Festivals, Celebrations and More

Drachenfest Kamen

Everything can fly! Each spring, kites and co. leave the ground in Kamen. Artistic, colourful and imaginative designs and more can then be seen floating high above iKamener Kreuzi (the A1/A2 motorway interchange) as if controlled by magic.

The KITE festival which has been held since 1987 is just as firmly anchored in the thoughts of the fans as it is on the ground at the gliding site in Kamen. The participants and the public are as international as the kites are colourful. Kiting is not all however, a large supporting programme is also provided over the two KITE days for all of those who might just be looking for more down-to-earth entertainment with something visual, fun and food between all of the air acrobatics.

www.kamen.de

Hafenfest in Bergkamen

Both waves and spirits rise to the same extent when Bergkamen Town Council extends an invitation to the Hafenfest at the leisure boat centre - Marina Rünthe every June. All of the water (sport) fans have been getting their money's worth since 1999, as have the friends of maritime treats, lively music or shanties.

Visitors to the marina on the Datteln-Hamm canal are treated to dragon boat racing, fish stabbing, duck racing, a creative competition with self-made floating mobiles, sample diving courses, round trips on the canal and a special programme just for children. A special highlight: since 2003, a sailing regatta has been held in a match race during the Hafenfest in the scope of the NRW-Trophy. Points for the world ranking in sailing can be obtained here inland.

www.bergkamen.de

Kinofest Lünen

Light out, eyes open, film starts! The curtain has been rising for the Kinofest in Lünen each November, commencing 1990. The town on the banks of the River Lippe is then transformed into a Mecca for film creators and fans with gala, glitter and glamour. The festival which is famous throughout Germany presents the German film world with celebrities, premiers, films for children, short films and obviously with special events. There is much to see and marvel at when the film makers move (home) to Lünen and place the town under a spotlight.

www.kinofest-luenen.de
**Mord am Hellweg**

You do not have to have any skeletons in your cupboard to participate in Mord am Hellweg. The only weapon is verbal - this is however so skilfully committed that the first large get-together of the international crime elite which took place in 2002, has now turned into a series.

The readings of the murder stories which are beastly good and often written especially for the festival also inspire because of the unusual reading locations: sometimes in a monastery, sometimes behind prison walls, in a stately home or even in a swanky ‘club’. ‘Mord am Hellweg’ makes its mark - normally spooky good and relaxing.

www.wlb.de

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**Sim-Jü-Kirmes in Werne**

There is certainly something going on in this town once per year. At the end of October (on the Saint's Day of Simon Judah = Sim-Jü), Werne celebrates the granting of its market rights (1362) with a fair which has grown into the largest on the River Lippe. It starts off with the raising of the free flag - and then it really gets going with a glittering fun fair landscape situated between the old houses and the narrow alleyways.

Celebrations, eating and riding all take place as the showmen inspire with attractions which are increasingly new. Here, one is moved skywards or across the horizon. The town still remains true to tradition, despite all the hustle and bustle. The market ‘Kram- und Viehmarkt’ with horses, pigs, sheep and all that ‘bric a brac’ real Sim-Jü friends always needed is held on Sim-Jü tuesday.

www.sim-jue.de

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**Neue Philharmonie Westfalen**

They have a command of the good tone and bring sound to concert halls. We are referring to the ‘Neue Philharmonie Westfalen’. The orchestra is supported by the towns Gelsenkirchen and Recklinghausen, together with the District of Unna. This means that the Symphonic Series which takes place in the Konzertaula in Kamen is a regular ‘home performance’ for the musicians. The philharmonic orchestra is a guest with special events such as concerts for children, but they also perform elsewhere in the district.

www.neue-philharmonie-westfalen.de
UN(n)a Festa Italiana

You are a fan of the Italian awareness of life? Pasta, Pizza and Prosecco? Bene! Every two years (uneven year numbers), the town centre of Unna is transformed into an Italian Piazza between the town hall and Lindenplatz. It is banqueted, small talked and laughed.

A zest for life and an appreciation of light art is what unifies the organiser and the guests and this is exactly planned, rehearsed and tried out in advance by the light designers who come from southern Italy for this purpose. The result is radiating: around 100,000 coloured bulbs on pavilions, arches and rosettes transform Unna's old town into a twinkling sea of lights, an 'Illuminazione' which is unsurpassed far and wide.

www.unna.de

Welttheater der Straße in Schwerte

This is a festival for all senses. The 'Welttheater der Straße' premiered in 1989 and since then, it has been turning the town on the River Ruhr into a stage for one of Germany's largest street theatre and street animation festivals. The participants present theatre in the streets and on the squares.

It hereby combines the artistic challenge of presenting public spaces as cultural spaces and thereby turn the passers-by into spectators. Eight event locations and around 30 hours of programme - the drama already gets going on the way to the theatre...

www.welttheater-der-strasse.de