

## OKTOBERFEST FROM A TO Z

### Sitten und Gebräuche / Customs and Traditions

just grew from there.

The next year, in 1811, an agricultural show was added, designed to underscore the agrarian nature of Bavaria. This show continues as part of the Fest every four years on a portion of the grounds.

In the 1800s, Munich was much smaller, and the participants had to journey out to the Wiesn, which now lies within the city. The carnival aspect of the Fest began in 1818, and then only a single carousel and a few other rides were offered. As time went on, beer stands were introduced to help the increasing number of visitors quench their thirst.

In 1880, the first electric lights were installed over the four hundred booths and tents, and by the next year vendors began selling bratwurst to their patrons. In 1835, the impressive Costume and Marksmen's Parade began, which at four and one-half miles in length, features as many as nine thousand five hundred participants in traditional costumes as they walk down Maximilian Street to the festival grounds. Colorful costumed groups include "troops" in old uniforms, marching bands, riflemen, thoroughbred horses, oxen, cows, goats, floats, carriages, and performers. It is led by the Münchner Kindl, the symbol on the city's coat-of-arms.

Another parade was added in 1887 called the Grand Entry of the Landlords, Showmen, and Brewers. It showcases the landlords' families in decorated carriages, the city's brewers and their horse teams and ornately-decorated carriages, waitresses on decorated floats, and all the beer tent bands. Munich's Lord Mayor rides in a festival carriage at this parade. In 1892, the first beer was served in glass mugs. In 1896, the first beer tents appeared, replacing the beer stalls.

From an historical standpoint for this Oktoberfest, at the south end of the Theresienwiese is a "nostalgia" tent, open every day between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., featuring famous attractions from the past, showmen organs, steam-powered vehicles, a bicycle velodrome, a beer tent from times past, and a Bavarian cabaret and performance tent offering folk music and folk dancing.

Historical, colorful, and wildly popular, Oktoberfest is the number one German attraction in the fall, and the buzz in Munich, especially in 2010, is expected to be louder than ever.

#### OKTOBERFEST – A QUICK OVERVIEW

##### SEPTEMBER 18:

10:45 a.m.: **Grand Entry of Oktoberfest Landlords, Showmen, and Brewers Parade**

Noon: "O'zapft is!" (It's tapped!) shouts Munich Mayor Ude.)

**Beer tents open:** Weekdays, Noon to 10:30 p.m.; Weekends and holidays, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Oktoberfest closes daily at 11:30 p.m.; Kafers Wiesn Schanke and Weinzelt tents open until 1:00 a.m.

**Horse races:** reinstated for the anniversary year, every day.

##### SEPTEMBER 19:

10:00 a.m.: **Munich Costume and Marksmen's Parade**

##### SEPTEMBER 26:

11:00 a.m.: A big band open-air concert with four hundred musicians play at the Bavaria Statue.

##### SEPTEMBER 22 AND 29:

**Family Days** with reduced prices.

##### OCTOBER 4:

**Last day of Fest:** open until 11:30 p.m. "Aus is!"

For more information, go to:  
[www.oktoberfest.eu](http://www.oktoberfest.eu)



The two hundredth anniversary poster for Oktoberfest.