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SEPTEMBER 2023

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RHEIN MAIN

*Editor's Picks*

*Volunteering with a  
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*& Much More!*

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# September Events

# EDITOR'S PICKS

By Tamala Malerk

The weather is starting to turn a little cooler, but it maintains that beautiful sunlight.

Enjoy these wonderful weather days with markets, festivals, races and more. Always check with an event's website before traveling.



©BERLIN BEER WEEK/BEERWEEK.DE

## Berlin Beer Week Sept. 1-10, Berlin

Across Berlin, celebrate craft beer with cruises, festivals and BBQ. The first of the cruises takes off Sept. 2 and 3 with beer tastings on the water. There is a "uniquely brewed beer" festival as well as a "beer, bourbon and BBQ" festival.



## Tattoo Convention Fulda 23 Sept. 9-10, Künzell

Get tattooed by one of 50 international tattoo artists. If you aren't looking for more ink, you can also shop from various vendors, view art or get a new piercing.



## Kessel Cup Sept. 9-10, Grimmen

"Fahrer, starten Sie Ihre Motoren!" (Drivers, start your engines!) Spend the weekend watching stock car races, going to the after-race party and seeing who wins the Kessel Cup and the caravan annihilation races.



## Teddybär Welt (Teddy Bear World) Sept. 2-3, Wiesbaden

Come here for two days of stuffed animal fun for the entire family. Toy innovations from the Nuremberg Toy Fair are present along with exhibitors from all over the world. Get your favorite teddy bear fixed by the teddy bear doctor. See antique teddies and more.



## WeinYOGA Sept. 22, Cologne

Can you keep hold of your wine glass as you do your vinyasa flow? The goal is to put the wine glass down as little as possible. The vinyasa flow is designed in a way so students feel as if they are almost dancing while they do yoga.



## Camper Camp Sept. 8-9, Hamelin

Have you ever thought about starting a travel blog? How about living in an RV or tiny home and influencing others? Camper Camp is a two-day convention where you can learn the latest camping techniques and utilizing social media, video recording and photography to tell your story.



## 13th Berchtesgaden Land Hiking Festival Sept. 22-24, Berchtesgaden

Whether you're a casual mountain hiker or a sports extremist, this is a festival for you. There are 12-hour and 24-hour options so you can push yourself to your limit. You can scale the mountains or do a moonlit hike.



©BAD-DUERKHEIM.DE

## Dürkheim Sausage Market Sept. 8-12 & 15-18, Bad Dürkheim

Make your way to the world's LARGEST wine festival. Drink some wine, eat sausage, go to a concert, get on rides and so much more. Scan to read our "Day at Bad Dürkheim" article for more to do while you're in town for the market.

## Tell Your Story!

Did you attend a previous Editor's Picks event? We want to hear all about it! Please share something memorable about your experience in about 50-70 words and you could be featured here. Send your submissions to [contentteam@stripes.com](mailto:contentteam@stripes.com). ■



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# PHOTO of the month

Take a water taxi from Venice, Italy to the islands of Murano and Burano for this gorgeous view. Burano is known for its colorful buildings and homes while Murano is known for glassmaking. Both islands are small enough that you can squeeze a trip to both in one day.

**Photo by Alexia Clark**

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# Bad Dürkheim

By Tamala Malerk



If you are in town for Wurstmarkt, why not see what other wonders this town has for you? Bad Dürkheim is one of the most famous wine-growing regions in the world. You can find Bad Dürkheim a short 40-minute drive (or an hour-long public transit ride) from Kaiserslautern and less than two hours from Stuttgart via car or public transit. There is something for everyone here!

## Eat in a Giant Wine Barrel

In 1934, vintner and master cooper Fritz Keller built the giant wine barrel that now serves as the restaurant, Dürkheimer Riesenfass. It sits at the edge of the town's square on the main road from Bad Dürkheim to Kaiserslautern. According to the restaurant, the diameter of the barrel is 13.5 meters with a volume of 1.7 million liters. (The other popular giant wine barrel in Heidelberg measures roughly nine meters). The restaurant offers a variety of food and drink options including Rheinland-Pfalz regional specialties and, of course, wine tastings.



## Warm up or Cool Down at the Pool and Sauna

Have a relaxing day at Salinarium-Leisure Pool and Sauna. There is a sport and swimming pool measuring 25 meters long maintaining a temperature of 28-29 degrees Celsius (82.4 - 84.2 degrees Fahrenheit). Take a nice steam in a variety of saunas and relax even more in thermal baths. Unwind with a massage. Kids (and kids at heart) will enjoy the water slides and diving boards. The Salinarium is closed on Mondays and some of the areas and experiences may not be available due to construction.

## Explore a Castle and Ruins

Hardenburg Castle and Fortress Ruins offer visitors a chance to explore a castle and Renaissance garden area, and view an exhibition of items recovered from 16th and 17th-century archeological digs. The outdoor eatery next to the castle and overlooking the town is a relaxing place to order some flammkuchen and let the kids play. Limburg Abbey is just outside of town and is a ruined abbey converted into a modern-day restaurant. Enjoy a great regionally-inspired meal and then explore the monastery gardens. Limburg Abbey is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and only open for dinner hours Wednesday through Friday.

## Do it All in the Römerplatz

No matter what you want to do, you can do it in the Römerplatz. In the Middle Ages, the "Römer" was the center of the area, which is where today's name comes from, according to [tourenplaner-rheinland-pfalz.de](http://tourenplaner-rheinland-pfalz.de). There is a pedestrian area, great for those who love to stroll. There are plenty of Eiscafes for those midday ice cream and coffee treats. There are restaurants to satisfy any appetite. If you're seeking a souvenir, you can find multiple shops here.

## Hike for an Abbey View

If you want some exercise and enjoy a beautiful area, you can hike from the Pfalz Forest in Bad Dürkheim to a view of Limburg Abbey. Along the trail, you will see ancient Roman ruins, a Celtic wall, and more. The trail takes roughly 2.5 hours and is 7.9 kilometers. Scan the QR code below to learn more about the trail and preview it on [alltrails.com](http://alltrails.com).





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It is likely to have been mentioned in your school textbooks as the capital of the sprawling Roman Empire. Well, Rome is all that and more. The complex story of the Roman civilization has a multitude of lessons to teach us about power, people and life in ancient times, which is what fascinates its many visitors every year. Nowhere in the world will you get a more concentrated explanation of how the Romans changed the world than in the heart of the "Eternal City."

For the best experience, I recommend visiting in the tourist off-season, but then again, I'm not a fan of the summer heat or heavier crowds. With a bit of planning and prioritizing what you want to see, you can take full advantage of your time in the city.



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You've seen it in movies and depictions of everything Italian but standing on the arena floor of the massive Colosseum of Rome will still have you feeling awestruck. The best view of the Roman Forum right next door is from the Palatine Hill terrace. If you have the time, seeing all three sites is possible with a little planning. It is now required to purchase your tickets online and you run the risk of tickets being sold out if you try to book them on the same day. You can also use a tour company that can take care of it for you and in the meantime check out the website to decide what you're most interested in seeing. Do you want to explore the hypogeum (underground portion) or actually walk out onto the arena floor as the gladiators did? You can add on the S.U.P.E.R. pass, which stands for "Seven Unique Places to Experience in Rome." This allows you to check out some historically significant and magnificent spaces.

### TREVI FOUNTAIN



*Trevi Fountain*

Relatively youthful compared to the many ancient sites of Rome, the Trevi Fountain is a quintessential place that many have put in their travel photo albums. It is an eight-minute walk from the Pantheon and free to gaze at, so why not walk over and toss in a coin? (Over your shoulder of course.) If you want a photo without the ridiculous crowds, go early in the morning. Nighttime will still be crowded. Remember that Italian businesses stay open late and dinnertime is even later in the evening, so Romans and tourists alike will still be out and about.

### PANTHEON

Tickets: [www.pantheonroma.com](http://www.pantheonroma.com)

The Pantheon is a brilliantly engineered structure that was built as a Roman temple to all gods in the first century. It served as a Christian church and was an important burial site for several famous Italians during the Renaissance and even into the 19th century. Its design has been replicated as a model of impressive power across the world, as any classical rotunda of a capital building or monument will show you. The massive spherical dome has an opening at the top, the "oculus," which beams sunlight (or rain) into the massive space. A guided tour is recommended here because there is so much to learn about its history.



*Pantheon*





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# EXPERIENTIAL VISITS

## VILLA TORLONIA

Tickets: [www.museivillatorlonia.it/en](http://www.museivillatorlonia.it/en)

Villa Torlonia is a park built in the 1800s filled with visual masterpieces. In the Museum of Villa Torlonia, collections of sculptures and stained glass also attract a living community of artists participating in workshops and art shows throughout the year. The Casina delle Civette is a castle manor on the grounds of the park, with a quirky combination of architectural styles. Every room and surface appears to go on its own tangent of embellishment, some of it in art nouveau and some medieval. This structure is lucky to have come back from its destitute years of fires and disrepair. It was once occupied by American troops toward the end of World War II. In the 1990s, it was restored to its former glory.

## EYES OF ROME

Tickets & Tour Options: [eyesofrome.com/our-tours/rome-vatican](http://eyesofrome.com/our-tours/rome-vatican)

There is something romantic and thrilling about strolling through Rome at night. Take an evening tour of the city center or a ghost tour. Tour the ancient city passages underground or the Vatican, the world's smallest country. Reach out to a reputable private tour company like this one for options that will fit nicely into your itinerary.

## CAPITOLINE MUSEUMS

Tickets: [www.museicapitolini.org](http://www.museicapitolini.org)

One intriguing museum hub in the city is on top of Capitoline Hill, the smallest hill of the seven in Rome. The Campidoglio links the gallery-filled palazzos as an elegantly designed outdoor square, a creation of Michelangelo. The web of buildings displays not only Roman, but Greek, Egyptian, medieval and Renaissance art and sculptures. It was conceived partially as an alternative location for pagan symbolism from the Vatican and to house the many artifacts of the Roman Empire.

### IMPORTANT TIPS

- Pre-book your admission tickets for these tourist sites online to save yourself time so you don't have to wait in as many long lines and to guarantee you'll be able to see the places you're most excited about.
- Get the Roma Pass for free or discounted entry to certain sites and local public transportation. For more details, visit [romapass.it/en](http://romapass.it/en). ■

*"There is something romantic and thrilling about strolling through Rome at night."*



Villa Torlonia



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**American Dollars Accepted**

# Volunteering with a Community Spouse Club

By Tamala Malerk

**Volunteering** can be such a fulfilling activity. This year, we are highlighting a new organization or event for those who are looking to learn more about the services and resources available to them as well as for those who are looking to give back to the community.

Earlier this year, we featured thrift shops and learned that they are mostly run by spouses' clubs. However, these organizations are so much more than thrift shops (and consist of more than just military spouses). That's why this month we are featuring Wiesbaden Community Spouses' Club (WCSC). I interviewed WCSC President, Brandy Schraeder, and she spoke all about the club.



**“We want to be that first person that welcomes any spouse to our community”**



**W**CSC is one of the oldest and largest spouses' clubs throughout the DoD community. At any time, there are between 200 and 400 members. Brandy was drawn to the spouses' club because she “saw a need in the community” and began her tenure in 2018 as the Scholarship Chair. She described the experience as being a part of “something bigger than yourself.” She recommended it to anyone looking to connect with not only the local military community, but the host-nation community as well through WCSC's partnership with the German-American Women's International Club.

The WCSC works with Army Community Services (ACS) as part of in-processing with new-to-the-area military families, and Brandy stated, “We want to be that first person that welcomes any spouse to our community.” They aid the Security Assistance Group - Ukraine (SAG-U) through food pantry collections and care packages. The WCSC is also in charge of the thrift shop, which is set to gross roughly \$450,000 which goes right back into the military community. Over \$100,000 goes to scholarships, with \$10,000 “earmarked” for Wiesbaden High School's Dual Enrollment program, and \$140,000 in grants/gifts to community members: They sponsor unit organi-

zation days, balls, extracurriculars and other things for on-base schools and more. This past year they were also able to provide commissary gift cards to families in need, and paid off all the school lunch debt at on-base schools.

Brandy wants everyone to know that the club is very much leaning into the “community” part of their title. You do not have to be a spouse to join. They have members who are part of the civilian DoD workforce, service members and local nationals. The WCSC works hard but also knows how to play hard and they would love for you to join. They travel to different places as a group, host fantasy football leagues and book clubs, and hold events such as 80's Night and high tea luncheons (basically lots of opportunities for dressing up and having fun).

Brandy noted that there are “a million ways” to volunteer with the WCSC (that is only a slight exaggeration). You do not have to be a member to volunteer, but membership allows you access to their community events and opportunities to serve on the board. If you want to volunteer, you can reach out via their website [wiesbadenspousesclub.com](http://wiesbadenspousesclub.com), through the Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) or their Facebook page. ■



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## Explore new horizons in September with MWR

### Job Fair on Sept. 26

Army Community Service's Employment Readiness Program hosts a Job Fair at the Hainerberg Exchange Mall on Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Multiple vendors will be on hand representing local and worldwide employment opportunities. Also, find out more about starting a home based business, volunteer and educational opportunities. Come dressed and equipped with your resume for on-the-spot interviews and potential job offers.

### G-A Flea Market

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden hosts a German-American Flea Market on Saturday, Sept. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The flea market will be held on the parking lot between the former PX and the Taunus Theater in Hainerberg Housing. U.S. and Host Nation sellers will have the opportunity to offer their goods to a diverse audience between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Cost to rent a space is 20 Euro. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis (no advance registration) starting at 7:30 a.m.

### Comedy Show

The Wiesbaden Entertainment Lounge holds another Comedy Night on Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. Featured well-known comics include Grant Nunn, J.F. Harris, Bengt Washburn and Erin Crouch. The free evening is open to adults ages 18 and above.

### Trip to Poland

Outdoor Recreation heads to Krakow (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and to go Polish Pottery Shopping on Sept. 1-4. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9801 for registration details.

### 'Little Mermaid Jr.'

Be enchanted during the Amelia Earhart Play-



### Connect with potential employers during the Employment Readiness Job Fair on Sept. 26.

house's production of "Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr." Play dates Sept. 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. Purchase tickets at the Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center or the Playhouse.

### Color Run Block Party

Add a little color to your life during the Wiesbaden Sports and Fitness Center's Color Run Block Party on Sept. 23. Make sure to wear sunglasses or eye protection for this free, colorful five-kilometer run/walk event starting at 10 a.m.

### Rheinblick Club Championship

The Rheinblick Golf Course invites players to compete in the 2023 Club Championship Sept. 9-10. All players with a verifiable golf handicap are eligible to compete in this 36-hole, stroke-play event. Call civ (0611) 143-548-5485.

### Eltville By Train

Army Community Service's Relocation Readiness Program holds a trip to the nearby Rhein River town of Eltville on Sept. 6. Register by calling civ (0611) 143-548-9201.

### Bad Duerkheim Wine Fest

Leave the driving to Outdoor Recreation and have fun at Germany's largest wine festival on Sept. 9. Sign up at

Outdoor Recreation or call civ (0611) 143-548-9801 for details.

### Coffee and Cars

Check out the wide variety of automobiles and motorcycles on display at MWR's Coffee and Cars event on Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Lower Hainerberg

Parking Lot. If you wish to show off your ride, register (for free) by visiting <https://wiesbaden.armymwr.com/calendar/event/coffee-and-cars/6056058/81152>.

### Return of the Maker Space

The Wiesbaden Library hosts another Maker Space on Sept. 17 at 10 a.m. Come to check out the brand new Maker Space cart — loaded with STEM/STEAM activities.

### Trivia League

Trivia League returns after a summer break to the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center Lounge on Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. Join the fun and show off your knowledge of everything to compete for prizes.

### Fitness Resolution

The Wiesbaden Sports and Fitness Center hosts the fall Fitness Resolution on Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fitness instructors will be on hand to teach free yoga, Zumba, spin, endurance and Functional Fitness Training classes. There will also be a bench press competition judged by Vada Macaulay. Macaulay is an 11-year-old Olympic lifter who will be competing in the Nationals this summer.







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