

Chapter 15

Munich and Bavaria

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Munich is Germany's center of intellect and industry, a lively European arts-and-culture hub, and the world capital of beer and classy cars (but don't mix those last two). The city is equally comfortable as a vibrant university town, where the Nobel Prize winners Thomas Mann and Albert Einstein rank among the famed intelligentsia, and as an economic powerhouse surrounded by cutting-edge industry. Munich is also the gateway to the rustic, folklore-saturated Bavarian region.

Each autumn, Munich is home to beer and food bashes during a month-long celebration called Oktoberfest. Munich's cultural events, theatres, and museums are sure to keep you busy for several days.

Getting There

With one of the most modern airports in the world and one of the largest train stations in Europe, Munich's status as a major travel hub means that you'll have no trouble finding your way there.

Arriving by air

The ultramodern **Munich Airport International** (☎ 089-97-500; www.munich-airport.de) is 18 miles northeast of Munich. At the information desks on levels 3 and 4 of the main concourse, you can make hotel reservations for Munich and the surrounding area. The desks are open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. A 24-hour Internet point is in the airport's center area, and ATMs are located throughout the airport.

You can catch the S8 S-Bahn (light-rail train), which leaves the airport every 20 minutes, for the 45-minute trip to Munich (8€/9.20).

Germany



Arriving by train

Trains to Munich arrive at the high-tech **Hauptbahnhof** train station on the city's western edge. From here, the S-Bahn runs into the center of town.



For help or tickets, skip the lines and head to the private **EurAide** agency (www.euraide.de), staffed by English-speakers and geared toward helping rail-pass holders by selling tickets and supplements and helping you plan rail journeys from Munich (Room 3 next to Track 11). The office is open June to October 3, daily from 7:45 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; in winter, hours vary.

Orienting Yourself in Munich

Munich's sights are not confined to its **Altstadt**, or old center — as in many European cities. Munich's cultural attractions are spread across town. The tangled streets of the Altstadt are at the core of the city, bearing a combination of medieval and contemporary structures that have been restored or replaced after World War II bombings.

Introducing the neighborhoods

Marienplatz is the heart of the city, with its bustling square and a light-rail juncture underneath. **Neuhauserstrasse** is one of the city's main east-west routes and begins at **Karlsplatz** (a few blocks east of **Hauptbahnhof** station). This street changes names to **Kaufingerstrasse** and beyond Marienplatz, it becomes **Im Tal**. This street leads east into **Isartorplatz**, on the Altstadt's eastern edge. Just a few blocks away is the **Isar River**, which borders the eastern edge of the city.

Art galleries and designer boutiques fill **Maximilianstrasse**, the other main east-west route. This fashionable street runs from the Isar River west into the Altstadt and ends at **Max Joseph Platz** — the location of the **Residenz** royal palace — just a few blocks north of Marienplatz. **Residenzstrasse** runs from Max Joseph Platz to **Odeonsplatz**. Odeonsplatz is an elegant, if heavily trafficked, square surrounded by neo-Renaissance buildings; it marks the Altstadt's northern edge.

From Odeonsplatz, **Ludwigstrasse/Leopoldstrasse** heads due north toward the University district and **Schwabing**, a trendy quarter filled with restaurants and cafes. **Prinzregentenstrasse** runs east-west just north of the city center. This street passes along the southern border of the **Englischer Garten** park and is lined with several museums (including the Bavarian National Museum). An area of neoclassical buildings houses more museums (including both the **Neue** and **Alte Pinakotheks**) to the northwest corner of the Altstadt. You can reach this area via **Briennerstrasse**, which heads west out of Odeonsplatz.

Finding information after you arrive

The main tourist office, **Fremdenverkehrsamt** (☎ 089-233-0300 or 089-2339-6500; www.munich-tourist.de), is at the Hauptbahnhof at the south exit opening onto Bayerstrasse. Open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., it offers a free map of Munich and can **reserve hotel rooms** (☎ 089-2339-6555). Tourist information can also be obtained in the town center on Marienplatz inside the Rathaus Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Getting Around Munich

Munich was one of the first cities to close many of the streets in its Altstadt (old center) to cars, making getting around the inner city by

foot both enjoyable and a necessity (not even trams are allowed). But buses, trams, and two light-rail systems (the **U-Bahn** and **S-Bahn**) are available to help you get around Greater Munich.

Buses, trams, S-Bahns, and U-Bahns all use the same **tickets**, which you buy at machines in S-Bahn/U-Bahn stations. The longer your trip, the more zones you have to cross, and the more you'll pay. One zone covers about two S-Bahn or U-Bahn stops or four bus or tram stops. If you have a Eurail pass, you can use it on the S-Bahn, so don't buy a separate ticket.

A **single-journey ticket** for a ride within the city's central Zone 1 — a large area that few tourists ever leave — costs 2.10€ (\$2.40). However, if you're traveling four stops or fewer, you can buy a "**short trip**" ticket for just 1.10€ (\$1.25). If you go to the outermost zones of the subway system, your ride could cost as much as 8.40€ (\$9.65).



You can save money by purchasing a **Streifenkarte (strip card)**, which gives you ten strips to use over several rides for 9.50€ (\$11). Fold over the ticket to the number of strips your journey "costs." Brief trips of up to four stations cost one strip, but each full zone costs two strips. Each time you stamp a set of strips, those are good for three hours (one hour for a "short trip" of four stops) and unlimited transfers, as long as you're headed in the same direction (in other words, it doesn't cover your return trip). You can also use the strip card for multiple passengers — for two people to ride two zones, simply stamp four strips.

The **Tageskarte (day ticket)** is an even better deal. For 4.50€ (\$5.20), you have unlimited access within the central zone for a full day (11€/\$13 for three days). For 9€ (\$10), you can have access to all of Greater Munich — a 50-mile radius. Partner versions of the tickets are valid for two adults and cost 8€ (\$9.20) for the inner district (18.50€/\$21 for the three-day variety), or 16€ (\$18) for Greater Munich.

Your other option is the **Munich Welcome Card**; see the introduction of the "Exploring Munich" section, later in this chapter.

By U-Bahn and S-Bahn (subway and light rail)

The **S-Bahn** is a state-run commuter train line that covers a wider area than the U-Bahn (and is often aboveground); the **U-Bahn** runs mostly underground as a city subway. In the center of Munich, they're both, effectively, subways providing visitors with an overlapping, interchangeable set of networks. The most important difference between the S-Bahn and the U-Bahn is that you can use your **rail pass** on the S-Bahn, but not on the U-Bahn. The major central junctures of multiple lines are Hauptbahnhof, Karlsplatz, Marienplatz, Sendlingertor, and Odeonsplatz.

Most S-Bahn lines discussed in this chapter (S1 through S8) run the same east-west route through the city, and stop at Hauptbahnhof, Karlsplatz, Marienplatz, and Isartorplatz. The most useful of the U-Bahn lines (**U3** and **U6**) run north-south through the city center, and stop at Sendlingertor, Marienplatz, and Odeonsplatz before going to Schwabing.

By tram and bus

Trams and buses are great for getting to a few areas within the Altstadt and for traveling out into Greater Munich, but they're less effective at getting you where you want to go in the center of town. The 19 tram runs along Maximilianstrasse and the northern part of the Altstadt before heading to Hauptbahnhof. The 18 tram trundles from Hauptbahnhof through Sendlinger Tor and Isartor right to the Deutsches Museum.

By taxi

With Munich's efficient public-transportation system, you don't need to take taxis — and at their steep prices, you probably won't want to. The initial charge is 2.50€ (\$2.90) and then 1.45€ (\$1.65) for each kilometer up to 5; 1.30€ (\$1.50) per kilometer for kilometers 5 through 10, then 1.20€ (\$1.40) for each kilometer over 10. You're charged an extra 0.50€ (60¢) per bag for luggage. You can call a taxi to pick you up by dialing ☎ **089-21-610** or 089-19-410 or 089-450-540, but you'll pay 1€ (\$1.15) more for the convenience.

Staying in Munich

Munich has a healthy supply of hotel rooms that serve a large tourist population, as well as a commercial and industrial trade. Unfortunately, year-round demand keeps prices high.



Rates in Munich rise when a trade fair is in town, during the summer tourist season, and during Oktoberfest. You'll want to book a room well in advance for the city's big keg party, or you'll pay high prices or end up a long way from the center — or both.

If you arrive in town without a hotel, the tourist office can land a room for you. Call them at ☎ **089-2339-6555**, or see "Finding information after you arrive," earlier in this chapter, for locations.

Munich's top hotels



An der Oper

\$\$\$ Near the Residenz

An der Oper is a great value right in the heart of town, near major sights, shopping, theater, and the Hofbräuhaus. Rooms are modern and basic, with sitting areas and little touches like mini-chandeliers instead of bedside lamps. Most rooms are midsized to large. The restaurant serves a mix of Bavarian and French cuisine.

See map p. 290. Falkenturmstrasse 11 (just off Maximilianstrasse, near the Residenz end). ☎ **089-290-0270**. Fax: 089-2900-2729. www.hotelanderoper.com. Tram: 19. Rates: 150€–235€ (\$173–\$270) double. Rates include breakfast. AE, MC, V.

Bayerischer Hof**\$\$\$\$ Near the Residenz**

A Bavarian version of New York's Waldorf-Astoria, this hotel is in a swank location, opening onto a little tree-filled square. Rooms range from medium size to extremely spacious, each with plush duvets; many beds are four-posters. Décor ranges from Bavarian provincial to British country house chintz. The large bathrooms have tub/shower combos, private phones, and state-of-the-art luxuries.

See map p. 290. Promenadeplatz 2–6. ☎ **800-223-6800** in the U.S., or 089-21-200. Fax 089-212-0906. www.bayerischerhof.de. Tram: 19. Rates: 205€–416€ (\$236–\$478) double. Rates include breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V.

**Hotel Am Markt****\$ Near Marienplatz**

You may have to hunt to find this budget favorite near Munich's outdoor market. The owner keeps the place spotless, welcoming all sorts of visitors from families to students to stars of stage and opera. Rooms are sparse but functional, small but comfortable. This is one place that doesn't raise prices for Oktoberfest.

See map p. 290. Heiliggeiststrasse 6 (a tiny alley between the Tal and the Viktualienmarkt). ☎ **089-225-014**. Fax: 089-224-017. www.hotelinmunich.de. U-Bahn or S-Bahn: Marienplatz. Walk under the arches of the Altes Rathaus; the hotel is down the first right turn off the Tal. Rates: 66€–68€ (\$76–\$78) double without bathroom, 87€–92€ (\$100–\$106) double with bathroom. Rates include breakfast. MC, V.

Kempinski Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten**\$\$\$\$\$ Near the Residenz**

You may have to splurge at this grand old hotel, built in 1858 for Maximilian II to accommodate the overflow of guests from his nearby Residenz. But the extra cash is worth it if you appreciate discreet service, constantly renovated rooms, a rooftop pool, a bevy of fine restaurants, boutique shops, posh accommodations, and the proximity of shopping, theatre, and galleries. The least expensive rooms are in the uninteresting 1972 wing (although the rooms themselves are vintage 2002); if you're splurging anyway, go for the modern rooms in the original building.

See map p. 290. Maximilianstrasse 17 (3 blocks from the Residenz and hard to miss). ☎ **800-426-3135** in the United States; 089-21-250 in Germany. Fax: 089-2125-2000. www.kempinski-vierjahreszeiten.de. Tram: 19. Rates: 345€–495€ (\$397–\$569) double. Rates include breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V.

Splendid-Dollmann**\$\$\$ Near the Isar**

This Old World hotel offers great value. Oriental carpets, chandeliers, and antiques fill public rooms; bedrooms are outfitted in neo-Bavarian baroque

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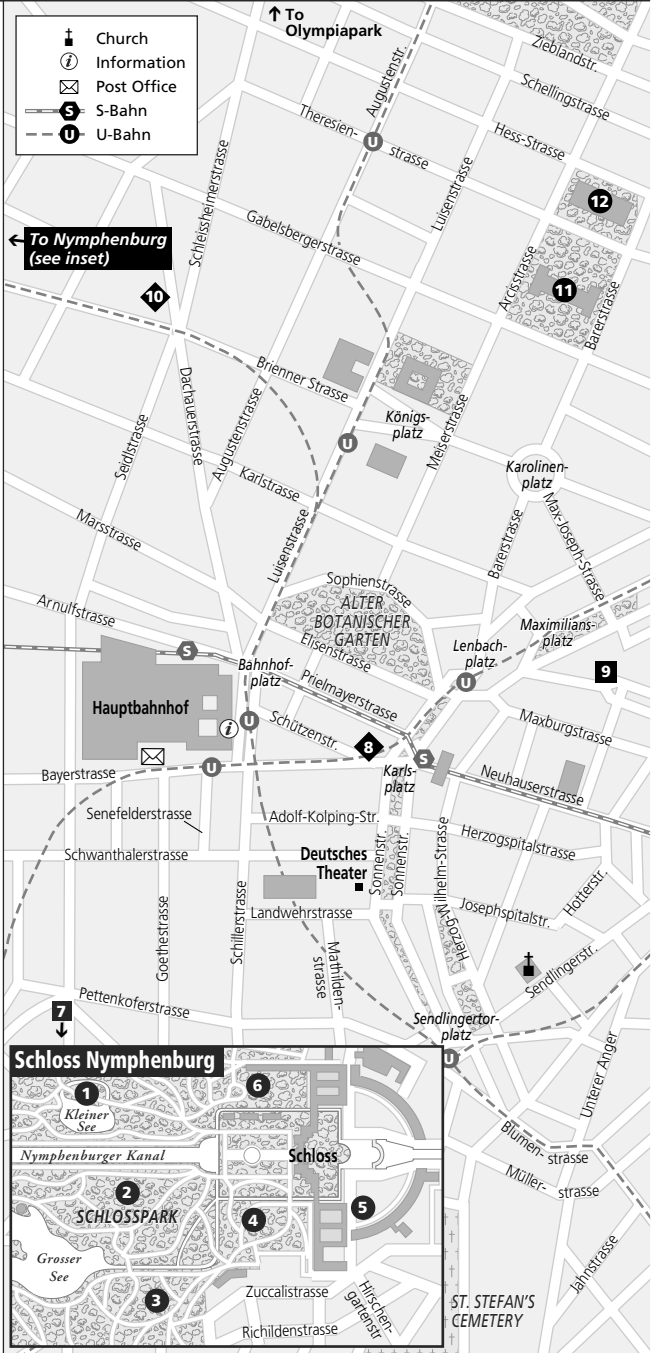
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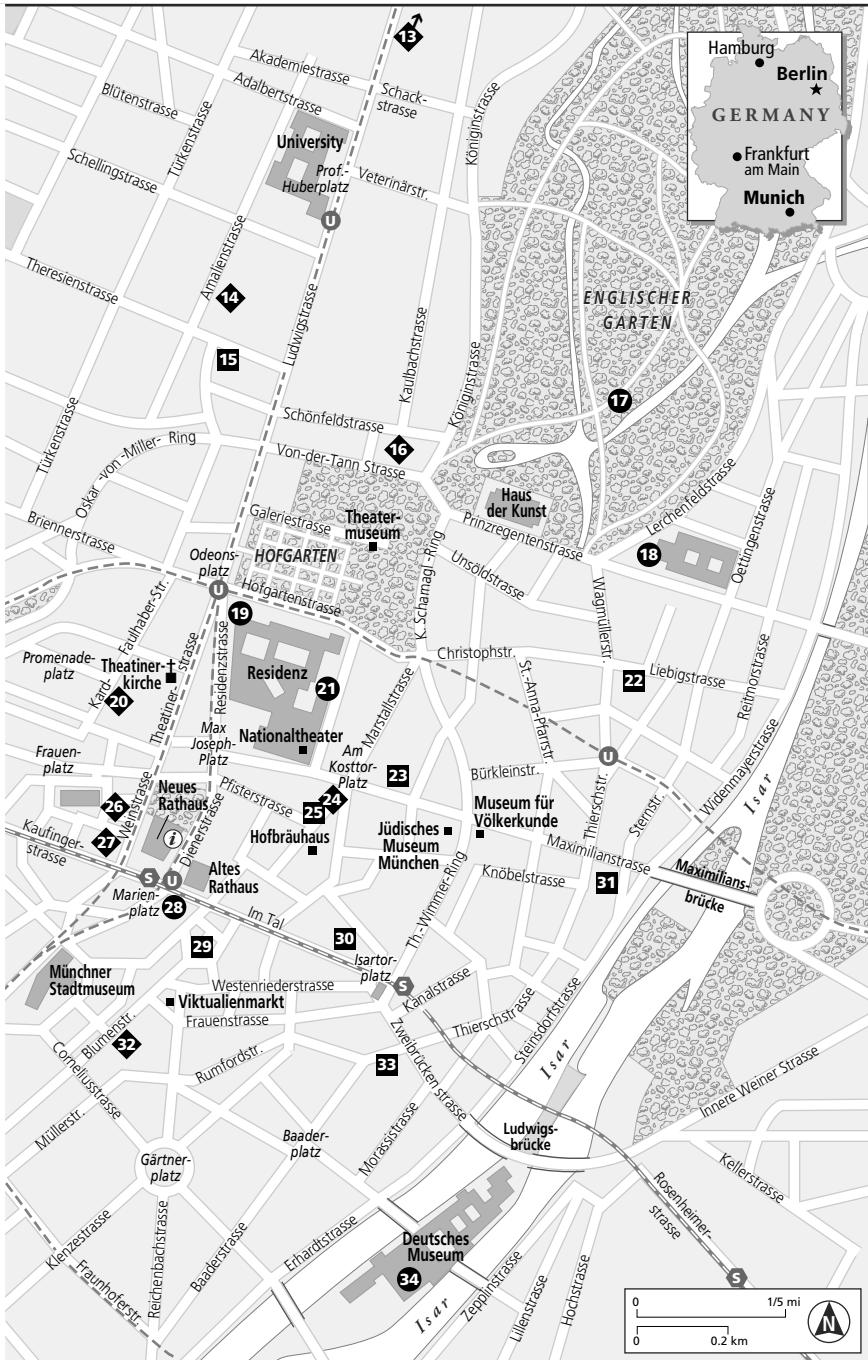
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country style. Splendid is located just outside of the Altstadt (with free parking, no less), near the river, and close to several museums. You can get an inexpensive room without a bath (there's one just down the hall), and enjoy your breakfast on the trellised patio in summer.

See map p. 290. *Thierschstrasse 49 (at Maximilianstrasse, 1 block before the Maximilian Bridge over the Isar).* ☎ **089-296-606** or **089-238-080**. Fax: **089-291-3176** or **089-2380-8365**. www.hotel-splendid-dollmann.de. U-Bahn: Lehel. Tram: 17, 19. Rates: 115€–170€ (\$132–\$196) double. Breakfast 10.50€ (\$12). AE, DC, MC, V.

Munich's runner-up accommodations

Adria

\$\$ Near the Englischer Garten Adria is a stylishly modern place triangulated between the Isar River, the Englischer Garten, and the old center. See map p. 290. *Liebigstrasse 8a.* ☎ **089-242-1170**. Fax: **089-2421-17999**. www.adria-muenchen.de.

Advokat Hotel

\$\$\$ Near the Isar This minimalist contemporary hotel sits comfortably between Isartorplatz and the river. See map p. 290. *Baaderstrasse 1.* ☎ **089-216-310**. Fax: **089-216-3190**. www.hotel-advokat.de.

Hotel Carlton

\$\$ Near Alte and Neue Pinakotheks Visitors enjoy the neo-baroque comfort of this hotel on the edge of trendy Schwabing, very near Munich's art museums. See map p. 290. *Fürstenstrasse 12.* ☎ **089-282-061**. Fax: **089-284-391**. www.renner-hotel-ag.de.

Pension Westfalia

\$ Near Goetheplatz This four-story town house, originally built in 1895, is one of Munich's best pensions. The location faces the meadow where the annual Oktoberfest takes place. See map p. 290. *Mozartstrasse 23.* ☎ **089-530-377**. Fax: **089-543-9120**. www.pension-westfalia.de.

Torbräu

\$\$\$ Near Isartorplatz This place has basic, modern rooms with a 15th-century pedigree, and it's just inside the edge of the Altstadt. See map p. 290. *Tal 41.* ☎ **089-242-340**. Fax: **089-234-235**. www.torbraeu.de.



Dining in Munich

The primary food groups in Munich are sausage, beer, salted white radishes, and pretzels, so don't even think about dieting while you're here. Sausages (or *wurstel*, to the natives) come in many shapes, sizes, and stuffings. Look for *bratwurst* (finger-sized seasoned pork), *frankfurter* (the forerunner of hot dogs, but more appetizing), *blütwurst* (blood sausage), *leberwurst* (liver), and Munich's specialty, *weisswurst* (veal, calf brains, and spleen, spiced to mild deliciousness and boiled). The

proper way to eat weisswurst is to cut it in half, dip the cut end in mustard, and suck the filling out of the casing in one fell slurp.

Another word you may see on menus is *knödel*, which means “dumpling.” Knödel may be made of *semmel* (bread), *leber* (liver), or *kartoffel* (potato). You can usually get these specialties in a beer hall tavern, where people sit communally at big tables. The outdoor *biergarten* is a wonderful Munich tradition. For more on this, see “More cool things to see and do,” later in this chapter.



Now about that beer. Munich is one of the world’s beer capitals, and you’ll want to raise toast after toast of light beer (*light* refers to the color, not the calories). You can get light beer in a giant liter-sized mug called *ein Mass*. At Oktoberfest tents, if you order *ein Bier*, you usually get a half-liter; if you want the giant one, you need to order it by name.

Munich beer types include: *weissbier* (made with wheat); *pils* (ale); *dunklesbier*, *bock*, or *dopplebock* (all dark beers); and the beer-and-lemonade spritzer called *radlermass*. All beers are made under the strictest quality guidelines and almost never contain preservatives. *Helles* means light-colored beer; *dunkles* is dark beer.

Munich’s top restaurants



Boettner’s

\$\$\$\$\$ Near the Residenz INTERNATIONAL

Boettner’s remains the hottest restaurant in town, despite its recent move to a Renaissance palace — though it did pack up its famous old woody interior and refined service and take those along in the move. Its inspired international cuisine has a bit lighter but richer touch, mixing seafood and truffles into the general Franco-Bavarian *mélange* of ingredients. It’ll be difficult, but try to save room for dessert; your taste buds will thank you.

See map p. 290. *Boettnerstrasse 9* (off *Platzl* square just north of the *Hofbräuhaus*). ☎ 089-221-210. *Reservations strongly recommended. U-Bahn or S-Bahn: Marienplatz. Main courses: 25€–45€ (\$29–\$52). AE, DC, MC, V. Open: June–Sept, lunch and dinner Mon–Fri; Oct–May, dinner only Mon–Sat.*

Donisl

\$\$ On Marienplatz BAVARIAN/INTERNATIONAL

Munich’s oldest beer hall has summer tables outside and skylit, pine-paneled galleries inside. The Bavarian cuisine menu features the traditional weisswurst; but the restaurant also serves specials that draw from many culinary traditions (when the chef offers duck, dive for it). An accordion player makes the atmosphere feel that much more Bavarian.

See map p. 290. *Weinstrasse 1* (just above *Marienplatz*). ☎ 089-220-184. www.bayerischer-donisl.de. *Reservations recommended. U-Bahn or S-Bahn: Marienplatz. Main courses: 6€–12€ (\$6.90–\$14). AE, DC, MC, V. Open: Lunch and dinner daily.*



Halali

\$\$\$ North of the Residenz FINE BAVARIAN

Refined, but still traditionally Bavarian, Halali features a candlelit dining room with a few dozen trophy antlers. The restaurant serves traditional Bavarian dishes — blütwurst, venison, and other game — but with delicate flavors and attractive presentations. Red wine, not beer, is the beverage of choice in this upscale eatery.

See map p. 290. *Schönfeldstrasse 22 (3 long blocks north of Odeonsplatz).* ☎ 089-285-909. Reservations required. U-Bahn: Odeonsplatz. Main courses: 15€–22€ (\$17–\$25). Fixed-price menus 21€–46€ (\$24–\$53). AE, MC, V. Open: Lunch and dinner Mon–Fri, dinner Sat.



Nürnberger Bratwurst Glöckl Am Dom

\$\$ Near Marienplatz BAVARIAN

This place is my choice for best traditional Munich beer-hall grub. You can't get any more Bavarian than rustic dark-wood tables and carved chairs and tin plates full of wurstel. Since 1893, this place has served up the finger-sized sausage specialty of nearby Nürnberg. A platter of assorted wursts, a pretzel, and a tankard of Augustiner Bollbier or Tucher Weissbier make the perfect meal.

See map p. 290. *Frauenplatz 9 (off the back end of the cathedral).* ☎ 089-291-945. www.bratwurst-gloeckl.de. Reservations recommended. U-Bahn or S-Bahn: Marienplatz. Main courses: 5€–19€ (\$5.75–\$22). No credit cards. Open: Lunch and dinner daily.

Restaurant Königshof

\$\$\$\$ Near Hauptbahnhof INTERNATIONAL

On the top floor of the Hotel Königshof, you're rewarded not only with fine cuisine, but with a view of the city. Appetizers are sometimes pleasantly startling, like the delicately diminutive rib and loin chops, liver, and rolled duck in a sweet-and-sour ice wine, the flavor enhanced by a pumpkin vinaigrette. The wine list is one of the finest in Germany.

See map p. 290. *In the Hotel Königshof, Karlsplatz 25 (Am Stachus).* ☎ 089-551-360. www.koenigshof-muenchen.de. Reservations required. S-Bahn: Karlsplatz. Tram: 19, 20, or 21. Main courses 29€–44€ (\$33–\$51); fixed-price menus 85€–118€ (\$98–\$136). AE, DC, MC, V. Open: Lunch and dinner daily.

Munich's runner-up restaurants

Ederer

\$\$\$\$ Northwest Corner of City Center One of Munich's hottest celebrity chefs has opened a new restaurant in a baronial old building, setting his culinary skills to turning out a creative modern cuisine fusing Asian,

European, and Bavarian styles. Cheapskates can sample the sumptuous fare at lunch, when the set-price menu goes for just 20€ (\$23) — at dinner it's 70€ (\$81)! *See map p. 290. Kardinal-Faulhaberstrasse 10, 1 block west of Theatinerstrasse (near the Residenz).* ☎ **089-2423-1310.**



Löwenbräukeller

\$ West of City Center This fine beer hall is far enough from the center to keep away most of the tourists (which means the locals still patronize it in droves). The beer garden along the side is perfect on a warm day. *See map p. 290. Nymphenburgerstrasse 2.* ☎ **089-526-021.** www.loewenbraeukeller.com.



Mama's Kebap Haus

\$ Schwabing This small and simple self-service restaurant with a friendly staff in the heart of Schwabing's nightlife district is always crowded with young diners, who enjoy the pizza, kebabs, and daily specials. *See map p. 290. Feilitzschstrasse 7.* ☎ **089-392-642.** www.mamas-kebaphaus.de.

Straubinger Hof

\$\$ South of Marienplatz This Paulaner-brand brew hall serves up platters of würstel, cheese, and even a mean Tafelspitz. *See map p. 290. Blumenstrasse 5.* ☎ **089-260-8444.**

Zum Koreaner

\$ North of Odeonsplatz You'll find this excellent and devastatingly cheap Korean spot in a residential neighborhood. *See map p. 290. Amalienstrasse 46.* ☎ **089-283-115.** www.zum-koreaner.de.

Exploring Munich



The **Munich Welcome Card** costs 6.50€ (\$7.50) for one day (or 11€/\$13 for the "Partner Card" version good for two people), 16€ (\$18) for three days (or 23.50€/\$27 for a Partner Card). It allows you unlimited transportation on train, bus, and tram routes within the city center, plus small discounts (usually around 25 percent, but sometimes as much as 50 percent) on sightseeing tours and at some sights, including the Residenz Museum and Schatzkammer, the Deutsches Museum, and Schloss Nymphenburg. The three-day version covering transport throughout Greater Munich isn't worth the 28€ (\$32). You can buy the card at tourist offices or most hotels.

You can get a two-day **combined ticket** for 12€ (\$14) adults, 4.60€ (\$5.30) students and seniors, that gets you into both the **Alte and Neue Pinakothek**, as well as the **Pinakothek der Moderne** of 20th-century art (Barerstrasse 40; ☎ **089-2380-5360**; www.pinakothek-der-modern.de), which otherwise charges 9€ (\$10) admission.

Munich's top sights



Alte Pinakothek (Old Art Museum)

The Alte Pinakothek is no Louvre or Uffizi, but its rich collection of 14th- to 19th-century works is well worth an hour or three of your time. You find paintings by Italian Renaissance artists Giotto, Filippo Lippi, Botticelli, Perugino, Signorelli, Leonardo da Vinci (*Madonna and Child*), Raphael (*Holy Family* and a couple of versions of *Madonna and Child*), Titian (*Christ with the Crown of Thorns* is one of his most mature works), and Tintoretto. The museum also has several works by Rubens and some Spanish pieces by El Greco, Ribera, Velasquez, and Murillo.

The Dutch and Germans are well represented here. Roger van de Weyden's works are numerous, including the huge *St. Colombia Altarpiece*; loads of Rembrandts and Van Dycks grace the walls; and there are a host of good Germanic altarpiece paintings by maestros of the mid-15th to mid-16th centuries.

Albrecht Dürer's *Self Portrait* (from around 1500) is the centerpiece of the collection. Many artists before Dürer painted themselves into the background or crowds in large works as a kind of signature, but Dürer was the first to make himself, the artist, the star of the show. Full frontal portraiture had been used only to portray Christ prior to this self-portrait.

See map p. 290. *Barerstrasse 27* (off *Theresienstrasse*, several long blocks northwest of city center). ☎ 089-2380-5216. www.pinakothek.de. U-Bahn: U2 to Königsplatz. Tram: 27. Bus: 53. Admission: 5€ (\$5.75) adults, 3.50€ (\$4) students ages 15–18, disabled, and senior citizens; free ages 14 and under when accompanied by a parent. Free admission Sundays. Open: Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tues 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Bayerisches Nationalmuseum (Bavarian National Museum)

The National Museum has an impressive collection of medieval church art, including statuary, altarpieces, and carved ivories (look for the A.D. 400 Munich Ivory showing the Lamentation and Christ ascending into Heaven). The Bavarian sculptor Tilman Riemenschneider, who worked in the early 16th century, often managed to fashion the most eloquent, expressive figures out of plain, unpainted wood.

This museum's hodgepodge collection features armor from the 16th to 18th centuries, baroque porcelain confections, delicate stained-glass panels, and elaborate Christmas crèches from Germany, Austria, Italy, and Moravia. The Weaver's Guild Room is painted with stories from the Bible and the life of Alexander the Great.

See map p. 290. *Prinzregentenstrasse 3* (off the southeast corner of the *Englischer Garten*, northeast of the city center). ☎ 089-211-2401. www.bayerisches-nationalmuseum.de. U-Bahn: U4, U5 to Lehel. Tram: 20. Bus: 53. Admission: 3€ (\$3.45) adults, 2€ (\$2.30) students and seniors, free for ages 18 and under. Free admission Sundays. Open: Tues–Wed and Fri–Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thurs 10 a.m.–8 p.m.



Deutsches Museum (German Museum of Science and Technology)

If you have kids, don't miss this fantastic see-and-touch science museum. The placards are in German and English, and the rooms cover industrial machinery, the digging of tunnels, astronautics, computers and micro-electronics, textiles, mining, and electricity in wonderful detail.

You may especially enjoy the High Voltage demonstrations (11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. daily) — they actually produce lightning. A hangar filled with historic aircraft and a collection of venerable cars, including the very first automobile (an 1886 Benz), are not to be missed if you're interested in transportation. You also find the first diesel engine (1897) and the lab bench at which Hahn and Strassmann first split the atom (1938).



The Deutsches Museum is one of the few museums in Munich that is open on Monday.

See map p. 290. Museuminsel 1 (on an island in the Isar river). ☎ 089-21-791. www.deutsches-museum.de. U-Bahn: U1, U2 to Fraunhoferstrasse. S-Bahn: Isartorplatz. Tram: 18. Admission: 7.50€ (\$8.65) adults, 4.10€ (\$4.70) seniors, 3€ (\$3.45) students aged 6–15; free ages 6 and under. A Family Ticket for parents and up to two kids costs 15€ (\$17). Open: Daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (on Wed certain exhibits remain open until 8 p.m. — and admission is only 3€/\$3.45 if you enter Wed after 4 p.m.).

Marienplatz

In the center of Munich is the lively, cafe-lined Marienplatz (see map p. 290), home to street performers and the daily bustle of the city. This city square is bounded along its long north side by the pinnacles and tracery of the 19th-century Neues Rathaus, done in neo-Gothic style. The clock on this town hall is equipped with a bilevel *glockenspiel* (a percussion instrument that produces bell-like tones), the fourth largest in Europe, whose mechanical jousting show plays out daily at 11 a.m. and noon (and at 5 p.m. in summer).



St. Peter's Church is on the southeast corner of the square, with a 300-foot tower that you can climb for a small fee. At the top, you're rewarded with excellent city views that reach the Alps on clear days.

Neue Pinakothek (New Art Museum)

Across from the Altes Pinakothek, the Neue Pinakothek covers the late-18th through mid-20th centuries with the likes of Gainsborough, Goya, Delacroix, Manet, Monet, Degas, Cézanne, van Gogh, Klimt, Beckmann, and Munch. An amusing section displays works by the Nazarenes, a group of early-19th-century German artists trying their darndest to paint like 15th-century Italian artists (the older set of paintings is a better choice if you're on a tight schedule). Visit the Alte Pinakothek first, and then see if you have an hour or so left for these galleries.

See map p. 290. Barerstrasse 29 (off Theresienstrasse, several long blocks northwest of city center). ☎ 089-2380-5195. www.pinakothek.de. U-Bahn: U2 to Königsplatz. Tram: 27. Bus: 53. Admission: 5€ (\$5.75) adults, 3.50€ (\$4) students ages 15–18, disabled, and senior citizens; free ages 14 and under when accompanied by a parent. Free admission Sundays. Open: Tues and Thurs–Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Wed 10 a.m.–8 p.m.



Residenz Palace

The official residence of Bavarian royalty is a rambling palace that was started in 1385 and added on to until World War I. A medieval merchant family, the Wittlesbachs, rose to power in Bavaria in 1180 and didn't relinquish power until revolutionaries came banging at the Residenz front door in 1918 — making them Europe's longest-lasting dynasty.



Must-see highlights include the Residenz Museum, the Treasure House, and the Cuvilliés Theater. To see all the details, you have to take both a morning and an afternoon tour, but you can enjoy the ornate splendors on your own in just a couple of hours.

In the **Residenz Museum**, 120 rooms of Wittlesbach history and furnishings, check out the Ancestor's Gallery (1728–1730), a royal photo album of oil portraits set into the gilded stucco walls of a long hallway, and the huge Renaissance Hall of Antiquities, covered with 16th- and 17th-century frescoes. Don't miss Maximilian I's Reiche Kappelle, a closet-sized chapel featuring inlaid marble, gilding, and ivory carvings. The Residenz is so big that they open separate sets of rooms in the morning (10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. for Circular Tour I) and the afternoon (12:30–4 p.m. for Circular Tour II).

The Bavarian crown jewels, some dating back to A.D. 1000, are kept in the **Schatzkammer (Treasure House)**, but the greatest treasure is the gold St. George Slaying the Dragon (1590). It's a wonder the saint, encumbered by all those diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and other gems, ever managed to slay the emerald beast.

Around the corner is the beautiful **Cuvilliés Theater**, named after its architect, a former court jester who overcame 18th-century prejudices about his dwarfism, won the patronage of the Wittlesbachs, and became one of southern Germany's most important architects. Enjoy concerts and opera here in summer; Mozart's *Idomeneo* premiered here in 1781.

See map p. 290. Max Joseph Platz 3. ☎ 089-290-671. www.schloesser.bayern.de. U-Bahn: U3, U5, U6 to Odeonsplatz. Admission: Combination museum and Treasure House, 9€ (\$10) adults, 8€ (\$9.20) students/seniors; museum or Treasure House individually, 6€ (\$6.90) adults, 5€ (\$5.75) seniors/students; Cuvilliés Theater, 3€ (\$3.45) adults, 2€ (\$2.30) students and seniors; all free for ages 15 and under. Open: All three are open daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m. (10 a.m.–4 p.m. Oct 16–Mar), although Cuvilliés Theater sometimes shortens hours when rehearsing or setting the stage for a production.



Schloss Nymphenburg

The Wittlesbachs spent summers in a sophisticated countryside palace, named Schloss Nymphenburg after the nymphs frescoed in its main entrance hall (concerts are presented here in summer). This place started as a modest Italianate villa in 1664 and was changed radically over the next 150 years, including a change of face to French baroque.

A network of pavilions at the palace provides interesting architecture and artwork. The south pavilion (where Queen Caroline resides) features Ludwig I's Gallery of Beauties — portraits commissioned by the king of the 36 most beautiful women in the realm. In the **Mastrallmuseum**, you find a collection of royal coaches including King Ludwig II's wedding coach, entirely gilded and encrusted with rococo stucco swirls.

The **Schlosspark** has more than 500 acres of grassy lawns, English-style gardens, canals, and pavilions. Visit Electress Amalia's **Amalienburg** pavilion, which features extravagant rococo inside, and the **Badenburg** on the lake, with its frescoed-ceilinged bath in the basement. The pseudo-Chinese **Pagodenburg** and the religious retreat **Magdalenenklause** also offer an enjoyable visit.

See map p. 290. *Schloss Nymphenburg 1 (3 miles west of the city center).* ☎ **089-179-080**. www.schloesser.bayern.de. *U-Bahn: U1 to Rotkreuzplatz, then tram 12 toward Amalienburgstrasse. Bus: 41. Admission: Combined ticket to all attractions, 10€ (\$12) Apr–Oct 15, 8€ (\$9.20) Oct 16–Mar; separate admissions, 5€ (\$5.75) to Schloss Nymphenburg, 4€ (\$4.60) each to Marstallmuseum and Porcelain Collection or Amalienburg complex. Open: Apr 15–Oct 15 daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Oct 16–Mar daily 10 a.m.–4 p.m.*

More cool things to see and do

- ✓ **Eating lunch at a biergarten:** Bring your own food, and order huge mugs of beer. Biergartens are generally open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. or midnight. They usually offer simple sandwiches, and pretzels and other snacks are always available. Try these biergartens: the **Biergarten Chinesischer Turm** (☎ **089-383-8730**; www.chinaturm.de) in the heart of the Englischer Garten Park under the shade of a Chinese pagoda; the **Augustinerkeller** (☎ **089-594-393**; www.augustinerkeller.de) at Arnulfstrasse 52, several long blocks past Hauptbahnhof; and the **Hirschgarten** (☎ **089-172-591**; www.hirschgarten.de), in Nymphenburg Park, the world's largest beer garden with room for 8,000 guzzlers.
- ✓ **Watching an entire city drink itself into a stupor at Oktoberfest:** For the better part of a month, tens of thousands of people do nothing but party medieval-style, listening to oompah bands, roasting whole oxen on spits, and drinking more than 5 million liters of beer. Oktoberfest (there's a direct link on www.muenchen.de) is the world's ultimate keg party. The event started with the celebrations for Prince Ludwig's marriage to Princess Therese in 1810, and the locals enjoyed themselves so much that they made it an annual event. The name is a bit misleading, because the first weekend in October is the *end* of the festivities — the fun starts a few weeks earlier.

The action centers on the Theresienwiese park fairgrounds, southwest of Hauptbahnhof, but the whole city has a distinct party air (just follow the smell of the beer). You must reserve a hotel room months in advance; call the tourist office to determine the exact dates of this year's festival.

- ✓ **Spending an afternoon in the Englischer Garten:** Munich's Englischer Garten (named after a British ex-pat who first devised the park) stretches for 3 miles along the west bank of the Isar River. The park features beer gardens, trees, grassy lawns, bicycle paths, and streams and lakes where you can swim. Around the Eisbach, some people (mostly men) sunbathe in the nude, and near the park's southern entrance, just behind the Haus der Kunst on Prinzregentenstrasse, you find a Japanese teahouse in the middle of a small lake. Traditional Japanese tea service is available the second and fourth weekends of each month from April through October at 3 p.m., 4 p.m., and 5 p.m. (Sunday also at 2 p.m.).

Guided tours

You have two choices for orientation bus tours. The **Stadtrundfahrt** run by **Panorama Tours** (☎ 089-5490-7560; www.autobusoberbayern.de/panorama) is a straightforward affair — just hop on in front of Hauptbahnhof and buy your 11€ (\$13) ticket onboard. The hour-long tour is delivered in eight languages; departures are at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m. daily (Apr–Oct also at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.).

Panorama also offers two-and-a-half-hour, 19€ (\$22) city tours that, in addition to the city orientation tour, spend some time exploring a single site. One visits the Olympic Area where you can climb its 960-foot Olympic Tower (daily at 2:30 p.m., plus another at 10 a.m. Apr–Oct); another spends time in the Alte Pinakothek (Tues–Sun at 10 a.m. — costs an extra 2€/\$2.30); and a third heads to the Schloss Nymphenburg (daily at 2:30 p.m.).



But perhaps the most popular way to see town is with the English-speaking ex-pats at **Mike's Bike Tours** (☎ 089-2554-3988 or 0172-852-0660; www.mikesbiketours.com). Mike's offers four-hour, 22€ (\$25) spins around the sights of central Munich (including 45 minutes in a beer garden). The daily tours leave at 2:30 p.m. September to November 10 and March to April 15; at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. April 16 through August. In June and July, there's also a 5:15 p.m. tour, plus they run an extended, seven-hour, 33€ (\$38) tour that leaves at 10:30 a.m. and hits Schloss Nymphenburg and the Olympic Park. All tours meet 15 minutes before setting off, under the tower of the Altes Rathaus on Marienplatz.

Despite the name, Mike's also does three-hour **walking tours**, which cost 9€ (\$10) and meet daily April 15 through August 31 at 3:30 p.m. at the main entrance to the Hauptbahnhof train station.

Suggested itineraries

If you're the type who likes to strike out on your own, this section offers tips for building your own Munich itinerary.

If you have one day

Start the day off with a tour of the **Residenz Palace**, the most impressive downtown palace in Europe. Take in the old masters paintings in the **Alte Pinakothek** before moseying on down to **Marienplatz** around noon to take in the clock-tower show and grab a late lunch in a beer hall or (if it's summer) the biergarten in the middle of the Viktualienmarkt.

Enjoy the displays in the **Bayerisches Nationalmuseum** after lunch, and then set off for what everyone really comes to Munich for: drinking enormous tankards of beer. Have dinner downstairs in **Nürnberger Bratwurst Glöckl Am Dom** — or just nibble on wüistel as you crawl from beer hall to beer hall.

If you have two days

Spend Day 1 as described in the preceding section, and then on the morning of Day 2, head out to **Schloss Nymphenburg** for more royal splendor. In the late afternoon, stroll the **Englischer Garten** (look for the modern art galleries that ring its southern edge), or investigate the scientific wonders of the **Deutsches Museum**.

If you have three days

Spend Days 1 and 2 as described in the previous sections. On the morning of Day 3, head out of town, either to the somber concentration-camp museum at **Dachau** or, if you get an early start, to see Mad King Ludwig's fantastical **Neuschwanstein**. Depending on what time you get back into town, wind down with one last stein of beer at one of the biergartens mentioned earlier in this chapter.

Traveling Beyond Munich

The Bavarian Alps is a region of spectacular scenery; any trip from Munich into the surrounding countryside is bound to be unforgettable. In addition to the excursions mentioned here, Munich is just two to three hours away from **Innsbruck** by train. Innsbruck is covered as an excursion from Vienna, Austria, in Chapter 16.

Neuschwanstein: Mad King Ludwig's fairy-tale castle

Ever wonder where Walt Disney got the idea for the Cinderella castle at his theme parks? He drew direct inspiration — and even some blueprints — right from Bavaria's storybook castle, Neuschwanstein.

King Ludwig II — in many ways the epitome of a 19th-century romantic — built or renovated many a castle for himself. But the only thing that would completely satisfy him would be to create a castle that looked like something from a story by the Brothers Grimm.



Neuschwanstein was the result and is still a stunning, dreamlike sight, perched halfway up a forested mountain near a waterfall. The structure features slender towers, ramparts, and pointy turrets done in pale gray. Sadly, the castle was never quite finished, and the king got to live in his half-completed fantasy for only 170 days before his death.

You can take a bus or make a strenuous 25-minute downhill walk from Neuschwanstein to **Hohenschwangau**, to find the much more practical castle created by Ludwig II's father. Between these two fortresses and Munich, off a side road, hides the pilgrimage church of **Wieskirche**, one of the most glorious examples of the late baroque period in Germany.

Getting there



Although you can do all this in a day, you may find it more relaxing to stay a night in Füssen and trek to Neuschwanstein from there. As Bavaria's biggest tourist draw, Neuschwanstein is packed by 9 a.m., and the crowd doesn't thin out until 4 p.m. or so. (You can wait hours just to take the 35-minute tour.) You can't avoid the crowds, but you can take a late train into Füssen the night before in order to arrive at Neuschwanstein with the first tourist wave.

You really need a car for this trip, but you can use **public transportation** from Munich in a pinch. Take one of the nearly hourly trains to Füssen (a two-hour trip), from which hourly buses make the ten-minute trip to the castle parking lot. The sister castles of Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau are usually referred to collectively on road signs as *Königsschlösser* (king's castles).



When driving into this castle complex, you have your choice of **parking lots** in Schwangau, that little tourist center by the lake. Park in Lot D for the quickest (but steepest) walk up to Neuschwanstein (20–30 minutes). Go farther down the road to the big lot on the right if you want to take the longer (but less steep) paved road up (30–45 minutes). It's a fairly strenuous hike either way. Horse-drawn carriages leaving from the Müller Hotel (5€//\$5.75 uphill, 2.50€//\$2.90 downhill) can take you to the ticket office, two-thirds of the way up.



For the easiest route, take the **shuttle bus** that leaves from near Hotel Lisl, overshoots the castle, and stops at Marienbrücke, a bridge across the gorge above Neuschwanstein (1.80€//\$2.05 uphill, 1€//\$1.15 downhill, or 2.60€//\$3 round-trip). This lets you walk (steeply) back downhill in ten minutes to the castle and gives you a great view of the castle with Alpsee Lake in the background.

If you prefer an **escorted bus tour** here direct from Munich, **Mike's Bike Tours** (☎ 089-2554-3987; www.mikesbiketours.com) can hook you up with a 49€ (\$56), all-day trip that includes a bike ride around Swan Lake and a hike to the castle in addition to the castle tour (though admission is not included). Meet at the Discover Bavaria Shop on Hochbrückenstrasse at 8:45 a.m. Tours run Monday and Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday in June and July. From May 15 to May 31 and in August, there

are full tours Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays; Wednesdays you can pay 39€ (\$45) for a “train tour” that includes a rail ticket to the castle, the bike ride and hike, and castle admission. You can get the same “train tour” deal Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from April 15 to May 14 and September 1 to October 2.

You can get information on Neuschwanstein at the tourist office in Munich. The local **tourist office** (☎ **083-628-1980**; www.schwangau.de) in the tiny village/parking lot of Schwangau is closed mid-November to mid-December.

Note that you can get a **combined “Kings Ticket”** to visit both Hohenschwangau (first) and Neuschwanstein (second) for 17€ (\$20) adults, 15€ (\$17) students and seniors over 65 (children under 18 can get in free if traveling with their parents — though you have to request the free ticket).

Seeing the sights

The tour of **Neuschwanstein** (☎ **08362-939-880**; www.neuschwanstein.de) shows you some of the castle’s most theatrical details, including the king’s bedroom — almost every inch covered in intricately carved wood — his near-finished neo-Byzantine-Romanesque Throne Room, and the huge Singers Hall, covered with paintings that refer to the work of composer Richard Wagner.

The king was enthralled by Wagner’s music; he supposedly convulsed and writhed in such bliss to the strains of the composer’s operas that his aides feared he was having an epileptic fit. Ludwig bailed Wagner out of debt and poured money into whatever project the composer desired.

This was the sort of thing that earned Ludwig II the moniker “Mad King Ludwig,” but the monarch probably wasn’t certifiable. Although beloved by his subjects as a genial and well-meaning ruler, Ludwig’s withdrawal into his fantasies caused him to lose touch with his court and the political machinations in Munich. In 1886, he was deposed in absentia, and a few days later his body was found drowned, under suspicious circumstances, in a few feet of water at the edge of a lake.

You can visit the interior of Neuschwanstein by **guided tour only**, April through September daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., the rest of the year from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (The ticket booth closes one hour before closing time.) Tickets are 9€ (\$10) adults, 8€ (\$9.20) students and seniors over 65, free under 18. The 35-minute tour is available in English.

At the bottom of Neuschwanstein’s hill is the tiny village/parking lot of Schwangau, which serves as a lunch stop for tour-bus crowds. Across the road and up a short hill is **Hohenschwangau** (☎ **08362-930-830**; www.hohenschwangau.de), a sandy-colored castle restored in neo-Gothic style by Ludwig’s father (Maximilian II). By comparison to Neuschwanstein, it’s almost ordinary, but tours (usually in German, unless enough English speakers show up) can prove interesting. Ludwig made his home in Hohenschwangau for 17 years.

The castle is open daily, April through September from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the rest of the year from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is 9€ (\$10) adults; 8€ (\$9.20) students and seniors over 65, free under 18.

The Nazi concentration camp at Dachau

In 1933, in a little town outside Munich called Dachau, SS leader Heinrich Himmler set up Nazi Germany's first concentration camp. Between 1933 and 1945, 206,000 prisoners were officially registered here, and countless thousands more were interned without record.

Getting there

To spend an hour or two here remembering the darkest days of modern history, take a 20-minute ride on the S2 **S-Bahn train** from Marienplatz. From Dachau station, bus 724 or 726 takes you to the camp. For information on the town, visit www.dachau.info; for information on the concentration-camp memorial site, contact ☎ **08131-669-970** or visit www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de. **Panorama Tours** (☎ **089-5490-7560**; www.autobusoberbayern.de/panorama) in Munich leaves from the Bahnhofplatz at Herties Department Store for a four-and-a-half-hour tour of Dachau (22€/€25) from May 15 to October 16 on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m.

Seeing the sights

The taunting Nazi slogan *Arbeit Macht Frei* (Work Brings Freedom) is inscribed on the gate where you enter. Allied troops razed the 32 prisoners' barracks to the ground when they liberated the camp in 1945, but two have been reconstructed to illustrate the squalid living conditions. Each barrack was built to house 208 people; by 1936, they accommodated up to 1,600 each.

The former kitchen is now a museum with photographs documenting the rise of the Nazis and the persecution of Jews, communists, gypsies, homosexuals, and others. You can watch a short documentary film (the English version usually shows at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.).

The ovens of the crematorium and a gas chamber disguised as showers are at the back of the camp. No prisoners were gassed at Dachau (though more than 3,000 Dachau inmates were sent to an Austrian camp to be gassed); this room was used for beatings and cruel interrogations. Although Dachau, unlike other camps such as Auschwitz in Poland, was primarily for political prisoners and not expressly a death camp, more than 32,000 people died here, and thousands more were executed. The camp is scattered with Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant memorials.

The camp is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; admission is free, and free tours are conducted in English from June through August at 12:30 p.m.

Fast Facts: Munich

Area Code

Germany's country code is **49**. The city code for Munich is **089**. If you're calling Munich from outside Germany, you can drop the city code's initial zero. In other words, to call Munich from the United States, dial 011-49-89 and the number.

American Express

American Express has Munich offices at Promenadeplatz 6 (☎ 089-2280-1465) open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; at Neuhauserstrasse 47 and the corner of Herzog-Wilhemstrasse (☎ 089-2280-1387) open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and in the Munich Airport (☎ 089-9758-4408) open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Currency

The Deutsche Mark gave way to the euro in 2002. The euro is divided into 100 cents, and there are coins of .01, .02, .05, .10, .20, .50, 1, and 2. Paper-note denominations are 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500. The exchange rate used in this chapter is 1€ = \$1.15. Amounts over \$10 have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Doctors and Dentists

The American, British, and Canadian consulates keep a list of recommended English-speaking physicians. For emergency doctor service, phone ☎ 089-551-771 or 01805-191-212. For an English-speaking dentist, try the Gemeinschaftspraxis (Partnership Practice for Dentistry) at Rosenkavalierplatz 18 (☎ 089-928-7840).

Embassies and Consulates

U.S. Consulate at Königstrasse 5 (☎ 089-28-880; www.usembassy.de) is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Emergency

For an ambulance, call ☎ **112**. For emergency doctor service, phone ☎ 089-551-771 or 01805-191-212. Call the police at ☎ **110**. Report a fire at ☎ **112**.

Hospitals

Munich's main hospitals are the Red Cross Hospital in Neuhausen (Ärztliche Bereitschaftspraxis im Rotkreuz Krankenhaus) at Nymphenburger Strasse 163 (☎ 089-1278-9790); and the Schwabing Hospital (Ärztliche Bereitschaftspraxis im Krankenhaus Schwabing) at Kölner Platz 1 (☎ 089-3304-0302).

Information

The main tourist office, Fremdenverkehrsamt (☎ 089-233-0300 or 089-2339-6500; www.munich-tourist.de), is at the Hauptbahnhof at the south exit opening onto Bayerstrasse. For specifics on it, and on other offices, see "Finding information after you arrive," near the beginning of this chapter.

Internet Access and Cybercafes

You can send e-mails or check your messages at the Times Square Online Bistro, Bayerstrasse 10A (☎ 089-550-8800), open daily from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. There's an easyInternetcafé (☎ 089-260-0230) with more than 450 terminals across from the main train station at Bahnhofplatz 1. It's open daily from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Maps

The center of Munich is pretty small, so the map the tourist office gives out should serve you just fine.

Newspapers/Magazines

The tourist office hands out a monthly events calendar called *Monatsprogramm*. You may also want to pick up the ex-pat magazine *Munich Found* (www.munichfound.de) — full of events, news, and articles of interest to foreigners in Munich — on newsstands.

Pharmacies

Apotheke (pharmacies) in Munich rotate the duty of staying open nights and weekends. For the location of the nearest 24-hour pharmacy, check the sign in the window of any pharmacy. The International Ludwigs-Apotheke, Neuhauser Strasse 11 (☎ 089-1894-0300), is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Police

Call the police at ☎ **110**.

Post Office

A large post office is at Bahnhofplatz 1 (☎ 089-599-0870; www.deutschepost.de), across from the train station, and is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sun from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Safety

While visiting Munich, you may be targeted for petty crimes such as purse-snatching and pickpocketing. You probably don't have to worry about violent crime, but you should be careful in popular areas such as the Marienplatz and around the Hauptbahnhof, especially at night.

Taxes

In Germany, a 16 percent value-added tax (VAT) is figured into the price of most items. Foreign visitors can reclaim a percentage of the VAT on purchases of 25€ (\$29) or more in a single store (see Chapter 4 for more on this).

Taxis

See "Getting Around Munich," earlier in this chapter.

Telephone

Pay phones in Munich take phone cards, which are available from newsstands in 6.15€ (\$7.05) and 26€ (\$30) denominations. To charge your call to a calling card, you can call AT&T (☎ 0800-225-5288), MCI (☎ 0800-888-8000), or Sprint (☎ 0800-888-0013). To call the United States direct, dial 001 followed by the area code and phone number.

Transit Info

For public-transportation information, visit www.mvv-muenchen.de. For train info, visit www.bahn.de. For more, see "Getting Around Munich," earlier in this chapter.