

# The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

## Our top 15 Insider Tips



### INSIDER TIP Retro tables

People of all ages enjoy the 1950s flair of the *Weißer Holunder*. On Sundays from 6pm: sing along to German oldies and sea shanties → p. 76

### INSIDER TIP Unlimited fun

*Decke Trumm* (kettle drums) and *Quetschebüggel* (accordions): the square *An der Eiche* is the best place to celebrate *Weiberfastnacht* or Fat Thursday → p. 47

### INSIDER TIP Authentic Kölsch

Once the meeting place for First World War veterans, the *Früh em Veedel* beer garden and pub is still known as the "church of the invalids" in the colloquial language. Here they speak and drink *Kölsch* → p. 56

### INSIDER TIP Classics from the kitchen

If you are a fan of hearty food and a cosy historic flair, the *Haxenhaus* with its wood panelling and timbered ceilings is just the right thing → p. 56

### INSIDER TIP Photo art

Find classics of American photographic art in the Südstadt at the *Galerie Thomas Zander* → p. 64

### INSIDER TIP Beautiful graves

For more than two hundred years Cologne's prominent citizens have been buried in the *Melaten Cemetery* – politicians, artists, scientists, entrepreneurs and union leaders. Many of its 19th century tombs and grave stones are under heritage protection → p. 51

### INSIDER TIP Multicultural

*Weidengasse*  
Junk shops selling original puppet figures from the Hännischen Theater, Bosnian wedding dresses, Turkish butchers, travel agencies and mobile shops lend *Weidengasse* a multicultural flair. Special tip: there are more Madonna sculptures on the facades here than on any other street in Cologne → p. 47

### INSIDER TIP Welcome to the Rheinauhafen

Their fantastic panoramic views make the three *Kranhäuser* (or crane houses) Cologne's most expensive addresses. The former harbour mile entices with museums, galleries, beer gardens, concerts ... (photo left) → p. 48

### INSIDER TIP Culinary adventures for the brave

In the *Pusztá-Hütte* you will be served the hottest goulash in Cologne. And if the spicy sauce is not enough: second helpings are free → p. 57

### INSIDER TIP Traditional confectionary

*Printen Schmitz* is a famed café and confectionary that has been going strong for more than 160 years → p. 66

### INSIDER TIP Living museum

Stay in the *Hotel Viktoria*, a Victorian villa with marble, oriel windows, stucco, art and classic splendour → p. 83

### INSIDER TIP Design quarter

Once an industrial area, the district of Ehrenfeld is now home to the creative-minded – be it in the DQE Halls or in the imaginatively stocked shops of Körnerstraße (photo below) → p. 50

### INSIDER TIP Liquorice cathedral

The *Bärenreck-Apotheke* will make a sweet tooth's heart beat faster and liquorice lovers will be in heaven → p. 65

### INSIDER TIP Odonien

Crane poles, graffiti, iron sculptures and scrap metal: Sculptor Odo Rumpf's open air workshop makes a great backdrop for film events, performances, parties and the small beer garden → p. 72

### INSIDER TIP Nomadic tents and bird masks

The *Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum* houses an interesting ethnology collection and makes some fascinating intercultural comparisons → p. 40



# BEST OF...

## GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

FOR FREE

### ● *Fine classical music at lunchtime*

The half-hour *PhilharmonieLunch* performances of classical music take place at lunchtime. The Gürzenich Orchester and the WDR-Sinfonieorchester rehearse on alternate Thursdays → p. 74

### ● *Where it is permanently spring*

The greenhouses with tropical plants and succulents in the *Botanischer Garten* (Botanical Gardens) are open 365 days of the year. Depending on the season, special exhibitions are held with flowering dahlias, camellias or orchids (photo) → p. 51

### ● *When stones tell the earth's history*

A total of 50,000 fossils and minerals and a thrilling trip through time from the Big Bang to the present: the *Geo-Museum* at the University of Cologne → p. 51

### ● *Unforgettable sounds in the cathedral*

The choir and organ concerts at the *Dreikönigenschrein* in the cathedral during the summer make for a once-in-a-lifetime experience → p. 32

### ● *Summer parties*

A "singing beer garden", theatre acts from all over the world, concerts, artists and puppet shows: the open air *Sommer Köln* takes place in parks and squares and admission is free → p. 100

### ● *Open air gallery*

On the lawns in front of the bridge near the Zoo are sculptures by renowned contemporary artists. From the terrace of the cafeteria, you will have a lovely view of the *Skulpturenpark* → p. 53

### ● *Breathe deeply in the Stadtwald*

The *Wildgehege Stadtwald* is an urban park – the perfect place to get away from the city's hustle and bustle – with deer, peacocks, a pond and a playground on the other side of Kitschburger Straße → p. 99



●●●● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

# ONLY IN COLOGNE

Unique experiences

### ● *Underground time machine*

Go underground in Cologne and take a journey into the city's past in the Rathaus (town hall) quarter, follow the trail of its Roman and medieval citizens. The excavations are set to be incorporated into an *Archeological zone* → p. 28

### ● *A funny bird*

Order *ne Halve Hahn* (half a chicken) in a *Brauhaus* but don't be surprised when you are served a rye roll and cheese. This authentic dish with the confusing name is served at the *Früh am Dom* and other places → p. 56

### ● *Puppet plays*

Even if you don't understand a word: the *Puppenspiele der Stadt Köln* – the official name of the Hännischen Theatre – presents satirical plays in *Kölsch*, the local dialect (photo) → p. 77



### ● *Three days of fun*

"Three days of fun, no regrets, that is carnival" is the local saying about the *Straßenkarneval* – a street carnival and masquerade festival that sees virtually all citizens of Cologne in fancy dress → p. 100

### ● *Meet the waiters*

The *Köbes* are an institution in Rhine gastronomy and belong to the folklore of Cologne's brewery pubs. To see just how witty and gruff (and rude!) they can be visit the *Brauhaus Paffgen* → p. 56

### ● *Speaking and drinking Kölsch*

*Kölsch* is the only language that one can drink. This hoppy, light beer is great for a quick drink and is served in small 0.2 L (7 fl oz.) glasses. See how fluent you can be at the *Schreckenskammer* with its own Kölsch → p. 57

### ● *Have a laugh in the Volkstheater*

The burlesque farces presented at the *Volkstheater Millowitsch* have kept the locals entertained for over 160 years and are as popular as ever → p. 77

ONLY IN



# DISCOVERY TOURS

1

## COLOGNE AT A GLANCE



**START:** ① Café Reichard  
**END:** ⑱ Senftöpfchen

Distance:

→ 6.5 km/4 miles

**1 day**  
Walking time  
(without stops)  
2 hours



**COSTS:** KVB short distance ticket 1.90 euros, panoramic Rhine cruise (1 hour) approx. 10 euros



**Food:** ① Café Reichard: city breakfast 6.90 euros, ⑩ Brauerei zur Malzmühle: lunch approx. 18 euros (incl. two Kölsch beers), ⑱ Riphahn: dinner 13–18 euros (drinks extra)



**Sightseeing:** ② Dom tower: visit to the top 3 euros, ⑬ Wallraf-Richartz-Museum & Fondation Corboud: admission 8–12 euros and ⑭ Kölnerischer Kunstverein: admission 4 euros



⑱ Senftöpfchen: tickets 22–24 euros



**IMPORTANT TIPS:** ⑱ Senftöpfchen: buy tickets in advance!

Cities have many faces. If you want to get behind the scenes to explore their unique charm and head off the beaten track or find your way to green oases, handpicked restaurants or the best local activities, then these tailored Discovery Tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

Explore the best that Cologne has to offer – the Rhine panorama, historically significant churches, world-renowned museums, architectural masterpieces, modern shopping centres and the convivial atmosphere of the local breweries.

**08:00am** Everything in the city seems to begin and end at its most famous landmark, the Dom → p. 29. For an amazing view of the cathedral with your morning coffee head to ① Café Reichard → p. 57. Eat a good breakfast before you climb up to the top of the ② Dom tower. The view over the rooftops of Cologne is fantastic!

① Café Reichard



② Dom tower

