

FIVE DAYS IN

Munich

Beer halls, royal palaces and a surf wave in a city park. Five days in Bavaria's capital, planned around real opening hours.

THE OLD TOWN • THE RESIDENZ • NEUSCHWANSTEIN • NYMPHENBURG • WHAT TO EAT

Five days, planned around real opening hours

1

Marienplatz, the Frauenkirche and the Hofbräuhaus

ALTSTADT

A tower climb, a proper Weißwurst breakfast, the Glockenspiel, the market and a beer hall dinner, all within ten minutes of Marienplatz.

2

The Residenz, Odeonsplatz and the English Garden

ALTSTADT, LEHEL, ENGLISCHER GARTEN

Bavaria's royal palace, a baroque church and a loggia with a dark past, a surf wave in the middle of the city and an afternoon in Munich's biggest park.

3

Old Masters, Königsplatz and Munich's Nazi History

MAXVORSTADT, LUDWIGSVORSTADT, THERESIENWIESE

Dürer and Rubens at the Alte Pinakothek, the square and the documentation center that deal with the Nazi years, a climb inside the Bavaria statue and dinner at the Augustiner-Keller.

4

Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau

FÜSSEN AND HOHENSCHWANGAU, ALLGÄU, ABOUT 2 HOURS SOUTHWEST BY TRAIN

The regional train to Füssen, the classic view from the Marienbrücke, a timed tour of Neuschwanstein and an evening in Füssen before the train back.

5

Nymphenburg, the Deutsches Museum and the Isar

NYMPHENBURG, MUSEUMSINSEL, AU

The Wittelsbachs' summer palace and park, lunch in the palace wing, the world's biggest technology museum, a walk along the Isar and Knödel in the Au.

More time

Six day trips, from Dachau to the Zugspitze

What to eat, where to stay

Twelve dishes and drinks, five neighbourhoods, practical tips

A postcard that runs like a machine

MUNICH looks like a postcard and runs like a machine. The Wittelsbach family ruled Bavaria from here for more than seven centuries, until 1918, and they built on a scale that a city of 1.5 million still hasn't outgrown: palaces, baroque churches, a whole quarter of picture galleries. Then the bombing of 1944–45 wrecked much of the center, and a lot of what looks old is a careful rebuild. The Frauenkirche, the Residenz and the Rathaus all went back up, and the result is so convincing that most visitors never notice.

What makes Munich different from other big German cities is how seriously it takes ordinary pleasures. *Weißwurst* is a breakfast with rules. A beer garden is a place where you can bring your own sandwich. The Oktoberfest everyone has heard of lasts a little over two weeks a year, and the other fifty are spent in beer halls, in the English Garden and on the gravel banks of the Isar. Five days is the right length:

enough for the big sights, the museums and a proper day out at Neuschwanstein, without turning it into a checklist.

Day one is the old town, day two the Residenz and the English Garden, day three the art museums and the Nazi-era history that the city now documents openly, day four is Neuschwanstein, and day five is Nymphenburg Palace and the Deutsches Museum. Dachau, the Olympic Park, the lakes and the Alps are in the extras at the end. Munich is also the easiest way into Germany as a whole – Bavaria is the Germany of the brochures, but with a big, modern, very well-organized city in the middle of it.

One scheduling note: the art museums and the Nazi-documentation center are closed on Mondays, and almost every shop is closed on Sundays. Day three is the one that needs a day other than Monday. If it lands on a Monday, swap it with day five.

ESSENTIALS

Best time to go

Late May to September for beer gardens and the Isar, December for the Christmas markets. Early October is good too: mild and quieter once the Oktoberfest ends, though beer gardens depend on the weather. Sunset is around 6:40pm in early October and just after 5pm once the clocks go back on 25 October.

Budget

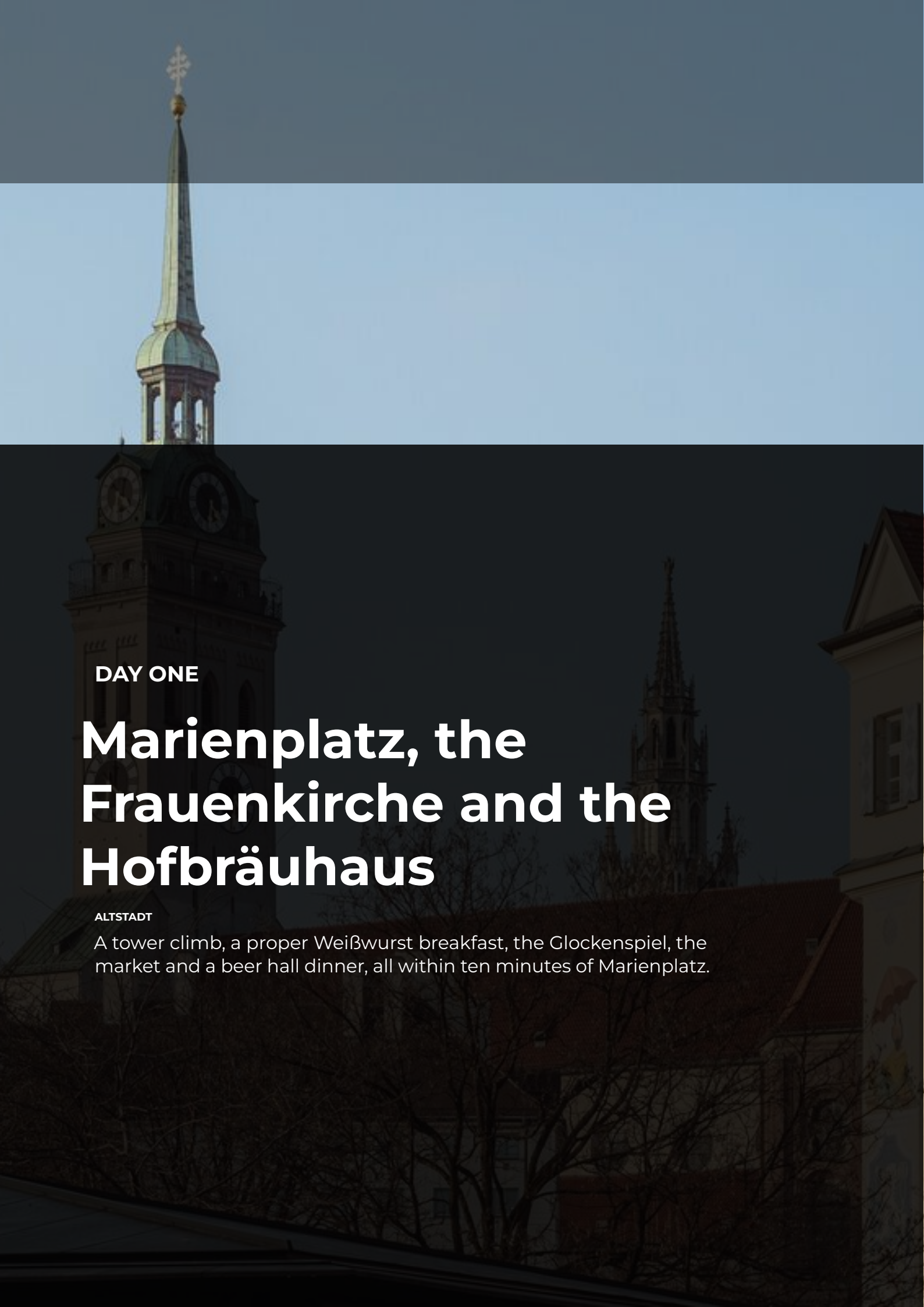
Around 110–170 EUR a day per person on top of accommodation, with a sit-down meal, a couple of museum tickets and a few beers. Munich is expensive, but the free sights and the beer gardens bring it down.

Getting there

Munich Airport (MUC) is about 30 km northeast of the center. The S1 and S8 S-Bahn trains reach the main station in around 40–45 minutes, and a day ticket from the airport costs about 16 EUR. The Hauptbahnhof is also the usual starting point for the regional trains to Füssen and Neuschwanstein, though until 31 October 2026 they start at München-Pasing instead (see day four).

Getting around

The old town is walkable, and an MVV day ticket (about 10 EUR for the central zone) covers the U-Bahn, S-Bahn, trams and buses for everything else. Tram 17 runs between Nymphenburg Palace and the Deutsches Museum.



DAY ONE

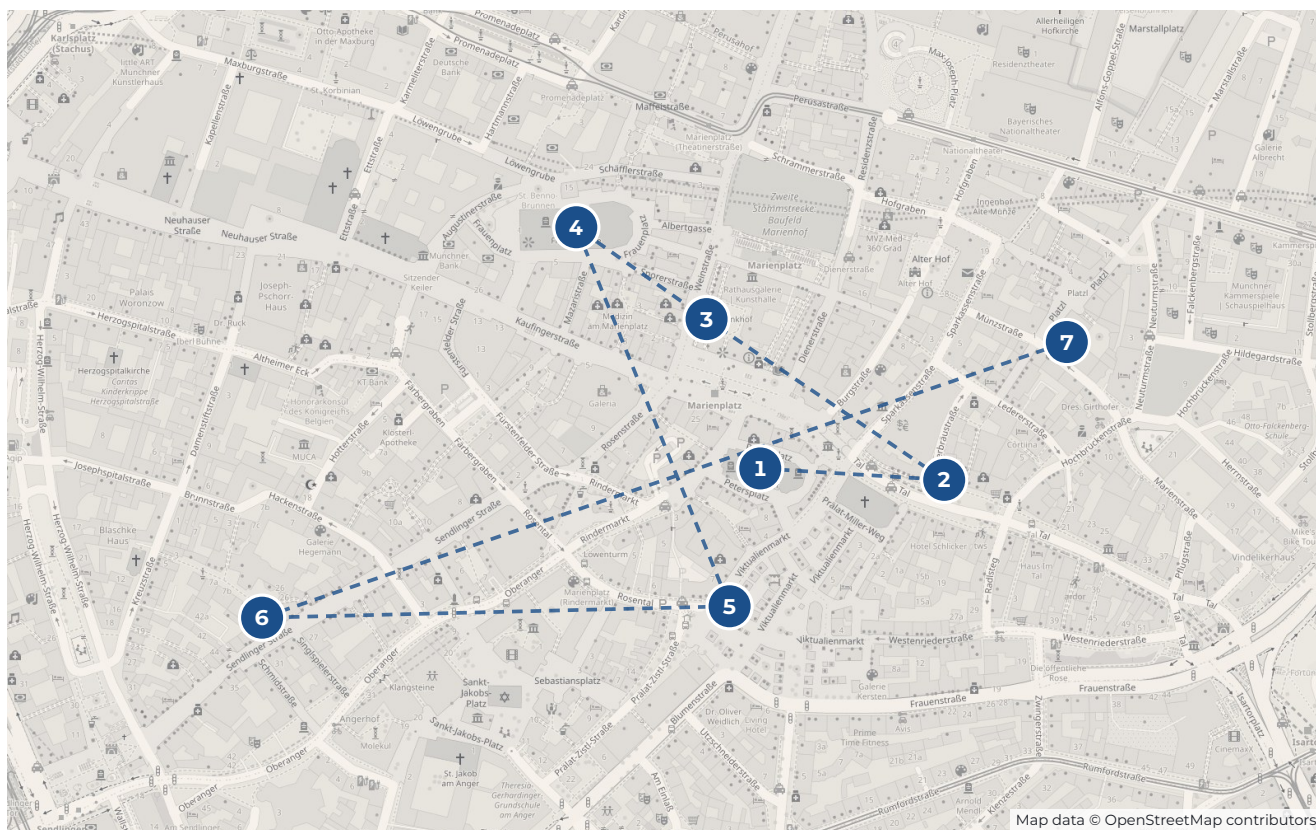
Marienplatz, the Frauenkirche and the Hofbräuhaus

ALTSTADT

A tower climb, a proper Weißwurst breakfast, the Glockenspiel, the market and a beer hall dinner, all within ten minutes of Marienplatz.

DAY 1 • BEFORE YOU GO

Everything today is inside the old town ring, so you can walk it all. The order is built around two deadlines. Weißwürste are traditionally eaten before noon, and the Glockenspiel on the Rathaus plays at 11 and 12 (and at 5pm from March to October). Be at the first stop when it opens at 9, and you'll hit both without hurrying. Avoid starting on a Sunday: the Viktualienmarkt stalls are closed and the Wittelsbach crypt usually is too, so lunch would have to move to a café and the crypt would be skipped.



- 1 Alter Peter
- 2 Weißwurst Breakfast at the Weisses Bräuhaus
- 3 Marienplatz and the Glockenspiel
- 4 The Frauenkirche
- 5 Lunch at the Viktualienmarkt
- 6 Asamkirche and St. Michael

- 7 Dinner at the Hofbräuhaus

1 Alter Peter

45 minutes | Tower 5 EUR, church free



Photo: Flocci Nivis, CC BY 4.0

Start with the view, before the crowds. St. Peter's is the oldest recorded parish church in Munich, and its tower, known as *Alter Peter* ("Old Peter"), stands on the hill where the city began: a church was here before Munich was founded in 1158. The church was almost completely destroyed in the Second World War, with only a stump of the tower left, and its reconstruction took until 2000. The tower is still the best place to get your bearings.

It's about 300 steps up a narrow staircase, with no lift, to a platform at 56 meters. From there you look straight down on Marienplatz and across to the domes of the Frauenkirche, and when the warm Alpine wind called *Föhn* is blowing, the mountains show up on the horizon. Inside, a glass coffin holds the relics of Saint Munditia.

TIP The stairs are narrow enough that people have to wait for each other, so go at opening time.

2 Weißwurst Breakfast at the Weisses Bräuhaus

1 hour | Around 12–18 EUR



Photo: Strubbl, CC BY-SA 4.0

Munich's best-known table rule: *Weißwurst*, the pale veal

sausage, is a morning food, and the saying goes that it shouldn't hear the noon bells. A popular story says a butcher invented it by accident at an inn on Marienplatz in 1857, though a city archivist has found a print from 1814 that already shows Munich people eating them, so the legend is a bit too neat. Either way, the Weisses Bräuhaus on Tal, on the original site of the Schneider Weisse brewery, serves the full ritual every day from 9 to 12: two sausages in a bowl of hot water, a *Brezn*, sweet mustard and a wheat beer.

You eat it without the skin. Slice the sausage open lengthwise and peel it back, or do it the old way, called *zuzeln*, and suck the filling out of the casing.

TIP Be sitting down by about 10, so this stop ends in time for the Glockenspiel at 11.

3 Marienplatz and the Glockenspiel

30 minutes | Free (Rathaus tower from 7 EUR)



Photo: Nicknicknick97, CC BY-SA 4.0

Be on Marienplatz at 11. The big building on the north side looks medieval, but the New Town Hall (*Neues Rathaus*) was built in three stages from 1867 into the early 1900s in the neo-Gothic style by Georg von Hauberrisser. The Glockenspiel in its tower has 43 bells and tells two stories in figures: the upper level shows the wedding of Duke Wilhelm V in 1568, with a joust on this square, and the lower one shows the *Schäfflertanz*, the dance the coopers are said to have done to cheer people up after the plague.

It is charming for a few minutes, and the crowd makes it hard to see. The column in the middle, the Mariensäule, was put up in 1638 in thanks that Munich survived the Thirty Years' War.

TIP You don't need all three towers. Alter Peter has the best old-town view, the Rathaus tower (85 meters, with lifts, timed slots, daily 10am-8pm) is the easiest, and the Frauenkirche is next on the list.

4 The Frauenkirche

45 minutes | Church free, south tower 7.50 EUR



Two minutes from Marienplatz, the Frauenkirche is the

symbol of the city. It's a plain red-brick Gothic hall church, built in about twenty years from 1468, with two towers just under 99 meters tall. The domes on top were added around 1525, because the money for pointed spires had run out. A rule agreed after a local vote in 2004 keeps new buildings in the city below the height of the towers, which is why they still dominate the skyline.

Look for the dark footprint near the entrance, which legend says the devil left. The south tower is the point of the visit: 86 steps, then a lift, to a glassed-in platform at 80 meters.

TIP Tower tickets are sold in the cathedral shop and online through the city tourist office. The church can't be visited during services.

5 Lunch at the Viktualienmarkt

1–1.5 hours | Around 8–15 EUR for lunch



Photo: Nan Palmero from San Antonio, TX, USA.jpg), CC BY 2.0

Three minutes south, the Viktualienmarkt has been the food market of the old town for over 200 years: dozens of stalls of fruit, cheese, fish, flowers and spices, and stands that turn it into the town canteen at lunchtime. Eat the Munich way. Get a *Leberkäsemmel*, a roll with a hot slice of *Leberkäse* (no liver and no cheese in it, just a baked loaf of pork and beef), or a *Brezn* with *Obatzda*, a spread of ripe Camembert, butter and paprika.

Then take it to the beer garden in the middle of the market, where the beer comes from the six big Munich breweries in rotation. Six fountains honor local comedians and folk singers, including Karl Valentin, the dry-witted cabaret star Munich still quotes.

TIP Each vendor sets its own hours and some close earlier in winter. The beer garden depends on the weather.

6 Asamkirche and St. Michael

1 hour | Free (Wittelsbach crypt 3 EUR)

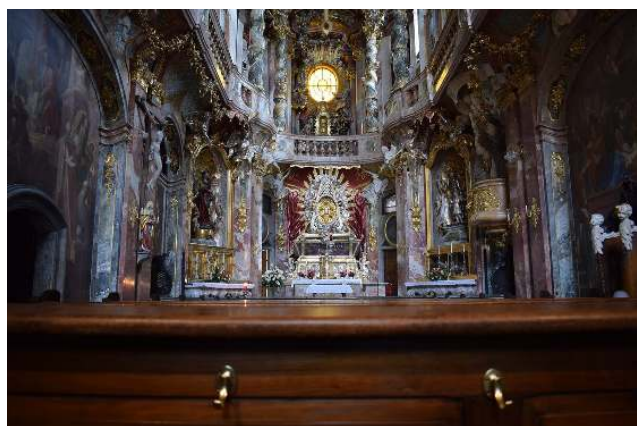


Photo: Flocci Nivis, CC BY 4.0

Walk five minutes west along Sendlinger Straße to the

Asamkirche. From the street it is eight meters wide and easy to miss. Inside it is the most over-the-top room in Munich. The brothers Cosmas Damian and Egid Quirin Asam built it between 1733 and 1746 as their own private church, next to their house, so there was nobody to tell them to stop, and every inch is gilded, painted or carved.

On the way back toward Marienplatz, stop at St. Michael on the pedestrian street. It's a Renaissance church finished in 1597, with a barrel vault 20 meters wide, and in the crypt lie about thirty Wittelsbachs, including King Ludwig II, whose coffin is usually covered in flowers.

TIP St. Michael is only a couple of minutes' walk from the Frauenkirche, so you can also take it earlier. Its Wittelsbach crypt has limited hours and is usually closed on Sundays.

7 Dinner at the Hofbräuhaus

2 hours | A Maß of beer around 11–13 EUR, mains 12–25 EUR



Photo: Pedro J Pacheco, CC BY-SA 3.0 de

Finish at the most famous beer hall in the world, the Hofbräuhaus. Duke Wilhelm V founded his own court brewery in 1589, brewing began on this spot in 1607–08, and Ludwig I opened it to the public in 1828. The building you see dates from 1897; it was badly damaged in the war and rebuilt, and the vaulted ground-floor hall, the *Schwemme*, is the part that survived. It is one of the biggest tourist magnets in Munich, yet it still has regulars who keep their own mugs there, and it earns its reputation: a brass band, long shared tables and beer

in one-liter glass mugs, called a *Maß*.

Order roast pork knuckle (*Schweinshaxe*) or sausages with *Brezn*.

The hall has a darker footnote. On 24 February 1920 the young Nazi party presented its program to a crowd of around 2,000 in the festival hall upstairs.

TIP It is packed with tour groups by the evening, so go early for a table. At the shared tables you simply sit wherever there's space.



DAY TWO

The Residenz, Odeonsplatz and the English Garden

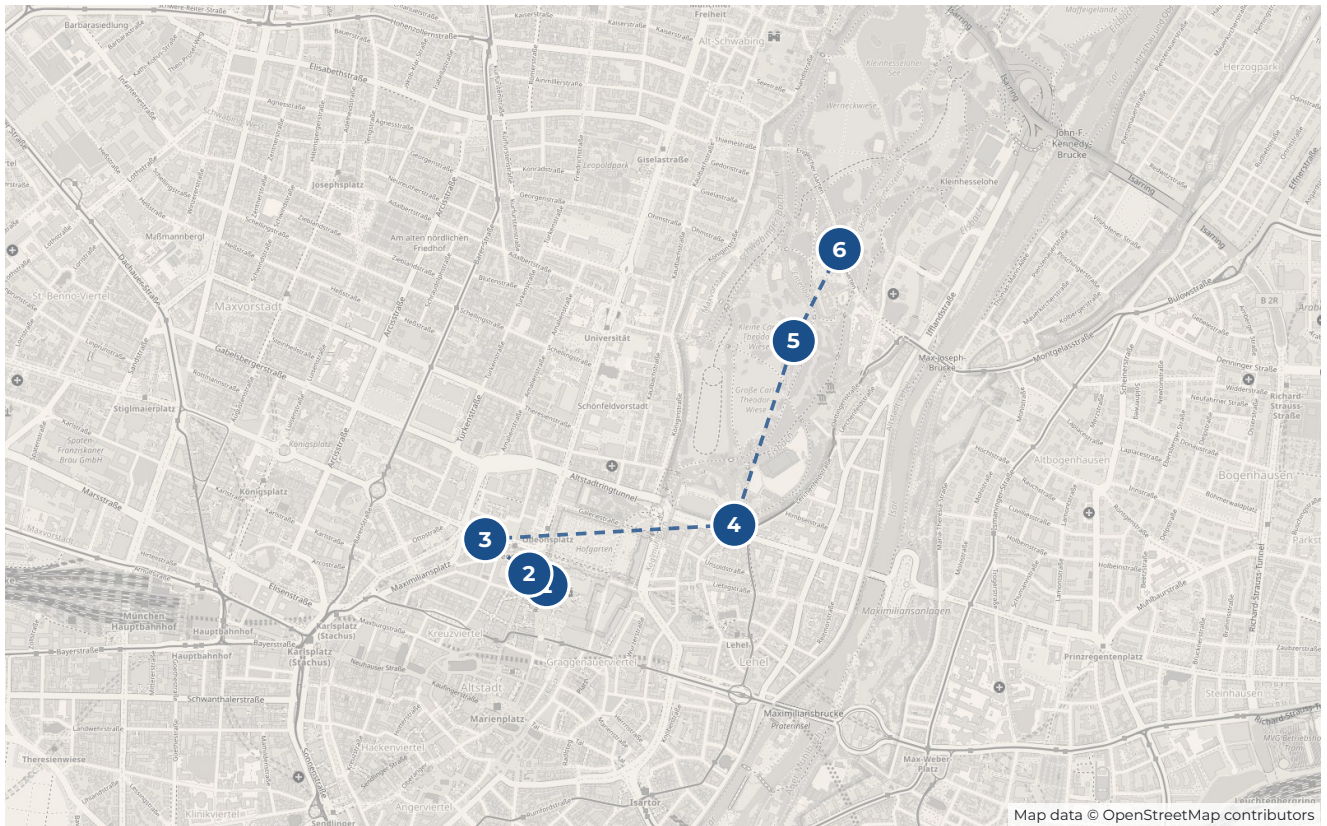
ALTSTADT, LEHEL, ENGLISCHER GARTEN

Bavaria's royal palace, a baroque church and a loggia with a dark past, a surf wave in the middle of the city and an afternoon in Munich's biggest park.



DAY 2 • BEFORE YOU GO

Today is half indoors and half outdoors, so it works in any weather. Do the Residenz when it opens (9am until 25 October, 10am from 26 October) and keep the park for the afternoon. Wear comfortable shoes: the English Garden is huge, and the walk from the Eisbach to the Chinese Tower alone is just over a kilometer.



1 The Residenz

2 Odeonsplatz, the Theatinerkirche and the Feldherrnhalle

3 Coffee at Café Luitpold

4 The Eisbach Wave

5 Monopteros and the English Garden

6 The Beer Garden at the Chinese Tower

1 The Residenz

2.5–3 hours | Museum 10 EUR, Treasury 10 EUR, both 15 EUR



The Residenz is the largest city palace in Germany and the home of the Wittelsbach dukes, electors and kings. It grew over six centuries, from a fortress the citizens of Munich had to pay for in 1385 as punishment for a failed uprising, to a complex with ten courtyards and about 130 rooms in the styles of the Renaissance, baroque, rococo and neoclassicism. Bombs badly damaged it in 1944, and it was rebuilt over decades.

The museum takes you through state apartments, the long Renaissance hall called the Antiquarium and the Ancestors'

Gallery, and the Treasury holds crowns, jewels and goldsmiths' work. The Cuvilliés Theatre, a rococo jewel box whose carved interior was dismantled and stored during the war, needs its own ticket. If you only do one, do the museum, and use the free audio guide.

TIP The Cuvilliés Theatre has shorter hours (until 25 October, 2pm–6pm Monday to Saturday and 9am–6pm on Sundays). Large bags go in the free cloakroom, and there is no café inside, so eat first.

2 Odeonsplatz, the Theatinerkirche and the Feldherrnhalle

45 minutes | Free



Photo: Fred Romero from Paris, France, CC BY 2.0

Walk out of the Residenz onto Odeonsplatz, the most Ital-

ian corner of Munich. The yellow Theatinerkirche was built from 1663 by Elector Ferdinand Maria and his wife Henriette Adelaide of Savoy in thanks for the birth of their long-awaited heir. The rococo facade came a century later.

Next to it is the Feldherrnhalle, a loggia copied from Florence and built in 1841–44 for Ludwig I. On 9 November 1923 the police stopped Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch here in a gunfight that killed four police officers, more than a dozen putschists and a bystander. After 1933 the Nazis made it a shrine, with a guard of honor, and passers-by were expected to give the Nazi salute. Many people went around by the narrow lane behind it instead, nicknamed *Drückebergergasse*, "shirkers' lane". A line of bronze cobbles set into the paving of Viscardigasse in 1995 marks that detour.

3 Coffee at Café Luitpold

1 hour | Around 8–14 EUR



Photo: Fred Romero from Paris, France, CC BY 2.0

Five minutes from the Theatinerkirche, on Briener Straße, Café Luitpold has been a Munich coffee house since 1888. It's a grand room with a palm court, a counter of handmade chocolates and cakes, and a long breakfast menu. It is a good place for a late lunch or for coffee and a slice of *Prinzregententorte*, the Bavarian layer cake named after Prince Regent

Luitpold, who ruled from 1886 to 1912. Nobody agrees who actually invented it.

On the way to the park you cross the Hofgarten, the formal court garden with arcades between the Residenz and the English Garden. It's a good place for a sit-down with a coffee.

4 The Eisbach Wave

30–45 minutes | Free



Photo: Usien, CC BY-SA 3.0

Cross the Hofgarten and walk east to the southern tip of

the English Garden, past the Haus der Kunst, which was built in 1933–37 as the Nazis' showcase gallery and is now a museum of contemporary art. Behind it, the Eisbach, a small side-stream of the Isar, rushes under a bridge and forms a standing wave that river surfers have ridden for decades. It is one of the oddest sights in any city: people in wetsuits taking turns on a wave beside a park path.

Stand on the little bridge directly over the wave to see them from above. Surfing has been allowed again since May 2026, for experienced river surfers only. Late afternoon is the best light.

TIP The wave only exists when the river is running right, and the city has closed it before, so check the muenchen.de page for the current rules. Don't swim here.

5 Monopteros and the English Garden

1.5 hours | Free



Photo: Julian Herzog, CC BY 4.0

The English Garden was laid out from 1789 as a park for everyone, not just the court, which was a radical idea at the time, and at roughly 375 hectares it is one of the biggest city parks in the world. Walk north along the stream to the Monopteros, a little Greek temple on a hill, designed by Leo von Klenze in the 1830s. The view back over the lawns to the towers of the old town is the best free view in Munich, and in the evening the grass below it fills with picnic blankets, guitars

and bicycles.

Nearby are the Japanese tea house, built for the 1972 Olympics, and the Kleinhesseloher See, where you can rent a rowing boat in season. The north, beyond the lake, is much quieter than the south.

TIP If it's raining, spend the afternoon at the Haus der Kunst or the Bavarian National Museum on Prinzregentenstraße instead.

EVENING • EAT & DRINK

6 The Beer Garden at the Chinese Tower

1–1.5 hours | Maß around 11–13 EUR



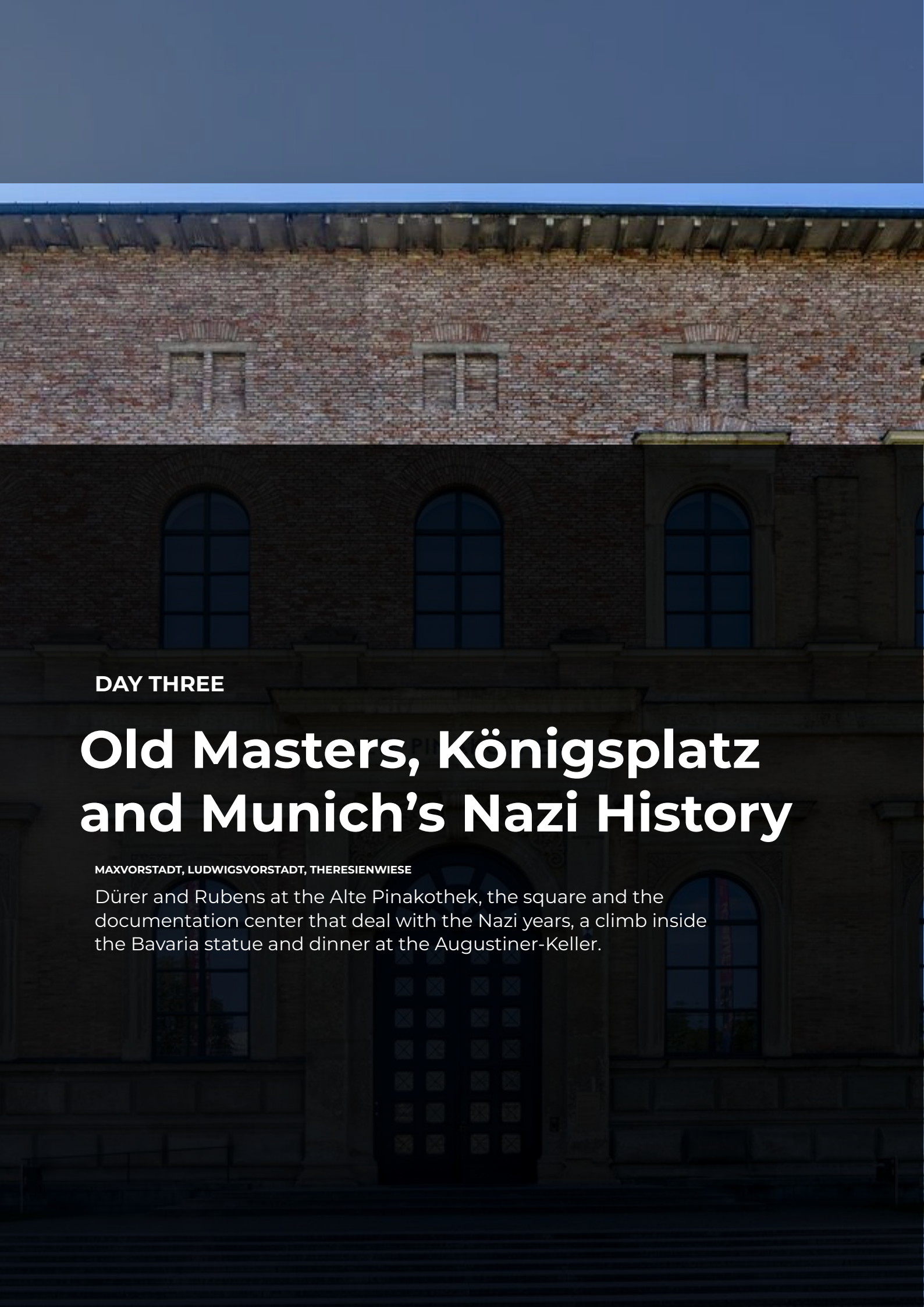
Photo: Ursula Jaeger_M%C3%BCnchen_2.jpg), CC BY-SA 4.0

Walk five minutes north to the Chinese Tower, a 25-meter wooden pagoda built in 1789–90, which burned down in a

bombing raid in 1944 and was rebuilt in 1952. Around it is one of the biggest beer gardens in Bavaria, with about 7,000 seats and a brass band that plays on the tower's balcony on some days of the week.

Self-service is the norm: queue for the beer, take a table, and either buy food at the counters (roast chicken, *Obatzda*, pretzels) or bring your own picnic. Beer gardens started in Munich in the 19th century, when brewers planted chestnut trees over their cellars to keep the beer cool, and the bring-your-own-food rule is a leftover of the compromise reached when smaller breweries complained that the big ones were selling food too.

TIP In October the garden opens only in dry, mild weather (weekdays from 11am, weekends from 10am); when it's cold or wet only the kiosk is open, from noon. Plan B is the Seehaus on the lake or a Wirtshaus in the old town.



DAY THREE

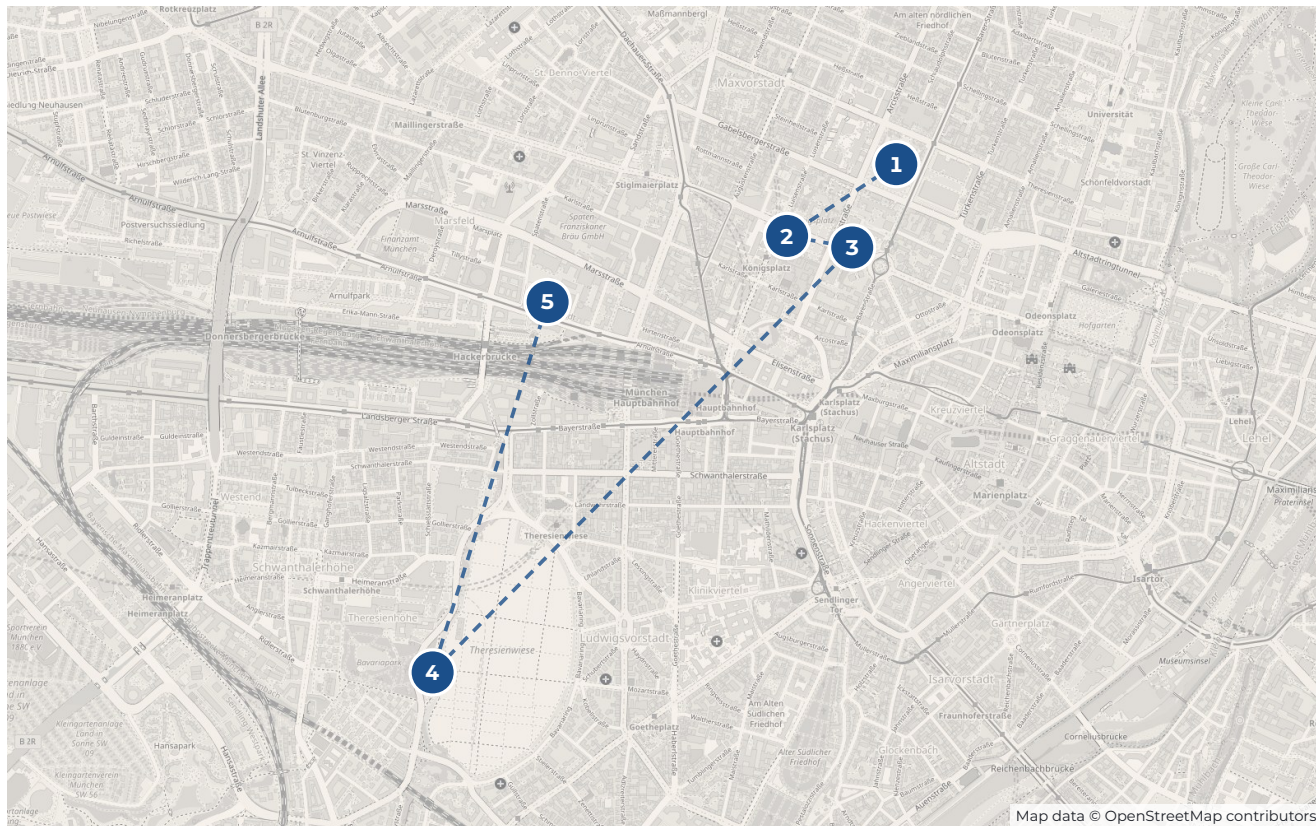
Old Masters, Königsplatz and Munich's Nazi History

MAXVORSTADT, LUDWIGSVORSTADT, THERESIENWIESE

Dürer and Rubens at the Alte Pinakothek, the square and the documentation center that deal with the Nazi years, a climb inside the Bavaria statue and dinner at the Augustiner-Keller.

DAY 3 • BEFORE YOU GO

This is the heavy day, in both senses: art in the morning, difficult history at midday, and beer in the evening. The Alte Pinakothek and the NS-Dokumentationszentrum are both closed on Mondays, so don't do this day on a Monday. The documentation center deserves at least an hour and a half. The Bavaria statue is open only until 19 October, so later in the year swap it for the Lenbachhaus (see the tip on that stop).



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

1 Alte Pinakothek

2 Königsplatz

3 NS-Dokumentationszentrum

4 The Bavaria Statue and the Theresienwiese

5 Dinner at the Augustiner-Keller

1 Alte Pinakothek

2–2.5 hours | 9 EUR, Sundays 1 EUR



Photo: AuHaidhausen, CC BY 4.0

Munich's picture galleries sit together in the Kunstareal, an art quarter of about 18 museums on a few city blocks, and the Alte Pinakothek is the one for the old masters. Opened in 1836, it holds more than 700 paintings from the 13th to the 18th century. Head for Albrecht Dürer's self-portrait of 1500, in which he paints himself in a pose usually used for Christ; Leonardo's *Madonna of the Carnation*; Bruegel's *Land of Cockaigne*; and the Rubens room, with canvases more than six meters high.

The Neue Pinakothek next door has been closed for renovation since 2018, with no firm reopening date (2030 is often quoted), and a selection of its 19th-century masterpieces is shown on the ground floor of the Alte Pinakothek meanwhile. The Lenbachhaus, on Königsplatz, has the biggest collection of the Blue Rider group in the world.

TIP State museums charge only 1 EUR on Sundays (not the Lenbachhaus), which also makes them busier. A 12 EUR combined ticket covers several of them.

2 Königsplatz

30 minutes | Free



Photo: Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0

Walk about ten minutes west to Königsplatz, a Greek-style square laid out for Ludwig I between 1816 and 1845: the

Propylaea gate, the Glyptothek for ancient sculpture and the Antikensammlungen opposite. Munich was nicknamed *Isar-Athen* ("Athens on the Isar") for this kind of architecture.

This is also the place where Nazi Germany staged its mass rallies. The Nazi party's headquarters, the Brown House, stood a block away, the regime built two "honor temples" here for the Nazis killed in the 1923 putsch, and books were burned on the square in 1933. The US Army blew up the temples in 1947, but their platforms are still there. Two buildings the Nazis put up beside the temples survive. The Führerbau, where the Munich Agreement was signed in 1938, is now a music university, and the other houses an art history institute.

TIP One 6 EUR ticket covers the Glyptothek and the Antikensammlungen; the Lenbachhaus is 10 EUR. For lunch, try the CafeBar Max at the documentation center.

3 NS-Dokumentationszentrum

1.5–2 hours | Free

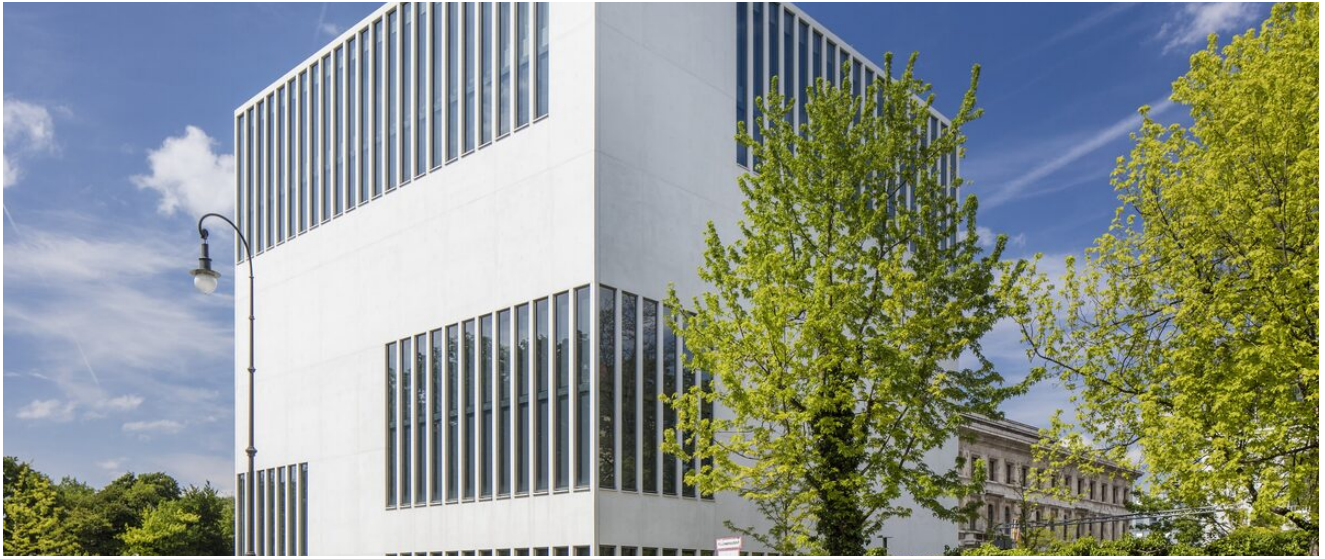


Photo: Architekturfotograf Berlin Felix Löchner, CC BY-SA 4.0

The NS-Dokumentationszentrum stands where the Brown House stood. It opened on 30 April 2015, the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Munich, and its permanent exhibition, *Munich and National Socialism*, asks how the Nazi party grew in this city, how Hitler came to power, how democracy failed and what led to exclusion, war and murder. The Nazis named Munich the "capital of the movement", and the center also

looks at how the city has dealt with that past since 1945.

It's a sober, well-made exhibition, not a spectacle, and it is free. A media guide runs on your own phone, so bring headphones.

TIP A free English tour runs every Sunday at 1pm. For the former concentration camp itself, see Dachau in the extras at the end.

4 The Bavaria Statue and the Theresienwiese

45 minutes | 5 EUR



Photo: Strubbl, CC BY-SA 4.0

Take the U-Bahn via the main station to Theresienwiese (U4/U5). Most of the year it is an enormous, mostly empty

meadow, and for a little over two weeks from mid-September it is the home of the Oktoberfest. The first Oktoberfest was held here in 1810 for the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese, which is where the "Wiesn" ("Therese's meadow") gets its name.

Above it stands the Bavaria, a bronze woman 18.5 meters tall, designed by Ludwig Schwanthaler for Ludwig I and cast by Ferdinand von Miller in 1850. You can climb a steep, narrow spiral staircase into her head and look out through small openings over the meadow and the skyline. Behind her, the Hall of Fame holds busts of Bavarian notables.

TIP Open until 19 October 2026 (9am–6pm, last entry 5:30pm), then closed until late March 2027. After that, spend the time at the Lenbachhaus and go straight to the Augustiner-Keller. The staircase is tight and not for anyone who dislikes enclosed spaces.

5 Dinner at the Augustiner-Keller

2 hours | Maß around 11–13 EUR, mains 14–25 EUR



Photo: Chris Light, CC BY-SA 4.0

A twenty-minute walk north from the meadow is the Augustiner-Keller, a beer cellar and garden of the Augustiner brewery, which counts 1328 as its founding year (historians can't prove the exact date) and is the oldest brewery in Munich still operating. Many locals rate Augustiner as the best beer in town, and the house specialty here is Edelstoff poured from a wooden barrel. The big beer garden is one of the best known in the city, but the kitchen works all year round, with

several traditional rooms indoors.

Order a Helles and a roast pork knuckle or *Schweinsbraten* with a *Knödel* and gravy, and share a table with strangers. In winter, from mid-November, the garden also puts up shepherd's wagons and an ice-stock hut that groups can reserve.

TIP The garden closes in cold or wet weather and for the winter, but the indoor rooms stay open. Reserve a table indoors on weekends. Circus Krone is next door.



DAY FOUR • DAY TRIP

Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau

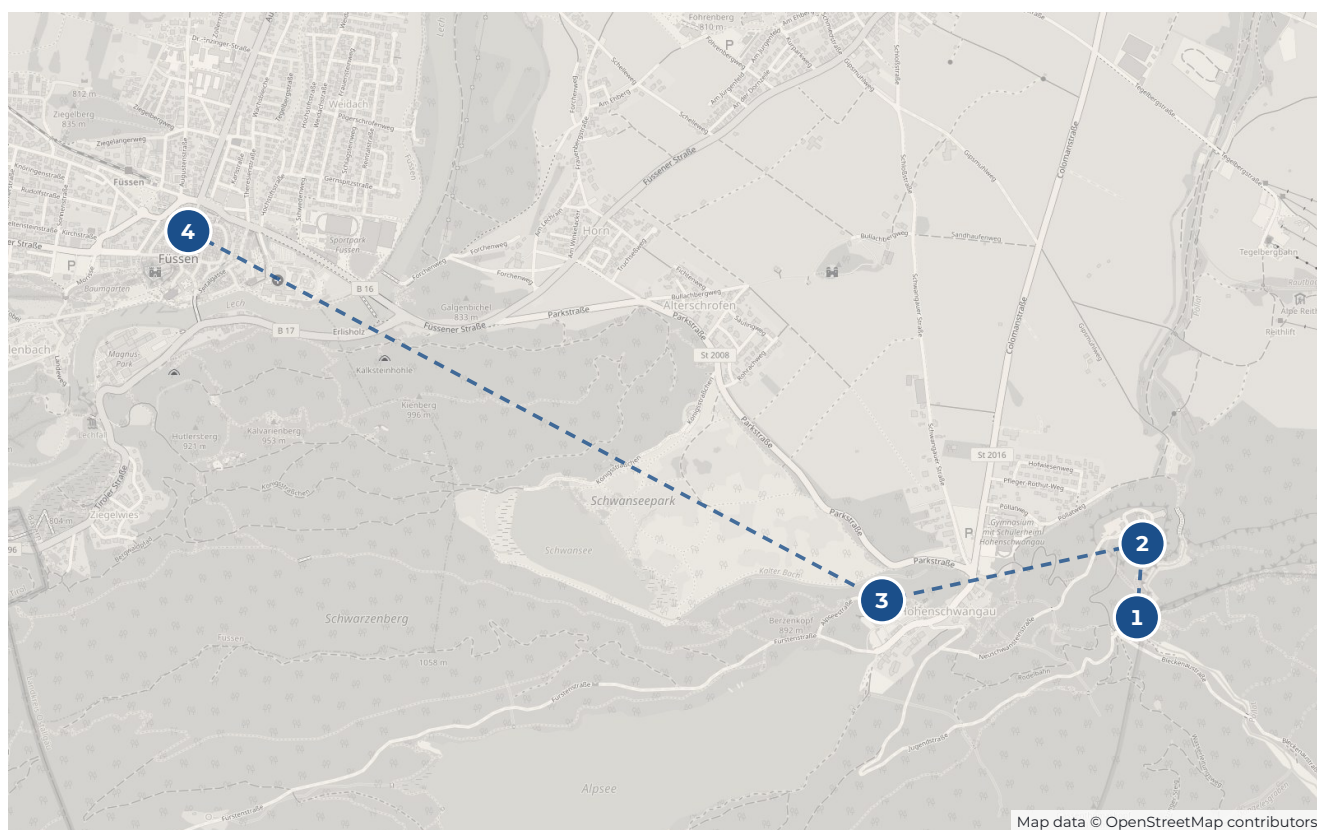
FÜSSEN AND HOHENSCHWANGAU, ALLGÄU, ABOUT 2 HOURS SOUTHWEST BY TRAIN

The regional train to Füssen, the classic view from the Marienbrücke, a timed tour of Neuschwanstein and an evening in Füssen before the train back.

DAY 4 • BEFORE YOU GO

This is the long day, and it only works if you book. Neuschwanstein can be visited only on a guided tour at a fixed time, and the day's tickets are limited. Buy yours from the official online shop as early as you can and pick a slot around 1pm. That leaves time for the bridge first. The Ticket Center in Hohenschwangau sells leftover tickets for the same day only, and they often sell out early.

Regional trains take about two hours from Munich Hauptbahnhof to Füssen. Until 31 October 2026, speed restrictions on the line mean a changed timetable, and the RB 68 to Füssen starts and ends at München-Pasing instead of the Hauptbahnhof (a few minutes by S-Bahn), so check the DB Navigator app the evening before. In Füssen take bus 73 or 78 to Hohenschwangau, about ten minutes. Be in the village one and a half to two hours before your tour time, which means leaving Munich around 9am.



- 1 The Marienbrücke
- 2 Neuschwanstein Castle

- 3 Hohenschwangau and the Alpsee
- 4 Evening in Füssen

1 The Marienbrücke

45 minutes | Free (shuttle bus 3.50 EUR up, 5 EUR return)



Photo: Christoph Strässler, CC BY-SA 2.0

Start where every photograph of Neuschwanstein is taken: the Marienbrücke, an iron footbridge high above the Pöllat gorge. A first wooden bridge was built here in the 1840s under Ludwig II's father, Maximilian II, and the bridge is named for Ludwig's mother, Queen Marie. Below it a waterfall drops into the gorge, and across the gorge the castle sits on its ridge.

A shuttle bus runs from car park P4, below Hohenschwangau Castle, to a stop five minutes from the bridge, with no fixed timetable but roughly every 20 minutes, and takes about

15 minutes. From the bridge it's a steep 15-minute walk down to the castle entrance. You can also walk from the village, which takes about 45 minutes.

TIP Buy your castle ticket before you go up, or you have to come back down to the Ticket Center. The bridge is crowded and the tour starts at the printed time. The shuttle doesn't run in snow or ice, and the Bayern-Ticket and Deutschland-Ticket aren't valid on it.

2 Neuschwanstein Castle

2 hours including the walk | 21 EUR, plus 2.50 EUR online booking fee



Photo: Thomas Wolf, www.foto-tw.de, CC BY-SA 3.0 de

Neuschwanstein was Ludwig II's private fantasy: a medieval castle built from 1869, partly as a tribute to the com-

poser Richard Wagner, in the mountains far from the court in Munich. He paid for it with his own fortune and a lot of borrowed money, and he died in 1886, before it was finished. It opened to the public soon after. It's said to have inspired Disney's Sleeping Beauty castle, and since 2025 it has been part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ludwig II's palaces.

The tour is brisk. Guides in German and English take you through 14 rooms in about 30 minutes, and the tours start on time. Private photography inside isn't allowed. Bags and rucksacks can't be taken in. Honestly, the outside and the setting are the main event, and the interior is a quick blur of painted legends.

TIP Hours drop from 9am-6pm to 10am-4pm on 16 October. Under-18s are free but need a free ticket when booking online. The Ticket Center sells tickets until 4pm (3:30pm from 16 October).

3 Hohenschwangau and the Alpsee

1.5–2 hours | Walk free, Hohenschwangau Castle tour extra

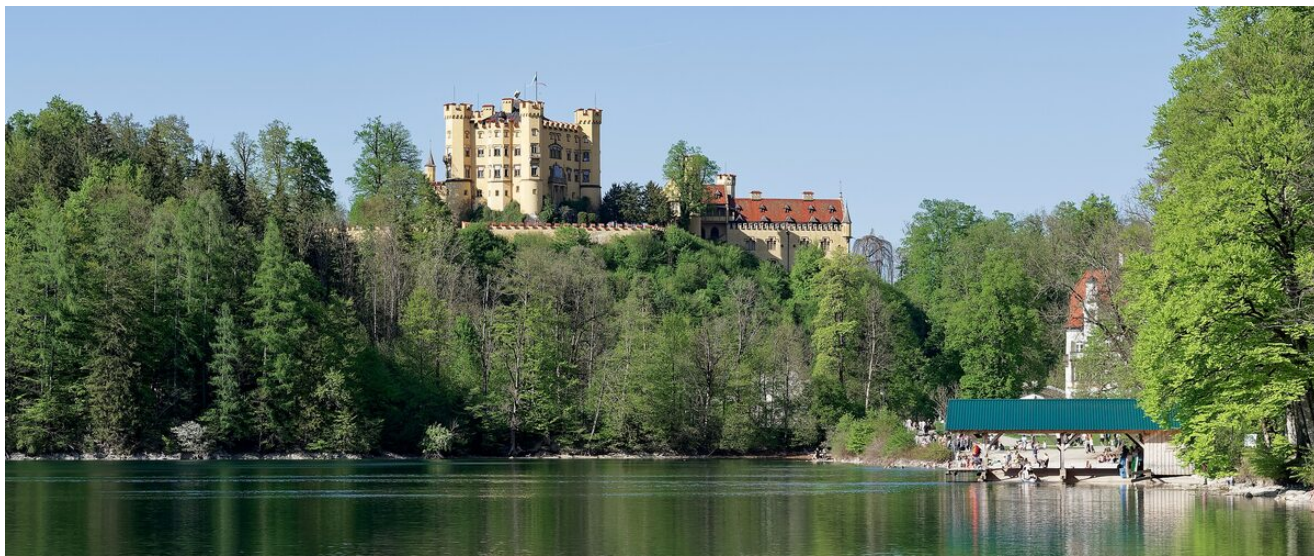


Photo: Jakub Hafun, CC BY 4.0

Walk back down toward the village and you will pass the yellow neo-Gothic Hohenschwangau Castle. Ludwig II grew up in this summer residence, which his father had rebuilt from a ruin in 1833–37. A separate tour of about 45 minutes is available, but you can also just walk around the castle garden, which is free.

From there it's a short stroll to the Alpsee, a clear mountain

lake with paths along the shore and rowing boats to hire in season. It's much quieter than the hill above and a good place to take a break.

TIP Hohenschwangau Castle needs a separate ticket from the same Ticket Center, and it closes at 4pm from 16 October. A horse-drawn carriage runs up from the village for around 5.50 EUR.

4 Evening in Füssen

2 hours | Around 20–35 EUR for dinner



Take the bus back to Füssen, where the train station is, and stay for dinner before the train home. The old town is a short walk from the station, pedestrian and compact, dominated by the High Castle, the former summer residence of the prince-bishops of Augsburg, and the baroque St. Mang's Abbey, whose roots go back to the 9th century.

This is the Allgäu, so the menu is more Alpine than in Munich: *Käsespätzle*, the egg noodles baked with cheese and fried onions, and *Kaiserschmarrn*, a shredded pancake big enough to share.

TIP Check the last train to Munich before you sit down to dinner. The Füssen line runs a changed timetable until 31 October 2026.



DAY FIVE

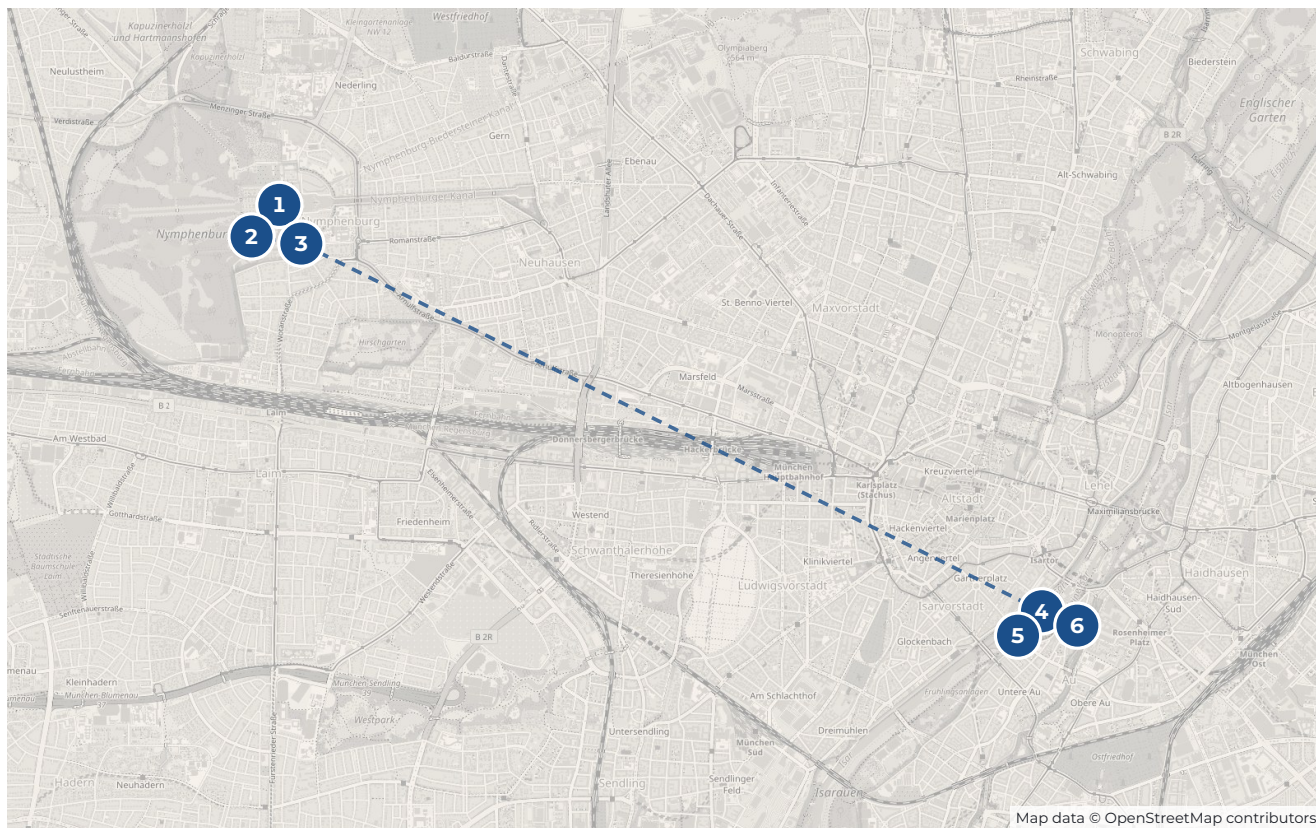
Nymphenburg, the Deutsches Museum and the Isar

NYMPHENBURG, MUSEUMSINSEL, AU

The Wittelsbachs' summer palace and park, lunch in the palace wing, the world's biggest technology museum, a walk along the Isar and Knödel in the Au.

DAY 5 • BEFORE YOU GO

Tram 17 runs between Nymphenburg Palace and the Deutsches Museum, which keeps the day simple. The palace admits visitors only with a timed ticket, which you can buy online until the day before, so book it for the morning. It opens at 9am until 15 October and at 10am from 16 October, and the museum closes at 5pm (last admission 4:30pm), so plan to be on the tram by about 1:30pm.



1 Nymphenburg Palace

2 Nymphenburg Park and the Amalienburg

3 Lunch at the Schlosswirtschaft Schwaige

4 The Deutsches Museum

5 A Walk along the Isar

6 Farewell Dinner at the Wirtshaus in der Au

1 Nymphenburg Palace

1.5–2 hours | Palace 10 EUR, combined ticket 20 EUR (summer) or 16 EUR (winter)



Photo: AuHaidhausen, CC BY 4.0

Nymphenburg was the summer residence of the Wittelsbachs. Elector Ferdinand Maria and his wife Henriette Adelaide began it in 1664 after the birth of their son Max Emanuel, and later rulers kept adding to it for generations. Part of it is still the home and office of the head of the Wittelsbach family.

Inside, the state rooms center on the Stone Hall, a festival hall three floors high with frescoes by Johann Baptist Zimmermann. The most visited room is the Gallery of Beauties, where Ludwig I hung 36 portraits of beautiful women from

every class of Munich society, painted by Joseph Karl Stieler. They include a shoemaker's daughter and Lola Montez, Ludwig's controversial mistress. Nearby is the bedroom where the future Ludwig II was born in 1845.

TIP Tickets are timed, and entry is possible for up to an hour after your slot. The Lacquer Cabinet is closed until the end of 2027, and the fountain in the Great Parterre is out of service in 2026.

2 Nymphenburg Park and the Amalienburg

1.5 hours | Park free, park palaces 6 EUR



Photo: Flocci Nivis, CC BY 4.0

Behind the palace the park opens out into canals, lawns,

wooded paths and a handful of small pavilions. The Elector opened it to the public in 1792, and the main gate is open from 6am to 8pm in April and October. The Amalienburg, a rococo hunting lodge built in 1734–39 by François de Cuvillies for Electress Maria Amalia, is the best of them, with a hall of mirrors and even a kennel room for the hunting dogs. From 16 October it is shut with the other park palaces, so the walk itself is the show.

The Marstallmuseum in the south wing has the court carriages and sleighs, including the fantasy ones of Ludwig II, and it is the indoor alternative once the pavilions close.

TIP The park palaces (Amalienburg, Badenburg, Pagodenburg, Magdalenenklaus) are open daily 9am–6pm until 15 October and closed from 16 October to March. The park itself stays open all year.

3 Lunch at the Schlosswirtschaft Schwaige

1 hour | Around 15–30 EUR

The Schlosswirtschaft Schwaige is in a side wing of the palace, and it's the easy choice for lunch: Bavarian cooking on a slightly higher level than a beer hall, in a baroque room, open daily from 11am, with the kitchen running from 11:30am to 9:45pm. Order a classic such as *Schweinsbraten* or *Schnitzel*, or a *Kaiserschmarrn* if you skipped it on the castle day.

If the weather is good and you want a proper beer garden, the *Königlicher Hirschgarten* is a 15–20 minute walk from the palace. It has been serving since 1791, has about 7,000 self-service seats in the garden, and keeps a deer enclosure.

TIP The Hirschgarten is the one to choose if you want to stay outdoors, but it is weather-dependent in October.

4 The Deutsches Museum

3 hours | 16 EUR



Photo: Flocci Nivis, CC BY 4.0

The Deutsches Museum is the largest science and technology museum in the world. It was founded in 1903 on the initiative of Oskar von Miller and sits on an island in the Isar. It is also in the middle of a major renovation: about half the building is open with new exhibitions and the other half is a construction site until around 2028, so some old classics are not on view.

What is open is still more than a day's worth. Don't try to see everything. Pick two or three out of the roughly 20 exhibitions, for example space, historic aviation or the robotics show, and check the day's schedule at the entrance for free demonstrations. Many of the displays are hands-on.

TIP The museum is closed on 1 November and 11 November 2026 (staff meeting). Buy tickets online to skip the queue.

5 A Walk along the Isar

45 minutes | Free



Photo: Achim Lammerts (Syntaxys) / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

Munich's river is a surprise. The Isar flows for about 14 kilometers through the city, and its banks are wide gravel beaches and meadows where half the city picnics and barbecues in summer. From the museum island, take the river path south toward the Reichenbachbrücke, under a kilometer away, where people sit on the bridge and the banks in the evening.

In October there are no swimmers, but there are joggers, dog walkers and people with a drink on the steps. If you do come in summer, swim only in the designated areas and never near the weirs: the current is stronger than it looks.

TIP After the clocks go back on 25 October it is nearly dark by 5pm, so leave the museum a little early to catch the light.

6 Farewell Dinner at the Wirtshaus in der Au

2 hours | Around 18–30 EUR



Photo: Allie_Caulfield, CC BY 2.0

For the last night, go to the Au, a small district right on the

Isar. The Wirtshaus in der Au, on Lilienstraße, has served beer and dumplings since 1901. The menu is traditional Bavarian with modern touches, and the *Knödel* are the reason to come: *Semmelknödel* (bread dumplings) in a mushroom sauce make a full vegetarian main, and the *Leberknödelsuppe* is the lighter start. Skip the roast pork tonight; you've had it twice.

Book a table, since it fills up. Afterward, the Glockenbachviertel around Gärtnerplatz and Haidhausen on the east bank are where Munich goes out in the evening, with bars and small clubs.

TIP The kitchen closes at 10pm. On weekdays the restaurant opens at 5pm, on weekends at 10am. Each October (check the dates) the Kirchweihdult, an old-style market and fair, takes over Marienhilfplatz in the Au.

More time

Five days cover Munich and Neuschwanstein. With a sixth day, these are the best extras, from a quarter of the city that's worth a morning to a mountain you can reach by train.



Olympiapark, BMW Welt and the Allianz Arena

In the north of the city. U3 to Olympiazentrum for the park and BMW; the Allianz Arena is further north on the U6 (Fröttmaning).

The Olympiapark was built for the 1972 Summer Games and is the city's modern landmark: a stadium with a tent-like roof, a lake and the Olympiaberg, a grassy hill that is one of the best free sunset spots in Munich. The 291-meter Olympic Tower is closed for renovation until early 2027. Next door, the BMW Welt (2007, free) and the BMW Museum (17 EUR, closed Mondays) are worth an hour for the architecture alone.

A memorial in the park remembers the twelve victims of the terror attack on the 1972 Games, eleven members of the Israeli team and a Bavarian police officer. Football fans can add the Allianz Arena, home of FC Bayern, whose exterior of inflated panels changes color, where the museum costs 12 EUR and a museum-plus-stadium tour 25 EUR. With children, Tierpark Hellabrunn, the zoo on the Isar (U3 to Thalkirchen), is the classic family swap.



Dachau Memorial Site

16 km northwest. S2 from Munich Hauptbahnhof to Dachau in about 25 minutes, then bus 726 to the Memorial Site.

Dachau was one of the first concentration camps built by Nazi Germany, opened on 22 March 1933, and it ran until US troops liberated it on 29 April 1945. The Dachau Memorial Site stands on the grounds of the camp, and it is the most important place near Munich for understanding what the Nazi regime did. According to the Memorial Site, some 41,500 people lost their lives in the camp system between 1933 and 1945.

Entry is free and no booking is needed. The grounds and the main exhibition are open daily from 9am to 5pm, an audio guide costs 5 EUR, and English tours run daily at 11am and 1pm (2.5 hours, 4 EUR, limited to 30 people, tickets only at the Visitors' Center and not reservable). Plan half a day, wear comfortable shoes, and don't schedule anything cheerful straight afterward.



Herrenchiemsee

About 1 hour by train from Munich Hauptbahnhof to Prien am Chiemsee, then the little Chiemsee steam train to the Stock pier and a boat to the island. Allow about an hour from Prien station, including the boat.

Herrenchiemsee is Ludwig II's copy of Versailles, on an island in Bavaria's biggest lake. Ludwig bought the island in 1873 and began the New Palace in 1878, with a Hall of Mirrors, and he ran out of money and time before it was finished. State-room tours in English take about 40 minutes, and the 14 EUR combination ticket also covers the King Ludwig II Museum and the old monastery. Boat tickets are separate.

A fourth palace, Linderhof, is the smallest, the only one he finished and lived in, and it sits in the mountains near Ettal, which is harder to reach without a car.



Salzburg

About 140 km southeast. Direct trains from Munich Hauptbahnhof take about 1.5 hours, regional ones about 2.

Salzburg is in Austria, but it's closer to Munich than most German cities are, and it's the classic day trip: a baroque old town below a fortress, Mozart's birthplace and the Sound of Music scenery. Bring your passport or ID card. It's easy to do in a day, and if you want to stay longer, there is a full plan in 5 Days in Salzburg.



Starnberger See and Andechs

S6 to Starnberg (about 30 km southwest). For Andechs, S8 to Herrsching in about 50 minutes, then bus 951 or a walk of around 4 km.

Lake Starnberg is where Munich goes at the weekend, and it has a sad royal footnote: it's where Ludwig II was found dead in 1886. The S6 gets you to Starnberg, with a lakeside promenade and boats, in about 30 minutes.

For a full day, take the S8 to Herrsching on the Ammersee and walk or take the bus up to Andechs Monastery. The Benedictine abbey on its "holy mountain" has a baroque church and a brewery, and its Bräustüberl (a tavern) serves Bavarian dishes such as pork knuckle. Try to go on a weekday: it gets very full on weekends.



The Zugspitze and Garmisch-Partenkirchen

About 90 km south. Regional trains from Munich Hauptbahnhof to Garmisch-Partenkirchen take roughly 80–90 minutes; check the DB Navigator app for the current timetable.

At 2,962 meters, the Zugspitze is Germany's highest mountain, on the Austrian border. From Garmisch-Partenkirchen the cog-wheel train and cable cars take you to the summit and the Zugspitze plateau in a loop that takes three to four hours. The summer ticket (valid through 22 November 2026) costs 78 EUR for the ascent and descent, and winter rates start on 27 November. It's a weather day: if the summit is in cloud, it's an expensive way to see fog.

Built for beer

Bavarian food is built for beer: salty, fatty, filling and meant to be eaten at a shared table. These are the dishes and drinks to try, and where to try them.



Weißwurst

Pale veal sausage, simmered rather than boiled, and served in a pot of hot water with a *Brezl*, sweet mustard and a wheat beer. Locals eat it between breakfast and lunch and say it shouldn't hear the noon bells. Leave the skin.

WHERE The Weisses Bräuhaus at Tal 7 (breakfast served daily 9am-12pm, with a brass band on Sundays). Zum Franziskaner near the Opera is another classic; check its hours.



Schweinshaxe

Roast pork knuckle with a crackling skin and soft meat, usually with a dumpling and cabbage or potato salad. One is a very large portion, so it's often shared. Its cousin *Schweinsbraten*, sliced roast pork with gravy, is the everyday version.

WHERE The Hofbräuhaus, most beer halls and gardens, or Andechs Monastery, whose kiosk sells grilled knuckles by weight.



Leberkäse and Obatzda

Leberkäse has no liver and no cheese. It is a baked loaf of finely minced pork and beef, served warm in slices or in a *Semmel* roll with sweet mustard. *Obatzda* is a beer garden spread of ripe Camembert mashed with butter, onion and paprika, eaten with a pretzel.

WHERE Buy *Leberkässemmeln* at a butcher, not a bakery. Obatzda is on almost every beer garden menu, including the Chinese Tower.



Spätzle

Soft egg noodles, pressed through a sieve into boiling water. In the Allgäu and the Alps they come as *Käsespätzle*, baked with mountain cheese and topped with fried onions, which is mountain-hut comfort food at its best.

WHERE Füssen and the Allgäu on the Neuschwanstein day, or any Wirtshaus with an Alpine menu.



Knödel

Dumplings, made from stale bread rolls (*Semmelknödel*) or potato, are the side dish of Bavarian cooking and sometimes the main course, with a mushroom sauce. *Leberknödelsuppe* is a clear broth with a liver dumpling and a classic starter.

WHERE The Wirtshaus in der Au has served beer and dumplings since 1901.



Kaiserschmarrn and Prinzregententorte

Kaiserschmarrn is a fluffy pancake torn into pieces, with raisins, powdered sugar and plum compote, usually big enough to share. *Prinzregententorte* is Bavaria's layer cake, thin sponge layers with chocolate buttercream under a dark glaze, named after Prince Regent Luitpold. If you wanted Black Forest Cake, that is from the other end of Germany.

WHERE Kaiserschmarrn in the Allgäu or at the Schlosswirtschaft Schwaige, and cake at Café Luitpold.



Helles and Munich Beer

The classic Munich beer is *Helles*, a pale, malty lager with gentle bitterness. Six big breweries make it: Augustiner, Hacker-Pschorr, Hofbräu, Löwenbräu, Paulaner and Spaten. Beer here is served in a half-liter glass or, in halls and gardens, a liter, a *Maß*.

WHERE The Augustiner-Keller for Edelstoff from a wooden barrel, the Hofbräuhaus for Hofbräu, and the Viktualienmarkt beer garden, where the six rotate.

ALSO ON THE MENU

Pretzel (Brezel)

In Bavaria it's a *Brezn*, a lye-baked pretzel with a dark, glossy crust, coarse salt and a soft inside. It is the bread of the beer garden, bought as a snack in every bakery and eaten with butter, *Obatzda* or *Weißwurst*. The huge ones, *Riesenbrezn*, are for sharing.

WHERE Any bakery, or the tables of a beer garden. Rischart is a Munich bakery chain with branches around the city.

Schnitzel

A breaded, fried cutlet. A true Wiener Schnitzel is made of veal, but in a Munich Wirtshaus you'll often get the pork version, *Schweineschnitzel*, with potato salad or fries. It isn't specifically Bavarian, and who does it best is a running argument with Austria.

WHERE Any traditional Wirtshaus; ask for veal if you want the Viennese version.

Bratwurst

Germany's grilled sausage comes in hundreds of regional versions. In Munich it shows up in beer halls and at market stands with sauerkraut and mustard,

next to the white sausage rather than instead of it.

WHERE The Hofbräuhaus and the grill stands around the Viktualienmarkt.

Sauerbraten

Beef marinated for days in vinegar and spices, then braised and served with dumplings and red cabbage. It is more a Rhineland and Franconian classic than a Munich one, but a traditional Wirtshaus may still have it on the menu next to the roast pork.

WHERE Traditional Wirtshäuser. Check the day's menu, since it comes and goes.

Weißbier and Radler

Wheat beer (*Weißbier*) is cloudy, fruity and poured into a tall vase-shaped glass, and it's the traditional partner of the white sausage. A *Radler* is beer mixed with lemonade and is what you drink if you want something lighter. A *Spezi*, cola and orange soda, is the non-alcoholic classic.

WHERE The Weisses Bräuhaus pours Schneider Weisse. Almost every beer garden has Radler and Spezi.

Five neighbourhoods

Munich is expensive and fills up fast in September and at the big trade fairs, so book early. The old town, Maxvorstadt and the districts around the Isar are all within a short ride of everything in this plan.

Altstadt

First-timers who want to walk everywhere

The old town puts Marienplatz, the Residenz and the Viktualienmarkt at your door. The catch is price: it's the most expensive part of Munich, and it empties out in the evening.

Maxvorstadt

Museums, cafés and a student feel

Near the university and the Kunstareal, with bookshops, cafés and a calmer evening. The catch is that it feels less Bavarian and more big-city.

Glockenbachviertel and Isarvorstadt

Restaurants, bars and nightlife

South of the old town, around Gärtnerplatz. It has the best choice of small restaurants and bars and an easy walk to the Deutsches Museum. The catch is noise on weekend nights.

Haidhausen

A village feel east of the Isar

Across the river, with leafy streets, small restaurants and the Wiener Platz market square. It's a 15–20 minute walk to Marienplatz and a pleasant place to come home to.

Around the Hauptbahnhof

Early trains to Füssen and the airport

Convenient for the airport S-Bahn and the trains to Neuschwanstein. The catch is that the streets around the station can feel rough at night, so check which side your hotel is on.

GOOD TO KNOW

Practical tips

Money

Germany uses the euro. Cards are widely accepted, but carry cash for market stalls, small bakeries, some beer gardens and the odd old Wirtshaus. When you pay, tell the server the total including the tip instead of leaving coins on the table. Rounding up or adding 5–10% is normal.

Getting around

The central zone (M) of the MVV network covers the U-Bahn, S-Bahn, trams and buses for everything in the plan except the day trips. A single trip costs around 4 EUR and a day ticket about 10 EUR (April 2026 fares). Validate your ticket before you ride if the machine doesn't do it for you.

Sundays, Mondays and holidays

Shops, supermarkets and the Viktualienmarkt stalls are closed on Sundays, so buy what you need on Saturday. Most big museums close on Mondays, including the Pinakotheken and the NS-Dokumentationszentrum. State museums charge only 1 EUR on Sundays, which also makes them busier. Check opening hours be-

fore public holidays such as 1 November.

Beer halls and beer gardens

In a beer garden you can bring your own food but not your own drinks, and tables with tablecloths are for people who order from the kitchen. Gardens open when the weather is dry and mild, and many close in October or on cold days: the Augustiner-Keller garden closes in cold or wet weather and for the winter, and the Chinese Tower opens its beer garden only in good weather. In a beer hall like the Hofbräuhaus, sit wherever there is space.

Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest, locally the *Wiesn*, runs about 16 days from mid-September to the first weekend of October (exact dates in the FAQ). Entry to the grounds and the tents is free, but seats are the issue. Most tables are reserved long in advance, and on weekends the unreserved seats are gone by mid-morning. Large bags and backpacks are not allowed, and hotel prices rise sharply, so book early. The Auer Dult on Marienhilfplatz is a smaller local fair and flea market.

Visiting the Nazi-era sites

The Nazi party was founded and grew in Munich, and the city documents it openly at places like the NS-Dokumentationszentrum, Königsplatz and the Dachau Memorial Site. Treat them as memorials, not backdrops. Munich also has a record of resistance: the White Rose students were arrested at the university on 18 February 1943 after leaflets were thrown into its atrium, and the square outside is named for Hans and Sophie Scholl. The Main Synagogue on Herzog-Max-Straße was torn down on Hitler's orders in June 1938, and the Ohel Jakob synagogue and Jewish Museum on Sankt-Jakobs-Platz, near the Viktualienmarkt, opened in 2006 and 2007. In Germany it is also a crime to display Nazi symbols such as the swastika or to give the Hitler salute, even as a joke.

Language and manners

Most people in Munich speak good English, but a *Grüß Gott* (hello) or *Servus* (hi and bye) goes down well in Bavaria, and *Prost* is cheers. Plugs are the usual European two-pin type (C and F), 230 V.

Weather and clothes

Munich weather changes quickly, and the Alps are close enough to cool the evenings, even in summer. Bring layers and comfortable shoes for the cobbles. In winter the Bavaria statue and the Nymphenburg park palaces are closed, but the Christmas markets on Marienplatz and at the Chinese Tower run through Advent.

Before you book

Is 5 days in Munich enough?

Yes. Five days covers the old town, the Residenz, the English Garden and the big museums at a normal pace, and still leaves room for Neuschwanstein and Nymphenburg. With only three days, do days one, two and four of this plan (the old town, the Residenz with the English Garden, and Neuschwanstein), and add the Alte Pinakothek if you can. With more, the extras at the end include Dachau, the Zugspitze and Salzburg.

What are the must-see places in Munich?

Marienplatz with the Glockenspiel, the Frauenkirche, the Viktualienmarkt, the Hofbräuhaus, the Residenz, the English Garden and the Eisbach wave, the Alte Pinakothek, Nymphenburg Palace and the Deutsches Museum, plus the NS-Dokumentationszentrum for the Nazi years. This plan covers all of them, and Neuschwanstein on a day trip.

What is the best day trip from Munich?

Neuschwanstein, which is day four of this plan, about two hours each way by train and bus. The Dachau Memorial Site is the most important half-day trip, an easy S-Bahn ride away, and Herrenchiemsee, Lake Starnberg and Salzburg are the other good options.

Can I just show up at Neuschwanstein?

You can, but you might not get in. The castle can only be visited on timed guided tours, and same-day tickets are limited and often sell out early. Book online as early as you can, and arrive 1.5 to 2 hours before your slot.

When is Oktoberfest, and is it worth it?

It runs from 19 September to 4 October in 2026 and 18 September to 3 October in 2027. It is worth it if you enjoy huge crowds, brass bands and beer at 15 EUR a liter. If you don't, Munich is calmer and cheaper the rest of the year, and the beer halls and gardens are still there.

Is Munich safe for tourists?

Yes. Use normal big-city sense with bags on crowded trains, at the main station and at Oktoberfest, where pickpockets work. The streets around the Hauptbahnhof can feel rough late at night.

Is Munich expensive?

More than most German cities. A liter of beer in a beer garden costs around 11–13 EUR, a Wirtshaus main course 14–25 EUR and a museum 6–10 EUR, with state museums at 1 EUR on Sundays. Hotels are the big cost and spike during Oktoberfest and trade fairs. Free sights such as the English Garden and most churches keep the rest down.

Do I need a visa for Germany?

EU citizens only need an ID card. Many other nationalities can stay up to 90 days in any 180 without a visa under Schengen rules, but the rules and the new entry systems are changing, so check the German foreign office website and whether ETIAS has started before you book.

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Day 1 opener, Alter Peter

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Day 1, Alter Peter

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Day 1, Weißwurst Breakfast at the Weisses Bräuhaus

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Day 1, Marienplatz and the Glockenspiel

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Day 1, Lunch at the Viktualienmarkt

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Day 1, Dinner at the Hofbräuhaus

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Day 2, Odeonsplatz, the Theatinerkirche and the Feldherrenhalle

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Day 2, Coffee at Café Luitpold

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Day 2, The Beer Garden at the Chinese Tower

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Day 3 opener, Alte Pinakothek

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Day 3, Alte Pinakothek

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Day 3, NS-Dokumentationszentrum

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Day 3, The Bavaria Statue and the Theresienwiese

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Day 4 opener, The Marienbrücke

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Day 4, The Marienbrücke

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Day 4, Neuschwanstein Castle

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Day 4, Hohenschwangau and the Alpsee

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Day 5 opener, Nymphenburg Palace

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Day 5, Nymphenburg Park and the Amalienburg

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Day 5, The Deutsches Museum

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Day 5, A Walk along the Isar

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Day 5, Farewell Dinner at the Wirtshaus in der Au

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More time, Olympiapark, BMW Welt and the Allianz Arena

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More time, Dachau Memorial Site

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More time, Herrenchiemsee

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More time, Starnberger See and Andechs

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More time, Salzburg

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More time, The Zugspitze and Garmisch-Partenkirchen

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Food, Weißwurst

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Food, Leberkäse and Obatzda

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Food, Spätzle

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Food, Kaiserschmarrn and Prinzregententorte

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Food, Helles and Munich Beer

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