



# simply Munich

## Destination Information



### **Munich – the Olympics city How the 1972 Summer Olympic Games lit up Munich**

When IOC President Avery Brundage uttered the words “The games are awarded to Munich,” in 1966, there was jubilation in the city. The seemingly impossible had been achieved: the 1972 Summer Games would take place in Munich.

The city unveiled its brand-new Olympics grounds to the world just in time for the official opening of the games on 26 August 1972. It took just a few years to construct Olympiapark (Olympic Park), an architectural landscape of mountains, valleys and a lake, with sports facilities ensconced within. Munich selected an Olympics team that told the world it was ready to go bold: architect Günter Behnisch, Frei Otto, who was the engineer behind the spectacular tented roof structure, Günther Grzimek to provide sympathetic landscape architecture services, and Otl Aicher as lead designer for the games.

Once learned, never forgotten. With hindsight it’s clear that hosting the 1972 Summer Olympic Games was a powerful catalyst in Munich becoming the much-loved world city and cultural metropolis it is today.

The spirit of 1972 still lives on: the city continues to live up to its reputation as host to the entire world, especially for major sporting and cultural events. Many ambitious, pioneering and sustainable architectural projects have been initiated here since then, with more set to enrich the city in the near future. Munich has always eschewed mediocrity in favour of creating true landmarks, particularly when it comes to building new museums and concert halls. The city’s innovative outlook is also reflected in the development of new modern city districts such as Werksviertel-Mitte, and with the high status granted to Munich’s creative industry.

The 50th anniversary of the 1972 Summer Olympic Games presents a wonderful opportunity to follow the traces of the sporting festival through Munich with a more

deliberate eye. Doing so provides an opportunity to discover and enjoy the strengths and particular charms of the metropolis as it is today, as well as the many experiences it has to offer. We have compiled a selection of sporting, architectural, innovative, musical and cultural highlights that you should absolutely include in your next visit to Munich.

## Sporting highlights

### ***European Championships 2022***

#### *What's special about it?*

The European Championships, taking place from 11 to 21 August, will be the largest multi-sports event to take place in Olympiapark (and many other parts of the city) since the 1972 Games ended. A total of 4,700 athletes from 36 nations will vie for medals in nine disciplines: track and field, canoe slalom, rowing, gymnastics, cycling, triathlon, table tennis, beach volleyball and climbing.

#### *What is there to see and do?*

Great sport, along with “The Roofs”, the Olympiapark festival which will be held at the same time, with a free music and cultural programme.

<https://www.munich2022.com/en>

### **Allianz Arena**

#### *What's special about it?*

The Allianz Arena football stadium replaced the Olympiastadion (Olympic Stadium) in 2005 as the city's most important football venue. In designing the new stadium a conscious decision was made to avoid a conventional construction approach, with the facility instead based on a futuristic design by architects Herzog & De Meuron. When the approximately 2,700 air cushions on the exterior of the structure are illuminated in the red of home team FC Bayern, you could be forgiven for thinking that a UFO had landed in the north of the city. Located around 15 kilometres from Olympiapark as the crow flies, the arena is an example of a stadium which is striking for the fascinating lightness of its construction.

*What is there to see and do?*

FC Bayern fans can come here to watch their team play at home. On days when there are no matches, a visit to the FC Bayern Museum and/or a guided tour of the stadium is a wonderful alternative.

<https://allianz-arena.com/en>

### **TSV 1860 Munich and Giesing**

*What's special about it?*

The TSV 1860 football team played its home games at the legendary Olympiastadion (Olympic Stadium) until 2005. After a brief stint at the Allianz Arena however, the team (known as “the Lions” or simply the “60s”) is now firmly established back at its home stadium on Giesing’s Grünwalder Strasse. The Lions, and in fact football in general, are a hot topic in this district of Munich – which incidentally is also the birthplace of famed footballer the “Kaiser” Franz Beckenbauer. Both of the city’s major clubs – FC Bayern and the 60s – train here.

*What is there to see and do?*

The Lions and FC Bayern both offer fans the opportunity to watch training sessions free of charge. At the same time, Munich’s official guides invite you to enjoy a Hood Love tour of Giesing, which takes in the area’s love of football as well as Giesing’s beer and beer garden culture, the listed buildings in which day labourers found lodgings in times past and the idyllic spots in Rosengarten park or “Little Venice” on Mondstrasse.

<https://fcbayern.com/en/club/sabener-strasse>

<https://sechzger.de/sechzig-um-sieben-wieder-oeffentliches-training-beim-tsv-1860-muenchen/>

<https://www.muenchen.travel/angebote/buchen/fuehrung-viertelliebe>

### **Cycling tour: Olympia 1972**

*What's special about it?*

From the equestrian stadium in Riem through Englischer Garten and on to Olympiapark, then continuing to Schloss Nymphenburg (Nymphenburg Palace) and the rowing regatta course that leads to Schleissheim: this 38-kilometre cycling route will

take you to several former Olympic Games venues. You can use the komoot touring app as a handy orientation guide.

#### *What is there to see and do?*

You can actually feel a little of the atmosphere of those Olympic Games – the “Spirit of 1972” – at the respective stops along the way. On a number of the buildings and signposts you pass you’ll see original signs and pictograms designed by Otl Aicher, head designer for the games, and they are a real highlight of this tour. Their sleek, minimalist design means they look more modern than ever. You can also experience some typical Munich hospitality, for example when you walk into the beer garden at the Chinesischer Turm (Chinese Tower) or at Seehaus, both in Englischer Garten, or at the Palmenhaus in the park at Schloss Nymphenburg (Nymphenburg Palace).

<https://www.muenchen.travel/artikel/sport-freizeit/olympische-staetten-radtour>  
(English version will be available shortly)

## Architectural highlights

### The Zeltdach tented roof in Olympiapark

#### *What’s special about it?*

It all started with a lady’s stocking. Fixed in place on a tabletop with toothpicks and drawing pins, it served as the model when designing the Zeltdach tented roof that extends over the sports facilities in Olympiapark. The construction was so audacious that entirely new calculation methods had to be developed for the structural analysis. Today the transparent tented roof has become every bit as much a Munich landmark as the towers of the Frauenkirche.

#### *What is there to see and do?*

On the Zeltdachtour (Roof Climb tour) you can navigate the edge of the Olympiastadion roof while roped to an iron rail, learning all about the construction and the 50-year history of Olympiapark. And for an extra adrenaline rush, you can finish the tour with a trip on the Flying Fox zip line or by abseiling down into the stadium below.

<https://www.olympiapark.de/en/tours-sightseeing/guided-tours/roof-climb/>

## **BMW Welt**

### *What's special about it?*

The double-coned roof of the building, designed by architects from Coop Himmelb(l)au, is nothing short of spectacular, with its upward-twisting dynamic curve. The “floating” roof cloud is thrillingly resonant with the airy roof structure that can be seen in Olympiapark just opposite. Opened in 2007, the car manufacturer’s experience and distribution centre is a milestone on the road of Munich’s rapid development into a modern metropolis.

### *What is there to see and do?*

In addition to the display of all of the manufacturer’s current cars and motorbikes, the venue regularly hosts jazz concerts and other cultural events, and is home to a Junior Campus for children as well as various gastronomic offerings, from the café to its award-winning restaurant. A guided tour tells you everything you need to know about the architecture and origins of the building, the brands and products of the BMW Group and even offers a look behind the scenes of delivering a car to a customer.

[https://www.bmw-welt.com/en/experience/guided\\_tours.html](https://www.bmw-welt.com/en/experience/guided_tours.html)

## **Herz-Jesu-Kirche**

### *What's special about it?*

Herz-Jesu-Kirche, a project by architectural firm Allmann Sattler Wappner, is Munich’s most modern Catholic church. Built in 2000, this sacred building has a pure, stripped-back design that takes the breath away. The church contains no ornaments or paintings so as not to distract visitors from their time of introspection. A monumental two-leaf door made from blue glass covers almost the entire façade of the church; in summer it is sometimes opened up for concerts and special events.

### *What is there to see and do?*

Experience a moment of silence. Simply go inside and let the tranquillity envelop you. The light streaming through the building’s outer shell and filtering into the interior through vertical slats of light wood creates a warm, contemplative atmosphere.

<https://www.erzbistum-muenchen.de/pfarrei/herz-jesu-muenchen>

(German website only)

## Ohel-Jacob-Synagoge

### *What's special about it?*

68 years after the destruction of Munich's original Hauptsynagoge (main synagogue), when the Ohel-Jacob-Synagoge opened in 2006 the Jewish community once again had a home in the heart of the city. Clad in natural stone, the base is reminiscent of the temples of Jerusalem. Meanwhile, the glass structure with steel skeleton looks like it is covered with intertwining Stars of David and represents the Tabernacle. The interior was fitted out using cedar wood from Lebanon and stone from Israel. Designed by architect Wandel Hoefer Lorch, the place of worship won the Deutscher Städtebaupreis (German Urban Development Prize) in 2008.

### *What is there to see and do?*

Those interested in visiting the synagogue can book an individual place on one of the regular public tours or opt for a group tour. The Jüdisches Museum (Jewish Museum) next door offers insights into Munich's Jewish history and culture.

<http://www.ikg-m.de/>

<https://www.juedisches-museum-muenchen.de/en/>

## Medienbrücke München

### *What's special about it?*

A kind of "horizontal high-rise", this three-storey office building stands on two 50-metre-tall pillars. Located in the Werksviertel-Mitte area, the Medienbrücke is one of the most spectacular buildings to emerge in Munich in the last decade. It was designed by Otto Steidle and implemented after his death by his successors at architectural firm steidle architekten.

### *What is there to see and do?*

The building itself contains a business park for media, fashion and service companies as well as an events venue that is not accessible to the general public. It's found within Werksviertel-Mitte, Munich's newest city district, built on the site of a former dumpling factory and nowadays packed full of art, culture, cuisine and cool corners.

<http://www.medienbruecke.de/>

## Innovation highlights

### The Neue Sammlung – The Design Museum

#### *What's special about it?*

The world of design interweaves with the Olympics in many ways – and Munich is internationally synonymous with good design! The Neue Sammlung (New Collection) has been in existence since 1907, making it the first design museum in the world. Today it is home to one of the world's largest design collections and is considered a leading example in the area of industrial and product design.

#### *What is there to see and do?*

To mark the 50th anniversary of the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, the Neue Sammlung will be focusing on the reciprocal relationship between design and the Olympics. The DESIGN FÜR OLYMPIA / DESIGNING FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES exhibition will run from 8 July 2022 to 3 October 2022, and will feature selected objects and graphics showcasing how design for the Olympic and Paralympic Games showcases a wealth of ideas, an innovative spirit and technical progress, and examining the values and goals that are expressed in designing for the Olympics.

<https://dnstmd.de/en>

### Munich's creative industry

#### *What's special about it?*

Comprising the music industry, book trade, art scene, cinema industry, broadcasting industry, performing arts, design industry, architectural market, press sector, advertising market and the software/games industry, the creative industry has become a significant economic factor in Bavaria, generating added value of 20.7 billion euros each year (2019). That corresponds to 3.4 percent of Bavaria's overall economic output. In a comparison of all European cities with over one million inhabitants, the European Commission's Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor 2019 ranked Munich's creative industry at an outstanding second place, just behind Paris and ahead of both London and Berlin.

*What is there to see and do?*

You can find innovative store concepts, start-ups and charming temporary use projects at the Rathaus (Town Hall), Ruffinihaus and the Stadtmuseum. Stores are offered for a period of 12 months each. Current examples include sustainable fashion shop GREENSTYLE the store, located inside the Rathaus; music businesses Riviera Records and Radio 80000 at the Stadtmuseum; and innovative lighting start-up HEAVN at Rindermarkt, in the Ruffinihaus – a complex of three historic houses that is now a boutique shopping destination.

<https://kreativ-muenchen-crowdfunding.de/h/Zwischennutzungen.html>

## **The Kreativquartier on Dachauer Strasse**

*What's special about it?*

The Kreativquartier (Creative Quarter) is a place where living, art and work coexist, and ideas are given free rein. The cityscape here is surprising, featuring old industrial buildings, graffiti and overgrown gardens. Graphic artists and advertising folk brainstorm over picnic on the green, while others enjoy their lunch on beer benches in the sun – it's an inspiring atmosphere.

*What is there to see and do?*

The new schwere reiter theatre. Rusty iron girders, normally sunk into soil to reinforce excavation pits, have been used to make the façade of the new square building, constructed right beside the old theatre. Since September 2021, the free theatre scene has been running its established three-pronged programme incorporating dance, theatre and music. The new theatre also replaces its predecessor as a permanent venue for theatre and dance festivals including Spielart, Dance, the Munich Biennale, RODEO and Tanzwerkstatt Europa.

<http://www.kreativquartier-muenchen.de/>

## **Werksviertel-Mitte**

*What's special about it?*

Dumplings were once made on the site behind Ostbahnhof train station. Later, the abandoned buildings were used as a party centre. In addition to creative interim uses, offices, hotels and apartments have also been springing up in the past few years. And



Werksviertel will soon be getting a new concert house for one of Munich's three star orchestras: the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra.

#### *What is there to see and do?*

Werk 12 is just one of many examples of futuristic architecture in this new district. Adorned with comic-book lettering on its façade, the building was honoured with the 2021 DAM (Deutsches Architekturmuseum/German Architectural Museum) Prize as the best new build of the year. There is a Stadttalm (urban farm) on the roof of Werk 3, which is currently home to several sheep and chickens as well as a number of bee colonies. If you'd like to find out more, you can book a guided tour of the farm. The Freiraummuseum (open-air museum), featuring graffiti and street art by international artists, has grown over 20 years and can be visited day or night free of charge. whiteBOX and its guest studio spray industrial charm in New York style. Art exhibitions and workshops take place regularly at this venue.  
<https://werksviertel-mitte.de/>

## **Music highlights**

### **The new Isarphilharmonie**

#### *What's special about it?*

Opened in October 2021, the Isarphilharmonie is a pop-up concert hall at the Gasteig HP8 cultural centre, and will serve as a temporary stage for the Münchner Philharmoniker orchestra while the actual Gasteig cultural centre in Haidhausen – including the Gasteig Philharmonie – is renovated from the ground up. Indeed, Munich concertgoers will likely be reluctant to relinquish the Isarphilharmonie, so wonderful are the acoustics in the hall. That is thanks to internationally renowned sound expert Yasuhisa Toyota and his company Nagata Acoustics, which was previously responsible for the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie's excellent acoustics.

#### *What is there to see and do?*

Top-class concerts in a rather rough-and-ready setting, not far from Isarstrand beach and close to a cogeneration plant, car repair shops, architectural firms and start-ups. During the interval, you can treat yourself to a little glass of Prosecco in the lovingly restored, deliberately minimalist 1920s "Halle E" transformer hall, in the historic heart of the Gasteig HP8 complex.

<https://en.gasteig.de/the-gasteig/munich-philharmonic-orchestra.html>

## Music metropolis Munich

### *What's special about it?*

Musical luxury is a very familiar and much-loved feature of the state capital. Max-Joseph-Platz is home to one of the oldest and best opera houses in the world. Every day, leading soloists from all over the globe perform on the many stages of the city. A wide range of orchestras, three of which are ranked among the best in the world, put on captivating programmes. There is also the finest jazz and traditional folk music as well as any amount of newcomer stages and festivals.

### *What is there to see and do?*

There are countless concerts and festivals to attend – and to get you in the mood there's also a guided tour of historic Altstadt entitled "Hier spielt die Musik" ("This is where the music plays") that delves into Munich's centuries of music history.  
<https://www.munich.travel/en/topics/arts-culture/pure-luxury-music-metropolis-munich>

## The seventies in Munich: disco, disco! Party! Party!

### *What's special about it?*

Musically, all eyes were on Munich in the 1970s – and not just because of the Olympic Games. The city was actually the birthplace of the disco genre, and the proud parents none other than Giorgio Moroder and Donna Summer. Moroder founded his Musicland studio beside Arabellapark, which is where the distinctive bass sound and rhythm of disco was developed, characterised by electronic elements and experimental synthesiser lines. In 1976, Moroder and Summer released "Love to love you, baby", which immediately rocketed to number 2 in the US charts and started the disco wave. Moroder's reputation as a producer attracted successful artists and bands from all over the world, among them Queen frontman Freddie Mercury, the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin.

### *What is there to see and do?*

A concert at Munich's Olympiastadion (Olympic Stadium). Michael Jackson, Tina Turner, Coldplay, Queen, the Stones, Kiss, Abba, Grönemeyer, Pink, Genesis and Bob Dylan have all performed here. In fact, you would be hard pushed to find any famous pop act that hasn't already performed at the Olympiastadion or the Olympiahalle (Olympic Hall). In 2022 you can look forward to performances by Udo Lindenberg,

Gianna Nannini, Céline Dion, Marteria, Billy Idol, Eric Clapton, Die Toten Hosen and many more.

<https://www.olympiapark.de/en/events-tickets/music-and-concerts/>

<https://www.munich.travel/en/topics/urban-districts/decades-70s>

## Cultural highlights

### Kunstareal

*What's special about it?*

5,000 years of art and cultural history in just 500 square metres: how many cities can offer that? The Glyptothek, the Alte Pinakothek and the Neue Pinakothek were the first art museums constructed in the Maxvorstadt district by art-loving monarch Ludwig I between the beginning and the middle of the 19th century. The Lenbachhaus art gallery was also already built on Königsplatz at that time, as the artistic residence of Franz von Lenbach. In addition to the existing museums, a total of four new buildings were opened in less than 20 years at the beginning of the 21st century: the Pinakothek der Moderne (2002), Museum Brandhorst (2009), the Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst (State Museum of Egyptian Art) (2013) and the NS-Dokumentationszentrum (Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism) (2015).

*What is there to see and do?*

Art, culture, and knowledge. And coffee and cake in one of the museum cafés in between. You may wish to purchase a Munich Card or Munich City Card so you can enjoy discounts and in some cases free entry to the museums.

<https://kunstareal.de/en/>

<https://www.munich.travel/en/topics/guestcards/munich-card-city-pass>

### Volkstheater

*What's special about it?*

In mid-October, the new Volkstheater purchased a new theatre building in Schlachthofviertel – a location where cattle were still being sold for slaughter until the early 2000s. The modern brick building with trendy arches, designed by Stuttgart architectural firm LRO (Lederer Ragnarsdóttir Oei), looks as though it has always been

here. And the three premières that marked its opening were extremely promising, leading the New York Times to declare the Volkstheater a world-class venue.

*What is there to see and do?*

A cool theatre with a young ensemble, situated in a particularly lively neighbourhood.  
<https://www.muenchner-volkstheater.de/>

## **Kunstlabor 2**

*What's special about it?*

Almost 10,000 square metres over six floors dedicated to street art and urban art! That's the incredible extent of Kunstlabor 2, an art laboratory located in a former health centre in Maxvorstadt, which opened in mid-October 2021. The building was transformed into a new centre for art and culture as a temporary five-year project by the Museum of Urban and Contemporary Art (MUCA).

*What is there to see and do?*

Two of the six floors have been – and continue to be – transformed into a walk-in work of art by more than 100 artists. Those involved include household names such as Loomit and rapper Samy Deluxe, but also newcomers such as Pepe (alias Jose Luis Villanueva Contreras). In addition to the permanent room installations and changing exhibitions, the centre offers an extensive framework programme including guided tours, workshops, film days, concerts, readings, labs, performances and many other cultural highlights. The operators of Kunstlabor 2 offer the façade to artists to use as a design platform, legally and free of charge.

<https://kunstlabor.org/>

## **Background**

München Tourismus is the city's central tourist organisation and is part of the City of Munich's Department of Labour and Economic Development. München Tourismus works with its business partners in the private sector and the tourist organisation München TIM e.V to develop marketing and PR campaigns and tourism products in a bid to establish Munich as a destination on the international travel market. Tourismkommission München (the Munich Tourism Commission), a joint committee that includes representatives from the city council and the local tourist industry, sets out the strategic focus in achieving this aim. München Tourismus acts as a centre of expertise, knowledge and innovation within Munich's tourism industry; as a link to

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regional and supra-regional tourist organisations (TOM, BayTM, DZT, MC and many more); and as a professional, neutral advisor to the tourist industry.

**For images and videos of Munich please visit our download center on <https://mediaserver.muenchen.travel/>.**