



CALENDAR OF EVENTS: 2026

We encourage you to visit our “Newcastles” to enjoy the rich variety of attractions on offer.

This calendar lists many of the major events in the year in our main partner Newcastles.

If you're thinking of visiting and you're from one of our Newcastles, check out the “Newcastle Passport” for a personalised welcome and special benefits:

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/projects/passport/>



If you need further information on any event (some of the dates are provisional), send your request to:

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/the-contacts-in-each-of-our-main-partner-newcastles/>

This listing will be updated regularly as a pdf and on our website. To be included, please send details of major festivals and events that are likely to attract visitors from beyond your local area – to newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com



SHINSHIRO MARATHON, JAPAN - 25th January

Around 2,500 runners take part in the Shinshiro Marathon every year.

The 10 km route is a heavy course with ups and downs, which Shinshiro's rich mountainous terrain provides.

For those who are not confident in their fitness or who want to run with family or friends, there is also a 3km jogging route in addition to a 10km route.

DONAUSCHWIMMEN - NEUBURG AN DER DONAU, GERMANY

31st January



Europe's largest winter swimming extravaganza on the Donau (Danube) in Neuburg !

<https://www.kvndsob.brk.de/ehrenamt/wasserwacht/ortsgruppe-neuburg.html>

MIMOSA FESTIVAL, HERCEG NOVI, MONTENEGRO From 13th to 28th February

For over 50 years, this event has been a symbol of winter fun in Southeast Europe. Whilst much of Europe is covered in snow, in sun-drenched Herceg Novi outdoor celebrations are held in honour of the mimosa flower which is already in bloom.

This is the biggest winter tourist and promotional event in the country and features a huge programme of music, dance, the famous local marching majorettes, masquerade balls and the traditional mimosa, fish and wine festival. <https://praznikmimoze.me/en>



MASOPUST FESTIVAL, NOVÉ HRADY, SOUTH BOHEMIA, CZECH REPUBLIC

14 and 15 February <https://www.masopustnovehrady.cz/>



CARNIVAL NOVÉ HRADY

In the Czech Republic, Masopust (similar to "Mardi Gras" elsewhere) is a carnival of music, marching, eating and drinking, and of wearing masks and costume.

Nové Hradý's carnival is one of the best !

The highlight is the colourful grand parade through town, accompanied by brass bands.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

February 21

This is a global UNESCO event celebrating linguistic diversity. Events in **AKHALTSIKHE** (Republic of Georgia) will focus on regional language, involving cultural festivals and educational programs to promote multilingualism and heritage.



CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS IN CHINATOWN, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, UK

The Year of the Horse Main festivities - 22 February Kung hey Fat Choi!
One of the UK's biggest Chinese New Year events.



THE NEUCHÂTEL TROPHY, NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND

March 6-7 a major international winter sports event in Switzerland - the Neuchâtel Trophy for Synchronised Skating.



NEUCHÂTEL FOOD FESTIVAL ("FESTIN NEUCHÂTELOIS"), SWITZERLAND

8 March <https://www.festin-neuchateinois.ch/>

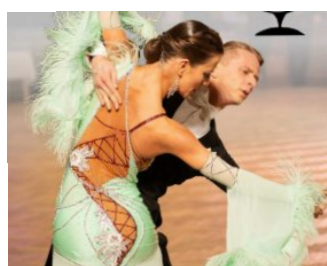
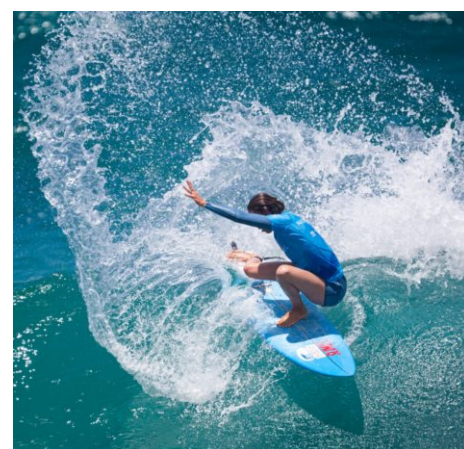
A celebration of the gastronomy of the area. Renowned chefs from the canton will help you discover, or rediscover, ingredients from the Neuchâtel region: lake fish, Neuchâtel sausage IGP, Gruyère AOP, Neuchâtel cheeses, the delicious Suchard chocolate and artisan bread.



<https://www.surfest.com/>

SURFEST - NEWCASTLE NEW SOUTH WALES AUSTRALIA

Newcastle Surfest is the largest surfing festival in the southern hemisphere, with more than 800 competitors from across the globe competing across nine events throughout February and March 2026. It culminates with the final event of the World Surf League, Challenger Series from March 9 -15.



NOVOHRAD CUP DANCE FESTIVAL, NOVÉ HRADY, CZECH REPUBLIC

March 14

It's the 46th annual Novohradská číše (Novohrad cup) dance competition, one of the most prestigious dance events in South Bohemia.

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL - SAKURABUCHI PARK, SHINSHIRO CITY, JAPAN



Mid March to mid-April



Sakurabuchi Park is famed for cherry blossoms in spring. The Toyogawa River meanders through the centre of the Park, and its banks look as if fully dyed into pink by blooming cherry blossoms.

The Cherry Blossom Festival takes place from late March to early April, featuring stalls of specialties by local merchants and brass band performances. Enjoy these spring days out with family and friends. <https://www.city.shinshiro.lg.jp/kanko/event/sakura.html>

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC, SPEECH AND DRAMA, NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, UK



20/21 March <https://newcastlefestival.org.uk/>

The festival is an annual event which provides a valuable performance opportunity in speech, drama, and music, a platform for amateur performers of any age, to demonstrate their talents.

The High Performers concert at the end of the programme is on 9 May and all are welcome.



SHINSHIRO TRAIL, JAPAN March 21 and 22

The OSJ (Outdoor Sport Japan) Shinshiro Trail for 2026, is part of the national trail running series. There are spectacular courses that offer a variety of trails including rocky areas, forest roads, climbing areas, and ups and downs - 32km and 64km races, with shorter distances for youths and inexperienced runners.



NEWCASTLE WRITERS FESTIVAL NEWCASTLE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

27 to 29 March <https://www.newcastlewritersfestival.org.au/>

Over 100 authors - readings, poetry, children's programme.

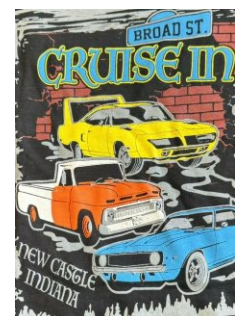
BROAD STREET CRUISE-INS, NEW CASTLE, INDIANA, USA



Fantastic vintage cars parading through the downtown, reflecting the heritage of the city as the former home of Maxwell and Chrysler cars.

It's on the first Saturday of the month from April to October. Featuring car shows and other special events.

<https://www.facebook.com/broadstreetcruisein/>



WORLD CIRCUS DAY, NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, UNITED KINGDOM

Saturday, April 18, is an international day for the circus arts with performances, workshops, and educational events. The Philip Astley Centre is the world's first heritage centre building and celebrating the life, heritage and legacy of Newcastle-under-Lyme born Philip Astley – military hero, original ringmaster and creator of the modern circus.





NewRun FESTIVAL NEWCASTLE NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA 19 April Features the iconic Hill to Harbour (12km), Halfa Hill to Harbour (6km), kids' fun runs, and the Newcastle Marathon & Half Marathon, offering scenic coastal courses for all levels. <https://newrun.com.au/>



INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL KOTA BHARU, MALAYSIA

3 May ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Bird Festival Promotes birdwatching, ecotourism, generate income for locals, and fosters ASEAN cooperation in conservation.

NAGASHINO BATTLE FLAG FESTIVAL SHINSHIRO, JAPAN 5 May



This is a festival to comfort the souls of all samurai warriors who died in the historic Battle of Nagashino-Shitaragahara of 1575 by erecting a large number of battle flags with their family crests. The battle took place near what are now the ruins of Nagashino Castle, Shinshiro.

Every year on 5 May, visitors can enjoy a "warriors' parade", with warriors in armour and princesses in kimonos walking. Anyone can participate in this parade.

<https://www.city.shinshiro.lg.jp/kanko/event/kanko/nagashino.html>



EUROPEAN NIGHT OF THE MUSEUMS - INCLUDING JAUNPILS CASTLE

May 23 - A UNESCO-backed event where museums across Europe open their doors for free, offering special evening activities, tours, and workshops. We will list others in our "Newcastles" once confirmed. In Newcastle upon Tyne, the Late Shows will be held on 8 and 9 May - see <https://thelateshows.org.uk/>



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, NEW CASTLE, INDIANA, USA

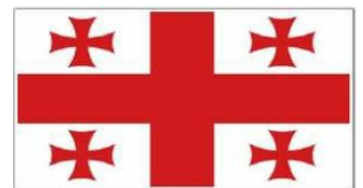
25th May Parades and other public events remembering U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the Armed Forces, featuring veterans, active troops, bands.

CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, AKHALTSIKHE, REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA



May 26, a national holiday, commemorates the 1918 Act of Independence which established the Democratic Republic of Georgia from the Russian Empire.

In Akhaltsikhe, events include song, dance and exhibitions, based around Rabati Castle.



NEWCASTLE, SOUTH AFRICA WINTER FESTIVAL

28-30 May <https://winterfestival.co.za/events-programme/>

The annual Winter Festival in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa - the biggest in the north of the province. Music, dance, food, exhibitions, stalls and more!

RENOVA MUSIC FESTIVAL, NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA, USA May 31 - June 13

Classical Chamber Music/Orchestra Festival of Western Pennsylvania - for musicians aged 18-25 - strings, woodwinds, horn.

To foster the development of pre-professional musicians from across the United States through an annual series of instructional sessions and public performances.



SHITARAGAHARA BATTLEFIELD FESTIVAL - SHINSHIRO, JAPAN - June



Dramatic re-enactment of one of the most famous battles in Japanese history . The Battle of Nagashino-Shitaragahara in 1575 was the first war in Japan to use guns at a large scale. The Historic Shitaragahara Battlefield acts as the stage for the Shitaragahara Battlefield Festival, where a matchlock gun demonstration, warrior demonstration at the anti-cavalry fence, and other events take place for insight into what the actual battle may have looked like.

<https://www.aichi-now.jp/en/spots/detail/312/>

WILBUR WRIGHT BIRTHPLACE FESTIVAL NEW CASTLE, INDIANA, USA - June

Wilbur Wright, one-half of the famous Wright brothers, was born in a small farm house in eastern Henry County outside New Castle. The Wilbur Wright Birthplace Museum commemorates one of the greatest early pioneers of flight. The festival has exciting displays, an authentic replica of the Wright Flyer, historic documents and artifacts, music and food stalls.



FESTIN'NEUCH, OPEN AIR FESTIVAL, NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND 11-14 June



The Neuchâtel open-air festival, which attracts more than 50,000 festivalgoers every year, focuses above all on discovery, while regularly welcoming big names from the international music scene in a wide variety of styles. Festivalgoers flock to the Jeunes-Rives park to enjoy the unique, relaxed atmosphere of this waterfront festival.

NEUBURG AN DER DONAU, GERMANY HOFGARTENFEST HOFGARTEN FESTIVAL 12-14 June Open-air music festival.



RACE FOR PEACE

16 June <https://www.raceforpeace.world/>



Communities around the world will unite in a shared act of remembrance, hope, and peace. Inspired by the young people in Soweto, South Africa, we invite you to be part of something truly global, a movement where every step (run, jog, walk) taken is a step toward understanding, unity, and justice. Wherever your Newcastle is, you can be part of the Race for Peace. Check out the website to see who is involved and how you can take part.

"THE HOPPINGS" NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, UNITED KINGDOM - EUROPE'S LARGEST TRAVELLING FAIR 19 - 28 June <http://hoppingsfunfairs.com/>



Ten days of rides, food, and family fun, featuring hundreds of attractions, from classic fairground rides to new thrill rides, along with the Hoppings Village for food, music, and kids' activities.



CASTRUM REVUE, NOVÉ ZÁMKY, SLOVAKIA June 20 to June 22.

A three-day multi-genre music festival in the park under the Fogd bastion.

JANIS DAY/SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL, JAUNPILS, LATVIA



21/22 June - and public holiday events on 23 /24 June

"Jāņi" (Janis Day) in Latvia is the most significant national holiday, celebrating the summer solstice with ancient pagan traditions like bonfires, wreath-making (oak for men, flowers for women), singing folk songs (Līgo), eating caraway cheese, and searching for the mythical fern flower, all night long to welcome the sunrise.



NORTHUMBERLAND PLATE HORSE RACE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, UNITED KINGDOM

29 June One of the most famous race meetings of the year in the UK featuring the Northumberland Plate, formerly called "The Pitmens' Derby" because of all the coal miners who came - a two mile heritage handicap worth around 200,000 EUR, making it the richest two mile handicap in Europe.



MEMORIAL DAY OF SAINT SHALVA AKHALTSIKELI - RABATI CASTLE, AKHALTSIKHE, REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA 30 June



Shalva Akhalsikheli was a military commander and court official under Queen Tamar the Great who defended the country with distinction against the Turks. When eventually captured, he refused to renounce his faith and convert to Islam, and was executed. The Georgian Orthodox church canonised him as a martyr. This day is in his memory, with a church service and celebrations of Georgian music and dance.

CELEBRATE CANADA DAY 2026 IN NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO



A big street festival noon to 6 pm with vendors, cultural dance & music, a beer garden, kids zone, entertainment, games & inflatables. live entertainment & vendors 8pm-dusk for fireworks!



DANEHOF 2020 - NYBORG, DENMARK MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

3 - 5 July <https://www.visitnyborg.com/nyborg/events/danehof/danehof-market>



The Town Square in Nyborg is the focal point for this large, historic medieval festival.

The medieval Danehof, is free and invites all visitors to a trip back in time to the Middle Ages with knight tournaments, juggling, mead, and market stalls. Remains of Nyborg as an old royal town are still evident today.

Nyborg Castle was founded by the Danish king Valdemar the Victorious around 1200, Nyborg's Town Square is the only preserved royal tournament arena that can still be visited in Denmark

NEUCHÂTEL INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL SWITZERLAND 3 - 11 July <https://niff.ch/>



Founded in 2000, the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival has established itself as a key event on the Swiss film scene. It appeals to fantasy fans and critics alike, offering programmes that combine discovery and innovation. As well as screening dozens of films and organising international competitions, the NIFFF stages a whole series of multidisciplinary events, including a symposium dedicated to the latest image technologies.



NEW CASTLE FIREWORKS FESTIVAL NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA, USA

In America's Fireworks Capital ! 11 July, with music and food.

NYBORG VOLDSPIL performs "Monty Python's Spamalot"
16 July to 8 August in **Denmark's** oldest open-air theatre.

Nyborg Voldspil

NELSON MANDELA DAY: NEWCASTLE, KZN, SOUTH AFRICA



18 July A day for volunteering and community service. Nelson Mandela Day, is celebrated annually on Mandela's birthday since its declaration by the UN, urging people worldwide to dedicate at least 67 minutes to community service, reflecting his 67 years of public service and fighting for justice, equality, and human rights.

TAPPENSTREG NYBORG DENMARK

Recreating the centuries-old march through the city which called the soldiers back to barracks - every Tuesday in July and August, 19.00 for a one hour walk with the young soldiers.



FESTIVAL JIHOČESKÉ, SOUTH BOHEMIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL, NOVÉ HRADY, CZECH REPUBLIC

July 22 -27 Artistic direction by violin virtuoso Jaroslav Svěcený.

PORCIUNKULA (FESTIVAL OF CRAFTS) AND ANNUAL GOULASH FEAST

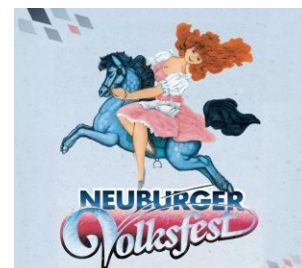
NOVÉ ZÁMKY, SLOVAKIA 24 and 25 July



A traditional fair descending from an ancient Christian feast, with a craft trade, an exhibition of arts and concerts of renowned Slovak and Hungarian bands both evenings in the amphitheatre.

VOLKSFEST, NEUBURG AN DER DONAU, GERMANY

July 24 - August 2



The variety of rides and stalls, as well as the fact that something new is offered every year, ensures the well-deserved success of this festival even after more than 75 editions.



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME (UK) JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

July 26, 27 and 28 <https://newcastlejazzandblues.com/>

Now in its 17th year, the festival will feature over 40 artists in five different venues in the town.

SOMMERAKADEMIE (SUMMER ACADEMY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC), NEUBURG AN DER DONAU, GERMANY 2-15 August <http://www.sommerakademie-neuburg.de/>



With over 40 years of experience, the Neuburg Summer Academy is a popular and established holiday academy that attracts instructors and participants from all over the world.



The course programme ranges from jazz and pop, classical and early music, and visual arts to world music and dance, and there is a chance to enjoy performances by the instructors and participants.

GUITAR ART SUMMER FESTIVAL, HERCEG NOVI, MONTENEGRO 5-20 August An international summer festival of classical guitar with concerts, master workshops and exhibitions. <https://www.gaf.rs/sr/festivali/guitar-art-summer-fest>

JAUNPILS CASTLE FESTIVAL, JAUNPILS, LATVIA - Saturday 8th August

Jaunpils hosts its local parish festival, widely known in Latvia and beyond its borders as the Medieval Festival. Traditional festival highlights include: a craft and local producer market, knight battles, medieval dances, concerts, workshops, medieval-themed activities, opportunities to see various domestic animals, family-friendly entertainment, and a delicious meal at the medieval tavern.

The ambience at this festival is more than special because it is organised in a castle that is seven centuries old."



NEWCASTLE AIR SHOW - KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA

8th August <http://www.airshownewcastle.co.za/>

A spectacular and well-anticipated event, with aviation displays and entertainment, supported by Airshow South Africa and the South African Air Force.



ANNUAL BUSKERS' FESTIVAL, NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND 11 to 15 August

<https://www.buskersfestival.ch/>

Music groups from all over the world take up residence in Neuchâtel. Without a stage or sound system, they perform acoustically in the pedestrian zone.



SHINSHIRO, JAPAN SUMMER FIREWORKS FESTIVAL - 13 August

<https://www.city.shinshiro.lg.jp/kanko/event/kanko/noryo-hanabi.html>

Each year on the night of August 13, the Summer Fireworks Festival is held at Sakurabuchi Park. Around 2,000 astonishing fireworks light up the night sky. A major spectacle is the 150-metre "fire cascade". When a wire strung along the bank of the river is lit, it sparks above the water.

Come and see this awe-inspiring silver cascade as it is reflected off the water's surface.



This is followed by dance and bonfire. The Hiondory Torch/fire dance started as a way to remember the souls that passed away during the the battle of Nagashino and the Warring States era, and is held dramatically at the war ruin Shingen Zuka. Local people perform with massive torches (2-3m long, 80cm in diameter). It's an event with Bon-Odori dances, performances of Japanese Taiko drums, and both tezutsu and regular fireworks. This summer tradition has been held for over 40 years in the city of Shinshiro during the Obon Festival, when people living outside of the city come back home to visit their families and pay their respects to ancestors' graves.

TOUR DE NEUBURG, NEUBURG AN DER DONAU, GERMANY

15 August

A family-friendly tour of classic cars through the region around Neuburg, organised by the Motorclub Neuburg.





NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA, USA



Favourite events are Truck & Tractor Pulls, Rodeo and Demolition Derby and all the classics such as rides and games, great food and exhibits.

There's opportunities for Livestock Breeders, Agricultural Exhibitors and Homemakers to display to their products, plus crafts, clothing, baked goods and animals, and fireworks to end the Fair.



FILM FESTIVAL OF MONTENEGRO IN HERCEG NOVI

22-28 August



It's Montenegro's national film festival - a vibrant showcase of regional and international cinema.

<https://filmfestival.me/> Email - info@hercegnovi.travel and info_filmfestival.me



NEWCASTLE JAZZ FESTIVAL NEWCASTLE NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

28 -30 August

<http://newcastlejazz.com.au/>



NEWCASTLE MELA, SOUTH ASIAN FESTIVAL NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, UNITED KINGDOM

29, 30 and 31 August

<http://newcastlemela.co.uk/>



Mela is a free event, based around Pakistani, Bengali, Indian and other South Asian cultures, open to all to enjoy music, art and food in the city centre (29 August) and Exhibition Park, and with a line-up that includes contemporary Asian acts as well as traditional displays of music, dance and fashion.



INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE RALLY, HERCEG NOVI, MONTENEGRO

Late August. The established and popular MC Cruiser rally.



"AIRPLANES AND AUTOMOBILES", NEW CASTLE PENNSYLVANIA, USA August 29th

Formerly "Wings and Wheels", the festival at New Castle Airport.

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS, KOTA BHARU, MALAYSIA

August 31st: Malaysia's Independence Day, officially known as Hari Kebangsaan, is also called Merdeka Day by Malaysians. Expect patriotic songs, cultural dances, performances by local groups, and community gatherings.



VEGVISIR RACE, NYBORG, DENMARK 3-5 September <https://www.vegvisirrace.com/>

Vegvisir Race is a challenging annual shorthanded sailing event. Since 2021, it has been hosted in Nyborg. Each year, the race features new courses that explore the waters connecting Denmark, Germany, and Sweden. The event tests participants' skills, physical fitness, endurance and tactical abilities. 75 boats, 138 sailors, 7 nations are registered this year.



KELANTAN ART & CULTURE FESTIVAL, KOTA BHARU, MALAYSIA

4 - 6 September

Local masters of crafts such as songket weaving, wau (kite) making, silvercraft, woodcarving, and shadow play will showcase their artistry through live demonstrations, interactive sessions, and dialogues with visitors.



HERCEG NOVI COMIC BOOK FESTIVAL, MONTENEGRO

4 - 9 September <https://eng.stripfestival.me/>

The 20th edition of an international event celebrating comics with workshops, exhibitions, guest artists, comic fairs, music, and film screenings. It features both local talent and international creators, turning the town into a hub for comic culture with events held at historic venues like Forte Mare Fortress and in city squares.



MUT ZUM HUT - EUROPE'S LARGEST HAT FESTIVAL NEUBURG AN DER DONAU, GERMANY

September 11 - 13

<http://www.mutzumhut.de/>

Over 15,000 hats to admire, try on - or buy !



THE GREAT NORTH RUN NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, UNITED KINGDOM

13 September

The world's biggest half marathon run.



TÖPFERMARKT POTTERY MARKET, NEUBURG AN DER DONAU, GERMANY

19-20 September <https://neuburger-toepfermarkt.de/>

For over 40 years, the market has been a showcase of pottery craftsmanship with over 100 exhibitors from all over Germany, as well as other European countries. The event attracts almost 10,000 visitors from all over southern Germany.



ASIAN GAMES CYCLING - SHINSHIRO, JAPAN

19 September - 4 October

Shinshiro will host the start and finish of the road cycling races at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games



20th Asian Games
Aichi-Nagoya 2026

HERITAGE DAY, NEWCASTLE, KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA

September 24 and throughout the month, celebrating the diverse cultures, traditions, food, music, and history.





FÊTE DES VENDANGES - NEUCHÂTEL GRAPE HARVEST FESTIVAL, SWITZERLAND

September 25 to 27

Switzerland's biggest wine festival, featuring a huge floral parade, fireworks over the lake, a funfair, wine tastings, and a winegrowers' village celebrating the region's wine heritage. It transforms the city centre into a festive, three-day event with music, food, parades, and wine-focused activities for all ages, marking the autumn wine harvest.

NEWCASTLE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

A 10 day festival of contemporary art, music and ideas with thousands of people celebrating local and global culture and creativity

NEW ANNUAL

25 Sept - 4 Oct



HARVEST FESTIVAL/CHILDREN'S FOLKLORE FESTIVAL, NOVÉ ZÁMKY, SLOVAKIA

September 26 and 27

SOUTH BOHEMIA GUITAR FESTIVAL NOVÉ HRADY, CZECH REPUBLIC

1 - 4 October

Concerts, masterclasses, and world-class guitarists take over the town.



NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO, CANADA

October 3rd

Music, food, displays, kids' activities, vendors.

KELANTAN FLORAL FESTIVAL Early October KOTA BHARU MALAYSIA

The colourful floral festival is part of the annual celebrations for the Sultan of Kelantan's birthday.



TOMINAGA SHRINE FESTIVAL - SHINSHIRO, JAPAN

Early October <https://www.city.shinshiro.lg.jp/kanko/event/culture/reitaisai.html>



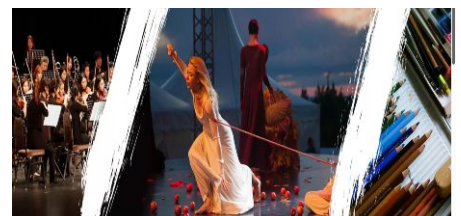
The festival includes ritual events from the Edo period, such as "Noh", the Japanese oldest existing stage drama, and traditional dance called "sasa odori", together with floats and hand-held fireworks. Local men carry a shrine with fireworks on it to march throughout the town. Each neighbourhood is involved and the whole town is filled with the spirit of the festival for its three days.

WORT-KLANG-BILD (WORD-SOUND-IMAGE) NEUBURG, GERMANY

17 October



Every two years, Neuburg hosts its Night of Culture. Neuburg's cultural figures present their work in the historic Upper Old Town. Visitors can attend all offered events free of charge and fill the evening with entertaining guided tours, performances, behind-the-scenes glimpses, readings, and concerts.



FESTIVAL OF FOLKLORE, DANCE AND SONG HERCEG NOVI, MONTENEGRO 29 October – 02 November

An international event bringing together folk, modern dance, choir, and majorette groups to celebrate diverse cultures through traditional and contemporary performances.



CHOCOLATISSIMO ! - NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND

30. October - 7 November

<http://chocolatissimo.ch>



This festival of chocolate celebrates the chocolate heritage of the canton of Neuchâtel and showcases the high quality of the region's many chocolate makers.

Skilled chocolate-makers display their expertise with majestic chocolate creations.

Each year, three new chocolate bars with different and original flavours are presented at Chocolatissimo and then made available in partner confectioneries.



MOUNT HORAIJI MAPLE FESTIVAL

SHINSHIRO, JAPAN Throughout November

Famous for its stunning autumn foliage and as the home of the oriental scops owl, Horaiji offers a peaceful escape into nature.

The mountain itself is a national monument, renowned for its breathtaking beauty. Ascend the 1,425-step pathway to the Horaiyama Toshogu Shrine passing a magnificent 800-year-old cedar tree - the tallest of its kind in Japan



WEINBÖRSE WINE FAIR, NEUBURG AN DER DONAU, GERMANY

November 6 and 7

An impressive number and variety of high-quality wines are presented in the festive setting of the Princely Stables. The event has been running since 1998.



LACPLESA DAY – JAUNPILS, LATVIA - HONOURING FREEDOM FIGHTERS

11 November is the Day of Remembrance for Soldiers fallen for Latvia's Independence, especially commemorating the Latvian Army's victory over Bermond's forces on 11 November 1919. On this evening, Latvians join in torchlight processions across the country to honour the memory of the freedom fighters.



Every year, Jaunpils also holds its light-filled march from the school to the castle square, where the participants of the procession are welcomed by bonfires, warm tea, and rye bread with honey.



NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD DAY - November 13

Watch out (via our website and newsletters) for events in various "Newcastles" during this week to mark Newcastle of the World Day. This is the date upon which our first conference began in 1998 in Shinshiro, Japan.

DIKIR BARAT HERITAGE, KOTA BHARU, MALAYSIA

13 November

Dikir Barat is a Malay traditional performing art form featuring group singing, clapping, call-and-response, rhythmic poetry, music (percussion), and choreographed movements.





JAZZ BLUES JAMBOREE, NOVÉ ZÁMKY, SLOVAKIA

14 November

The annual Jazz Blues Jamboree, is one of the best-recognised and oldest jazz and blues festivals in Slovakia.

Two festival stages host a line-up of international performers.

FESTIVAL OF REGIONAL PRODUCTS NOVÉ HRADY, CZECH REPUBLIC

14 November

Annual Festival of Regional Products and Goods - showcasing producers of food and craft products from throughout the Novohradsko-Doudlebsko tourist area. Tasting, competitions, free samples, and the opportunity to purchase products on offer.



INDEPENDENCE DAY, JAUNPILS, LATVIA

18 November is a public holiday in Latvia, marking the anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Latvia.

In Jaunpils people gather in the great hall of the castle to spend time together and celebrate the national holiday with song, dance and speeches.



During the celebration, residents who have earned recognition for their meaningful contributions to the community are honoured.



NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Mid- November

Christmas really starts in Newcastle with the reveal of the Christmas Window in the city's famous department store Fenwick's. Recent themes have been "A Christmas Carol", "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and Beatrix Potter books.



The complex and detailed creative process takes up to 3,500 hours and involves elaborate storyboards designed in collaboration with German company One World Studio, which specialises in creating displays all around the world.

SANTA PARADE, NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO, CANADA

Mid - November



HOLIDAY PARADE AND LIGHT UP NEW CASTLE NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA, USA

Mid-November

Tree ceremony/lighting, parade and fireworks

www.visitlawrencecounty.com



SHINSHIRO (JAPAN) KABUKI

late November

Kabuki began about 300 years ago as a form of theatre with the combination of music and Japanese dance.

All male and female roles are played by men.

Every year in late November, groups from eight districts in the city gather to hold the Shinshiro Kabuki.

<https://www.city.shinshiro.lg.jp/kanko/minzokugeino/shinshirokabuki.html>



CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES IN NEUBURG AN DER DONAU, GERMANY

Weihnachtsmarkt Schrankenplatz, City Christmas Market (downtown) Nov 26 to Dec 23

Christkindlmarkt Karlsplatz, Obere Altstadt Dec 4 to Dec 6 and Dec 11 to Dec 13

Schlossweihnacht Castle Christmas Market : 4.-6.12.2026 and 11.-13.12.2026



CHRISTMAS MARKET, NYBORG, DENMARK

December 5-6 & 12-13

Nyborg's Christmas market is held on its historic Nyborg Torv (Market Square) transforming the old royal city with candles, a big tree, and stalls selling local crafts and treats, offering a festive experience in a unique setting with cobblestones and history.

CHRISTMAS IN NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND



The spectacular Christmas lighting in Neuchâtel is complemented by concerts, shows and daily entertainment, open-air markets, a circus village, and an ever-present Saint Nicholas!

NOVÉ ZÁMKY, SLOVAKIA AT CHRISTMAS



The festive season in Nové Zámky, Slovakia, begins in the historic Imperial-Royal Riding Hall with a wonderful Christmas Craft Market.

The first Sunday of Advent sees the solemn consecration of the Advent wreath on the Main Square. The festive train enthralls children and adults during the season.



NEWCASTLE FOOD AND DRINK FEST NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, UNITED KINGDOM

12 December

Street food from around the globe, artisan stalls & locally-produced products, live music and entertainment, fairground rides and more.