

TRAVELLING WITH TARGET:
OUT AND ABOUT IN MUNICH

Hongkong is, definitely, a '*paradise*' for foreigners, looking to purchase internationally known brand-named clothes as well as the most-popular electronic products.

The many fine shopping malls, such as Pacific Place and International Finance Centre, both malls, located in the Central Business District of Hongkong Island, are akin to magnets for most visitors to the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

However, if one compares Hongkong prices of luxury goods, such as Burberry, Moncler, Loro Piana, Brioni, Chopard, Versace and Bulgari, just to mention some, well-known international brands, to those retail prices, obtained in Munich, Germany, one can save between 20 percent and 30 percent.

For big-spenders, therefore, the cost of an airline ticket to Munich could well be considered a bargain.

Also, in Munich, for the discriminating purchaser, there are far-more selections from which to choose than in Hongkong because, among other things, German outlets cater for an almost completely different clientele, compared with Hongkong where the buyers of brand-named goods target Asian tourists.

And, yes, one may bargain prices down five percent or more if one makes a determined attempt so to do.

Further, the direct savings that one may obtain from the swank, retail shops along Maximilianstrasse – unquestionably, the best shopping street in Munich – is not everything.

On one's departure from Germany [or from any other country in the **European Union (EU)**], one is able to claim tax refunds on nearly all purchases, those tax refunds, ranging from between 12 percent and 19 percent.

In short, Munich offers less-expensive prices in respect of purchases of most luxury goods at the best shops – and, in many respects, it is more of a shoppers' paradise than is Hongkong.

Even over-the-counter medications, such as antihistamines, vitamins and other healthcare products, etc, are about 80-percent cheaper than those same products, sold in Hongkong – and, of course, there is that tax refund on one's exit from the EU.

As for eating in the best restaurants in Munich, the prices are at least 50 percent cheaper than eating out in Hongkong, regardless as to which cuisine one selects.

German cuisine of the calibre that is readily available in hundreds of restaurants in Munich is not available, at all, in the tens of thousands of Hongkong restaurants.

One of the best, fine-dining restaurant in Munich, in **TARGET's** opinion, is Restaurant Käfer-Schänke.

Compared with many other, very good restaurants in this city, it, clearly, stands alone; and, it has to be considered as being top flight – even for popular German food.

Ironically, prices at Restaurant Käfer-Schänke are not that far removed from those of other, excellent eateries in the city.

The roast venison, the pan-fried Arctic trout and Atlantic sole were among some remarkable dishes that this medium sampled at this restaurant.

Turning to desserts, for those people with a sweet tooth, one should never leave Munich without tasting kaiserschmarrn, a type of thick pancake that is cut into chunks in a frying pan and sprinkled with powdered sugar when served, hot at the table, along with apple compote.

However, beware! Germans, when eating out, are, typically, in the habit of eating what Asians would describe as being gigantic portions; and, these portions are far in excess of that which Hongkongers would normally eat.

A problem that this medium discovered was that, just about every time, half of portion of a dish for one person was left, uneaten, invariably questions would be raised by a member of the restaurant's serving staff along the lines: *'Was everything all right?'*

Hotel food, for the most part, cannot compare with the excellence of many restaurants in the city and so it appears that managements, even of the best hotels, do not seem even to try to compete.

A classic example of this hotel policy may be found by exploring the latest eatery, recently opened at Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Munich.

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