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Tour: **Cologne Christmas Markets**

Destination: Cologne, Germany

Specialisation: Christmas Market Shopping Tours

Itinerary: 3-days / 2-nights in destination

Christmas Market Tour - Cologne, Germany				
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
1	Travel to Cologne, Germany		VIE Welcome & Safety Meeting	Dinner
2	Tour / Shopping in Cologne	Lindt Factory	Rhine Boat Trip	Christmas Markets
3	Depart for Calais, ferry to Dover; return transfer back to school			



COLOGNE

Germany's 4th largest city and the cultural, historical and economical capital of the Rhineland in the west of the country, Cologne (Köln) lies on the Rhine 40 miles east of the Belgian and Dutch borders.

The city is dominated by the cathedral, rising 157 metres, the largest Gothic church in northern Europe and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996. Formerly an important ecclesiastical centre and a focus of art and learning, Cologne's heritage is still in evidence despite much of the Innenstadt (inner city) being destroyed in WW2. Today the modern city centre blends with the old town with Schildergaße and Hohe Straße offering plenty for shoppers.

Students have the opportunity to visit the Lindt chocolate factory on the banks of the Rhine and will get the chance to taste the different types of chocolate available. A great experience.

Specialists in Student Travel

As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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Day 1

Dinner

Travel to Cologne, arriving at in the early afternoon/evening. Upon arrival, your Visions Ambassador will conduct an in-depth welcome, safety and orientation meeting, followed by an excellent dinner in the hotel.



Sample Hotel - **Holiday Inn Express® Cologne City Centre**

A modern Cologne hotel near the Old Town, with free WiFi and continental breakfast buffet included. The hotel is 15 minutes' walk from the Old Town and less than five minutes' walk from **Poststraße and Severinstraße**.

Begin your day with the inclusive continental **Express Start Breakfast** buffet in the contemporary restaurant, which also serves pizza, salads and hot sandwiches in the evening.



Tonight, Visions groups will enjoy a wonderful dinner at the hotel to kick off the start of our tour.

Day 2

Breakfast included; lunch and dinner on own

Good morning Cologne. After a leisurely breakfast, we'll embark upon our tour of Cologne. Here you will find many wonderful shops, cafes and more.

Welcome to Cologne where the cathedral spires tower over Germany's oldest city and its innumerable cultural and historical treasures, world-famous museums and active art scene. Take a trip through 2000 years of history and visit cultural monuments from the Roman Empire to modern times.

Also, Cologne is an art and culture metropolis of international renown: 42 museums, such as the Museum Ludwig, which houses the biggest pop art collection outside the USA, the new cultural Quarter at Neumarkt and 120 galleries with the widest variety of collections from all eras bear witness

to Cologne's reputation as a centre for art and culture. Cologne also has an extremely animated theatre scene.

Imhoff-Schokoladenmuseum - This begins our tour of one of the most famous chocolate factories in the world. Situated on the river Rhine students will have the opportunity to tour the factory and more importantly, taste the chocolate!

The tour begins with the cultivation and harvest of cocoa and enables you to discover the long journey of the cocoa bean from the plantations in the tropics to the finished chocolate product. In our cultural history section "Brown gold – Sweet seduction", we show you the colourful history of cocoa, ranging from cult drink of the Maya and Aztecs in pre-Columbian America, the luxury drink of the baroque aristocracy through to the instantly available treat for all that it has become today.

In the glass-walled chocolate factory, we show you the industrial methods used today to produce chocolate bars, chocolate figures and truffles. In our chocolate workshop, you can watch our master chocolatiers practise their craft and you can even have your own unique chocolate bar made.

Rhine Boat Tour - Enjoy a 2 hour boat trip with KD Rhine tours to see the wonderful sights of Cologne. You will enjoy a 2 hour boat trip along the Rhine taking in many of the sights of Cologne, some on-board entertainment and Father Christmas may even make an appearance.

Cologne Christmas Market - Every year, the city centre of Cologne is touched by the magic of the festivities in the run-up to Christmas. When the Christmas markets in Cologne open their gates on the last Monday before Advent, millions of visitors from around the world delight at the goods on sale at the quaintly designed huts (or "Buden").

Christmas music, arts and crafts, toys, Christmas decorations and the scent of the Christmas bakeries create a wonderful atmosphere. It is not just children's eyes that light up when pewter pourers, wreath binders and glassblowers demonstrate their art. The aroma of hot chestnuts and gingerbread fill the air.

Dinner will be on your own this evening.

Day 3

Breakfast included; lunch and dinner on own

After breakfast we will load the coach and depart for Calais and then onto the ferry for our return journey to Dover and then on to school, taking all the memories with us and of course some chocolate.



ADDITIONAL OPTIONS / ADD-ON DAYS

Extra Day Add – on: £40 per student

Christmas Markets in Cologne

Minimum Booking Numbers:

30 students coach

What's Included:

Coach transportation
2-nights accommodation (or more,
dependent upon quote)
Meals as indicated on the itinerary
Full day excursion around Cologne
Full Tour Representative Service
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Lunches & dinners on Days 2 & 3
Additional Sightseeing / Entertainment Options
Personal expenditures

As always, our staff are always available to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact your Travel Advisor or our Offices at info@visionsineducation.co.uk / 01444 810399



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