

Oktoberfest 2026 Field Guide



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Wiesen at a glance

Sixteen days, fourteen giant tents, six Munich breweries, six million visitors. Everything that keeps a first day from going sideways.



DATES & HOURS

Sept 19 – Oct 4, 2026. Tapping ceremony at noon on opening day (Saturday).

Tents pour from **10 am** on weekdays and **9 am** on weekends and holidays. Last beer **10:30 pm**, tents close 11:30 pm. Käfer and the Weinzelt run until 1 am.

Rides and stalls usually open at 10 am and wind down around midnight.



GETTING THERE

U4 / U5 Theresienwiese drops you at the main entrance and is packed at peak times.

U3 / U6 Goetheplatz or Poccistraße are a five-minute walk and far calmer. **S-Bahn Hackerbrücke** is ten minutes on foot; the main station about fifteen.

Do not drive. Taxi ranks are marked on the map.



ENTRY, BAGS & MONEY

Entry is free. The beer is not: budget about €16 per Maß in 2026 and round up when you pay.

Bags over 3 liters are turned away at the gates. Cash still rules in most tents; a few take cards.

Family days: both Tuesdays (Sept 22 & 29) until 7 pm, with cheaper rides and stalls.

The lay of the land



WIRTSBUDENSTRASSE

The tent avenue: all fourteen giant halls line this street and the parallel Schaustellerstraße. Peak brass and peak crowds.



SCHAUSTELLERSTRASSE

The rides: Olympia Looping, the Riesenrad, the flume, the Teufelsrad and the carousels, plus the food stalls.



OIDE WIESN

The historic fest behind its own gate at the southern end (top-left on the map): stone steins, brass bands, vintage rides.



BAVARIA & THE WEST

The bronze Bavaria above the Schützen tent; the steps are the free grandstand. Main entrance and U-Bahn are on the opposite side.

Six rookie mistakes (and the easy fix)

- 1 ARRIVING AT 2 PM ON A SATURDAY**
By then every unreserved bench is taken and the doors may be closed. Weekdays before 11:30 or weekends before 9 am get you a seat without a reservation.
- 2 TENT-HOPPING**
Fourteen tents in a day is a sprint, not a festival. One good table, one great afternoon. Explore the midway later on foot.
- 3 SKIPPING THE FOOD**
Festbier is strong (around 6%). Order a Brezn and a Hendl with your first Maß and you will still be standing at 10 pm.
- 4 CLINKING THE RIMS**
Steins are thick for a reason: clink the base, look your neighbor in the eye, then drink. Standing on the bench for the toast is encouraged. Standing on the table gets you thrown out.
- 5 BRINGING A BIG BAG**
Anything over 3 liters (about 20 × 15 × 10 cm) stays outside. Bring a small bag, or nothing at all.
- 6 LEAVING BEFORE THE LIGHTS COME ON**
The rides and stalls glow after dusk. Leave your tent 45 minutes before closing and walk the lit fairground with a bag of roasted almonds.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

The **Service Center** behind the Schottenhamel tent has first aid, police (Wiesnwache), lost & found and a **Safe Space** for anyone who feels unsafe or unwell. First-aid posts and WCs are marked on the map. Emergency number: 112.

THE SHARED-TABLE RULE

Table manners

Munich's Oktoberfest is a folk festival first and a beer hall second. The moments people talk about for decades happen on a wooden bench next to strangers.



"Don't visit the Wiesn like a spectator."

Racing through fourteen tents produces photos. Sliding onto a bench, toasting, and trading rounds produces friends. Ask for a spot, share the table, and let the afternoon happen.

Five tenets of the table

1. ARRIVE EARLY, SETTLE IN

TIMING

Small groups without a reservation find seats easily before 11:30 on weekdays or before 9 am on weekends. Once you have a good bench, stay put: enjoy the band and save the rides for later.

2. MASTER THE TOAST

EYE CONTACT

Clink at the sturdy base, never the rim, and lock eyes before you drink. When the band strikes up "Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit" (roughly every twenty minutes), stand on the bench and sing along.

3. NATURAL RECIPROCITY

GENUINE CHEERS

Offer a round when it feels right: after shared laughs, a song, or table mates helping you decode the menu. Be as happy to accept a beer as to buy one. Low-stakes friendliness is the soul of Bavarian hospitality.

4. RESPECT THE SERVERS

CASH TIPS

Your Bedienung carries up to ten full liters through a crowd. Round up generously on the very first round (a euro or two per Maß) and you will be looked after all day.

5. SHARE THE TABLE, SHARE THE DAY

THE GOLDEN RULE

Ask politely before taking an open spot ("Is hier no frei?") and expect to share. One table of strangers becomes its own small international party. That, not the beer count, is what people remember.

TWO QUICK DON'TS

No smoking inside the tents (outdoor areas only).

Never stand on a table. Benches yes, tables no; it means instant ejection.

Don't wander off with a stein. Taking a Maß out of the tent counts as theft, and security checks bags at the exit.

Daytime warmth vs. evening energy

DAYTIME · 10 AM - 4:30 PM

Acoustic brass marches, family lunches, easy seating and clear sightlines. Ideal for a proper multi-course meal, chatting with Munich seniors, and admiring the tent craftsmanship.

Pacing tip: alternate every Maß with a sparkling water or a Radler.

EVENING · 5 PM - 10:30 PM

Lights dim, electric guitars join the brass, and thousands of people stand on the benches singing Schlager hits and stadium anthems. Unreserved tables get competitive; arrive by 4 pm or plan on a beer garden.

Evening rule: bench dancing welcome, table dancing not.

THE FIRST-TIMER RHYTHM

Design a better day

The most common visitor regret is treating Oktoberfest as a breathless race between tents. This proven daily rhythm balances food, seating and fairground discovery.

1

9:30 - 10:30

MORNING ARRIVAL & FAIRGROUND STROLL

Enter while the avenues are quiet. Walk the length of Wirtsbudenstraße to take in the giant facades, fresh bakery smells and the morning crispness. Ride the Riesenrad now if you want the empty-fairground view.

2

10:45 - 1:30

CLAIM A SHARED TABLE & ORDER FOOD FIRST

Take an unreserved bench in a traditional tent (Augustiner, Hacker, Schützen). Order a Brezn and a half Hendl with the first Maß to lay a foundation before the serious drinking starts.

3

1:30 - 3:30

STAY PUT & ENJOY THE ROOM

Talk with your neighbors, join the brass-band toasts, let the communal mood build. Resist the urge to jump tents; you will not find a better seat than the one you have.

4

3:30 - 6:00

RESET AT THE OIDE WIESN OR THE MIDWAY

Step outside for air. Ride the Krinoline, watch the Teufelsrad spectacle, or take coffee and cake at Café Theres or Rischart's Kaiserschmarrn.

5

6:30 - 10:00

EVENING ENERGY & THE LIT FAIRGROUND

Return to a beer garden or join the singing crowd inside. Leave before closing and stroll the illuminated midway with a paper bag of hot roasted almonds (gebrannte Mandeln).

6

10:30 - LATE

GETTING HOME WITHOUT THE CRUSH

Last call empties every tent at once. Walk ten minutes to Goetheplatz or Poccistraße (U3/U6) or on to the main station instead of joining the platform scrum at Theresienwiese. Night buses run all fest; taxi ranks are on the map.



Climb the Bavaria.

A spiral staircase inside the 18-meter bronze lady leads to her head, with peepholes over the whole fairground. Small fee, big view, no queue before noon. The stone steps below are the free alternative and the best sunset seat on the grounds.

CEREMONIAL MOMENTS

O'zapft is! (Sat Sept 19, noon): The Mayor taps the first keg in the Schottenhamel tent. Beer flows everywhere the moment he succeeds.

Landlords' parade (first Saturday, from 10:45): Flower-decked brewery wagons and draft horses roll from the city center to the grounds.

Costume & riflemen's parade (first Sunday, from 10): Around 9,000 people in traditional Tracht, brass bands and rifle clubs march through Munich.

Big-band concert (second Sunday, 11 am): All the tent bands play together on the steps of the Bavaria.

FAMILY DAYS & KIDS

Both Tuesdays (Sept 22 & 29), 10 am - 7 pm: discounted rides, games and stalls.

Strollers are allowed on weekdays but not on the weekends or Oct 3, and never in the tents after 6 pm.

Best family corners: the Oide Wiesn, the Augustiner tent at lunch, and the Krinoline carousel.

WHAT TO WEAR

Tracht is optional but half the crowd wears it. Rent or buy a Dirndl or Lederhosen in town; a checked shirt and sturdy shoes are the budget version.

The Dirndl bow talks: tied on the left means single, on the right means taken, in the middle means undecided, at the back means widowed or working.

Dress for weather: late September swings from 25 °C to cold rain. Layers, closed shoes and nothing you would mourn if a Maß landed on it.

TENT ENCYCLOPEDIA

The 14 big tents, part one

Each giant tent seats 6,000 to 10,000 people, pours exactly one Munich brewery and has its own personality. Choose for mood, not fame.



Augustiner Festhalle

THE LOCALS' FAVORITE

Munich's sentimental favorite: friendly, traditional and a notch calmer than the tourist magnets. Beer comes from 200-liter wooden barrels called Hirschen.

Beer: Augustiner · **Eat:** Pork knuckle, roast chicken, the kids' menu on Tuesdays.

Best for: Families and first-timers who want the real thing.



Hacker-Festzelt

HIMMEL DER BAYERN

A painted blue-and-white sky ceiling under a roof that opens on warm days. Young, loud and the prettiest room on the Wiesn. Brass by day, rock band by night.

Beer: Hacker-Pschorr · **Eat:** Rotisserie chicken; try the Käsespätzle.

Best for: The evening party with a view.



Hofbräu-Festzelt

THE WORLD'S PARTY

The most international hall: hop garlands overhead, a standing area in the middle, strangers becoming friends in seconds. Loud from lunchtime.

Beer: Hofbräu · **Eat:** Hendl and Schweinsbraten, eaten standing if you must.

Best for: Solo travelers and groups who came to sing.



Festhalle Schottenhamel

O'ZAPFT IS!

The Wiesn's oldest tent name (since 1867) and the place where the Mayor taps the first keg at noon on opening day. Youngest crowd on the grounds.

Beer: Spaten · **Eat:** Roast chicken, pork roast, dumplings.

Best for: Students, opening day and anyone under thirty.



Paulaner Festzelt

THE SPINNING STEIN

Find it by the giant rotating Maß on the tower. Classic and festive, with one of the biggest beer gardens and FC Bayern's annual squad visit.

Beer: Paulaner · **Eat:** Hendl, and the beer garden on a sunny afternoon.

Best for: Classic Wiesn for groups of any age.



Festzelt Bräurosl

YODEL & TRADITION

Timbered hall named after brewer's daughter Rosi Pschorr, complete with a resident yodeler. Hosts Gay Sunday on the first Sunday, one of the fest's best parties.

Beer: Hacker-Pschorr · **Eat:** Bavarian classics with good vegetarian plates.

Best for: Tradition by day, party by night.



Löwenbräu-Festzelt

THE LION ROARS

A 4.5-meter lion above the entrance roars "Lööwenbräu" every few minutes. Home turf for TSV 1860 fans and old-school Munich regulars.

Beer: Löwenbräu · **Eat:** Roast chicken, pork knuckle, big portions.

Best for: A rowdy, old-fashioned Munich evening.

RESERVED OR NOT?

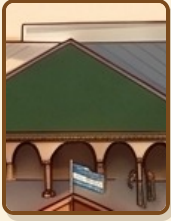
Roughly two-thirds of every tent is reservable, always through the tent's own website, months ahead, usually with food vouchers included. The rest is walk-in: get there early and be ready to share.

On weekends and most evenings the doors close once a tent is full. Come at 11.

TENT ENCYCLOPEDIA

The 14 big tents, part two

Marksmen, oxen, fish, wine and the two houses that stay open until one in the morning.



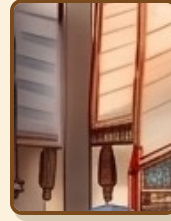
Schützen-Festzelt

UNDER THE
BAVARIA

Tucked beneath the Bavaria statue and a touch dressier than its neighbors. Its 110 shooting lanes host the Bavarian rifle championships during the fest.

Beer: Löwenbräu · **Eat:** The famous suckling pig (Spanferkel).

Best for: A classy first tent and lunch with a view.



Armbrustschützenzelt

CROSSBOWS
& BRASS

Timber hunting-lodge feel and a crossbow championship shot here since 1895. Multi-generational Bavarian families and pristine brass polkas.

Beer: Paulaner · **Eat:** Game stews, roasts, hearty dumplings.

Best for: Families and lovers of the traditional program.



Ochsenbraterei

OX ON THE SPIT

A whole ox turns on the rotisserie all day and a board tells you which one you are eating, name and weight included. Cheerful, and slightly calmer than the party halls.

Beer: Spaten · **Eat:** Ochsenbraten in every form; over a hundred oxen per fest.

Best for: Carnivores and long lunches.



Fischer-Vroni

FISH ON A STICK

Maritime décor, Munich regulars and a long open fire outside where mackerel, trout and char roast on wooden sticks.

Beer: Augustiner · **Eat:** Steckerlfisch, obviously; the char is the local pick.

Best for: A break from pork and a calmer afternoon.



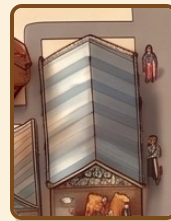
Käfer Wiesn-Schänke

OPEN TILL 1
AM

A cozy two-storey wooden farmhouse run by the Feinkost Käfer delicatessen: gourmet plates, celebrity sightings and the latest closing time on the grounds.

Beer: Paulaner · **Eat:** The legendary Käfer roast duck.

Best for: Foodies and night owls (book ahead).



Kufflers Weinzelt

WINE, SEKT & LATE
NIGHTS

The wine tent: more than a dozen German wines, Sekt and Champagne, a live band and benches rocking until 1 am. No Maß here at all.

Beer: Paulaner Weißbier (until 9 pm) · **Eat:** Lighter plates, cheese boards, fish.

Best for: Non-beer drinkers and the after-party crowd.



Marstall Festzelt

CAROUSEL
HORSES

The landmark tent by the main entrance, with carved carousel horses at the door and a bright, upscale room inside. The name means royal stables.

Beer: Spaten · **Eat:** Modern Bavarian dishes with vegetarian and vegan options.

Best for: Style-conscious groups arriving by U-Bahn.

WHO POURS WHAT: MUNICH'S BIG SIX

Augustiner: Augustiner Festhalle, Fischer-Vroni

Hacker-Pschorr: Hacker-Festzelt, Bräurosl

Hofbräu: Hofbräu-Festzelt

Löwenbräu: Löwenbräu-Festzelt, Schützen-Festzelt

Paulaner: Paulaner Festzelt, Armbrustschützenzelt, Käfer

Spaten: Schottenhamel, Ochsenbraterei, Marstall

BEYOND THE MEGA-HALLS

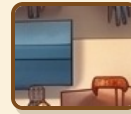
Small tents & the historic Wiesn

Twenty-one smaller tents serve the best food on the grounds with none of the door drama. The numbers match the blue circles on the map.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Feisingers Kas- und Weinstubn
cheese & wine | 2 Glöckle Wirt
tiny tavern, 98 seats |
| 3 Heinz Wurst- und Hühnerbraterei
sausage & chicken | 4 Hühnerbraterei Poschner
roast chicken |
| 5 Goldener Hahn
roast chicken | 6 Hochreiters Haxenbraterei
pork knuckle |
| 7 Schiebl's Kaffeehaferl
coffee & cake | 8 Vinzenzmurr Metzger Stubn
butcher's tavern |
| 9 Bartls Flößerstadt
Bavarian classics | 10 Kalbsbraterei
roast veal |
| 11 Ammer Hühner- und Entenbraterei
organic chicken & duck | 12 Bodo's Cafézelt & Cocktailbar
cake & cocktails |
| 13 Münchner Knödelei ★
dumplings, sweet & savory | 14 Rischart's Café Kaiserschmarrn ★
the pancake dessert |
| 15 Café Theres
coffee & cake | 16 Heimer Enten- und Hühnerbraterei
duck & chicken |
| 17 Wildstuben ★
wild boar, game, schnapps | 18 Hochreiter's Zur Bratwurst
bratwurst |
| 19 Fisch-Bäda ★
fish on a stick | 20 Wirtshaus im Schichtl ★
tavern & the famous show |
| 21 Wiesn Guglhupf Café-Dreh-Bar
the spinning café bar | |

★ our picks: Knödelei, Kaiserschmarrn, Wildstuben, Fisch-Bäda and the Schichtl, whose comic "beheading" show has run since 1869.

CULT RIDES & SIDESHOWS



Teufelsrad

Since 1908: riders try to stay on a spinning wooden disc while a comic announcer and foam balls knock them off. Pure spectator gold, and free to watch.



Krinoline

A gently swaying 1924 carousel with its own live brass band playing polkas on the platform. Nostalgic and quintessentially Bavarian.



Olympia Looping

Five loops in a row: the largest transportable roller coaster in the world, and the Wiesn's signature scream.



Riesenrad

Fifty meters up, with the whole fairground and the Alps on a clear day. Go at dusk when the lights come on.

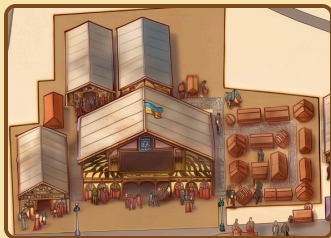


Toboggan & Wildwasserbahn

A wooden slide reached by a conveyor belt that makes everyone stumble, and a log flume for cooling off. Both are as much fun to watch as to ride.

Ride prices: pay per ride, cash. Tuesdays until 7 pm are cheapest.

OIDE WIESN: THE HISTORIC FEST



A separate gated corner (small entry fee) that feels like 1910: beer in stone steins at the Festzelt Tradition, Schuhplattler dancers, unamplified brass, the Museumszelt and historic rides for a couple of euros each. Quieter, cheaper and the best cure for a crowded afternoon.

TWO FREE VIEWPOINTS

The Bavaria steps above the Schützen tent: sit on the wide stone steps for a panorama of the whole fest, best at dusk.

The chicken rotisseries at the Hühnerbratereien (4, 5, 11, 16): the smell alone is worth the detour, and the people-watching is unbeatable.



CLASSIC MIDWAY GAMES & SIDESHOWS

Hau den Lukas (the high striker) to prove a point, the **shooting galleries** where a paper rose is the traditional trophy for your table mate, the **Schichtl's** comic "beheading" show with volunteers from the crowd, and the tiny **Flohzyrkus**, a genuine flea circus that has amazed skeptics for generations. Small change, big laughs.

THE EPICUREAN FIELD GUIDE

Eat & drink like a Münchner

Festival food is built to keep pace with strong beer. Plan two culinary missions a day instead of eating whatever is closest.

DISH	WHERE	WHAT TO KNOW
Wiesn-Hendl (half roast chicken)	Every big tent and the chicken stands (4, 5, 11, 16)	Crispy, butter-basted skin with paprika and parsley. Eaten with your hands, moist towelettes provided. The universal festival lunch.
Riesenbrezn (giant pretzel)	Pretzel sellers walking the tents	Warm and salty, the size of a steering wheel. Pass it around the table as an instant icebreaker.
Schweinshaxe (pork knuckle)	Augustiner, Schützen, Hochreiters (6)	Roasted until the crackling shatters, served with dark beer sauce and a potato dumpling. Order early, they sell out.
Ochsenbraten (roast ox)	Ochsenbraterei	Sliced ox in rich gravy with potato salad or dumplings. Unique to the Wiesn; ask which ox you are eating.
Steckerlfisch (fish on a stick)	Fischer-Vroni, Fisch-Bäda (19)	Whole mackerel, trout or char rubbed with garlic and rosemary and grilled over an open fire. Flaky and smoky.
Weißwurst & Brezn (before noon)	Most tents on weekday mornings	Two poached veal sausages with sweet mustard and a pretzel, traditionally finished before the church bells strike twelve.
Kaiserschmarrn (shredded pancake)	Rischart's Café Kaiserschmarrn (14), Café Theres (15)	Caramelized fluffy pancake dusted with sugar, served with plum compote or apple sauce. Share one after the Hendl.



PACE YOURSELF

Radler: half beer, half lemonade, served everywhere. Same glass, half the strength.

Alkoholfrei: every tent pours non-alcoholic beer, Apfelschorle and sparkling water.

Festbier is about 6%: one Maß is nearly three regular beers.



ORDERING & PAYING

No seat, no beer: servers only serve seated guests, and only in their own section.

Pay each round as it arrives, in cash, and round up a euro or two per Maß.

Only the Maß exists in the big tents. Weißbier, wine and half-liters live in the small tents and the Weinzelt.



SWEET STOPS

Gebrannte Mandeln: hot candied almonds from the stalls; the smell of the midway.

Lebkuchenherz: the gingerbread heart necklace. Buy one that says *I mog di* for someone you like.

Guglhupf at the spinning café bar (21) while the room slowly turns.

SAY IT LIKE A LOCAL

Servus!	hello and goodbye	Griß di / Pfiat di	hi / bye, the Bavarian way
Is hier no frei?	is this seat free?	A Maß, bitte!	one liter, please
Prost!	cheers, with eye contact	O'zapft is!	it's tapped: the fest is open
Oans, zwoa, drei, g'suffa!	one, two, three, drink!	Zahlen, bitte!	the check, please
Dankschön / Passt scho	thanks / it's fine, no worries	I mog di	I like you (says the gingerbread heart)



VEGETARIAN, VEGAN & ALLERGIES

Every big tent now lists vegetarian and vegan mains, and the small tents do it better: **Käsespätzle** (cheese noodles with crispy onions), **Semmelknödel** in mushroom cream at the Knödelei, **Obatzda** (spiced camembert spread) with a Brezn, and a **Kaiserschmarrn** for dessert. Allergens are listed on every menu by law; ask your Bedienung and she will point you right.

TICK THESE OFF DURING YOUR VISIT

The Wiesn bucket list

Take this page onto the grounds. Complete the social, culinary and fairground challenges and you will have experienced Oktoberfest like a seasoned Münchner.


The shared-table victory

Politely sat with strangers, toasted, and made new friends.


Master the Prost

Clinked stein bases, made eye contact, and sang with the room.


A natural round

Bought or graciously accepted a round at the table.


Classic Wiesn-Hendl

Ate a crispy half chicken with your fingers.


Shared a giant pretzel

Passed a warm Brezn across the table.


Culinary curiosity

Ordered ox, Steckerlfisch or Schweinshaxe.


Settled into one tent

Stayed put for hours instead of tent-hopping.


Visited a small or historic tent

Explored a cozy specialty tent beyond the mega-halls.


Rode the Krinoline

Enjoyed the 1924 carousel with its live brass band.


Watched the Teufelsrad

Cheered riders battling the spinning wooden wheel.


An hour at the Oide Wiesn

Rode the historic rides and heard unamplified brass.


Midway sweet stop

Hot candied almonds or a Kaiserschmarrn on the stroll.


View from the Bavaria

Took in the panorama from the stone steps or the statue's head.


After-dark fairground walk

Strolled the lit avenues after leaving the tent.


Wore a Lebkuchenherz

Gave or received a gingerbread heart.


A Radler between rounds

Paced the day and remembered every conversation.

BAVARIA ON TAP



Planning the rest of your Bavaria trip?

Oktoberfest is one of hundreds of beer fests, wine fests and drinking traditions across Bavaria, and almost none of them are written up in English. We keep the calendar and the map so you can find the cellar, the hillside and the Maß that is not Oktoberfest.

Free festival roundup, plain-English write-ups and 230+ events on the map:

BavariaOnTap.com/join

TABLE DIARY

Tent & bench: _____

Bench mates from: _____

Song we stood up for: _____

Best thing we ate: _____

Ride we survived: _____

Maß count (honest): _____

for the story you will tell at home

Details verified against the official 2026 Wiesn plan; opening hours, prices and programs can change, so check the tent websites before you go. Not affiliated with any tourism board. Please drink responsibly. Prost!