

Smart luxury in Cologne

Cologne might not stand out for smart luxury at a first glance, but the city certainly has plenty to offer for visitors looking for something extra special. Alongside a number of selected hotels and premium cuisine, Cologne also boasts a flight of exclusive shopping opportunities, cultural activities and wellness facilities. In all of these areas, the city displays its trademark charm, combining a friendly and outgoing manner with professional and exemplary service.

High-class comfort: Hotels and transport

Located in the heart of Europe, Cologne is quick and easy to reach. First-class rail passengers arriving at **Cologne central station** by ICE or Thalys alight in the centre of the city, right at the very foot of the Cathedral. Alternatively, **Cologne/Bonn airport**, which provides landing facilities for private jets and an exclusive VIP service for charter flights, is only a 15-minute ride from the city. The **airports in Frankfurt** and **Düsseldorf** are also less than an hour away. The city's approximately 280 hotels with around 33,800 beds include **eleven establishments of the luxury category** and an additional 61 houses provide first-class comfort in an extravagant ambience, some of them with a special boutique and design character which combines Cologne's hospitality with perfect first-rate service.

Exclusive: Shopping with city flair

Beyond Neumarkt, in the shadow of the beautiful Romanesque church of St. Aposteln, lies the area of Cologne known as **Friesenviertel**. Here, on Mittelstraße and adjoining Pfeilstraße, Apostelstraße and Benesisstraße, are more than 150 shops selling high-class fashion, shoes, luxurious accessories and jewellery. A top shopping attraction on Mittelstraße is "**Apropros – The Concept Store**". Entered via a 25 metre long pink tunnel, this establishment is a paradise for lovers of exclusive international brands. The Friesenviertel is also home to a number of excellent galleries and antique and fine art shops. Similarly, the neighbouring **Belgian Quarter** features designer shops and boutiques with individual fashion creations as well as high-quality labels and accessories.

Recommended: Starred restaurants

Alongside the good, hearty fare served up in Cologne's hallmark breweries, the city also boasts a host of restaurants offering exclusive and creative cuisine. A total of thirteen gourmet establishments have been awarded **Michelin stars** with *Le Moissonnier* and *Ox&Klee* topping the bill with two stars. The **Gault & Millau** restaurant guide lists 39 Cologne restaurants for their outstanding cuisine.

Lots to offer: From culture to wellness

Cologne is known as a centre for arts and culture worldwide. With its annual art fair **Art Cologne** the city is a showcase for some of the very best in modern and contemporary art with the latest trends in the international art scene. **Cologne's museums**, too, have major permanent collections and also hold important exhibitions several times a year. The city's **opera and theatre houses** stage important premieres and world premieres as well as classic works and host guest appearances

by international dance companies. The **Cologne Philharmonic Hall** offers an exceptional venue for concerts, which attracts world-famous orchestras and performers year round.

For visitors on the lookout for rest and relaxation, Cologne has two large sauna and spa centres: **Claudius Therme** and **Neptunbad**. In addition, the city offers a wide range of health clubs and hotels with exclusive spa and wellness facilities.