

# Germany / Munich

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To many people Bavaria is a place apart from the rest of Germany. And Munich, the principal city of this southern region, is one of the jolliest cities in all of Europe. This is the beer capital of the world. Germans drink more beer than the people of any other country: 150 liters per person per year. But the Bavarians do even better, drinking 250 liters apiece annually. The thing that makes Munich special, however, is that it is able to combine this lust for life with modern sophistication. Munich features world-class museums, beautiful parks and architecture and a uniquely liberal attitude that has made it the cultural capital of Germany. A mix of traditionalism and avant-garde culture will keep you interested at all hours, and this town does stay up until all hours with its 80,000 students.

## Telephone and time difference

Access code to USA: 00 To phone Germany: 49; time difference (Eastern Daylight) plus 6 hours.

## Climate

Generally, in Germany the weather is fairly moderate. Summer days average a comfortable 70°F (21°C), but be prepared for chilly evenings that sometimes dip to the low mid-50s F (about 10°C).

## Sights and Museums

A large number of Munich's wonders are within walking distance of Marienplatz, the city's main square. Here you will see the Altes Rathaus (old Town Hall) and the Neo-Gothic Neues Rathaus with its famous Glockenspiel. Near Marienplatz are two of Munich's oldest churches. Peterskirche was founded in the 11th century and has a breathtaking interior.

The enormous Residenz of the Wittelsbach dukes, Max-Joseph-Platz 3, contains dozens of magnificent rooms built from the 14th to 19th centuries. There are other exhibitions here as well. The Deutsches Museum is one of the most important museums of science and technology in the world. It fills an entire island in the river Isar with just about everything that was ever invented on this planet.

## Theatre and Nightlife

The city has a vast range of theatre and concert offerings. The Staatstheater, Gärtnerplatz 3, offers everything from operas to operettas and musicals, which are fun to watch and listen to even if you don't speak the language.

Munich offers every type of nocturnal diversion, from cafes in Schwabing to rowdy beer halls. The six great German beers are Augustiner, Hacker-Pschorr, Hofbräu, Löwenbräu, Paulaner-Thomasbräu and Spaten-Franziskaner. If you want to try them all you will have to do a bit of walking as each brand supplies its own beer halls. The Hofbräuhaus am Platzl, Platz 9, has been in business since 1859.

## Shopping

Stores are open on weekdays from 9 am to 6 pm with some closing for lunch. They follow the same hours the first Saturday of every month but close at 2 pm the other Saturdays.

Munich's most elegant shops can be found along Maximilianstrasse and Briennerstrasse and the small streets between Marienplatz and Odeonplatz. Antique shops are concentrated in Neuturmstrasse, near Marienplatz. The city's leading department stores are Kaufhof on Marienplatz, and Karstadt near Karlsplatz.

## Excursions

City Tour: Make a bus tour past all of Munich's famous sights such as: the Peterskirche; the Marienplatz, with the Old and New Town Hall; the Residenz, the Royal Palace; the Deutsches Museum; the Munich Municipal Museum; the Frauenkirche and the St. Michaelskirche.

Olympiapark. The Olympic village. Built for the 1972 Olympic Games and also the scene of the terrorist kidnapping of Israeli athletes. The modern sports complex includes swimming pools, tracks and gymnasiums. The park also has an 80,000-seat stadium (under an extraordinary roof) and an artificial lake. The housing built for Olympic athletes is now a major residential suburb. You can swim in the pools if you want to. Looking down on the park is a 952-foot TV spike. From its upper tiers the Alps (65 miles away) are easily visible on a clear day. Ascent to the top via the fastest lift in Europe.

Dachau. The name has evoked nothing but horror since the first Nazi concentration camp was built here in 1933. Some 200,000 prisoners and deportees were received here. The number who died or disappeared is uncertain. The magnitude of the crimes committed here contrasts sharply with the natural beauty of the area. Dachau itself is a charming terraced town near a misty heath. Though most of the buildings were destroyed in 1962, wall, gates and crematorium remain from the original site. The old administration building is now used as a museum where photos, memorabilia, and exhibitions show what has happened here. A film about the camp is shown twice daily in English. This is not a place for the faint-hearted. Dachau is closed on Mondays.

Schloss Nymphenburg. Nymphenburg Palace and Park. Just west of Munich stands a splendid 495-acre park with lakes and hunting lodges and Nymphenburg Palace, once residence of the Bavarian Kings. The great hall of the Palace is decorated with frescoes by Johann Baptist Zimmerman. There is a museum (Marstallmuseum) in the south wing of the Palace which houses state carriages and sleighs. The Nymphenburg China factory, with showrooms open to the public, is on the north crescent of the grounds. Concerts are presented in the grounds in the summer months, and it is a particularly lovely spot to visit when the rhododendron are in bloom from May to July. This Park is closed on Mondays.

Tierpark Hellabrun The zoo. Set on the banks of the river Isar, this lushly planned Zoo is Europe's largest. Small rivers enhance the park's natural forestland setting. The Zoo is famous for breeding rare animals and for its anthropoid ape section.