

**Hallo!!**

## September 2014

##### **How did the Oktoberfest start?**

The first Oktoberfest was held in the year 1810 to celebrate the marriage of the Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. The festivities began on October 12, 1810 and ended on October 17th with a horse race. Since then, it has become an annual traditional celebration that takes place for 16 days. The festival was moved forward into September because of the bad weather. Because the September nights are warmer, the visitors can enjoy the gardens outside the tents and the stroll over "die Wiesen" or the fields much longer without feeling cold. Historically, the last Oktoberfest weekend was in October and this tradition continues into present times.



#### The 181st Oktoberfest has started!

##### On Saturday 20th September at 12 o'clock Dieter Reiter, the mayor of München started the Oktoberfest by tapping the first barrel of beer. With four strikes, Reiter drove the tap into the barrel and spoke the magic words: "O'zapft is!" - "It's tapped!" The first mug of beer was then handed to the Bavarian Prime Minister, Horst Seehofer.



* **What can one do and see?**

*The festival consists of lots of beer and food, served in huge tents. There are bands playing tradtional Bavarian music, as well as modern bands in the evening hours that play rock, pop, and dance music. To keep with tradition, many visitors wear the traditional clothes: Lederhosen for men; Dirndl dresses for women.*

* **Oktoberfest and beer**

*Around seven million litres of beer are drunk during the Oktoberfest. A litre of beer costs about Euro 10. The only beer served comes from Munich breweries such as the Augustiner, Paulaner and Spaten.*

* **What can one eat?**
	+ *Weißwurst – an extremely white sausage served with sweet mustard.*
	+ *Bratwurst*
	+ *Semmelknödel - a Bavarian speciality consisting of potatoes and/or breadcrumbs. They look and taste similar to dumplings.*
	+ *half a roasted chicken with a giant-sized pretzel*
	+ *grilled, roasted and baked meats, especially pork*
	+ *freshly smoked fish*
* **When is Oktoberfest scheduled for 2015?**

*2015: September 19th - October 4th*

*2016: September 17th - October 3rd*



##### **Interesting facts about the Oktoberfest**

* **Do I have to pay entry?**

*No, the entry to the area and all beer-tents is free.*

* **Are children allowed to visit the beer tents?***It depends on the age: Children under the age of six must leave the tents at 8pm even if they are in the company of their parents.*
* **Is smoking allowed in the beer tents?**

 *No. Since August 2010 there is a*

 *new no-smoking law in Bavaria*

 *which prohibits smoking in all kind of*

 *bars, pubs and restaurants including*

 *beer tents.*

* **What is the Oktoberfest Family Day?**

*Every Tuesday during Oktoberfest, the whole family can enjoy discounted prices on fun rides.  There are many attractions such as roller coasters, spooky ghost trains and fairy tale rides.*

* **What is the Traditional Costume Parade?**

*Every first Sunday of the Oktoberfest, the very popular traditional costume parade marches through the streets of Munich. In 1835, the parade was first held in honor of the 25th wedding anniversary of Oktoberfest founders King Ludwig I and his wife Theresie. Since 1950, it has become a regular event.*