

Quick Info about the Hofbräuhaus am Platzl:

Munich actually had TWO "Hofbräuhäuser" at one point

On September 27, 1589, Duke Wilhelm V founded a brewery on the site of the Munich royal residence of that time. This first Hofbräuhaus lasted till the year 1808 and was only a few steps away from today's one.

Maximilian I built his ducal Weissbier brewery in 1607, thus laying the historical foundations of today's Hofbräuhaus.

Beer used to be brewed here – now it's consumed here

The Hofbräuhaus can accommodate 3000 people. At the heart of the place is the so-called "Schwemme", or taproom. There used to be brewing equipment here – now it has room for 1000 beer-drinkers.

Old Traditions Live On

In the Hofbräuhaus, traditions have been cherished for ages, and ancient rituals have sometimes been brought back to life. A recent tradition at the regulars' table, for instance, is to pay for your beer not with money but with beer tokens – just like the old days when the duke ran the place. Any regular who buys ten tokens at once gets an eleventh for free.

Weisswurst – made specially at the Hofbräuhaus

Four o'clock in the morning is when production of home-made Weisswurst, or white sausage, begins at the Hofbräuhaus. This Munich delicacy was invented on a Sunday in 1857 during Carnival time by a local butcher, and is an essential item on the Hofbräuhaus menu. As far as the seasoning is concerned, each butcher has his own, very secret recipe. The ones at the Hofbräuhaus seem to be especially delicious: if you put all the Weisswurst sausages consumed here in one year end to end, they'd cover a distance of 20 kilometers.

The Hofbräuhaus – Open Every Day of the Week

The doors open to the public each day from 9 a.m. onward. Even at Christmas time, the place is always open.

One of the Regulars is an Angel

Half the daily visitors are regulars. And one of them is actually an angel – if the old legend about the "Münchner im Himmel" is to be believed:

Alois Hingerl, the main figure in the story, was a regular at the Hofbräuhaus all his life. When he died and arrived in heaven he irritated a lot of people there by being so homesick for Munich. He moaned so much that eventually God decided to have mercy on him, and sent him back to his old home on a mission for the Bavarian government. But the moment angel Aloisius smelt the air of Munich again, he forgot all about his divine mission and flew straight off to the Hofbräuhaus. There he finally found peace of mind, and has been enjoying one beer after the other ever since. And to this day, so ends the tale, the Bavarian government has been waiting in vain for divine inspiration.

Hofbräuhaus beer pacified the Swedish troops in the Thirty Years' War

362 buckets full of Bockbier from the Hofbräuhaus helped to pacify the Swedish conquering army, and it decided not to destroy Munich after all.

Hofbräuhaus Beer Saved Munich's Opera House

On the night of 14-15 January 1823, the National Theater in Munich caught fire and was threatened with total destruction because the fire brigade's water had frozen due to the harsh winter. Help came from the nearby breweries and the Hofbräuhaus. Beer was brought over in large barrels – and it saved the opera house from being completely destroyed!

Famous Visitors to the Hofbräuhaus

The most famous beer cellar in the world has always attracted visitors from all over the globe. Here is a small excerpt from a very long list:

-Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart spent a lot of time in the Hofbräuhaus in 1780. His opera "Idomeneo" was first performed in January 1781 at Munich's Cuvilliéstheater.

-"Sissi", the Empress Elisabeth of Austria, was one of the most distinguished guests at the Platzl. On visits to her native Bavaria she often stopped by to enjoy the happy and relaxed atmosphere – and a few swigs of good old Munich beer.

-Lenin: the Russian revolutionary leader visited the Hofbräuhaus in 1913 with his wife Nadezhda. Later she wrote in her reminiscences: "We have especially fond memories of the Hofbräuhaus, where the good beer erases all class differences."

-Josephine Baker, the famous dancer, was a visitor here, and so was "match millionaire" **Ivar Kreuger** – during the legendary "Golden Twenties".