

## 2017 Oktoberfest: Safety and Security Tips for Irish Citizens

The Oktoberfest (16 September - 3 October) is the world's largest folk gathering, with an estimated 6 million visitors, many in traditional Bavarian dress (*Tracht*). While Munich is one of the world's safest cities, taking a few precautions will help to ensure that you remember the Oktoberfest as a fun, safe event.

1. Before your travel, download the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade's [TravelWise](#) app. Follow [@PolizeiMuenchen](#) and [@IrlEmbBerlin](#) on Twitter and print the [official map](#).
2. Make sure you have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and/or private medical insurance.
3. Bring your passport card and keep your passport securely stored. If you do not have a passport card, keep your passport in a secure pouch/bag and not in the back pocket of your jeans. Click on [lost and stolen passports](#) for information on replacing a lost passport.
4. Travelling without a ticket on public transport, or not validating an undated ticket, risks an on-the-spot fine. Ticket information, maps and a useful app are available at [MVV Munich](#). Access to the Theresenwiese U-Bahn stop may be controlled for safety purposes. Know how to get from the festival to your accommodation.
5. Keep your phone, passport card and money/bankcards in a secure pouch/bag. Do not sleep in the park outside the grounds as you will be a target for pickpockets.
6. Bag/backpacks larger than 20 cm x 15 cm x 10 cm, or with a capacity greater than 3 litres, are banned this year. You may be searched before being admitted to the grounds.
7. Know your limit; beer at the Oktoberfest is stronger and comes in 1 litre glasses. Do not leave your drinks unattended. First aid is available in the festivals *Servicezentrum*. Taking glasses which are not paid-for souvenirs could result in attempted theft charge, a hefty fine and an overnight in a police cell.
8. Know that smoking is not permitted inside the tents and there is zero tolerance towards illegal drugs.
9. Behave respectfully. Security in/around the festival will be robust. If you behave inappropriately, in particular to women, expect to be removed and/or arrested. Threatening someone with a glass can lead to an "assault with a deadly weapon" charge which carries a prison term. The *Servicezentrum* has a women's point, a police station with women officers and English-speaking police, a Red Cross point and a lost-and-found unit. Throughout the grounds emergency phones fitted to light poles connect directly to the police.
10. In the event of a security incident, follow the instructions of security guards and the police. If instructed to remain indoors, do this and try not to panic. The Munich police will issue security advice in different languages from their Twitter handle [@PolizeiMuenchen](#). Local transport may be suspended depending on the incident. Be careful what you post on social media. Follow police instructions, phone your family to let them know you are safe and update your social media accounts later.

### Emergency contacts

Police 110

Oktoberfest Police Station +49 (0) 89 500 3220

Women's point +49 (0) 89 50 222 366

Fire service/ambulance 112

Red Cross (first aid) +49 (0) 89 726 55 55 0

Lost money – family/friends can transfer funds to you 24/7 online at [www.westernunion.com](http://www.westernunion.com)

Lost visa card (dial from a German phone) 0800 811 8440; lost Mastercard 0800 819 1040

Honorary Consulate General (Munich, 09.00-12.00 Mon to Fri) +49 (0) 89 20 80 5990

Embassy (Berlin) +49 (0) 30 220720

Contact details for lawyers in German providing a service through English is available on the [www.anwalt.de](http://www.anwalt.de) website. Enter your city or state at the first search option, and then choose "Englisch" under "Sprache" (language) from the filtering options on the right. The Embassy cannot give legal advice, recommend individual lawyers or pay for legal consultations.

There are a number of apps providing information on the Oktoberfest. [WiesnProtect](#) is designed for women in particular but not exclusively. It contains a map of the grounds marking emergency points, local transport information and police and taxi numbers.

**Wir wünschen Euch eine "Sichere Wiesn" / Have fun and keep safe.**