



Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest (German pronunciation: [ɔkˈtoːbɐˌfɛst]; Bavarian *d'Wiesn*) is the world's largest *Volksfest*. It combines a beer festival with a funfair and is held annually in *Munich* on the *Theresienwiese* from mid-September to the first Sunday in October. If 3 October (German Unity Day) falls after that Sunday, the festival continues until the holiday.

The event draws around seven million visitors each year. In 2023, attendance reached a record 7.2 million.^[1] Visitors consumed approximately 7.4 million litres of beer.^[2] The festival features amusement rides, games, food stalls, and traditional Bavarian dishes.

The first Oktoberfest was held on 12 October 1810 to celebrate the wedding of Crown Prince *Ludwig* and Princess *Therese* of Saxony-Hildburghausen.^[3] Since then, the festival has been cancelled on multiple occasions, most recently in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany.^[4]

History

Origins (1810–1811)

On 12 October 1810 Crown Prince *Ludwig* of Bavaria married Princess *Therese* of Saxe-Hildburghausen. Munich officials invited the public to celebrate on fields outside the city walls. The site was named *Theresienwiese* (“*Therese's Meadow*”) the following year and is still called *Wiesn*.^[5]

The first festival featured a horse race modelled on the medieval *Scharlachrennen* once run at the *Karlstor*. Major *Andreas Michael Dall'Armi* of the National Guard proposed the idea, although coachman *Franz Baumgartner* later claimed credit. The race was repeated in 1811, forming the core of the Oktoberfest tradition.^[6]

Sendlinger Hill—now *Theresienhöhe*—served as a natural grandstand for about 40,000 spectators. Sixteen pairs of children in regional costume opened the programme, thirty horses ran a 3,400 metres (11,200 ft) course, and a student choir closed the event. *Baumgartner's* horse won, and he received a gold medal from Minister of State *Maximilian von Montgelas*.

Oktoberfest



Theresienwiese during the 2013 festival

Observed by *Munich*

Type Cultural

Celebrations Parades, music, Bavarian food and beer

2024 date 21 September

2025 date 20 September

Frequency Annual

Related to *Oktoberfest celebrations*

19th century

- **1811** – An agricultural show was added to promote Bavarian farming.^[7]
- **1813** – The fair was cancelled during the War of the Sixth Coalition.
- **1814** – Skittles, swings and climbing poles were introduced on its return.

Carnival booths appeared in 1818, offering prizes of silverware, porcelain and jewellery.^[8] Munich's city council assumed control in 1819 and decreed that Oktoberfest be held annually.

A Greek delegation that visited in 1832 later cited the festival as a model for the Zappas Olympics, precursors of the modern Olympic Games.^[9]

During the century the opening was moved into late September to take advantage of warmer evenings; only the final days now fall in October.^[10]

Parades and monuments

Since 1850 the annual Trachten- und Schützenzug (costume and marksmen parade) has marched from Maximilianstraße to the Theresienwiese, with about 8,000 participants led by the Münchner Kindl mascot.^[11]

The bronze Bavaria statue, designed by Leo von Klenze and sculpted by Ludwig Michael Schwanthaler, was erected in 1850 in front of the Ruhmeshalle, which was completed in 1853.^[12]

Modernisation (1880–1900)

Oktoberfest was cancelled for cholera epidemics (1854, 1873), the Austro-Prussian War (1866) and the Franco-Prussian War (1870).^[13]

| Year | Milestone |
|---------|--|
| 1880 | Electric lighting illuminated more than 400 booths and tents. |
| 1881 | The first bratwurst stalls opened. |
| 1887 | A brewery-dray parade became part of the official opening. |
| 1892 | Beer began to be served in glass mugs. |
| c. 1900 | Small booths were replaced by the large beer halls still used today. ^[14] |



Horse race at the Oktoberfest, 1823



Girl in a Dirndl



The Bavaria statue overlooking the grounds

20th century

In 1910 the centenary celebration recorded the consumption of about 120,000 litres of beer. In 1913 the *Bräurosl* pavilion opened, seating roughly 12,000 guests.^[15]

Interruptions

- 1914–18 – Cancelled during World War I
- 1919–20 – Held only as a smaller *Kleineres Herbstfest*
- 1923–24 – Cancelled during hyperinflation

From 1933 to 1945 the Nazi regime used the festival for propaganda.^[16] In 1933 Jewish people were barred from working at the Wiesn.^[17] The festival was suspended 1939–45 during World War II; a modest “Autumn Fest” was held 1946–48.

Since 1950 the Mayor of Munich has opened Oktoberfest with a 12-gun salute and the cry “*O'zapft is!*” (“It’s tapped!”).

1980 bombing

On 26 September 1980 a pipe bomb exploded near the main entrance, killing 13 people and injuring more than 225.^[18] It was the second-deadliest terrorist attack in Germany.

21st century

In 2005 organisers introduced a “quiet Oktoberfest”: tents played only traditional brass music until 18:00, with afternoon volume capped at 85 dB.^[19]

A Bavarian smoking ban, fully enforced from 2011, made the festival smoke-free.^[20]

The 200th anniversary in 2010 included a *historische Wiesn* with a museum tent, special beer and a costumed horse race.^[21]

Attendance in 2013 reached 6.4 million, with 6.7 million litres of beer served.^[22]

The 2020 and 2021 festivals were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany.^{[23][24]}



Gamsbärte at the restaurateurs' entry, 2008



Celebrating 200 years of Oktoberfest, 2010

Annual traditions

Opening parade

The tradition of the Oktoberfest entry parade began in 1887, when Hans Steyrer, then a festival host, marched from his establishment on Tegernseer Landstraße to the Theresienwiese with his staff, a brass band, and a cart of beer.

In its current form, the parade has been held since 1935, when all participating breweries took part for the first time. Since 1950, the procession has been led by the Münchner Kindl, followed by the incumbent Mayor of Munich riding in the Schottenhammel family carriage. The parade also features decorated horse-drawn wagons and floats from the breweries, as well as carriages representing other restaurateurs and showpeople. Music bands from the beer tents accompany the procession.^[25]



Music entertainment, 2015

Official opening ceremony

Following the parade, the official opening of Oktoberfest takes place at exactly 12:00 p.m. in the Schottenhammel tent. The Mayor of Munich taps the first keg of beer and announces the Bavarian phrase "*O'zapft is!*" (*Es ist angezapft* – "It is tapped!"). This marks the official start of the festival.

Twelve gunshots are then fired on the stairway of Ruhmeshalle. This is the signal for the other restaurateurs to start with the serving of beer.^[26] Traditionally, the Bavarian Minister-President is served the first litre of beer. Then in the other tents, the first barrels are tapped and beer is served to the visitors.

Every year, visitors eagerly await to see how many strokes the mayor needs to use before the first beer flows. Bets are even made. The best performance is still two strokes (Christian Ude, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013; Dieter Reiter, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019),^[27] and there was also 19 strokes required (Thomas Wimmer, 1950).



Coachmen in costume



The Hacker-Pschorr Brewery horse team

Costume and riflemen parade

The first costume parade was held in 1835 to mark the silver wedding anniversary of King Ludwig I of Bavaria and Princess Therese. A second parade followed in 1895, organised by the Bavarian novelist Maximilian Schmidt and involving about 1,400 participants in 150 costume groups.^[28] A further parade was held during the centenary celebrations in 1910, directed by Julius and Moritz Wallach, early promoters of the Dirndl and Lederhosen as everyday fashion.^{[29][30]}

The modern parade has taken place each year since 1950—except in 2020–2021—and resumed in 2022.^[31] It is now a regular feature of Oktoberfest and is among the largest processions of its kind. On the first Sunday of the festival roughly 8,000 participants walk the 7 km (4.3 mi) route from the Maximilianeum to the Theresienwiese.^[32]

The procession is led by the *Münchner Kindl*, followed by members of the Munich city council, representatives of the Bavarian state government, musical and marching bands, traditional-costume and rifle clubs, flag-wavers, and about 40 decorated horse-drawn carriages. Most groups come from Bavaria, though delegations also arrive from other German states, Austria, Switzerland, Northern Italy, and other European regions.^[33] The entry of the *Wiesnwirte* (festival innkeepers) and the costume and marksmen procession are organised by Festring München.^[34]



Participants in the 2013 costume and riflemen parade

Unofficial sport

The unofficial sport of Oktoberfest is Masskrugstemmen, or Steinholding, in which competitors hold a filled one-liter dimpled glass mug with an outstretched arm for as long as they can.^[35]

Duration and dates

Since 1994, Oktoberfest has typically lasted 16 days, ending on the first Sunday in October. If that Sunday falls before 3 October (German Unity Day), the festival is extended through 3 October.

| Year | Dates | Duration | Notes |
|------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 2000 | 16 Sep – 3 Oct | 18 days | with ZLF |
| 2001 | 22 Sep – 7 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2002 | 21 Sep – 6 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2003 | 20 Sep – 5 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2004 | 18 Sep – 3 Oct | 16 days | with ZLF |
| 2005 | 17 Sep – 3 Oct | 17 days | |
| 2006 | 16 Sep – 3 Oct | 18 days | |
| 2007 | 22 Sep – 7 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2008 | 20 Sep – 5 Oct | 16 days | 175th Oktoberfest, with ZLF |
| 2009 | 19 Sep – 4 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2010 | 18 Sep – 4 Oct | 17 days | 200th anniversary, with ZLF |
| 2011 | 17 Sep – 3 Oct | 17 days | |
| 2012 | 22 Sep – 7 Oct | 16 days | with ZLF |
| 2013 | 21 Sep – 6 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2014 | 20 Sep – 5 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2015 | 19 Sep – 4 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2016 | 17 Sep – 3 Oct | 17 days | |
| 2017 | 16 Sep – 3 Oct | 18 days | |
| 2018 | 22 Sep – 7 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2019 | 21 Sep – 6 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2020 | 19 Sep – 4 Oct | Cancelled | COVID-19 pandemic |
| 2021 | 18 Sep – 3 Oct | Cancelled | COVID-19 pandemic |
| 2022 | 17 Sep – 3 Oct | 17 days | |
| 2023 | 16 Sep – 3 Oct | 18 days | |
| 2024 | 21 Sep – 6 Oct | 16 days | |
| 2025 | 20 Sep – 5 Oct | 16 days | |

The *Bayerisches Zentral-Landwirtschaftsfest* (Bavarian Central Agricultural Fair) is held every four years alongside Oktoberfest.

Attendance

Oktoberfest is one of the largest festivals in the world, attracting millions of visitors annually. In 1999, about 6.5 million people visited the 42-hectare Theresienwiese fairground.^[36] Around 72 % of visitors came from Bavaria, and 15 % from abroad, including neighbouring EU countries, North America, Oceania, and East Asia.^[37]

The grounds also host other major events such as the *Munich Frühlingsfest* (April–May) and the Tollwood Festival (December).

Beer

Only beer brewed within Munich's city limits and in accordance with the Reinheitsgebot may be sold at Oktoberfest.^[38] These beers are marketed under the protected designation "Oktoberfestbier".

Styles

Two types of beer are served:

- The traditional Märzen lager, formerly the standard.^[38]
- The paler seasonal *Festbier*, which has become more common since the late 20th century.^[39]

Breweries

The right to produce Oktoberfestbier is held by the six breweries of the Club of Munich Brewers:^[40]

- Augustiner Bräu
- Hacker-Pschorr
- Löwenbräu
- Paulaner
- Spaten
- Hofbräu München

Tents

As of 2025, Oktoberfest includes 14 large and 20 small tents. They are temporary wooden structures built for use during the festival.^[41]

Each large tent is associated with one of the Munich breweries, while a few smaller tents serve wine.^[42]



A waitress serving a Maß of beer in a traditional Bavarian *Dirndl*.

Large tents

| Tent name | Brewery/operator | Seats (inside / outside) | Description |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| Marstall | Spaten-Franziskaner-Bräu | 3,200 / 1,000 | Hosts evening performances, including <i>Münchner Zwietracht</i> playing Oktoberfest music. ^[43] |
| Armbrustschützenzelt | Paulaner | 5,839 / 1,600 | Known as the Crossbowman's Tent; crossbow competitions have been held here since 1895. |
| Hofbräu-Festzelt | Hofbräu München | 6,896 / 3,622 | The Hofbräu tent, popular with international visitors. ^[44] |
| Hacker-Festzelt | Hacker-Pschorr | 6,900 / 2,400 | Nicknamed <i>Himmel der Bayern</i> ("Heaven of the Bavarians"); features rock music evenings. |
| Schottenhamel | Spaten-Franziskaner-Bräu | 6,000 / 4,000 | Site of the official keg tapping by the mayor; a popular student meeting point. ^{[45][46]} |
| Winzerer Fähndl | Paulaner | 8,450 / 2,450 | Identified by its tower topped with a beer mug; named after a Bavarian military unit. |
| Schützen-Festhalle | Löwenbräu | 4,442 / 0 | Located beneath the Bavaria statue; current structure opened in 2004. |
| Käfer Wiesn-Schänke | Paulaner | 1,000 / 1,900 | The smallest large tent; offers gourmet food and opens later in the day. |
| Weinzelt | Nymphenburger Sekt / Paulaner Weißbier | 1,300 / 600 | Combines a wine bar (with over 15 varieties) and Paulaner wheat beer. |
| Löwenbräu-Festhalle | Löwenbräu | 5,700 / 2,800 | Features a large lion figure above the entrance and two beer towers. |
| Bräurosl | Hacker-Pschorr | 6,000 / 2,200 | Named after the brewer's daughter; hosts the <i>Rosa Wiesn</i> LGBT event. |
| Augustiner-Festhalle | Augustiner Bräu | 6,000 / 2,500 | Serves Augustiner beer from traditional wooden kegs. |
| Ochsenbraterei | Spaten | 5,900 / 1,500 | Specialises in roasted ox dishes. |
| Fischer-Vroni | Augustiner | 2,695 / 700 | Known for fish dishes, especially grilled <i>Steckerlfisch</i> . |

Small tents

| Tent name | Brewery/operator | Seats (inside / outside) | Description |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Able's Kalbs-Kuchl | Spaten | 300 / 0 | Specialises in veal dishes in a rustic hut setting. |
| Ammer Hühner- & Entenbraterei | Augustiner | 450 / 450 | Established in 1885 as a chicken roastery; also serves duck. |
| Bodo's Cafézelt | Independent | 450 / 0 | Serves cocktails, sparkling wine, coffee, pastries, and ice cream. |
| Café Kaiserschmarrn | Rischart | 400 / 0 | Operated by the Rischart bakery; themed around the royal wedding of 1810. |
| Café Mohrenkopf | Independent | 420 / 0 | Coffeehouse known for cakes and pies, operating since 1950. |
| Feisinger's Ka's und Weinstubn | Independent | 92 / 90 | Focuses on cheese dishes, wine, and wheat beer. |
| Glöckle Wirt | Spaten | 140 / 0 | Decorated with oil paintings and traditional instruments. |
| Heimer Hendl- & Entenbraterei | Paulaner | 400 / 0 | Family-run tent serving chicken and duck. |
| Heinz Wurst- & Hühnerbraterei | Paulaner | 360 / 0 | Specialises in sausages and chicken; operating since 1906. |
| Hochreiter's Haxnbraterei | Löwenbräu | 250 / 0 | Known for pork knuckles, prepared in a dedicated roaster. |
| Münchner Knödelei | Paulaner | 300 / 90 | Dedicated to Bavarian dumpling dishes. |
| Poschner's Hühner- & Entenbraterei | Hacker-Pschorr | 350 / 0 | Longstanding family-run chicken and duck roastery. |
| Schiebl's Kaffeehaferl | Independent | 100 / 0 | Coffee tent; "Haferl" is a Bavarian term for mug or pot. |
| Wiesn Guglhupf Café-Dreh-Bar | Independent | 60 / 0 | Carousel bar shaped like a Guglhupf (bundt cake). |
| Wildmoser Hühnerbraterei | Hacker-Pschorr | 320 / 0 | Chicken roastery operated by the Wildmoser family since 1981. |
| Wildstuben | Augustiner | 271 / 0 | Built in hunting-lodge style with detailed woodwork. |
| Wirtshaus im Schichtl | Independent | 120 / 0 | Hosts daily cabaret-style shows unique to Oktoberfest. |
| Zum Stiffl | Paulaner | 360 / 0 | Serves roast duck and chicken with daily musical entertainment. |
| Zur Bratwurst | Augustiner | 160 / 0 | Opened in 2007, reviving the historic Bratwurstglöckl name. |

Special events

***Oide Wiesn* (historical Oktoberfest)**

The historical Oktoberfest (*Oide Wiesn*, Bavarian for “old fairground”) was introduced in 2010 for the 200th anniversary of Oktoberfest. It was held on the former site of the Central Agricultural Festival at the south end of the Theresienwiese and became a recurring feature from 2011.^[47]

The event opened one day before the main festival with the traditional keg tapping by the Lord Mayor.^[48] In 2012, the Munich City Council set the 2013 entry fee at €3 with re-entry permitted, while historic rides cost €1 per use. Seating in the musicians’ tent was expanded, and a €200,000 grant supported the Showman Foundation’s museum tent, velodrome, and children’s programme.^[49] Six Munich breweries presented historical dark beers, mugs bore the inscription “Münchner Bier” instead of logos, and closing time was set at 20:00. Attendance exceeded 500,000 in the first year, leading to temporary closures. The council also approved an *Oide Wiesn* in 2015 before the return of the Central Agricultural Exhibition in 2016.



Entrance to the historical Oktoberfest

The fenced grounds cover 2 hectares (4.9 acres) and feature historic rides such as a carousel and chain swing, beer tents serving dark beer based on early 19th-century recipes, food stalls including *Steckerlfisch* grills, an animal tent and racecourse run by Hellabrunn Zoo and the Bavarian Farmers’ Association, and a museum tent curated by the Munich Stadtmuseum. Cultural performances have included local groups such as the *Biermösl Blossn*.^[47]

***Rosa Wiesn* (Gay Oktoberfest)**

The *Rosa Wiesn* (*Pink Wiesn*), also called Gay Oktoberfest, is a series of LGBT events held during Oktoberfest. The main gathering, Gay Sunday, takes place in the Bräurosl tent on the first Sunday.^{[50][51][52]}

The tradition began in the 1970s when members of the *Münchner Löwen Club* (MLC) reserved the Bräurosl balcony and were mistaken for a football club. The event became an annual gathering.^[53]



Folk dancers at the historical Oktoberfest

Alongside Gay Sunday, the programme includes meet-and-greets, *Löwennacht* (Lion’s Night), brunches, and cultural activities. About 8,000 visitors attend each year.^[54] Some sources describe it as Germany’s second-largest LGBT gathering after Christopher Street Day.^[55]

Public safety

In 2004 the *Behördenhof* (“authorities’ court”) was established as a service hub for police, fire, medical, and administrative coordination. A temporary police station operates there during the festival.



Rosa Wiesn attendees in 2016

Since 2005 officers from Bolzano, Italy, have assisted with crowd management and communication, especially on weekends with high numbers of Italian visitors. The *Behördenhof*, on the eastern side of the *Theresienwiese*, functions as the main command center.

Medical care is provided by the Bavarian branch of the German Red Cross, with about 100 volunteer doctors and paramedics on duty each day.^[56] Aicher Ambulance operates an additional post in the *Fischer Vroni* tent. The service complex includes an operating theatre and treatment rooms, and ambulances are stationed at key points across the grounds.



Service hub (Behördenhof) on the Theresienwiese, established 2004

Visitor services at the *Behördenhof* include a child reunification point, a lost property office, and a women’s support center. Further assistance is available at the nearby *Theresienwiese* U-Bahn station, staffed by Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe.^[57]

Preventive measures

In 2003 the campaign *Sichere Wiesn für Mädchen und Frauen* (“Safe Oktoberfest for Girls and Women”) was launched to assist female visitors.

In 2010 animals were banned from the festival grounds. In 2012 glass bottles were prohibited after an increase in injuries caused by broken glass.

Ride safety

All rides are inspected before the festival by the cableways and temporary structures division of TÜV SÜD.

On 30 September 1996, 30 people were injured in a collision on the Euro Star roller coaster. The cause was a worn safety brake not detected during inspection. Prosecutors in Munich investigated an engineer from TÜV Munich for negligent bodily harm, but no conviction followed.^[58]



Police surveillance during Oktoberfest, 2010

Security developments

- 1981 – Main entrance redesigned after the 1980 bombing.
- 2001 – Permanent checkpoints introduced following the September 11 attacks.
- 2008 – *Theresienwiese* closed to the public during construction.
- 2009 – Roadblocks and stricter access controls introduced in response to security concerns.
- 2010 – Three security rings, flight restrictions, and 52 concrete bollards added.^[59]
- 2011 – 170 retractable bollards installed, the Bavariaring emergency corridor widened, and authorities given powers to redirect crowds or close rail stations.^{[60][61]}
- 2016 – A retractable fence enclosed the final 350 m (1,150 ft) of perimeter. Security staff were stationed at 13 entrances. Bags over 3 L (0.66 imp gal; 0.79 US gal) were banned, and the *Theresienwiese* U-Bahn front exit was closed.^[62]

Infrastructure

Electricity

Oktoberfest is supplied with electricity through 43 km (27 mi) of cable connected to 18 partly underground transformer stations. They provide about 2.9 million kilowatt-hours per year, excluding the energy required for assembly and dismantling.^[63] Most tents and rides use certified renewable electricity from Stadtwerke München to reduce local emissions.

The electrical grid is designed with redundancy: every circuit can be supplied by an independent line, and each tent is connected to two substations.

Notable incident

On 25 September 2007, heavy rain flooded an underground cable duct, interrupting power for several hours and delaying morning food service.^[64]

Natural gas

A 4 km (2.5 mi) distribution network supplies gas to the festival grounds. Kitchens consume about 159,000 m³ each season, and outdoor heaters about 42,000 m³.^[63]

Telecommunications

To maintain mobile phone coverage in the dense crowds, network operators install temporary masts on the surrounding lawns before each festival.

Transportation

Oktoberfest attracts millions of visitors, and the city provides a range of transport options to manage the crowds. Most people arrive by public transport, while others come on foot, by car, or by taxi. Special measures are introduced each year to handle congestion, parking, and safety.

Public transport

The Münchner Verkehrsgesellschaft (Munich Transport Company) estimates that about four million trips are made to and from the grounds each year. The U-Bahn and S-Bahn are heavily used, especially at night. The nearest underground stop, Theresienwiese, runs at three-minute intervals during peak times. After the tents close, the station may be closed temporarily to prevent overcrowding. Extra security staff are deployed by both the transport operator and Deutsche Bahn.

Nearby stations include Goetheplatz, Schwanthalerhöhe, and Hackerbrücke (S-Bahn). Many visitors also walk from the nearby main railway station.



Theresienwiese station during Oktoberfest

Road traffic and parking

Road traffic is often congested during the festival. The Bavarian State Police conduct large-scale DUI checks and restrict lanes on major roads and highways. Parking close to the grounds is limited, and towing is common.

During the middle weekend, when many Italian visitors arrive with caravans, the city enforces camping bans in central areas and provides remote parking sites, such as near the Allianz Arena, with public transport connections.

Taxis

Since 2010, taxi stands have been located outside the secure perimeter, farther from the festival grounds.

Sanitation

Oktoberfest organizers implement strict waste management and restroom policies to maintain hygiene and safety on the festival grounds.

Waste management

All public trash bins were removed after the 1980 bombing to reduce the risk of concealed explosives.^[65] Waste collection is instead handled through centralized disposal systems and frequent cleaning by sanitation teams.

Restrooms

By 2004, queueing delays at toilets had grown so severe that police managed access. To reduce congestion, patrons needing only to urinate are directed to urinals consisting of large sheltered grates. In 2005, overall capacity was expanded by 20%, and today about 1,800 toilets and urinals are

available on the grounds.^[66]

In 2005, organizers considered restricting mobile phone use in restrooms through Faraday cage installations and jammers. These measures were abandoned because jammers are illegal in Germany and cages proved too costly. Instead, signage requests that patrons refrain from phone use inside restrooms.^[67] In later years, background music was introduced near facilities to discourage prolonged telephone use.^[68]

Other Oktoberfest celebrations

Several large folk festivals worldwide follow the model of Munich's Oktoberfest:

- **Qingdao Oktoberfest** (Qingdao, China) – approximately 3 million visitors annually
- **Kitchener–Waterloo Oktoberfest** (Kitchener, Canada) – around 700,000 visitors annually
- **Blumenau Oktoberfest** (Blumenau, Brazil) – about 600,000 visitors annually
- **Oktoberfest Zinzinnati** (Cincinnati, United States) – held since 1976 in honour of the city's German heritage; over 500,000 visitors, the largest in the United States.^[69]
- **Viennese Wiesn** (Vienna, Austria) – inaugural event held 23 September–2 October 2011 on the Kaiserwiese, attended by about 150,000 visitors in three tents.^[70]

Festivals inspired by Oktoberfest are also held in Australia, Russia, Namibia and Japan.

German variants

In Germany itself, many cities host their own Oktoberfest-style events:

- **Oktoberfest Hannover** – approximately 500,000 visitors, the second-largest Oktoberfest in Germany
- **Cranger Kirmes** (Herne) – about 4.4 million visitors
- **Rheinkirmes** (Düsseldorf) – about 4 million visitors
- **Freimarkt** (Bremen) – more than 4 million visitors
- **Schützenfest Hannover** (Hanover) – more than 1 million visitors
- **Kiel Week** (Kiel) – about 3 million visitors

In popular culture

A German historical drama called *Oktoberfest: Beer and Blood* was released in 2020.^[71] Set in 1900, it focuses on the showman brewer Curt Prank as he transforms the festival into a global tourist attraction by replacing the local brewery stands with one large pavilion.^[72] Critics have compared the show's graphic violence and German new wave music soundtrack to *Peaky Blinders*.^[73] A second season was announced by head writer Ronny Schalk in 2021.^[74]

See also

- Beer and Oktoberfest Museum

- Schunkeln (sway dance)
- Steinholding (sport)

References

1. "Preliminary final report – Oktoberfest 2023" (<https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/magazine/oktoberfest-news/preliminary-final-report>). *Oktoberfest.de*. 3 October 2023. Retrieved 5 July 2025.
2. "Germany: Oktoberfest wraps in Munich, 7 million liters later" (<https://www.dw.com/en/germany-oktoberfest-wraps-in-munich-7-million-liters-later/a-70416646>). *DW*. 6 October 2024. Retrieved 5 July 2025.
3. "The origin of Oktoberfest" (<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/october-12/the-origin-of-oktoberfest>). *History.com*. 20 July 2010. Retrieved 5 July 2025.
4. "Munich cancels Oktoberfest again due to pandemic" (<https://apnews.com/article/a2aea1409d69487b93d0203f50f9c7e6>). *Associated Press*. 3 May 2021. Retrieved 5 July 2025.
5. "Oktoberfestbier" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20131020064254/http://www.germanbeerinstitute.com/Oktoberfestbier.html>). *German Beer Institute*. Archived from the original (<http://www.germanbeerinstitute.com/Oktoberfestbier.html>) on 20 October 2013. Retrieved 16 December 2013.
6. "Das erste Oktoberfest" (<http://wiesnkini.de/magazin/das-erste-oktoberfest-1810/>). *Wiesnkini.de* (in German). Retrieved 17 January 2015.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
15. "History of the Oktoberfest" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20221207224758/https://www.oktoberfest.net/history-oktoberfest/>). *Oktoberfest.net*. 24 June 2013. Archived from the original (<https://www.oktoberfest.net/history-oktoberfest/>) on 7 December 2022. Retrieved 15 November 2021.
16. Semmens, Kristin (2005). *Seeing Hitler's Germany*. Palgrave Macmillan. p. 65. ISBN 978-1-349-51958-3.
17. Terrell, Robert (2018). *The People's Drink* (<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0q7611fk>) (Thesis). University of California, San Diego.
18. "Die Bayerische Polizei – 26. September 1980" (<https://www.polizei.bayern.de/wir-ueber-uns/geschichte/003413/index.html>). *Bayerische Polizei*. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
19. "Rules for Oktoberfest jeered" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090122123903/http://www.houblon.net/spip.php?article2482>). *Houblon.net*. Archived from the original (<http://www.houblon.net/spip.php?article2482>) on 22 January 2009. Retrieved 20 September 2008.
20. "Germany marks five years of smoking ban" (<https://www.dw.com/en/germany-marks-five-years-of-smoking-ban/a-16213247>). *DW*. 31 August 2012. Retrieved 28 October 2020.
21. Schulte-Peevers, Andrea (16 September 2010). "Oktoberfest turns 200" (<https://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20100906-oktoberfest-turns-200>). *BBC Travel*. Retrieved 28 October 2020.
22. "A History of Oktoberfest" (<http://oktoberfestbeerfestivals.com/history-of-oktoberfest/>). *Oktoberfest Beer Festivals*. Retrieved 21 January 2015.

23. "German Oktoberfest cancelled due to coronavirus" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20201031053708/https://fr.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-oktoberfest-idAFL8N2C91WB>). *Reuters*. 21 April 2020. Archived from the original (<https://fr.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-oktoberfest-idAFL8N2C91WB>) on 31 October 2020. Retrieved 28 October 2020.
24. "Covid: Germany's Oktoberfest cancelled for the second time" (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56970403>). *BBC News*. 3 May 2021. Retrieved 3 May 2021.
25. "Einzug der Wirte" (<http://wiesnkini.de/magazin/einzug-der-wiesnwirte/>). *Wiesnkini.de* (in German). Retrieved 12 October 2015.
26. Beate Wild, Maria Berr (17 May 2010). "Drei Schläge zum Glück" (<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/startschuss-fuer-die-wiesn-drei-schlaege-zum-glueck-1.324651>) (in German). *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Retrieved 12 October 2015.
27. News.de-Redaktion. "Oktoberfest 2019 News-Ticker aktuell: Millionen Besucher strömen auf das traditionelle Gelage" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20190922164744/http://www.news.de/panorama/855787462/oktoberfest-2019-heute-im-news-ticker-in-muenchen-wiesn-wetter-aktuell-trachtler-und-schuetzen-unterwegs-farbenfroher-trachtenzug-zur-wiesn/1/>). *News.de*. Archived from the original (<http://www.news.de/panorama/855787462/oktoberfest-2019-heute-im-news-ticker-in-muenchen-wiesn-wetter-aktuell-trachtler-und-schuetzen-unterwegs-farbenfroher-trachtenzug-zur-wiesn/1/>) on 22 September 2019. Retrieved 22 September 2019.
28. Schmidt, Maximilian (1902). *Meine Wanderung durch 70 Jahre. Zweiter Teil* (in German). Reutlingen: Enßlin & Laiblin. pp. 247–260.
29. Ständecke, Monika (2007). *Dirndl, Truhen, Edelweiss: die Volkskunst der Brüder Wallach / Dirndls, Trunks, and Edelweiss: The Folk Art of the Wallach Brothers* (in German). Munich: Jüdisches Museum. ISBN 978-3-938832-20-2.
30. Hagen-Pekdemir, Heidi (30 September 2015). "Bielefelder machten das Dirndl erst schick" (http://www.nw.de/lokal/bielefeld/mitte/20583619_Bielefelder-machten-das-Dirndl-erst-schick.html). *Neue Westfälische* (in German). Retrieved 18 April 2020.
31. "Veranstaltungen" (<https://www.festring.de/>). *Festring München e.V.* (in German). Retrieved 7 July 2025.
32. "Trachten- und Schützenzug 2022 zieht durch München" (<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/oktoberfest/trachten-und-schuetzenzug-2022-muenchen-1.5667891>). *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (in German). 26 September 2022. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
33. "The Costume and Riflemen's Parade" (<https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/magazine/moving-images/costume-parade>). *Oktoberfest.de*. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
34. "Geschichte / Über uns" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20201020031758/https://www.festring.de/organisation/geschichte-ueber-uns/>). *Festring München e.V.* (in German). Archived from the original (<https://www.festring.de/organisation/geschichte-ueber-uns/>) on 20 October 2020. Retrieved 13 October 2020.
35. Guest (26 September 2011). "Mind Your Mug" (<https://www.bonappetit.com/drinks/beer/article/mind-your-mug>). *Bon Appétit*. Retrieved 16 August 2025.
36. ...
37. ...
38. "What makes Oktoberfest beer special" (<https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/magazine/oktoberfest-beer/what-makes-oktoberfest-beer-special>). *Oktoberfest.de*. Retrieved 24 September 2025.
39. "Oktoberfest beer varieties" (<https://www.oktoberfest.net/oktoberfest-beer/>). *Oktoberfest.net*. Retrieved 24 September 2025.
40. "The six Munich breweries" (<https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/magazine/oktoberfest-beer/the-6-munich-breweries>). *Oktoberfest.de*. Retrieved 24 September 2025.
41. "Oktoberfest construction – Bavaria's biggest building project" (<https://buildingradar.com/construction-blog/oktoberfest-construction/>). *Building Radar*. 16 September 2015. Retrieved 24 September 2025.

42. "The big tents" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20190504052416/https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/ressort/The+big+tents/>). *Oktoberfest.de*. Archived from the original (<https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/ressort/The+big+tents/>) on 4 May 2019. Retrieved 24 September 2025.
43. "The Marstall" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20170722134034/http://marstall-oktoberfest.com/>). *Marstall Oktoberfest*. Retrieved 24 September 2025. {{cite web}}: Check |archive-url= value (help)
44. "Hofbräu-Festzelt Oktoberfest Tent: Menu, Beer, and Must-Know Tips" (<https://oktoberfest2024.us/hofbrau-festzelt-tent/>). *Oktoberfest 2024*. 14 August 2024. Retrieved 24 September 2025.
45. "Festhalle Schottenhamel Oktoberfest Tent" (<https://oktoberfesttent.com/festhalle-schottenhamel/>). *Oktoberfesttent.com*. Retrieved 24 September 2025.
46. "Anzapfen, the opening ritual of Oktoberfest" (<http://wiesnkini.de/magazin/anzapfen/>). *Wiesnkini* (in German). Retrieved 24 September 2025.
47. "Das macht die Oide Wiesn so besonders" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20221104000000/https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/beer-tents/the-oide-wiesn>). *Oktoberfest.de*. Landeshauptstadt München. 2022. Archived from the original (<https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/beer-tents/the-oide-wiesn>) on 4 November 2022. Retrieved 4 November 2022.
48. Schulte-Peevers, Andrea (6 September 2010). "Oktoberfest turns 200" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20201028000000/https://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20100906-oktoberfest-turns-200>). *BBC Travel*. BBC. Archived from the original (<https://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20100906-oktoberfest-turns-200>) on 28 October 2020. Retrieved 28 October 2020.
49. Lode, Silke (16 October 2012). "Oide Wiesn, junge Kultur" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150121000000/https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/oktoberfest-oide-wiesn-junge-kultur-1.1497920>). *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (in German). Archived from the original (<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/oktoberfest-oide-wiesn-junge-kultur-1.1497920>) on 21 January 2015. Retrieved 21 January 2015.
50. "Rosa Wiesn – Termine" (https://web.archive.org/web/20250707000000/https://www.rosawiesn.de/termine_mlc-treffen_rosa-wiesn_oktoberfest.htm). *RosaWiesn.de* (in German). Münchner Löwen Club e.V. Archived from the original (https://www.rosawiesn.de/termine_mlc-treffen_rosa-wiesn_oktoberfest.htm) on 7 July 2025. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
51. Free, Sara (4 October 2018). "What Is Oktoberfest's Gay Sunday?" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250707000000/https://www.hopculture.com/oktoberfest-gay-sunday>). *Hop Culture*. Archived from the original (<https://www.hopculture.com/oktoberfest-gay-sunday>) on 7 July 2025. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
52. "Oktoberfest Meeting" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250707000000/https://www.mlc-munich.de/web/en/partys-events/oktoberfesttreffen/>). *Münchner Löwen Club e.V.* Archived from the original (<https://www.mlc-munich.de/web/en/partys-events/oktoberfesttreffen/>) on 7 July 2025. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
53. Free, Sara (4 October 2018). "What Is Oktoberfest's Gay Sunday?" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250707000000/https://www.hopculture.com/oktoberfest-gay-sunday>). *Hop Culture*. Archived from the original (<https://www.hopculture.com/oktoberfest-gay-sunday>) on 7 July 2025. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
54. Connolly, Kate (22 September 2009). "Gay Times at Munich's Oktoberfest" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250707000000/https://www.theguardian.com/travel/blog/2009/sep/22/oktoberfest-gay-munich>). *The Guardian*. Archived from the original (<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/blog/2009/sep/22/oktoberfest-gay-munich>) on 7 July 2025. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
55. Porter, Erin (17 September 2020). "Everything You Need to Know About Oktoberfest" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250707000000/https://www.tripsavvy.com/everything-to-know-about-oktoberfest-1520075>). *TripSavvy*. Archived from the original (<https://www.tripsavvy.com/everything-to-know-about-oktoberfest-1520075>) on 7 July 2025. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
56. "Herzlich Willkommen beim Münchner Roten Kreuz" (<http://oktoberfest.bereitschaften.brk-muenchen.de/>). Bayerisches Rotes Kreuz. Retrieved 28 November 2010.

57. "Project "Safe Oktoberfest" " (<https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/information/service-for-visitors/safe-wiesn>). *Project "Safe Oktoberfest" • Oktoberfest.de – The Official Website for the Oktoberfest in Munich*. Retrieved 25 June 2022.
58. Daniel Aschoff (15 July 2008). "Der Eurostar ist jetzt ein Russe" (<http://www.abendzeitung-muenchen.de/inhalt.muenchen-der-eurostar-ist-jetzt-ein-russe.bb8e6e02-d6d1-4291-917d-57a5e5d5ff9b.html>) (in German). *Abendzeitung*. Retrieved 31 January 2015.
59. "Flugverbot über dem Oktoberfest" (<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/angst-um-sicherheit-flugverbot-ueber-dem-oktoberfest-1.46696>). *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (in German). 17 May 2010. Retrieved 31 January 2015.
60. Dorner, Stefan (16 March 2010). "170 Poller sollen die Wiesn schützen" (<https://www.tz.de/muenchen/stadt/wiesn-sicherheitskonzept-poller-meta-676137.html>). *tz München* (in German). Retrieved 31 January 2015.
61. Lode, Simone; Wimmer, Sabine (14 March 2011). "Es gibt nie eine hundertprozentige Sicherheit" (<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/freising/oktoberfest-es-gibt-nie-eine-hundertprozentige-sicherheit-1.979960>). *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (in German). Retrieved 31 January 2015.
62. Menrad, Jasmin S. (12 September 2016). "Mobiler Rollzaun: Der Wiesn-Käfig steht!" (<https://www.abendzeitung-muenchen.de/inhalt.mobiler-rollzaun-um-die-theresienwiese-hochsicherheits-wiesn-2016-der-zaun-steht.973a981b-d37e-48ed-adf8-8015cc8affb0.html>). *Abendzeitung München* (in German). Retrieved 14 September 2016.
63. Chen, Jia; et al. (27 March 2020). "Methane emissions from the Munich Oktoberfest" (<https://acp.copernicus.org/articles/20/3683/2020/>). *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*. **20** (6): 3683–3696. Bibcode:2020ACP...20.3683C (<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2020ACP...20.3683C>). doi:10.5194/acp-20-3683-2020 (<https://doi.org/10.5194%2Facp-20-3683-2020>). Retrieved 31 January 2025.
64. "Dauerregen: Umsatz-Killer und Stromausfall" (<https://www.augsburger-allgemeine.de/bayern/Dauerregen-Umsatz-Killer-und-Stromausfall-id2992681.html>). *Augsburger Allgemeine* (in German). 26 September 2007. Retrieved 3 July 2015.
65. Redaktion (9 June 2022). "Darum gibt es auf der Wiesn keine Mülleimer" (<https://www.stern.de/pa-norama/wissen/oktoberfest-in-muenchen--darum-gibt-es-dort-keine-muelleimer-8938944.html>). *Stern.de* (in German). Retrieved 7 July 2025.
- 66.
- 67.
- 68.
69. "Oktoberfest-Zinzinnati" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160304074712/https://myfountainsquare.com/event/oktoberfest-zinzinnati-2/>). *Fountain Square*. Archived from the original (<http://myfountain-square.com/event/oktoberfest-zinzinnati-2/>) on 4 March 2016. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
70. "150 000 durstige "Wiener Wiesn"-Besucher" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20201123195938/http://wien.orf.at/v2/news/stories/2503971/>). *ORF Wien* (in German). Archived from the original (<http://wien.orf.at/news/stories/2503971/>) on 23 November 2020. Retrieved 7 July 2025.
71. Oktoberfest on IMDB (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10244612/>)
72. Inverse (<https://www.inverse.com/entertainment/oktoberfest-beer-blood-builds-on-the-ambitious-legacy-of-dark>)
73. "Netflix made a drama about Oktoberfest and it's a deliciously dark devil's brew" (<https://www.cnet.com/news/netflix-oktoberfest-drama-tastes-like-peaky-blinders-beer-and-blood/>). *CNET*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20211126042051/https://www.cnet.com/news/netflix-oktoberfest-drama-tastes-like-peaky-blinders-beer-and-blood/>) from the original on 26 November 2021.
74. Oktoberfest Season 2 release (<https://www.inverse.com/entertainment/oktoberfest-beer-blood-season-2-release-date-trailer-renewal>)

External links

- [Official website \(https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/\)](https://www.oktoberfest.de/en/)
 - [Virtual exhibition: Oktoberfest – History, Background, Highlights \(https://www.bavarikon.de/object/bav:BSB-CMS-000000000008926?lang=en\)](https://www.bavarikon.de/object/bav:BSB-CMS-000000000008926?lang=en), in the culture portal bavarikon
-

Retrieved from "<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Oktoberfest&oldid=1313104855>"