

Munich - Bavarian Capital

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Munich, Bavaria, Germany
Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Don't adventures ever have an end? I suppose not. Someone else always has to carry on the story. - J.R.R. Tolkien

Saturday 11th of June 2016

Travelling day so soon, but we've got it down pat now. First of all was the trudge back to Salzburg Hbf dragging out suitcases behind. I wonder what it would have been like in the days before little plastic wheels... Probably would have got a taxi ;-). Our train ran express from Salzburg to Munich (Muncheo gets auto corrected to Luncheon) in less than 2 hours.

First impressions leaving the rail station to get to our hotel were a little less than we expected. A lot of beggars, drunks and homeless people hanging around and approaching us. Our hotel is very close to the railway station this time. Our room is comfortable and a reasonable size. Soon we were out and about checking the sights. The streets were packed with people, probably the most crowded city we've visited so far. Walked to Marienplatz then to the Viktualien Market where we sampled bratwurst in a roll (further local food research). We did some further sightseeing including a walk through Hoffbrauhaus before stopping at a cafe. It was pretty busy and a group of 3 people asked to share our table - and it turned out they were from Sydney! The weather started to turn and the rain started so we retired to our hotel room.

It just goes to show, first impressions can be wrong. Munich is a lovely place - a lot more vibrant and cosmopolitan than the other cities we have been to so far.

Overcast, some rain, about 20 degrees. Walked 9.6 km.

Sunday 12th of June 2016

Munich is like Vienna on Sunday in that most shops are closed. I (Brad) headed off to the Deutsches Museum. It is the most impressive technology museum I've been to. You could spend a couple of days there. Met up with Anna at the Residenz Museum, which is the former home of Bavarian nobility. This place is an absolutely opulent and ostentatious display of wealth. We had to conduct some more local food research before entering the palace. Brad had a roast pork dish with pickled cabbage, while Anna had a salmon pasta dish.

Afterwards we strolled through the formal style Hopfgarten next to the palace before visiting a street festival on the way back to our hotel. Feet and legs tired.

Sunny breaks through clouds. About 19 degrees. Walked 7.9 km.

Monday 13th of June 2016

Today we took a tour to Dachau. We met our guide, Gordon, an Irisman who is a professional tour guide / educator from Dachau at Munich Hbf. There were about 12 others in our group and we caught the train to Dachau then a local bus to the concentration camp. Dachau used to be a separate town from Munich with 1000 years of history before it became a Nazi concentration camp. It is now an outer suburb of Munich surrounded by residential housing. The main prison site is now a museum dedicated to the victims who were incarcerated and murdered here during WWII.

The site is quite a picturesque location now, belying the fact that horrible events took place here not that many decades ago. The tour was educational, respectful and thought provoking, presented in a mature and passionate manner by our guide.

We returned to Munich for a very late lunch at about 4 pm, then a light meal in our hotel room.

Overcast threatening rain most of the day with some showers. 19 degrees. Walked 7.3 km.

Tuesday 14th of June 2016

Once again the weather is overcast with sunny breaks interspersed with dark clouds. We decided to take a chance and hire a couple of bikes to cover some more ground. The local bike shop provided us with comfortable tourers and a map (the best map of town we got, just like in Vienna). We headed north to the English Gardens, designed by Capability Brown. The more formal part of the garden would be about the size of our Botanic Gardens. The rest is a huge park, said to be bigger than Central Park in New York, interspersed with grassed open areas surrounded by stands of deciduous trees in a forest like setting.

The area is criss-crossed with walking paths, bike paths, horse trails and a few beer gardens. The nearby stream has quite a strong current that forms a standing wave at one point which is popular with local surfers!

We had lunch at Hirschhau beer garden. We got there at about 1pm and it was just opening up and we were the first customers for the day. There are hundreds of tables here so it must be an afternoon / evening thing to do. After lunch we rode back along the Isar River to return our bikes.

We had a little rest in the afternoon before heading off for our last meal in Munich at Augustiner, a restaurant / beer garden near Marienplatz, but a bit more

refined than Hofbrauhaus that serves typical Bavarian food. We got back to our hotel just before a downpour.

Overcast day, 21 degrees with a few showers. Walked 7.3 km. Rode about 15 km.

Comments

How are the feet holding up Anna? Amazing places! You both look very relaxed. Look forward to next blog. Cheers

— From badminton65, on Jun 16, 2016 at 11:37AM

Pictures & Video



Marienplatz



Neues Rathaus (town hall)



St. Michael



St. Peter



Off Neuhauser Strasse
Comments!



Residenz



Dachau
Comments!



Bike ride to English Garden



River surfers
Comments!



Beer garden lunch



Maximilianeum (Bavarian
Parliament)



Friedensengel



Anna at another cafe stop



Brad bike selfie
Comments!



Marienplatz

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Neues Rathaus (town hall)

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St. Michael

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St. Peter

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Off Neuhauser Strasse

Comments:

Ah yes, European 'City' (a la London 'City') on a Sunday - dead. But the European City usually covers much more space that London City does [the square mile].

— From Craig McArthur, on Jun 24, 2016 at 08:59PM

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Residenz

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Dachau

Comments:

Not meaning to detract, but the books I read had the front of those buildings either stinking mud or hard baked clay. It seems a bit sanitised given what happened. But it reads as if your guide was expressive as to the reality of the history of the location.

— From Craig McArthur, on Jun 24, 2016 at 08:52PM

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Bike ride to English Garden

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River surfers

Comments:

Politely waiting their turn. Gotta love European manner's.

— From Craig McArthur, on Jun 16, 2016 at 05:15AM

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Beer garden lunch

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Maximilianeum (Bavarian Parliament)

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Friedensengel

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Anna at another cafe stop

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Brad bike selfie

Comments:

No bike helmet! Did that feel strange?

Mark and I can remember being very impressed by the Deutsches Museum in 1986.

From Munich James recommends the BMW museum and hiring a car to drive for a day around the countryside. Also the Olympic Park and great views from the telecommunications tower there.

We look forward to each edition of your diary, thank you and keep on enjoying yourselves.

— From Anne H, on Jun 16, 2016 at 09:52AM

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