PRESS INFORMATION

January 2015

The Best Reasons to Come to Nuremberg in 2015

Festivals, sporting events and top class exhibits enrich the cultural calendar in 2015. Concerts fill the churches with music almost every day of the year and the State Opera will continue its new production of Wagner's Ring tetralogy with the premiere of "Siegfried".

Festivals to suit every taste

The "Blue Night" on May 2 offers lively art and culture all over town: 300 events, art projections and installations at 70 locations in the heart of Nuremberg celebrate this year's theme of "Freedom!". Every important institution in the city will open its doors that night and offer fantastic programs. Twelve projects chosen from the Blue Night art competition will surprise visitors in unusual locations with both wit and deeper meaning. For just 14 Euros you can experience the indoor programs – but even without a ticket you can experience culture in the squares and streets of the Old Town.
Two highlights: On the Main Market Square, which is a natural and stunning showplace for the Blue Night, Frieder Weiss and Johannes Brendel will create a "torch of freedom". Weiss, who has won Nuremberg's Cultural Prize, is recognized worldwide for his light and sound installations and has worked with stars such as Kylie Minogue. Another crowd puller is the projection on the walls of the Imperial Castle, created in 2015 by Erlangen artist Roger Libesch. Its working title is "Blue Bayou".

From May 8 to 17, 2015, the 19th International Figure Theater Festival will take place throughout the Erlangen, Nuremberg, Fürth and Schwabach urban area. More than 50 theater companies from around the world show the best of contemporary figure, puppet, image and object theatre in more than 100 performances over 10 days.

Since 1997, rock superstars have drawn the youth of Europe to Nuremberg's "Rock im Park" Festival. In 2015, it takes place June 5 to 7. "Slipknot", "The Prodigy", "Foo

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Fighters" and "Die Toten Hosen" are the headliners and groups such as "Beatsteaks", "Motörhead", "Clueso" and "Marilyn Manson" will also perform.

The International Organ Week Nuremberg - Musica Sacra (ION) from June 19 to 28 is the largest and oldest festival for sacred music in Europe. From the beginning, choir and symphony concerts have complemented the diverse organ performances. In 2015, an interpretation competition for young talent will draw organists and fans of sacred music from around the world.

The Classic Open Airs on July 26 and August 8 invite you to enjoy a picnic in the park. These unique and free-of-charge music festivals draw thousands of fans of classical music to the Luitpoldhain Park. In July, the Nuremberg State Philharmonic – conducted by its Musical Director Marcus Bosch – kicks off the event with 20th century classics. On the program are the Candide overture from Leonard Bernstein and Dmitri Schostakowitsch's Jazz Suite – and the virtuoso drummer Martin Grubinger will perform two concerts which have been composed just for him. KiKa-Moderator Malte Arkona invites families to join in the classical music fun that morning at a concert created to please both children and parents. On August 8, the Nuremberg Symphony and their Chief Conductor Alexander Shelley will highlight Beethoven's Ninth and commemorate the 70th anniversary of end of World War II.

The Bardentreffen World Music Festival – which celebrates its 40th birthday this year – will present 90 concerts on nine stages from July 30 to August 2. The entire Old Town is transformed into a festival location, and in addition to the official program on stage, hundreds of street musicians will fill the city with music. To celebrate this special birthday, bands and musicians who have left their mark on this festival have been asked to return and bring their latest hits with them. Performers include Ringsgwandl, Bairisch Diatonischer Jodelwahnsinn, Fanfare Ciocarlia (from Romania), Amparo Sanchez (from Spain) and Mayra Andrade (from Cuba).

Musician and composer Wolfgang Haffner, who is sought after worldwide and has just been honored with Nuremberg's Cultural Prize, continues the "Stars in the Luitpoldhain" concert series by gathering together an amazing group of musical friends. On Sunday, August 9, Viktoria Tolstoy, Max Mutzke, Roger Cicero and other top-class

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guests will create an unparalleled crossover experience –all free-of-charge. A twenty-person All Star Big Band – handpicked by Haffner – will create a fabulous live music experience at this open air concert and picnic in the park.

Twenty-five acts, 15 stages and no dangerous fireworks – that's Nuremberg's unusual approach to celebrating New Year's Eve. The "Silvestival 2015/2016" invites you to join in a cultural journey of discovery in the Old Town. Between 9 pm and 4 am, you can broaden your horizons at locations like the City Hall, Katharinenruine and Germanisches Nationalmuseum by enjoying classical, jazz and world music, cabaret and circus performances. Among the interesting acts are Shantel & das Bucovina Club Orkestar, the Pocket Opera Company and Cirque Garuda from Prague.

Top-class sport in Nuremberg

From May 16 to 23, in the week before the French Open in Paris, a WTA women's tournament with a US$ 250,000 prize will take place in Nuremberg. Many of the world's best tennis players use the Nuremberg Insurance Cup as optimal lawn tennis training before heading on to Roland Garros. In this, the third Nuremberg tournament, World Top Ten ranked and Germany's Number 1 female player Angelique Kerber will appear for the first time on the center court of the FCN.

On May 17, the bicycle race "Around the Nuremberg Old Town" will celebrate its 25th anniversary. In its long history as one of the largest cycling events in Germany, the race has seen many highlights and welcomed scores of big names. Since 2013, the event has also served as the final stage and finishing line of the "Bavaria Tour", one of the most important German multi-stage professional cycling competitions.

The ADAC Noris Ring Speed Weekend is one of the most important events for the DTM "Deutsche Tourenwagen Meisterschaft". From June 26 to 28, the mighty V8s will race around a 2.3-kilometer urban course. Around 120,000 visitors come each year to the former Nazi Party Rally Grounds to experience a race on a circuit that is as popular for drivers as fans.

Germany's best track and field athletes will compete on July 25 and 26 in Nuremberg's Grundig Stadium for the championship and to qualify for the World Championships in

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Peking. One highlight that is expected to draw crowds will take place far from the stadium: The long-jump competition for men and women will be held on the Main Market Square of Nuremberg on the evening of June 24. This world premiere is free of charge and will be the first time in history that a long-jump championship is held in a public place in the center of a city.

Exhibit Highlights

As a preparation for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, Nuremberg will host two exhibits highlighting 2015's Reformation topic: "Image and Bible". On April 23, Margot Käßmann – who serves the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany as ambassador for the commemoration of the Reformation – will open the exhibit "Germany's Eye and Ear: Nuremberg as a Media Center in the Reformation". From then until October 31, the exhibit in the City Museum Fembohaus will explain Nuremberg's importance in the Reformation in Germany, why the city was the first to follow Martin Luther's teachings and how the printed Bible and Luther's words began their triumphal spread around the world from this city.

The printed word as a driver of the Reformation will be the focus of "Black Art. White Art. Printing and Paper in Nuremberg", a complementary exhibit in the Museum of Industrial Culture. It will be shown from June 18 to October 11. In 1390, Ulman Stromer opened the first German paper mill in Nuremberg and thereby created the basis for a flourishing and reasonably-priced publishing industry. The exhibit focuses on developments from Gutenberg to modern print media and will be located near and in the museum's historical lead-typesetting workshop.

The Germanisches Nationalmuseum will also make the Reformer part of its portfolio with the presentation "Between Venus and Luther: Cranach's Media of Temptation". Cranach's 500th birthday is the reason to focus on the almost 25 paintings and 30 printed works of the Master of Kronach which can be found in the GNM's "Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment" permanent exhibit. From May 21, 2015 to May 22, 2016, they will be given new didactic content emphasizing common threads in Cranach's work. Visitors can then discover how images became both advertising material and a media of temptation.

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Christmas in Nuremberg

It’s not only tiny tots who will have their eyes all a-glow as the Nuremberg Christkind appears on the balcony of the Church of Our Lady to open the Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt. From Friday before the first Sunday in Advent until Christmas Eve, the enticing smells of gingerbread, mulled wine and roasting bratwurst fill the air as the Christmas Market opens daily from 10 am to 9 pm. The 180 wooden market stands – all decorated with red and white roofs and fresh Christmas greens – offer traditional goods such as hand-made Christmas ornaments and delicious things to eat and drink. On Hans-Sachs-Platz, just around the corner from the main market, the Children’s Christmas Market welcomes families to a place that will delight children and adults alike. There, a nostalgic carousel, a miniature Ferris wheel and a child-sized steam train make their rounds. Little ones can bake and create to their hearts’ content at the many fantastic hands-on booths. And don’t miss the appearance of a "heavenly" visitor at the Children’s Christmas Market. From Tuesday to Friday at 2:30 pm, the Christkind invites children for a free ride on the steam-driven carousel.

For more information, follow these links:

www.blauenacht.nuernberg.de
www.ion-musica-sacra.de
www.figurentheaterfestival.de
www.klassikopenair.de
www.stars-im-luitpoldhain.de/
www.bardentreffen.de
www.rock-im-park.com
www.silvestival.de
http://www.nuernberger-versicherungscup.de
http://www.nuernberg.de/internet/radrennen
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www.christkindlesmarkt.de

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