

Was trinken die Deutschen? das BIER, die Biere

10 FASCINATING FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT GERMAN BEER

BEER



GERMAN BEER: A LIVING TRADITION



Few traditions color the world's perception of Germany more than the brewing and drinking of beer. And with 1,300 active breweries, beer is still an important part of German culture. German beer is, however, far more than the blond pilsners for which it's known the world over.

Some 1,200 German breweries employ about 65,000 workers, and German beer accounts for more than 10% of the worldwide market. Production exceeds 115 million hectoliters per year.

On average, each German drinks 138 liters of beer each year. Only the Czechs and Irish surpass them. Bavarians consume 50% more beer than the German national average, making them the nation's kings of beer consumption.

The beer facts

Beer season: Where else can you find Starkbierzeit — a strong beer season? This begins in March on the third Friday of Lent and lasts two weeks. Breweries make strong beer specifically for the season—just as the name implies.

Beer

Beer is one of the oldest beverages known and is often the most frequently served beverage in bars. Beer refers to all fermented alcoholic beverages made from malted grain flavored with hops. Most establishments will serve bottled, canned and draft beer. There are many types of beers. You must familiarize yourself with the beers served in your own establishment. It is important to memorize the beers available and some of their individual qualities.

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The Hofbrauhaus: Established in 1589, the world's most famous beer hall seats 4,000 and is the city's largest permanent tourist attraction. The singing, food and beer give it that Oktoberfest feeling.

Beer gardens: Munich has more than 400 of them, including the largest in the world with a seating capacity of 8,000 people. Standard features include a charming park-like setting with scores of long picnic-style tables set under chestnut trees, traditional food, beer, and lots of good company. Falling chestnuts in the fall make sitting outside exciting.