

Training Module “Hobby Activities” Festivities in Germany



Festivities in Germany: carnival

- The days before the forty-day Lent are celebrated in many regions of Germany.
- Depending on the region,
 - these days are called *Karneval* (Rhineland), *Fastnacht* (especially in Hesse and Southwest Germany), *Fasching* (especially in Bavaria and Saxony) or *Fastelovend* (from northern Rhineland to the Lower Rhine).
 - the customs are different.
 - there are many different ways to celebrate and different music.

Festivities in Germany: carnival

- Particularly well-known is the Rhenish carnival, especially around Cologne.
- The exact origin of the word *carnival* is uncertain. There is for example, a folk etymological interpretation that the term *carnival* derives from the Latin "*carne vale* ", which means "*meat, farewell*" regarding the subsequent Lent.

Festivities in Germany: carnival

- The carnival season begins each year on the 11th of November at 11:11 am.
- The period from 12th of November to the end of December is rather uneventful.
- The **low season** begins in January.
 - Numerous events take place and many artists perform on the same evening.
 - Each place proclaims a prince or princess. In some places there are also pairs of princes or so-called "*Dreigestirne*", consisting of a peasant, a maiden and the prince.



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Festivities in Germany: carnival

- The **high season** runs from Thursday, known as "*Weiberfastnacht*" in the Rhineland, to the following Tuesday.
- Ash Wednesday marks the end of these special days and with it begins Lent.
- During the high season, people dress up in costumes and celebrate in the streets.



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Festivities in Germany: carnival

- Every day carnival processions take place in a different district or village.
- Various carnival and sports clubs, as well as schools or other associations, take part in the processions in groups, throwing sweets, bouquets of flowers, balls or handing out schnapps.
- The members of a group always wear the same costume.
- Most groups walk, but others ride along on pompously decorated carnival floats.
- The end of a carnival procession is usually marked by the prince or a similar figure.
- The largest and most popular carnival procession is the Rose Monday procession in Cologne.



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