

When in Cologne, get out and about

■ Cologne is one of Germany's most diverse, historic and rowdy cities—famous in equal measure for its architecture, night life, art and gastronomy. Read on for selected tips on finding your feet, finding something to eat, and finding some of the many surprises that the city has to offer.

Cologne is an old city, having been founded by the Romans nearly 2,000 years ago. Since then, it has given us many different things, including the world's tallest cathedral, a type of perfume marketed for men, and a long list of influential and notable residents. Nowadays, the largest city on the Rhine has come into its own as a stronghold of the German carnival tradition and a bastion of contemporary European culture. You

painter. You may prefer to simply take a selfie in front of the cathedral's superlative facade and then head off. Rest assured—Cologne has much more to offer!

Just south of the cathedral is the Heintzelmännchen fountain (a nod to the city's love of folklore) and the 900-year-old city hall. A short ride west will bring you to the expansive, park-like Melaten cemetery, home to the remains of many notable residents—including Johann Maria Farina, who invented eau de cologne, and Alfred Nourney, Cologne's own Titanic survivor.

To get to know the city from a different perspective, take a city tour, the themes of which are so diverse that there is literally some-

Visitors to IDS should consider taking a break every once in a while, and what better way to do so than by enjoying a piece of cake and a cup of hot coffee? The multicultural Ehrenfeld district (north-west of the inner city) offers a relaxed and interesting atmosphere, and a number of good cafes. Visit the cosy and slightly hidden Kaffeebud Ehrenfeld to find out what a "third wave" coffee is, or sample a creamy latte and authentic New York-style cheesecake at Cafe-cafe Ehrenfeld (cafecafe.de), where the breakfast menu is also to be recommended.

If you are longing for a holiday feel and find yourself in the southern part of the inner city, Sabor 'ermoso has surfboards hanging on the walls, little Spanish delicacies and an excellent cappuccino—perfect to unwind after a busy day of dental business.

Cologne by night

As the sun goes down, Cologne reawakens in a different light, and so it is easy to enjoy the city once the trade fair halls close. Keep an eye out for the Büdchen (kiosks), which are found on many street corners. Locals will stop by one of them for drink before heading to their favourite Kölsch-serving bar, so why not join them? The trendy bar Zum scheuen Reh is located next to the Köln West train station and is perfect for starting the evening: get to know some Cologne locals while enjoying a couple of long drinks—non-alcoholic drinks are also plentiful—and the live music on offer in the bar's outdoor area (www.zum-scheuen-reh.de).

Afterwards, you can hit Bumann & SOHN, which is close to the Ehrenfeld train station. It is here that beer garden atmosphere meets urban industrial vibes, and this is where the dynamic, alternative flair of this district can be felt best (www.bumann-undsohn.de). Coming early pays off!

The next destination is STAPEL BAR, which is located within walking distance from Bumann & SOHN at the heart of the Helios district. At STAPEL BAR, you can buy freshly brewed Gaffel Kölsch from the barrel and experience a colourful music programme, including DJs, live acts and local artists (www.stapel.bar). Are you intrigued by the original steel dartboard? Then this is also the place for a casual round of darts. If you are in the mood for dancing, you can spend the rest of the night in the northern part of Cologne, between Ehrenfeld and Nippes at the Odonien nightclub, to be exact. Apart from concerts, plays, flea markets and open-air film showings, you can dance to predominantly electronic club music in the midst of obscure metal sculptures and impressive fire-works.

Arts and culture

Cologne has a great deal to offer as far as arts and culture are concerned. Collections of famous canonical artworks can be found in the celebrated Museum Ludwig—this might be your thing. However, the museum's current temporary exhibition, "In Situ: Photo Stories on Migration", offers a window into local history. The personal photographs on show document the period between 1955 and 1989 (when the social make-up of Cologne was forever altered by an influx of migrant workers) and may change the way that you see and understand the city today (museum-ludwig.de).

Speaking of understanding Cologne, how has this carnival-obsessed city negotiated social distancing and the cancellation and scaling down of two successive carnival seasons? The exhibition "Alaaf auf Abstand. Bilder einer anderen Session" is taking place online and in public spaces across the city, and is therefore also a must for virtual visitors to IDS. Organised by Kölnisches Stadtmuseum, it features photographs and digital media that investigate the hidden dynamics of a pandemic carnival season. A virtual tour of the show, followed by a real-life scavenger hunt through the inner city, is highly recommended (alaaf-auf-abstand.de).

Cologne is also home to the Käthe Kollwitz Museum Köln, which specialises in exhibiting work by and relating to the pioneering female artist (1867–1945), who is nowadays associated with the expressionist movement. A new exhibition—"Der Ausdruck der Augen vergrübelt und fern"—presents a variety of Kollwitz's portraits of friends, family members and political figures across a range of media (kollwitz.de).

There are many, many more museums of note—the Museum für Angewandte Kunst Köln, the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, the Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst Köln, just to name a few. Film buffs should pay a visit to the Filmforum NRW, and one of many other highlights of the city for cineastes is the ODEON, a cosy,

retro-style movie theatre that shows art-house productions.

Food and drinks

Whether you are interested in music, art or history, Cologne and its attractions are best explored on a full stomach. For quite some time now, an unofficial institution of the city has been the falafel. Usually, it is freshly made with coriander or parsley (either Lebanese or Syrian style) and fried to perfection. In Cologne, these spicy chickpea balls taste like nowhere else in Germany and are preferably eaten with a giant spoonful of tahini. Try it yourself: take a stroll down Venloer Street in Ehrenfeld and see how long you can resist the smell of the various oriental bistros and cafes. Arguably, the best falafel can be found at the traditional Habibi (habibi-koeln.de), in doughnut shape at Vegan Food Revolution (vegan-food-revolution.de) or at Beirut restaurant, while enjoying a beautiful view over the Rhine (beirut-restaurant.de).

If your tastes are more carnivorous, however, then you should pay Karl Hermann's a visit. Also located on Venloer Street, here you will find high-quality burgers with freshly minced and succulently grilled meat patties—free from antibiotics—in a fluffy brioche bun (karlhermanns.de). If you still have some room left afterwards, you can hit Frittenwerk Köln for some delicious homemade fries (frittenwerk.com/koeln). Enjoy fries made from regular or sweet potatoes with chive-and-cheese topping. Whatever you choose, make sure to also try the lemon aioli and the homemade guacamole. Naturally, humans are not like goats, and these large amounts of salt need to be counteracted somehow, which is why a visit to one of the Kölsch-serving traditional restaurants is a necessity. Enjoy a chilled Kölsch beer like a true local at Bierhaus en d'r Salzgass (bierhaus-salzgass.de) or Weinhaus Vogel (weinhaus-vogel.de), where not only simple, authentic Cologne food is served, but also the spirit of the city can be experienced. Enjoy! ◀



▲ Cologne Crane Houses near the Rhine.



▲ The museum Ludwig for modern art in front of the Cologne Cathedral.

will not regret juggling your time at IDS to allow for an excursion into the heart of the city. A taste of what Cologne has to offer may leave you with a thirst for more.

Cologne by day

Most visitors will head to the cathedral. It is Germany's most visited landmark, after all, and an important site of pilgrimage in Europe. Keep an eye out for the Shrine of the Three Kings and the bold stained-glass windows in the south transept—they consist of 11,500 identically sized pieces of coloured glass and were installed in 2007 by Gerhard Richter, arguably Germany's most celebrated living

thing for everyone. A Segway tour will take you through, and beyond, the inner city, whereas a guided brewery tour will help you to discover the hidden, hoppy lanes of the historic city centre. You can explore the social fabric of Cologne by taking a "Love stories of Cologne" tour, or an LGBTQ tour. What role has mustard played in the history of Cologne? What is carnival really all about? And are people in Cologne actually obsessed with chocolate? Visiting one of the city's many specialty museums may answer these questions, while posing many others—visit tripadvisor.com for more information on these activities.



▲ Chickpea-falafel-balls with white sauce and pita-bread.