

SÜDWESTRUNDFUNK, 29 May 2020

<https://www.swr.de/swraktuell/rheinland-pfalz/was-an-pfingsten-in-rheinland-pfalz-geht-100.html>

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LONG WEEKEND IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

Despite Corona, what is possible on Whitsunday in Rhineland-Palatinate

Springtime, long weekends - but not everything the people of Rhineland-Palatinate like to do this time of year is possible at the moment. We tell you how you can have a good time despite Corona.

During Easter, public life in Rhineland-Palatinate was almost down to zero due to the outbreak of the Corona pandemic. Even contact with closest relatives had to be avoided as much as possible. There are still some things that are not possible, but the situation has eased considerably. With everything that is allowed now, the following applies of course: keep your distance and don't forget your face covering!

Hiking

Walking and hiking were still possible at any time during the crisis. The infection risk decreases when staying outside, especially if distance rules are followed. However, here too, only members of one's own household and a maximum of one other may be present. One may no longer need to carry one's own food either as there are now some places in the Palatinate Forest hikers can purchase food and other supplies.

Excursions

At the beginning of the pandemic, traditionally highly frequented excursion destinations were closed off, or at least parking possibilities were severely restricted there. Municipalities can still do this, but it has not been practiced recently. However, major tourist magnets like the Geierlay Bridge are probably not the best destination of choice during a long weekend. Theme parks remain closed and are still excluded for holiday planning. Zoos and animal parks are open now; excursion boats are back in service; and swimming pools opened Wednesday - but check beforehand whether the pool of your choice has opened. Not all of them were able to implement the state's recently published regulations so quickly - or they won't open because it wouldn't be economical for them to do so in light of the current regulations.

Refreshment / Food and drink

Restaurants and cafés have been open nationwide since mid-May, potentially until 10:30 p.m. since Wednesday - so there is nothing stopping you from taking a break at one of these establishments. But it is often obligatory to reserve in advance,

because there are less places available due to distance rules. To be able to trace infection chains, visitor information must be documented and stored for a month. Wearing face coverings is mandatory here too, and may only be taken off at the table. Food and drinks may also be served at counters now - but nothing else may be consumed there.

Staying overnight out of town

Anyone planning a short trip on Whitsunday can stay in hotels and camping sites in Rhineland-Palatinate overnight. In hotels, Corona hygiene rules are particularly noticeable in common areas - for example at the breakfast buffet - where guests are not allowed to help themselves. At campsites, there is currently still a restriction that public sanitary facilities may not be used, or may only be used to a limited extent - so the prerequisite for a visit here is that campers must have their own sanitary facilities - the good old chemo-toilet. And it might be difficult to find accommodations short notice: the demand for campgrounds is significant. You should avoid wild [backwoods] camping even if you can no longer find accommodations on a site of your choice.

Travel

Countless holidays had to be cancelled over the past weeks. For many destinations, it is not yet clear whether entry will be possible by summer break. But there are already states whose borders are open.

Events

Events remain a difficult area. Anything that does not take place outdoors, and exceeds an audience of 100 people is currently prohibited - and for most organizers, not feasible. The regulations are strict; all distances must be observed with or without seating and contact details must be documented. Drive-in movie theaters have been built up all over Rhineland-Palatinate in the past few weeks. And this is not only interesting for film fans: comedy events and concerts are now also taking place here. Theatres with individual performances for children and adults have started operating with restrictions. Since the middle of the week, normal movie theaters have also been allowed to reopen under certain conditions.

Private (barbecue) parties

For celebrations on private property such as a barbecue party, the state government has deliberately not issued any rules - the intrusion into privacy would be too great. Of course, the following still applies: No more than the members of another household should be present. Otherwise the public health department, with the help of police, would be allowed to prohibit gatherings on private property and impose fines.