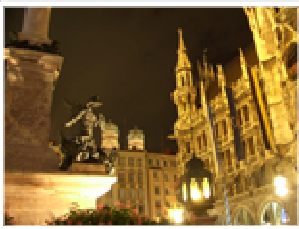


MUNICH

Munich (German: München) is the capital city of Bavaria, Germany. Munich is located on the River Isar north of the **Bavarian Alps**. Munich is the third largest city in Germany, after Berlin and Hamburg.

The city's motto is "München mag Dich" ("Munich Loves You" in the English version), before 2006, it was "Weltstadt mit Herz" (world city with heart). Its native name, **München**, is derived from the Old **German** word for Mönche, which means "Monks" in English. This is the reason for the monk on the city's coat of arms. Black and gold - the colours of the Holy Roman Empire - have been the city's official colours since the time of Ludwig the Bavarian.

Munich is not the only location within Bavaria known as "München". Three such locations exist: the one which is known as "Munich"; another which is northeast of the city of Nuremberg, and also Hutthurm, a town north of the city of Passau.



Marienplatz (Mary's Square) is a central square in the center of the city. In the Middle Ages markets and tournaments were held in this city square. The Glockenspiel in the new city hall was inspired by these tournaments, and draws millions of tourists a year. Marienplatz was named after the Mariensäule, a Marian column erected in its centre in 1638 to celebrate the end of Swedish occupation. It is home to Munich's Old City Hall (Altes Rathaus) and the New City Hall (Neues Rathaus). The pedestrian zone

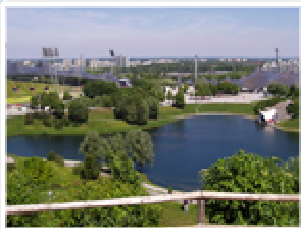
between **Karlsplatz** and Marienplatz is a crowded area with numerous shops and restaurants.

The Ludwigstrasse is one of the city's four royal avenues. Principal was King Ludwig I of **Bavaria**, the avenue is named in his honour. The city's grandest boulevard with its public buildings still maintains its architectural uniformity envisioned as a grand street "worthy the kingdom" as requested by the king. The Ludwigstrasse has served also for state parades and funeral processions.

The Nymphenburg Palace is a baroque palace. It was the summer residence of the rulers of Bavaria.

Odeonsplatz is a large square which was named after the former concert hall Odeon. The Odeonsplatz is the southern initial point of the Ludwigstraße.

The neo-Gothic **Maximilianstraße** starts at Max-Joseph-Platz, where the Residenz and the National Theatre are situated, and runs from west to east. Principal was king Maximilian II of Bavaria, who started the project in 1850, the avenue is named for his honour. Leading architect was Friedrich Bürklein.



The Olympiapark was constructed for the 1972 Summer Olympics. Found in the area of **Munich** known as the "Oberwiesenfeld" ("upper meadow-field"), the Park continues to serve as a venue for cultural, social, and religious events such as events of worship.

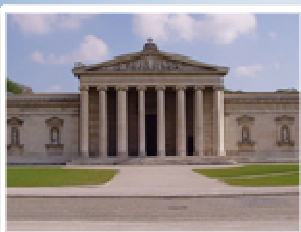
The Allianz Arena is a football stadium. The two professional Munich football clubs FC Bayern München and TSV 1860 München have played their home games at Allianz Arena since the start of the 2005/06 season.

The parks

Munich is a green city with numerous parks. The Englischer Garten, close to the city centre and covering an area of 3.7 km² (larger than Central Park in New York), is one of the world's largest urban public parks, and contains a nudist area, jogging tracks and bridle-paths. It was designed and laid out by Benjamin Thompson, Count of Rumford, an American, for both pleasure and as work area for the city's vagrants and homeless. Nowadays it is entirely a park with a Biergarten at the Chinese Pagoda.

Other large green spaces are the modern **Olympiapark** and Westpark as well as the parks of Nymphenburg Palace (with the Botanical Garden to the north), and Schleissheim Palace. The city's oldest park is the Hofgarten, near the Residenz, and dating back to the 16th century. Best known for the largest beergarten in the town is the former royal Hirschgarten, founded in 1780 for deer which still live there.

The city's zoo is the **Tierpark Hellabrunn** near the Flaucher Island in the Isar in the south of the city. Another notable park is Ostpark, located in Perlach-Ramersdorf area which houses the swimming area, Michaelibad, one of the largest in Munich.



The Glyptothek is a museum, which was commissioned by the Bavarian King Ludwig I to house his collection of Greek and Roman sculptures.

The Alte Pinakothek is an art museum situated in the Kunstareal in Munich. It is one of the oldest galleries of the world housing one of the most famous art museums for the old masters.

The Haus der Kunst (literally House of Art) is an art museum, located at Prinzregentenstrasse 1 at the southern edge of the Englischer Garten, Munich's largest park.

The Deutsches Museum is the world's largest museum of technology and science, with approximately 1.3 million visitors per year and about 28,000 exhibited objects from 50 fields of science and technology. The museum was founded on June 28, 1903, at a meeting of the Association of German Engineers (VDI) as an initiative of Oskar von Miller.

The BMW museum in Munich is a museum for the history of **BMW** cars and bikes, which is located next to BMW Headquarters main building.

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