

Cologne urban lifestyle

The urban lifestyle is alive and well in Cologne. The metropolis on the Rhine is a hotbed of creativity with a lively urban scene that offers residents and visitors alike everything that makes a city special. This includes trends that leave visible traces in the urban landscape, but also a distinctive traditional feel in all city quarters, offering Cologne's citizens ample opportunities to identify with their home city. The cathedral city's broad range of activities and strong creative industry make it the ideal place to be for lovers of design, fashion, culture, music, festivals, food and more. Newcomers from many different industries have joined traditional stores and established recurrent events in contributing to Cologne's urban feel. A major startup and off scene completes the picture.

Fashion and design

Design has a long tradition in Cologne. The **imm Cologne**, **international interiors show**, is the leading trade fair for furniture and interior design which showcases international industry trends. The associated interior **design days cologne** (idd Cologne), a new trade fair format, also takes place every two years in October. At the **interior design week PASSAGEN**, Germany's largest design event, national and international designers and newcomers can be seen throughout the city every year. At **DesignPost** in the Deutz district, a 3,000 sqmt permanent exhibition of internationally recognised design collections, visitors can learn about the most recent industry trends year-round. The so-called "Möbelmeile" (furniture mile) on the ring road around Cologne's city centre is home to several showrooms of furniture manufacturers and interior designers. Supplementary, other quarters such as Ehrenfeld, the Belgian Quarter and more recently also Südstadt including Rheinauhafen have become new creative centres. While **Design Quarter Ehrenfeld** leans more towards the interior design field, the Belgian Quarter is home to a large number of small, original boutiques selling unique clothing and accessories. In addition, the city offers a number of flea markets all year long where urban chic enthusiasts can browse to their heart's content – such as **Bazar de Nuit**, **Mädelsflohmarkt** (Girls' Flea Market) and **Vintage Kilo Sale**.

Arts and culture

Cologne has an outstanding arts and culture scene. Besides the more traditional institutions such as museums, the philharmonic hall, the opera and the Schauspiel theatre – there is an exceptionally lively independent scene. The creative districts in particular are home to a number of extraordinary art galleries and studios. During the **Kunstroute Ehrenfeld** in May, artists open up their studios to visitors. The **Tag des guten Lebens** (Day of the Good Life) is an annual event during which one city district is closed off to traffic and its residents offer a wide range of activities free of charge to their neighbours and guests. A different neighbourhood is featured every year. **Contemporary art galleries** such as **Ruttkowski;68**, **ARTYFARTY** and **30works** show innovative urban and street art by established artists and newcomers. At the east side of the Rhine, the **Kulturbunker Mülheim** features a diverse programme of exhibitions, performances, concerts and much more. Street art enthusiasts who want to explore the city on their own can do so with the digital Urban Art Map. Yet

another highlight for modern and contemporary art enthusiasts are the parallel events during the ART COLOGNE in April like **discovery art fair**.

As a media city with a large number of TV broadcasting stations and production companies, Cologne also has plenty to offer for film enthusiasts. **Kölner Kino-Nächte**, a series of night-time film screenings in July, **Film Festival Cologne** in October and the **Kurzfilmfestival Köln** (KFFK, short film festival Cologne) in November are just three cinematic events of many. Several other film and literature events round off the city's multi-faceted cultural calendar.

Music and club scene

Cologne isn't a stranger to the music scene. The city is home to an exceptionally vibrant and young music scene that offers various platforms for more than thousand local musicians and bands to showcase their art. The annual **c/o pop festival** is a trend-setting event for pop music by well-known stars and acclaimed musicians. The line-up's of the **WEEK-END Fest** and the **Rausgegangen Geheimkonzerte** (secret concerts by Rausgegangen) include well-known artists and newcomers. Cologne has also been the home of Europe's largest reggae festival **Summerjam**, which draws around 30,000 visitors to Fühlinger See lake in early July, for more than 30 years. Besides an energetic nightlife scene with trendy **clubs and bars** offering daily live music shows and DJ sets, Cologne has a wide range of unusual venues such as Gebäude 9, Gloria and Kulturkirche. In recent years, numerous clubs in Cologne have been given the 'APPLAUS-Award' for 'Venue of the year' by Germany's Federal Government. The city's many locations and clubs – the result of a collaboration between various Cologne clubs and promoter Klubkomm – regularly feature an equally wide range of DJs. Cologne's lively music scene has also given rise to a large number of record stores, with music to suit literally all tastes.