

Essen Events -- Games, Cars, Christmas, Horses, Music, Lights

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Essen's event calendar is a very diversified list of trade fairs, love parades and Christmas attractions. In other words, there's always something happening in Essen.

Essen Motor Show

Essen is the host of the largest car tuning fair in the world. Taking place in November/December, the Essen Motor Show attracts over half a million visitors and auto fans every year and is a showcase for car companies to show off their latest innovations. It's the perfect place for car lovers to see a new automobile unveiling by the major [German car companies](#) like BMW and VW.

Internationale Spieltage (SPIEL)

This Essen event, taking place in October, is one of the world's largest trade fairs for gaming, role-playing games and comic book sellers. You can also check out a showcase of card games, board games and CCGs (collectible card games). The SPIEL fair is unusual in Germany because it is open to the public, and not just those in the industry.

Kids will have plenty of fun, not only with all the games on display, but also the playground that features inflatable jumping attractions and other activities.

Christmas Market

One of the city's most important annual traditions is surely the Christmas Market. Beginning in late November until Christmas Eve, the city center is transformed into a Yuletide paradise with over 250 shopping stalls and plenty of Christmas cheer.

Festival of Lights

The Festival of Lights is an important part of the Christmas Market and one of the season's highlights. Since the 1950s, the city becomes covered in illumination: Christmas trees, bells, stars, sculptures and shops. This yearly Essen event is a great time to visit the city.

Equitana

Equitana is an equestrian sporting attraction and a biennial Essen event. Every two years (in February/March), the best horses and riders make the journey to Essen for this important fair.

Essen.Original

Essen.Original is an artistic feast in the city, at the end of August. Everywhere you go, you'll be treated to the sounds of music — pop, jazz, rock and hip hop. You'll hear the dialogue of a play or comedy skit, or come across a dance performance. The artistry of Essen is showcased for all to see.