

Munich, Germany Top Five Places to Visit

Danielle Sabourin, now trade commissioner at the Vancouver Regional Office, spent three years in Munich while serving at the Canadian Consulate. Following are her five favourite places to visit (in no specific order) in one of Germany's most celebrated destinations.

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Munich Residenz

1. Deutsches Museum

The world's largest science and technology museum, Deutsches Museum features more than 100,000 objects in its vast collection. There are impressive exhibits in the areas of science, energy, transportation and materials production, as well as entertaining shows for children. Many try to see it all in a few hours, but due to the museum's large size, advance planning is recommended. <http://www.deutsches-museum.de/en>

2. Pinakothek

A visit to the world-renowned Pinakothek group of art museums should not be missed. Located in the Kunstareal district (arts district) of Munich, these galleries are home to some of Germany's most impressive art collections. On Sundays, admittance to each Pinakothek costs only 1 Euro (for regular collections). The Neue Pinakothek, opened in 1853, houses European paintings and sculptures from the 18th and 19th centuries. The Alte Pinakothek has an extensive collection

of 14th to 18th century European art. The Pinakothek der Moderne focuses on 20th and 21st Century art, architecture, works on paper and design. <http://www.pinakothek.de>

3. Residenz

Located next to the beautifully restored Opera Haus, the Residenz served as the royal residence for Bavarian Dukes, Electors and Kings from 1509 to 1918. With its long hallways and high windows, jewel collection and inner courtyards, a visit to the Residenz offers a trip into the past. <http://www.residenz-muenchen.de>

4. Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

A visit to Dachau is a sombre visit but an important one. The former concentration camp was established in 1933 by the order of Heinrich Himmler, and was used as the model for all other camps. Whether visitors choose to take a guided or audio tour, or a self-guided walk through the grounds and information centre, the visit offers profound insights into this part of WWII history. <http://www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de>

5. The English Garden

With kilometres of trails for biking or walking, the English Garden is the ideal place to visit for some outdoor fun in Munich. Park highlights include the Greek temple, the Japanese Tea House, the Chinese Tower, and the Hirschau and See Haus beer gardens. <http://www.schloesser.bayern.de/>

Ms. Sabourin returned to her hometown of Vancouver in the summer of 2007, after serving at the Canadian Consulate in Munich. She lived in the city with her husband, Jay, and their dog, Charlie the Bavarian Hound, who speaks only Bayerisch. Charlie considered the English Garden his own personal back yard.