

City guide

# Munich

All the  
highlights

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## The most beautiful districts



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Scan the QR code and find an overview of the city's neighbourhoods and sights on Google Maps!

# The best first



Munich has so much to offer you'll never want to leave the city. But for all those who've only got time for a short visit, we present the most important churches and museums, cultural sites and cosy places – 25 highlights, 25 times Munich at its best.

#### Need more information?

You can also find stories, interviews and reports about the city's most important sights at [simply-munich.com](http://simply-munich.com)



#### 1 Marienplatz

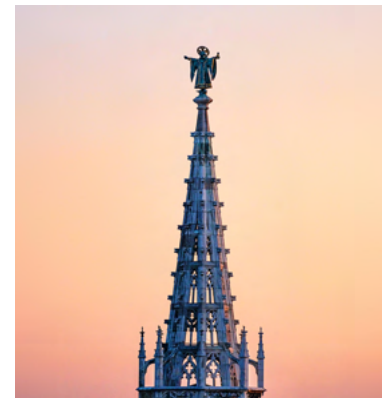
The heart of the city and its official centre since its foundation in 1158, this is where almost every trip to Munich begins and where everything comes together. Watchful in the middle of the square, the gleaming golden Mother of God on the Marian column. From here you can see both the New and the Old City Hall. Festivities such as a Christmas market, the city's birthday or Bayern Munich's championship celebrations are regularly held here too.

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#### 2 New City Hall

Munich's politics are played out in the New City Hall, but most visitors find the world-famous carillon more spectacular. Every day at 11 a.m. and noon and at 5 p.m. in summer, the Bavarian knight knocks his rival off his horse with his lance and the red-jacketed *Schäffler* start their traditional dance. Only built between 1867 and 1909, the New City Hall with its richly decorated, neo-Gothic façade looks older than it is.

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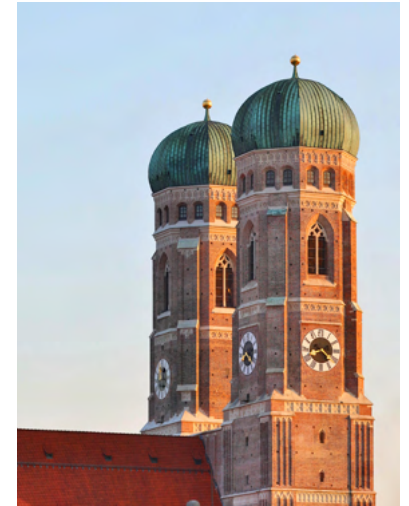
The *Münchner Kindl*, the city's emblem, greets you from the New City Hall tower; further down there's a viewing platform.

Photos: Christl Reiter, Tommy Lösch, Jan Saurer

#### 3 Frauenkirche

The Frauenkirche in the middle of the old town is Munich's landmark. The twin towers with their typical domes are visible from afar, but were only added in 1525 after the church was completed in 1488 following plans by the Munich master builder Jörg von Halspach. From the south tower you get great views over the city.

[More on this](#) from page 16



The cathedral known as *Zu Unserer Lieben Frau* (Church of Our Lady) is the landmark of the old town.

#### 4 Viktualienmarkt

Over 200 years ago a simple farmers' market; now one of the city's most popular foodie hotspots. The 100 or so stalls provide locals and visitors with everything their hearts desire from daily bread, fruit and vegetables to the finest delicacies. At least as popular is the chestnut tree-lined beer garden in the centre of the market, where traditional Munich breweries take turns serving their beer.

[More on this](#) from page 22



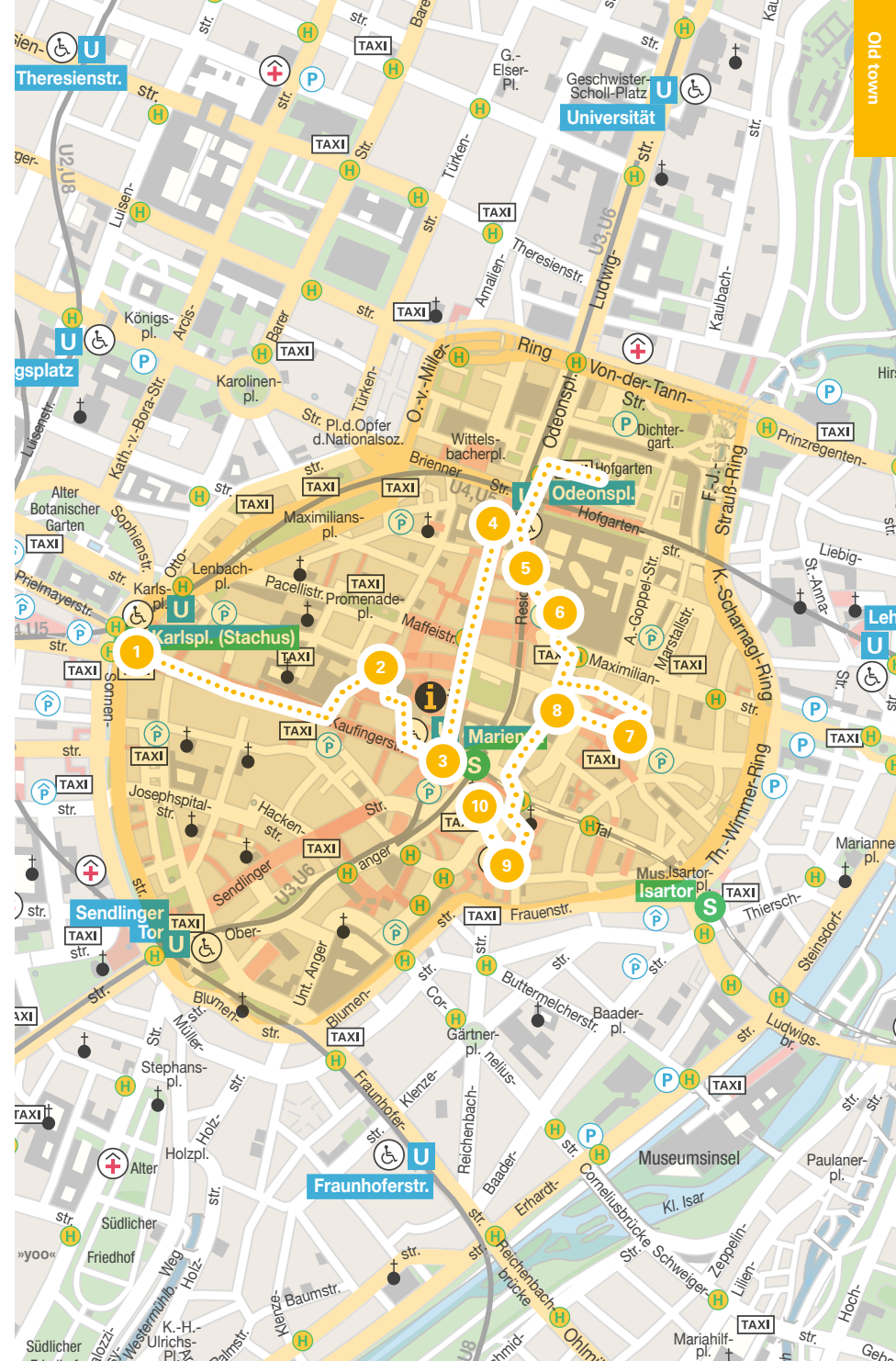


# The old town

Frauenkirche, Residenz, Hofbräuhaus: one famous sight follows on from the next in the historic city centre. What's more, long-established shops, cosy pubs and a special market regularly attract locals to the old town. Our walk starts at Karlsplatz, passes the most important attractions, and ends up high above Marienplatz.

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| ➊ Karlsplatz (Stachus) | ➎ Max-Joseph-Platz |
| ➋ Frauenkirche         | ➏ Hofbräuhaus      |
| ➌ Marienplatz          | ➐ Alter Hof        |
| ➍ Odeonsplatz          | ➑ Viktualienmarkt  |
| ➏ Residenzstraße       | ➒ "Old Peter"      |

The route on Google Maps:



### 1 Karlsplatz (Stachus)

We enter the old town through the Karlstor gate at Stachus, the way people did for centuries. It is one of the three remaining city gates in Munich's city wall, which was built in the 13th and demolished at the end of the 18th century.

Here, you also learn something about the locals' relaxed self-confident nature. The double name *Karlsplatz (Stachus)* goes back to the reign of the unpopular Elector Karl Theodor. When this Palatine ruler took over Bavaria in 1777, he quickly renamed various places in the city after himself. But the people of Munich simply disregarded him and named the square Stachus after the nearby inn run by Eustachius Förderl. To this day, no one in Munich would ever think of calling it *Karlsplatz*.

### 2 Frauenkirche

We head through the pedestrian zone along Neuhauserstraße and Kaufingerstraße towards our second stop: the Frauenkirche, Munich's landmark par excellence. The striking twin towers of the cathedral and parish church *Zu Unserer Lieben Frau* (Church of Our Lady), as the Frauenkirche is actually called, dominate the Munich skyline like no other building. This is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future as a referendum in 2004 decreed that no new

building in Munich should be taller than the 15th-century Frauenkirche.

Incidentally, the pretty *Welsche Hauben* ("Welsh hoods") that adorn the towers were inspired by the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, one of Islam's most important shrines. If seeing them makes you want to climb the towers, you're in luck – the south tower is open to visitors. But first, you have to climb the 86 steps of a spiral staircase before a lift takes you to the tower room. And before that, there's another small obstacle to overcome – the "devil's step" in the entrance to the nave. On site you can find out what the legend is all about.



The view towards the Frauenkirche altar is overwhelming.

### 3 Marienplatz

Shortly afterwards, we reach the heart of the city. Marienplatz has been the centre of



#### On tour with us

Ascents to the City Hall Tower and the south tower of the Frauenkirche, guided tours of the City Hall, Residenz and Hofbräuhaus and much more can be booked at our Tourist Info Centre in the New City Hall or via [simply-munich.com/booking](http://simply-munich.com/booking)



Each of the figures in the carillon tells a story. Here you can see the Bavarian standard bearer.



#### Monk, boy or girl?

The city's emblem stands watch on the City Hall tower – a little monk often referred to as the *Münchner Kindl*. Anyone born in Munich can also call themselves this.

Munich since the city was first mentioned in 1158. To this day, it's the place Munich residents refer to when they meet "in the city". And it not only seems to be the heart of the city. In the middle of square, the gleaming golden Mother of God on the Marian column watches over the city as the *patrona bavariae*. All distances for signposts to Munich are measured from this column.

Yet the face of the square is the richly decorated, neo-Gothic façade of the New City Hall. Not only is Munich's politics made here; Bayern Munich also greets its fans from the balcony when it wins the *Bundesliga* – usually every year. Even if no championship trophy is being raised into the air, onlookers gather in front of the town

hall at least twice a day when the carillon sounds. At 11 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. in summer, the Bavarian knight reliably knocks the Lorraine rival off his horse with his lance, which is followed by the dance of the Munich *Schäffler* (barrel makers), who are said to have cheered up the locals by dancing after a severe plague epidemic in 1517.

But the New City Hall doesn't just have a lot to offer from outside. Its viewing platform gives you magnificent views over the old town. You can also get advice from knowledgeable multilinguists at the Tourist Information Centre and discover many exciting rooms on a guided tour of the City Hall – like the Law Library, which is more magical than any movie set.