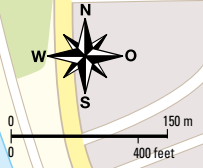


COLOGNE

1. Cathedral (Dom)
2. Hohenzollern Bridge
3. Roman-Germanic Museum and Ludwig Museum
4. Old City (Altstadt)
5. Wallraf-Richartz Museum
6. Church of St. Maria im Kapitol
7. 4711 House
8. Chocolate Museum



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEB PLEASE SCAN QR-CODE





COLOGNE

GERMANY

Geographical position: 50° 57' N / 06° 57' E

Av. alt.: 120 feet (37 m)

Area of the city: 156 square-miles (404 km²)

Population: 997,000

Region: North Rhine-Westphalia

River: Rhine

Economy: Food industry, beer brewing, automobile manufacture, chemical industry, media, research, administration, banks, higher education, trade fairs, tourism



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COLOGNE – FORMER ROMAN CAPITAL STRADDLING THE RHINE

While its Cathedral alone would make Cologne (Köln) a ‘must see’ destination, this bustling Rhenish city has so many facets that even a full day is hardly enough to do it justice. With its dozen Romanesque churches and numerous outstanding museums, the former Roman city has a historical heritage second to none in Germany. With so many treasures to enjoy (to say nothing of the city’s countless art galleries), it’s fortunate that countless taverns, bars and cafés offer the perfect antidote to ‘cultural indigestion.’ In fact, it’s over a glass of the local beer, Kölsch, that one stands the best chance of discovering why the citizens of Cologne are renowned for their open-mindedness and affability. Indeed, it’s the laidback yet cosmopolitan feel of the rebuilt Old City that provides the most lingering memory of a visit to this classic destination.

THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT IN A NUTSHELL

Once Julius Caesar had captured France (Gaul), it was not long before Roman legionaries arrived on the left bank of the Rhine in about **50 BC**. One of their first Rhineland settlements was Colonia, and they even built a first bridge over the river here in **310 AD**. Cologne’s riverside site ensured that its trading role continued to flourish after the Romans left, and it became an important city in Charlemagne’s kingdom of the Franks. Its rise to international significance can be dated quite precisely: in **1164**, the relics of the Three Magi were brought to its cathedral, and the stream of pilgrims from then on led to an amazing influx of income. To provide an even more magnificent setting for this ‘money-making machine,’ a new Cathedral was begun in **1248**; at this time, no-one could have guessed that over six centuries would pass before its completion in **1880**. Cologne’s prestige rose further when its University was opened in **1388**, and its political clout was emphasized when it became a Free Imperial City in **1475**. During the French Revolution, French troops occupied the city from **1794** until Napoleon’s final expulsion in **1815**. For a time, Cologne came under the control of the Prussians, whose very different mentality led to ongoing friction. Unfortunately, Cologne’s Old City and many of its monuments fell victim to heavy bombing in the Second World War.

MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Cathedral (Dom): Germany’s most-visited building represents a climax of the High Gothic style. Highlights of its largely 13th-century interior include the golden shrine of the Magi (1220), the austere Gero

Cross from 976, the marvelous carvings of the choir-stalls (c. 1310) and some exceptional medieval stained glass.

2. Hohenzollern Bridge: For great views of the Cathedral and Old City, walk over this pedestrian and railway bridge. Lovers traditionally attach a lock to the fencing here and then throw the key into the river below.

3. Roman-Germanic Museum: The first of these offers stunning Roman exhibits centering on the vast Dionysus Mosaic (2nd century) and funeral monument of Publicius. The neighboring Ludwig Museum has notable collections of 20th-century art.

4. Old City (Altstadt): During a protracted stroll through the narrow lanes and attractive squares of the Old City, don’t forget to take a look at the Rathaus, Germany’s oldest City Hall (tower from 1414; arcading from 1540).

5. Wallraf-Richartz Museum: This outstanding museum offers in-depth coverage of European art from the Middle Ages to the 19th century.

6. Church of St. Maria im Kapitol: Perhaps the loveliest of Cologne’s dozen surviving Romanesque churches includes a wonderful carved wooden door and an atmospheric crypt.

7. 4711 House: This is the place (in Glockengasse) to pick up the perfect souvenir in the form of eau de cologne, by far the city’s best-known product.

8. Chocolate Museum: Down by the river, this popular destination tells you all you could wish to know about sweet temptations.

ENJOYING THE LOCAL CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

Being one of Germany’s biggest cities, Cologne can boast an excellent range of stores, including many curious and unusual specialty shops. So, while Hohe Strasse and Schildergasse have all the usual international outlets, top fashion is written large in Mittelstrasse. Another bastion of fashion is Ehrenstrasse. The DuMont-Carré on Breitenstrasse also has a good range of more specialized shops. Cologne is a treat for lovers of modern art, as over a hundred galleries are based here. At some time during a visit, you will want to settle into a cozy tavern in the Altstadt. Good choices might be the Gaffel-Haus on the Alter Markt, Peters Brauhaus (Mühlengasse) with its rustic wood-paneling, and Zum Pfaffen on Heumarkt. The brew of choice here is freshly drawn Kölsch beer served in 0.2-liter glasses. The best local dishes are plain and hearty. For example, Himmel und Ääd (‘heaven and earth’) comprises fried blood sausage served with mashed potatoes and apple puree.