

## **Selected highlights and events in Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) in 2024**

- **January 2024: Neujahrsschwimmen an der Nordsee**  
Traditionally on 1 January, intrepid locals and visitors take to the chilly waters of the North Sea in various coastal resorts in Niedersachsen to welcome the new year. After this impressive display, participants and spectators alike can revive themselves with hot drinks and live music – and it’s a good time to fire up the barbecue too! [www.die-nordsee.de/neujahrsschwimmen](http://www.die-nordsee.de/neujahrsschwimmen)
- **10–11 Februar 2024: Upper Harz dog sled race in Clausthal**  
Clausthal-Zellerfeld has been hosting this dog sledding adventure for many years now. The event attracts thousands of winter enthusiasts and dog lovers every year. Alongside some top competitors from the German and Dutch national dog sled teams, the race also draws in many amateur ‘mushers’. As usual, only purebred sled dogs can enter the race. [www.oberharz.de/winter/veranstaltungen-im-winter/oberharzer-schlittenhunde-adventure](http://www.oberharz.de/winter/veranstaltungen-im-winter/oberharzer-schlittenhunde-adventure)
- **1–3 March 2024: Mystica Hamelon in Hamelin**  
A medieval fantasy market: experience traditional camp life, complete with knights in armour, medieval craftspeople and tradespeople, jugglers and musicians – the stuff of myths, fables and legends! Clad in traditional costumes, enthusiasts from across Europe make their annual pilgrimage to the town of the Pied Piper to join the festivities on the marketplace over an area of 25,000 m². [www.hameln.de/de/veranstaltungen/mystica-hamelon-1/](http://www.hameln.de/de/veranstaltungen/mystica-hamelon-1/)
- **14 April 2024: ADAC Marathon in Hanover**  
With the IAAF Silver Label, the ADAC Marathon has become a fixture in the calendar of major national and international running events. The Hanover marathon is famous not only for its very fast, flat route, but also for its professional organisation and varied supporting programme. [www.marathon-hannover.de/en/](http://www.marathon-hannover.de/en/)
- **24–28 April 2024: 37th European Media Art Festival in Osnabrück**  
The EMAF has been one of the most important hubs of international media art since the 1980s. As a meeting place for artists, curators, distributors, gallerists and visitors with a special interest in the subject, this event plays a significant role in shaping the relevant issues, aesthetics and future of media art. The festival offers both a contemporary and a

historical perspective with a programme that includes experimental films, installations, performances, digital formats and hybrid forms. <https://www.emaf.de/en/>

- **27 April – 5 May 2024: 8th Wilhelmshaven Schweinswal-Tage porpoise festival**

The southern coast of Wilhelmshaven provides the backdrop for a unique spectacle of nature: each year in spring, pods of porpoises gather in the Jade Bay. For seven days, porpoise-watching excursions are organised by boat or on land so people can witness this fascinating natural phenomenon. In addition, ‘porpoise criers’ on South Strand, photo walks, nature documentaries and presentations by international researchers round off the extensive programme. [www.schweinswaltage.de](http://www.schweinswaltage.de)

- **30 April 2024: Walpurgis Night in the Harz Mountains**

The Walpurgis Festival is a traditional European celebration dating back to the pre-Christian era. A thousand years ago, the original inhabitants of the Harz mountains were already celebrating their own version of the spring festival, in which they welcomed the spring by offering various sacrifices. The Harz Walpurgis Nights are celebrated in more than 20 towns and villages throughout the region. The centre of this bubbling cauldron can be found in the towns of Bad Grund, Braunlage, Hahnenklee, Sankt Andreasberg, Schierke and Thale. [en.harzinfo.de/festivals-events/walpurgis-night](http://en.harzinfo.de/festivals-events/walpurgis-night)

- **4–5 May 2024: Altes Land Blossom Festival in Jork**

In the Altes Land region, the cherry trees come into blossom first, followed by the apple trees about ten days later. As a result, about 10 million fruit trees transform Germany’s largest contiguous fruit-growing region into a fairytale landscape of pink and white. Magnificent half-timbered buildings, splendid ornamental gates, grassy embankments and sparkling blue waterways form an idyllic backdrop for the Blossom Festival (Altländer Blütenfest) over the first weekend in May. Along with the traditional costumes and dancing, a must-see highlight is the crowning of the new Blossom Queen. [www.altesland-entdecken.de/altlaender-bluetenfest-bluetenkoenigin](http://www.altesland-entdecken.de/altlaender-bluetenfest-bluetenkoenigin)

- **09–12 May 2024: 31st International kite flying and wind chime festival in Norddeich**

Spectacular kites and exotic flying objects, as well as entertainment for children, food and impressive air shows are regular attractions at the Norddeich Kite Festival. With its maritime charm and international flair, complemented by an attractive location on the North Sea overlooking the isles of Juist and Norderney, this popular event is a magnet for kite aficionados and beach holiday makers alike. [www.drachenfest-norddeich.de](http://www.drachenfest-norddeich.de)

- **09–20 May 2024: Göttingen International Handel-Festival**

The International Handel Festival in Göttingen is the world's oldest festival of Baroque music. The shows will take place in different locations across the town and whole region, at both covered and open air venues, featuring well-known stars from the Baroque music scene as well as talented newcomers. [www.haendel-festspiele.de/en/](http://www.haendel-festspiele.de/en/)

- **16 May – 02 June 2024: KunstFestSpiele in Hanover Herrenhausen**

The international KunstFestSpiele is a performing arts festival offering an impressive programme of musical theatre, concerts, theatre, performances, installations and much more besides. Over 20 productions will be presented at around 60 events in the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen and the city of Hanover. From installations to in-house productions and premieres – there's a bit of everything! [www.kunstfestspiele.de/en/](http://www.kunstfestspiele.de/en/)

- **17–19 May 2024: Norderney White Sands Festival**

Traditionally, the Whitsun weekend marks a special date in the calendar for sports fans and party-goers on the island of Norderney. Thousands of visitors flock to the North Sea island to watch Germany's best windsurfers and beach volleyball players. At night, the festival grounds on the beach transform into a party animal's paradise.

[www.whitesandsfestival.de](http://www.whitesandsfestival.de) [www.whitesandsfestival.de](http://www.whitesandsfestival.de)

- **17-20 May 2024: 38th Borkum Jazz Days**

The Borkum Jazz Days festival at Whitsun has become an important fixture in today's jazz scene. It gives an insight into the rich variety of music styles performed by national and international jazz artists at various locations on the island. [www.borkum-unterkuenfte.de/Veranstaltungen-Borkum/Borkumer-Jazztage.htm](http://www.borkum-unterkuenfte.de/Veranstaltungen-Borkum/Borkumer-Jazztage.htm)

- **18–20 May 2024: Kivelingsfest in Lingen (Ems)**

Every three years at Whitsun, Lingen celebrates its bachelor sons with the historical Kivelingsfest – including medieval markets, a parade and jugglers, sutlers, and Kivelings dressed in historical attire. Historical accuracy is important here, so there is no modern lighting and no modern technology as far as possible. This folk festival originates in the 14th century, when the male population was so severely decimated during the battles between the Count of Tecklenburg and the Bishop of Münster that the young bachelors in the town were called onto the walls to defend it. And they did!

[www.kivelinge.de/](http://www.kivelinge.de/)

- **25 May – 14 September 2024: 32nd International Fireworks Competition in Hanover**

Every year, visitors to the Fireworks Competition are mesmerised by the beautiful works of art in the sky created by the world's leading pyrotechnicians to the accompaniment of suitably atmospheric music. Germany's first fireworks competition has long since become a classic in its field. [www.visit-hannover.com/en/Event-Highlights,-Culture-Leisure/Event-Highlights/Festivals-and-Specials/International-Firework-Competition/Dates-in-2024](http://www.visit-hannover.com/en/Event-Highlights,-Culture-Leisure/Event-Highlights/Festivals-and-Specials/International-Firework-Competition/Dates-in-2024)

- **31 May – 02 June 2024: 33rd Emden Matjestage herring festival**

This is where the little fish take centre stage: the Matjestage festival celebrates the tradition of herring fishing in Emden, which dates back over 450 years. Boats from Germany and abroad moor in the inland port and Ratsdelft harbour basin, bringing with them a touch of maritime nostalgia. Live bands and the Matjeslauf (herring run) provide fun entertainment. [www.matjestage.de](http://www.matjestage.de)

- **2 June 2024: UNESCO World Heritage Day**

Since 2005, World Heritage Day has been commemorated every year in Germany on the first Sunday in June with events held at all World Heritage Sites. For Holiday Destination Niedersachsen, these are the Fagus Factory in Alfeld, St Mary's Cathedral and St Michael's Church in Hildesheim, the Rammelsberg Mines in the Harz mountains, the Upper Harz Water Management System, the Old Town of Goslar and the Wadden Sea. [www.unesco-welterbetag.de/en](http://www.unesco-welterbetag.de/en)

- **05–12 June 2024: 34th Emden-Norderney Film Festival**

Located by the North Sea, the International Film Festival is among the country's most highly regarded, not just in Germany but around the world too. It's become a meeting place for numerous representatives of the film industry in Germany and Northwestern Europe. Featuring 100 films shown on seven screens, the festival is first and foremost a popular major event, drawing in around 24,000 visitors who value the warm, personal atmosphere and the chance to see filmmakers up close. [www.filmfest-emden.de](http://www.filmfest-emden.de)

- **15–30 June 2024: 54th Annual Harzburg Music Days**

Every year, Niedersachsen's third oldest festival of classical music offers an exclusive programme with top-class orchestras, soloists and ensembles. The annual international festival is organised by the Society for the Promotion of the Harzburg Music Days and runs for a traditional festival week. [www.harzburger-musiktage.de](http://www.harzburger-musiktage.de)

- **21 June 2024: Fête de la Musique in Hanover**

The world's largest music festival doesn't require tickets or fees - anyone can go, anyone can play, even in Hanover. What counts is that everyone enjoys making music. In addition to a wide range of musical styles and musicians, there will be many locations in the city centre where it will be possible to simply make music – as a soloist or ensemble, spontaneously or planned, with or without a conductor. The biggest Fête de la Musique in northern Germany is a truly communal experience.

[www.hannover.de/Kultur-Freizeit/Freizeit-Sport/Feste-Saisonales/Fête-de-la-Musique](http://www.hannover.de/Kultur-Freizeit/Freizeit-Sport/Feste-Saisonales/Fête-de-la-Musique)

- **21–23 June 2024: Hurricane Festival in Scheeßel**

Three days of the finest bands: around 65,000 fans are expected at this indie, rock, pop, electronic and hip-hop festival every year. International stars, German acts and emerging artists will be there to rock the four stages again this year.

[www.hurricane.de/en/](http://www.hurricane.de/en/)

- **28 June – 07 July 2024: Marksmen Festival (Hanover Schützenfest)**

The drill command of 'Im Doublertritt, Marsch!' ('In double step – march!') is the traditional starting signal for the world's longest procession of marksmen – one of the highlights of this festival, which has been celebrated since 1529. On the first Sunday of the festival, some 10,000 members of marksmen associations, folklore and carnival societies, joined by various companies and institutions, form a traditional procession through the Old Town. Over a period of ten days, the world's largest marksmen festival offers lots of things to see and experience, from the Bruchmeister (ceremonial stewards) to marksmen skills, high-speed funfair rides, marquees and Hannover's cult drink, Lüttje Lage, consisting of beer and a shot, served in separate glasses, but drunk simultaneously! [www.schuetzenfest-hannover.de](http://www.schuetzenfest-hannover.de)

- **Tba: Mud Sled Race in Upleward**

Every year, the municipality of Krummhörn hosts the Wallow Championships in mud sled racing and the East Frisian Wadden Games on the dykes overlooking Upleward. While fishermen in bygone days waged heroic battles with the tides, nowadays victory on the tidal flats is won by the fastest team with the best fancy dress costumes! Thousands of guests flock to the tidal flats every year during Carnival to enjoy the colourful scenes under the motto 'a dirty sport for a good cause' – proceeds go to the Lower Saxony Cancer Association and other charitable causes.

[www.schlickschlittenrennen.de](http://www.schlickschlittenrennen.de)

- **14 July 2024: 88th Duhnen mudflat racing in Cuxhaven**

The world-famous horse race on the seabed, held since 1902 in the Wadden Sea off Duhnen, is one of the most spectacular events in the international racing calendar. No other event in the world offers a comparable equestrian spectacle, where racehorses and harness racers compete against the backdrop of one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. [www.duhner-wattrennen.de](http://www.duhner-wattrennen.de)
- **Tba 2024: World's biggest lobscouse festival in Wilhelmshaven**

Once a typical dish for seafarers and sailors, today lobscouse is a North German specialty. It consists of cured beef, potatoes and beetroot, served with pickled herring and fried egg. Once a year the Wilhelmshaven town centre is transformed into a culinary trail where many eateries serve different versions of the dish. Shanty choirs accentuate the maritime character of the world's biggest seafarers' feast. Tba
- **18-21 July 2024: Deichbrand Festival at Cuxhaven Sea Airport**

This popular rock festival spans four days and is a festival for both young and old. There is discounted admission for children aged between eight and twelve years old accompanied by an adult guardian. Around 60,000 fans of indie, rock, pop, electronic, and hip-hop beats are expected – and all of them can stock up on everything they need in the dedicated festival supermarket. [www.deichbrand.de](http://www.deichbrand.de)
- **24-28 July 2024: Celle Wine Market (Weinmarkt)**

Riesling or Rioja? Red or white? Jazz or swing? Flammkuchen tart or Bratwurst sausage? A chat or a dance? The Celle Wine Market has it all: variety, pure indulgence and joie de vivre! All in the heart of the Old Town of Celle against a backdrop of medieval half-timbered buildings. The Celle Wine Market is an institution that dates back nearly 40 years and is one of the most popular events. And it's not only the locals that like a midsummer party – the Celle wine festival attracts visitors from all over Germany and abroad too. [www.celle.de/tourismus/veranstaltungen/celler-weinmarkt](http://www.celle.de/tourismus/veranstaltungen/celler-weinmarkt)
- **27 July – 04 August 2024: 79th Summer Music Days in Hitzacker**

Each summer, for nine days around 1 August, this music festival transforms the picturesque half-timbered town of Hitzacker on the Elbe river into a cultural hotspot with a reach far beyond Niedersachsen' state boundaries. [www.musiktage-hitzacker.de/home.html](http://www.musiktage-hitzacker.de/home.html)

- **31 July – 18 August 2024: Maschsee Festival in Hanover**

A chance to experience that holiday feeling and maritime flair in the middle of town! Over 19 days, visitors to Niedersachsen's largest local festival can take a culinary and artistic trip around the world. Year after year, international cuisine, free concerts, water sports activities, open-air dance evenings and an exciting programme for children guarantee a non-stop holiday feeling for everyone.

[www.hannover.de/en/Tourism-Culture/Event-Highlights/Specials/Maschsee-Lake-Festival-2024](http://www.hannover.de/en/Tourism-Culture/Event-Highlights/Specials/Maschsee-Lake-Festival-2024)
- **31 July – 04 August 2024: ConQuest of Mythodea in the grounds of the Rittergut Brokeloh manor**

Every August since 2004, Brokeloh has hosted the ConQuest of Mythodea, a live action role playing event. The Rittergut Brokeloh, a former feudal estate covering an area of more than 100 hectares, is located around 50 km to the west of Hanover and provides the ideal setting for the mythical continent of Mythodea. This major event attracts around 6,000 players and 1,500 spectators every year. [mythodea.de/en/](http://mythodea.de/en/)
- **Tba: Summer festival in the Autostadt**

The summer festival offers plenty of musical highlights with 22 national and international artists ensuring that festival feeling in the Autostadt. A lively supporting programme for young and old with holiday workshops, play areas, and climbing towers round off the event. One particular highlight is the Cool Summer Island, an offshore floating island at the sand terraces in the harbour basin.

[www.autostadt.de/en/events/summer](http://www.autostadt.de/en/events/summer)
- **10–11 August 2024: M'era Luna Festival Hildesheim**

M'era Luna is a metal, gothic rock and industrial music festival in Hildesheim, which attracts around 25,000 fans in quirky dress every year. The dark music scene's big get-together is held at the airbase in Drispstedt. As well as performances by around 40 bands, the festival also features readings, a vibrant market area and the Gothic Fashion Show, which has become something of a tradition. [www.meraluna.de/en/](http://www.meraluna.de/en/)
- **23–27 August 2024: Brokser Heiratsmarkt folk festival in Bruchhausen-Vilsen**

Every year the Brokser Heiratsmarkt, one of northern Germany's biggest folk festivals, attracts several hundred thousand visitors to the climatic health resort of Bruchhausen-Vilsen. The site spans over nine hectares, around 3000 square metres of which is exhibition space with commercial marquees. This market in the climatic health resort of

Bruchhausen-Vilsen welcomes up to 400,000 visitors on five days, which makes it one of the six largest folk festivals in northwestern Germany. [www.brokser-heiratsmarkt.de](http://www.brokser-heiratsmarkt.de)

- **23-25 August 2024: Summer festival at the State Stud Farm**  
Niedersachsen's State Stud Farm in Celle is opening its doors again to present historical carriages and the large dressage quadrille of 24 studs at the historical centre in Celle, as well as other attractions. Also on show will be old handicrafts, which are still carried on at the State Stud Farm. Savoir vivre, fashion, riding equipment, home & garden decor, and a wide range of cuisine round off the event.  
[www.landgestuetcelle.de/de/veranstaltungen/sommervergnuegen-celler-hengstparade/](http://www.landgestuetcelle.de/de/veranstaltungen/sommervergnuegen-celler-hengstparade/)
- **Tba: 31st International Film Festival in Oldenburg**  
Every autumn, the International Film Festival brings a touch of Hollywood glamour to the former royal seat. It's one of Europe's largest independent film festivals and regularly presents innovative cinematic contributions that break the mould and question what we take for granted. No wonder the festival is also one of the most popular fixtures among stars of the film industry: in previous years, stars such as Nicolas Cage, Til Schweiger and Veronica Ferres have attended the festival. [www.filmfest-oldenburg.de/en/](http://www.filmfest-oldenburg.de/en/)
- **27-29 September 2024: Sailing-CUP in Wilhelmshaven**  
Every year, the end of September sees the launch of the oldest regatta for traditional sailboats on the German North Sea coast. One of the highlights of the regatta is the closing parade through the Kaiser Wilhelm swing bridge – guaranteed to give you goosebumps and a spectacular photo opportunity! Those who dare can take to the water, but there's also plenty to enjoy for those who prefer to stay on shore.  
[www.wilhelmshaven-sailing-cup.de](http://www.wilhelmshaven-sailing-cup.de)
- **Tba Sulfmeistertage salt festival in Lüneburg**  
A medieval extravaganza on the theme of salt: once a year, Lüneburg organises a festival in honour of the salt pan owners of yesteryear, who made a significant contribution to salt production and thus the town's wealth. The medieval Sulfmeister market, complete with vagabonds, jugglers and soothsayers around the St Johannis Church, thrilling contests and the annual parade give the event a distinctly traditional flair. [www.sulfmeistertage.de](http://www.sulfmeistertage.de)



- **12-20 October 2024: 16th Annual Migratory Bird Days in the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park**

For nine days in October on the North Sea coast of Niedersachsen and on the East Frisian Islands (Ostfriesische Inseln), everything revolves around the migratory birds that flock to the Wadden Sea from the far North every autumn in their thousands. Bar-tailed godwits, dunlins and other wading birds stop off here to gather strength for their onward flight to their wintering grounds in Southern Europe and Africa. Many Nordic geese even spend the entire winter on the coast. [www.zugvogeltage.de/](http://www.zugvogeltage.de/)

- **Tba November 2024: Hannover leuchtet**

Artists from Germany and around the world flood historical buildings and squares in colourful light and create spectacular illuminations during this multi-day spectacle. [www.hannover-leuchtet.eu](http://www.hannover-leuchtet.eu)

- **Tba November 2024: Mumme Festival in Brunswick (Braunschweig)**

For centuries, Brunswick Mumme, a thick, sweet malt extract, was a best-selling export for craft brewers and generated a great deal of trade for merchants in the Hanseatic city. At the end of the 20th century, production was temporarily halted, but Mumme has been available to enjoy again since 2008. The annual Mumme Festival is a celebration of this traditional beverage, which today is used as an ingredient in various specialties. [www.braunschweig.de/kultur/veranstaltungen/index.php?mode=details&event\\_id=153257](http://www.braunschweig.de/kultur/veranstaltungen/index.php?mode=details&event_id=153257)

- **11-17 November 2024: 38th Brunswick Film Festival**

Originally founded by 20 university students, who were dissatisfied with the films on offer at the city's cinemas, the Brunswick International Film Festival is now the oldest film festival in Niedersachsen. Cinephiles can look forward to many galactic film adventures. A wide range of new films and famous classics will be screened over seven days, comprising international and local productions, from short films to documentaries, which will attract film lovers in their droves to the Lion City. One highlight of the festival is the presentation of the ten film awards – public and panel awards – for European debut and second films, the EDDA international short film prize and the Die Europa acting award. [www.filmfest-braunschweig.de/en/](http://www.filmfest-braunschweig.de/en/)

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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### **About TourismusMarketing Niedersachsen/TMN (The Tourist Board of Lower Saxony)**

The TMN is the central point of contact for tourism in Niedersachsen. The company was founded by the Niedersachsen Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Construction and Digitalisation in 2001 and, since January 2014, has been a wholly state-owned company. The TMN's remit is to competitively position Niedersachsen within the national and international tourism market in cooperation with regional tourism stakeholders. The focus is on marketing Niedersachsen as a tourist destination both regionally and nationally, and on developing brand strategies, online portals and quality management systems for tourist attractions.