

OKTOBERFEST FROM A TO Z
Sitten und Gebräuche / Customs and Traditions

DIE BAVARIA DENKMAL / BAVARIA STATUE

Welcome to Oktoberfest!

But be warned this isn't just a bunch of party tents with lots of decent beer. No, by deciding to travel to this famous *Volksfest*, you've agreed to have the entire concept called Germany crunched into your skull by a sadomasochistic Bavarian mistress. She's a pagan goddess with a lion at her heel, and in your hazy drunkenness she'll indoctrinate you with all the wrong stereotypes about this country.

She'll strap you down, peel back your eyelids and show you a heady mix of beer, breasts, leather, meat, and Bavarian bourgeois superiority. If you're lucky, maybe she'll even slap a dark green felt hat on you and take you on a whirlwind tour of the region's prized "laptops and *Lederhosen*" economy as you belt down another *Maß*. And then she will release you to stagger home, hung-over, sweaty, full of misinformation, but most likely happy and content.

Around the Theresienwiese

Bavaria. Above the Theresienwiese, the scene of the Oktoberfest, the Bavaria with the Ruhmeshalle (Hall of Fame) towers up as an impressive symbol of the Bavarian fatherland. The bronze statue is the first monumental sculpture of the modern age; Schwanthaler had worked on the plaster mould for it since 1841, it was cast in portions in the Miller foundry and then put together on the site. It was unveiled on 9.10.1850 in the presence of Ludwig I, who made a present of it together with the Ruhmeshalle to the Bavarian state. In the head of the Bavaria (18.75 m, with pedestal 30 m) there are little windows - steps inside lead up to them - from which a good panoramic view of the town can be had.



München, Bavaria mit Ruhmeshalle
Munich, Bavaria Statue with Hall of Fame



As dusk falls, the statue of Bavaria looks across the Theresienwiese, filled with rides, food, beer, and people enjoying the Germany's famed festival.