THE OKTOBERFEST
Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Oktoberfest*
*But Were Afraid To Ask

2019
Deutschland, Österreich, Italia 6,00 € · Schweiz 6,50 SFr
Sweden 55 Skr · USA 6.50 · Canada 8.50 · UK £ 5.00

9TH EDITION

www.oktoberfest-insider.com
Munich, 8th October 2018

Yesterday, the Munich Oktoberfest 2018 ended. Now it’s a long, long wait until the tents will be re-opened at noon on September 21, 2019, by the Lord Mayor of Munich in the Schottenhamel tent, who will yell “O’zapft is!” (“It is open!”) to the cheering crowd before the beer starts to flow!

In 2018, for the first time in years, the Fest had been really busy on most days. The Fest started off on sunny and warm weather, and the tents were seeing almost the same visitor storm like they did a decade ago. As usual, folks from Munich complained about high prices for beer and food and voiced a general dissatisfaction with the reservation process, so some locals stayed at home. The positive side of the medal: people could still head to the Theresienwiese spontaneously and could find a table without a formal reservation.

Whatever your Oktoberfest plans for 2019 are, I hope this little booklet – now already in its 9th edition! – will help you preparing for the action. It will give you hands-on, no-frills answers to the most frequently asked questions, introduce you to the secrets of the original Bavarian Tracht and list the all-important Oktoberfest songs.

After all, the Oktoberfest is a lot of fun, but it can be even more fun if you know how to deal with those 16 days of utter madness we all love so much.

Cheers,

Mark

PS.: If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me directly at mark@zanzig.net – I promise to answer any serious question.
The Oktoberfest takes place in Munich, Germany, on the famous “Theresienwiese”, which is also called “Festwiese” by the locals. The big tents are erected during the summer. Construction starts in June and takes about three months to be completed, just in time for the opening ceremony of the Fest. If you want to see an overview of the big tents, please take a look at the maps on pages 50 and 51.

Since 2016 the Theresienwiese is a closed area surrounded by a fence with nine entrances and security checks. The Fest can only be entered through these entrances. This concept has been successful, and it will be implemented in 2019 again. Should the police find that the Oktoberfest is overcrowded they can close the entrances and just guests with a specific entrance pass (indicating a reservation) will be able to enter the Theresienwiese. (See pages 50 and 51 for access details, question 11 on page 13, and question 27 on page 24.)
The Oktoberfest begins in September and ends in October (hence the name) on the first Sunday in October, or on October 3, whatever is later. It lasts for 16 days at least.

Thus, in “good” years the Fest will be extended to catch the 3rd October – the Day of German Unity, a bank holiday – on a Monday or Tuesday. This happened in 2017 and will happen in 2022 again.

Anyway, the next dates are:

- **2019**: September 21 – October 6
- **2020**: September 19 – October 4
- **2021**: September 18 – October 3

From recent years we can predict the visitor traffic for 2019. The chart below may help you to make your decision when to visit the fest.

Having said that, we know that the hotel booking situation is more relaxed during the second week of the Fest, so we strongly recommend to plan your trip for the second week (see also page 10).
No. You may enter the festival and the beer tents free of charge. Sitting down at a table in a tent is free as well. However, please be prepared to pay for everything you are going to consume – drinks, food, souvenirs, and so on.

An exception is the “Historical Wies’n”, which shows how Oktoberfest was celebrated in the old times. To access this special area, you have to pay a small fee.

Please note that they usually do accept only cash in the tents, except when you have vouchers for food and drinks (see also page 25), or when you have a special arrangement with the tent.

Yes. The Oktoberfest is suitable for disabled people. You will be restricted to the ground floor (as there are no elevators in the tents), but there are dedicated tables available to cater for the additional space needed.

No. When you are in a tent, please purchase your drinks and food from the tent. But it is unlikely that anyone is going to complain about the half-empty bottle of water or the small smelly sandwich that you have been carrying around all day in the city. But keep an eye on the waitresses, waiters, and security guys: Officially it is not allowed! (By the way, it is okay to eat your own food in the beer garden of a tent.)

A typical evening for one person in 2018 was roughly 53 Euro:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 beers, or similar drinks</td>
<td>24.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 chicken, or similar food</td>
<td>17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Brez’n, or similar food</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 trips on public transport</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, I suggest to bring at least 60 Euro cash per person per night in 2019, plus the fees for the fun rides and souvenirs. Who said that the Oktoberfest is cheap? ;-)
About one quarter of all seats are outside of the tents. These can not be used on rainy and cold days, so everyone heads for the tents.

7 HOW IS THE WEATHER AT THE OKTOBERFEST?

It is an important question because you can easily underestimate the impact of the weather on your health. When the Oktoberfest opens, the summer is clearly gone, yet the days can be still warm and cozy. Highs of 21°C/70°F are not unusual at all, and it’s great to enjoy such days at the Fest. But the evenings and nights can get chilly and sometimes even close to the freezing point. There usually is some rain, which can be heavy at times.

Here is the problem: You enter the tent while it is still sunny and warm. You party all day (and night) with thousands of people in the tent, and you will be sweating. When the party is over and you leave the tent, the chilly autumn night will provide the perfect setup for a serious cold.

So please consider bringing a warm jacket and try to avoid staying outside too long once you leave the tent. This is easier said than done, because you usually have to walk a while to get to your hotel or to the subway station, or to find a taxi. Then you will be glad to have your warm jacket.

On the next page you will find the weather overview for the 2018 Oktoberfest which was a good mix of everything and typical for this time of the year. These are my observations, and (of course) there’s absolutely no guarantee that 2019 will be anything like that. But at least you’ve got an idea what to expect.
Oktoberfest marks the beginning of autumn, so prepare for moderately warm days and some rain, and chilly nights.

**MUNICH WEATHER OBSERVATIONS DURING OKTOBERFEST 2018**

Weather observations during the Oktoberfest 2018, from 22/09 to 07/10: A wild mix of warm, pleasant days and rather cold days with some rain. Evenings and nights were rather chilly. The locals call this “Wies’n Weather”.
Oktoberfest is the busiest time for Munich hotels, so it is a good idea to book your room long before the Fest and as soon as you know your trip dates.

The accommodation situation really tightens up late spring, especially for longer stays (three or more nights). Consequently, rates go up as the Fest gets closer. But over the past couple of years the number of hotels has increased significantly and demand has slowed down a bit, so it’s not as bad as it may sound.

This chart shows the booking situation on the morning of 22nd September 2018, the opening day of the Fest. Up to 78% of the hotels were fully booked in the first week while the second week was far less busy.

We expect a similar booking behavior in 2019 and recommend arriving in the second week, i.e., on or after 29/09/2019.

We suggest to go for a hotel close to central station. This allows you to walk to the festival and back (if you can still walk). The airport trains stop here, and it’s easy to explore the city and the region from here.

Most online hotel services offer a good selection of hotels in Munich, also close to central station. They also show available rooms in real-time and offer attractive cancellation policies to encourage your early booking.

Here is a selection of popular hotels in a central location:

- Best Western Atrium Hotel
- InterCityHotel München
- King’s Hotel First Class
- Maritim Hotel München
- Eden Hotel Wolff
- Sofitel München Bayerpost
- Eurostars Grand Central
- Vi Vadi Hotel
- Four Points by Sheraton München Central
- Hotel Herzog München
- Hotel Stachus
- Arthotel Munich

Links to these hotels can be found at www.oktoberfest-insider.com/links
Mittagshaus, Munich - 2021

**MUNICH AIRPORT OFFERS HUNDREDS OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS.**

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**SHOULD I FLY TO MUNICH OR FRANKFURT?**

Munich has a big airport with plenty of direct connections to destinations across the world. It is well connected to the town center by public train or airport bus shuttle, so I’d book a flight to Munich (MUC). When you can find a direct flight, it’s certainly more convenient than a connecting flight via Frankfurt (FRA), but that probably depends on your budget, and the available flights. (I think it does not really make sense to book a flight to FRA and then take the train to Munich.)

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**WE WILL COME WITH A MOTOR HOME. WHERE CAN WE STAY?**

As you can imagine, you can just about forget to park/stay anywhere in the immediate surroundings of the Theresienwiese (it’s all restricted area).

For the Fest there will be two special areas where you can stay with motor homes and caravans. These would be your first choice.

- **Messe Riem**

  Next to the Riem fairgrounds, you have a fully equipped camping lot for about 1,000 motor homes. You get there via motorway A99 until crossing Munich-East ("Kreuz München-Ost") and then on the A94 to exit “Feldkirchen West”. When you approach Munich, just follow the signs for fairgrounds “Messe/ICM”. Using the subway you get easily to the fest. The ride will take 20-30 minutes. To check for availability, please call (089) 94 92 89 44.

- **Siegenburger Strasse**

  This area provides space for about 250 motor homes. It is close to the Fest, so you can take a taxi or even walk from there (if possible). To check for availability, please call (089) 547 06 70.
In addition to the special areas for motor homes and caravans during Oktoberfest, Munich offers a couple of camping lots:

- **Campingplatz München-Thalkirchen**
  Zentralländstr. 49  
  D–81379 München  
  Phone (089) 723 17 07  
  Fax (089) 724 31 77  
  Mail campingplatz.muenchen@web.de

  *This one (Thalkirchen) is most popular camping lot during the Fest, because it is easy to get to the fest and back. So expect lots of Aussies, Kiwis, and Canadians here. Unfortunately, it is not too big, so you need a bit of luck to actually stay there.*

- **Campingplatz München Obermenzing**
  Lochhausener Strasse 59  
  D–81247 München  
  Phone (089) 811 22 35  
  Fax (089) 814 48 07

- **Campingplatz Nord-West**
  Schrederwiesen 3  
  D–80995 München  
  Phone (089) 1 50 69 36  
  Fax (089) 15 82 04 63

- **Campingplatz Langwieder See**
  Eschenrieder Strasse 119  
  D–81249 München  
  Phone (089) 864 15 66  
  Fax (089) 863 23 42

Unfortunately, most quarters in Munich offer just paid parking lots these days. But if you don’t mind a thundering street, you might try finding a parking lot somewhere along the western lane of Landshuter Allee (and north of Dom-Pedro-Straße), or right below the Donnersberger Brücke (at Arnulfstraße). Last time we checked, these parking lots were still free of charge.
The MVV, Munich’s public transport system, will bring you safely to the fest, and also back home again.

HOW SHOULD I GET TO THE FESTIVAL?
SHOULD I USE A CAR OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT?

You can just forget about getting there with your own car (taxi is OK, but be prepared for severe traffic jams close to the Fest). You won’t be able to find a parking lot, and it makes absolutely no sense to park in the restricted zones surrounding the Theresienwiese – your car will be towed away, mercilessly! That’s why the Fest is a real fest for the towing companies! Also keep in mind that you might want a beer or two, so you should rather not drive home at night.

Thus I recommend to go to the Fest by public transport, operated by the MVV. There are basically two options to get there: either by suburban train (“S-Bahn”), or by underground (“U-Bahn”). Please see the maps on pages 50 and 51 for a rough overview.

If you are not sure where to go once the train stops, just follow the stream of people (dressed in the traditional Bavarian Tracht). They know how to get to the Fest.
Bring your kids. All tents are family friendly, and the locals bring even their small children – all dressed up in nice Tracht’n – for an exciting afternoon. For kids, the fun rides are the real attraction and certainly more entertaining than the beer tents. Please note that baby strollers are not allowed for security reasons.

I do not recommend bringing kids into a tent:
- during the late afternoon
- during the evening
- on weekends or bank holidays

You never know how the mood during peak hours develops. Things can change quickly – not at your table, but at one of the neighbor tables. You don't want your kid near to that.

If you want to bring your kid, come during noon or early afternoon to the outside areas of the Fest. This will be authentic, super-safe, and relaxed. Once the crowds flow in (late afternoon), the little one and one parent goes back to the hotel, and the remaining lot continues to celebrate the Fest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under 6 years</th>
<th>Outside beer tent</th>
<th>Inside beer tent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• After 8 pm a parent has to be present</td>
<td>• Parent has to be present at all times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Strictly no alcohol</td>
<td>• Must leave tent at 8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 15 years</td>
<td>• After 8 pm a parent has to be present</td>
<td>• Parent has to be present at all times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Strictly no alcohol</td>
<td>• Strictly no alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 17 years</td>
<td>• No strong alcohol (beer is OK)</td>
<td>• No strong alcohol (beer is OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years and over</td>
<td>• No limitations</td>
<td>• No limitations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rules and regulations for all ages
Obviously, you should go at least once. (If you come to Munich during Oktoberfest but don’t visit the festival – well, that’s a bit dumb, right?) But how many visits can one endure? Three, five, ten? Let’s see...

It’s a Munich tradition to go at least three times to the Fest – with your family, with your friends, and with your colleagues. When companies decided that they won’t pay for the visit to the festival any more, many people don’t go to the Fest with their colleagues any longer. (Tells you something about your colleagues, right?)

For visitors, my recommendation is to aim for two visits, ideally distributed over four or five days. Take your time to recover! Remember that Munich and Bavaria have plenty of beautiful places to visit (see question 43 on page 38), so you won’t get bored when not attending the Fest one night.

As a side note – one year I’ve been seven times to the festival! This was clearly too often. At some point you just don’t like the songs any longer, you don’t like the hard benches any longer, and you may not even like the beer any longer. (In the following years, I went just three times each year, and it was much better!)

eBay is probably the best place to look for second hand Lederhos’n (leather trousers) if you are still at home. When you are already in Munich, you will find several (outlet) stores selling Trachten (i.e. Lederhosen, Dirndl, and so on). These are new, but you probably will be happy with these, too, as a used Tracht is not so much cheaper than a new one. So why not go with a new one? See our guide to buying your new tracht on pages 40–43.

All the tents have their own mood, so they are all unique in a way. You should try to see them all. But the Oktoberfest is quite popular with locals and tourists, so the real question is – “Where do I get a seat?”

Especially on weekends, the Fest really is crowded, and you can consider yourself lucky to get a seat without reservation. On rainy or cold days it is even worse. So if you get a seat, we suggest to stay in that tent for as long as possible. Chances are high that you won’t get into other tents, or if you do, you won’t get any seats.

Typically the people spread across the tents evenly, so you can take your current tent as indicator for the other tents. If there is still a lot of spare room in your tent, the other tents will have room, too. And vice versa.
Now, if you have a choice, I recommend the Hacker-Pschorr tent, the Schützenfesthalle, the Ochsenbraterei and the Schottenhamel. But these are just my personal favorites.

In the end, the best tent is the tent where you get in, get a table, and have a nice and peaceful day and evening.

16 HOW DO I GET A RESERVATION?

This is the Million-Dollar-question!

The good news: If you are just a small group, two or three people, you probably do not need a reservation at all. Just try to get into a tent, then wait patiently until people get up and leave. This is difficult, I know. Then snatch that space. Try to not hit the other people trying to do the same. :-)

The bad news: Even if you wanted to get an official reservation, it would be next to impossible to get one. Some tents start to give out reservations as early as February every year, and they are typically serving the German/Munich companies and groups first. You always can inquire with the tents directly (which we recommend), but do not have too high hopes. In case you want to try your luck, we have put together a page with the contact information for each of the big tents.

By the way, if you are staying in one of the premium hotels, it is a good idea to inquire for a table with their reservation department or guest relations. Usually these hotels do have tables reserved for their guests. While you will be charged for food and drinks, you at least do have a reservation!

Now, if you are really desperate, you will find people and companies who re-sell tables and reservations through eBay. Be warned: often these are dramatically over-priced and "unofficial". So you might be denied access to the tent if you received your reservation through a shady company.

Shady or not, you should never pay (much) more than two beers and one chicken per person. Using current prices, this would be around 35 Euro per person, including the food and drink vouchers. Always remember: there is NO entry fee for the fest, and there is NO reservation fee! If someone tries to charge you more than two beer and a chicken, I’d definitely recommend to stay away from the "offer", unless they can tell you exactly why they are so expensive. For example, one reason may be that there is more or better food included, or more beer vouchers. But you should not pay, say, 100 Euros per person with just one beer and one chicken included. (I know, I know. It is tempting to go for this when you are from overseas and this is your only visit to the Fest in your life, but still: rather spend the money at the Hofbräuhaus in the town center than give it to scammers.)
The Hacker-Pschorr tent features a stunning cloud decoration.

17 WHEN ARE THE RESERVATION REQUESTS PROCESSED?

Each tent has its own reservation policy (see previous question). Some tents begin as early as January, others begin only in May. You have to get on their “waiting list”, and then keep fingers crossed.

You see, the tents serve their existing customers first, i.e. those who attended in the previous year. And then, if tables are "left over", these will be filled from the “waiting list”. This procedure is basically the same for all the tents.

It is a good idea to inquire with ALL tents and just see what happens. At the end, you have to fork over the money beforehand, or you won't get the reservation, the entry passes (if necessary) and the beer and food vouchers. So no harm is done to anyone if you get preliminary reservation confirmations from more than one tent (but don't pay them). Always remember: Only your timely payment will finalize the respective reservations.
Tents will be closed whenever too many guests are inside the tent. Then the doors will be shut, signs will be put up, and a security person controls the door. After a while, once guests have left the tent, the tent will be re-opened. This is your chance to get in.

**HOW DO I GET INTO A TENT THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN CLOSED?**

Sometimes you will find a tent closed during the day ("Wegen Überfüllung vorübergehend geschlossen!") because it’s already too full. This happens frequently during weekends and public holidays, and on cold or rainy days. In this case you will either need a reservation, or a good portion of luck. If you have a reservation (or you know someone who has), then go to the entrance for reservations of the respective tent. This is usually somewhere in the back of the tent. In former times it was sufficient to just say the name of the person with the reservation, but today you usually need an official entrance ticket (tent pass) to get into the tent. If your contact is already in, you can try to call him to check whether he can get you in. But without an official booking it remains tough.

By the way, you can avoid closed tents by coming early to the festival. If you come in the morning (on weekends), or in the early afternoon (on weekdays), you should be able to get in without problems. It’s a good idea to look for tables that do not have a reservation, so you can stay all day long to the very end.

The table shown on the next page gives you some guidance on how to try to get a table without reservation. Of course, your milage may vary.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Size</th>
<th>This Is the Situation You’re Facing</th>
<th>Recommended Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 (you’re alone) | You’ll not have a big problem sneaking into a tent and getting a seat | • Be early at the Fest  
• Sneak into tent  
• Politely ask for a seat at a table (explain that there won’t be any other people joining you) |
| 2            | As a couple, you’ll not have a big problem sneaking into a tent and getting seats. It’ll require a bit of patience if it's cold or rainy, and on very busy days (weekends, bank holidays) | • Be early at the Fest  
• Sneak into tent  
• Politely ask for a seat at a table (explain that there won't be any other people joining you) |
| 3–4          | Three to four persons will almost always have problems sneaking into a tent and getting seats if the weather is cold or rainy, and on very busy days (weekends, bank holidays) | • Be early at the Fest  
• Consider breaking up into two smaller teams that sneak into tents and politely ask for one or two seats at a table  
• The first successful team notifies the other team via text message about the tent and location in the tent – do NOT mention this to the other folks at the table!  
• The other team joins the successful one at the table. Over time, your group occupies the table. |
| 5–7          | Without reservation, five or more people will always have problems getting a table, regardless of weather | Same as above, but consider splitting up into three teams. |
| 8+           | Without reservation, it will be next to impossible to get a table even on slow days | Same as above, but consider splitting up into four teams. If you still have some time until you arrive in Munich:  
• Check with the tents for leftover tables  
• Check eBay for reservations on the gray market – this will be very expensive  
• Approach professional event agencies for Oktoberfest tickets – again, this will be very expensive  
• If you’re in a good hotel, check with the guest relations whether they can help – yeah, this is expensive, too! |
On weekdays (Monday to Friday) it is no problem at all getting into the morning/noon sessions, except for bank holidays. But typically, the activity begins in the afternoon, starting around 3 pm. So you may get in in the morning, you may get a table in the morning, you may get drunk in the morning, but will it be fun?

Even if you may easily get a table during the day, the table is likely to be reserved for the evening session which begins between 4 pm and 6 pm. It is very unlikely that you can stay at that table for the rest of the day. One option is to ask the waitresses upon entering specifically for the tables that are not reserved. At these tables, you can stay as long as you wish. Each tent is required to have them, but there are very few, and these are the first ones to fill up.

On weekends it is very difficult to get in at all, let alone to find space that is free or not reserved. Typically they let in only folks with reservations, so you can imagine that there will be problems, especially if you arrive in larger groups, say five people or more. Having said that, it’s not impossible to get in, but it is unlikely. It depends on many factors to get in (weather, staff mood, luck). And once in the tent, it depends on YOU to find a place that is not reserved. But honestly – more than four people on a Saturday without reservation is next to impossible.

Closed tents are just problem for those who are not inside a tent. Once you are inside, you can usually stay as long as you like (if you can find a seat.)
It depends. Officially you are not allowed to bring more people than you have reservations for. For the evening sessions and the weekend sessions, the tents hand out wrist bands or access cards that indicate the day and the session of your reservation. For ten people they hand out ten wrist bands or access cards. Typically, they only let in people with the wrist bands or access cards, no matter what. So anyone unable to present a wrist band or access card will have a hard time waiting at the entrance while you already enjoy your first few beers.

On weekdays, however, it is usually not that difficult, especially when the tents are still “open” (i.e. when the weather is good). Then the additional folks can just enter the tent through the main entrance, find your table and join the fun. Unless it is totally packed, they will find some space to order their beer and food. As seats around you become available, try to occupy them. (But do not try to “defend” them if people with a valid reservation show up. This might get you into trouble.)
Reserved tables are marked with big signs indicating the name of the reservation, the size of the group, and the date and time when the reservation begins. Usually, reservations are void 30 minutes after the reservation time.

Don't worry – there's not just beer at the Fest! All tents offer various wines: red, white, mixed with sparkling water (so-called “Weinschorle”). Some tents also offer ciders. Don't expect any super wines, but they taste OK, and it's not unusual at all to order wine in a beer tent. You’ll have a hard time finding long drinks, though.

If your friends are also into wine, consider attending the wine tent (Kuffler’s Weinzelt) first. They focus on wines and offers just a single type of wheat beer.

Finally, please stay away from Schnaps (Shots) because you probably won’t be able to keep pace with the beer drinkers. (Imagine you sipping at your tiny micro shot for an hour!)

Yes, the 3rd October is a bank holiday every year (it’s the day of German unity), and all the "weekend rules" do apply. Even more so when the 3rd October is a Friday, attracting additional tourists to the town for the long weekend.

Sometimes the 3rd October is the last day of Oktoberfest. The Fest is then extended to Monday or Tuesday, effectively adding one or two days to the Fest. In those years, the Fest sees more visitors during the day of the 3rd October. But it is the last day, and the people will leave rather early. Thus, it’s typically not a problem to get seats in the late afternoon and evening. Then again, it’s not that much fun, because all the waitresses and waiters are really exhausted and just want the Fest to be over.
23 **IS THERE AN EASY WAY TO IDENTIFY RESERVED TABLES?**

Yes. They put up signs saying “Reservierung” or “Reserviert” at the end of each table, along with the time, name, and number of people for that reservation. Usually the reservation is void if the announced number of people have not shown up 30 minutes after the reservation time, but this depends on tent policies and the mood of the staff. If really no one shows up, you can occupy the space and start the fun. Should the group appear later, they officially have no rights to claim that space. The waitresses will usually be on your side (as you were generating revenue and the other guys did not), but we think that a peaceful co-existence should be possible, so if there is room, let them sneak in, have a beer and a nice chat.

24 **HOW SHOULD I ASK WHETHER A SEAT IS AVAILABLE?**

A polite question in German is always welcome and can be a good ice-breaker (especially with the Germans), but a polite question in English is also OK. The keyword is **polite** here. If you are rude or appear to be too drunk, you will almost always get a “no” as reply. Also, please do accept a “no” as there is really no point in arguing whether there is space left at a table or not.

And here is what you might say in German: “Entschuldigung, ist hier wohl noch ein Platz frei fur mich und meine Freunde?” (“Excuse me, but is there room for me and my friends here?”)

25 **ARE SOME TENTS MORE FRIENDLY THAN OTHERS?**

No. Each tent has its own character and caters to a different crowd, but they are all more or less friendly. You might find that the smaller tents are more friendly though, as there is less traffic, less noise, less stress – and less drunkards.

26 **HOW MUCH TIP IS COMMON?**

Tricky. If you’ve got reservations and vouchers, the tip is sometimes included. In this case you do not need to give extra tip, or just if you think the service was extraordinary. If tip is *not* included, the waitress will tell you what the tip is. In fact, it’s not really a tip – it’s more like a “service fee”. It should be not more than 10 to 15% of the beer or food price. And yes, giving a bit of extra tip will ensure that the waitress will always serve you in time and in quality. :-)

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THE OKTOBERFEST INSIDER 2019
You usually get entry-passes as part of your reservation once you’ve paid the invoice. They indicate that you are part of a valid reservation and allow you to enter a tent even if it is officially closed.

Entry-passes can come as cardboard tickets or wristbands. They are valid only for a specific tent and a specific date and time. And you need to be absolutely on time – otherwise the security staff may deny entry.

If the tent is closed already (see page 18), you will need to go to the entrance for reservations. Usually this is on the backside of the tent, and people queue already outside.

As there will be tight security checks upon entering the Fest area, please make sure to use the two reservation entries to get onto the Theresienwiese. (See pages 50 and 51 for details.)

Finally, an entrance pass will only get you into the tent. It does not include any food or drinks. If you don’t have the name of your group, or don’t know the table number, you may not even have a seat. (In this case, do not ask the staff for help – they won’t be able to help you without the name of your group, but might get suspicious about the validity of your entry-pass!)
What do I need to know about beer and food vouchers?

Good news: If you do not have a formal reservation, you can pretty much ignore the existence of beer and food vouchers. Just pay cash in the tent, Euro notes only.

However, if you have a formal reservation (or hope to get one), here is what you need to know: The tent owners typically accept reservations for tables and seats only in exchange for guaranteed consumption, typically two beers and one grilled chicken per person, with ten people sharing the table – a value of about 350 Euro. Policies and actual values vary for each tent.

This will ensure that the party will show up, and whatever happens, the tent owner has sold the beer already!

With your reservation, you will receive nice looking vouchers for food and beer. Each tent has its own vouchers, and the design varies slightly every year.

In the tent, you order beer or food, and you hand over the vouchers to the waitress. For food orders you often have to hand over the voucher in advance. For beer orders you always hand over the vouchers upon delivery. In some tents the tip is already included in the voucher as an extra coupon (see photo above). In this case, you do not need to pay additional tip (but it’s nice if you do it anyway). If the tip is not included in the voucher, you will have to tip the waitress with cash, even if you have a voucher for the beer or food.

The vouchers are valid during Oktoberfest in the respective tent. They do not qualify as entry pass, though. If you do not use all your vouchers, you can pay at the tent owners’ restaurant in Munich with the vouchers for a limited time – typically until the end of October. You’ll need to inquire with the tent to get the full details.
ARE THERE ANY GENERAL ETIQUETTE TIPS?

Let’s see.

1. Most importantly, don’t be rude, especially not to the girls. This can get you faster out of a tent than you can say “hey!”. So, you should know your limits and (try to) not drink too much.

2. Parents with small childs should leave the baby strollers in the hotel as they are not allowed due to security concerns.

3. If you have a formal reservation, be sharply on time. If you come too late, your seats are likely to be occupied.

4. Do not dance on the tables. Never ever. This is a hard rule. All the big tents allow dancing on the benches for as long as you wish, but do not step on the tables! This might get you removed from the tent quickly. For tables located in the first floor, there may be additional restrictions to prevent falling over the balcony.

5. Do not take a beer stein or glass with you (or anything else that does not belong to you). They are checking bags when you leave. If they find a glass, it is – legally speaking – theft. Should this happen to you, do not make a fuss about it. Usually, they just take the beer stein and let you go, but nothing can stop them from calling the police. To avoid any of this, just do not take a beer stein! (However, you may purchase beer steins at the souvenir stands of the tent. Make sure to keep your receipt as proof of purchase.)

6. Do not smoke inside the tents. Smoking inside the tents is not permitted. Each tent has outside smoking areas.

7. Do not bring glass bottles to the Theresienwiese. These are not allowed.

8. Do not wear silly Oktoberfest hats. You will really look like a tourist.

_left: The setting sun reflects in the giant Ferris Wheel of the Oktoberfest._

_right: Do not wear (supposedly) funny Oktoberfest hats! They will really make you stand out in the crowd as a real “tourist”. _
30 HOW CAN I MEET MY FRIENDS IN A TENT?

Meeting your friends in a tent with 7,000 people can be surprisingly difficult: It is really loud! You hardly can understand a word on the mobile phone, so calling is out of question. You better text message each other.

Good orientation points are the band and the main entrance. By describing your actual position in relation to these points, your friends should be able to find you. You can always ask your waitress for the official name of the table and share this information. At the main entrance, there is a tent plan where anyone can lookup a specific table.

Then there is the problem of getting a table. A group of people without reservation has problems getting in and finding a table. It’s not impossible though, especially when your friends show up over time and the size of your group incrementally grows. In this case you occupy the table as more guests leave the fest. :-)

31 WHERE CAN I SEE OKTOBERFEST ON GERMAN TV?

Local broadcaster TV München has the most complete coverage: a live show in German every night from 6 pm to 9 pm. You might as well try Bavarian state broadcaster Bayerischer Rundfunk. They broadcast special events like the opening and the parades. If you want to watch from abroad, you will want to check whether you can watch the live feeds of their programs on the Web.

32 WHAT IS THE BEST BEER?

All the beers are fine, depending on your taste. However, there’s that old joke...

"After work, the brew masters from the Munich breweries sit together in a pub. Needless to say, each brewer orders beer from his own brand. The Löwenbräu guy orders Löwenbräu, the Hacker-Pschorr guy orders a Hacker, and so on. Last one to go is the Augustiner guy. He orders a Coke. Everybody is stunned, asking – “Why?” – “Well,” he finally says with a wide grin, “if you are not ordering any beers, then I won’t either.”"
You have a good choice of dishes. A must-try is the classic “Wiesn-Hendl” (grilled chicken), best enjoyed with French Fries. As they are really fresh, they definitely are delicious. The tent owners also have restaurants in or around Munich, and they serve traditional Bavarian food there. So they do have the experience, and there really is no difference in quality between the various tents. All tents, even the small ones, have a high volume, so you won’t have any bad surprises.

You might want to try the ox at the Ochsenbraterei (also offered as Ox Burger). If you are looking for traditional Bavarian cuisine, the Armbrustschützen tent and the Fischer-Vroni are the best places to go. Having said that, we really think that all the tents are serving good and fresh food.

All the tents have English menus, so feel free to ask your waitress for it.
Relaxing after the first few beers

**HOW MUCH BEER DO YOU DRINK AT OKTOBERFEST?**

Certainly you should try to not drink too much. But how much is “too much”? Well, I’d say that up to two Mass beers (two liters) are OK. This can typically be handled by normal folks without any serious problems. With three Mass (three liters) you will quickly approach the borderline. You will probably not feel well the next morning, and if you are not used to these quantities, your day may be a mess. Four or more Mass beers, and getting home (or in fact, getting anywhere) may become difficult. And the next day will definitely be a mess.

There is one hard rule to avoid major complications: Do not drink “Schnaps” (shots). Whatever they tell you. However they try to convince you. Just don’t do it! Schnaps may send you to the floor within short time, and there is really nothing you can do about it. If you just stick to beer, you probably will be fine (sort of). Yep, I’d say this is really the most important rule of all: No Schnaps!

By the way, there are always folks boasting that they “drank ten Mass” on a single night at the Fest. All of these stories turn out to be pure fantasy. In some rare cases, the folks telling you such a fairytale may indeed have drunk such unbelievable amounts, but most of it was non-alcoholic beer. You see, if the mood is right and the beer is flowing, some waitresses silently switch to non-alcoholic beers. Just believe us: Nobody can drink ten liters of beer and walk home. Nobody!

Oh, and by the way – every tent offers various non-alcoholic drinks like soft drinks, water, and alcohol free beers.
This will not be a problem.

The language sections of the travel guidebook usually contain the German translations for the most important phrases anyway. And let’s face it – you don’t want to discuss the history of German literature with the waitress. You want her to bring some tasty food, and some beer. :-) Most tents also have English menus, so ask for them if you are not comfortable ordering in German.

By the way, when compiling our list of the most popular Oktoberfest songs (see page 43) we found out that about two thirds of the songs are German, and one third is English. So you will be able to sing and dance and have fun, even without knowing a single word of German!

Anyway, here are some important phrases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excuse me, how do I get to the Oktoberfest?</td>
<td>Entschuldigung, wie komme ich zum Oktoberfest?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excuse me, is there room for the (two, three, four, five) of us at your table?</td>
<td>Entschuldigung, hätten sie wohl Platz für uns (zwei, drei, vier, funf)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(One, two, three, four, five) beers, please!</td>
<td>(Ein, zwei, drei, vier, funf) Bier, bitte!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(One, two, three, four, five) chicken, please!</td>
<td>(Ein, zwei, drei, vier, funf) Wiesn-Hendl, bitte!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We don't speak any German, could you please give us an English menu?</td>
<td>Wir sprechen kein Deutsch. Konnten Sie uns bitteenglische Menukarten geben?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where are the washrooms?</td>
<td>Wo befinden sich die Toiletten?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much is this?</td>
<td>Was kostet das?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheers!</td>
<td>Prost!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are enough facilities in the tents. But in a tent with thousands of people drinking thousands of liters of beer there also is a clear need for these! When the action has been going on for a while, say at six p.m. during the week (two p.m. on weekends), people start to use the washrooms. Depending on your location in the tent, it can take 3 to 5 minutes to get to the washrooms. And there you will find a queue.

For men, this usually means a wait between 5 and 10 minutes in the line.

For women, this usually means a wait between 10 and 20 minutes (!) in the line. If that’s the case, you sometimes see women who really can not hold it any longer rushing to the men’s washrooms, or bypassing the entire line of waiting women. Rarely in full agreement with the other women, I should add. ;-) The bathrooms are very safe, so you do not need anyone to join you to protect you. Please remember that your group should never completely leave your table! Any empty table will be taken by new guests in no time!

Oktoberfest is the perfect place to improve client-relations. Invite your clients for an authentic night at the Fest and they’re going to love you forever. But this presents you with a true dilemma: If you drink the beer like your clients do, you will get seriously drunk and may do or say things you may bitterly regret. Not good. On the other hand, you go there specifically for the beer. So if you do not drink (a lot of) beer you will be labeled as “spoil-sport”, “sissy”, or “Mr. Boring”. Not good either.

Here’s the solution: As you are going to pay for all the beers and the food, you grab your waitress at the very beginning, when you occupy the table. You take her to one of the main aisles and explain your rules for the evening:

"Look, these are my clients. I can’t get drunk in front of them. So, whatever I say or do, you will get me an alcohol-free beer. Even when I order a round of five beers for all of us, you will bring four normal beers and one non-alcoholic beer for me. I am going to pay for all of us, and don’t worry – you will get plenty of tip."

It’s a win-win situation for all of you. The waitress knows that she has just one contact person, that she will get additional tip from you, and that you will keep an eye on your group – which means less trouble for her. Your clients get drunk and believe you’re getting drunk as well. And you? You can drink as much as you want while keeping all your senses (and have no headache the next day).
You can avoid getting drunk in front of your customers by making a smart deal with your waitress.

The only drawback: It is quite depressing to see the folks around you getting comfortably drunk while you have to stay sober. So try to keep smiling and try to have fun! Always think about the benefits for your business. :-)

DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS FOR SINGLE WOMEN VISITING THE FEST?

First, you do not need a reservation, because as a single person you are much more flexible than groups are. Should you encounter a “closed tent”, you just wait a couple of minutes and sneak in once the tent is open again. Even in front of a closed tent, a single woman (who is not drunk yet!) can always tell the security guy that her colleagues are inside, and ask politely whether he could make an exception for you, just once, just this time. Be sober and friendly, you know the drill. He might actually let you in. :-)

Meeting new people is not a problem. As a woman you will have to actually fend off the guys. Pick one of the tables where the guys are not too drunk, with plenty of normal people around (families, business guys, younger folks). It is not a good idea to inquire at a large table with just (drunk) males. They certainly will find a place for you, no doubt about that, but will you have a fun time after a few beers? Anyway,
visitors to the fest come from everywhere in the world, with lots of English speakers around. So you have a good chance to meet someone. And the locals like a nice chat, too.

If getting a seat is a problem in a packed tent, just ask the waitress politely for a place. She will almost always be able to assign a seat for you. You will want to avoid the darker corners of a tent. While you should not feel insecure there (security staff is omnipresent), you will just experience half of the action (band, people, etc.). A good place is somewhere in the middle of the tent, not too close to the band, but not too far away either.

When asking for a seat at a table as a single woman, it is always a good idea to stay close to the aisle until you are more comfortable with the situation. That will make it easier to get away should the need arise (i.e. when the guys can’t behave). Alternatively, try to sit next to another woman in the group. The mood on a table can change quickly! It's just a matter of another round of beer. In such situations just grab your purse and beer and leave the table. It is not unsafe at the festival, but sitting at a table among a bunch of drunken guys is not genuine fun either.

For a single woman, I do not think that all the tents are equally suitable. I’d avoid the Weinzelt (wine tent) which – as the name suggests – is not a beer tent. A lot of older folks can be found here, so it’s not that much fun anyway. The Käfer tent is the place where the German celebrities hang around, but it’s quite hard to get in, and it is not your typical beer tent either. Gay people tend to like the Bräurosl.

Please consider buying a conservative (long) Dirndl, the traditional female dress of Bavaria (see tips on what to wear to Oktoberfest on pages 42–43). It looks good and will let you mingle more easily with the locals.

### AT WHAT TIME DO THE TENTS CLOSE?

Beer Serving Hours are 10 am to 10:30 pm on weekdays, and 9 am to 10:30 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Just on the opening Saturday they will start beer serving at noon.

At 10:30 pm the band will stop playing, the lights will go on, and the waitresses will start to clean the tables around you. Typically you will have left by 10:50 pm. The only exception to this are:

- Kuffler’s Weinzelt (Wine Tent) – closes at 12:30 am
- Käfer tent – closes at 1 am (last orders at 12:15 am)
Once the waitresses have served the last beers, everyone walks home – or continues the party in one of the many clubs in town.

WHERE CAN WE GO AFTER THE FEST CLOSES AT NIGHT?

Once the big tents close, everybody heads to the Käfer tent which closer later at night. As you can imagine, the whole Fest rushes there, so chances are close to nil to get in. You might be better off trying an hour before closing time, but do you really want to give up the table you have for the chance of getting into the Käfer? But don’t worry – there are many alternatives in the city:

- **P1** – Certainly one of the best After-Wiesn parties in the city, but extremely difficult to get in. (No sneakers, Tracht is OK.)

- **Das Wiesnzelt** – Why not continue the night in the Oktoberfest mood in the traditional Löwenbräu Keller? The venue resembles a real Oktoberfest beer tent, complete with waitresses in Dirndls and lots of Maßbier.

- **Kultfabrik** – It is said to be the biggest party area in Europe. As there are so many clubs, you certainly will find a place that suits your taste. Lots of special offers for Oktoberfest visitors.

Not all of the clubs are open every night, so we recommend checking directly with them before you head there.
When the last song plays on the last night of the Fest, people get sparklers out and celebrate the two weeks of party they enjoyed. Now they have to wait for almost a year before the madness begins all over again!
Oktoberfest is a strong contributor to the Munich economy, so it’s not a surprise that it attracts job seekers and business owners from around the world. Here is some guidance for you if you want to work at the Fest.

**Jobs**

There are plenty of jobs that help providing a smooth Oktoberfest experience. It is really, really hard work for everyone, but you can earn a lot of money. That’s why there is little fluctuation, especially for jobs with direct customer contact. These will usually be offered to the staff of the previous year as the experience pays off for the tent owner.

In order to apply for a job at the Fest you typically must:

- Have a valid work permit for Germany. – This is mandatory.
- Inquire early in the year.
- Show that you can, want to and will do the job required. – Tent owners prefer experienced people to have fewer problems and emergencies to deal with.
- Speak, read, and write German. – You’ll have almost no chance to get a job without German language skills. Whether you’ll be working in the kitchen or as a waitress, you will talk to your customers and colleagues in German.
- Be available for the full duration of the Fest. – Despite the really hard work, you are usually expected to work the entire time.
- Be prepared to wear traditional Bavarian clothes, especially when you’ve got customer contact.

**Selling products and services**

The Fest at the Theresienwiese is highly regulated, i.e. you need a licence to do business. You are not allowed to just go to the Fest and promote or sell your services and goods! The same is true for the tents, and tent owners are very picky about businesses operating on their property.

Whatever you have in mind you should contact the Department of Labor and Economic Development in Munich (Herzog-Wilhelm-Straße 15, D–80331 München, Phone +49 89 233 22070, Email eap@muenchen.de) and check how to proceed in order to do business at the Oktoberfest, or in Munich.

If you think about doing business in a tent, inquire with the respective tent owner.
Munich has plenty of attractions for visitors. With its surroundings, you can easily spend four or five days here without getting bored. Here is – in no specific order – a list of attractions you should not miss when you are in Munich:

- Olympic stadium and Olympic park
- BMW World & BMW Headquarters
- Isar River
- Deutsches Museum
- Schloss Nymphenburg
- English Garden (Monopterus, Chinese Tower, Kleinhesseloher See)
- Hofgarten and Residenz
- The “Celebrity Catwalk” (Schwabing)
- The shops and cafés in the Gärtnerplatzviertel
- Viktualienmarkt, Marienplatz, St. Peter, and Frauenkirche
- Alter Südfriedhof (Cemetery)
- Ältere & Neue Pinakothek, and the Pinakothek der Moderne
- Kónigsplatz with Glyptothek
- Allianz Arena
- Westpark
- Bavaria Filmstadt
- Tierpark Hellabrunn (Zoo)

You may also consider these side trips to places close to Munich:

- Schloss Neuschwanstein
- Herrsching am Ammersee and Kloster Andechs
- Tegernsee and Bad Tölz
- Chiemsee
- Deutsches Museum Flugwerft in Schleissheim
- Starnberg and Starnberger See

If you are an avid runner (like me), why not participate in the Oktoberfestlauf? Usually, it takes place on the Saturday of second weekend of the Fest. See all the details at [www.oktoberfestlauf.de](http://www.oktoberfestlauf.de)

right: The Isar River not only invites for long walks but also attracts fly fishers, directly in the city center.
No scarf!

Checkered shirt

Traditional Lederhos’n with suspenders

Off-white slouch socks, pulled down!

Traditional Haferl Shoes
Here we go. That’s me with my Tracht, consisting of:

- Checkered Shirt (plain white is also OK)
- Leather trousers (with suspenders, without is also OK)
- Off-white Slouch socks (pulled down!)
- Haferl Shoes (black!)
- No scarf (even if they sell it to you!)

Actually, there is very little you can do wrong. However, if you are opting for medium length leather trousers, there should be enough leather to fully cover the knees when sitting. Otherwise the trousers are considered “too short”, and you may become the laughing stock at the Oktoberfest.

A word about the price for a Tracht. The Munich dealers offer complete sets, containing the items above (including the dreaded scarf). These usually are 199 Euros including taxes. If you want more robust leather trousers, we recommend to have a look at the more expensive ones. You will still receive a discount on the list price when you are buying a complete set. For example, the regular price for my combination was 367.90 Euro (in 2007), but I negotiated for a 35% discount and paid just 239.60 Euro.

In any case, please rest assured that when you buy your Tracht in Munich, the sales ladies at the stores will help you with the selection of the right items.
Necklace

Traditional short-sleeved Trachtenblus’n (Blouse)

Traditional Dirndl (Dress)

Pinafore

Sheer pantyhose

Elegant low-heeled loafers
And this is Petra showing off one of her many Trachts, consisting of:

- Short-sleeved white blouse
- Traditional dress (the Dirndl)
- Pinafore
- Sheer pantyhose
- Elegant low-heeled loafers

You should be aware of a few rules for the female dress:

1. The knot of the pinafore indicates the status of the woman. Bound on her right side (just as Petra on the left) means: "I'm Taken". Bound on her left side means: "I'm single and/or available". Cool, eh?

2. The traditional Dirndl is long and falls down to below mid-calf, just as in the photo above. They will sell you a short Dirndl as well, and as a male I agree that it looks quite appealing, but this is a tourist item and has nothing to do with the traditional dress.

3. The pinafore should end at the same height as the Dirndl itself. Having a shorter or longer pinafore will definitely indicate that you are not one of the locals. A big no-no. (Petra's pinafore has the correct length, but the camera angle makes it appear to be slightly longer than the Dirndl. It is not.)

4. The pantyhose should be just a sheer one, maybe tanned, but definitely not black or weirdly colored.

5. The shoes should really be low heeled loafers or ballet flats, black or white. High-heeled pumps might be a beautiful sight and a nice surprise for your husband, but it's not something you wear as part of a traditional Oktoberfest dress.

6. Some dresses allow you to thread thin silver chains through the front section. If you have one of these you should definitely wear the silver chains, otherwise the empty hooks will look just plain weird.

Other than that, it's pretty simple, really. The sales ladies at the stores in Munich will help you with the selection of the right items anyway.

*Next page: The fun rides of the Theresienwiese seen from the air*
Ah, the songs. The songs! The original Oktoberfest in Munich is home to a very special music-mix, performed by professional folk-bands. The mix consists mostly of super-hits, roughly 2/3 of these being German, and 1/3 English. So, yes, there is a good chance that you will be able to sing at the Fest, too!

The bands play every day all day long, but in the morning, noon and afternoon sessions they play fewer songs, and the song-mix is a bit “taken back” compared to the evening sessions where most bands play “full power”.

Some of the German songs are typical “drinking songs” that no one would like to hear outside of an Oktoberfest tent, but they still are widely known and quite popular – at the Fest!

One speciality to the fest is that every year one new song pops up that has emerged from the spring and summer season. This song quickly captures the audience, and everyone demands this song to be played, and bands gladly comply. In 2017, for example, it was “Despacito” by Luis Fonsi. This is the “Wies’n Hit” of that year and finds its way into the songbooks of the coming years as well, probably for years to come.

To help you prepare for the fest properly, please find a list of the most popular songs at Oktoberfest on the next page. While this list can not contain all the songs played in the tents, you can be certain to hear most of the songs during a long day (and night) at the Fest.

You will need to look up the texts for the songs on the Internet. To make it easier for you, we’ve put together a list of popular songs on the next page.

If you want to prepare for the Fest, you’ll also want to visit the German Internet radio station laut.fm/oktoberfest – while their DJs do not always nail it, it’s still pretty close to the music mix at the Fest (and you’ll hear most of the songs listed here.)

*The bands playing at the Fest are true professionals, and they get paid big money for their performances.*
THE GERMAN SONGS

• 10 Meter geh’
• 99 Luftballons
• Ab in den Süden
• Aber Dich gibt’s nur einmal für mich
• Anita
• Anton aus Tirol
• Atemlos durch die Nacht
• Bayerischer Defiliermarsch
• Brenner tuats guat
• Cowboy und Indianer
• Das geht ab (wir feiern die ganze Nacht)
• Das rote Pferd
• Die Hände zum Himmel
• Du entschuldige I kenn di
• Du hast mich tausendmal belogen
• Ein Bett im Kornfeld
• Ein Stern
• Eine neue Liebe ist wie ein neues Leben
• Er gehört zu mir
• Es gibt kein Bier auf Hawaii
• FC Bayern Stern des Südens
• Fiesta Mexicana
• Flieger, grüß’ mir die Sonne
• Fliegerlied – So ein schöner Tag
• Fürstenfeld
• Griechischer Wein
• Hey Baby (Uhh Ahh)
• Ich war noch niemals in New York
• In München steht ein Hofbräuhaus
• Joana (Du geile Sau)
• Knallrotes Gummiboot
• Kufsteinlied
• Lebt denn dr alte Holzmichl noch?
• Major Tom (Völlig losgelöst)
• Mamor, Stein und Eisen bricht
• Pure Lust am Leben
• Resi, i hol di mit’m Traktor ab
• Rote Lippen soll man küssen
• Schatzi, schenk mir ein Foto
• Schickeria
• Schifoan
• Sierra Madre
• Skandal im Sperrbezirk
• So ein Tag (so wunderschön wie heute)
• Tage wie diese
• Über den Wolken
• Viva Colonia
• Wahnsinn

THE INTERNATIONAL SONGS

• Ai Se Eu Te Pego
• All Summer Long
• American Pie
• Baby come back
• Hang On Sloopy
• Here Comes the Sun
• Hey Baby
• Highway to Hell
• I Will Survive
• Jailhouse Rock
• Let’s Twist Again
• Live is Life
• Living Next Door to Alice
• Mambo No. 5 (A Little Bit Of…)
• No No Never
• Rockin’ All Over The World
• Sexbomb
• Summer of 69
• Sweet Caroline
• Take me Home, Country Roads
• Volare
• We are the Champions
• Whatever You Want
• YMCA
YOUR SECURITY

Many readers specifically ask whether it is safe to go to the Fest, and which precautions the police takes to ensure the safety of Oktoberfest.

I think you will be safe at the Oktoberfest. Here’s why:

• For a very long time, Bavaria has been known for taking security very serious; the police is strict and more present than in other German states.

• After 9/11, the police has geared up to protect the visitors of the Fest through various means, so they have almost two decades experience by now.

• Starting in 2016 the city of Munich reserved the right to restrict access to the Fest should the Theresienwiese be overcrowded (see page 3).

• Since then, the Theresienwiese can only be accessed through nine access points where security checks will be performed (see pages 50 and 51 for details). **To make security checks as easy as possible, please do not bring any medium sized or large bags or backpacks to the Fest!** There are lockers available next to the access points for those who cannot come without their luggage.

• The police is visibly present. In addition, undercover cops will monitor the Fest.

• The police will do regular checks for explosives in the tents (using dogs) at night and also throughout the day.

• They have erected massive roadblocks that prevent unauthorized cars or trucks from entering the Fest.

• Inside and outside the tents private security companies ensure that trouble-makers will be removed quickly (and they are not too gentle with these folks).

• They do passport checks around the main central station and in the city.

• The improved security concept has worked very well since 2016.

Despite all these security measures, you should still use all the standard precautions when traveling, i.e. not taking valuables, expensive cameras, or bringing a lot of cash to the Fest. Also I strongly recommend avoiding any conflicts with drunk people or drunk groups as it’s easy to get harmed.

In summary, I completely trust the state of Bavaria to take the right measures to keep this Bavarian icon safe.
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Revision 3 – March 2019
Page 51: There are basically three ways to get to the Theresienwiese by public transport. We recommend to use the suburban train ("S-Bahn") and exit at the "Hackerbrücke" station. You can easily follow the locals walking to the main entry of the Fest. It takes about 10 minutes. Alternatively, you can use the underground system and take the U4 or U5. Both lines stop at the "Theresienwiese" station. However, please be prepared to find yourself in a huge crowd of people – we do not recommend to use this entry! Or, you can use the U3 or U6 and exit either at Goetheplatz (recommended) or Poccistraße. Please note that there are seven access points with security checks for all visitors (marked red in the map), and two for those holding formal tent reservations (marked blue on the map).