

# MUNICH SURVIVAL GUIDE<sup>1</sup>

## ARRIVING AT DERAG MAX EMANUEL HOTEL

**About the DERAG HOTEL.** Your apartment is managed by the DERAG Max Emanuel Hotel, located at **Rablstrasse 10** in the city center of Munich (the Haidhausen area, near the Gasteig). When you arrive at the property, you will go directly to the main hotel reception where you will officially check-in and receive the keys to your private studio apartment. Your apartment is equipped with: a mini-kitchenette with a small refrigerator and a stove with two burners; private bathroom with shower; *linens* including sheets and towels (which will be changed weekly); a desk; small balcony; and ample storage space (see pictures provided in APPENDIX 1).

**Directions from the airport (“Flughafen München”).** There are basically two options:

**TAXI.** Very convenient, but also *very expensive* and often takes longer than the train (due to highway construction/traffic – but you do get to drive past the giant new soccer stadium on the way to town). Estimated cost to the hotel is 60-70 € for a journey that takes about 40 minutes (or longer depending on arrival time). Some taxis do take credit cards – simply ask! The taxi stand in Terminal 2 (if you are flying a Star Alliance airline such as Lufthansa, United, USAir) is outside to your right as you exit customs. If you arrive by another airline (American, Delta, British Airways) you will fly into Terminal 1. As you exit customs, simply look up at the signs to locate the taxi stand; normally there are taxis waiting directly outside each exit.

**Train (S-BAHN).** If you decide to take the train, you will take the S-bahn train from the airport (Line **S8** is much faster to the hotel than the **S1**, but both lines are possible) → board the train heading in the direction to the CITY (“*Richtung Innenstadt*”). As mentioned above, if you are flying the Star Alliance airlines (e.g. United, USAir, etc) you will arrive in Terminal 2. All other airlines arrive into Terminal 1. Either way, look up for a sign featuring a **GREEN circled “S”**... this will lead you to the trains. ***However, you will need a ticket before you board the trains.*** You can ask a rep at the INFO desk (located just before you take the escalator down to the train) for a “***Streifenkarte***” (10.50 €), which is a “Strip card” having 10 stripes. Fold the card at the 8th stripe and insert into the blue stamping machine which stands right before the escalator down to the trains (*stamp the 8th strip, you will have 2 remaining strips*, which can be used later – e.g. for a trip into the city from your hotel – see the section “GETTING AROUND” below). There may also be a “XXL day pass” which will allow you to use the public transport for the entire day of your arrival – the INFO desk will have all the details.

Take the S8 or S1 train to the “**Rosenheimerplatz**” stop. When you exit the train, you will see an orientation map directly on the platform and/or after you take the escalator up to the station level (there is also an elevator somewhere on the train platform, if you have a lot of luggage). Take the exit

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<sup>1</sup> Compiled and edited by Stacey J. Farmer (2008) scubiotechie@yahoo.com. Although much of this guide is derived from: “Frommer’s Munich & the Bavarian Alps, 4th Edition (2003)” and viewable online at [www.frommers.com](http://www.frommers.com), I have added extra details, tips and other information from my own personal experiences as a Munich resident.

to the **Gasteig/Ladenstrasse Motorama** – you will then be on Rosenheimerstrasse. Walk about 20 m and make a right onto **Schleibigerstrasse**. At the end of this street, about 200 m or so (*after you pass the Porsche dealership*) you will see the main entrance to the hotel (**Rablstrasse 10**). See <http://www.deraghhotels.de/> for a great schematic map. Check in at the main reception desk; you will be directed to your accommodations.

## SAFETY FIRST

Important numbers (free from all telephones): **Ambulance: 112, Police: 110, Fire: 112.**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Business Hours.** Most banks are open Monday to Friday 8:30am to 12:30pm and 1:30 to 3:30pm (many stay open to 5:30pm on Thurs). In Munich (in the city center), most businesses are open Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 8pm (supermarkets are often open earlier). Keep in mind that smaller shops (notably specialty stores) located both inside and outside the city center often have shorter hours than just mentioned.

BUSINESSES NEAR THE HOTEL (see map in the main Hotel Lobby):

- *Supermarkets:* Plus, Pannymarkt, Aldi
- *“Drug Stores”* (for toiletries, household supplies): kd, dm, Müller (also has great prices on CDs and photo developing)
- *Other kinds of businesses:* **“Schneiderei”** (tailors, alterations); **“Frisör”** (hair salon), **Bäckerei** or **Konditorei** (bakeries; bread, sandwiches, sweets)

**Cinemas.** There are two main cinemas that offer films in the original (English) version:

**Cinema** (one large screen, a very nice theater), Nymphenburgerstrasse 31, U1 Stiegelmeierplatz (tel. **089/55-52-55**). You can view show times and even make a reservation online at their website at: [www.cinema-muenchen.com](http://www.cinema-muenchen.com).

**Museum Lichtspiele** (four somewhat small screens, but very convenient to the hotel & many offerings), Lilienstrasse 2, Tram 18: Deutsches Museum (tel. **089/48-24-03**). You can view showtimes online at: [www.museum-lichtspiele.de](http://www.museum-lichtspiele.de). Making a reservation in advance is possible via phone (English is spoken).

**E-Mail.** There are many options in this well-connected city. The biggest and best is the **easyEverything Internet Café**, directly across from the Hauptbahnhof off the Bahnhofplatz (see [www.easyeverything.com](http://www.easyeverything.com)). They have more than 400 computers, high speed access, and even one of the city’s many “San Francisco Coffee Company” shops located directly inside. Hours are everyday, 7/24. The cost is reasonable, one hour averages 3 €; there are also passes available for 24 hours, one week or longer.

For FREE email, try to locate an “AOL Internet Station” – many of these stations have attached cameras so you can send a free picture via email. To find these kiosks, visit: [www.aol.de/stations](http://www.aol.de/stations).

Your hotel also has Internet, although the rates are a little expensive – ask at reception.

**Language.** Many Germans do speak English (and will happily speak to you in English, especially if you try *bad* German first). A good investment, for understanding basic terms and phrases, is the mini-sized Collier’s English-German dictionary, which you can buy for about 5€ at Hugendubel Bookstore (locations directly on Karlsplatz/Stachus or on the Marienplatz).

**Laundry/Dry Cleaning.** The laundry facility is located in the basement of the Hotel. Washing machines cost 2€ (4 x 0.50€, 0.50€ coins available at Hotel reception); dryers cost 0.50€ for 15 minutes. Note that all temperatures are in Celsius – **30°C** is adequate for most types of fabrics (up to **60°C** for heavy duty loads). For dry cleaning, try the **Martinizing Shop** on Dreibrückenstrasse, across from the Isartor S-bahn station.

**Liquor Laws.** The enforcement of drinking laws is flexible. Laws are enforced only if a problem develops or if decorum is broken. Officially, someone must be 18 to consume any kind of alcoholic beverage in Germany. However, drinking and driving (and biking, if on a public street!) is treated as a very serious offense... the maximum blood alcohol level is **0.05%**!

**Lost & Found.** If you lose something on the public transportation system, or around town, call the Lost & Found Office, or “Fundamt” (tel. **089/23-34-59-00**). The office is located at Ötztalerstrasse 17, U6 Partnachplatz, and is open from M-Th 8:30am-12:00pm; also Tues 2-6pm; and Fri 7am-12pm.

**Luggage Storage/Lockers.** The hotel reception can accommodate a reasonable amount of luggage. Also, facilities are currently available at the Hauptbahnhof on the Bahnhofplatz side (tel. **089/99-66-32**), which is open daily from 6am to 11pm.

**Mail.** To mail a letter, look for a bright yellow mailbox. The cost to send an airmail letter to the U.S. is currently 1.70€ for the first 5 grams (about 1/5 oz.). To mail a package, go to one of the larger post offices in Munich (see "Post Office" below). For receiving your personal mail (especially for packages), use the address:

**YOUR NAME**  
**Rablstrasse 10**  
**Apartment \_\_\_\_\_**  
**D-81669 Munich**  
**GERMANY**

**Medical Dental Optical.** 112 is the general *medical* emergency number. There is a 24-hour emergency facility, the “Red Cross Hospital” in Neuhausen at Nymphenburgerstrasse 163 reachable at (089) 1278 9790. For *emergency* dental assistance, call (089) 72 33 09 30. If you need spare contact lenses, you can take your U.S. prescription (if not older than 1 year) (and/or make an on-site exam) at one of the many Fielmann shops around town – the nearest shop is 5 minutes from the Hotel at Weißenburger Straße 21 (see: <http://www.fielmann.com/>). The hotel can also provide you with the

names of other English speaking doctors (*Arzt*) and dentists (*Zahnarzt*). I can also recommend my English-speaking physician who has an office reasonably near your apartment – *just ask!*

**Newspapers/Magazines.** The *International Herald Tribune* is the most widely distributed English language newspaper in the city. The scholarly “*Suddeutsche Zeitung*” also has a New York Times insert (in English) every Monday. You can also find copies of *USA Today* and the European editions of *Time*, *Economist*, and *Newsweek* at many city newsstand kiosks and gas stations.

For finding out general information for happenings within Munich, try the monthly **Munich Found** (English) and the weekly “**IN München**” (German). These are the most comprehensive guides for all events including theater, movies, sporting and concert schedules. You can purchase Munich Found at, for example, Hugendubel Bookstore (the biggest one is directly on the Marienplatz, or you can view parts of the magazine online at [www.munichfound.com](http://www.munichfound.com)). “IN München” is free, and available at many bars and restaurants – and at the ticket centers at both the Karlsplatz (Stachus) and Marienplatz underground arcades. **Notable websites for Munich happenings, restaurants:** <http://www.munichfound.de/> or <http://www.muenchen.de/home/60093/Homepage.html> An interesting Munich info and “*discussion*” site is: <http://www.toytownmunich.com/> or <http://www.expatica.com/>

**Pharmacies.** Look for the red “A”, on almost every corner. For an international pharmacy (*Apotheke*) where English is spoken, go to International Ludwig's Apotheke in the pedestrian shopping zone (*although expensive*), Neuhauserstrasse 11 (tel. **089/2-60-30-21**; U-bahn/S-bahn: Marienplatz). It's open Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm and Saturday from 9am to 4pm. Also, try the big Apotheke under Karlsplatz in the shopping arcade (they also usually post the name of an English speaking doctor to provide you with any necessary prescription, or “*Rezept*”). Sometimes you can convince the pharmacist that you will have your home doctor FAX the prescription within 24 hours (ask for a business card with FAX number); this works better with the smaller, local apotheke than those directly in the city. There's always a pharmacy open 24 hours in every neighborhood – each Apotheke has a sign in its window indicating where to find the nearest one that is open for the night (this changes from night to night).

**Post Office.** The **Postamt München** (main post office) is across from the Hauptbahnhof, at Bahnhofplatz 1 (tel. **089/599-0870**). The office is open Monday to Friday 7am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to 4pm, and Sunday 9am to 3pm. When mailing a letter directly via the bright yellow mailboxes, place in the correct slot according to PLZ (“Postleitzahl”) or zip code. For U.S.-bound mail, this usually means inserting the letter into the slot labeled “Andere PLZ” (or “other zip codes”, including overseas). For current rates, drop-off locations, etc, see <https://www.deutschepost.de> (available in English).

**Radio.** The BBC World Service broadcasts to Munich, as does the American Forces Network (AFN), which you can hear on 1197 AM. NPR is also (sometimes) available at 105.95 FM.

**Restrooms.** The magic word is *Toilette* (pronounced toy-*leht*-tah). Restrooms may be posted as “WC” (water closet) and also “H” (for *Herren*, men) and “F” or “D” (for *Frauen* or *Damen*, women). Any other word substitutes are fair game (Bavarian German has many special terms, but there is usually a picture on the door to help you out). Most restaurants, bars, cafes, department stores, hotels, and pubs have facilities.

**Safety.** Munich is a generally safe city... but like all cities, there are some “bad areas”. Be careful of pick pocketing and purse- and camera-snatching around the Hauptbahnhof (at night) or the Marienplatz, where thieves can prey on unsuspecting tourists.

**Taxes.** As a member of the European Union, Germany imposes a tax on most goods and services known as a **value-added tax (VAT)**, or in German, or *Mehrwertsteuer*. Nearly *everything* is taxed at 19%, including food and luxury items such as jewelry and cameras; this tax is already included in the purchase price, even at hotels and restaurants.

Many stores display a “Tax Free” sticker and will issue you a Tax-Free Shopping Check at the time of purchase by the cashier, or “Kasse”, (depending on who writes this check, you may need your passport). When leaving the country, go to the German Customs office (between Terminal B and C at the Munich Airport) in Terminal 1 or directly in the terminal after the passport control in Terminal 2, with items *in hand*, and have your Tax-Free Check stamped by the German Customs Service as your proof of legal export. Next to this office, you can *then* get a cash refund at the Tax-Free Shopping Service booth. If the line is too long, or if the booth is closed, you can enclose the stamped Check(s) in the envelope that is normally part of the Check packet, and put them in the small “mailbox” that is attached to the side of the booth. Conveniently, you can have the tax refund credited to your credit card account.

### **Telephones and other communication devices.**

**Telephone Basics.** The country code for Germany is 49; Munich's city “area” code is 89.

If you're within Germany but *not in Munich*, use 0 + 89 + number to call Munich. To call a non-Munich # from Munich, dial 0 + city code + number (you also need to include the “0” when using a cell phone). If you're calling a number *within* Munich, simply leave dial the phone number (NO 0 or city code needed). If you want to call another country, dial: 00 + country code + city code + number. For example, to call the U.S.: 00 + 1 + area code + ... A few country codes: **44** = England, **39** = Italy, **420** = Czech, **33** = France, **31** = Netherlands (Holland), **41** = Switzerland, **43** = Austria

German phone numbers are not standard in length and come in various formats. In some places, numbers have as few as 3 digits. In cities, numbers can have 5 digits up to as many as 9 digits. Germans also often hyphenate their phone numbers differently.

**German phone cards.** Local and long-distance calls may be placed from coin-operated or card-taking public telephone booths (the latter is more common). You can buy a phone card from a post office or news stand kiosk in denominations of 6 or 25€.

**Mobile Phones.** If you are interested in having a mobile, and have a “tri-band”/GSM phone, you may be able to only buy a pre-paid phone card to directly insert into your phone. Otherwise, you can buy a phone preloaded with a prepaid chip and simply reload your phone when the money runs out on the chip. You can go to any T-Mobile or Vodafone shop for the phones/chips. See: <http://www.prepaidgsm.net/> for current offers from local mobile phone providers. Recently, the **Tchibo** shops started offering prepaid phones (dual band) with NO contract for as little as 35€ (or less if there is a special) -- you just have to fill out a form with your address (everything is in German, but not too hard to figure out). You can reload the mobile

with cards of different denominations. The shops are located all over Munich, there are 2 close to your apartment: Weissenburger Strasse 19 or Weissenburger Strasse 35.

**Calling Home.** To call the U.S. from Germany, dial 00 + 1 + area code + number. Alternatively, you can dial the various telecommunication companies in the States for cheaper rates. From Germany, the access for **AT&T** is tel. **0800-888-00-10**; for **MCI** tel. **0800-888-8000**; and for **Sprint** tel. **0800-888-0013**. A great Internet-based payment card (rechargeable) site is: [www.pincity.com](http://www.pincity.com) – they provide a toll-free access number for Germany.

**Fax.** Many of the Deutsche Telekom booths in train stations or (rarely) post offices have an attached (self-service) fax machine, which you can use in connection with your Telephone Card. Try the Hauptbahnhof of Marienplatz in particular. There are also MANY shops in the Schwabing area (near the University of Munich) that offer fax services.

**Time Zone.** Germany operates on Central European time (CET), which is 6 hours ahead of EST (New York), 7 ahead of CST (Chicago), and 9 ahead of PST (California).

**Tipping (*Trinkgeld*).** **Tipping protocol is different in Germany.** In Germany (and most other European countries), a service charge (tip or “*Bedienung*”) is automatically added in all restaurants and Biergartens, so just round up to the nearest euro when you pay your bill. However, you may choose to add an extra 10% at nicer restaurants, 5-10% for taxis. **If your waitstaff insists that a tip has *not* been added, this is simply NOT TRUE**—you being taken advantage of as a tourist! Do not accept this, no matter how intimidating (there have been a few horror stories from students over the past few years; this is happening with greater frequency). Simply grab a menu and point to “*bedienung/service inklusive*”.

**Tourist Info.** The main office is located in the Rathaus (= city hall), directly on the Marienplatz. Hours are from M-F from 10am-8pm, and Saturday 10am-4pm.

**U.S. Consulate.** The U.S. Consulate is located at Königstrasse (tel. **089/2-88-80**); opening hours are M-F from 1-4pm. Don’t be intimidated by the German tank that is sometimes stationed outside the front gates. Bring your passport if you decide to visit, there are 2 or 3 levels of security you must deal with in order to get inside.

## MONEY MATTERS

**ATMS.** Most of the ATMs are linked to a network that most likely includes your bank at home, such as **Cirrus** ([www.mastercard.com](http://www.mastercard.com)) and **PLUS** ([www.visa.com](http://www.visa.com)). Be sure to know your daily withdrawal limit (usually 300 USD). Keep in mind that many European ATMs only allow you to withdraw money from CHECKING accounts. There are many ATMs around your hotel.

**Credit cards.** Keep in mind that credit cards are not widely accepted throughout Germany like in the U.S., *especially* in smaller towns, city Biergartens, many restaurants, smaller clothing shops, cinemas... Almost every credit-card company has an emergency 800-number that you can call if your wallet or purse is stolen. The company may be able to wire you a cash advance off your credit card immediately, and in many places, can deliver an emergency credit card in a day or two. **Citicorp Visa's** U.S. emergency number is tel. **800/645-6556**. **American Express** cardholders and traveler’s check holders should call tel. **800/233-5439** for all money

emergencies. **MasterCard** holders should call tel. **800/307-7309**. When calling these toll free numbers from Germany, first dial “001” then 800 +... but you will be charged “standard” international rates. A better alternative is to call *collect*, using the phone # that is normally located somewhere on the credit card (WRITE DOWN this number – or make copies of all your credit cards -- and keep in a safe place). Use the AT&T operator (**0800-888-00-10**) to connect you when making the collect call.

**Currency Exchange.** USE AN ATM (they are *everywhere* in Munich; several close to your hotel). Any other means for exchanging money usually results in both an expensive transaction fee and a lower exchange rate. There are several ATMs throughout the airport, in both terminals; in a pinch the hotel reception also has a currency exchange service.

## GETTING AROUND

**Maps.** The best internet site to find an address in Munich (or in Germany for that matter) is at [www.stadtplandienst.de](http://www.stadtplandienst.de). However, if you prefer working with paper, then any map from the FALK Company is easy to use and very detailed—and are available at any Hugendubel bookstore.

**Public Transportation.** The city's rapid-transit system is convenient and fast. You can use the MVV (or, due to a recent name change, **MVG**) ticket to ride the **U-bahn** and the **S-bahn**, as well as **trams** (streetcars) and **buses**. The U-bahn (Underground) is the line you will likely use the most. For general information, visit the MVV website, in English at: <http://www.mvv-muenchen.de/en/index.html>.

At the transport hub Marienplatz (also at Karlsplatz & the Hauptbahnhof), the U-bahn and S-bahn rails crisscross each other. It's possible to use your Eurailpass on S-bahn journeys (when you have activated your pass for that day), as it's a state-owned railway. Otherwise, you must purchase a **single-trip ticket** or a **strip ticket** (see below) at one of the blue vending machines positioned at the entryways to the underground stations. If you're making only one trip, a **single ticket** will average 2.20€ for more than 2 U-/S-bahn or 4 tram stops – otherwise buy a **short trip ticket** for 1.20€ (“Kurzstrecke” or “K”). If you travel outside the city center, a single trip ticket costs more, up to 8€ (there is a “Zone Map” located at every station, the entire inner city is ZONE 1, although there are 4 “sub-zones”). Stamp your ticket in the little blue machines marked “E” usually positioned before you head down the escalators to the train (sometimes they are on the train platform).

A more economical option is the **strip ticket**, or *Streifenkarte*. It's good for several rides and sells for 10.50€. A single-trip (see above) within the metropolitan area costs you two strips and a short-trip is one strip, which are valid for 2 hours. In that time, you may interrupt your trip and transfer as you like to any public transportation (including trams and buses, which usually take over where the U-bahn comes to an end), as long as you travel in *one continuous direction*. When you reverse your direction, you must cancel two/one strips again. Another option is a **day ticket** for 4.80€, or *Tageskarte*, which is a good investment if you plan to stay within the city limits. If you'd like to branch out to Greater Munich--that is, within an 80km (50-mile) radius--you can purchase a day card for around 10€.

The *most practical option for long-term use* (especially if you *don't* purchase or rent a bike for the summer) is the **Isar Card**. You basically have two Isar Card options: 1) the **weekly card, or *Wochenkarte*** (valid Monday-Monday). Depending on the number of zones you choose (3 is probably the most you will need for daily transport from the hotel to the classroom and/or internship locations), the price is between 10.50€ (2 zones) and 12.70€ (3 zones) per week. Even more practical is option 2) the **monthly card, or *Monatskarte***, for 38.50€ (2 zones) and 46.50€ (3 zones). Both of these cards allow you to travel on ALL modes of public transport within the selected zones, without *any* time restrictions. **You can purchase all Isar Cards at the MVG office (“*MVG-Kundencenter*”) in the station under the Marienplatz (English is spoken) and in many train stations where there is a ticket office (e.g. in the Rosenheimerplatz S-bahn station).**

The MVV student card is difficult to acquire with a standard U.S. school ID (esp. since many schools don't put an expiration date on the ID). If you have a valid ISIC Student ID card, then you may purchase a reduced-price monthly student card (saving up to 5€ per card using the “*Ausbildungstarif IP*” student rate). See if you are eligible to buy this card by stopping at the *MVG-Kundencenter* in the arcade under the Marienplatz.

**Renting a car.** All the major U.S. car-rental companies, including Avis, Budget, and Hertz, are represented in Germany. You can make reservations and do comparison shopping online, for example, **Avis** ([www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com)), **Budget** (<https://rent.drivebudget.com>), and **Hertz** ([www.hertz.com](http://www.hertz.com)), or even by using consolidators such as [www.orbitz.com](http://www.orbitz.com) or [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com). **Auto Europe** ([www.autoeurope.com](http://www.autoeurope.com)), **NOVA Rental Cars** ([www.rentacar-europe.com](http://www.rentacar-europe.com)) and **Holiday Autos** ([www.holidayautos.de](http://www.holidayautos.de)) usually offer great prices and normally standard liability insurance is included in the quote. A Hertz car rental can also be arranged via hotel reception (convenient pick-up/drop-off at the hotel).

**Bicycle Rental.** The management at the hotel can make arrangements with the “Call-A-Bike” service (operated by the DB Deutsche Bahn) for bike rentals, possibly on a monthly basis. This is a super convenient option, as you are provided with a security code which can be used to unlock *any* DB-Bike around the entire city of Munich – in other words, you do not have to use the same bike during the entire 28-day period (theoretically you can keep the same bike via a “lockout” option on the bike’s security device). This option may come in handy if you decide to ride the bike to your destination, but opt to take the underground back to your apartment. For more details, see the official website: <http://www.callabike-interaktiv.de/kundenbuchung/process.php?proc=english&f=500&key=aa109965df7df25d729be0b99f04cc37>. The flea market option for buying a bicycle is not as realistic as in previous years, as the number of flea markets in Munich has significantly decreased. For a listing of existing flea markets, see APPENDIX 2.

## GETTING TO KNOW MUNICH: ORGANIZED TOURS

**By Bus.** **Yellow Cab Sightseeing** operates big red double-decker buses used for various sightseeing tours (offered in 8 languages, including English). The buses leave from the square in front of the Hauptbahnhof, next to the main entrance to Hertie's Department Store. Tickets are sold on the bus; no advance booking is necessary. Tours include:

A 1-hour basic city tour, costing around 11€ for adults and 6€ for children 4 to 12, leaves daily every ½-hour from 10am to 5pm.

A “Grand City Tour” 2 1/2-hour tour, including the Olympic Tower, City Center, and Nymphenburg Palace, costs around 20€ for adults. Summer departures are at 10am and 2:30pm.

**By Bike.** Try Mike Lasher's popular **Mike's Bike Tour** (tel. **089/255-43-987**). His bike-rental services include maps and locks, child and infant seats, and helmets at no extra charge. English and bilingual tours of central Munich run from March to November twice daily (see [www.mikesbiketours.com](http://www.mikesbiketours.com) for times). The 4-hour tour includes a lunch stop at a beer garden. The bikes are new and the rides are easy, with plenty of time for historical explanations, photo opportunities, and Q&A sessions. Bike rentals are also available for tours without a guide (Mike will supply a map) are around 18€ for the day.

**Radius Tours & Bikes**, Arnulfstrasse 3 (tel. **089/596113**), offers bike rentals at a little shop in the main train station opposite tracks 30 to 36. You're offered a choice of more than 200 bikes ranging from 3-gear bikes to 21-gear mountain bikes. Prices are 3€ per hour or 14€ per day. Open daily from May 1 to mid-October from 10am to 6pm.

**By Foot.** The “Original Munich Walks” offer fully-guided English walking tours and typically meet at the Hauptbahnhof (= main train station) at Track 32. Tours include “Munich Highlights”, “Hitler & the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich”, and even tours to Dachau Concentration Camp or Neuschwanstein. Prices start at 10€ for adults. See <http://www.radiusmunich.com>.

## NEIGHBORHOODS IN BRIEF

**Altstadt. CENTRAL.** This is the historic heart of Munich, the site of the original medieval city. The Altstadt is bounded by the Sendlinger Tor to the south (“Tor” means gate) and Odeonsplatz to the north, by the Isartor to the east and Karlstor ( or “Stachus”) to the west. You can walk across the entire district in about 20 minutes.

The hub is Marienplatz, the town's primary square, with the famous Rathaus (city hall) & Glockenspiel (the clock tower with the little dancers). In the Middle Ages, Marienplatz was the scene of many jousts and tournaments as well as public entertainment like executions. Today, it is brimming with mimes, musicians, and street performers. The square is also the site of many festivals and political rallies and is the traditional stopping and starting place for parades and processions. Included in the Altstadt district is the *Fussgängerzone* (= pedestrian zone), home to many of Munich's department stores & “chain” shops.

**Maximilianstrasse. CENTRAL.** Rodeo Drive, New York's Fifth Avenue, the Golden Mile. Planned as a showcase for King Maximilian II's dominion, it has architecture in what is known as Maximilianic style, an eclectic combination of architecture with an emphasis on Gothic. Here you find the city's most elegant and expensive (€€€) boutiques, restaurants, and hotels – including the Hotel Vierjahreszeiten (the site of the annual SCU reception). Visitors can browse through stores like Armani, Hermès, Cartier, Hugo Boss, Chanel, Versace and Bulgari. The street is the primary connector from the *Altstadt* to the suburbs of *Lehel* and *Haidhausen*.

**Lehel. CENTRAL.** Slightly east of the *Altstadt*, this district is part of the original planned expansion of the city that occurred in the latter years of the 19th century. The area is mainly residential and is noted for its fine neo-Renaissance architecture. Many law firms, restaurants and cafes are located here.

**\*\*Haidhausen. CENTRAL-EAST.** (*where your apartment is located*) This district is home to the *Gasteig* performing arts hall, the city's primary cultural, educational, and conference center. The modern complex houses the city library and the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra. Its various theaters and lecture halls play host to a variety of events, principally musical and theatrical performances. The district is also a lively and trendy restaurant & bar area.

**Ludwigstrasse. CENTRAL.** One of Munich's great monumental avenues heading north from the Odeonsplatz, this street was originally designed for King Ludwig I as a street worthy of his kingdom. The buildings in the southern section of the street adhere to a strict neoclassical style, whereas the architecture in the northern sector is neo-Romanesque. The overall effect is that of uniformity. The University of Munich is situated here, as is the main City Library. Your classroom is also in this area.

**Maxvorstadt. CENTRAL.** Located north of Odeonsplatz and west of Ludwigstrasse. Launched as a planned expansion of the city by King Maximilian I, today the area draws its character from the many facilities of the University of Munich. The area is full of student bars & restaurants, bookshops, boutiques and galleries.

**Schwabing. CENTRAL-NORTH.** This area was once (in the 1920s and then, again, after World War II and into the 1950s) a center of bohemian life, much like New York's Greenwich Village. And, like Greenwich Village, it has gentrified into a locale for lawyers, producers, and other professionals, as well as a hangout for university students and a lively nightlife scene. Here you'll find the city's finest examples of Art Nouveau architecture. *Leopoldstrasse* makes almost a straight axis through its center, and is the continuation of Ludwigstrasse past the Siegestor (the Arc de Triumpe-type monument near your classroom). The Englischer Garten forms its eastern border, the Studentenstadt is to its north, and Olympiapark and Josephsplatz mark the western border.

**Olympiapark. NORTH.** Catch a rock concert (at the *Stadium* or *Olympiahalle*; or sit atop the Olympic Hill ("*Olympiaberg*") with a picnic while the concert plays from the *Stadium* below), visit the enormous television tower ("*Olympiaturm*") to view Munich and its vicinity, bike, swim, jog... it's all here. There are also numerous summer festivals (such as Tollwood, see below) and sporting events. Check the local city guides to see what's going on.

**Nymphenburg. NORTH-WEST.** Located just northwest of the city center is the Nymphenburg Palace and Park, the original home of the Wittelsbach rulers. The baroque palace is home to the famous Nymphenburg porcelain museum and factory. Adjoining the palace is a vast expanse of gorgeous lakes and gardens; numerous biking paths are in the area.

## OTHER “MUST DO” & “MUST SEE” ACTIVITIES

**Biergarten Culture:** At some point, you must go to one of the city's famous beer gardens (*Biergarten*). Several classics include Seehaus, Chinesischer Turm, Hirschau and Aumeister – all located somewhere inside the Englischer Garten. Other local favorites include Wirtshaus in der Au (Lilienstrasse 51, near the Lichtspiele movie theater & the hotel) and Max Emmanuel Brauerei in Schwabing (Adalbertstrasse 33). OF COURSE, the Hofbrauhaus is *not* to be missed (Am Platzl, near the Marienplatz).

**Enjoying Munich's Music & Cultural Offerings:** Including the Bavarian State Opera and the Munich Philharmonic (especially during July—there is a free open air opera concert in front of the Bavarian State Opera House/*Staatsoper* on JUL 12). Prices are pretty reasonable for the opera (student discounts available!). There are also summer concerts at Nymphenburg Palace & at the Olympic Park. The Munich International Filmfest will be held from JUN 20-28 (not quite as big as Cannes! See): [www.filmfest-muenchen.de](http://www.filmfest-muenchen.de). There will also be many city-wide events celebrating Munich's 850<sup>th</sup> birthday, For an overview, see: [http://www.muenchen.de/Rathaus/tourist\\_office/veranst/Highlights\\_2008/213317/Highlights\\_2008\\_3\\_Quartal.html](http://www.muenchen.de/Rathaus/tourist_office/veranst/Highlights_2008/213317/Highlights_2008_3_Quartal.html) **Nude Sunbathing in the Englischer Garten:** Yes, the rumors are true! On any sunny day, it seems that half of Munich can be seen at this sort of public nudist colony... on the fields south of Seehaus and/or just north of Prinzregentenstrasse.

**Seeking R&R at Olympiapark:** For general info, visit: [www.olympiapark-muenchen.de](http://www.olympiapark-muenchen.de). Site of the 1972 Olympic Games, this 296-hectare (740-acre) park and stadium is a premier venue for various sporting events and concerts. You can swim in one of the pools, and you'll find many jogging tracks and gyms, even an artificial lake. Take the elevator to the top of the Olympiaturm for a panoramic view of Munich and a look at the Bavarian Alps. In summer, free rock concerts blast from the amphitheater by the Olympic Lake.

Don't miss the annual Tollwood arts, crafts, food and music festival, which runs from mid-June to mid-July (see <http://www.tollwood.de> for dates & concert times).

**Exploring Trendy Haidhausen:** Not such a touristy area, Haidhausen has blue-collar origins. Now, it is the place to see and be seen--especially if you're a *Schicki-Micki* (a club-going Bavarian yuppie), a person who dresses only in black, or one of the *Müeslis* (European granolas). The place to go is one of the bars or cafes around Pariser Platz (such as the American-themed *Juleps*) or around Weissenburger Platz. There are *many* ethnic restaurants (sushi, tapas, Thai, Moroccan, Greek) and bars (Irish & Aussie pubs) worth exploring!

**Going from Vie de Bohème to Schicki-Micki in Schwabing:** The neighborhood of Schwabing has true avant garde roots. Today, Schwabing is mostly populated by fashion editors and models, along with students and bohemians. There is no shortage of streetside restaurants and cafes, including *Newsbar* (*Schellingstrasse*), *Café Roxy* (*Leopoldstrasse*), *Starbucks* (*Leopoldstrasse*), & around the Uni: *CADU* and *Lounge*, both on *Ludwigstrasse*.

**Viktualienmarkt:** Although a bit touristy, the Viktualienmarkt has been the center of Munich life, dispensing fresh flowers, vegetables, fruit from the Bavarian countryside, just-caught fish, dairy produce, poultry, rich grainy breads, cakes, and farm-fresh eggs. Naturally, there's also a beer garden here. You can also find fresh squeezed juice, sushi, and several shops having an

unbelievable selection of French and/or Italian cheeses and exotic foods. Be prepared, prices are *expensive!*

**Biking Along the Isar:** The Isar is the river of life in Munich, and has a scenic bike path running from Englischer Garten south to the Zoo (and beyond, to Austria!). Of course, there are many biergartens along the way...

**Spending a Night at the Hofbräuhaus:** Established in 1589 by Duke Wilhelm V to satisfy the thirst of his court, the Hofbräuhaus is not only the city's major tourist attraction but also the world's most famous beer hall, seating more than 4,000 drinkers. To be really authentic, you drink in the ground-floor *Schwemme* where some 1,000 beer buffs down their brew at wooden tables while listening to the sounds of an oompah-pah band. More rooms, including the *Trinkstube* for 350, are found upstairs, and in summer, beer is served in a colonnaded courtyard patio with a lion fountain. The waitstaff, in Bavarian peasant dress, can carry up to 10 steins at once. Pretzels (“*Brezen*”) are sold on long sticks, and white *Radis* (radishes) are cut into fancy spirals. Of course, here you can also order Munich’s famous *Weisswurst* and other “stick to your ribs” Bavarian meals (e.g. *Schweinshaxe*, *Leberkäse*, or *Schweinebraten*).

## 2008 EVENTS

Tollwood Festival in Olympia Park from June 26 to July 20. <http://www.tollwood.de>

The EUROPEAN CUP Soccer Championship from June 7-29. <http://www.euro2008.uefa.com/>

Munich Film Festival from June 20-28. <http://www.filmfest-muenchen.de> (also in English)

Munich Opera Festival, typically in July. <http://www.staatsoper.de>

## SIGHTS ON THE CHEAP

Visit the Alte Pinakothek, Neue Pinakothek, Glyptothek, Antikensammlung, Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, or Münchner Stadtmuseum on Sunday--when admission to the *permanent* exhibitions is FREE.

If you plan on doing a lot of sightseeing using public transportation, buy the 1 or 3 day *Munich Welcome Card*, allowing unlimited travel and discounts of up to 50% on selected sights. You can buy this at the MVV office, located in the arcade under the Marienplatz.

## EATS ON THE CHEAP

Munich, even by European standards, is an expensive city—and remarkably so in view of the current DOLLAR-EURO exchange rate. Therefore, I have compiled a list of “cheap eats”, organized by neighborhood. *Guten Appetit!*

### **Haidhausen Area:**

The **Hofbräukeller** (Wienerplatz, near Max-Weber-Platz) often has good deals on Bavarian "cuisine", e.g. full meals for 5 €.

**Unions-Bräu Haidhausen**, Einsteinstrasse 42 (local brew house)

**Teatro**, Tapas Bar, Balanstrasse 23

**Juleps** (American - just in case you feel homesick. *Excellent* happy hour.) - Breisacherstr. 18

### **Schwabing, Muenchner Freiheit:**

**Pasta e Basta** - Feilitzschstr. 23 Great pizzas & pasta & inexpensive. (another location off Frauenhoferstr @ Baaderstrasse: Fraunhoferstraße 19)

**Mama's Kebap** (excellent!) Feilitzschstrasse 7 – closer to Muenchner Freiheit than Pasta e Basta - yummy Doner, falafel, "pizzas", casseroles. Delicious & cheap!

**Bachmaier Hofbrau**, Leopoldstrasse 50

**L'Osteria**, Leopoldstrasse 28 (*huge* pizzas, great pasta)

**Shere Punjab** – Leopoldstrasse 43 (great selection of Indian dishes from 5 €)

**Tijuana** – Leopoldstrasse 13 (amazing guac, happy hour daily until 8pm, the most authentic Mexican place I've found in Munich)

**Max Emanuel Brauerei**, Adalberstr. 33, off Leopoldstrasse, nr. Siegstor (local spot!) – behind the Uni.

### **INNER CITY:**

**Vapiano** - Fünf Höfe, Theatinerstraße 15 (Italian)

**Nero**, Pizzeria – Rumsfordstr 34 (by Isartor, behind the MAXX) (good prices, great atmosphere)

**SHOYA sushi – am Platzl** (across from HB Haus) – and a little further down Orlandostrasse, across from the Hard Rock Café (this is where you see the Japanese businessmen)

**Sasou**, Marienplatz 28 (Asian – great sushi and noodles, soups)

**Thai Magie** - Blumenstr. 1, (near V-Markt) From 5 € - good selection!

**Donisl**, right on Marienplatz, huge portions for €6.95

**GENERAL AREAS to find cheap eats:** **Worthstrasse** (Haidhausen); **behind the Uni** (i.e. Amalienstrasse, Turkenstrasse...); **Feilitzschstrasse**, off of Muenchner Freiheit

## SPORTS ACTIVITIES

**Swimming.** The city has several public swimming pools. The largest of these is the giant competition-size pool in the *Olympiapark*, the Olympia-Schwimmhalle (tel. 089/30-67-22-90; U3: Olympiazentrum) or the newly renovated Prinzregetenbad located across from the famous Käfer shop, U4: Prinzregetenplatz.

**Biking.** The city is *full* of bike paths. Most major streets have bike lanes, and the many parks and gardens scattered throughout Munich offer hours of riding. The tourist office provides suggested tours in its “*Radi Touren*”. Although printed in German, the excellent maps are easy to follow. You can rent bikes at **City Hopper Tours**, Hohenzollern Strasse 95 (tel. **089/2-72-11-31**); **Mike's Bike Tour** (tel. **089/255-43-987**); and **Radius Tours & Bikes**, Arnulfstrasse 3 (tel. **089/596113**).

**Rollerblading.** One of the favorite pastimes in Munich, especially in the Englischer Garten. Try *Blade Night* – an inline skating free-for-all, where up to 10,000 (or more) skaters take to the streets every Monday nights until September. There is a different course every week, always starting at 8:30pm at the Theresienwiese (U4,5). See [www.muenchner-blade-night.de](http://www.muenchner-blade-night.de) for details.

## POSTSCRIPT

Although the foregoing information is as accurate as possible, as is often the case -- all prices, opening hours, tour times (*etc...*) are subject to change. Please let me know if you have encountered any such change, or if you would like to include new information/activities in the next edition of this Survival Guide.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Your studio apartment**



DERAG HOTEL RECEPTION (10 Rablstrasse)



MAIN LIVING AREA



KITCHEN (IN MAIN LIVING AREA)



PRIVATE BATHROOM

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **FLEAMARKETS IN MUNICH**

Where is the flea market? ("*Wo ist der Flohmarkt?*")

#### **BRK Flohmarkt im Olympiapark**

Every Friday (also on Saturday when there is no football game or other major event in the Olympic stadium or hall).

U3: Stop: Olympiapark

#### **Flohmarkt Freimann (new in 2004)**

Halle & Freifläche

Tel 089 / 30 76 55 12

Lilienthalallee (in Euro-Industrie Park)

Every Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 7am – 6pm.

U6: Direction Garching Hochbrück. Stop: Kiefergarten, then 5 minutes by foot.

#### **Flohmarkt Riem**

Location: Neues Messegelände (Convention Center) access via gates 9 and 10

Telephone (089) 950 39 60

Every Saturday from 6am-4pm (*except* during conventions)

U2 or Bus 91 (Stop: Messestadt Ost)

#### **Flohmarkt Sendling**

Boschetsrieder Straße 136

Ladenzentrum "Südpark", 81379 München

Telefon (089) 760 97 05

Every Saturday from 10am-4pm

U3 or Bus 41 (Stop: Machtlfinger Straße)

#### **Fußgängerflohmarkt Werkhaus**

Leonrodstraße 19, 80634 München

Telefon (089) 16 61 02

On the second Saturday of the month from 9am-3pm

Neuhausen, Tram 12 or Bus 33/183, U1: Stop: Rotkreuzplatz

#### **Flohmarkt Thalkirchen**

Biergarten "Wienerwald"

Fraunbergstraße 2, 81379 München

Telefon (0171) 961 63 50

Every Saturday from 9am-4pm

Thalkirchen, U3: Stop: Thalkirchen/Zoo