

# 2016 Oktoberfest

## Safety and Security Tips for Irish Citizens

The Oktoberfest (17 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 and safe event.

1. Download the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade's **TravelWise** app to your smartphone. You can use Travelwise to access travel and security advice for Germany, register with us and receive notifications if the travel advice changes.

Follow **@PolizeiMuenchen** and **@IrlEmbBerlin** on Twitter.

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.

4. Travelling without a ticket on public transport, or not validating an undated ticket, risks an on-the-spot fine of at least €60. Ticket information, maps and a useful app are available on the website of **MVV Munich**.

Access to the Theresenwiese U-Bahn station 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 Servicezentrum (service centre). Trying to keep glasses, which you have not purchased, as souvenirs could result in an attempted theft charge, a hefty fine and an overnight in a police cell.

8. Smoking is not permitted inside the tents. There is zero tolerance towards illegal drugs.

9. Behave respectfully. Security in/around the grounds is robust. If you behave inappropriately, especially 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 can carry a prison term.

The Servicezentrum has a women's emergency point, a police station with English-speaking and women police, a Red Cross first aid station and a lost & found unit.

Throughout the grounds emergency phones attached to 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 so and try not to panic.

The Munich police will issue security advice in different languages. Follow them on Twitter **@PolizeiMuenchen**.

Local transport may be suspended depending on the nature of the incident. Be careful what you post on social media as initial reports of the incident may not have been verified. Follow police instructions, phone your family to let them know you are safe and update social media later.

There are a number of apps providing information on the Oktoberfest.

**WiesenProtect** is designed for women in particular but not exclusively. It contains: a map of the grounds marking emergency points, local transport information, updates on transport disruptions, police and taxi numbers. and other useful information.

To cancel credit cards, from a German phone dial 0800 811 8440 (Visa) or 0800 819 1040 (Mastercard). Emergency fund transfers can be made anytime at [www.westernunion.com](http://www.westernunion.com). In the event of flight cancellations/delays contact your airline/tour operator/travel insurance company.

### Out-of-hours emergencies

The embassy provides an out-of-hours service for Irish citizens with a genuine emergency.

Dial +49 (0) 30 220 720 and leave a message stating clearly your name, date of birth, location and the nature of the emergency.

We will contact you with instructions/advice. We aim to return your call within one hour but if there are multiple calls we will prioritise life and death emergencies.

Advice on obtaining a replacement travel document is available at [www.embassyofireland.de](http://www.embassyofireland.de) (under Passports). Under Our Services and Emergency Assistance you will find lists of English-speaking lawyers and doctors.

### Emergency contacts

Police 110

Oktoberfest grounds police station

+49 (0) 89 500 3220

Fire service/ambulance 112

Red Cross first aid station

+49 (0) 89 502 22424

Women's emergency point

+49 (0) 89 50 222 366

Honorary Consulate General, Denningerstrasse 15, 81679 Munich.  
Mon-Fri 09.00-12.00. Tel. +49 (0) 89 20 80 59

Embassy of Ireland, Jaegerstrasse 51, 10117 Berlin.  
Mon-Fri 09.30-12.30 or by appointment. Tel. +49 (0) 30 220720

Wir wünschen Euch Viel Spass  
und eine "Sichere Wiesen"  
Have fun and keep safe



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