

“Bei uns ist immer was los!” Feste in Rheinland

„CANNSTATTER VOLKSFEST“ / „STUTTGART FOLK FESTIVAL“

Do South Germans really wear nothing under their Lederhosen?

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Posted by The Local Germany

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Do south Germans really wear nothing under their lederhosen? German media have been talking recently about men going commando at Oktoberfest. We went to Germany's second biggest beer fest to investigate. 😊

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63

128

At the Wasen, at least, we couldn't find much evidence that the tradition exists. One lederhosen-clad man told The Local that, while people in Bavaria may choose to bare all under their breeches, this wasn't common in the capital of Baden-Württemberg.

At a lederhosen shop on the festival grounds a salesman was quite adamant that he had never even heard of the tradition. But we did find one man who admitted he has going commando because "it's faster afterwards."

The leather shorts have gained popularity in recent years due in part to large folk festivals in southern Germany such as Munich's Oktoberfest and the Wasen, events where lots of people can be spotted wearing them.

But lederhosen may not be as popular as they are today if it wasn't for a Bavarian teacher named Josef Vogl. When fashion preferences turned to long pants in the 19th century, Vogl came up with a plan with his mates to start a club dedicated to preserving the famed leather breeches.

Lederhosen then went from clothing farmers usually wore to what the bourgeoisie and even the royals in Germany started to wear.

Nowadays, they are considered a folk costume worn not only by men, but also by women and even dogs.