

Ten things to know about Munich and Bavaria



1. **Its geographical location:** Munich lies on the elevated plains of Upper Bavaria, north of the northern edge of the Alps.
2. **Weather:** Being so close to the Alps, Munich is the most snow-prone major city of Germany. A warm downhill wind from the Alps (a föhn wind) can raise temperatures sharply within a few hours, even in the winter. When the “föhn” blows, the Alps appear even closer on the horizon.
3. **Punctuality** is a necessity in Germany. Arrive on time for every appointment, whether for business or social. Being late, even if it is only by a few minutes, is very insulting to a German executive.
4. **Titles** are very important to Germans. Do your best to address people by their full, correct title, no matter how extraordinary long that title may seem to foreigners.
5. The **inhabitants** of Munich are friendly, warm and fond of traditions! There are traditional festivities all over Bavaria every month of the year. Something very important for them is also football, being Bayern München their beloved soccer club.
6. **Places to go to in Munich are:**

Oktoberfest: Munich is full of **events**, but the one you absolutely shouldn't miss is the most famous Bavarian Beer Festival. It's held in September and lasts till the first Sunday of October.



Viktualien Market – is a daily food market and a square in the center of Munich. The market also hosts a number of traditional and folkloric events such as weighing celebrities, brewers' day, gardeners' day, opening of the asparagus season, summer festival, and dance of the market women on Shrove Tuesday.

Marienplatz square in the centre of Munich, with Town Hall.

In the Middle Ages markets and tournaments were held in this city square. The Glockenspiel in the tower of the new city hall was inspired by these Tournaments, and attracts millions of tourists a year. There is a Marian Column which was erected in 1638 to celebrate the end of Swedish occupation during the Third Years War and is topped by a Golden statue of the Virgin Mary. This is also an important meeting point.



The **Deutsches Museum** is the world's largest museum of technology and science, with approximately 1.5 million visitors per year and about 28,000 exhibited objects from 50 fields of science and technology



The English Garden is one thing which makes Munich such a pleasant city to live in. During the summer you'll see students from the adjacent University studying here. Other people play football, frisbee, horse riding, even cricket and surfing on the Eisbach river! A particularly notorious activity is sunbathing in the nude.



Chinese Tower: This pagoda was built when the gardens were created in 1789. Around the tower is now one of Munich's most popular beer gardens. Often a brass band will play live from the first floor of the tower.

Hofbräuhaus: It is a huge beer drinking hall and you'll see all the traditions of a Bavarian beer drinking. i.e. long wooden tables and benches. There will be also musicians in traditional clothes.





The old Pinakothek is an art museum. It is one of the oldest galleries in the world and houses one of the most famous collections of old Master paintings (13th. To 18th. Century).

The New Pinakothek focus is European Art of the 18th and 19th century and is one of the most important museums of art of the nineteenth century in the world.



The Munich Residenz (Münchner Residenz, Munich Palace) is the former royal palace of the Bavarian monarchs in the center of the city. The Residenz is the largest city palace in Germany and is today open to visitors for its architecture and room decorations, and displays from the former royal collections.



Nymphenburg Palace

The baroque palace in the west part of Munich was the summer residence of the Bavarian monarchs. Five generations of Wittelsbach rulers were involved in the construction of this stately ensemble, which houses several outstanding collections. While you're there, be sure not to miss the Marstallmuseum and the Porcelain Museum, the Museum Mensch und Natur and the Botanical Garden.



7. **Eating and drinking in Munich:**

Bavarian cooking is hearty and rustic, making very simple ingredients into tasty, satisfying dishes. It is known for its wide variety of Wurst (sausages), meat dishes, Knödel (dumplings) and pasta dishes, as well as for its breads, its sweet dishes and its desserts. Bread is not only eaten for breakfast, it is also used as filling in Knödel, poultry, and roasts. And we cannot forget about the world famous **Brezeln**.

The Weisswurst

should be eaten with the hands, without fork and knife and with a dip of sweet mustard. There is also a **potato pancake** made with onions and served with apple sauce.

The **Apfelstrudel** is a pastry filled with chopped apples and it will be served warm either with custard sauce or vanilla ice cream.

Knödel are potato dumplings cooked in summering salt water. Some versions of it are made of cooked, others of raw potatoes. Mostly they will be served to meat dishes, but they can also be part of a soup.



8. Sport Activities:

Football (FC Bayern, Allianz Arena), Wellness (Thermalwelt Erding), Golf Club, Summer and winter Toboggans (Blomber, Tegernsee), Olympic riding area Riem, Paraglider, Hockey, Swimming, cycling, skiing, etc.

9. Famous Bavarian people:

Richard Strauss, composer (The knight of the rose), King Ludwig II (Neuschwanstein Castle), Franz Marc (painter The blue rider), Carl Spitzweg (painter), Albrecht Dürer (painter), Bertold Brecht (playwright), Alois Alzheimer (physician), Benedict XVI (Pope), Claus von Stauffenberg (aristocrat, army officer), etc.

10. Events:

Landshut Wedding 2013, Imperial City Festival (Rothenburg ob der Tauber), The Master Draught (Rothenburg), Slaying of the Dragon (Furth im Wald), Historic Festival (Kaufbeuren), Knights Tournament (Kaltenberg), Sledge race on a traditional sledge (Carnival time), etc.



Sources:

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