



## Things to Do around USAG Wiesbaden

"Things to Do" is made possible with the help of community volunteers, with oversight from the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs office. Know of something great going on outside the gate? Please send us an email in English with the dates, times, cost, location, description and web address to [garrisonwiesbaden@gmail.com](mailto:garrisonwiesbaden@gmail.com) with "Things to Do" in the subject line. Thanks for sharing!

### December 17, 2016

#### Cut Your Own Christmas Tree in the Wiesbaden City Forest

On Saturday the Wiesbaden Parks Commission will present a special pre-Christmas experience in the Wiesbaden Stadtwald (City Forest). Visitors may come look for and cut down trees directly from the Christmas tree farm near the Jagdschloss Platte (an ornate, Renaissance hunting lodge). The trees come from an environmentally friendly forestry and are FSC- and Naturland-certified. One may choose between White and Nordmann trees sized between 1 and 2 meters. A handsaw is available on site for those who do not own a saw. Since cutting down a tree may result in hunger, bratwurst and Glühwein will be available. To access the tree farm, follow signs from the Jagdschloss Platte. This would certainly be a special experience for the whole family.

Place: Jagdschloss Platte, Platte 1 an der B417, 65195 Wiesbaden

Time: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Web: <http://www.wiesbaden.de/leben-in-wiesbaden/freizeit/natur-erleben/stadtwald/weihnachtsbaeume-selbst-schlagen.php#>

### December 21, 2016

#### Celebrate the Winter Solstice in Wiesbaden-Dotzheim

Come experience the longest night and shortest day of the year together with a big fire in the Schlosspark. The fire will be lit at sunset. Entry will be based on donation.

Place: Schloss Freudenberg, Freudenbergstrasse 220, 65201 Wiesbaden-Dotzheim

Time: 4 p.m.

Web: <http://www.schlossfreudenberg.de/marginal-navigation/kalender-programm/detail-ansicht/cr/all/c/wintersonnenwende.html>

**Disclaimer:** "Things to Do" is a publication that lists local off-post events that might be of interest to the U.S. community in and around Wiesbaden and does not claim to be complete, nor does it constitute endorsement of any of the events or programs listed. It is designed to eliminate some of the language barrier and to help our U.S. community explore its Host Nation surroundings. For on-post activities, please check other info venues, such as the garrison website [www.wiesbaden.army.mil](http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil) and AFN radio (98.7). For Family and MWR events, visit <http://wiesbaden.armymwr.com>. Most event tickets are available at the Wiesbaden Tourist Office, Marktplatz 1, tel. 0611-1729780, or at the venue, if indicated.

## **December 25, 2016**

### **Nutcracker On Ice**

Experience Tchaikowski's Nutcracker in a way you may never have seen it before: The famous fairy tale is presented this year by the St. Petersburg State Ballett On Ice and can be watched at the Rheingoldhalle in Mainz on Dec 25th.

Place: Rheingoldhalle, Rheinstrasse 66, Mainz

Times: Dec 25<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m.

Web: <http://www.mainz.de/freizeit-und-sport/feste-und-veranstaltungen/veranstaltungskalender.php?sp-mode=eventdetail&sp-detail=106909&sp-detail-date=161222>

## **Now – Feb. 28, 2017**

### **Erfahrungsfeld Winter in Castle Freudenberg**

Through the end of February the Freudenberg Palace is once again a source of inspiration to discover winter up to -22 degrees Celsius with all the senses. In the "Winter Experience Field" of the castle and landscape, one can experience what it is like when coldness and warmth come together. The ice chamber is a festival of cold sensation. There, at -22 degrees Celsius, ice flowers bloom on three beds, icicles grow freely and snowflakes are bred in a trial plant. Visitors can also experience the colors of an ice flower by means of a polarizing filter and, by means of an herbal tincture and an ice-cold metal plate, can bring out an ice flower of their own. A candle-making station, fires in the hearth and in the park bring out warmth. Ticket prices range from 5-15 Euro.

Place: Schloss Freudenberg, Freudenbergstraße 224-226, 65201 Wiesbaden

Time: Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Closed Mondays

Web: <http://www.schlossfreudenberg.de/paedagogen/fuehrung-buchen/kaelte-waerme.html>

## **November 22 – December 23, 2016**

### **Wiesbaden's "Twinkling Star" Christmas Market**

With the opening of the Twinkling Star Christmas Market in November, the most wonderful time of the year begins for many Wiesbaden people and their guests. The atmospheric setting for the Market is the picturesque Schlossplatz in the heart of the city. The colors of blue and gold, as well as the golden lilies of the city coat of arms, form the stylishly decorative elements for the Christmas handicraft market. Four star-adorned gates form the entrance to the lovely scenery where you can find special souvenirs, gifts and delicacies at more than 130 uniformly designed stands. The wonderful lighting in the form of the Wiesbaden lilies — which transform the scenery into a festive atmosphere — accompanies the guest not only around the Twinkling Star Christmas Market but through the city center.

Place: On the Schlossplatz between the Rathaus and Stadtschloss

Time: Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sunday, 12-9 p.m.

Web: <http://www.wiesbaden.de/microsite/weihnachten-en/010/index.php>

## **November 22, 2016 – January 8, 2017**

### **Wiesbaden Ferris Wheel and Winter Tavern**

Roasted almonds, gingerbread, punch — there are certain smells and tastes that go hand-in-hand with Advent. This range of winter pleasure is now enhanced by Handkäs (marinated handmade cheese), Äppler (apple wine) and the most delicious food the earthenware pot and barrel have to offer. Once again this year the Hessian winter tavern awaits the visitors with traditional Hessian treats at the foot of the shimmering Ferris wheel in addition to

the Christmas festive stands. The Hessian winter tavern brings that rustic, cozy feel that we all know from home into the center of the city.

Place: Mauritiusplatz

Web: <http://www.winterstubb.de>

### **November 24 – December 23, 2016**

#### Mainz Historical Christmas Market

The Christmas season in Mainz is beautifully atmospheric. Set against the historical backdrop of the 1000-year-old Martinsdom (St. Martin's cathedral), Mainz's Christmas market sparkles with more than 100 festively decorated stalls. The stage program on the Liebfrauenplatz makes for happy faces in both younger and older visitors. Numerous cathedral concerts and matinees, the traditional fairytale performance at the Mainzer Staatstheater and the popular Christmas card printing in the Gutenberg Museum's printing shop are also features of the special Christmas attractions in Mainz this year. On the Domplätzen (areas around the cathedral), carousels and hand-made toys make children's hearts beat faster. Visitors interested in arts and crafts will really enjoy visiting the artists' workshop. The 11-meter-high, richly decorated Christmas pyramid ensures shining eyes in the little courtyard, which is the main access to the market. Just a few steps further on, visitors are impressed by the hand-carved, life-size Nativity figures in front of the Gotthard chapel of the Martinsdom.

Place: Schillerplatz, Neubrunnenplatz and Bahnhofsvorplatz

Time: Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

### **Now – January 1, 2017**

#### Christmas Activities in Eltville am Rhein

There is much going on at the Platz der Deutschen Einheit ("Square of German Unity") in Eltville. Visitors of all ages get together for some Bratwurst, Glühwein, small talk or a little dance at one of the traditional musical events. Meanwhile the youngest of all guests can enjoy a round on the carousel or discover the kid's corner until every day at 5 p.m. when Santa Claus arrives to open a window of the advent calendar. This year, the "Weihnachtstreiben"-Season starts with an Après-Ski-Party on Saturday, Nov. 26 at 6 p.m. The Duo "Wir Zwei" will play the right tunes to make visitors feel like they have just left the slope. The next event of the musical winter is the Glühwein-Party on Thursday, Dec. 8 starting at 6 p.m. with live music. Finally, the year 2016 will end with a DJ-Party, beginning at 9 p.m. Dec. 31.

Place: Schlossergasse, 65343 Eltville am Rhein

Time: Daily from 3 p.m.

Web: <http://www.festbewirtung-mucke.de/weihnachtstreiben.php>

### **January 01, 2017**

#### New Year's Parade of the Guards

Every year on the first day of the new year, the Fasching guards gather at the Ernst-Ludwig-Platz behind the Mainz Castle and march through the streets of Mainz to ring in the traditional fifth season (Fasching time in Germany) and play a free concert at the Schillerplatz.

Place: Several streets between Ernst-Ludwig-Platz and Schillerplatz, Mainz

Start time: 11:11 a.m.

Web: <http://www.mainz.de/freizeit-und-sport/feste-und-veranstaltungen/veranstaltungs-kalender.php?sp-mode=eventdetail&sp-detail=99479&sp-detail-date=150424>

**Now – February 12, 2017**

“Caravaggio’s Heirs — Baroque in Naples”

The fundamental contribution of Naples to European Art History is on display at the Museum Wiesbaden for the first time on this scale in a German museum. With loans from the Louvre in Paris, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna and the Museo di Capodimonte in Naples, the exhibition "Caravaggio's Heirs – Baroque in Naples" will bring this flourishing Golden Age of Italian Painting to the Hessian State Capital for four months.

This Golden Age of Italian painting began in 1606 with the arrival of Caravaggio in Naples. During the decade to follow, the city transformed into an artistic metropolis, and the works of such figures as Jusepe de Ribera, Artemisia Gentileschi and Francesco Solimena exerted lasting stylistic influence across the European continent. This special exhibition offers the rare opportunity to witness the intensity, brutality and splendor of Neapolitan painting in its full density.

Place: Museum Wiesbaden, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 2, 65185 Wiesbaden

Time: Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday-Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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**Dec. 17th – 18th**

Volksmarches

**Beringen, Luxembourg (L-7590)** -- This Sunday event, north of Luxembourg City, is about an hour's drive from the Bitburg area and two hours from Kaiserslautern. From Bitburg and Spangdahlem, use B257 south to Echternacherbrück and the border. Cross into Luxembourg and connect with N11 to Lauterborn, then pick up D118 to Larochette. Briefly use D119 in order to connect again with D118 to Berschbach, and D123 to Beringen. From the KMC, use Autobahns 6, 62, 1, and 602 toward Trier, then 64 to the Luxembourg border. Continue across the border on Autoroute A1 to the Potaschbiert exit (13). Connect with secondary roads N1, N14, N11, and N14 to Larochette, then pick up D119 and D118 to Berschbach. Use D123 to the start at Beringen.

Start: Hal Irbicht at 11a, rue Irbicht Sunday: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (15 km) Trail: Unknown Award: None.

**Kronau (74906)** -- West of Sinsheim, this event with a Winter Fest (think: Christmas) atmosphere is slightly more than an hour's drive from both Kaiserslautern and Stuttgart. Roughly midway between Speyer and Sinsheim, participants may also wish to consider a visit to the Technik Museum (<http://www.technik-museum.de/en/>) in either of those cities. From Stuttgart, use B14 to connect with Autobahns 831 and 81 toward Heilbronn. At the Dreieck interchange (41), connect with A5 toward Mannheim, then exit at Kronau (41) to follow IVV signs to the start. From the KMC, use Autobahns 6 toward Mannheim, 61 toward Karlsruhe, and 5 toward Basel. Exit at Kronau (41) and, using secondary roads, follow IVV signs to Kronau and the start.

Start: Merzweckhalle Sunday: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to noon (20 km) Trail: Unknown Award: None.

**Luxembourg-Limpertsberg, Luxembourg (L-1750)** -- A few years ago, this event was recommended by volksmarching enthusiast Kay Garsnett who especially enjoyed "...December volksmarches that combine St. Nick or Christmas celebrations." This writer has also participated in the event and can second Kay's thoughts. This Saturday-only walk has its trails passing by the town's Christmas market. It's a long drive from the KMC (about 90 minutes) but, if you've got the time and the weather is nice, it should be a worthwhile trip. From the KMC, use

Autobahn 6 toward Saarbrücken. At Kreuz Neunkirchen connect with A8 toward Luxembourg and continue across the border where it becomes A13. At the Croix de Bettembourg interchange, take A3 toward Luxembourg. Just past the Croix de Gasperich, the autobahn ends at a roundabout; take the second exit onto B3. Use N3, N50, N57, Boulevard Royal, N52, Avenue Victor Hugo, Square Edouard Andre and Rue Jean-Baptiste Fresez. Watch for IVV signs leading to the start at Limpertsberg. From Bitburg, expect slightly less than an hour's drive. Take B257 south to Echternacherbrück and the border. Cross the Sûre River into Luxembourg and continue toward Luxembourg City using E29 and E421. Once in Luxembourg City, follow IVV signs to Limpertsberg. Start: Hall Victor Hugo at 60, Avenue Victor Hugo Saturday: Noon to 5 p.m. (6 and 12 km) Trail: Hilly in places, passing by the Christmas Market Award: None.

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## Dec. 17th – 18th Flea Markets

- 16/17 Dec – flea market at (54) Bitburg, Auktionshalle and parking area.
- 16 Dec – flea market at (55) Gau-Bickelheim, Autohof parking on A 61.
- 16 Dec - flea market at (67) Ludwigshafen, Jakob-v-Lavale-Platz, behind train station; starts at 8 am.
- 16 Dec - flea market at (67) Speyer, Gueterbahnhof, Burgstr.
- 17/18 Dec – antique market at (36) Alsfeld, Hessenhalle.
- 17 Dec – flea market at (54) Trier, Messepark hall.
- 17 Dec – flea market at (55) Mainz, university parking, Dahlheimer Weg.
- 17 Dec - flea market at (60) Frankfurt, Osthafen, Lindleystr.
- 17 Dec - flea market at (60) Frankfurt-Hoechst, Jahrhunderthalle parking area B; Pfaffenwiese.
- 17 Dec - flea market at (64) Darmstadt, Schenck parking, Pallaswiesenstr.
- 17 Dec – flea market at (65) Kelkheim, Stadthalle, Gagernring; starts at 3 p.m.
- 17 Dec – flea market at (65) Wiesbaden-Schierstein, EDEKA C&C; starts at 6 p.m.
- 17 Dec – flea market at (66) Blieskastel Florianstr./Bahnhofstr. parking area.
- 17 Dec – antique- and flea market at (66) St. Ingbert, Alte Schmelz Werkhalle and parking area.
- 17 Dec - flea market at (67) Bad Duerkheim, An der Saline.
- 17 Dec - flea market at (67) Kaiserslautern, Fritz-Walter-Stadion Fanhalle Nord.
- 17 Dec - flea market at (67) Ludwigshafen-Oggersheim, Gartencenter DEHNER; starts at noon.
- 17 Dec - flea market at (67) Ludwigshafen, Jakob-v-Lavale-Platz; starts at 1pm.
- 17/18 Dec – flea market at (68) Buerstadt-Bobstadt, Sporthalle, St. Josef Str.; no new items permitted.
- 17 Dec - flea market at (68) Mannheim-Bruehl, REAL parking, Mannheimer Landstr.
- 17 Dec - antique- and flea market at (70) Stuttgart, Karlsplatz.
- 18 Dec - flea market at (60) Frankfurt, Hessen-Center, Borsigallee.
- 18 Dec – antique market at (60) Frankfurt-Hoechst, Jahrhunderthalle Kasino
- 18 Dec – flea market at (60) Frankfurt, former Neckermann-Zentrale, Ernst-Heinkel-Str.
- 18 Dec – flea market at (61) Friedberg, GLOBUS Baumarkt, Strassheimerstr.
- 18 Dec – flea market at (61) Reichelsheim, REWE parking area, Eichenstr.
- 18 Dec - flea market at (63) Dietzenbach, |Rathaus-Center, underground parking area.
- 18 Dec – antique- and flea market at (63) Dreieich, Buergerhaus Sprendlingen; no new items permitted.
- 18 Dec – flea market at (64) Darmstadt, HORNBACH parking, Otto-Roehm-Str.
- 18 Dec - flea market at (64) Gernsheim, Hafen (harbor area).
- 18 Dec – flea market at (65) Dornburg-Frickhofen, Buergerhaus, Marktstr.
- 18 Dec - flea market at (65) Eschborn, REAL parking, Ginnheimer Str.
- 18 Dec - flea market at (65) Wiesbaden-Schierstein, EDEKA C&C, Alte Schmelze.
- 18 Dec - flea market at (66) Saarbruecken-Dudweiler, METRO parking area.
- 18 Dec - flea market at (66) St. Wendel, GLOBUS parking, Am Wirthemboesch.

**For more Things To Do outside the gates visit the following link:**

<http://www.herald-union.com/section/things-to-do/>