

Lederhosen

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Lederhosen ("leather trousers" in [German](#); singular: "Lederhose") are knee-breeches ([knickerbockers](#) or [shorts](#)) made of [leather](#).

The word Lederhosen is frequently misspelled *Leiderhosen* (literally, "sadly-breeches"), or *Liederhosen* ("songs-breeches"). The German pronunciation is [ˈleːdɐ.ɦoːzən]. In [English](#) both /ˈlɛdərhoʊzən/ and /ˈliːdərhoʊzən/ are used.

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Bavarian men wearing lederhosen

Traditional Bavarian men's clothing

[[edit](#)]

Traditionally, lederhosen were worn by [Germanic](#) men of the [Alpine](#) and surrounding regions, including [Austria](#), the highlands and mountains of Southern [Germany](#), the German-speaking part of [Italy](#)'s province of [Bolzano-Bozen](#) (formerly part of Austria until after [World War I](#)) but not [Switzerland](#). The areas in Western Austria and Northern Italy are known as [Tyrol](#) and lederhosen are a characteristic of this region.



one attempt at modernizing lederhosen, "Double zipper" lederhosen were once even advertised as workout wear in 70s Europe.

[La Couturière Parisienne](#) [ⓘ], however, claims that lederhosen were not originally only a Bavarian garment, but that they had been worn all over [Europe](#), especially by riders, hunters and others—and not only by the peasant folk. Only people in the south of Bavaria (south of Munich) had "Lederhosen." The flap (*drop front* style) may actually be a unique, or clever, Bavarian invention. It became so popular in the 18th century, that it was known in [France](#) as "à la bavaroise," or "in the Bavarian style."^[1]

Lederhosen have remained regionally popular and are commonly associated with virility and brawn. Some men enjoy wearing them when [hiking](#), working outdoors, on a stag night, or attending [folk festivals](#) and [beer gardens](#); they are rarely seen elsewhere, and have acquired [camp](#) connotations in the rest of Central Europe. Nevertheless, they have remained a [symbol](#) of regional pride. Their role in Bavaria is thus comparable to that of the [kilt/trews](#) in [Scotland](#) or the [cowboy hat](#) in the [United States](#).

Traditional German boys' clothing

[[edit](#)]

German boys used to wear lederhosen to the age of about 16. These lederhosen were less decorative than the Austrian [tracht](#) (mainly with regards to embroidery), but retained typical attributes like the suspenders/braces and drop front style flap. Even today, some German and French boy scouts wear various forms of lederhosen, although in most cases they do not form part of their official uniform. Lederhosen were also worn by Austrian boys from the 1930s to the 1960s. Today they are worn in special cases, like a [Biergarten](#) or on a [Zeltfest](#). Austrian girls wear the [Dirndl](#) as a part of the tracht.



Boy's lederhose, usually shorter than formal lederhosen and lacking embroidery

Similarities in other regions

[[edit](#)]

The [Turkish oil wrestlers](#) wear a kind of lederhosen called a [kisbet](#), which are also embroidered and similar to the [Alpine](#) lederhosen, but without suspenders.

Notes

[[edit](#)]

- ↑ "[La Couturière Parisienne - Wo bleiben die Lederhosen und Dirndl?](#) [ⓘ]". A. Bender. April, 2008. Retrieved on 2008-08-27.

See also

[[edit](#)]

- [Clothing](#)
- [National costume](#)
- [Austrian folk dancing](#)
- [Leather shorts](#)
- Not to be confused with: [Leeuwenhosen](#)

External links

[[edit](#)]

- [Treu dem guten alten brauch founded in New York City in 1928](#) [ⓘ]
- [History of Lederhosen and customs concerned with Tracht costumes](#) [ⓘ]
- [History of Lederhosen](#) [ⓘ] (English) | [Geschichte der Lederhosen](#) [ⓘ] (German)
- [Lederhosen](#) [ⓘ] From the Historical Boys Clothing website

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Clothing

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