

## Top 10

# OTHER OKTOBERFESTS

Bavarian bashes brew worldwide, allowing stein-lovers to celebrate . . . wherever.

### KITCHENER-WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA

Expect an authentic taste of Germany from a city that was named Berlin until 1916. Be transported by the merriment pouring from Kitchener's festival halls and filling steins, plates, and dance floors. Family-friendly events include blunt-tipped archery showdowns, a fashion show, and art gallery romps downtown before the Canadian Thanksgiving parade.

[www.oktoberfest.ca](http://www.oktoberfest.ca)

### CINCINNATI AND COLUMBUS, OHIO

Lederhosen-clad locals, thirsty visitors, and even costumed racing dachshund pups raid six blocks of downtown "Zinzinnati" for one of America's most popular Oktoberfests—nearly 500,000 attendees strong. But the fairgrounds in Ohio's capital city of Columbus can't be overlooked, and you'll want to save room here for a half-pound cream puff from Schmidt's Restaurant und Sausage Haus.

[www.oktoberfestzinzinnati.com](http://www.oktoberfestzinzinnati.com), [www.columbusoktoberfest.com](http://www.columbusoktoberfest.com)

### LEAVENWORTH, WASHINGTON

A Bavarian-style village in the foothills of the northern Cascade mountains brings in millions of thirsty visitors during the first three weekends of October. Don't miss the traditional keg-tapping ceremony by the small town's mayor kicking off each weekend.

[leavenworthoktoberfest.com](http://leavenworthoktoberfest.com)

### COLONIA TOVAR, VENEZUELA

Called the "Germany of the Caribbean," this northern Venezuelan community an hour west of Caracas surprises with its unlikely Bavarian architecture and pride. The authentic culture lasts in the wake of immigrants from Germany's Black Forest who founded the town in 1843. Watch the trunk-sawing competition and enjoy a Tovar beer at one of the tables imported from Germany for the fest.

[www.venezuelatuya.com](http://www.venezuelatuya.com)

### BLUMENAU, BRAZIL

Why not southern Brazil for Oktoberfest? This city is as authentic as many—it was founded in the mid-19th century by a small band of German immigrants. Try beers from local craft breweries such as Das Bier at Latin America's largest Oktoberfest celebration. Cut straight for the *biergarten* among the pavilions of Blumenau's expansive German Village Park reminiscent of Munich's own 14-tent grounds, or snag a freebie from the *bierwagen* parading the town.

[www.oktoberfestblumenau.com.br](http://www.oktoberfestblumenau.com.br)

### BANGALORE, INDIA

Leading Indian brewery Kingfisher throws an annual multi-stage music festival at the striking Jayamahal Palace in the heart of the southern Indian city. The musicians are bound to steal your attention, but the flea market is a highlight, too, complete with craft vendors and food stalls. More than 20,000 people attend the festivities each year.

[www.kingfisherworld.com/tglof](http://www.kingfisherworld.com/tglof)

### HONG KONG, CHINA

Not to miss out, this bustling Chinese island is home to a rollicking, annual *bierfest* at the Marco Polo Hongkong Hotel. Listen to traditional oompah bands and sample the roasted pork knuckle from your open-air perch over Victoria Harbour at this German/Asian tradition that's been going strong for more than 20 years. Get there early for one of the 200 pints of the exclusive Löwenbräu Oktoberfestbier served each night.

[www.gbfbhk.com/aj](http://www.gbfbhk.com/aj)

### DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

It's actually hard to miss Dubai's October salutes to old Bavaria with so many glittering venues around the city bedecked in German tinsel. A daylong bash is held in the Dubai Sports City complex, while area resorts such as the five-star Jumeirah Beach Hotel host their own. If you miss the October festivities, you can get a taste of Bavaria year-round at the Jumeira Rotana hotel's Brauhaus German Restaurant.

[www.definitelydubai.com](http://www.definitelydubai.com)

### BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

Aussies get a balmy Oktoberfest experience on Queensland's east coast, where temperatures average 70°F (21°C) for this dual-weekend salute to Bavaria. And boasting a spread of entertainment from a Bavarian Strongman Competition and cowbell ringing to music, dancing, and a yodeler named Heidi, the event deserves a *prost* for still being family organized. And don't forget the beer: The festival imports its handcrafted brews from the old Tucher Brewery in Bavaria.

[www.oktoberfestbrisbane.com.au](http://www.oktoberfestbrisbane.com.au)

### PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA

The German Club of Port Elizabeth might have a members-only beer garden, but it opens up its turf to the rest of Nelson Mandela Bay for one celebratory October weekend. The band Viva Bavaria plays classics from the Alps as well as classic rock and modern hits.

[germanclub.co.za](http://germanclub.co.za)

Members of the Alpenrosen Dance Group raise their hats high as they twirl through some traditional moves at Brisbane, Australia's annual Oktoberfest.



## Top 10

# HOT WINTER DRINKS

Warm up your chilly bones with the locals and experience culture in a cup with these classic drinks, perfect for cold weather.

### CRAFT COFFEE

Seattle, Washington

Starbucks served its first cup in 1971 from a quaint Pike Place Market café, spawning a Seattle coffee culture of artisan roasters and cafés. The Capitol Hill neighborhood offers the town's best brews, such as the two-story Caffè Vita, the flagship of an 18-year-old Seattle institution.

[www.caffevita.com](http://www.caffevita.com)

### YERBA MATE

Argentina

Argentines embrace this mainstay steeped beverage as a way to gather, slurping the earth-noted elixir from colorful, carved gourds through the same *bombilla*, or metal straw. Travelers can set out across the mate-producing regions on the Route of Yerba Mate to learn about the production process—from tree to gourd.

[www.rutadelayerbamate.org.ar](http://www.rutadelayerbamate.org.ar)

### WASSAIL

Somerset, England

Wassailing was originally a ritualistic English toast to healthy orchards marked by a January ceremony. The tradition continues in communities like those in the county of Somerset, where you can partake by dousing tree roots with cider and adorning limbs with bread—but save a cup of the wassail (hot cider) for yourself.

[www.visitsomerset.co.uk](http://www.visitsomerset.co.uk)

### GRZANE PIWO

Krakow, Poland

Polish traditions rarely disappoint the taste buds, and *grzane piwo*, a seasonal mulled beer, is no exception. Just like wines or ciders in other places, the ale is heated, infused, and served. Plenty of pubs offer the hot brew, which complements a chilly day; try the patio at Glonojad Vegetarian Bar, flanking Matejki Square.

[www.glonojad.com](http://www.glonojad.com)

### GLOGG

Norway

Something heated, spiced, and/or spiked belongs on every winter menu, and for Scandinavians, glogg is a nationwide favorite. Usually it's made with hot red wine and zingy citrus and cinnamon, then spiked with spirit-soaked raisins. It can be mixed with hot (but never boiling) water or served as a straight shot.

### ESPRESSO

Florence, Italy

Experiencing Italian café culture is as important as people-watching in the piazzas or admiring Renaissance masterpieces. The motherland of espresso has bragging rights to the potent little cup. Savor a buzzworthy shot at Caffè Scudieri's bustling espresso bar on Piazza San Giovanni.

[www.scudieri.eu](http://www.scudieri.eu)

### HOT CHOCOLATE

Vienna, Austria

Wellsprings of culture, Vienna's ubiquitous coffeehouses create an aperture into everyday Viennese life. Hot chocolate is a sweet departure from the classic *kaffae*, especially when served the Austrian way: *mit schlag*, with whipped cream. The luxe Demel chocolatier offers its *schokolade* laced with ginger or cardamom, while Vienna's oldest coffeehouse, Cafe Frauenhuber, sticks to the chocolatey classic—mit schlag, of course.

[www.demel.at](http://www.demel.at), [www.cafe-frauenhuber.at](http://www.cafe-frauenhuber.at)

### MASALA CHAI

Kolkata, India

Shards of red clay cups linger around the bases of roadside stalls, and chai wallahs, or tea vendors, beckon passersby to add to the piles. This sweet-spiced milky comfort, also known as *chai karak*, steeps across India. In Kolkata, throwing empty cups against a wall or the ground is a tradition.

### COFFEE CEREMONY

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

An invitation to a traditional household coffee ceremony proves a sure sign of Ethiopian hospitality. The occasion includes green coffee bean roasting, hand-grinding, and steady refills. Savor the experience at Habesha Restaurant in the heart of Addis Ababa, or trek southwest to Jimma to see the quirky *jebena* coffee pot statue, oversized and overlooked by locals.

[addisababaonline.com](http://addisababaonline.com)

### PU-ERH TEA

Yunnan Province, China

Tea Horse Road swapping tea for horses in Tibet, and this dark, fermented tea got its name from a small trading post along the route. The most common kind, Pu-erh, develops a bitter flavor during the storage-fermentation process that soothes effects from oily foods.

Mexico bumps hot chocolate up a flavor notch by mixing in some heat with the sweet—and a side of dunk-worthy churros at the ready.

