

TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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SUBMISSIONS

TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsit.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editors reserve the right to determine if submitted material meets TechNews' policy and standards. For more information about our editorial standards, please email assteditor@technewsit.com.

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Köln: Culture, cathedrals, museums

By Neesha Narayanan

TECHNEWS Writer

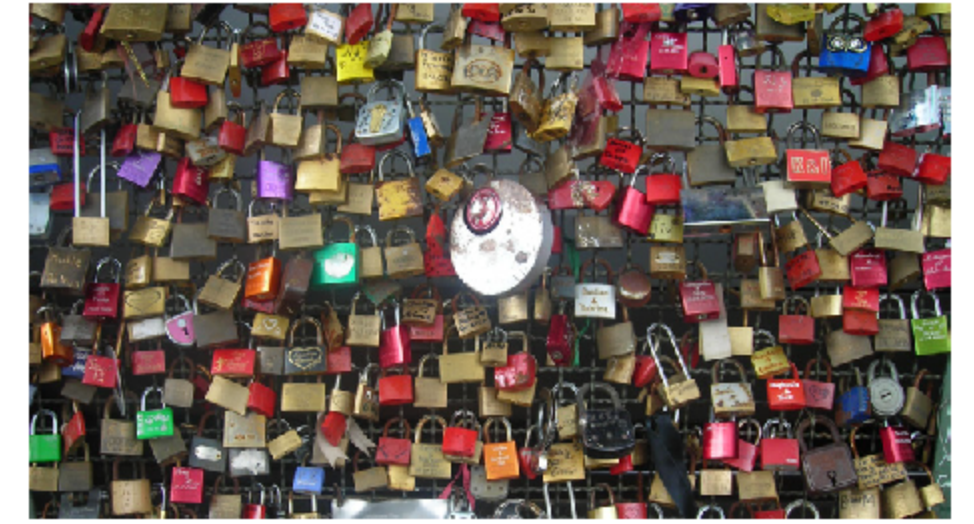
One of the prettiest places I have been to - Köln, Germany - is a place filled with churches, green space and modern art. Germany has this very peculiar system when it comes to travelling by train. There are schemes like the Deuschbahn (DB Bahn) Schönes wochenende tickets, with which an individual or a family of five can travel anywhere in Germany. I was travelling from Frankfurt with my family, the funny thing is I have always been to Köln for one day trips, actually I have been there so many times that it is equivalent to spending a week exploring everything in detail.

I had a very different feeling when I was standing outside Köln Hauptbahnhof (central station) as all I could see was this magnificent structure overpowering my sight, this huge structure is the Cologne cathedral. This Roman Catholic Church was completed in 1880. This structure has been so well crafted that it literally pulls you towards itself. The first thing we did when we reached Köln was to check this place out! A striking aspect of this cathedral are the tall stained glasses that seem to flawlessly merge with the interiors of the cathedral. The beautiful usage of color brings vibrancy to the place as a whole. At the time when we visited there was a big ritual taking place inside the cathedral, which was a nice opportunity to experience something new in terms of religious practices. Another great place to experience something similar is the Gross St. Martin church, which is a Romanesque cathedral re-opened in 1985 following extreme damage during World War II; it is said to be one of the most prominent religious structures in Köln.

Near the Köln Cathedral is the Hohenzollern Bridge that cut across River Rhine. The bridge is accessible to rail and pedestrians only. This bridge is ornamented with love padlocks on the fence that divides the side walk with the rail tracks. The last time I went to this bridge, I found a padlock dated in late 1950s, that day I decided that one day I will go to Köln with my partner specifically to place a love lock in the Hohenzollern Bridge!

The old town is the heart of the city, where there is lot of hustle going on and has an overall friendly vibe. It is near the Köln Dom, surrounded by ring of streets and Rhine riverside. You will find everything: museums, the best restaurants and hang out places right on the banks of River Rhine. When you exit out of the Köln cathedral and go towards the river side, you will see tons of tourists hanging around spend time with family having fritten red white, "fritten" means French Fries, The fritten are eaten by decorating them with ketchup or mayonnaise or both and Currywurst, a ordinary bratwurst into thumb size pieces, covered with spicy curry and blanketed with a red sauce. People take this with fritten on the side. There are boat cruises on the Rhine, which can go for even 2-3 days. Don't forget to drink Köln famous Kölsch beer, there is a brewpub tour where you are expected to drink a lot of Kölsch, so have fun!

The Museums here are the fun part of the city. For all the chocolate lovers out there, you have to visit the chocolate museum. I don't even want to remember the amount of money I spent buying different variety of chocolates. Even now, I can remember the huge collection of chocolates they had in there, Lindt especially! Dark, white, cream with different unimaginable flavored chocolates, it was heaven! There is Museum Ludwig of modern art, which has an excellent collection of modern art, so people who want to get smothered with color, this is the place to go. This museum includes everything from Dali to Warhol to one of the world's largest Picasso collections.



Photos by Neesha Narayanan

you spend there.

Lastly, one of my favorite is the Fragrance Museum, this is where eau de cologne was created, there are tours that explain the creation and the process, which is very interesting. You also get a little bottle of eau de cologne at the end; I assure you that the tour is worth the time

I have already mentioned that I am going back to Köln with my partner to place a lock padlock on the Hohenzollern Bridge, but I also you all to go there and experience and indulge into Köln culture by wandering off exploring the small and tiny streets of Köln.

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