

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

**FEIERTAGE UND FESTE IM MAI
SITTEN UND GEBRÄUCHE
MAIBAUM**

May pole: der Maibaum, die Maibäume

Maifest (or **Mayfest** in English) is the traditional German celebration of the arrival of spring. Maifest is still celebrated throughout Germany with the *maibaum* (maypole) decorated to show off the history and crafts of the town.



Maypoles and Wreaths

Men in Upper Bavaria raise a maypole the traditional way—by hand.



Maibaum in Munich, Germany.

Similar to the maypole of Anglo traditions, the German *Maibaum* (May tree) is erected on May 1st or the day before. Residents in Bavaria, East Frisia in Lower Saxony, Baden-Württemberg and elsewhere celebrate this originally pagan ritual each year within their local communities.

The tree (or pole) is decorated with colourful streamers, flowers and in some places with scenes showing local crafts or activities.

Parades, brass band music and sausage-eating usually accompany the event of the actual raising of the tree. And don't forget the special dark Maibock beer, brewed just for the occasion.