Beat: Lifestyle

Wiesn 2016

Advice and overview for Oktoberfest.

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USPA NEWS - Some readers may be surprised to find out that a large portion of Oktoberfest actually occurs before October, with all but three days in September. Open from 8am till past midnight every single day of the week, there´s no shortage of time to see and try everything in the 2016 Oktoberfest.

Some readers may be surprised to find out that a large portion of Oktoberfest (or Wiesn as the people of Munich call it) actually occurs before October, with all but three days in September. Open from 8am till past midnight every single day of the week, there´s no shortage of time to see and try everything in the 2016 Oktoberfest.
The large beer tents are usually fully booked well in advance of the opening of the festival so it may be wise to find people who have already reserved entire tables and share the cost with them. Smaller tents may have limited availability and my fill up by noon so it is advisable to go early to find space.

In terms of food, there´s really nothing like a good rotbratwurst with ketchup. Or try one of those cheese sausages where molten warmness oozes out onto a sizzling hot bun. If a more substantial meal is required, there always the half-meter long hotdog or a foot-long baguette with almost any combination of vegetables and meats. For the more price-conscious maybe a schnitzel in a bun or a fish in a bun would be more agreeable to the wallet.

If visiting with children, the fair has a wide range of activities and is generally family-friendly during daylight hours. Parents may like to bring their children on one of the traditional attractions such as the corkscrew slide, Ferris wheel, or miniature trains. There´s even an interesting “˜live´ version of a merry-go-round featuring real ponies.
The organizers have really stepped up their game this year providing tighter security and emergency services without restricting access. Vacuum machine vehicles, several teams of emergency crew, as well as scores of policemen are deployed to keep visitors safe.

Here are a few tips for visiting Oktoberfest next time. Leave large bags at the lockers at Hauptbahnhof or one of the U-Bahn stations with locker facilities, there´s a large variety of locker sizes to choose from and it helps to avoid the hassle of using the temporary facilities outside the fairgrounds. Go to the toilet before entering, although the toilets are clean and hygienic, there may be a line. Purchase bottled water in advance, as it may be expensive inside.
Have fun at the next Oktoberfest, prost!

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