

DEUTSCHER LEBENSTIL UND DEUTSCHE KULTUR (German Lifestyle and Culture)

Local patriotism: How Germans replaced nationalism with regional pride

Many foreigners have noticed that Germans are not the greatest patriots when it comes to their country. But when it comes to their city or region? Oh boy.



It was only a few years ago that it became semi-acceptable to publicly [wave the national flag in Germany](#) — and even that required a [major football event](#).

Most Germans, as I have come to realize in my six years here, are not keen on openly expressing love for their country.

However, this is not at all the case when it comes to local patriotism, or "Lokalpatriotismus" in German, which — contrary to nationalism — describes the affection, or preference, to one's own city or region.

In Germany's case, it seems to be a much bigger source of pride than anything national. Here's what I've learned about it.