

Bavarian International School

Established 1991





A GUIDE FOR YOUR FIRST VISIT TO THE BAVARIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



BIS Bavarian International School

Contents

Welcome	. 1
Where is BIS?	2
The Community of Haimhausen	3
The History of Schloss Haimhausen	.4
Where do most BIS families live?	.6
How can I find a house for my family?	.7
How do students travel to and from school?	.8
Bus 693 links BIS to the Lohhof train station	.9
How can I find a music teacher for my child?	10
What team sports does BIS offer?	11
Are there any after-school activities?	12
How can parents get involved at school?	13
Can my child get a hot lunch at school?	14
How can I find a doctor who speaks English?	15
Will my child need to bring a laptop to school?	16
Internet links	17
Tourist and Banking Information	18
German and Bavarian Holidays	19
Service Directory	21

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Dear parents,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you and your family to the Bavarian International School.

At BIS, education is viewed as a partnership in which parents and the school work closely together to ensure that our young people are able to be confident, knowledgeable, responsible, caring and capable citizens. Throughout the year we look forward to meeting with parents both formally and informally as we share in the education of our students.

We welcome you to actively participate in making our mission statement a reality.

With warm regards



Christian Gangl **Business Director**

Bryan Nixon Director

Our Admissions Office staff will happily offer you a tour of the school, and personally guide you through the application process. They will gladly put you in touch with the member of the BIS Community who can best answer your questions as you prepare for your family's visit to BIS, be it a teacher, a principal, a student, or a PTO Family Welcome Committee representative. Please give them a call!



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Bavarian International School

Where is BIS?

BIS is located in the small, friendly village of Haimhausen (www.haimhausen.de), which lies about 30 kilometers north of downtown Munich, and 19 kilometers west of the Munich airport.







2





Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the community of Haimhausen.

Haimhausen looks back upon over 1200 years of history. We are situated at the gateway to major transportation links, airways, and trade and financial networks. We are a link between countryside and city, between historic and modern times. Our citizens and guests are at the very center of all our considerations.

Haimhausen forms an attractive center of life for its residents and is an endearing place to call home. Various building zones with a wide spectrum of residential areas and living space for every need and taste can be found in Haimhausen. The immediate proximity of nature, such as the landscape preservation areas of the Amper River Valley, and the bogs of Inhauser Moos and Dachauer Moos make the location of Haimhausen an appealing one.

People from near and far value our community's wealth of leisure and recreational opportunities. Our clubs and associations offer a broad spectrum of sporting pursuits. Our lake is ideal an ideal spot for bathing and getting away from it all on warm summer days.

Extremely convenient highway and public transportation links to both Munich II Franz-Josef-Strauß airport and to downtown Munich make Haimhausen a desirable and sought-after address.

For these reasons and many others, BIS chose Haimhausen as its permanent home 10 years ago. The school's historic building, a Cuvilleés manor house, is the most well known landmark of the village of Haimhausen. Over the past 10 years BIS has become a integral part of our local society, and we are proud that the school has chosen to call our community home. Through the presence of the school, Haimhausen has become a more international community.

I sincerely hope to continue the excellent cooperation between our community and BIS.

Heartfelt greetings from your

Peter Felberma

Peter Felbermeier Mayor of Haimhausen



BIS

Bavarian International School

HISTORY OF SCHLOSS HAIMHAUSEN



Our Schloss is the pride and joy of the Haimhausen community and a true Bavarian treasure. Please treat it with the respect and care it deserves.

A short history of Schloss Haimhausen (in British English a "Manor House" or "Hall")

By Heidi Schoch

1400s First mention of a manor house in H'hausen (not the Schloss we know today, but integrated into a building complex to the right of today's building near the brewery).

Ca. 1504 Manor house probably burnt down, rebuilt but burnt down again in the 30-years War (1618-1648).

The Counts Viepeckh von Haimhausen are given the Schloss and Farm as reward for service to the Bavarian royal family.

Building of today's middle part as a baroque country pleasure house with chapel amidst gardens. Built on an artificial hill (today's first floor was ground floor), with it's garden front towards the Amper River and 2 grottoes and cascades. (See lithograph in Admission Director's office, dating around 1700).

1747 Extension of pleasure house under Count Karl Ferdinand Maria von Viepeckh by two wings (left and right), construction of new chapel (consecrated in 1749) by the then most famous architect and interior designer Francois Cuvilliés. The "mound" around the house was taken down, therefore exposing the former cellar vaults, which now formed the ground floor. Inner decoration was executed by Cavils (Golden Room). Other famous Cuvilliés buildings are the ,Amali-

enburg', another pleasure manor in the park of the Nymphenburg Schloss; several rooms in Munich's ,Residenz' royal palace; the ,Residenz Theater', one of Munich's most beautiful theatres; and rooms in ,Schloss Brühl', near Bonn.

Ceiling paintings in the Golden Room were executed by Johann Bergmüller (famous Augsburg painter of his time) in 1750.

Chapel in late rococo style was also decorated by Johann Bergmüller (ceiling), dedicated to "Our Scourged Savior" - Jesus in chains above the main altar. This picture was a much-used image after the 30-years War to show that Jesus also suffered terribly - just like the people in those wars. Same Jesus image "the scourged savior" can be seen in



Germany's most beautiful rococo church, the "Wieskirche" south of Schongau, near Füssen.

The last member of the Viepeckh family, Count Sigmund, was a much renowned politician, scientist and intellectual serving the German Caesar Karl VII and the Bavarian royal family. He was instrumental in setting up the now world-famous ,Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufacture' in the western part of Munich, and was a founding member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences (1753).

- He died without leaving any sons, so the H'hausen property passed to the Counts Buttler of Haimhausen.
- 1862 Countess Viktoria Buttler bought a manor house called Schönbrunn as an asylum and home for mentally and physically disabled people. This home is still in existence today.
- Because of financial difficulties Schloss Haimhausen was sold to James Eduard Haniel, a businessman from northern Germany. Under James Haniel the park around the manor house was restructured into an English style park.
- 1930's The Schloss was no longer used as a family home, since it proved too expensive to maintain and heat.
- 1940-1945 During World War II the Schloss chapel housed books from the Bavarian State Library, stacked as high as the top level of the balcony! Under the books' pressure most floor tiles broke and were later replaced.
- **1946-1949** The Bavarian Academie of Arts found a home in the Schloss, since its own buildings had been destroyed during the war.
- 1949-1975 The Bavarian tax inspectors' school, the Bavarian Legal Aid School, and the Munich Police Academy had their home here.
- **1976-1986** The International Antiques Salon occupied all rooms with its period exhibits, giving a wonderful setting to antiques for sale to customers from all over Europe.
- The Schloss was sold by James Haniel to the art-loving couple, Hans Daxer and Louise Piech. With immense investment and taste, they restored the buildings to their former glory. Both Schloss and Chapel required foundation work because of the 1.20 m water tables. Extensive interior and exterior restoration and renovation were completed.
- 1997 The Bavarian International School acquired the Schloss buildings and adjoining grounds. Within one year a three-story lower school building, a sports hall, and a pavilion were built.
- **Aug 1998** The School opened its doors for the first time in its new home: Schloss Haimhausen.



BIS

Bavarian International School

Where do most BIS families live?

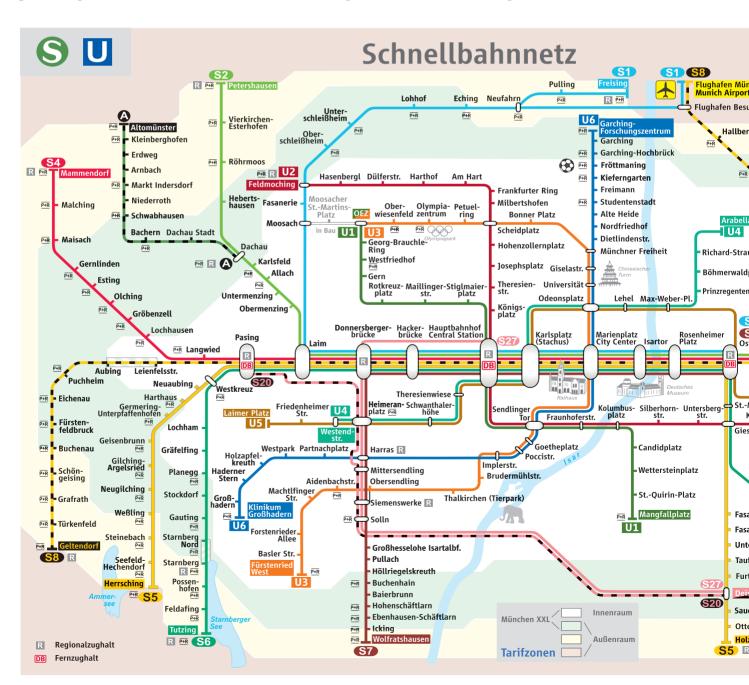
BIS families live throughout the greater Munich area.

Those who love the hustle, bustle, culture and cuisine of the city right at their doorstep favor the neighborhoods of Bogenhausen, Schwabing, and Nymphenburg in central Munich.

For those who like a village, Haimhausen is a very sought after address.

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The towns in the north along the S1 train line are also very much in demand, such as Ober- and Unterschleissheim, Lohhof, Eching, Neufarn, and Freising. Ismaning (on the S8 line) is increasingly popular, as is Garching, which has the advantage of a subway stop offering a quick and easy connection to downtown, and a shuttle bus connection from the underground stop at Garching-Hochbrück to BIS.





How can I find a house for my family?

Most families rely on a relocation service to help them find housing. It is also possible to find a house with the help of a realtor (Immobilienmakler), or if you have some rudimentary German skills or a friend or acquaintance with some knowledge of German, you

can start your search online from abroad via the website www.immobilienscout24.de

It is challenging finding the right place for your family in a city that you are not yet truly familiar with. Should you want a little time to really explore the greater Munich area before making a decision on where you want to live for the next few years, it is possible to rent a furnished temporary flat or hotel efficiency suite. Take a look at the websites for Mr. Lodge, www.mrlodge.de, or Statt Hotel, www.statthotel.de





Bavarian International School

How do students travel to and from school?

School provides a bus system which serves over 80 % of the BIS community. Parents prize the very individual service, which offers a stop no more than a five minute walk from their front door. Our transportation service is optional, with prices calculated to cover costs only. The costs of the service are divided up equitably among the users by zones.

The Bavarian International

When new families register at BIS they are given information about possible bus routes to school from the school's Transport Manager Alrun Bauer. By using small buses (usually 8 seaters) which can travel faster and make fewer stops for the more distant locations, she usually manages to keep the maximum one-way commuting time for children to no more than 1 hour. For more information, please feel free to contact Alrun at: Email:

a.bauer@bis-school.com Tel.: 0049(0)8133/917-122 Website:

www.bauer-mietwagen.de





School can also be reached by public transportation.

The S-Bahn (S1) bound for Freising departs from Munich central station every 20 minutes and takes about 35 minutes to reach Lohhof. From Lohhof

station students can catch the bus No. 693 to Haimhausen. The bus stop in Haimhausen is directly in front of the school (the "Schloss" stop).



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Munich Transit Authority (MVV) runs a bus (number 693) daily between the Lohhof S-Bahn Station and the Schlossklause in Haimhausen, which is located in front of the school. You can access the MVV journey planner at: http://www.mvv-muenchen.de/en/home/index.html to plan your route to Lohhof.

MONDAY - FRIDAY

FROM S-BAHN		FROM SCHLOSSKLAUSE TO	
	OSSKLAUSE S-BAHN		
Leaving	Arriving	Leaving	Arriving
7:58	8:07	6:14	6:23
8:40	8:49	6:34	6:43
9:38	9:47	7:14	7:25
10:58	11:07	7:36	7:45
12:38	12:48	7:56	8:05
13:18	13:27	9:16	9:25
13:38	13:47	10:36	10:45
14:18	14:27	11:56	12:05
15:18	15:27	13:25	13:34
16:38	16:47	14:10	14:18
17:18	17:27	14:56	15:05
18:18	18:27	16:14	16:23
19:18	19:27	16:16	16:25
20:18	20:27	17:56	18:05
21:18	21:27	18:56	19:05
22:18	22:27	22:56	23:05

SATURDAY

FROM S-BAHN		FROM SCHLOSSKLAUSE	
TO SCHLOSSKLAUSE		TO S-BAHN	
Leaving	Arriving	Leaving	Arriving
8:38	8:47	8:16	8:25
11:38	11:48	10:56	11:05
15:18	15:27	14:56	15:05
17:18	17:27	16:16	16:25

SUNDAY

FROM S-BAHN		FROM SCHLOSSKLAUSE	
TO SCHLOSSKLAUSE		TO S-BAHN	
Leaving	Arriving	Leaving	Arriving
9:38	9:47	9:16	9:25
17:18	17:27	16:16	16:25

BIS

Bavarian International School

My children were taking music lessons back home. How can I find a new teacher for them?



All students in Middle and Upper School at BIS have the opportunity to learn an instrument or voice at school from a professional musician, who is highly experienced in teaching their instrument. Although it is recommended, please note that it is not compulsory that students sign up for this program.

Contracts

The instrumental teachers are not employed by BIS. This means that parents and students will enter into a contract written up by the individual teachers. The contract will state the cost per lesson and their personal cancellation policy. All concerns regarding payment and cancellation of lessons must be discussed with the instrumental teacher. It is the parents' responsibility (not the schools) to inform the instrumental teacher if their child will not be present at a lesson during term time.

Timetables

The music teacher for Upper and Middle School will draw up the timetables for lessons. In some cases, lessons will run on a rotation, ensuring that students miss out on half an hour of a different subject each week. If possible students may be able to have their lessons during non-academic subjects, break times, before or after school but this will not always be an option.

Instrumental Hire

There is a selection of instruments for hire at BIS and we require a bond of 150 Euro. You will get this bond back once the instrument is returned in reasonable condition.

Learning a musical instrument is fun and rewarding. Through learning an instrument, you not only foster a skill for life but also have the opportunity to be part of exciting musical ensembles, both within and outside the school.





My kids are very keen on sports. What team sports can they play at BIS?

Grade/age eligibility for BIS Athletic teams is determined by the policies of the various athletic organizations in which BIS holds membership (SCIS AND GISST) and by BIS Athletic Department and school policy. The following provides a summary of these requirements as they pertain to the various BIS teams and sports.

FALL SPORT TEAMS / ACTIVITIES

Girls Cross Country	Varsity & Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Boys Cross Country	Varsity & Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Girls Soccer	Varsity & Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Boys Soccer	Varsity, Junior Varsity (JV) and Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Girls Volleyball	Varsity Team, Grades 9-12
Boys Volleyball	Varsity Team, Grades 9-12
Girls Touch Rugby * Boys Touch Rugby *	Varsity & Middle School Practice, Grades 6-12 Varsity & Middle School Practice, Grades 6-12
Girls Tennis	Middle School Team, Grades 6-8
Boys Tennis	Middle School Team, Grades 6-8
Girls Badminton * Boys Badminton *	Varsity & Middle School Practice, Grades 6-12 Varsity & Middle School Practice, Grades 6-12
Golf Lessons *	Varsity & Middle School, Grades 6-12

WINTER SPORT TEAMS / ACTIVITIES

Girls Basketball	Varsity, Junior Varsity (JV) and Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Boys Basketball	Varsity, Junior Varsity (JV) and Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Girls Swimming	Varsity & Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Boys Swimming	Varsity & Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Girls Skiing	Varsity & Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Boys Skiing	Varsity & Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12

SPRING SPORT TEAMS / ACTIVITIES

Girls Track & Field	Varsity & Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Boys Track & Field	Varsity & Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Girls Softball	Varsity & Middle School Teams, Grades 6-12
Girls Tennis	Varsity Team, Grades 9-12
Boys Tennis	Varsity Team, Grades 9-12
Golf	Varsity & Middle School Team, Grades 6-12

^{*} Non-competitive activities

BIS

Bavarian International School

Are there any after-school activities?

There is a wide offering of after school activities to choose from. This list below is made up of activities that have been perennial favorites. Please be aware that the offerings are subject to change.

Middle School Rock Band

This activity is for students from Grade 6 to 8, who have some experience with playing an instrument or who are brave enough to sing up a storm outside of the bedroom or shower.

African Drumming, play the Diembe

It's fantastic what different sounds you can play with the "Djembe". There is a class for students, and one for staff/ teacher/admin/parents...

Cheerleading

For Grade 2–5 students who would like to learn cheerleading routines and have fun! Check for availability.

Jazz Dance

For Grade 6–12 students and staff.

Judo

Learn the traditional Martial Art of Judo with the Haimhausen Judo Club! Lessons are in German for participants of all ages.

Guides

The girls (Grade 4–8) participate in a wide variety of activities based on the Guides programme including; arts and crafts, games, music and dance, and working as part of a team. Mondays after school.

Drama

We select a play and work from auditions through rehearsals to performance.

Visual Art For Students Grades 6–12.

This club offers almost anything artistic, as well as the traditional areas of drawing and painting.

Irish Dancing

Come and join the fun learning Irish dancing with teacher, Shane, former Riverdance member, and the Tir na nOg Irish dancing school.

Brownies

Girls from age 7–10 participate in a wide variety of activities based on the Brownie programme including art and craft, games, music and

dance, and working as part of a team.

JUDO/Karate

Learn the spirit and moves of Judo and Karate with a German National Judo/Karate practitioner.

Basketball

For Grade 5 students to train with the Middle School basketball team in preparation for next year.

Young Life's Wylde Life Club

For Middle School students where you can play fun games, spend time with your friends, eat great food, and learn about the basics of the Christian faith with a chance to discuss current events and what you think.

Yearbook

The yearbook design team offers a chance for budding young designers to help build the BIS yearbook.

Ballet

Children ages 4–10 learn and develop ballet skills with an experienced teacher.







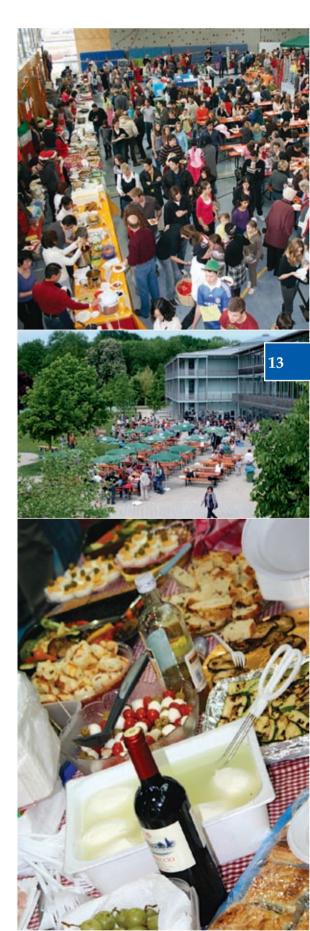


How can parents get involved at school?

There are many different ways that parents can be involved in school life through the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). PTO volunteers assist in the classroom, the library and in many other ways around the school. To support the school through fundraising, they organize a yearly Christkindlmarkt with booths of handcrafts, games for the children to play, International foods, and raffles. The PTO fundraising events are tremendous fun for all!

The PTO is also host to many clubs, ranging from sports clubs to cinema and an expatriation support group. As parents of children attending a small school, our PTO is flexible and able to create new clubs or committees as needs and interests arise.

The PTO has two stated goals: to support the school and to support the community of BIS - both the parents and teachers and staff. The core of the PTO is our Family Welcome Committee, a network of parents throughout the Munich area who put together coffee mornings, lunches, parties for children, and are on call to help newcomers find doctors, recommendations for where to hold birthday parties, and even help translate bills and official documents. These parents were also once new to BIS, and they know that a friendly greeting in the hallway or a telephone call can make a huge difference to a recently moved family.



BIS

Bavarian International School

Can my child get a hot lunch at school?

Yes, we have a large kitchen in the Schloss, and cooking is done on the premises.

Our Schloss Cafeteria is open from 8.00–17.00 h Monday–Thursday, and on Fridays from 8.00–15.00 h. This cafeteria primarily serves the Upper School, but you will also find parents and teachers meeting here every day for a little morning chat, for a coffee or a snack. It is a meeting point where the BIS community comes together and shares important news.

A second large, modern cafeteria located next to the auditorium serves lunch between 11.25–13.20 to students in the Lower and Middle School.

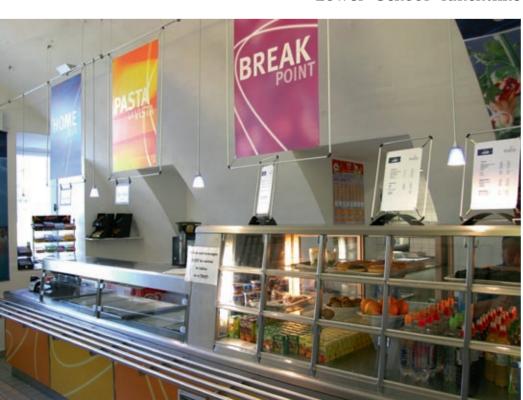
There are two different lunchtimes for our students. Lower School lunchtime

is from 12.35–13.20 h. The Lower School students also have a morning snack break from 10.35–11.05 h, and an afternoon snack and recess from 14.50–15.10 h.

Middle and Upper School have lunch from 11.25–12.10 h.

Menus for the coming week are posted each Friday on our community intranet, allowing students to decide in advance on which days they would like to eat the school lunch. Students are always welcome to bring something from home if they prefer.

In order to avoid supplementary work and handling of cash, as well as long waiting queues at the cash desk, an electronic cash system has been established.





I don't speak any German. How can I find an English speaking doctor for my family?

Most doctors, dentists, veterinarians, and other professionals in the Munich area speak English in addition to German and often other languages. Office and front desk staff may speak only German. For help in locating English speaking health professionals, you can contact our BIS school nurse, or your local Rathaus, consulate, or embassy.

Julia Lönker is the BIS nurse. She is a registered nurse with an active license to practice in Germany. Her office is open all school days Monday to Thursday 08.30-17.30 and Fridays between 08.30 and 16.00 and located opposite the

Her goal is to provide quality health service for all students and staff members. Her

Middle school office.

main task is to take care of the student's health problems and injuries that have taken place during the school day. Often her expertise is requested to teach special health classes, give information lectures on specific health topics for parents and teachers, and to organize and teach First Aid classes etc.

Julia monitors the spread and pattern of infectious diseases in the school and local community. She also provides parents/guardians with advice regarding immunizations, doctor's appointments and insurance issues.





Julia Lönker Registered Nurse j.loenker@bis-school.com

M – Th 8.30–17.30 h Fr 8.30-16.00 h

BIS

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Will my child need to bring a laptop to school?

They don't need to bring their own laptop, as they will have great access to computers throughout the school. The BIS IT Department provides an impressive array of resources for learning and communication. There are two state of the art computing suites available to students, one in the Lower & Middle School complex and one in the Upper School, connected to the school's wireless network. Laptop carts carrying 24 laptops can be signed out by teachers for use in the classroom. For Upper School students with a free period or a research project, there are comfortable computer work stations in the Upper School library as well as in the "Clusters", an inviting, open work space in one of the prettiest niches in the Schloss. Up in the art atelier, those interested in graphic design and photography can work at a set of specially equipped computers. Work stations in the Junior Library serve students through grade 8, and are popular not only during student's library time but also for after-school research.

We place a premium on the importance of regular and

intensive communication between home and school, and the school internal intranet places a central role in making this possible. Most BIS families check the intranet daily for news, calendar postings of school events and parent nights, to see what is on the menu in the cafeteria, to find contact email address or telephone numbers for other members of the BIS community, or to view their child's e-portfolio. When your child is accepted at BIS, you will be issued a user name and password so that you can access the intranet.







INTERNET LINKS

Links to websites for Munich and Bavaria: Many theaters, sporting & recreational centers, museums and other popular tourist sites have websites. Check web browsers or type "organization.name".de or "name".com.

http://www.muenchen.de

The official internet portal for the city of Munich. Click on the British flag, upper left, to view the site in English.

http://www.toytownmunich.com

General information on news and activities around Munich. Great website!

http://www.munichfound.com

Online English magazine about life in the Munich area.

http://www.newcomers-network.de/bavaria/newcomers-guide/index.php

A relatively new site with tips for expats

http://www.munich-tourist.de

General information from the Munich Tourist office

http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Europe/Germany/Bavaria/Munich-36623/Travel-

Guide-Munich.html

Links to chat rooms to talk to others from around the world about Munich

http://www.munich-info.de

Specialty city information, maps, schedules, etc

http://www.bavaria.de

Information about Bavaria, also in English and French

http://www.howtogermany.com

Helpful hints about moving to Germany

http://www.amazon.de

Order English books and merchandise

http://www.bookdepository.co.uk

Order English books and merchandise with free worldwide delivery

http://www.haimhausen.de

Information on the home of BIS

http://www.countrycallingcodes.com/

Telephone dialing instructions from any country to any other country

BIS Bayarian International School

TOURIST INFORMATION

Munich Information	089 / 23 39 65 00
Main Train Station (Hauptbahnhof)	089/ 23 33 02 56/57
EuroAide-English Train Info & Tickets	Hauptbahnhof (Track 11, Room 3) Mon-Fri 8:00-12:00, 13:00-18:00, Sat. 8:00-12:00
Neues Rathaus	Marienplatz (S&U3/6) Mon-Fri 10:00-20:00, Sat. 10:00-16:00

BANKING INFORMATION

Banks are plentiful in the Munich area. Banking hours are brief, typically 09.00 to 12.00, and 14.00 to 15.30 weekdays. Most banks have one day with "extended" hours, staying open until 17.30 or 18.00. Few banks are open on Saturdays. Cash can be obtained from any "EC" machine after banking hours, yet fees may be charged if using a different network than your specific bank. Shopping throughout Munich is based on a cash system or direct debit from your account. "EC" cards or debit cards are accepted at most stores throughout the area. Credit cards are only accepted at major department stores and some restaurants. Monthly or other bill payments such as rent, car payments, etc. are made by direct debit or Überweisung (bank transfer).

Common banking terms:

Withdrawal (Auszahlung), Payment (Zahlen), Debit (Abbuchung), Transfer (Überweisung), Deposit (Einzahlung/Bankeinlage), Service Fee (Beabeitungsgebühr), Interest (Zinsen)

Exchange of currency is available at most banks for currencies from major countries. Many cash machines in the city center dispense Euros and other currencies. For currency exchange after banking hours use Reisebank at the main train station in Munich or at the airport.

Reisebank Hauptbahnhof	089/ 970 1721, Open daily 06.00 to 23.00 hours 30 day return policy of currency with no additional service fees.
Other exchange locations: Thomas Cook Travel	089 / 235 0920, off Marienplatz, Munich
American Express	Petersplatz 10 089/2280 1387, off Marienplatz, Munich Kaufingerstr. 24



GERMAN AND BAVARIAN HOLIDAYS (FEIERTAGE)

All businesses, stores, doctor's offices, schools, etc. are closed on the Pubic Holidays.

January 1/New Years Day/Neujahr/Public Holiday

People greet each other with the phrase "Ein gutes neues Jahr!"

January 6/Epiphany/Heilige Drei Könige/Public Holiday

It is the 12th day after Christmas when the Magi visited Jesus and the end of the Christmas season. The children dress up like the Magi. They are called Star Singers and go from house to house singing and collecting money for the poor people. They will write "C+M+B", which stands for Christus mansionem benedictam (Christ bless this house) and the initials of the king's names (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) with the year above your door. This supposedly brings good luck.

February/Carnival/Fasching/Public Holiday

Fasching actually starts in November when a princess and prince are inaugurated. It reaches its peak in January and February with many balls. The fun ends with parades and dancing in the streets.

Good Friday/Karfreitag/Public Holiday

March/April/Palm Sunday/Palmsonntag

Easter Monday/Ostermontag/Public Holiday

May 1/Labor Day/Maifeiertag/Public Holiday

Folk holiday welcoming the spring, saying farewell to the winter. Custom: In Bavaria Maypoles are raised and there are lots of festivities.

May/Mother's Day/Second Sunday in May

May 12–15/Ice Saints Day/Die Eisheiligen

In Bavaria one does not plant summer flowers before this date because until then you still can expect frost at night.

May/Ascension Day/Christi Himmelfahrt/German Father's Day/Public Holiday

Custom: A traditional man's outing for a hike or just a bike ride to the beer garden. Fathers do not get presents. Their presents are the outing.

May/June/Monday following Pentecost/Pfingstmontag/Public Holiday

May/June/Feast of Corpus Christi/Fronleichnam/Public Holiday

June 21/Beginning of summer.

June 24/Midsummerday/Johannistag or Mittsommernacht

Commemorating the birthday of St. John. Bonfires in some areas.

August 15/Ascension of Mary/Maria Himmelfahrt/Public Holiday

October 3/Reunification Day/Tag der Deutschen Einheit/Public Holiday

November 1/All Saints Day/Allerheiligen/Public Holiday

Commemoration of all saints. In medieval England this festival was known as All Hallows, and its eve is still known as Halloween, which has only recently begun to be celebrated in Germany. Catholic graveyards are decorated and blessed.



Bavarian International School

November 11/St. Martin's Day/Martinstag

Commemoration Day of St. Martin of Tours, patron of the poor and soldiers. Little children parade through the streets carrying self-made lanterns and singing seasonal songs. An adult often leads the parade on horseback, dressed as St. Martin, in a red coat and wearing a helmet. This is also the official beginning of the Fasching.

November/Day of Repentance and Prayer/Buß-und Bettag/No School

November/December/Advent

Advent wreaths made of fir tree branches are decorated with four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent. Another custom is to make or buy and Adventskalendar with 24 doors. One for each day from December first until Christmas.

December 6/St. Nicolas Day/St. Nikolaus

Patron of the children and sailors. Custom: St. Nikolaus, dressed in red like a bishop comes into people's houses and states what a child has done – good and bad – throughout the year and hands out little presents. Sometimes he is accompanied by a rather wild creature in furs carrying a rod (Knecht Rupprecht, also called Krampus in Bavaria). Usually, the Nikolaus is a family member or friend; he can also be hired. Another custom is to put out a shoe/boot the night before. This is secretly filled with sweets and small presents by St. Nikolaus during the night. For naughty children, Krampus will leave a birch branch and lumps of coal.

December 24 (half day)/Christmas Eve/Heiligabend

Shops close at noon. In Germany people start celebrating Christmas early in the evening of this day. They will attend Christmas services either in the late afternoon or at midnight. In the evening, the Christkindl comes to the house and leaves presents for everybody. When the family comes back, the candles of the Christmas tree (Weihnachtsbaum) are lighted and the celebration starts. Merry Christmas in German is "Frohe Weihnachten", or "Fröhliche Weihnachten" or "Frohes Fest".

December 25 & 26/Christmas 1 and Boxing Day 2 / Weihnachtstag/Public Holidays

December 31/New Years Eve/Silvester

Shops close at noon



Service Directory

Accountant	28
BBA/MBA Programs	
Bus Operator	
Business School	
Catering	
Childcare	
Color Printers	
Dachau District Office	30
Dentist	
Electro Technician	31
English Books	
English DVD's/Games.	
English for Kids	
Foreign Languages	
German Courses	

Greek Cuisine	26
Housing	30
Household Relocation	
Implantology	21
Italian Cuisine	25
Language School	29
Limousine Service	
Logistics	
Medical Care	
Moving Service	
Nannies	
Party Service	
Pens & Stationary	
Photos	
Pizzeria	

Private Day Care	29
Real Estate	28,32
Relocation Service	29
Restaurants	.25, 26
School Supplies	
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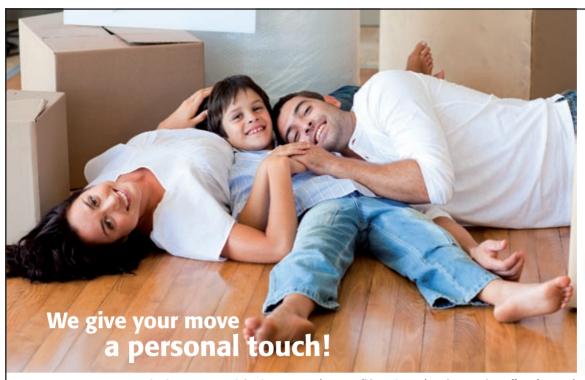
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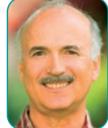


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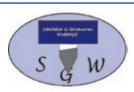
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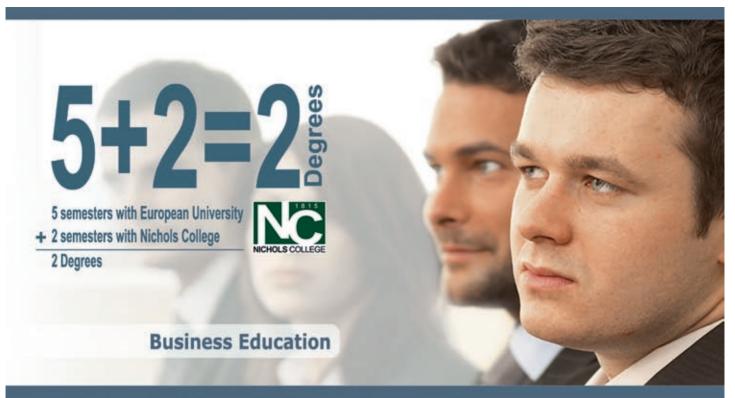






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