

Summer's coming



Yes, those lazy summer days are here again! Will it be an Indian summer or will it rain for Wimbledon? We can never rely on the weather but there are certain things which happen in the English-speaking world come rain or shine. This month's 'Did you know?' has lots of information about traditions and events in the UK, USA and – even though it's officially winter there – Australia!

Although many of the things people get up to in the summer are the same everywhere, tradition and weather dictate that some things are done very differently. Whether you're visiting one of the countries mentioned below this summer or are just interested, read on to find out more about summer life in some English-speaking countries. As always, we would love to hear from you about any events or traditions in English-speaking countries which we have missed. Just use the 'Kommentarfeld' below.

UK

One of the most famous summer festivals is the **Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts**, where over 100,000 people brave the British weather every year in June to camp in a field and watch some of the most famous musicians alive. Tickets for 2016 were sold out in 30 minutes when they went on sale in October last year. Click here to look at some **nice photos from last years' Glastonbury Festivals**:

<http://www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk/gallery/>

Wimbledon, the world's most famous and oldest tennis tournament also takes place in June and many people take time off to watch it. There is a tradition in the UK not to eat strawberries before Wimbledon has started.

A favourite pastime of the British in summer is going on a **picnic**. This could be in a park or by a river or, something which is increasing in popularity with the improved weather, at open-air theatre performances or music concerts. A favourite is the **Glyndebourne Festival** in the south of England at which men and women in evening dress listen to opera sitting on picnic blankets. Click here for more information:

<http://www.glyndebourne.com/tickets-and-whats-on/our-seasons/festival-2016/>

USA

The big event of the summer is, of course, Independence Day, which is celebrated on the 4th July. As well as going to or taking part in processions and watching fireworks, families and friends get together for that favourite American hot-weather pastime of bar-b-queing. To find out more about **Independence Day** click here:

http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Independence_Day.shtml

An interesting event which is well worth the visit is the **Iowa State Fair**, which takes place in August in the town of Des Moines. The fair attracts over 1 million visitors, who come to see one of the largest livestock fairs in the world. There is also a food show, art stands and lots of contests to join in on. The first Iowa State Fair took place in Fairfield in 1854. A main attraction of the Fair are the **sculptures made of butter**, and 2011 marked the centenary of the **Butter Cow**. Just click here to have a look:

<http://www.iowastatefair.org/fair-attractions/butter-cow/>

Other sculptures have also been made of Elvis Presley, an American eagle and Harry Potter. The Fair also features over **45 other weird and wonderful contests**. Just click here to see:

<http://www.iowastatefair.org/fair-attractions/contests/>

Ireland

The Rose of Tralee International Festival is an annual beauty event which brings young women from all over the world to the west coast of Ireland in August. Anyone can take part, as long as they are young, beautiful, intelligent ... and Irish! Or as long as one of their parents or grandparents are Irish. There is now also a prize for the best Escort – who also has to be of Irish heritage to enter. For the four days of the festival the streets of Tralee are filled with music, theatre, circus, funfair and general good fun. Just click here to have a look:

<http://roseoftralee.ie/>

Australia

As Australia is in the southern hemisphere, most of their festivals and holiday events take place between October and March. Every two years, most often in July, but in 2016 from 3-24 September, Brisbane hosts the huge **Brisbane Festival**, which it celebrates with theatre, dance, music, opera and multimedia shows.

<http://www.brisbanefestival.com.au/>