

Cultural Summer in Nuremberg – Festival Time

In summer in Nuremberg a variety music festivals take place which draw national and international visitors. In addition to well-known events such as Rock im Park and the Bardentreffen World Music Festival, there are also smaller open-air festivals in unusual venues, such as the St. Katharina Open Air in the ruins of a church or the “Brückenfestival” under the Theodor Heuss Bridge. There are also festivals focused on only one genre such as NurembergPop or the NUEJazz Festival. What do they all have in common? They offer a varied musical program outside the mainstream.

The kickoff to the yearly Nuremberg festival summer is [“Rock im Park”](#). Taking place at the beginning of June, it is the musical counterpart to “Rock am Ring” at the Nürburgring. Since 1997, the area in and around the Nuremberg Zeppelin Field transforms itself from Friday to Sunday into a one-of-a-kind rock zone and attracts fans from all over Germany and Europe.

More local, but not less impressive is [St. Katharina Open Air](#), which takes place mid-June for two weeks in the ruins of St. Catherine’s Church. For more than 20 years, the team from the Tafelhalle in KunstKulturQuartier has moved its stage outdoors and – with a program of national and international bands and solo artists from jazz and classic to folk, pop, indie and world music – creates a unique concert atmosphere in front of a historical backdrop.

Also taking place in June and July, the [Musikfest ION](#) draws an enthusiastic audience. Founded in 1951, in the midst of the ruins of the city and in the spirit of reconciliation, the Musikfest ION is today one of the most important and modern music festivals and a lively place for exchange in the heart of Europe. For ten days, this international music festival for sacred music pulls a large audience from near and far into the churches of the city. Here, celebrated international stars meet creative newcomers and ensure inspiring encounters and musical moments.

At the end of July, Germany’s largest music festival brings life to the Nuremberg city center – the [Bardentreffen](#) World Music Festival. This free-of-charge open-air format transforms Nuremberg’s Old Town for a whole weekend into a melodious zone of music. International, national and regional bands from a variety of genres draw on themes from the current world of music to highlight a musical motto which changes each year. On eight stages, almost 100 concerts as well as a program with talks with artists and podium discussions take place.

Just after Bardentreffen comes [Classic Open Air](#). On two summer evenings in July and August, the park in Nuremberg's Luitpoldhain becomes what must be the greenest concert hall in Europe. Here, both of Nuremberg's large symphony orchestras celebrate a festival of classical music – and all free-of-charge. The ensemble of the Nuremberg State Philharmonic starts the event; the second performance is from the Nuremberg Symphony. Our tip to all visitors: The concerts are a great place to enjoy a picnic.

The outdoors festival summer ends with the [Brückenfestival](#) under the Theodor Heuss Bridge in Nuremberg. On two days in August, at the Brückenfestival on the meadows of the Pegnitz River, regional and international bands present their music – off the beaten track, far from mainstream and charts. Since 2000, this festival has taken place for free and outdoors and is organized, planned and carried out only by volunteers. The Brückenfestival wants to offer space for new discoveries, experiments and an opportunity to experience music and culture. It creates the possibility to dive into its own small and lovingly created world and experience a cross section of the most varied music, art and culture.

For those who want to enjoy the music festival season just a little longer, Nuremberg invites you to its well-known music events [NurembergPop](#) and [NUEJAZZ](#) in autumn. At the beginning of October, Nuremberg transforms into a music city of pop. Cultural centers such as the Z-Bau, the Neues Museum Nuremberg and the ruins of St. Catherine's Church, together with unusual venues such as shops and churches, become concert stages. Parallel to the Nuremberg Pop Festival, the annual awarding of the pop culture prize "GUNDA" and a Pop Conference takes place. At the end of October, jazz fans have a treat. The NUEJAZZ Festival, founded in 2013, has developed into one of the most important jazz festivals in Germany. Over several days and venues, national and international artists display a wide variety and various facets of contemporary jazz in their performances.