

DREI TOLLE TAGE: (3 Crazy Days)

Faschingsfreitag, Faschingssamstag, und Faschingssonntag Karnevalsfreitag, Karnevalssamstag, und Karnevalssonntag

Carnival Friday

The festivities from Thursday don't really die down going into Friday, but the thing to make sure you recover and turn up for is the *Sternmarsch*, where different groups converge at the Alter Markt to show off their parade costumes from the last season.

Spectators can start filling the area at 4pm and the march begins at 6pm, but it's best to arrive earlier to find a good spot in the crowd to see the colourful ensembles and belt out the various folk songs in the Kölsch dialect.

When in doubt of what to shout, just remember "Kölle Alaaf!" as that's mostly what they'll be saying.

After that, revellers will again hit the bars and the streets to drink and dance the night away.

Carnival Friday

This day is actually a day of rest. From 4:30 p.m. on, the Cologne neighborhood associations march from different starting points to the Alter Markt. Then from 6:00 to 8:45 p.m. there's a Carnival program followed by numerous sessions and balls.

! These culminate in three highlights, traditionally named "drei tolle Tage." The German adjective "toll" can mean mad or insane, but it can also mean "splendid, fabulous, glorious." So let's call them the Three Glorious Days, shall we?

«Sooty Friday» gained its name from an old custom according to which children daubed their faces with soot. Fewer festivities are held on this day. From Saturday onwards, parades stretching for several kilometers at a time are held in towns and villages. The most important days are Rose Monday and to a lesser extent Shrove Tuesday.