

Oktoberfest Survival Guide



What is Oktoberfest?

Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany, is the world's biggest beer festival. It's an event on a gigantic scale, with beer tents the size of airplane hangers, pretzels the size of steering wheels... and beers the size of Bavaria.

Thousands fill the beer tents, hoisting 1-liter brews and often jumping up on the benches to unite in song – joining everyone together under some type of Bavarian beer bonding.

There are more than a dozen of these tents, and the atmosphere in every one of them is simply wild! Call it controlled mayhem, the “Beerfest” is a party like no other.

Oktoberfest History

The original Oktoberfest occurred in Munich on 18th October 1810, to commemorate the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen.

By 1960, the Oktoberfest had turned into an enormous world-famous festival, and today is visited by over 6 million people from around the world, drinking around 6.5 million liters of beer in total.

... and that's enough of the boring history, because you're there to hammer the beers!

When is Oktoberfest?

Oktoberfest runs for 3 weekends from late September until the 1st weekend of October.

Beer Tent Opening Hours

Beer Serving Hours

Weekdays: 10am - 10:30pm

Weekends and holidays: 9am - 10:30pm

Daily Tent Closing Time: 11:30pm

The "Käfer Wiesn-Schänke" and the "Weinzelt" are open until 1am. Last call is at 12:15am.



Beer price ranges from €9.00 to €10.00 per liter (a "Maß" Oktoberfest Beer).

Best time to visit Oktoberfest

For the ultimate Beerfest experience, Opening Day at the Schottenhamel tent is the place to be. At noon-time, the first keg of Oktoberfest beer is tapped here by Munich's Lord Mayor, and once the barrel is open it's a beer drinking onslaught for 2 weeks straight!

Although the weekends are the most popular, it's extremely crowded and almost impossible to get a seat unless you book nearly a year in advance. Mid-week you have a good chance of getting a table, even without a booking if you get there before 12pm. This is the best time to visit. You certainly won't be missing anything because the tents are intense, the bands play, the beers flow and the crowds go crazy.

Get your FREE Oktoberfest Survival Guide every year at
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Top 10 Oktoberfest Survival Tips

1. Arrive at least by 10am on weekends and Opening Day, and before 12pm during the week.
2. Get beer tent reservations for groups of 5 or more. It's a must to be in the Schottenhamel tent or Hofbräuhaus tent on Opening Day. Reservations are made with each beer tent directly, their contact details can be found at <http://www.oktoberfest.de>
3. Arrange accommodation early, at least 6 months prior to Beerfest. It's best to stay walking distance, which is anywhere near the central train station. The official Munich Oktoberfest website (see next page) provides an online enquiry and booking facility for this.
4. Get cash. ATMs are located throughout the festival grounds, but expect long queues.
5. Beers are 1 liter and cost approx. €9.00.
6. Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty (and drenched in beer).
7. Wear shoes that completely cover your feet. Broken glass is common.
8. Tip the Frauleins (the girls who bring you the beer). Well. And be polite and smile.

Tipping is an absolute MUST at Beerfest. The girls who serve the beer are your only source of alcohol, and if you don't tip them, they simply won't come back. At least 1 Euro per beer is recommended, but it's a good idea to really impress them on the first order (about 5 Euro)... you'll get a 5-star service for the rest of the day.

9. Learn one song, and one song only. Most Oktoberfest beer tents feature traditional German bands, and every 10 or 20 minutes they break into a song called "Ein Prosit":

German:

Ein Prosit, ein Prosit
Der Gemütlichkeit
Ein Prosit, ein Prosit
Der Gemütlichkeit

Phonetically English

Ayn Prawseet, Ayn Prawseet
Dare Gae-meet-lich-kite
Ayn Prawseet, Ayn Prawseet
Dare Gae-meet-lich-kite

After the band plays this song, everyone raises their glasses and says: "Oans, zwoa, drei, Gsuffa!" meaning "one, two, three, drink!". You must sing this song, and drink after each song. It's the law.

10. Practice your beer drinking - **Oktoberfest has no place for wimps!**



It's almost compulsory to drink beer there, and lots of it. The Bavarians just about inhale this stuff, and you'll see some of them nailing 7 to 8 Liters each on a normal day.

With Oktoberfest beer packing a real punch at 5% alcohol content, it's no wonder they often complain that beer in other countries tastes like water.

So if you want to keep up, you'd best get some practice before your visit.

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Oktoberfest Numbers (2007)

Area:	103.79 acres (0.42 km ²)
Seats in the festival halls:	approx. 100,000
Visitors:	6.2 million
Beer Consumption:	6,940,600 liters (126,900 liters non-alcoholic)
Wine:	79,624 liters
Sparkling wine:	32,047 liters
Coffee, tea:	222,725 liters
Water, lemonade:	909,765 ½ liters
Chicken:	521,872 units
Pork sausages:	142,253 pairs
Fish:	38,650 kg
Pork knuckles:	58,446 units
Oxen:	104 units
Lost property:	About 4,000 items



Useful Oktoberfest Information

Official Munich Oktoberfest Website - Accommodation, maps, history and lots of FAQ's

<http://www.muenchen.de/Tourismus/Oktoberfest/7548/index.html>

Oktoberfest.de – Beer Tent contact details, festival guide and free info

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

Wiesn Dictionary – Learn to speak *Oktoberfest* before you go!

<http://www.oktoberfest.de/en/14/lexikon/index.php?lang=en>

Wikipedia Oktoberfest Entry – Everything you need to know about Beerfest in a single page

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oktoberfest>

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