**Important addresses and information**

**Organiser**
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Curious? More at www.taenzelfest.de

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**The opening ceremony**

By opening day, the town has become infused with an atmosphere of joy. Tänzelfest is here again! People from near and far are cordially invited to join in at the opening ceremony which includes performances of music, dance, singing and acting by children and youngsters from different groups.

Tänzelfest is a big event for the children and the opening ceremony will give you a humorous taste of what is to come in the days thereafter. As twilight drops over the town and the festival is officially declared open, fireworks sprinkle the sky with multicoloured stars, marking the beginning of the best time of the year for the citizens of Kaufbeuren and their guests. Tänzelfest! It’s a festival with a historic tradition: for centuries it has been carried in the hearts of every generation until today.

**The Tänzelfest Boys’ Band**

What would a festival be without music? In 1867 the then music director, David Ignaz Walch, founded the Tänzelfest Boys’ Band which was a great stroke of luck for the town. Today, in the traditional Kaufbeuren uniform of the 1850s, these young musicians continue to captivate their audiences, not just by their appearance, but most particularly by their music. You can hear it all over Kaufbeuren, inspiring locals and guests alike. Wherever they perform, be it at the flag-throwing ceremony, during the great parade or the Kaufbeuren Ceremonial Tattoo, the Tänzelfest Boys’ Band always receives enthusiastic applause.

The band not only inspires its audience during Tänzelfest; its performances – both in Germany and abroad – have enthralled audiences everywhere.

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**Bavaria’s oldest historical children’s event**

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Every year in July
The Festival for the Whole Family
Anyone wanting to find out what the people of Kaufbeuren are really like must come to the Tanzelfest in mid-July. The citizens go on a week-long journey through 1,000 years of history. To be present when over 1,650 children enact the history of their town never ceases to impress natives and guests alike every year. They all sense the enthusiasm of the children involved in the unique atmosphere of the historic Old Town. Nobody today knows exactly how old the festival is; but one thing is clear: It is the oldest children’s festival in Bavaria. The central event is one of the many visits of Emperor Maximilian I (1459—1519) to our town, and his splendid entourage move through the festively decorated streets to the Town Hall to be greeted there ceremoniously by Mayor, Council and representatives of the guilds. In the festival parade thereafter with 35 festival carriages, over 150 horses, 1,650 children in authentic historical costumes re-enact the history of their town from Carolingian to Biedermeier period. See how he and his splendid entourage moved through the festively decorated streets to the Town Hall to be greeted there ceremoniously by Mayor, Council and representatives of the guilds. In the festival parade thereafter with 35 festival carriages, over 150 horses, 1,650 children in authentic historical costumes re-enact the history of their town from Carolingian to Biedermeier period.

The Children in the Bustling Market
On the main festival days: Saturday, Sunday and Monday, the children are already busy at the “Häfelesmarkt” (i.e. “pottery market”), demonstrating ancient crafts and performing dances and music in the Old Town around Hafenmarkt, Salzmarkt and Obstmarkt. At stalls representing the blacksmiths, tanners, dyers, bakers and butchers the children re-enact the old crafts. Let our Market Crier’s patter entice you into buying homemade jam, our Tanzelfest honey or other delicacies; and experience the children’s enthusiasm first-hand. However, beware of the Swedes who have set up camp at the centre of the town and are moving through our streets.

The Fairground since 1960
What would the Tanzelfest be without its fair? This bright, glittering, wonderfully fragrant, noisy bustle spellbinds young and old alike. The many spinning and tilting rides promise loud, exciting enjoyment and thrills at the fairground. Or stroll around and enjoy the fun and entertainment offered by the stalls and shows. The Römersperger-Richter family has been operating a festival tent for over 50 years and will again return to the banks of the river Wertach with a delicious assortment of food and drink for the visitors to the Tanzelfest. Hearty snacks, refreshing beer, lively music and a typical Bavarian atmosphere make their huge, festively-decorated tent the main attraction on the fairground.

Adults on a journey into the past
The children are not the only ones for whom history comes alive at the Tanzelfest. Since 1990 the “mediaeval camp life” has attracted and fascinated visitors from near and far. On Friday and Saturday the visitors all plunge into the world of knights and lansquenets in the romantic courtyards and hidden corners of our beautiful Old Town. On Friday and Saturday we take you back in history in the presence of artistes, acrobats and story-tellers, fire-eaters, knights and noble ladies and gentlemen, beggars and vagabonds by the light of blazing torches and campfires.

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As always, or club will provide action and amusement to entertain you and all other visitors to the Tanzelfest.