

## PFINGSTEN / PENTECOST

## TOP 10 EVENTS TO CELEBRATE GERMANY'S HOLIDAY WEEKEND



Karneval der Kulturen in Berlin

**Whether it's a medieval reenactment, or a celebration of youth culture, groups throughout Germany will pull out the stops for events this coming 'Pfungstwochenende' holiday weekend.**

Pentecost (or *Pfungsten* in German) is a major Christian holiday, and takes place on the seventh Sunday after Easter.

Even if they are not religious, however, Germans have several traditional ways of celebrating Pfungsten. In Lower Saxony, for example, Birch Trees are decorated with large wreaths (*Pfungstbaumpflanzen*) to mark the coming of summer, and female fertility.

In southern Germany's more mountainous areas, herds of cattle are sometimes draped with flowers and plants, with the strongest ox designated to lead a procession.

For most Germans, however, *Pfungstenwochenende* simply marks a time to relax with friends and family. It's the last national public holiday until October 3rd, or Reunification Day.