



# traveltips

GNTB international press service for Destination Germany

15/2011 17 August

## Contents

Page 2

■ Health & Wellness in 2011: Kneipp and Schroth treatments

Page 3

■ 125th anniversary of the automobile: themed attractions

Page 4

■ Franz Liszt's 200th birthday: events in September and October

Page 5

■ Festivals and funfairs in Germany

Page 6

■ News and dates

## Festivals and funfairs in Germany

There is a popular saying in Germany: 'Enjoy yourself whenever you get the chance'. And people in Germany know a thing or two about having a good time. Every year, numerous public festivals are held across the country, which attract visitors from all corners of the globe. The choice is huge, and ranges from festivals celebrating beer, wines or a particular town to sporting events and traditional Christmas or craft markets. Some three million events take place in Germany every single year.

On 17 September, the 178th Munich Oktoberfest will be declared open as the first keg of beer is ceremoniously tapped to the cry of 'O'zapft is'! The world's largest volksfest, which runs until 3 October this year, offers its visitors plenty of beer and warm Bavarian hospitality. Since 1887, the Wies'n, as it's known by locals, has traditionally opened with a parade featuring the famous Munich breweries, brass bands and waitresses waving beer mugs, all of which give the Oktoberfest its special character.

[www.oktoberfest.eu](http://www.oktoberfest.eu)

Festival fever comes to Stuttgart in Baden-Württemberg on 23 September. The Cannstatter Wasen festival runs for 17 days and offers fantastic entertainment for all the family – with rollercoaster, chairplane and log flume rides, and much more besides. Food and drink can be enjoyed in seven festival marquees, two wine tents and the beer gardens.

[www.cannstatter-volksfest.de](http://www.cannstatter-volksfest.de)

Bremen's Freimarkt fair is one of the most modern festivals in Germany, yet at the same time one of the oldest. It looks back on a long tradition: according to a historical document from the year 888, the city was permitted to hold an annual market in the courtyard outside the Church of Our Lady – a tradition that lives on today. From 14 to 30 October, over four million visitors are expected to join in the fun at this spectacular fair, which features fireworks, a Golden Oldies night and a colourful procession.

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

The Dürkheim Wurstmarkt in Rhineland-Palatinate is the largest wine festival in the world. It has its origins in the Middle Ages when pilgrimages were held on Michaelmas, an occasion which attracted many farmers, merchants and wine-growers. The event owes its present-day name, which translates as 'sausage market', to the fact that large quantities of wurst have always been consumed. As tradition dictates, the festivities take place on the second and third weekends in September.

[www.duerkheimer-wurstmarkt.de](http://www.duerkheimer-wurstmarkt.de)

Hannover in Lower Saxony is the venue for the world's largest schützenfest or 'marksman's fair', a tradition that dates back 482 years. It runs for ten days from the Friday before the first Monday in July, and features a varied mix of recreational shooting, entertainment, fairground rides and food and drink on festival grounds stretching over five kilometres.

[www.hannover.de/schuetzenfest](http://www.hannover.de/schuetzenfest)

Supported by:

Federal Ministry  
of Economics  
and Technology

## Health & Wellness in 2011: Kneipp and Schroth treatments

### Active pursuits and relaxation in Saxon Switzerland

Bad Schandau is one of the largest hydrotherapy resorts in the Elbe valley and is tucked away amid the beautiful scenery of Saxon Switzerland. Its spa facilities were established during Sebastian Kneipp's lifetime and follow his naturopathic principles. Aside from the local health treatment facilities, the charming atmosphere of the spa gardens in particular turns any stay into a feel-good holiday. Many of the trees here date back to the 19th century. The town also offers a wealth of architectural gems, and its Toskana-Therme features a separate saline pool with a very high salt concentration. Here, visitors can unwind to 'Liquid Sound' – music piped into the pool through special speakers. Patterns of light and colour are projected onto the ceiling as people enjoy a relaxing soak in the saltwater pool, get a soothing massage or benefit from the other treatments on offer.

#### Information

Bad Schandauer Kur- und Tourismus GmbH  
Markt 12  
01814 Bad Schandau  
Tel.: +49 (0)35022 90030  
info@bad-schandau.de  
www.bad-schandau.de

### The Schroth health resort in the far south of Germany

Those looking for some rest and relaxation can give their body's natural defences a boost in Oberstaufen, Germany's only Schroth spa resort, which lies between Neuschwanstein Castle and Lake Constance. For over 60 years now, the Schroth cure has been used in the town to treat cardiovascular problems, type II diabetes, burnout and metabolic disorders. Central to the programme is the Schroth diet, which embraces the principle of therapeutic fasting that goes back thousands of years. Because all the food is easily digested, the body is given a well-deserved rest. The treatment is reinforced by alternating between high and low liquid-intake days (drinking days and dry days) and between rest and exercise. A broad selection of sports and activities are catered for here in Bavaria. In the surrounding area, there are 300 kilometres of footpaths, 100 kilometres of cross-country ski trails, 60 kilometres of winter walking trails, the Aquaria panoramic water park and an extensive ski region. Oberstaufen is also near to a number of lakes, so every spa guest or holidaymaker has plenty of opportunities to do his or her favourite form of exercise. A wide choice of wellness treatments provides the perfect way to relax afterwards.

#### Information

Oberstaufen Tourismus Marketing GmbH  
Hugo-von Königsegg-Strasse 8  
87534 Oberstaufen  
Tel.: +49 (0)8386 93000  
Email: info@oberstaufen.de  
www.oberstaufen.de

### Hydrotherapy wading sessions by the sea

The Baltic seaside resort of Göhren on the island of Rügen in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is popular for its health-boosting hydrotherapy treatments and fresh sea air. It is the only seaside hydrotherapy resort in Germany to offer treatments based on the principles of Sebastian Kneipp. His hydrotherapy wading sessions and barefoot walks can be done right on the beach, harnessing the natural healing benefits of the sea air and the salty water. The northern beach, which stretches for miles, not only attracts spa guests but is also a magnet for families. In 2008, Göhren was given an award for being particularly family friendly. Rügen medicinal chalk is a special local remedy found in Göhren. This natural product can help to alleviate joint inflammation, arthrosis, skin conditions and other ailments.

#### Information

Kurverwaltung Göhren  
Poststrasse 9  
18586 Ostseebad Göhren  
Tel.: +49 (0)38308 66790  
Email: kv@goehren-ruegen.de  
www.goehren-ruegen.de

### Bread and water to boost health

Johann Schroth and the Allgäu priest Sebastian Kneipp were the men behind two of Germany's best-known therapy concepts. Kneipp's treatments centre on hydrotherapy. He discovered that alternating between cold and warm water can help boost the body's natural defences. Schroth's treatments are based on a basic, vegan diet which is easily digestible and eschews salt, animal protein and fat. This low-calorie intake is thought to stimulate the body's self-healing powers and activate the body's own energy sources.

#### Information

Deutscher Heilbäderverband e.V.  
Reinhardtstrasse 46  
10117 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 2463 6920  
Email: info@dhv-berlin.de  
www.deutscher-heilbaederverband.de

### Therapeutic fasting in Scheidegg

Between 2007 and 2009, Scheidegg in the Allgäu was the sunniest place in Bavaria. This premium spa resort is located at an altitude of around 800 to 1,000 metres on a natural, sun-catching terrace between Lake Constance and the Alps in one of the prettiest parts of Bavaria. But that is not the only reason why it has become such a popular holiday and spa resort. Scheidegg also offers Schroth treatments for those wishing to give their health a boost. These include sweat-inducing packs, which involve wrapping the body in cold, damp sheets and then laying warm, dry covers over it. Between treatments, guests can enjoy the naturally healthy climate and glorious Alpine scenery on long strolls.

#### Information

Scheidegg Tourismus  
Rathausplatz 8  
88175 Scheidegg im Allgäu  
Tel.: +49 (0)800 889 9555  
Email: kurverwaltung@scheidegg.de  
www.scheidegg.de

## 125th anniversary of the automobile: themed attractions

### A pit stop in Tübingen

A big hit with car enthusiasts of all ages: alongside a red Porsche classic car stands a blue vintage Mercedes. Both can be explored up close, as none of the vehicles at the Boxenstop museum in Tübingen are cordoned off. Visitors can actually touch the exhibits on display, which include approximately 70 cars, motorbikes and bicycles as well as more than 1,000 toys. This private car museum in Baden-Württemberg certainly has plenty to offer. The Maserati 4 CL and Bugatti 37 once competed against each other. Now they stand peacefully side by side. There are also examples of racing motorcycles from MV Augusta, BMW, Honda, Ducati and Norton with one, two or four-cylinder engines, and many of these are still roadworthy. Older visitors can admire the classic cars, while younger guests explore the toy exhibition. Here too, mobility is a key theme. Trains rattle through the museum on a model railway system and enamel signs recreate the ambience of 50 years ago.

#### Information

Boxenstop Auto- und Spielzeugmuseum  
Tübingen  
Brunnenstrasse 18  
72074 Tübingen  
Tel.: +49 (0)7071 929 090  
Email: boxenstop@boxenstop-tuebingen.de  
www.boxenstop-tuebingen.de

### Automobile Museum at Hamburg's HafenCity

Known for producing dream cars as far back as the 1930s, the Porsche marque reflects the pioneering spirit and sense of adventure so closely associated with the world of automotive engineering. The 'Prototyp' car museum at Hamburg's HafenCity is devoted to sportscars in general and rare vehicles, but the main focus is on Porsche vehicles and designs. Stories about legendary racing drivers and their cars take visitors back to a bygone age. The original cars bear testament to the highlights as well as the tragic moments in racing history. Exhibitions add to the artistic ambience of the museum, with works by motorsport photographers Horst Baumann and Rainer Schlegelmilch, for instance. Visitors are also invited to get hands-on. On the lower ground floor of the listed factory building that houses the museum there is a wind tunnel. Here, racing enthusiasts can discover how the shape of a vehicle affects its aerodynamic efficiency. From streamlined luges to vans, the museum collection has something for every taste.

#### Information

Prototyp, Sammlung Mobiler Kultur  
HafenCity Hamburg  
Shanghaiallee 7 / Beim Lohseplatz  
20457 Hamburg  
Tel.: + 49 (0)40 3999 6968  
Email: info@prototyp-hamburg.de  
www.prototyp-hamburg.de

### Handcraft traditions at VW's 'transparent factory' in

Deluxe handcraft traditions: the Phaeton, Volkswagen's luxury flagship model, is built in Dresden, Saxony's regional capital. And visitors can watch the action live. VW's 'transparent factory' is right next to Grosser Garten park and it is here that those with a technical bent can witness the precision engineering that goes into building such a car. Spectators get to watch the vehicles being assembled and that critical moment in automotive manufacturing, the 'marriage' of the engine and body. The rest of the production process is also part of the show. From advising customers through to assembly, and from the interim storage of vehicles through to handover, the museum unravels the fascinating story of how the Phaeton is made. The 'transparent factory' has become an important part of Dresden's cultural scene. Located in the heart of the city, the production site is a mecca for car enthusiasts and those with a keen interest in technology.

#### Information

Automobilmanufaktur Dresden GmbH  
Lennéstrasse 1  
01069 Dresden  
Tel.: +49 (0)351 42040  
Email: infoservice@glaesernemanufaktur.de  
www.glaesernemanufaktur.de

### What moves people in Wolfsburg?

Autostadt in Wolfsburg brings people and technology together. Under the banner 'People, cars and what moves them', this themed interactive museum in Lower Saxony presents key milestones in the history of the automobile. The diverse range of exhibitions and events on offer is aimed at people of all ages. It includes readings by authors such as Christoph Maria Herbst, who tells of his experiences on the water in his book *Ich leg' dann mal ab*. There are also workshops for parents and courses on which children and young people can learn how to cook with the professionals from Mövenpick Mahlzeiten. Participants learn how easy it is to make bread and pizza, and then get to taste their creations afterwards.

#### Information

Autostadt GmbH  
StadtBrücke  
38440 Wolfsburg  
Tel.: +49 (0)800 2886 78238  
Email: service@autostadt.de  
www.autostadt.de

### Saxony's automotive history in Chemnitz

Saxony's car manufacturing industry looks back on a history spanning more than 100 years, and this is illustrated at the Museum of Saxon Vehicles in Chemnitz. The exhibition includes more than 120 two, three and four-wheeled vehicles documenting the development of automotive engineering in the region, including examples from Auto-Union, Wanderer and DKW. A replica historical assembly line on the upper floor shows how the former DKW plants once operated.

#### Information

Museum für Sächsische Fahrzeuge Chemnitz  
Zwickauerstrasse 77  
09112 Chemnitz  
Tel.: 49 (0)371 260 1196  
Email: fahrzeugmuseum@aol.com  
www.fahrzeugmuseum-chemnitz.de

## Franz Liszt's 200th birthday: events in September and October

### 'A cappella & Orgel 2011' in Weimar

Marking the 200th anniversary of Franz Liszt's birth, the series of events entitled 'A capella & Orgel' is dedicated to the works of the great composer and pianist. The term A capella originally referred to vocal music sung 'in the manner of the chapel'. In this instance, it stands for religious vocals performed with and without instruments. Visitors can discover what this sounds like at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Weimar from 6pm on 31 October at an evening of religious choral music by Liszt, Bruckner and Klose. Vocals will be performed by the choir from Bayreuth college of church music and the chamber choir from the Liszt School of Music in Weimar. Together with Johann Sebastian Bach, Liszt was one of the greats of Thuringian musical history. After he moved to Weimar in 1848, a large number of his works were written or completed in the town. These included several religiously themed a capella choral works such as Graner Messe and the great oratorios. The oratorio Christus was performed for the first time in its final version at the town church in Weimar in 1873.

#### Information

Hochschule für Musik FRANZ LISZT Weimar  
Platz der Demokratie 2/3  
99423 Weimar  
Tel.: +49 (0)3643 5550  
Email: presse@hfm-weimar.de  
www.hfm-weimar.de

### Liszt institutions pay tribute to the great

On the evening of Liszt's 200th birthday, 22 October, Weimar institutions associated with the composer will pay tribute to the 'maestro', as he was known during the last two decades of his life in Thuringia. The event takes place at 7:30pm in the main hall of the Weimarhalle congress centre. The Staatskapelle orchestra and universities are putting together an unprecedented project orchestra for the evening made up of orchestra members, professors and students. The conductor Christian Thie-lemann has close links with Munich, Bayreuth and Dresden, the main places associated with Wagner. The concert, which is also to be shown on the TV channel ARTE, will be performed again in the town of Bayreuth on 23 October.

#### Information

Deutsches Nationaltheater  
und Staatskapelle Weimar  
Theaterplatz 2  
99423 Weimar  
Tel.: +49 (0)3643 755 334  
Email: service@nationaltheater-weimar.de  
www.nationaltheater-weimar.de

### A tribute to Franz Liszt in Sondershausen

The town of Sondershausen marks the 200th anniversary of Franz Liszt's birth with a gala concert performed by the Loh Orchestra at 7:30pm on 22 October at Haus der Kunst. Sondershausen helped bring the music of Liszt and Wagner to prominence in the 19th century. To this day, the concerts held in the historical rooms at Sondershausen Palace are a particular highlight in the cultural scene of this former ducal town in Thuringia. Liszt stayed here twelve times in all. The last time was just before his death in 1886 when he attended the 23rd Musicians' Festival of the Allgemeiner Deutscher Musikverein (General German Music Society). Visitors can learn more about the composer's time in Sondershausen and his works at the twin exhibitions at the Sondershausen Palace gallery and the Thuringian State Music Academy in Sondershausen. The town will also be paying tribute to Liszt on 8 October with an evening of literature and music at the palace. Works by Liszt and his contemporaries will be performed on Liszt's restored grand piano.

#### Information

Stadt Sondershausen  
Markt 7  
99706 Sondershausen  
Tel.: +49 (0)36 326 220  
Email: info@sondershausen.de  
www.sondershausen.de

### Stars play their favourite pieces by Liszt

In autumn, at the Cologne Philharmonic in North Rhine-Westphalia, modern stars from the world of classical music will perform their favourites from Franz Liszt's collection of works. On 5 October, the pianist Lang Lang and the Royal Concertgebouw orchestra from Amsterdam will play works by Liszt, Chopin and Beethoven. On 25 October, Kit Armstrong will perform pieces by Liszt and Bach on the piano. A performance by mezzo-soprano Angelika Kirchschlager rounds off the series on 30 October.

#### Information

Kölner Philharmonie  
Bischofsgartenstrasse 1  
50667 Cologne  
Tel.: +49 (0)221 204 080  
Email: presse@koelnmusik.de  
www.koelner-philharmonie.de

### A lieder evening at Kochberg Castle

A musical evening featuring romantic lieder by Eduard Lassen and Franz Liszt begins at 5pm on 24 September at the private theatre of Kochberg Castle in Thuringia. Christine Wolff will sing, accompanied on the piano by Rolf-Dieter Arens. The small amateur theatre was built between 1796 and 1799 by Charlotte von Stein's son Carl. Today, it is a regular venue for concerts, plays and readings. Kochberg Castle also has the largest registry office in Uhlstädt-Kirchhasel and its country park provides the perfect setting for wedding photos after the ceremony. Dating from around 1600, the building close to Rudolstadt has undergone a number of structural alterations down the centuries and has belonged to the Stein family since 1946. Following extensive refurbishment, it reopened as a museum in 1975. Goethe often came to the castle to visit his friend and confidante, Charlotte von Stein, whose furniture and objets d'art can still be seen today.

#### Information

Schloss, Park und Liebhabertheater Kochberg  
Klassik Stiftung Weimar  
Im Schlosshof 3  
07407 Uhlstädt-Kirchhasel, OT Grosskochberg  
Tel.: +49 (0)3643 545 400  
www.klassik-stiftung.de

## Festivals and funfairs in Germany

### Autumn festival in Rosenheim

The Herbstfest or 'autumn festival' in Rosenheim is a major event in Upper Bavaria, and in 2011 is being held for the 150th time. To celebrate this anniversary, there will be even more going on than usual on the festival grounds from 26 August to 11 September. The Oktoberfest-style entertainment includes traditional costume parades, beer tents, tournaments in sports such as tennis and boxing, plus lots of fairground fun for young and old alike. Among the highlights are Fischer's toboggan ride with its giant slide, the pirates' river log flume and a spectacular motorbike stunt show. All this fairground fun is topped off by a dazzling firework display in the evening and the Miss Herbstfest pageant, for which the candidates dress up in traditional dirndl costumes. But this is not just a nod to an old-established custom. There will also be one or two modern twists on the signature Bavarian dress. Demand for the anniversary festival is expected to be huge, so visitors are advised to book well in advance.

#### Information

Wirtschaftlicher Verband Rosenheim e.V.  
Postfach 10 08 37  
83008 Rosenheim  
Tel.: +49 (0)8031 900 6161  
Email: info@wirtschaftlicher-verband.de  
www.wirtschaftlicher-verband.de

### Hat money in Hamburg for STAMP

STAMP – The International Festival of Street Arts is expected to attract more than 2,000 performers from around the world to Hamburg-Altona. From 2 to 4 September, the streets of the old quarter will be transformed into one giant stage for outdoor public entertainment. More than 200,000 visitors will be joining in the celebrations between Haus-Drei and Grosse Bergstrasse, Goetheplatz and Max-Bauer-Allee. This unique international festival sees street performers from Hamburg joined by their fellow entertainers from other parts of Germany and from all over the world. The mix includes hip-hop dance and music acts and parades, costumes, clowns and comedy, modern-style acrobatics and traditional customs, spectacular firework displays and juggling. There is also room for the colourful graffiti of urban and street art. The event is spread across ten different venues and is financed through donations, sponsors and 'hat money' – the coins people throw in the hats of buskers and performers that are set down on the pavement.

#### Information

altonale GmbH  
Grosse Bergstrasse 160  
22767 Hamburg  
Tel.: +49 (0)40 3980 6970  
Email: kontakt@stamp-festival.de  
www.altonale.de

### A historical cattle market and fairground fun

Every year, around half a million people come to the old quarter of Leer in Lower Saxony for the Gallimarkt. This year, the biggest volksfest in the East Friesland region takes place from 11 to 16 October. Around 1,000 showmen and travelling stallholders will be offering their wares at around 250 market booths. There will also be 15 fairground rides and plenty of carousels offering fun, excitement and thrills for all ages. Highlights include the Friday night firework display and the lantern-lit boat trip in the Leer harbour basin on Saturday. The event's unusual name dates back to the Irish missionary Gallus. In the olden days, only cattle and practical items were traded at the Gallimarkt, so-called because it was customary on St. Gallus' Day to bring home the harvest and put the animals into their shelters before the first snowfall. To this day, the Gallimarkt begins with a cattle market in which the livestock are bought and sold by handshake – an unbroken tradition since 1508.

#### Information

Leer Tourist Information  
Ledastrasse 10  
26789 Leer  
Tel.: +49 (0)49191 969 670  
Email: touristik@leer.de  
www.leer.de

### Market specialities in Rhineland-Palatinate

On Saturday 10 September, the Mayor of Landau and the local 'wine princess' will open the 120th Landau Herbstmarkt in a ceremonial event accompanied by gun salutes and a colourfully uniformed marching band. This popular autumn festival in the southern Palatinate goes on for nine days. A long-established feature is the wine village, which offers a wide choice of local wines as well as specialities from the butchers' guild of Landau and the Southern Wine Route. There will also be a selection of food and wine stalls on the festival square and along the ever-popular Fressgasse or 'glutton lane'.

#### Information

Stadtverwaltung Landau  
Büro für Tourismus Südliche Weinstrasse  
Marktstrasse 50  
76829 Landau in der Pfalz  
Tel.: +49 (0)6341 138 301  
Email: touristinfo@landau.de  
www.landau-tourismus.de

### The Count of Oldenburg's fair

The autumn Kramermarkt fair in Oldenburg, Lower Saxony, features marquees, market stalls and carousels on the large square outside the Weser-Ems hall. A total of around 1.5 million people are expected to attend this hugely popular event from 30 September to 9 October. The Kramermarkt has been in existence since 1608. It was established by the Count of Oldenburg, who to this day appears on posters advertising the event. This traditional German Volksfest is also a great opportunity to visit Oldenburg and its friendly pubs and restaurants. A historical guided tour is the best way to learn more about the town.

#### Information

Stadt Oldenburg  
Markt 20/21  
26105 Oldenburg  
Tel.: +49 (0)441 235 4444  
Email: presse@stadt-oldenburg.de  
www.oldenburg.de

## News and dates

### Motorsport wellness for real men

Wellness is now something that even real men can enjoy. In Hotel Lindner at the Nürburgring in Rhineland-Palatinate, the soothing sounds of engines provide the background music, while the wheels on the walls create just the right ambience. An exfoliating scrub using gritting salt is perfect for rugged men's skin, and the tar wrap relieves tension from the shoulder and neck muscles. There is even a motorsport-themed massage using pre-warmed oil poured from an engine oil can. This wellness highlight will leave fans relaxed and re-energised, and ready to enjoy all the racing fun on offer at the Nürburgring. Visitors can experience the circuit for themselves in the passenger seat of a 'race taxi' or get a glimpse behind the scenes at the pit lane.

#### Information

Lindner Hotels & Resorts  
Emanuel-Leutze-Strasse 20  
40547 Düsseldorf  
Tel.: +49 (0)211 5997 1133  
Email: catherine.bouchon@lindner.de  
www.lindner.de

### A new look for Luther's 'Death House'

What relationship did Martin Luther – the great church reformer – have with death? How did he deal with the passing of his children? Why was Luther's death-bed burnt? The museum opening in the house where Martin Luther died aims to answer these and many other questions. It's a brand-new look for this memorial site in Eisleben, Saxony-Anhalt. By modernising the building and integrating others in the grounds, the house is being turned into a museum building, which will open its doors in September 2012. As well as a museum shop, there will be more space for permanent and temporary exhibitions and educational events. The name of the permanent exhibition has already been decided – 'Luther's final path'.

#### Information

Stiftung Luthergedenkstätten in  
Sachsen-Anhalt  
Collegienstrasse 54  
06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg  
Email: info@martinluther.de  
Tel.: +49 (0)3491 42030  
www.martinluther.de

### Gourmet heaven in Schleswig-Holstein

Budding chefs and foodies will feel right at home in Schleswig-Holstein – the northernmost region of Germany, sandwiched between the North Sea and the Baltic. The Schleswig-Holstein Gourmet Festival, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary, features everything from haute cuisine and regional fare to more experimental delights. It is organised by the 15 member restaurants of the Gastliches Wikingerland association, whose varying styles encompass a mix of the tried, tested and tasty, as well as plenty of new influences. A common trend among these master chefs is a move towards lighter, less rich dishes and an openness to experimentation. The champagne corks will be popping for the opening gala on 11 September.

#### Information

Kooperation Gastliches Wikingerland  
Tönningerstrasse 9  
25840 Friedrichstadt  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 780 988 515  
Email: info@schleswig-holstein-gourmetfestival.de  
www.gourmetfestival.de

#### Now open

Exploring the seas: a new permanent exhibition at the Ozeaneum aquarium in Stralsund explains how scientists keep track of marine creatures and how new species are discovered.

#### Information

www.ozeaneum.de

#### Until 8 September

The Saoco trio from Cuba are currently bringing Caribbean rhythms, dances and wood carvings to Warnemünde and the Baltic coast. The spectrum ranges from latin pop to traditional music.

#### Information

www.saoco-trio.com

#### Until 18 September

Comic-book heroes and female nudes are the favourite subjects of pop art exponent Mel Ramos. A fascinating cross-section of his works will be on display in the World Heritage Völklingen Ironworks.

#### Information

www.voelklinger-huette.org

#### 6 September to 8 January

Himmlicher Glanz – Divine Lustre: exhibition in the Old Masters Gallery of Zwinger Palace with Madonna paintings by Raphael, Dürer and Grünewald, to coincide with the Pope's visit to his home country.

#### Information

www.skd.museum/de

#### 24 September to 15 January

Picasso was an exceptionally gifted artist and himself the object of other artists' works. Around 200 photographs of him will be featured in the 'Memyselfand!' exhibition at the Ludwig Museum in Cologne.

#### Information

www.museenkoeln.de

#### 29 September to 20 October

The Hamburg Train of Ideas is being sent across Europe to bring visions for a green future to the cities of the future. Hamburg is also where this 'eco-express' will be making its final stop.

#### Information

umwelthauptstadt.hamburg.de