

## OKTOBERFEST FROM A TO Z

### Sitten und Gebräuche / Customs and Traditions

#### Trachten- und Schützenzug / Costume and Riflemen Parade (held first Sunday of Oktoberfest)

##### Costume and riflemen parade

In honor of the silver wedding anniversary of King Ludwig I of Bavaria and Princess Therese, a traditional costume parade took place in 1835 for the first time. In 1895, the Bavarian novelist Maximilian Schmidt organized another parade with 1,400 participants in 150 traditional costume groups.<sup>[21]</sup> Since 1950, this parade is organized annually and has become one of the highlights of the Oktoberfest and one of the worlds largest parades of its kind. On the first festival Sunday, 8000 participants march in the parade in their historic festival costumes from the Maximilianeum on a seven kilometer stretch to the festival grounds This parade is also led by the Münchner Kindl; followed by notables of the city council and the city administration and the state of Bavaria, usually the minister-president and his wife, traditional costume and rifle clubs, musical bands, marching bands, flag-wavers and about 40 carriages with decorated horses and carts. The clubs and groups come mostly out of Bavaria, but also from other German states, Austria, Switzerland, Northern Italy and other European countries.

##### The Trachtenumzug

Having warmed up with this solemn little pageant, the real deal starts on Sunday, at 10 am. That's when a crowd of up to 8,000 costumed representatives of various clubs from all over Munich, Bavaria, Germany, and even parts of Europe gather on the banks of the Isar to the east of the city and march merrily towards the Oktoberfest grounds to the west in the *Trachtenumzug*. There are stag-hunting clubs, sports clubs, craftsman's clubs, huge ornate floats, the inevitable marching bands, and clusters of Swiss, Austrian, Croatian, Italian and Polish people dressed in extremely expensive outfits to look like what their native peasants used to. It's all televised by public broadcaster ARD – so be sure to set your video recorder!

- **Sept. at 10am: "Trachten und Schützenzug":** The Riflemen's costumed parade. Various historical costume clubs from around Munich participate in traditional dress. Fanfare groups, flag-throwers, 100 horses and oxen, horse-drawn carriages and brewery floats are also featured  
*Start at the Maximilianstraße then proceeds to Max-Joseph Platz, Odeonsplatz, Pacellistraße, Sonnestraße, and Kaiser-Ludwigstraße.*

Begins at 10 am and lasts about 2 hours. World-famous procession on the first Sunday of the Oktoberfest. The Costume und Riflemen's Procession gives an impressive insight into the fascinating diversity of customs rooted in the heart of Bavaria, in Franconia, Swabia, the states of Germany and in neighboring European countries. A varied succession of regional costume groups, "troops" in historical uniforms, marching bands, riflemen, thoroughbred horses, oxen, cows, goats, the decorated drays of the Munich breweries, floats displaying typical local traditions and historic carriages all pass by in a 7-kilometer-long procession through the streets of the city center. Ribbioned trees, harvest garlands, craftsmen's tools from bygone days, harvest produce, dancers decorated with flowers, stars and crowns, trumpeters on horseback, flag-throwers and a host of other performers transform this traditional Munich procession into a brilliant highlight on the first Sunday of the Oktoberfest. About 7,000 performers are involved.