

# What to see in and around Juri's home-town Cologne

We have compiled some suggestions in case you are in Cologne for the first time. Below, you can see some attractions and places that are dear to us. Have fun!

## Top 3 Must-See Tourist Attractions

1. *Cologne Cathedral (Kölner Dom)*: UNESCO landmark, stunning Gothic architecture, and panoramic city views. Tip: Visit early or during golden hour at the Cathedral. For a breathtaking sunset view, head to the Hyatt side of the Rhine.
2. *Old Town & Rhine Promenade*: Scenic walk with historic buildings, colorful houses, and great street performances. Tip: Walk across Hohenzollern Bridge and see the love locks. Ours is there as well – let us know if you found it!
3. *Museum Ludwig*: World-class modern art museum featuring Picasso, Warhol, and Lichtenstein.

## Top 3 Hidden Gems

1. *Flora und Botanischer Garten (Botanical Garden)*: A beautiful free-entry botanical garden with exotic plants and serene atmosphere. Tip: Ideal for a relaxing break. Combine it with a cable car-round trip to explore the Rheinpark on the other side of the river.
2. *Belgian Quarter (Belgisches Viertel) and Ehrenfeld*: Trendy, artsy district with boutique shops, graffiti art, and stylish cafés. Tip: Great for Instagram-worthy pictures and unique shopping.
3. *Kranhäuser & Rheinauhafen District*: Modern architecture with the iconic crane-shaped buildings along the Rhine. Tip: A great photo spot and a peaceful place to walk away from the crowds.

## Our Top 3 Spots in Cologne

1. *Lindenthaler Tierpark & Decksteiner Weiher*: A peaceful, free-entry animal park with chicken, deer, goats, etc. nearby the scenic Decksteiner Weiher lake – perfect for walks and relaxation. Tip: Bring some snacks and a blanket for a picnic after feeding the animals with food from the vending machines (feeding animals with your own food is not allowed).
2. *Globetrotter Köln*: A huge outdoor and adventure gear store, featuring a climbing wall, cold chamber, and water basin to test equipment. Tip: Even if you're not shopping, exploring the store is an experience on its own. You can spend hours there exploring stuff and coming up with new travel plans.

3. *Hardy Kugel*: A charming French restaurant in Cologne's beautiful Südstadt with nice outdoor seats, known for authentic country-style French cuisine, quality wines, and a relaxed atmosphere. Tip: Try the steak frites or the muscle menu.

### **Top 3 Chinese Restaurants**

1. *San Gu Hot Pot (三顾冒菜)*: One of the best "Malatang" places in Cologne, offering a variety of broths, fresh ingredients, and authentic and easy-going street-food dining experience. Perfect for a meal where everyone gets their own hot pot, choosing their own broth and ingredients. Tip: Create your own dip.
2. *Great Wall (长城饭店)*: Serves very authentic Chinese food. Tip: Great after a long day in Cologne's Old Town.
3. *Chin Burger*: They offer authentic beef noodle soup, as well as a creative blend of Chinese flavors in Western-style burgers. Perfect for a casual, trendy meal with a fun twist on Chinese cuisine. Tip: Try their spicy lamb dishes.

### **Top Local Restaurants**

- Recommendations: Try some local or brewery dishes, like "Himmel un Ääd" (black pudding with mashed potatoes & apples), "Rheinischer Sauerbraten" (Marinated, slow-braised beef with a sweet-sour flavor, traditionally served with raisin sauce, red cabbage, and potato dumplings), or "Schweinshaxe" (crispy pork knuckle) with some 0.2L glasses of Kölsch (Cologne local beer).
- Tip: Combine dinner with a brewery tour and try various Kölsch. Careful: The Köbes (waiters) sometimes play intentionally rude and will keep bringing Kölsch until you put a coaster on top of your glass – a fun local tradition!
- Some recommended breweries for a tour: "Brauerei zur Malzmühle", "Gilden im Zims", "Peters Brauhaus", "Brauhaus Früh am Dom", "Gaffel am Dom", and "Brauerei Pääffen".

### **Top 3 Dolce Vita Places (Bubble Tea, Coffee, and Gelato)**

1. *Coffee Gang Specialty Coffee*: Located nearby Zülpicher Platz, offers the best Espresso & Flat Whites in Cologne. Tip: Try a flat white and a cheesecake– thank me later.
2. *BEAUTE Concept Store*. Why: Asian styled fruit teas, milk teas, and matcha nearby Rudolfplatz.
3. *Café Schmitz*: Best gelato ice cream in Cologne by far – period. Tip: Try their sorbets, especially the smooth and not too sweet dark chocolate sorbet.

Cheers, Lili & Juri!