



**ASIA CALLING**

Surprise, surprise! Asia doesn't lag too far behind when it comes to beer festivals and although they don't have their own dedicated fests, places such as Hong Kong and Vietnam celebrate Oktoberfest annually. Even our very own India has begun to hold Oktoberfest, so you don't have to go too far from home to experience it. But, Singapore is the place to be if you really love beer. The Beerfest Asia takes place in June every year, so get on a plane and experience the different types of beer, food and entertainment.

Whether you prefer ale or lager, beer festivals are the place to be if you love a cold pint. Wherever your travels take you, there's a beer festival waiting for you. So, we've listed out some of the best places where you can experience the best of beer.

**BRITAIN IN JANUARY**

Yes, the British love to drink. And, Britain has a host of beer festivals to its name. Most festivals in Britain focus on the draught variety of beer. The most popular festival is the Great British Beer Festival, a yearly festival organised by the Campaign for Real Ale which usually takes place in January. Britain is also home to the Cambridge Beer Festival, which is the longest running beer festival (having started way back in 1974). The great thing about British beer fests is that they are often combined with music festivals. One such event is the Rotherham Real Ale and Music Festival which takes place in Rotherham every year.

**USA IN APRIL**

Home to Budweiser, the US has The Great American Beer Festival in Denver (where judges select medal winners for the best breweries) and an Oktoberfest Zinzinnati that mimics the popular German festival, where they go all out celebrating their love for beer. New York City's largest as well as longest running beer festival, Brewtopia, worth a visit if you want to sample a variety of world beer. Other notable festivals include the Great International Beer Festival at Rhode Island in April, as well as The World Beer Festival, which takes place in four different locations throughout the year and includes seminars, food and music.

**IRELAND IN SEPTEMBER**

Do people often tell you that you drink like an Irishman? The Irish are often associated with their love of lager and they have festivals that match their enthusiasm for the drink. The Irish Craft Beer Festival is one

# Beer time!

If a list of places in the city for a burger and beer weren't enough, **Rhea Dhanhoora** takes a look at some of the most famous beer festivals from around the world...

such festival, held for three days in September every year. Ireland is also home to the Great Irish Beer Festival, an event which will take place in October this year and is the country's largest celebration of all types of beer.

**GERMANY IN OCTOBER**

If you want great beer, head to Germany to be part of the beer craze during the larger-than-life Oktoberfest. It's so big, that devotees are holding Oktoberfest in their own countries (including India). The 16 day event has been celebrated since 1810 and apart from a range of beer; you'll also be treated to some traditional German grub.

**AUSTRALIA IN OCTOBER**

You can't leave the land of Fosters out of our beer celebrations now, can you? From small Oktoberfest celebrations in Brisbane to a yearly one in Sydney, Australia is home to some of the best! One of their most popular is the Australian Beer Festival in October. The rest are quite erratic, so you'll have to check their monthly calendars to see what's happening when you plan on visiting. Small pubs and bars often organise festivals from time to time as well.

**BELGIUM IN DECEMBER**

You can't ignore Belgium when you're talking about beer. With a spattering of popular beer fests as well as impromptu ones, whenever pubs and bars decide to go all out, they also have The Christmas Beer Festival, which takes place in Essen. Other notable fests include the Belgian Beer Weekend, an event held in Grand Place, Brussels. It's a huge festival, organised by the Brewer's Association. If you've got a passion for beer and want to taste, comment on and experience the brew with fellow beer enthusiasts, The Beer Passion Weekend, organised by the Beer Passion magazine in Antwerp, is what you should check out in July. Even hop growing capital Poperinge has a festival called the Karakterbieren Festival.



>> British beer festivals have a lot of local beer and breweries (above left) while Germany's Oktoberfest (middle right) has stalls with food, drink and entertainment. The Great British Beer Festival (below left) is one of the most popular beer festivals in London



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