

# About this Calendar

**Symbols used:** A = Austria, D = Germany, CH = Switzerland, CA = Canada, USA = United States

## Calendars in Europe versus those in North America

As with most things related to daily culture, there is more than one way to format a calendar. A European or German calendar does not look like an American or Canadian calendar. The main reason for this is that a week in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy or Spain begins on Monday, and their calendars reflect that. The advantage of starting on Monday, rather than Sunday, is that it puts the two weekend days together. Saturday and Sunday are not split up, as on a US calendar, but remain paired at the end of the week – better reflecting how we actually think of a weekend.

## Holidays (*Feiertage*) – legal, religious and otherwise

As in the US, a German calendar marks notable days that fall within each month. Our calendar indicates a blend of significant dates for the US and Canada, as well as official and unofficial holidays in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Legal (“bank”) holidays are usually indicated in color, but there may be some inconsistencies, since even just within Germany, for instance, not every holiday is observed by every state (*Bundesland*). In addition, we have also included observances that may be celebrated but are not legal holidays (Halloween, Internationaler Frauentag, Silvester, etc. A good resource for learning more about all the holidays in Germany, Austria and Switzerland is: [www.german-way.com/german-celebrations-holidays.html](http://www.german-way.com/german-celebrations-holidays.html))

**Holidays** (alphabetical; holidays in **bold** are nationwide): *Allerheiligen* (All Saints Day), *Allerseelen* (All Souls Day), *Aschermittwoch* (Ash Wednesday), *Barbarazweig* (Barbara Branch, Dec. 4), **Bundesfeier** (Federal Holiday, Aug. 1, CH), *Buß- und Bettag* (Day of Repentance and Prayer), **Christihimmelfahrt** (Ascension Day), *Fasching* (Mardi Gras), *Fronleichnam* (Corpus Christi), *Frühling beginnt* (first day of spring, vernal equinox), *Heiligabend* (Christmas Eve), *Heilige Drei Könige* (Epiphany, "Holy Three Kings"), *Herbst beginnt* (first day of fall, autumnal equinox), *Internationaler Frauentag* (International Women's Day), **Karfreitag** (Good Friday), **Ostermontag** (Easter Monday), *Ostern* (Easter), *Mariä Lichtmess* (Candlemas), **Neujahrstag** (New Year's Day), *Mariä Himmelfahrt* (Assumption Day), *Muttertag* (Mother's Day), *Narrentag* (All Fools Day, April 1), **Nationalfeiertag** (National Holiday, Oct. 26, A), *Nikolaustag* (St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 6), *Palmsonntag* (Palm Sunday), *Pfingsten* (Whitsunday, Pentecost), **Pfingstmontag** (Whitmonday), *Reformationstag* (Reformation Day), *Rosenmontag* (Carnival Monday [in the Rhineland]), *Silvester* (New Year's Eve), *Sommerzeit* (Daylight Saving Time), **Tag der Arbeit** (Labor day, International Workers Day, May Day), **Tag der Deutschen Einheit** (Day of German Unity), *Tag der Erde* (Earth Day), **Unabhängigkeitstag** (Independence Day, July 4), *Vatertag* (Father's Day), *Walpurgisnacht* (Walpurgis Night), **Weihnachtstag** (Christmas Day), *Winterzeit* (Standard Time), **Zweiter Weihnachtsfeiertag** (Boxing Day, St. Stephen's Day).

Certain holidays, even when they have the same or a similar name, are not always observed on the same date or in the same way. The date for *Muttertag* can vary in Germany; *Vatertag* in Germany is nothing like the US Father's Day and falls on a different date. We have included some customs, such as *Barbarazweig*, that are not holidays but are observed regionally. *Buß- und Bettag* ceased to be a German national holiday in 1995, but is still observed in Saxony and Bavaria (school holiday only).

## The Quotations (*Zitate*) and Authors

The twelve monthly quotations are all taken from German-language originals and are attributed to a specific source (book, publication, speech, etc.) when possible. Unlike many online quotation sites, you can be sure that the words are accurately quoted and were actually spoken or written by the person listed. Some of the English translations are “standard versions” that have come into common use, but in a few cases, I have made my own translation or created a modified version that I feel better reflects the German original.

The following people (two women and ten men) are quoted in the calendar:

**Albert Schweitzer** (Januar): Alsatian-German physician, classical organist, theologian and Nobel Peace Prize winner most famous for his hospital in Lambaréné, French Equatorial Africa (now Gabon).

**Arthur Ponsonby** (Februar): British author of *Falsehood in Wartime: Propaganda Lies of the First World War* (1928).

**Rosa Luxemburg** (März): Polish-German philosopher, Marxist theorist, economist and activist who was murdered along with communist party leader Karl Liebknecht in Berlin in 1919.

**Paul Klee** (April): Swiss-German painter (expressionism, cubism, surrealism) whose unique style had a major influence.

**Franz Kafka** (Mai): Austrian-Jewish writer whose “Kafkaesque” stories and novels paved new paths in literature.

**Ludwig Wittgenstein** (Juni): Austrian-British philosopher who specialized in logic and the philosophy of language and mathematics.

**Bertolt Brecht** (Juli): German poet, playwright and theater director who worked briefly in Hollywood.

**Konrad Adenauer** (August): German statesman and first chancellor of West Germany from 1949 to 1963.

**Theodor Fontane** (September): German novelist (*Effi Briest*, *L'Adultera*) and poet who was first a pharmacist.

**Kurt Tucholsky** (Oktober): German-Jewish journalist, satirist and writer noted for his biting humor.

**Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach** (November): Austrian writer noted for her psychological novels; one of the most important German-language writers of the late 19th century. First woman to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Vienna.

**Walter Benjamin** (Dezember): German-Jewish literary critic, philosopher, sociologist, translator, radio broadcaster and essayist.

- *Hyde Flippo*, January 2012