

“Bei uns ist immer was los!” Feste in Bayern

„FASCHING IN MÜNCHEN“ / „CARNIVAL SEASON IN MUNICH“

Wie feiert man heute Fasching? (How is Fasching celebrated today?)

Dance of the Market Women: Tanz der Marktfrauen

Munich's most famous parade is the [Dance of the Market Women](#) on Shrove Tuesday, with the Viktualienmarkt packed with revellers and where if you have not come appropriately dressed in some form of costume, you will stick out like a sore thumb. Munich's own [Karneval Universe](#) are an ideal destination for anyone wanting to dress up and take part in the [celebrations](#) and are happy to assist where possible.

In Munich, Germany's third-largest city, the pre-Lenten fun is known as Fasching.

It is, perhaps, not as boisterous as the big celebrations along the Rhine River, but Munich does know how to have fun. And the Bavarian capital features one of Carnival season's [unique traditions](#), the Dance of the Market Women.



Der Tanz der Marktfrauen am Faschingsdienstag ist traditionell der Höhepunkt des Münchner Faschings.

The highlight of Munich Fasching is the Tanz der Marktfrauen — the Dance of the Market Women — on Shrove Tuesday.

Carnival season may be a time for masquerading and foolery, but the market women are for real. Any other time of year, you will see them selling their fruit and vegetables, flowers, cheese, bread or wine at the Viktualienmarkt, the city's downtown food market.

The market square starts filling as early as 8 a.m. for the dance, and by the time the ladies take the stage at 11 a.m., the place is jam-packed.

For the next 45 minutes, the women waltz, fox trot, rumba and rock 'n' roll, dressed in colorful costumes adorned with the goods they sell. The first time the market women did their Shrove Tuesday jigs was in 1897. The tradition faded away over the years, but made a reappearance in the 1950s.

The women danced in front of their market stalls, mostly to music on the radio. Eventually, the event became so popular and the crowds so big that there was almost no room for them to dance, so the action was moved to a stage at the center of the square.

When the fun on stage is over, the fun off stage gets under way. To say that the crowd thins out after the Tanz der Marktfrauen would be stretching the truth a little. Now, you can actually get your beer to your lips.

With local disc jockeys laying down the beat, the Viktualienmarkt becomes a giant dance floor.

The soggy Fasching fun continues until nightfall, and when the music stops in the marketplace, the local residents head for the final balls, the tourists head for the Hofbräuhaus brewery and the city's sanitation crews sweep the streets clean.