

## COLOGNE, GERMANY



### **COLOGNE BEYOND THE CATHEDRAL MUSEUMS, CHURCHES, ROMAN RUINS, OLD TOWN ALLEYS ... A CHOCOLATE MUSEUM, TOO**

You think you only need to see Cologne's world-famous cathedral and then you're done? Au contraire! Although most of Cologne was leveled during WWII, Germany's fourth largest city has been rebuilt and transformed into one of Europe's great cultural, historical and social hubs. Its world-class museums, Romanesque churches, ruins and restored Old Town takes you from the Roman Empire to modern times. You can sniff your way through three centuries of fragrances at the Farina fragrance Museum; Cologne (Eau de Cologne) is where it all began. And those with a sweet tooth can quench their cravings at the chocolate fountain of the world's largest chocolate museum.

### **KÖLNER DOM — GERMANY'S MOST VISITED LANDMARK**

Cologne's great cathedral has long been considered a masterpiece of German Gothic art; its twin spires tower over the skyline, an orientation point for tourists and locals alike. The foundation was laid in the 13th century to house the relics of the Three Magi, but building wasn't completed until the mid-19th century. The cathedral exemplifies the Rayonnant Gothic style, a period when architects became less interested in achieving great size than in decorative forms. Architectural statues, steep gables, the lavish use of tracery and a unifying series of spires grace the exterior. Rare works of religious art include the Shrine of the Three Kings and a high choir regarded as one of the most outstanding Rayonnant sculptures of the Middle Ages. For an exercise fix, climb 533 stone steps to the viewing platform with its impressive panoramas of the city and the Rhine River.

### **POSTAL SERVICE**

Should you wish to mail postcards or letters, we are happy to do that on your behalf from the Reception. Postage charges for Postcards are €2.00 EUR and for Letters €2.50 EUR

### **CRYSTAL LIFE SPA**

Refresh, relax and revitalize with our exclusive treatments at the Crystal Spa, located on Harmony Deck 1, Midship. Dial "9" to make an appointment.

### **FITNESS CENTER**

Crystal proudly offers an indoor Fitness Center which boasts equipment from TechnoGym including cardio equipment.

Guests are invited to join the complimentary fitness classes on Vista Deck 4 or in the Fitness Center throughout the cruise. Please refer to the Daily Activity Sheet delivered each day to your Suite for class times.

## **12 ROMANESQUE CHURCHES — A RESPECTFUL DICHOTOMY OF THE NEW AND THE OLD**

Less renowned but equally worth visiting are Cologne's twelve beautiful churches huddled together within the old city walls. Most of them are designed in the imperial Rhineland Romanesque style, built to impress with their wealth and size. The churches were repeatedly altered down through the centuries, and many were severely damaged during World War II. But thanks to first-rate restoration and the juxtaposition of the new and the old, their renovation has been extraordinarily successful, helping to restore and even recreate the historic charms of the Old Town.

If you don't have time to see all 12, do visit Gross St Martin; its huge square tower has shaped the skyline of the city's Old Town since the Middle Ages. St. Ursula is the other one not to be missed. It was built on the site of a Roman cemetery to honor the saint and her 11,000 virgins who were martyred here in about 451; bones from the cemetery line the walls of the remarkable reliquary inside the church: the Golden Chamber.

## **THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST COLLECTION OF PICASSOS**

A mecca of contemporary art, Museum Ludwig houses works that represent most of the key 20th century movements, from the pop art of Warhol and Lichtenstein to American abstract artists including Rothko and Pollock. It holds one of the most important collections of Expressionism in Europe including *The Dreamers* (1916) by Emil Nolde, and Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's famous *Half-Length Nude with Hat* (1911). But its greatest claim to fame occurred in 2001 with the sensational gift of 774 Picassos from Irene Ludwig, widow of the chocolate magnate Peter Ludwig. All told there are 864 works by the artist, the world's third largest collection of Picassos after Paris and Barcelona.

## **A MUSEUM BUILT AROUND A ROMAN EXCAVATION.**

You can gain an insight into the city's omnipresent Roman past at the Roman-Germanic Museum showcasing many notable displays including Roman jewelry and the world's largest collection of glass from the Roman period. Most impressive is the museum's additional role as an archaeological site. In 1941, construction of an air-raid shelter led to the discovery of a 3rd-century villa. The magnificent mosaics on the floor of the main room prompted architects to design a museum around the excavations, rather than risk the potential damage of moving it. Along with preserving the mosaics the museum has

even re-created the inner courtyards to imitate the layout of the ancient villa.

Good thing the main attractions are within easy walking distance of the port to give you more time to look around. But if you miss something on your "to see" list, just go with the flow to the nearest brauhaus for a fresh pour of Kölsch (a light beer brewed in town, celebrated as the city's favorite beer) from the tap – another great reason to visit Cologne.