

Düsseldorf Events -- Carnival, Cartwheels, Lantern Parties,...

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Düsseldorf events offer lots of fun, food and fashion for those who arrive during these times.

There's the traditional Rhineland Carnival, with fun parades and activities. There's the lantern-lit processions of St Martin's Night. You can peruse the latest in footwear fashions at the International Shoe Fair. Or get in the holiday spirit at Düsseldorf's traditional Christmas market.

In short, there's something going on all year round.

Carnival

On the Düsseldorf events calendar, Carnival is surely the number one attraction. Every November 11 at 11:11, the festivities begin. Huge parades and elaborate costumes are all part of the celebrations, which last until Ash Wednesday in February.

Try to catch some of the traditional *Kamelle* sweets, chocolate, and flowers which are thrown from the parade floats (I always manage to get a couple **bags** full)!

International Shoe Fair

The GDS — or International Shoe Fair — turns Düsseldorf into a fashion mecca twice every year. Come and check out the latest in show and accessory designs so you can stay ahead of the trends.

Christmas Market

Every December, Düsseldorf decks the halls with illuminated Christmas light displays and plenty of holiday cheer. Drink some mulled wine as you wander through this winter wonderland in search of that perfect holiday gift.

St. Martin's Festival

This Düsseldorf event goes back to the ancient Roman times! St. Martin was a Roman legionary who became famous for his generosity when he shared his cloak with a beggar suffering from cold. To commemorate this act of kindness, the locals take to the streets with processions of lanterns and singing children.

The St. Martin's Festival is held every year on November 10 (the day before Carnival).

Fun Fair on the Rhine

The *Kirmes*, or Fun Fair, is a nine-day long summertime tradition. This Düsseldorf event can attract up to four million visitors every year. There are 350 attractions spread over 17 hectares of land, including amusement park rides, food stalls selling everything from delicious German potato pancakes or exquisite French cuisine and a mouse circus.

Don't miss the marksmen parade or giant fireworks party! ;-)

Cartwheel Tournament

The Cartwheel Tournament is a tradition that dates back to 1288 when Düsseldorf first got its town charter after a fierce battle. To celebrate, the children performed "wheels of joy," or cartwheels. Now the kids put on their show for just one penny, and those who can do the best cartwheels win a prize.