

Munich Parks And Nature -- Geo-Zoos And River Rafts

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Munich is generally regarded as one of the most beautiful German cities. The abundance of parks and lakes certainly has played its part in this reputation. Nature lovers will find much to enjoy in the picturesque beauty of Munich parks.

Munich Zoo — Tierpark Hellabrunn

This Munich nature park was the world's first "geo-zoo." That is, it was the first time that animals weren't simply displayed in cages, but in a re-creation of their natural habitat. The zoo has been thriving ever since its beginnings in 1911. With over 5,000 animals, there's many animals to see here. Check out the elephants doing their daily exercise, or the aerial acrobatics of Hellabrunn's birds of prey.

English Garden

This 900-acre Munich park is where the locals go to relax and experience some natural beauty. It is one of the biggest parks in the world — even larger than New York's Central Park. You'll find all kinds of wonders and oddities in the *Englischer Garten*. The most surprising to see is probably the Chinese Tower and Pagoda. In typical German fashion, the Pagoda is located right next to the beer garden.

In your stroll through this garden, you may also see nudist bathing, an amphitheater, a carousel and flocks of sheep.

Hofgarten

The *Hofgarten* (or Court Garden) is Munich's oldest park, and one of its most popular. It dates back to 1613 and was originally conceived as a Renaissance Garden. Although it was nearly destroyed during [World War Two](#), it has been restored to its previous glory. Flower beds, fountains and ornate gazebos can be found all around it. It's the perfect place to spend a sunny day.

Riemer Park

The *Riemer Park* is a relatively new addition to Munich's nature parks. Built in 2005, this park features a big lake that's a good spot to go for a swim.

Ostpark

You'll find this notable Munich park in the Perlach-Ramersdorf region. The highlight of this green park is the Michaelibad, a large swimming area.

The Isar River

The [Isar](#) River runs through Munich and is a great spot for some nature recreation. Take advantage of the river rafting! There are wooden rafts that cruise down this picturesque river valley.