Must-sees, Must-dos, must-eats in Munich

The central pedestrian area is between Marienplatz and Stachus. Marienplatz is the “centre”... behind it is the “Alte Peter” – that’s a tower which you should see from the Marienplatz or just ask for it – its right behind it. It only costs 1-2 € and you walk up the tower and have a beautiful view over Munich.

The Alte Peter is between Marienplatz and the Viktualienmarkt – ask for Viktualienmarkt: you can get all kinds of fruits and food here. At the far end of the market place is the “Paulaner” – a typical Bavarian restaurant and behind it the big “Schrannenhalle” ... it is an old market hall they rebuild and there are now some nice delicacies stores in there where you can have a snack or a glass of wine for example.

From Marienplatz you can walk down the pedestrian street – called Kaufingerstraße - to Stachus ... on the right would be the Frauenkirche (the church with two big towers) – you should see it or ask someone ... it is again behind some houses.

Right next to Frauenkirche is the “Nürnberger Bratwurstgöckl” this is one of the best Bavarian restaurants I know. They are famous for their Nürnberger sausages which are by far the best here. And as a dessert (to share or otherwise maincourse) you have to eat a “Kaiserschmarrn” (a little bit like little pieces of pancakes) – it is just divine!!! If you are lucky you can even get a seat outside...

The exact address is: Frauenplatz 9, 80331 München. If you don’t have the time but still want a glimps into true Bavarian atmosphere, go to the “Stehausschank” (Thiereckstraße 2, 80331 München) and grab a beer - no seats, no food, self service and a couple Munich oldschoolers.

Otherwise you can walk from Marienplatz down the “Dienerstraße” to the Opera. If you keep on walking straight you come to Odeonsplatz – also a nice place to sit and watch the people.

If you walk from Odeonsplatz through the beautiful little park called Hofgarten on the right hand side you come to the “Englischer Garten” = English garden. At Prinzregentenstraße (right next to Haus der Kunst / house of art – where the little park leads you) there is a bridge and an entrance to the park .... Here is a river with a constant wave and you can see surfers there all year long – this is one of the things you HAVE to see! Surfers in the middle of Munich! So cool! Further down in the park you can find a nice beergarden where the Chinese tower (Chinesischer Turm) is – great for some food and beer. You can even bring your own food / picnic and sit outside at the tables. This is allowed in most of Bavaria’s beer gardens as long as you buy the drinks and beer from them.

One nice neighborhood to go to is “Schwabing” – you can either walk down straight for some time the Ludwigstraße – later called Leopoldstraße – that starts at Odeonsplatz or you take the metro to Universität/ Gieselastraße or Münchner Freiheit... here is the university, many students live there, many bars, cafes, and nice shopping in the streets! – also nightlife is good here: bars, clubs!

At the ubahn stop “Universität” is Schelllingstraße – and in Schellingstraße is a bar called “Schall und Rauch”. They have very strong drinks at student prices – always crowded and cool to hang out!

Very close to this area is the technical University (Technische Universität) and on top of it is the roof terrace called “Vorhölzer Forum”. You actually have to enter the University and take the elevator up to the roof. You wouldn’t expect such a trendy bar up there but it is definitely worth going for a sundowner to enjoy the atmosphere and view!
After that you can go for an ice-cream to Ballabeni (supposedly one of the best ice-cream shops in Munich) or “Der verrückte Eismacher” (the crazy icemaker), close by, with also brilliant ice cream in all kind of crazy flavors (beer, white-sausage, champagne&strawberries…)

Another “trip” you can do is to Nymphenburgerschloß. It is a castle in the middle of Munich with a beautiful park. You can also walk through the castle – there is the “Schönheitengalerie”: King Ludwig had a collection of paintings of all the women he considered beautiful and you can see queens and emperors but also the daughter of a shoemaker – such a beautiful collection!

You can get there by taking for example the tram 17 leaving from Hauptbahnhof (central station) – just ask the driver for “Schloss Nymphenburg”.

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Further north is also the Olympic tower where you have a great view over Munich. If you are not afraid of heights, you can even take a tour on the rooftop of the Olympic Stadium!

If you want good and traditional food you can either go to a beergarden in the middle of the English garden I told you about before, the Bratwurstglöckl or even the Hofbräuhaus (very close to Marienplatz at a square called “Platzl!”). The last one is touristy, yes, but the food is none the less traditional and good! The best Bavarian food and a truly local atmosphere can be found at the Augustiner Stammhaus (Landsberger Str. 19, SBahn “Hackerbrücke). It is not exactly in the city center but well worth the trip.

As far as museums: there is the „Deutsches Museum“ (German Museum; SBahn “Isartor”) and they have a history section, science section etc… it is huge!

We also have great art exhibitions: Pinakothek der Moderne (modern art in a great building!) or Neue Pinakothek (New Pinakothek – rather new art) and Pinakothek der Antike…. Just ask at the tourist office how best to get there...

Oh yes the tourist office is right at Marienplatz – there is the city hall and it is in that building .... Cannot really miss it ;)

**Further recommendations for Restaurants, Bars and Clubs:**

**Restaurants:**
- Salt Restaurant
- Tian (vegan)
- Gratitude (vegan)
- Takumi
- Landersdorfer & Innerhofer
- Masters Home
- Brasserie Colette (Tim Raue)
- Hutong Club
- Mun Restaurant
- Paisano (Bar/Restaurant of Elyas M’Barek [famous German actor])
- Banyan (Vietnamese)
- Theresa Bar / Restaurant
- Geisels Vinothek
- Little London
- Upper Eat Side
- Halali (Bavarian / Austrian place; great lunch menus)
- The Grill
- (KVR) Kapitales vom Rind

Bars:
- Masters Home München (Bar)
- Bar Room: Smallest bar in Europe
- Die goldene Bar – a golden Bar in the “Haus der Kunst” with a great terrace, music, cool people and the place for a Sunday-sundowner (starting 5pm)
- Freebird
- Holy home
- Bodega Dali

Clubs:
- P1; most notorious Munich nightclub, yet not even close to what it was in the past
- Call me Drella; Voodoo-masked bar staff, fairly young crowd

Hiking & Castles

There are so many castles around Munich and of course the mountains around the corner. A few trips to recommend:

- Schloss Herrenchiemsee: You take the train (approximately 1 hour) to “Prien am Chiemsee” and then the ferry to come to the island Herrenchiemsee. Here our crazy kind Ludwig tried to copy the French castle of Versaille but ran out of money so it ended up being just the middle part. Yet, this is already quite impressive and the whole island so beautiful to walk on.
- Schloss Neuschwanstein: Probably the most famous one around Munich and also built by Ludwig who was living in his own fairytale world – and the castle looks exactly like that. It looks magical and surreal. You can take the train to Hohenschwangau – Schwangau (approximately 2.5 hours) and then take a little hike or bus to take you up.
- A very beautiful hike that doesn’t take too long is the “Partnachklamm” or Partnach Gorge. A stunning gorge in the mountains and you walk underneath the stones, inside the gorge underneath waterfalls – wow! And at the end – as always in Bavaria – a nice location with a restaurant to relax once you have made it to the top (not very difficult though). You can easily take the train to Garmisch-Partenkirchen (1.5 hours) and walk from there. Garmisch is also a beautiful Bavarian town definitely worth a visit! And if, by any chance, you would want to buy traditional Bavarian cloth – this would be the best place to do so!
- Lakes around Munich: Take the S8 to Herrsching or the S6 to Tutzing and you will end up in beautiful Bavarian scenery right at a beautiful lake
- Alternatively, take the BOB (Bayrische Oberlandbahn; 1hr. ride) to the Tegernsee and take a walk there or enjoy a stroll in the sun. For the more ambitious hiker, you can walk the Prinzenweg (from Schliersee to the Tegernsee [both are BOB-stations] which is a approx.
four hour walk and makes for spectacular views of Bavaria and its lakes. If you are lucky, you can even see the Allianz Arena in far away Munich

ENJOY :)