

# travel*tips*

GNTB international press service for Destination Germany

03/2011 | March

## Contents

Page 2

■ Health & Wellness in 2011:  
quality seals

Page 3

■ 125th anniversary of the automobile:  
rallies in Germany

Page 4

■ FIFA Women's World Cup Germany  
2011™: Augsburg, Bochum

Page 5

■ Easter events in Germany

Page 6

■ News and dates

## Easter in Germany

Easter is a very special festival in Germany that has given rise to many customs and traditions over the centuries. Some have their roots in Pagan traditions, others originate from pre-Christian times. In the spring, festivals are held in Germany to worship the sun or in the hope of prosperous herds and rich harvests. Germany also celebrates the most important festival in the Christian calendar with hymns and ceremonial processions. Whatever form they take, Easter celebrations in Germany are almost always full of colour and variety.

Easter bonfires are a common sight in northern Germany and large parts of central Germany, with every place having its own traditions. This ancient custom was practised in order to drive away the winter and usher in the warmer season. The fire was a ritual of cleansing, thought to bring about fertility, growth and a good harvest.

[www.german-easter-holiday.de](http://www.german-easter-holiday.de)

It is impossible to imagine Easter in Germany without Easter eggs – which have to be colourfully painted and hollowed-out or hard boiled. There is no end of creativity involved in decorating eggs. Many Easter markets in Germany display these small works of art for all to admire. They are also sold as decorations for the garden or home, along with other Easter treats.

[www.ostern-in-deutschland.de](http://www.ostern-in-deutschland.de), [www.ostereiermarkt.de](http://www.ostereiermarkt.de)

In many German towns and communities, Easter celebrations are unique, sometimes even bizarre and certainly entertaining. As well as the traditional and more solemn pilgrimages, processions and horse parades, many places also host special sporting competitions, which inevitably involve carrying, rolling, cracking or throwing Easter eggs.

[www.rlp-info.de/ostern](http://www.rlp-info.de/ostern), [www.entdecke-deutschland.diplo.de](http://www.entdecke-deutschland.diplo.de)

## Health & Wellness in 2011: quality seals

### Quality seals – a useful guide to the right package

Those in search of relaxation for body, mind and soul will discover an impressive array of wellness facilities in Germany. Wellness quality seals are an invaluable aid to help visitors find what they are looking for among the wide range of options, as they guarantee that important quality criteria have been met.

### Special packages with regional flair

The hallmark of the Wellness-Hotels-Deutschland group is the ‚wellness tree‘. This symbol confirms not only the four or five-star rating of its member hotels, but also guarantees spacious spa suites, a wide range of cultural and leisure entertainment, and gourmet menus created with well-being and vitality in mind. The hotels on Germany’s coastlines offer specialities such as thalasso treatments with seawater and seaweed, massages using dune sand or meerschaum washes. There is also a wide range of active pursuits including Nordic walking, kayaking, sailing, windsurfing and horseriding on the beach. In the natural beauty of Bavaria, on the other hand, visitors can enjoy hot-stone herbal saunas, mountain meadow hay baths or massages with Bavarian honey. Sports enthusiasts can also take full advantage of the magnificent mountain setting, ideal for alpine and cross-country skiing, walking, mountaineering, climbing and mountain biking.

#### Information

Wellness-Hotels-Deutschland  
Haroldstrasse 14, 40213 Düsseldorf  
Tel.: +49 (0)211 679 6979  
Email: post@w-h-d.de  
www.w-h-d.de

### Guaranteed by the Wellness Association

You may not always know what to expect from a spa – thankfully, help is at hand. The German Wellness Association has taken on the task of critically assessing the wide range of wellness facilities in Germany. The quality seal of the German Wellness Association distinguishes hotels and establishments which, after rigorous assessment, have proven their exceptional quality. The association also provides consumers with some useful resources on health and wellness: recommendations for further reading, wellness-themed events, a glossary of wellness terms, and a platform where consumers can post personal opinions and reviews. The German Wellness Association is a non-profit organisation and does not pursue any commercial or ideological objectives.

#### Information

Deutscher Wellness Verband e.V.  
Neusser Strasse 35, 40219 Düsseldorf  
Tel.: +49 (0)211 168 2090  
Email: presse@wellnessverband.de  
www.wellnessverband.de

### Three quality seals for outstanding spa resorts

The German Spa Association awards three different quality seals to selected German resorts. The first, the ‚spa resort wellness‘ seal, is awarded for all-round health and fitness facilities and is based upon the following criteria, all of which carry equal weight: medicine & therapy, nature & culture, exercise & relaxation, and communication & experience. The second, ‚spa resort preventative treatment‘ recognises establishments that are engaged in actively improving the health of their guests. Resort-specific amenities, such as spa orchestras, pump rooms, restaurants, cafés and shops, play a central role. Finally, ‚spa resort parks‘ is a quality seal for resorts that provide a healthy climate, gardens and lovely areas of woodland. Such areas play a vital part in relaxation and recuperation, as they provide a tranquil retreat away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

#### Information

Deutscher Heilbäderverband e.V.  
Reinhardtstrasse 46, 10117 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 246 369 213  
Email: kathi.mende@dhv-berlin.de  
www.deutscher-heilbaederverband.de

### ‚WellVital‘ – Bavarian for wellness

Bavaria has developed the ‚WellVital‘ brand as a way of meeting the high expectations for the region. Only hotels and establishments that adhere to the highest quality requirements are able to display this marque. A total of around 111 hotels and 37 locations in Bavaria meet the rigorous WellVital quality criteria, and offer first-class health and fitness facilities where guests can relax and pamper themselves to their hearts’ content. They also offer a choice of luxurious packages: WellVital Relax, WellVital Active, WellVital Spa, WellVital Beauty, WellVital Slim, WellVital Balance, WellVital Prevention and WellVital Regional.

#### Information

Bayern Tourismus Marketing GmbH  
Leopoldstrasse 146  
80804 Munich  
Tel.: +49 (0)89 212 3970  
Email: tourismus@bayern.info  
www.bayern.by

### The star attractions among Germany’s spas

Wellness enthusiasts will find many attractive spa facilities in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony – they can look for the ‚wellness stars‘ seal of quality in any of these regions. There are three categories: Wellness Stars hotels, Wellness Stars thermal baths and Medical Wellness Stars, with three to five stars awarded in each. Around 55 hotels, over 20 thermal baths, ten medical wellness establishments and two resorts have been certified according to this system in Germany. They offer creative and professional wellness packages and provide a wonderful setting in which to relax and unwind.

#### Information

Wellness Stars  
Esslinger Strasse 8, 70182 Stuttgart  
Tel.: +49 (0)711 8924 8005  
Email: info@wellness-stars.de  
www.wellness-stars.eu

## 125th anniversary of the automobile: rallies in Germany

### Nostalgia: ‚Trabis‘ – the legend lives onships

The Trabant is a car with a fearsome international reputation. Produced for many years in Zwickau, the picturesque heart of West Saxony, the ‚Trabi‘, as it was affectionately known, can still be experienced up close here. The 16th International Trabant Driver Meeting is scheduled for 24-26 June. The event on Platz der Völkerfreundschaft square promises plenty of fun and entertainment, as well as Trabant competitions covering various categories. Any driver is welcome to take part. If all that's not enough, you can also visit the AUTOMobile Trabant exhibition organised by the International Trabant Register club and stop by Georgenplatz square where the town has erected a monument to this automotive legend. Alternatively, you can watch history come to life before your eyes at the August Horch Museum. In addition to automotive exhibits, the museum presents a filling station from the 1920s, an exhibition stand from the 1930s and a street scene featuring the DKW microcar. Of course, the museum also pays tribute to the racing successes of the Silver Arrow.

#### Information

August Horch Museum, Zwickau  
Audistrasse 7  
08058 Zwickau  
Tel.: +49 (0)375 271 7380  
Email: info@horch-museum.de  
www.horch-museum.de

### A mecca for motorcycling enthusiasts

In the heart of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania you'll find one of the finest grass racetracks in Europe – the Teterow Bergring. Tens of thousands of people flock here to the 1,877m track to cheer on the racing drivers and enjoy thrilling speedway events. The circuit features a number of breathtaking ascents, descents, jumps and high-speed sections. Annual highlights include the International Speedway Race and the Teterow Auerhahn Pokal at Whitsun. This year's event will take place on 11 June, when the track exudes a particular flair and offers first-rate motorsport enjoyment with plenty of show-stopping action. The race is open to all European drivers, guaranteeing a high-calibre starting line-up. Teterow also has plenty to offer away from the track. Famed for its well-preserved medieval centre, the town lies in the heart of an extensive conservation area full of romantic lakes, meadows and forests. There are a number of palaces and stately homes to visit in the area, some of which are now used as museums, film sets or hotels.

#### Information

MC Bergring Teterow  
Appelhäger Chaussee 1  
17166 Teterow  
Press contact: Adolf Schlaak  
Tel.: +49 (0)3996 172 935  
Email: bergring-teterow@gmx.de  
www.bergring-teterow.de

### German-Danish Rally in Schleswig-Holstein

Once again, the best rally drivers will congregate at this year's German-Danish Rally Championship held as part of the ADAC ‚Viking Rally‘. Top German and Danish competitors will battle it out around Süderbrarup on 24-26 March to gain valuable points for numerous championship and series titles. This small town is situated in the far north of Germany on the Angeln peninsula in the Schleswig-Flensburg district. Ambitious racing drivers will relish the course, which covers a total distance of around 300 kilometres. They must complete 12 demanding special stages along approx. 150km of hilly and winding tracks through towns and villages. The route crosses the peninsula's gently rolling landscape, passing a number of small riverbank meadows and coastal inlets along the way. The key highlight for fans is the rally centre in the heart of Süderbrarup and the market square where the race winners are honoured.

#### Information

ADAC Wikinger Rallye  
Drosselweg 4  
24879 Neuberend  
Tel.: +49 (0)4621 953 300  
Email: media@wikinger-rallye.de  
www.wikinger-rallye.de

### Rally with a view in Trier

The attention of motorsport fans around the world will be focused on Trier in Rhineland-Palatinate from 18 to 21 August when top international drivers come together for the World Rally Championship. The race runs through some of the most beautiful spots in Germany. Trier is 2,000 years old and situated in the ‚green heart‘ of Rhineland-Palatinate. All along the World Championship route, fans and racing teams will enjoy magnificent views of the famous vineyards along the Moselle, Saar and Ruwer rivers. Trier is also Germany's oldest town and home to attractions such as the Porta Nigra gate, Imperial Thermal Baths, amphitheatre and Church of Our Lady (all UNESCO World Heritage sites).

#### Information

ADAC Beteiligungs- und Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH  
Am Westpark 8  
81373 München  
Tel.: +49 (0)89 726 6990  
Email: info@rallye-deutschland.de  
www.rallye-deutschland.de

### Classic car rally from Hamburg to Berlin

*Auto Bild Klassik* magazine is staging the 4th Hamburg-Berlin Oldtimer Rally on 26-28 May. This challenging rally puts the cars' constancy and reliability to the test with a number of diverse special stages, checkpoints and time trials along the route from Hamburg to Berlin, passing through the Mecklenburg Lakes.

#### Information

Auto Bild Klassik  
Axel-Springer-Platz 1  
20350 Hamburg  
Press contact: Frank B. Meyer  
Tel.: +49 (0)40 3472 7693  
Email: frank.meyer@autobild.de  
www.hamburg-berlin-klassik.de

## FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011™: Augsburg, Bochum

### Augsburg: a venue steeped in history

Two thousand years ago, Roman troops gathered here in heavy armour to prepare for battle. Today, students flock here to visit the museum. Along with Trier and Kempten, the Bavarian city of Augsburg is one of the oldest in Germany, twice as old as Nuremberg or Munich. The Fugger family, the German version of the Medici, helped to boost the city's prosperity. In 1521 Jakob Fugger founded the famous Fuggerei, the oldest social housing project in the world, which is still in use today. One of the apartments has been turned into a museum to show visitors what life was like back then. Once the seat of emperors and Imperial Diets, the former free imperial city is still a bishopric residence. Augsburg is also the birthplace of the artistic Holbein family, Leopold Mozart - father of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and the writer Berthold Brecht. Situated just 50km from Munich, the city renowned for its historical atmosphere will host four matches during the FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany™. The stadium was completely rebuilt between 2007 and 2009, and has a capacity of more than 22,000.

#### Information

Regio Augsburg Tourismus  
Schiessgrabenstrasse 14  
86150 Augsburg  
www.regio-augsburg.de  
Email: marketing@regio-augsburg.de  
www.impuls-arena.de

### Bochum: the heart of the Ruhr

Black-smudged faces and calloused hands – sights that are now a thing of the past in Bochum. The colliery towers still dominate this city in North Rhine-Westphalia, but now they look like they are from another world. When coal was discovered in the Ruhr area, Bochum found itself at the centre of the 19th century 'coal rush'. In 1906 the city was home to 22,844 miners who each extracted five tonnes of coal a year. Today, the Mining Museum housed in the former Zollverein coal mine looks back at the heyday of coal mining in the region. In the 1960s Bochum underwent a period of transition, as mining declined in importance and the city became an educational centre with 33,000 students. The stadium hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany™ has a capacity of 23,000 and is usually home to the German Bundesliga club VfL Bochum. It was completely modernised in 2009. The teams will fight it out here in four matches to see who will get through from the group stage of the World Cup.

#### Information

Bochum Ticketshop Touristinfo  
Huestrasse 9  
44787 Bochum  
Tel.: +49 (0)234 963 020  
Email: info@bochum-tourismus.de  
www.bochum-tourismus.de

### Enjoy Starlight Express with the whole family

A rollerskater turns a somersault, another zig-zags around and pirouettes. In their dazzling costumes, the skaters race across the stage, telling a story of courage and pride. While the group matches of the FIFA Women's World Cup are being played at the stadium in Bochum, there will also be plenty of sporting action on offer at the city's musical theatre when Starlight Express comes to town. Toy engines and carriages come to life in the mind of a child and take on human form. Trains roll into the station from all over to take part in the locomotive world championships. And not everyone plays fair. The young steam engine Rusty is full of self-doubt and Poppa the steam train has to step in. However, he runs out of steam before the all-important race. No one is expecting Rusty to win, but he has to save the honour of the steam engines. The child's dream is recounted through the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber. The Starlight Express Theater in Bochum is easily accessible on foot from the stadium hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany™.

#### Information

Starlight Express-Theater Bochum  
Stadionring 24  
44791 Bochum  
oliver.kockel@starlight-express.de  
www.starlight-express.de

### The loved Augsburg Puppenkiste

Remembered by many since childhood, the *Augsburger Puppenkiste* puppet theatre has been lighting up children's eyes for decades. Generations have laughed and joined in the excitement when Robber Hotzenplotz attacks Kasperl's grandmother. Ottfried Preussler's *Robber Hotzenplotz* is the best-loved play performed here, but it was *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry that made the puppet theatre famous back in 1951. Since then, the theatre has staged a number of traditional fairytales by the Brothers Grimm, as well as stories from the Arabian Nights and other children's favourites such as the Sandman.

The theatre has continued to grow over the years and moved to a larger site in 2000. The new premises are situated in the city's historic heart, in the former Hospital of the Holy Spirit, now a listed building. The hospital is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Augsburg. Built back in the 17th century, it has been destroyed, rebuilt and altered several times. Most recently renovated in the 1990s, it still retains some of the charm of bygone eras. Historical sections of the building are still there for visitors to see, especially in the two chapels. Parts of the pulpit, gallery and some of the pictures have been preserved in their original condition. Along with its fortifications and gardens, the hospital forms part of the 'Rotes Tor' culture park.

Also housed here, the Augsburg Puppet Theatre Museum ('die Kiste') shows how a few bits of thread and wooden dolls can be transformed into 'stars on strings'. Each of the puppets created by this family-run business are handcarved and truly unique. Against incredible scenic backdrops, they transport audiences into a world of fantasy – and tradition.

#### Information

Augsburger Puppenkiste und „die Kiste“ -  
Das Augsburg Puppentheatermuseum  
Spitalgasse 15  
86150 Augsburg  
Tel.: +49 (0)821 4503450  
Email: info@diekiste.net

## Easter events in Germany

### Egg-rolling in northern Germany

The children's game of egg-rolling or egg-throwing at Easter remains a very special Friesland tradition up in the far north of Germany. Easter eggs (hard-boiled, of course) are used in friendly competitions played out on open fields and meadows, where the object of the game is to throw the eggs as far or as high up into the air as possible without breaking them. In some places participants also take turns to roll their eggs down slopes or down one or other of Friesland's many dykes and coastal dunes. Players try to capture an opponent's egg that was thrown by getting their own egg to touch it. The winning eggs are the ones that remain in one piece at the end. In other versions, the winners are those who have thrown or rolled their eggs the farthest. After the fun and games, all the damaged eggs are eaten together with other treats and washed down with a strong hot toddy, eggnog or schnapps, leaving participants feeling nice and warm inside at what is often a cold time of the year.

#### Information

Kurverwaltung Baltrum  
Rathaus Nr. 130  
26579 Baltrum  
Tel.: +49 (0)4939 8020  
Email: hinrichs@baltrum.de  
www.baltrum.de

### Spring fair with a maritime flavour

The outdoor fair at Bremen's Osterwiese is one of the most popular Easter events in Germany. This well-known spring festival runs for two weeks over Easter at the city's large traditional fairground and hosts around 200 typical attractions, including shooting ranges, old-fashioned carousels, ghost trains, rollercoasters, Ferris wheels, stalls selling handicrafts, food and drink and much more besides. With a range of offers and a programme of fringe activities all geared around family visitors, the Osterwiese brings out the fun-filled and fascinating maritime atmosphere of this old seafaring city. In the historical centre, visitors can also admire Bremen's magnificent town hall, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the statue of the Bremen Roland, a symbol of liberty erected in the Hanseatic era. The city's other famous statue, that of the world-famous Bremen Town Musicians, is also not to be missed – rub the donkey's legs with both hands and you'll be granted a wish!

#### Information

Stadtamt - Marktverwaltung  
Obernstrasse 39 - 43  
28195 Bremen  
Tel.: +49 (0)421 361 2385 or -6966 or -10738  
Email: marktverwaltung@stadtamt.bremen.de  
www.stadtamt.bremen.de  
www.osterwiese.com

### Easter in the footsteps of Goethe

Visitors to Weimar at Easter will doubtlessly come across a reminder of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. An Easter custom still going strong harks back to the famous German poet and polymath who spent much of his life in this cosmopolitan Thuringian town. Every Maundy Thursday, Goethe would hide eggs in his garden and invite the children of his great fellow poets and writers, Christoph Martin Wieland and Johann Gottfried Herder, to hunt for the eggs left by the Easter Bunny. First popularized by Goethe, the Easter egg hunt remains a strong tradition in Weimar, where an annual hunt takes place in the park beside the river Ilm which, incidentally, is also the site of the Goethe summer house that still exists today. The Weimar Easter walk with the park's former director is a further time-honoured tradition. After this, visitors can follow in Goethe's footsteps with a stroll to the grounds of Belvedere Palace, Tiefurt Palace Park or around Ettersburg Palace.

#### Information

Weimar Tourist Information  
Markt 10 / Welcome Center  
Friedensstrasse 1  
99423 Weimar  
Tel.: +49 (0)3643 7450  
Email: tourist-info@weimar.de

### Saddle up for Easter in Lusatia

Traditional Easter celebrations in the Lusatia region of Saxony have a long history. Sorbs and Wends living in small communities between the Spree Forest and Bautzen have long kept their old customs and traditions alive. The highlight of these is the Easter horseback ride through the villages of the Spree Forest. More than 1,500 riders on beautifully bedecked horses set out through picturesque hamlets and villages to spread the message of the Resurrection, bearing colourful church flags, a crucifix and a statue of Christ. Starting and ending in Zerkwitz, the annual procession attracts thousands of visitors who come to watch the riders say prayers, sing festive hymns and distribute Easter bouquets of green box tree flowers along the route.

The Easter shooting competitions held in many of the region's communities are another tourist attraction. According to an old superstition, the events frighten away witches and evil spirits with the sound of the loud gunshots. A special Easter brass band performance also takes place in Bautzen in Saxony, during which a choir proclaims the Easter message to the loud ringing of the town's cathedral bells.

The enjoyable Easter Sunday egg-rolling event on a steep slope of Bautzen's Protschenberg hill also has its many enthusiasts. Here hard-boiled eggs, apples, nuts, pastries and sweets are rolled down the hillside amid the excited cheering of children who cleverly catch the treats. This joyful festival takes on the character of an annual fair, delighting visitors who return every year.

#### Information

Marketing-Gesellschaft  
Oberlausitz-Niederschlesien  
Tzschirnerstrasse 14a  
02625 Bautzen  
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www.oberlausitz.com

## News and dates

### Michael Croissant exhibition in Passau

Michael Croissant is an important contemporary German painter and sculptor whose work is widely exhibited in numerous public institutions, from Heidelberg University and the Munich Philharmonic Hall to the German embassy in Beijing. Over his lifetime, Croissant produced a portfolio of more than 2,000 artworks in various media. The Wörlen Museum of Modern Art in Passau is exhibiting 90 of his works created on paper with the use of different techniques, including pencil, ink, charcoal and wax crayon. After a trip to the Wörlen Museum of Modern Art, visitors to Passau can enjoy a delightful riverside stroll through this town on three rivers'. Situated at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz, the town's attractive centre is renowned for its municipal theatre building, 14th-century town hall and St. Stephen's Cathedral.

#### Information

Museum Moderner Kunst Wörlen  
Bräugasse 17  
94032 Passau  
Tel.: +49 (0)851 3838 7911  
Email: d.kuehmeier@mmk-passau.de  
www.mmk-passau.de  
www.passau.de/Tourismus

### The whole of Germany at ITB Berlin

All of Germany's fascinating tourist regions will be gathered under one roof when ITB Berlin – the world's largest tourism trade fair – opens its doors to trade visitors on Wednesday, 9 March. Many of the exhibition halls beneath Berlin's landmark television tower will be completely full with exhibitors promoting Destination Germany. All the federal states, large cities and holiday regions will be there to present their products and services, making ITB Berlin a treasure trove for foreign travel journalists interested in Germany. Nowhere else can you find out so much about Germany under one roof, with information materials, photos, shows, presentations and all the right people to talk to. Access is limited to trade visitors for the first three days and opened up to the general public on Saturday and Sunday.

#### Information

ITB Berlin  
Messedamm, 14055 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 3038 2275  
Fax: +49 (0)30 3038 2041  
Email: ehling@messe-berlin  
www.itb-berlin.de

### Walking and cycling by the Saar and Moselle

The region surrounding the Saar and Upper Moselle rivers offers families and holidaymakers plenty to explore, while walking and cycling (or even trekking with donkeys) past countless vineyards, villas, castles and stately homes. A guide produced by the Saar-Obermosel Tourist Office enables walkers and cyclists to explore this area in the west of the Rhineland-Palatinate, where Germany borders on Luxembourg and France. Superbly signposted trails lead through the Eifel and Hunsrück hills past roaring waterfalls and ruins of Roman temples. The option of trekking with pack donkeys is undoubtedly a highlight for children. Bilbo and Gandalf can carry travellers' provisions and luggage and give children who get tired a ride on their backs.

#### Information

Saar-Obermosel-Touristik e.V.  
Graf-Siegfried-Strasse 32  
54439 Saarburg  
Tel.: +49 (0)6581 995 980  
Email: info-saarburg@saar-obermosel.de  
www.saar-obermosel.de

#### 21 January to 1 May

An exhibition of drawings by Else Lasker-Schüler at Berlin's Hamburger Bahnhof Museum of Contemporary Art pays tribute to the work of this Berlin poet and visual artist, famed for her bohemian lifestyle.

#### Information

www.smb.museum

#### 5 February to 15 May

The Zeitgeist & Glamour exhibition of Nicola Erni's collection of photographs at NRW Forum in Düsseldorf captures the zeitgeist of the 1960s and 70s in the media, music and pop culture of the period.

#### Information

www.nrw-forum.de

#### 6 March

HanseDom waterpark in Stralsund is offering a whole day for the price of four hours at its Seestern thermal baths. Various family offers are also available at the nearby thermal baths on Rügen island.

#### Information

www.ruegen.de

#### 25 March

An expert-guided walk along the threatened coastline of Sylt shows visitors how the islanders are fighting the encroaching sea with shoreline reinforcements, man-made dunes and sea walls.

#### Information

www.hinrichsen-nf.de

#### 1 to 3 April

Steam train fans will flock to Dresden for their annual gathering, culminating in the world steam-engine pulling championship on 3 April, when teams of 14 people will pull a 64-tonne locomotive.

#### Information

www.dresden-dampfloktreffen.de

#### 2 April - 21 August

An exhibition at the Fürstenberg factory in the Weserbergland hills tells the story of how 'pugilicious' pugs became the must-have pets of fashionable ladies in the golden age of porcelain.

#### Information

www.fuerstenberg-porzellan.com