

### München

Munich – the capital city of Bavaria - is located close to the **Bavarian Alps** and has about 1.3 million inhabitants. Accordingly, it is a city of contrasts: **Alpine tradition** and **Mediterranean radiance**, **art treasures** and **Oktoberfest**, **local customs** and **high-tech**, **beer gardens** and **opera**. This exciting coexistence of seemingly opposing worlds is one of the main features of this city at the edge of the Alps.

Munich has the **second largest** international airport in Germany which is located **approx. 30 km** northeast of the city centre. The main station offers train connection in all directions and is a **hub for Southern and Eastern Europe**. It is easy to reach the city by car as there are motorways in all directions.

The **Frauenkirche** is Munich's landmark and prominent in its silhouette. Visitors shouldn't miss seeing this **medieval church** and climb up the Southern Tower. Equally essential for the city is the **Marienplatz** where many shops and restaurants can be found as well as the **Town Hall** with the famous chimes which can be heard between 11 and 12 am. The widely known **Hofbräuhaus** is close by and offers beer and typical hearty Bavarian food.

The baroque castle **Nymphenburg** used to be the summer residence for **Bavarian rulers** and is now a popular tourist destination. It is located close to the porcelain collection and the Marstallmuseum.

Sports fans just have to see the **Olympic grounds** of 1972 which is a vast area of 3 km<sup>2</sup> and the **Allianz Arena**, home arena to the FC Bayern München and already famous because of its modern architecture.

The **famous and world wide probably best known event** in Munich is the annual **Oktoberfest**. The so-called "Wies'n" takes place from the middle of September to the beginning of October. It is the **largest funfair in the world** and every year approximately 6 million visitors come to enjoy the breath-taking atmosphere and a beer or two.

The surroundings of Munich offer many possibilities for day trips – the royal castles of **Neuschwanstein** and **Herrenchiemsee** are nearby as well as the **Bavarian Alps** and the lakes **Starnberger See** and **Ammersee**.

There is a rich choice of restaurants in Munich ranging from **beer breweries**, restaurants to **gourmet temples** with Guide Michelin stars. Typical dishes can be **Weißwürste** (white sausages), **Leberkäse** (grilled sausage loaf) and **Obatzter**, a cheese speciality.

