



Press Release

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Munich – City of Culture

Munich - this name has come to be associated with the Oktoberfest and the Hofbräuhaus, the Olympic grounds and Fasching, the Viktualienmarket and Schwabing. However, Munich also has an international reputation as a metropolis of art and culture.

Culture in the Isar metropolis is particularly diverse. Besides Germany's most renowned, large stages, its music scene ranges from classical to jazz and pop, and is always open to the latest trends, and its museum landscape impresses you with its outstanding collections.

Whoever takes a closer look at the history of Bavaria and Munich will soon find out that the conservation of art and culture has always been given high priority here. The more than 700 years of rule by the Wittelsbach family gave the trading and residential city of Munich its present-day importance as a centre of European culture. King Ludwig I of Bavaria deserves special mention here. During the regency of this "Prince of the Muses", many of Munich's sights were built, such as the Glyptothek, the Old Pinakothek, the Generals' Hall (Feldherrnhalle) and St. Ludwig's Church.

Creation, preservation and collection were tasks to which the Wittelsbachs were always dedicated. This tradition led to Munich becoming one of the richest cultural cities to be found in Germany today.

Museums and Galleries

The inventories of Munich's museums and galleries are among the most important in the world. From the times of classical antiquity through the Middle Ages and up to the present day one can view, study or simply enjoy whatever takes one's fancy and appeals to one's thirst for knowledge.

The entire palette of European culture can be admired in altogether 42 museums and collections and over 70 galleries.

The **Old Pinakothek** presents European painting from the 14th - 18th century. The collection has acquired an international reputation on account of great masters such as Dürer, Rembrandt, Rubens and Leonardo da Vinci. Close by, the **New Pinakothek** shows European paintings from the 19th century (English landscape painting, the French Impressionists, Biedermeier, art nouveau). Munich's third museum, the **Pinakothek Modern**, is one of the world's largest museum for the fine arts of the 20th and 21st centuries. Here the visitor can experience, under one roof, four different collections of paintings, graphics, sculpture, design architecture and installations.

The works of the artists' group "Blauer Reiter" (Blue Rider), whose members included such artists as Kandinsky, Klee, Macke, Marc and Münter, are housed in the **Municipal Gallery in the Lenbach House**. Another main area here is international contemporary art. Changing exhibitions of classical and modern art are to be found in the nearby **Kunstabau**, a branch at the Königsplatz underground station.

The ancient art of the Greeks and Romans can be viewed in the **Glyptothek** as well as in the **State Antique Collection** (Staatliche Antikensammlung).

An important part of the art scene in Munich is the **Kunsthalle der HypoKultur** with spectacular exhibitions and the **Haus der Kunst** with its great shows of classical modern art and international contemporary art. Mainly young artists have their forum in, among other places, the "**Lothringer 13**", the municipal exhibition house in the Munich district of Neuhausen.

Founded by the engineer Oskar von Miller in 1903, the **Deutsches Museum** is today one of the world's major science and technology museums. With an exhibition area of over 55,000 square metres and comprehensive holdings of valuable original technical and scientific exhibits, the museum conveys, in a popular and exciting manner, what science and technology have achieved in the last 100 years and the changes in society which they have brought about. In The Aerospace Department can be seen just outside the city, in the **Schleissheim Flugwerft**. Vehicles built for fast travel on land are on view at the **Transport Centre** on the Theresienhöhe.

The **Münchner Stadtmuseum** (Munich City Museum) on St.-Jakobs-Platz is the city's museum of its contemporary history. It also features collections on photography, musical instruments, puppet theatres and fairground attractions. Due to renovation work some sections such as the historical arsenal are closed until spring 2008, although the museum will remain open for visitors.

The **Munich Jewish Museum** (opening on 22nd March 2007) opposite is part of the new architectural ensemble on St.-Jakobs-Platz with the new Principal Synagogue and the Community Centre of the Israelite Religious Community for Munich and Upper Bavaria The Museum reflects the whole gamut of Munich's Jewish history and culture – including Jewish life, art and culture.

And a day spent visiting museums in Munich should also include the eccentric and enchanting **Karl Valentin Musäum** in the Isartor. Karl Valentin, actor, comedian, author and film-maker born in 1882, is one of the most versatile and greatest sons of Munich.

Theatres and concerts

Some 58 large and small theatres offer a varied programme. The world's greatest opera and ballet stars appear in the **National Theatre**. During the summer, the famous Opera Festival performances attract thousands of visitors. Renowned theatres are also the **Gärtnerplatztheater** und **Prinzregententheater**. The **Deutsches Theater** puts on shows and musicals. The **Münchner Kammerspiele**, an Art Nouveau style building with a progressive concept, is one of Germany's theatres with the highest reputation. Venues of the Bayerisches Staatsschauspiel (Bavarian State Theater) are the **Residenztheater**, the **Marstall** and the **Cuvilliéstheater**, which is closed at the moment for renovations and will be reopened on 14th June 2008 for the city's 850th birthday. Twice a year, in summer and winter, the **Tollwood Festival** takes place, its tents offering further original locations for theatre, circus, opera performances and music.

Three world-class orchestras dominate the city's classical music scene: the **Munich Philharmonic**, the **Bavarian State Orchestra** and the **Symphony Orchestra of the Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation** with their three world-famous conductors Christian Thielemann, Kent Nagano and Mariss Jansons. Since the 2006/2007 season Kent Nagano has conducted the Bavarian State Orchestra as general musical director.

In 1985 the Munich Philharmonic was given its own house, the **Philharmonie** in the Gasteig Arts Centre, with seating for 2400 one of Germany's largest concert halls. In Munich there are also, of course, a large number of smaller orchestras. Music students are trained at the **Munich Hochschule für Musik und Theater** and at the **Richard-Strauss-Konservatorium**.

Palaces and Churches

Not only Upper Bavaria, but also the city of Munich has some splendid palaces to offer. The **Residenz** is Germany's largest palace located in the middle of the town. Until 1918 it was the Wittelsbachs' residence and seat of the government. The highlights include, for example, the **Treasure Chamber** and the **Antiquarium**, a magnificent Renaissance banqueting hall.

The extensive baroque complex **Schloss Nymphenburg** was built as the summer residence of the Bavarian electors. The palace park with its very varied landscape areas and lakes is one of the finest horticultural works of art far beyond Munich. The visitor should not miss the four little castles in the park, including the rococo hunting lodge **Amalienburg**.

Schloss Schleissheim, one of Germany's major baroque palaces, is located just outside Munich. The **Neues Schloss**, is regarded as Elector Max Emanuel's Versailles; the magnificent interior decoration is famous. In the palace park opposite, the elector had the hunting and garden lodge **Lustheim** built. Today Palace Lustheim houses the world-famous and, after Dresden, major collection of early Meissen porcelain.

The **Blutenburg** is situated on the western edge of the city, a hunting castle built in late gothic style by the Wittelsbachs; the complex also includes a palace chapel with high-quality late gothic paintings and sculptures. The Blutenburg is today the headquarters of the International Youth Library.

All manner of styles can be found among the almost 300 churches in Munich. Munich's oldest parish church is **St. Peter's Church** ("Old Peter") dating back to the 11th century. Also in the centre of the city we find the **Cathedral Church of Our Beloved Lady**, a city landmark and Metropolitan Church of the Munich-Freising Archbishopric. This is a late gothic hall-like construction of the 15th century and is decorated with works of art from five centuries. The **Theatiner Church** (1667) features Italian baroque, while the **St. Anna Monastery Church** (1733) is the first rococo church to be built in Munich and the **Asamkirche** (1733-46) is considered to be a masterpiece of Bavarian rococo. An example of successful modern church architecture is the **Herz-Jesu-Kirche** in the Munich district of Neuhausen. The new **Principal Synagogue Ohel Jakob**, which opened on St.-Jakobs-Platz in 2006, is at present one of the largest synagogue buildings in Europe.

Munich's Culture Calendar – a selection of events

Artistic events and cultural life in Munich are an inexhaustible subject. Below we give you a small selection.

28th March – 5th May 2007
www.bayerisches.staatsballett.de

Ballet Week

12th May 2007
www.muenchner.de

The Long Night of Music

From 16th/17th June 2007
www.muenchen-tourist.de

849th birthday of the city

14th June – 8th July 2007
www.tollwood.de

Tollwood Summer Festival

30th June and 1st July 2007
www.muenchen-tourist.de

Classical Music on Odeonsplatz

30th June – 31st July 2007
www.staatsoper.de

Opera Festival

23rd June – 30th June 2007
www.filmfest-muenchen.de

International Film Festival

20th October 2007
www.muenchner.de

Long Night of the Museums

28th November – 31st December 2007
www.tollwood.de

Tollwood Winter Festival

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