Let's go to the 2019 Oktoberfest!

From September 21 to October 6, existing and would-be Oktoberfest fans have 16 days to enjoy the world's largest folk festival. Like every year, this year's event will officially open when Dieter Reiter, Mayor of Munich, exclaims “O’zapft is!” (“The barrel is tapped!”) after traditionally broaching the first keg of beer at noon on Saturday, September 21 in the Schottenhamel tent.

Oktoberfest history
The Oktoberfest dates back to 1810, when Crown Prince Ludwig – later King Ludwig I of Bavaria – married Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen, after whom the festival grounds are named. Today, locals affectionately refer to the Theresienwiese grounds simply as “the Wiesn”. Since 1810, this annual event has been canceled just 24 times – during wars and post-war periods, and due to cholera epidemics in 1854 and 1873. This year, fun and enjoyment will break out under the watchful gaze of the Bavaria statue for the 186th time when the rallying cry resounds: “Let's go to the Oktoberfest!”

The Oktoberfest grounds
The festival grounds will this year occupy over 34.5 hectares of land, with licenses granted to 551 companies. Of these, 146 are caterers and 167
are fairground amusements. The remaining 231 include vendors and a number of service providers (such as the Oktoberfest post office). A total of about 13,000 people will be employed at the Oktoberfest.

**Oktoberfest organization**
The Oktoberfest is a City of Munich festival organized by local government’s Department of Labor and Economic Development. Responsibility for organizing and managing the event lies with Clemens Baumgärtner, who heads this department.

**What's on offer at the Oktoberfest?**

**Festival beer and culinary delicacies**
The 17 beer tents seat 120,000 people in total and serve beers produced specially for the Oktoberfest by Munich's six major breweries (Augustiner, Hacker-Pschorr, Löwenbräu, Paulaner, Spaten and Staatliches Hofbräuhaus). The Oktoberfest beers have an original gravity of around 13 percent and are perfect for serving with traditional Bavarian delicacies such as roast chicken, radishes, “obatzda” (a specially garnished cream cheese), pork sausages and grilled, skewered fish. Another Oktoberfest specialty is ox meat roasted on a spit at the Ochsenbraterei. A total of 129 small and medium-sized catering businesses are there to ensure that every guest can eat, drink and be merry!

**Beer prices in 2019:** EUR 10.80 – EUR 11.80

(2018: EUR 10.70 – EUR 11.50)

Alcohol-free beer is available at the same prices.
What's new at the Oktoberfest in 2019?

Twists and turns galore line the 430-meter course of Ewald and Christina Schneider's brand-new spinning coaster. The start alone is extraordinary: A booster lift catapults the cars up to a height of 13 meters at the top of the initial ascent. Yet despite dizzying top speeds of around 58 km/h, the ride in the spinning cars – each of which seats four people side by side – is suitable for families and is a whole lot of fun. The “Bayern Tower” reaches 90 meters into the skies over Bavaria like an outsize steel maypole. From the green garland atop the brand-new chairoplane, 16 two-seater chairs hang down like brightly-colored pennants, carrying passengers who enjoy views far and wide across the Free State – and are not afraid of heights! “Kinzler’s Pirare Island” provides fun and laughter for smaller Oktoberfest visitors aged six and over who can do family rides on their own – like in a “real” roller coaster for the grown-ups. Even the very youngest visitors to the festival grounds can experience this truly special ride if accompanied by their parents. “Poseidon – the Kingdom of the Gods” is the biggest mobile wild-water ride, its ancient Greek allure concealing state-of-the-art technology. Meanwhile, “Dr. Archibald – Master of Time” brings a a next-generation dark ride to the Oktoberfest. This is the first mobile adventure ride to be enhanced by virtual reality. Armed with high-res Oculus Rift VR glasses, they are plunged into a virtual, 360-degree world in which – thanks to a host of immersive elements – they become the hero of the adventure. One of a kind in the leisure industry is the “Spinning Racer”, which makes its Oktoberfest debut this year. The roller coaster with the spinning cars seats passengers back to back and delivers a fun, innovative ride to the whole family. Bavarian-style fun and games are on offer in the colorful new “Munich Ski Party” amusement. Party guests who enter the
400-m² space have a whale of a time negotiating a swiveling glass labyrinth, vibrating and lifting floors, an obstacle course of rubber ropes, the fountain tunnel and the wonky, wobbly bridge. The professional “Be Marilyn” photo studio combines the photographic “Monroe effect” with all the fun of the fair, inviting wearers of the traditional Bavarian “dirndl” dress (and anyone else who wants to!) to pose as “Marilyn Monroe at the folk festival”: The updraft from powerful wind machines soon sets every skirt dancing! Outside the museum tent on the Oide Wiesn (Vintage Oktoberfest), a historical nine-pin bowling alley invites one and all to attempt a strike. Inside the tent, a special exhibition of the “German Sideshow Museum” presents a large-scale diorama of a funfair, lovingly crafted by showman Franz Lambrecht (1923-1984) in accordance with original blueprints to a scale of 1:10. A candy factory dating back to 1938 also makes and sells its mouthwatering wares. On Mondays and Wednesdays, visitors to the Armbrustschützen tent can once again play the traditional card game known as “Schafkopf” (“sheep’s head”). A tournament has even been arranged on October 3 in cooperation with the local “Schafkopf school” association. Over in the “Tradition” tent, the long-gone tradition of a special day for bricklayers has been revived under the name “Craftsmen’s Monday” on the second Monday of the festival.

→ Press release W 04: “New at the Oktoberfest in 2019”

Round and round we go again
167 rides, sideshows and amusements promise thrills and spills at the Oktoberfest. A unique mix of high-tech and nostalgia is typical of this world-famous event. Spectacular heavyweight rides such as the VR adventure ride “Dr. Archibald” and “Sky Fall” rub shoulders with traditional
amusements you won't find anywhere else these days, such as the “Teufelsrad” (“Devil's Wheel”), the “Krinoline” (an old-fashioned merry-go-round) and the Schichtl Variety Show, a genuine Oktoberfest institution. Some 90 percent of the rides and attractions – including the swingboats, slides and mazes – have their roots in the 19th century.

→ See press release W 17: “Fairground traditions at the Oktoberfest”

“Oide Wiesn” (“Vintage Oktoberfest”)
The “Oide Wiesn” on the southern part of the Theresienwiese has carved out a regular niche for old-fashioned festival traditions, Bavarian customs, local hospitality and a winning blend of traditional and modern folk music. The “Tradition” tent is the place for laid-back enjoyment over traditional Munich specialties and the sound of Bavarian brass bands. Here, the “Bricklayers' Monday” of yesteryear has been reborn as “Craftsmen's Monday”. On the second Monday of the festival, any visitors who turn up in their work clothes between ten o'clock and noon will be served two veal sausages and a small pretzel free of charge. The “Herzkasperlzelt” builds a platform for Bavaria's youthful folk and dancing culture in all its kaleidoscopic variety: vibrant, intercultural, impudent and untamed. “Zur Schönheitskönigin” (“The Beauty Queen”) is the folk music tent that keeps alive the age-old Munich beer hall tradition of communal folk singing. And a museum tent is devoted to the history of fairground shows and amusements. Younger visitors can't tear themselves away from the puppet theater! Fairground attractions and rides from bygone eras can be tried out for a special price of one euro a go. The Oide Wiesn is open every day from 10:00 am to 10:30 pm. Entry tickets cost EUR 3 (with free entry for children up to 14).
See press release W 05: “The historical Oide Wiesn 2019”

The ecological Oktoberfest
In 1997, the Oktoberfest won what is known as the “Eco-Oscar”: the German Project Prize for “Environmental Guidelines for Major Events”. And to this day, the world's biggest folk festival continues to set new standards in the implementation of environmentally compatible and ecologically relevant practices: waste reduction, water recycling, the use of green electricity generated locally, and delicacies made with certified organic ingredients and in compliance with species-appropriate animal rearing.


Visiting the Oktoberfest on a shoestring budget
Two designated family days create great opportunities for less expensive visits to the Oktoberfest. On Tuesday, September 24 and Tuesday, October 1, discounts are granted until 7:00 pm on fairground attractions, admission prices and purchased products.

Helpful hints: Getting the most out of your Oktoberfest visit
• We strongly recommend that you use public transport to travel to and from the Oktoberfest.
• If you are not so keen on huge crowds, it is best to avoid coming on Friday evenings and Saturdays. Instead, why not pick a quieter day during the week? The “Oktoberfest Barometer” on the Internet (at www.oktoberfest.de) shows exactly when things are a bit quieter on the festival grounds.
• Backpacks and large bags are strictly prohibited on the grounds of the Oktoberfest. Ideally, please leave at home anything you don't really
need on the festival grounds. It is quicker and easier to get in if you have no bags or backpacks with you.

- Any bags or backpacks you do bring along must not measure more than 20 x 15 x 10 cm and must not exceed a volume of three liters.
- Even in the smallest bags, the following items are prohibited: gas spray canisters with harmful, caustic or coloring substances, and any items that could be used as weapons to strike, stab or cut people. This list explicitly includes knives/hunting knives worn as part of a traditional costume. Nor are glass bottles allowed onto the Oktoberfest grounds.
- “Oktoberfest hits for kids”: Details of special offers and services for children and families are published on the Internet at www.oktoberfest.de and on the official Oktoberfest app www.oktoberfest.de/app.
  → See press release W 09: “Oktoberfest hits for kids”
- Parents or legal guardians should note that children under the age of six are not allowed in the beer tents after 8:00 pm, even if they are accompanied by adults. Children and youngsters under the age of 16 are allowed on the festival grounds after 8:00 pm only if they are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Children's buggies and strollers are allowed on the festival grounds from Sundays to Fridays and only until 6:00 pm. They are not permitted on the grounds on Saturdays or on the public holiday “German Unity Day” (October 3). Collapsible strollers are the best way to ferry small children around the Oktoberfest. Bulky prams and buggies are not strictly prohibited, but will be checked very carefully by the security staff.
• The security staff hand out special “child-finder” bracelets to young Oktoberfest visitors at the entrances to the festival grounds.
• Sturdy shoes are recommended. Flip-flops and ballerinas with thin soles are not suitable on the Oktoberfest grounds.
• All good things come to an end: Access to the festival grounds is prohibited between 1:30 and 9:00 am.

**Opening hours for the 2019 Oktoberfest**

**Start:** Saturday, September 21, from noon (keg broaching)

**End:** Sunday, October 6 at 11:30 pm

The catering facilities open at 9:00 am on September 21 and may sell soft drinks (but not alcohol-free beer) and small snacks from 10:00 am.

**Beer serving times**  
Saturday, September 21, from noon

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon-Fri</td>
<td>10 am – 10:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, Sun, holiday</td>
<td>9 am – 10:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer tents</td>
<td>Music ends daily at 10:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midsized caterers</td>
<td>Music and service end daily at 11 pm</td>
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</table>

All large and midsized caterers close daily at 11:30 pm.

“Käfer’s Wies’n Schänke” and “Kufflers Weinzelt” stay open until 1:00 am; music and service end daily at 0:30 am.

**Outdoor stalls**  
Sat, Sept. 21 10 am – midnight

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon – Thur</td>
<td>10 am – 11:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri &amp; Wed., Oct. 2</td>
<td>10 am – midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9 am – midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun/public holiday</td>
<td>9 am – 11:30 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Service ends 30 minutes before the stalls close.
Rides and amusements
Sat, Sept. 21
Noon – midnight
Mon – Thu
10 am-noon – 11:30 pm
Fri & Wed., Oct 2
10 am-noon – midnight
Sat
10 am – midnight
Sun/public holiday
10 am – 11:30 pm

The Oide Wiesn is open every day from 10 am - 10:30 pm. Music and
service end daily at 9:30 pm, and the Oide Wiesn closes at 11 pm.

Up-to-date Oktoberfest information on the Internet
All the latest information about the Oktoberfest is posted on the Internet at
www.oktoberfest.de. You can also check the Oktoberfest Barometer on this
site. Press releases and news can be accessed and downloaded from the
press site at www.oktoberfest.de/press. Copies are also available from the
Oktoberfest Press Office.

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Oktoberfest:
www.oktoberfest.de

Facebook: www.facebook.com/oktoberfest
Instagram: www.instagram.com/oktoberfest
Offizielle Oktoberfest App: www.oktoberfest.de/app

Oktoberfest – the Festival of the City of Munich