com](https://usagwiesbaden.beanstack.com). The Summer Reading Program runs from June 8 to August 7.



### DUCK, DUCK, BINGO: QUEST FOR THE QUACKERS

Ducks have taken over the Wiesbaden Library and we need your help to find them! Stop by the library any day during summer reading (from June 8 to August 7) to help locate the quackers, earn stamps on your BINGO sheet and win a prize! Free entry, no registration required.

### ARMY BIRTHDAY 5K FUN RUN

Celebrate the Army's 250th Birthday with a 5K Fun Run on June 14 at 9 a.m. Register for free on the day of the event beginning at 7:30 a.m. T-shirts will be available while supplies last.



### ARMY 250TH BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL

Celebrate the Army's 250th Birthday with Wiesbaden MWR on June 14 from noon to 5 p.m. Featuring live entertainment, games, face-painting, food and more. This is a free event, no registration required.

### LUNCHTIME SERIES

Army Community Services holds a Career Planning & Effective Job Hunting class as part of the Employment Readiness Program's Lunchtime Series on June 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a free event. Register at ACS or call civ (0611) 143-548-9201.

### MICHAEL B. RILEY HERO WOD

The 5th annual Michael B. Riley Hero WOD will be held on June 28 outside of the Fitness Center. Each participant will endure various strenuous, aerobic and athletic activities in honor of MSG Michael B. Riley who gave the

ultimate sacrifice of military service. T-shirts will be available while supplies last.

### RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS:

**Jun. 1:** Brick Builders  
**Jun. 2, 16, 30:** Dad Talk  
**Jun. 5, 19:** Wood Shop Safety Class  
**Jun. 7, 21:** Commissary/PX Shuttle  
**Jun. 7:** Picture Framing 101  
**Jun. 10:** Military Appreciation Meal  
**Jun. 10:** Kitchen Chronicles  
**Jun. 11:** Foreign Born Spouse Meeting  
**Jun. 11:** Hearts Apart  
**Jun. 11, 25:** ASL Club  
**Jun. 12, 26:** Sponsorship Training  
**Jun. 17:** Spouse Orientation  
**Jun. 20:** BOSS Karaoke & Game Night  
**Jun. 29:** Welcome to Your Book Club  
**Jun. 30:** Learn to Crochet

### SUMMER READING EVENTS:

**Jun. 10, 17, 24:** Play Amazing Tales! Table-top Role Playing for Newbies  
**Jun. 11, 18, 25:** Board Game Wednesdays  
**Jun. 12, 19, 26:** Lego Games  
**Jun. 15:** Level Up & Act it Out: A Day for Drama!  
**Jun. 15, 22, 29:** Print & Play Sundays  
**Jun. 16, 23, 30:** Trading Card Game Meetup

### LANDEURO 2025

AUSA hosts the LANDEURO 2025 exhibition and symposium in partnership with U.S. Army Europe and Africa from July 16–17. The event will be held at the RheinMain Congress Center in Wiesbaden. LANDEURO 2025 is the premier land warfare symposium and exhibition. This must-attend event will bring together military leaders, defense professionals, and key industry players to discuss the latest developments in Army technology, strategy and policy. For event details and registration info, please visit [meetings.ausa.org/landeuro/2025](https://meetings.ausa.org/landeuro/2025).

*No Federal Endorsement Implied.*



SPOT  
LIGHT  
ON...

# German Car Brands



By Kat Nickola

**G**ermany has been at the forefront of car manufacturing since the invention of the four-stroke internal combustion engine in the 1870s. Created by Nicolaus Otto and Karl Benz, that engine was put into a coach and the German auto industry exploded...well, until the 1920s. Post World War II saw a slow expansion, but some great marketing and the idea of high-quality German engineering put the country's cars on the world stage once again.

The biggest German car brands:

**Audi** | founded in 1909—Legal battles with former partners led company execs to take a son's advice and chose the Latin word "audi," which means to listen.

**BMW** | founded in 1916—Bayerische Motoren Werke (Bavarian Motor Works) traces its roots to the Bayerische Flugzeug-Werke (Bavarian Aircraft Works) building aero engines.

**Mercedes-Benz** | merged in 1926—The first Benz car was made in 1886 while the first Mercedes came in 1901 and was named for the daughter of an entrepreneur in the company.

**Opel** | founded in 1862—Started by Adam Opel, the brand began as a sewing machine factory, then bicycle manufacturer before turning to cars in 1899.

**Porsche** | founded in 1931—Contracted by the Nazi party to create what would become the VW beetle, Porsche is still coming to terms with its namesake's legacy.

**Volkswagen (VW)** | founded in 1937—VW was originally established by the Nazi party's German Labor Front but later became an icon of Germany's reform and reconstruction. ■

## Bonus:

**MAN** | founded in 1893—Rudolf Diesel partnered with Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nürnberg (MAN) to put his namesake engine in the company's first truck.

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# NÜRBURGRING'S RACETRACK

By Tamala Malerk

## HISTORY

In the immortal words of Ricky Bobby, "If you're not first, you're last." Since 1927, people have been racing for first place at this iconic German racetrack.

In 1925, the Nürburgring groundbreaking ceremony was held, and it took two years and 14 million Reichsmark, which would be over 100 million dollars today (based on my rough inflation conversions and calculations) to get to the first race on its 28 kilometers of track.

During World War II, racing had to stop, the on-site hotel was converted to a military hospital and a division headquarters, and in 1943, the fencing around the Ring was taken down and had to be handed over to the arms industry. Throughout the 1950s and 60s, racing grew in popularity and the drivers themselves were treated like pop stars. However, the rise in popularity also brought attention to the dangers of the sport.

In the late 1960s and early 70s, drivers demanded that changes be made to the most treacherous of tracks and safety features such as fences, crash barriers and emergency lanes were installed. Throughout the years, motorcycle, truck, Formula One and Grand Prix racing were all added to the list of spectacles, and today, the racetrack serves not only as a place to view racing but one to partake in the driving yourself.

## EVENTS

There is so much to see at the Nürburgring racetrack. Here are just a few races I recommend for summer and fall of 2025.

- **June 13–15 | Nürburgring Classic:** For the ultimate nostalgic event, this race mimics the inaugural race from 1927. No roll bars or special racing equipment is allowed.
- **July 11–13 | International ADAC Truck Grand Prix:** The semi-trucks start their engines and race it out all weekend long and compete for European Championship points.
- **Aug. 1–3 | 51st BELMOT Oldtimer Grand Prix:** Vehicles up to 100 years old duke it out on the track. This race also features a variety of vehicles and drivers, from first timers to current and retired drivers.
- **Sept. 20–21 | ADAC 1000km Race:** This historic long-distance race was first held in 1953 and revived in 2021.
- **Oct. 26 | Nürburgring Family Day:** Okay, so this one is less about racing and more about just bringing out the kids for a day of fun which includes the "ring"kids Grand Prix," test sitting in racing cars, a surf simulator and other interactive stations.

## PERSONAL DRIVING EXPERIENCES

If just sitting in the stands isn't for you, fret not, the Nürburgring racetrack has different opportunities to let you race on the track too.

**BYO Vehicle:** Drive your own car or motorcycle on the legendary Grand Prix or Nordschleife Track. You must register online and book credits or a season ticket to do this. Keep in mind that these "tourist drives" are closed periodically. Book your tickets and view the open dates at [nuerburgring.de/driving/touristdrives](https://nuerburgring.de/driving/touristdrives).

**Driving Academy:** Learn how to drive from actual professional drivers! There are a variety of trainings to suit your interest: Formula Training, Sports Driver Training and, for those not quite ready to get in the driver's seat, the co-pilot ride in the Mercedes-AMG GT R PRO. Learn more at [nuerburgring.de/driving#drivingacademy](https://nuerburgring.de/driving#drivingacademy).

**Special Events:** These include the After Work Classics for older cars, the Caterham Drift Experience as well as safety and drifting trainings and much more. Find what suits you best at [nuerburgring.de/driving](https://nuerburgring.de/driving). ■

If this name sounds familiar to you, it's because every June the racetrack transforms into a concert venue for **Rock am Ring**, Germany's largest annual rock music festival that was featured in January's "What's Up."







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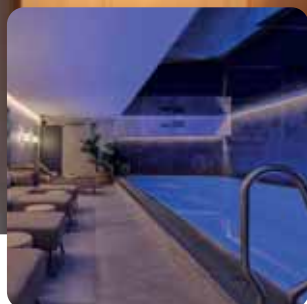
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# CHASING

## THE CHECKERED FLAG

By Kat Nickola

**Y**ou are cheering from a stand of packed bleachers as 20 compact, open-cockpit, one-seat racing cars blitz past with a flurry of noise and the smell of rubber; this is Formula One (F1) racing.

In Europe, most auto racing is governed by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), whose headquarters is in Paris, France. In addition to advocating for automotive interests and safety, the FIA oversees hundreds of motorsport competitions around the world. The organization regulates and judges a large variety of events, from maintaining land speed records to esports, karting activities, rally races, historic car series, endurance events and the world-famous F1 circuit races.

### WHAT IS CIRCUIT RACING?

A **circuit** in F1 racing parlance is the paved route that the cars will compete on. This may be at a specially built track or along public streets that have been closed for the race. These routes vary in length, but an F1 race is almost always 305 kilometers long, so the race covers multiple laps along the circuit to complete the requirement. One exception is the circuit in Monaco, which is only 260km long.

The **FIA Formula One World Championship** is the world's premier auto race series and has a prestigious history. Its origin lies in the old European Grand Prix motor races that began in 1901 and became increasingly popular until the outbreak of World War II in 1939. Following the war, the old automobile organization was re-branded as the FIA and the "International Formula" brought together the various Grand Prix races under a single series. The first championship race was held in 1950 at Silverstone in the U.K.

The **formula** in F1 racing refers to the required car specs. These include crash test standards, a mandatory safety cell for the cockpit and fuel, engine restrictions, the type of tires and physical details like the car's size and weight (with the driver). Car engineers use these standards to design a racing vehicle that adheres to the regs while also innovating for better performance.

### 10 TEAMS OF TWO DRIVERS

Teams are owned by car manufacturers or private companies and have numerous additional sponsors. Drivers choose a number and use it on their vehicles during their entire career, although the reigning champ may choose to use the number one. Fans may be loyal to a team or a driver, neither or both, it just depends on why they watch. Some fans love the driver drama; some follow drivers from their home country. Other fans enjoy the technical auto innovations and race weekend excitement.

#### 2025 F1™ Teams and Drivers

- **Alpine** | Pierre Gasly (10), Franco Colapinto (43)
- **Aston Martin** | Lance Stroll (18), Fernando Alonso (14)
- **Ferrari** | Charles Leclerc (16), Lewis Hamilton (44)
- **Haas** | Esteban Ocon (31), Oliver Bearman (87)
- **Kick Sauber** | Nico Hulkenberg (27), Gabriel Bortoleto (5)
- **McLaren** | Oscar Piastri (81), Lando Norris (4)
- **Mercedes** | George Russell (63), Kimi Antonelli (12)
- **Racing Bulls** | Liam Lawson (30), Isack Hadjar (6)
- **Red Bull Racing** | Max Verstappen (1), Yuki Tsunoda (22)
- **Williams Racing** | Alexander Albon (23), Carlos Sainz (55)

### RACE WEEKEND

F1 race weekends are held all over the world from March until November and follow the same general schedule.

#### Friday

- **FP1 & FP2** – "Free Practice" sessions let the driver get to know the track while the team can test run new setups for their car.
- **Sprint Qualifying** – Sometimes FP2 is replaced with this set of short races to determine the starting order for the next day.

#### Saturday

- **FP3 or F1 Sprint** – On special "Sprint Weekends," FP3 is replaced with an extra exciting, 100-kilometer race called the F1 Sprint.
- **Qualifying** – This is a series of three short races (Q1, Q2, Q3) that determine the starting order for the Grand Prix.

#### Sunday

- **Grand Prix** – The main event! A 305-kilometer race requiring at least one pit stop for a full tire change. They last roughly two exhilarating hours and end with the infamous checkered flag.



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## F1™ CHAMPIONS

At each Grand Prix race in the series, drivers who finish in the top 10 are awarded points based on their placement. There are chances to earn extra points as the driver with the fastest lap (and in the top 10) and as the winners of a Sprint.

The driver with the most points during the year's series will earn the **Driver's Championship** title. Because drivers are paid employees, they do not win cash prizes from the FIA. Instead, they will usually receive bonuses from their team or from sponsors. In addition, drivers can use wins to negotiate higher-paying contracts in the future.

The big money is won with the **Constructor's Championship**. This is a financial award given to the team with the highest points amassed from both of their drivers. The amount of money up for grabs depends on the revenue FIA received for F1 races that year; it is typically a multi-billion-dollar sum. Roughly 50 percent of this revenue is put into a prize pot. At the end of the season, teams are each distributed a percentage of the yearly pot based on both their total points ranking and some preferential bonuses. The prize money stakes are accepted by all teams and reestablished in a periodic negotiation known as the Concorde Agreement.

## WHERE AND WHEN TO GO

**Formula 1** events can be expensive, but they will often include access to all races happening on the course that day (or weekend). For example, you may get to also watch Formula 2 (F2) or Formula 3 (F3) events; these are second and third-tier feeder teams. There are 24 worldwide races across the F1 championship series, and here are a few within road-tripping distance of those stationed in Germany.

- **FORMULA 1 MSC CRUISES AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX 2025** | June 27-29  
Red Bull Ring, Spielberg
- **FORMULA 1 MOËT & CHANDON BELGIAN GRAND PRIX 2025** | July 25-27  
Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps
- **FORMULA 1 HEINEKEN DUTCH GRAND PRIX 2025** | Aug. 29-31  
Circuit Zandvoort
- **FORMULA 1 PIRELLI GRAN PREMIO D'ITALIA 2025** | Sept. 5-7  
Autodromo Nazionale Monza

## BUDGET OPTIONS

- Try getting tickets to a **Formula E** race instead. Gaining popularity, these races are only for high-level electric racing cars.  
[www.fiaformulae.com](http://www.fiaformulae.com)
- Go to a local race at the **Nürburgring** in the northern Rhineland-Pfalz ([nuerburgring.de](http://nuerburgring.de)), the **Hockenheimring** near Heidelberg ([www.hockenheimring.de](http://www.hockenheimring.de)) or **Norisring** in Nürnberg ([norisring.de](http://norisring.de)).
- Attend a rally. The rougher sibling to F1 racing, rally car races are time trials across dirt or mixed-use roads. The **Central European Rally** ([www.centraleuropeandrally.eu](http://www.centraleuropeandrally.eu)) is in October near Passau.
- For a **schedule of FIA events**, visit [www.fia.com/international-sporting-calendar](http://www.fia.com/international-sporting-calendar). Note that the website doesn't provide venue links; you must do a quick web search to buy tickets. ■

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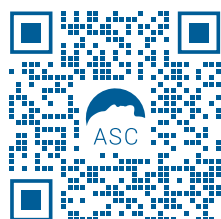
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# SATISFY YOUR *NEED FOR SPEED* AT THE *HOCKENHEIMRING*

By Allie Smeeth

**D**o you have what it takes to be a race car driver? Well. If you want to test your skills, the Hockenheimring is the place for you. Whether you decide to take part in solo-driving experiences or watch one of the many motor races, servicemembers and their families will enjoy the thrill of driving like never before.

## HISTORY

Initially created for the town of Hockenheim, Ernst Christ's rink has become world-renowned. Since its 1932 opening, the Hockenheimring's track and seating arena have been remodeled numerous times. These reconfigurations created today's complex, which can entertain up to 120,000 spectators at a time!

**TRIANGULAR COURSE:** After obtaining support, construction for Hockenheim's first triangular rink began on March 23, 1932. After two months of building, the track hosted its first motorcycle race on May 29. The opening of this rink greatly impacted the town of Hockenheim and the world of racing.

**OVAL COURSE:** Once the rink turned six, the foundation decided to do a little remodeling. This re-vamping resulted in the rink's Kurpfalzring. The Kurpfalzring was not only wider than the original track, but it was also safer. The increased width of the track enabled racers to travel at higher speeds and also provided spectators with better views of the course.

**OBEYING THE LAW:** In the early 1960s, Hockenheimring got another makeover. This reconfiguration was brought on because of the town's Mannheim-Walldorf motorway. The new motorway rearranged the layout of the road to Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Walldorf and Heilbronn. This highway's system circled the rink, which caused Christ to come up with a new track. Christ's system incorporated a new Motodrom concept, which provided a better venue for guests and competitors.

**MAN VS. NATURE:** Although the updated rink provided a spacious environment for racers and spectators, the route was problematic. At the time, the track dipped in the woods, which made it difficult for guests to observe the races. To eliminate this issue, the Hockenheimring Besitz company put in a request for funding to expand the track. After gaining approval, construction began. Despite being two kilometers shorter than the original, Hockenheimring has continued to entertain spectators and provide a safe driving atmosphere for racers.



Porsche 935 1977



ADAC GT Masters 2018



Hockenheimring Classics 2019



2023 Race'n'Roll



GLÜCKSGEFÜHLE Festival 2024

## EVENTS

Each year Hockenheimring hosts a variety of racing events like the 1000 km, motorcycle and public performance races.

**THE NEED FOR SPEED:** During NitrOlympX, spectators experience the rush of dragsters hitting speeds up to 500 km/h. Once the afternoon events are over, stick around for the Saturday night show. During the event, drivers perform various stunts and ignite the sky with colorful flames from their tires.

**THE OLDIES:** Travel back in time during the annual Hockenheimring Classics event, happening each September. Throughout the afternoon, spectators can observe old motorcycles and sidecars race along the track. After the show, make sure to stop by and get autographs from the drivers.

**RACE'N'ROLL:** Test your driving skills on these days. An experienced trainer is on-site, and you can drive the car of your dreams. Experience and price levels vary. Prices begin at 399 euro.

**FIT ON TRACK:** A couple of times a year, the track is open to those who want to walk, jog, bike, hand-bike and in-line skate on the track.

**GLÜCKSGEFÜHLE FESTIVAL:** This is not only a place to race, but to rock out! This music festival is the largest in Germany. In September 2025, artists include the Black Eyed Peas, Apache 207 and Neelix.

Check out and purchase your tickets for upcoming events on [hockenheimring.de](https://hockenheimring.de). ■





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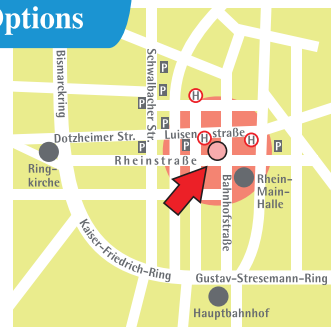
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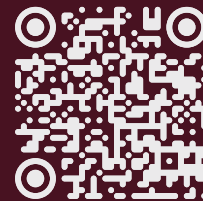
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