

Cologne A-Z

recommended by the Cologne WiSo-Faculty



University of Cologne
Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences





COLOGNE A-Z

Welcome to Cologne!

We are pleased to welcome you to the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences (WiSo-Faculty), University of Cologne. Since we want you to feel at home right from the start, we have put together some useful information on Cologne, sights, events and local customs. Each staff member of the International Relations Center has contributed his or her individual Cologne favourites to this collection of Cologne highlights from A to Z.

Enjoy your stay!



Foto: www.koeln tourismus.de

Cologne A - Z

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A = Addresses and Annual Events

University of Cologne

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Foto: Koelnmesse GmbH

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Emergency numbers: 110 or 112

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Annual Events

Art Fair

The Cologne Trade Fair annually hosts the famous exhibition of 21st century art 'Cologne Art Fair' <http://www.art-fair.de/>

Cologne Pride/ Christopher Street Day

Cologne as an open-minded city is proud of its great colorful street festival Cologne Pride/ Christopher Street Day (CSD), which takes place every first weekend in July. More than 500,000 participants and visitors celebrate this gay and lesbian event with its highlight, the large street parade. <http://www.csd-cologne.de/>

Kölner Lichter

Once a year in summer the magnificent display of fireworks along the river Rhine ("Kölner Lichter") attracts more than 500,000 visitors. <http://www.koelner-lichter.de/>

Museum Night

Every year in November the "Long night of the museums" in Cologne takes place. For around 15 € you can make your (own) way through all participating museums, cultural institutions, presenting expositions, concerts and readings. Bus or train shuttles bring you to your desired locations. For further information visit: www.museumsnacht-koeln.de.

B = Brewery

A brewery (Brauhaus) is a typical traditional Cologne restaurant and pub which sells the local beer (Kölsch). You will find a number of different Brauhaus's such as 'Sion', 'Päffgen', or 'Früh' in the Old Town. The waiter of a brewery is typically dressed in blue and is called a 'Köbes'. Please note: the Köbes will automatically replace your empty Kölsch glass with a full one - without checking with you first. Most breweries and pubs will keep track of your drinks by checking off each beer on your beer coaster. Make sure you don't lose it or mix it up with your neighbor's! Should you wish to stop drinking Kölsch, just place your beer coaster on top of your glass.

If you want to try some typical Cologne food, order a "Halver Hahn" – whose linguistic meaning can be equated with half of a chicken but which actually turns out to be a small rye bread roll with mature Gouda cheese and butter. Another popular dish is "Himmel un Äd" (mashed potatoes with apple puree, black pudding and onions). You'll also find many more traditional dishes on the menu; try "Hämchen", "Soorbrade" or "Rievkooche"...

C = Carnival (Karneval)

Carnival, or Karneval in German, is celebrated in many regions throughout Germany, but Cologne is the place where Karneval is celebrated the most excessively. The world famous Karneval is celebrated over 3 days in February. It attracts more than 500,000 visitors each year to celebrate with the locals in pubs and to line the streets to see the Karneval parade, the 'Rosenmontagszug'. Most of the people wear costumes or fancy dress hats when they go shopping or just for a walk in the parks around Cologne during that time. In Cologne the Karneval-Season (which is also called the 5th season of the year) starts on 11th of November each year (at 11.11am) and lasts until mid-February. So don't be surprised if you run into people in fancy dress in December.



Fotos: www.koelntourismus.de (1); KölnTourismus GmbH: A. Möltgen (2,3)



Fotos: KölnTourismus GmbH: U. Haake (1), A. Möltgen (2); Th. Riehle (3)

D = Dom (Cathedral)

The Dom, the Catholic Cathedral, is the most important building in Cologne and the largest church in Germany. It was built between 1248 and 1880 (yes, it took that long!) and is the one of the best examples of Gothic architecture.

Please make sure to take a look inside the church. In the centre of the cathedral you'll find the golden shrine with the remains of the Three Wise Men (the Magi) and, on the right hand side, the beautiful 15th century altarpiece created by Stefan Lochner. Next to the altar there is a modern stained-glass window, created by the famous artist Gerhard Richter and put in place only 2 years ago. Cologne people are very particular about their Cathedral and there are still heated discussions going on as to whether these modern windows are suitable for the Dom.

During Christmas time the Dom displays a beautiful nativity scene (close to the exit doors on the North Side) which attracts not only little children. The scene with modern figures always includes some local aspects i.e. the flag of the city of Cologne or a boy wearing a fan scarf of the local football club or even a puppet dressed in red as the "Domschweitzer" (the guards of the Cathedral). Below the Cathedral there are excavations of former buildings dating back to the 5th century. You can have a quick look at it if you use the entrance besides the Cathedral which leads to the tower ascent (Turmbesteigung). Impressive as well as, for some, challenging is the height of the two towers (157.38 m). At the very top of the towers you will notice ladders, installed for technicians who have to climb up there to check the lightning rod. Ambitious visitors can also climb the over 500 steps up the tower to enjoy a fantastic and well-earned view over the city of Cologne.

E = Epiphany (three magi), Eau de Cologne

Epiphany (Three Wise Men)

The Three Wise Men (the Magi) not only visited Jesus after his birth but also led innumerable visitors and pilgrims throughout the centuries to Cologne. When the Magi's remains were brought to Cologne in the 12th century the citizens of Cologne decided to build the Cathedral in their honour.

Eau de Cologne

The most famous Eau de Cologne is called 4711 and has existed for more than 200 years. When Napoleon's troops occupied Cologne at the end of 17th century, they introduced house numbers in Cologne. Number 4711 was the house where the perfume was produced. 4711, with its traditional bottle shape and colour, is a typical gift from Cologne. The smell of the perfume itself may be found to be somewhat old-fashioned – so be careful to whom you give this gift. But the actual eau de cologne was fabricated by Johann Maria Farina around 1709 and has – unlike the 4711 perfume – a delightful smell.

Due to the publicity of 4711 the real eau de cologne and its classiness fell into oblivion. The whole fascinating history of the company Farina is presented in the Fragrance Museum, opposite to the historic Town Hall. Please check <http://www.farina.eu/> for further information.



Foto: Koellnourismus GmbH - M. Auer & W. H. G. & Co. KG.

F = Food

Restaurants

You can find a lot of nice restaurants with every possible type of food all over Cologne. The nicest atmosphere combined with high-quality food can be found in restaurants in the Belgian quarter or the Friesenviertel. In general the prices indicated on the menus always include tax and service. But waiters are happy to receive a tip (5-10%) which you include when you pay. For more information about restaurants and pubs have a look at the magazine of "Kölner GASTRO" which you can buy in the various kiosks (small shops which sell magazines, beverages, sweets, cigarettes and sometimes food, mostly open until midnight) at almost every corner.

Food to go

If you are in a hurry and/or you like typical German sausages, don't miss the "Imbissbude" (a kind of a take-away where all kind of sausages, such as Currywurst, Rostbratwurst or Thüringer Bratwurst are offered). The best Imbissbude is located in the Breite Strasse where you often have to queue up for a Bratwurst. Besides that Cologne has various McDonalds, Burger Kings, some KFC's and Subways – for those who like the American fast food. If you prefer some more healthy food, just take a look at salad bars – like "supasalat" in Gertrudenstrasse and Friesenwall – or in some supermarkets like REWE.

Traditional Cafés

Cologne hosts a lot of modern coffee houses, such as Starbucks, but if you want to try out a traditional café along with fantastic bakery products and pastries, visit one of the few traditional cafés left in Cologne. One is close to the Rudolfplatz: Café Wahlen, Habsburger Ring; another is Café Jansen (in the Old Town) or the famous Café Reichelt, next to the Tourist Information Center which boasts a splendid view of the Cathedral.

G = Geography

Geography: Cologne, located in the centre of Europe, is connected to all major German cities and to many European capitals by train or plane. The Cologne/Bonn airport serves as hub for low-fare airlines like Germanwings and offers a direct link to nearly all big cities in Europe.

Airport: www.airport-cgn.de; Germanwings: www.germanwings.de; Trains: www.bahn.de

H = Harbor – “Rheinauhafen”

Once built as a port of transshipment in 1898, the harbor area has now developed into a popular part of southern Cologne, combining both the old character and modern technology. Besides the three crane house, which house offices and luxurious apartments, the spirit of the port atmosphere is completed by several futuristic buildings, renovated old houses, a small marina and nice locations for enjoying the panorama while having a coffee. Just around the corner you will find the chocolate museum and the German sports & Olympic museum.



Fotos: KölnTourismus GmbH: A. Möltgen (1); Neptunbad Premium Sports & Spa (2)

I = Information

The Tourist Information Office is situated opposite the main entrance of the Cathedral. There you can not only buy souvenirs but can also book guided tours or get further information about Cologne, its surrounding areas, highlights and events. Or check the Tourist Information's online offer: <http://www.cologne-tourism.com/>

J = Jacuzzi/Spa

Cologne has a natural source of thermal medicinal water, around which the beautiful spa 'Claudius Therme' is built. The spa is on the right bank of the Rhine, opposite the Cologne zoological garden. For your interest all important information is published on: <http://www.claudius-therme.de>. Another SPA-Therme – in japanese and historical style – is Neptunbad, located near the city centre in Ehrenfeld. Come in for a massage, steam bath and sports.

K = Kölsch

Kölsch is not only the name of the traditional beer brewed in Cologne but also of the dialect spoken in Cologne. In the various typical Cologne pubs you will find lots of species of KÖLSCH. Just to name the most popular ones: Gaffel-Kölsch, Früh-Kölsch, Reissdorf-Kölsch, Sion-Kölsch. Each of those run breweries all over Cologne, where you can – besides enjoying a refreshing beer – eat typical Cologne food.

L = Local Transport

Cologne has an extensive public transport network of underground and tram lines and busses, called KVB. Tickets can be bought in the vehicles from ticket machines. Many central stops also have ticket machines on the platforms. The ticket for travel within Cologne is called "City Ticket 1b", single ride = 2.40 €. For short rides with the KVB a short-distance-ticket for 1.60 € is sufficient, which is valid for a 20 minute period for up to four stops. Please note that the ticket machines in the underground trains and trams usually only accept coins.

The University of Cologne's student ID is valid as a ticket for all local transportation in the State of North Rhine Westphalia. Please note that several trains like high-speed trains cannot be used for free. With your student ID you are allowed to take one person with you for free – on working days from 7 p.m. and on Sundays and public holidays for the whole day.



Fotos: A. Thünker DPGh (1); Farina (2); T. Riehle (3)

M = Museums

Cologne, being the 4th largest German city, is home to many museums. The most important ones are the Museum Ludwig for Modern Art (close to the Cathedral) with the 3rd largest Picasso collection worldwide, the Wallraf-Richartz Museum – Foundation Corboud for art between 13th and 20th century (close to Cologne town hall), the Museum of Applied Arts (in a beautiful building from the 1950s/1960s), the Museum of East Asian Art (close to the University) and the Romano-Germanic Museum (close to the Cathedral). More information about all museums and current exhibitions can be found online: <http://www.museenkoeln.de>.

In addition to the major museums Cologne has numerous art galleries and is the home of the University of Arts and Design and the University of Music.

N = Nature: Green Cologne, Nightlife

Nature: Green Cologne

Cologne has a large number of green areas – numerous lakes and parks invite everybody to relax and enjoy nature. Two of the most popular lakes are the “Aachener Weiher”, which is located near the WiSo-Faculty and the “Decksteiner Weiher”, located within a huge park area 10 minutes away from the city center (if you take tram no. 7 in direction to Frechen). Walking around “Decksteiner Weiher” you will find a boat rental and miniature golf. Additionally, the Cologne “Stadtwald” (urban forest) is a great place for recreation, long walks or jogging. Or you can take the “Cologne Rhine Cable Car” which crosses the river north of the city centre and connects the Flora (the Cologne Botanic Gardens) and the Zoo with the spa ‘Claudius Therme’. There you will find the Rhine park, which was awarded “Germany’s most beautiful park” in 2007.

Nightlife

Not only in the city centre but in almost all districts there are numerous locations suitable for an all-night party. The most famous areas with lots of pubs and some clubs are the “Belgian quarter”, the “Friesenviertel” and the “Severinsviertel”. The street “Zülpicher Strasse” has a diverse offer of student bars and pubs. On the “Ring”, the inner street circle around the city centre, there are lots of low-budget clubs. Check www.koelntourismus.de for a list of events and concerts taking place in Cologne’s clubs. It is common to go out dancing at around midnight or even later, as most of the clubs open late and don’t close before 4 or 5 in the morning. The entrance fee for clubs can vary from approx 5 to 15 €. After your first experience of Cologne nightlife, you will see that all imaginable music genres are represented.

O = Old Town

The Old Town used to be the quarter of craftsmen and traders, but nowadays it is the focal point for tourists, especially in the evening and at night with its many pubs and restaurants. Cologne people frequently visit the Old Town as well; particularly after concerts, theatres and opera visits they traditionally go for a Kölsch beer in one of the breweries in the Old Town.



Fotos: Privatbrauerei Gaffel (1); www.koelntourismus.de (2); Universität zu Köln: H. Mildner (3)

P = Philharmonic, Public Holidays

Philharmonic

The Cologne Philharmonic is a beautiful concert hall in the vicinity of the Cathedral. It attracts a lot of famous musicians, not only from the classical genre, but also from jazz and modern music.

Public Holidays

Most of the public holidays are the same in all of Germany, but there are a few which vary by state, so make sure to check the public holidays for the state Cologne is located in: "North-Rhine Westphalia" (Nordrhein-Westfalen). You can find the University of Cologne's semester dates online: <http://www.portal.uni-koeln.de/termine.html>.

Q = Quo Vadis – Romans in Cologne

In the first century the Romans discovered a little settlement on the river Rhine and called it Colonia; today's Cologne. The Romans left several beautiful traces; the most important one is the Dionysus mosaic, a mosaic floor which was part of a large Roman palace. The elaborate and colourful mosaic is made from over a million pieces of limestone, ceramic and glass and covers over 70 square meters. It remained at its original location as the Roman-Germanic museum was built around and above the mosaic. It is right next to the Cologne Cathedral on the Roncalliplatz, from where you can see the mosaic from outside through large windows.

After having been stepped on by hundreds and thousands of Romans, nowadays no one is allowed to walk on it. One exception was made when the G8 had their meeting in Cologne. Bill Clinton, Jacques Chirac, Tony Blair and the other Heads of State had their dinner there - and took off their shoes before stepping onto the Dionysus mosaic.



Fotos: Kölntourismus GmbH: U. Haake



R = Romanesque Churches, the Rhine

Romanesque Churches

The Gothic cathedral is the most famous and important church in Cologne, but the 12 Romanesque churches which are even older than the Cathedral are very beautiful and worth visiting; in particular the St. Gereon, St. Aposteln, Groß St. Martin und St. Maria im Kapitol churches (all located in the city centre).



Fotos: KölnTourismus GmbH (1), Erix (2)



Rhine

The river Rhine is very attractive for both Cologne locals and tourists. In summer the promenades along the river are full of pedestrians, people on bicycles and inline skates, skaters, etc. The meadows along the Rhine are good places to have a picnic and to fly a kite. Another possibility to enjoy the river is to take a boat cruise. Check <http://www.k-d.com/> for further details.

S = Shopping, Supermarkets, Sports

Shopping

There are several major shopping streets in the city centre. Best known is the Schildergasse with the most modern department store building in Cologne: The Tribute to the Technical Age: Renzo Piano's 'Weltstadthaus' in the shape of a whale. The Schildergasse leads directly to the Hohe Strasse, a shopping street as well. For more expensive clothes Mittelstrasse is the best address. More trendy things are sold on Ehrenstrasse/ Breite Strasse. A lot of nice little shops can be found between Mittelstrasse, Friesenwall and Ehrenstrasse.

Indoor shopping malls can be found at the Neumarkt-Passage or the Neumarkt-Galerie and also in the outskirts of Cologne "The Köln Arcaden" in Köln Kalk and the "EKZ Weiden" in Köln Weiden. The former has extended opening hours: on weekends until 10 p.m. The world's largest music collection, including Jazz and Classics can be found at the shop Saturn at Hansaring/ Maybachstrasse 115.

Supermarkets

All districts in Cologne have various supermarkets like REWE, Netto, ALDI, LIDL etc. Be aware that on Sundays shops are closed. Most REWE supermarkets in the city centre are open until midnight. If you need to buy something after-hours, look out for a "kiosk" which you can find on almost every corner (small shops which sell magazines, beverages, sweets, cigarettes and sometimes food - mostly open until midnight), or go to a gas station.

Sports

The local soccer club, "1. FC Köln", plays in Germany's premiere league, the Bundesliga and attracts approximately 40,000 fans to their home matches in the "Rheinenergiestadion". Don't be surprised when you come across soccer fans every second weekend wearing red-white-black scarves and shirts with the club's mascot, the goat. Cologne also has a famous ice hockey team, the "Kölner Haie", whose home matches are held at the "Lanxessarena".

If you prefer to do sports yourself then check the large sports offer for university students:

<http://campussport-koeln.de>, <http://www.hochschulsport-koeln.de/>, a lot of which is offered free of charge to students as part of the social contribution fee.

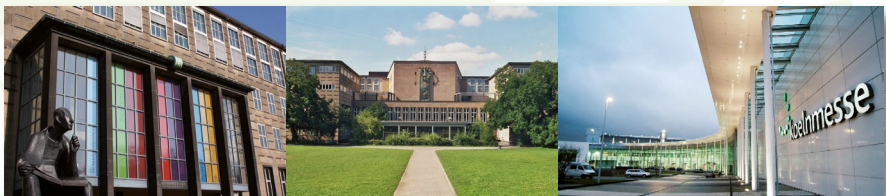
T = Trade Fair

The Cologne Trade Fair (Koelnmesse) is the 4th largest trade fair venue in the world and counts more than 2.2 million visitors each year. The Trade Fair is directly connected to the high-speed train line Cologne – Frankfurt and is located in the city center, on the right bank of the Rhine, opposite the Cathedral. There are strong links between the Cologne Trade Fair and the University of Cologne. On the occasion of Koelnmesse's 75th anniversary in the summer of 1999, the company joined the University of Cologne to found the Institute of Trade Fair Management. As the interface between theory and practice in the exhibition industry, the Institute pursues basic and applied research and promotes the incorporation of scientific findings into real world business practices.

U = University

As with the Cathedral, the citizens of Cologne were the founders of the University – and again the three Magi are depicted in the University seal. In front of the University's Main Building you will find a statue of the iconic German philosopher and theologian (St.) Albertus Magnus, who in the 13th century was the first to implement higher education in Cologne. The University of Cologne, founded 100 years later – in 1388 – follows this age-old tradition of education by offering numerous degrees through its six faculties. One of these is the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences (the 'WiSo-Faculty').

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Fotos: Universität zu Köln: N. Jaehrling (1,2); Koelnmesse (3)

V = Venues

When walking through the city of Cologne, you will find a lot of historical buildings from different periods, for example...

The Hahnentorburg (Rudolfplatz), the tower, built in the 13th century, is one of the oldest still existing gates to the city of Cologne. Visitors staying at the hotel Barceló can ask for access of the roof top of the hotel. From there you have a splendid view of the Hahnentorburg and over the city of Cologne.

Archaeological site: in the old town an archaeological site is being prepared to become a future tourist attraction. Excavations can be seen from old Roman houses and also parts of the old Synagogue and the Mikwe, the ancient bathhouse of Cologne's medieval Jewish community. During the excavations the oldest synagogue building in northern Europe was found. Today the Jewish community has its synagogue in the vicinity of the University (Roonstrasse).

Next to the archaeological site is **Cologne's historic town hall, the Altes Rathaus**, which is famous for its loggia and the 16th century Renaissance façade. The town hall tower, which was erected by the Cologne merchants in the 15th century, was the first secular "high-rise building" in Cologne with five floors and a total height of 61 metres.

The Antoniterkirche is a modern and small church, close to the Weltstadthaus. The Antoniterkirche hosts the famous sculpture of the 'Memorial Angel', dedicated to the victims of the World Wars.



Fotos: PnSm00b



W = Watch-out for the strong current, Beware of the red lanes

Watch out for the strong current! Some kilometres along the river Rhine in the direction of "Rodenkirchen" you will find several small bays – full of white sand – for having a swim during summer. But beware of the strong current!

Beware of the red lanes: Parallel to many city center pavements you will notice red lanes which are designated for bicycle use only. Cologne cyclists are very possessive of their bike lanes and don't take kindly to pedestrians blocking their way. Watch out for bikes when crossing the street! Remember that jay-walking (crossing the street when the light for pedestrians is still red) can result in an on-the-spot 10 € fine.

X = X-tras, X-mas markets

X-tras

One of the most **favourite walks** is to cross the river Rhine using the railway bridge (starting from Cologne Cathedral) which leads to the newest tower in Cologne (the Cologne Triangle). There you can visit the observation desk at an altitude of 130 metres with superb views over the town (open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.). On the bridge you will notice a lot of padlocks locked to the railings by young people as a sign for their love, who then throw the key into the Rhine.

Cologne people love to have **barbecues** in the park in summer. In many parks (not all) you are allowed to have barbecue if you respect certain rules regarding fire protection. People bring their own bbqs, sausages, meat and salads and simply sit on the grass.

X-Mas markets

Every year seven Christmas markets in Cologne open their gates on the last Monday before Advent. Millions of visitors from around the world delight at the goods on sale at the quaintly designed huts (or "Buden"). Try the traditional "Glühwein" (hot spiced wine). The most special market is the Medieval Christmas market next to Cologne's Chocolate Museum which invites visitors to the exciting world of the Middle Ages.

Y = Ford Y

Y was the original name of the car which was later named the "Ford Köln". Since the beginning of the 1930s Ford has been one of the most important employers in Cologne.

Z = Zülpicher Strasse, Zoo

Zülpicher Strasse

The Zülpicher Strasse is located close to the university and is the favourite street for students going out at night. Besides clubs, bars and pubs you can also find some lower-priced restaurants, affordable take-aways, and cafés. It is, of course, famous among students as one of the best places to explore Cologne nightlife after a full day of work and study.

Zoo

Built in 1860 and rebuilt after 2nd World War in 1947 the Cologne zoo is one of the oldest – and at the same time modern – zoos in Germany. It has more than 10,000 animals and a strong commitment to adequate animal housing. www.koelnerzoo.de



Foto: R. Schlosser

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