

Grüße aus Köln



RIMOWA's guide to Cologne

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A defining trait of RIMOWA luggage is the distinctive personality that it attains over the years. Its many journeys are traced across its shell with subtle cues – a sticker here, a little ding there – until it comes to be not only a trusted travel companion, but emblematic of specific locales scattered across the globe that are unique to its owner's story.

There is one place, however, that every RIMOWA has in common. No matter how many airport terminals or train stations they may visit, every case shares a close bond to the city that set RIMOWA in motion: Cologne, Germany. Known in German as “Köln”, the city has been the centre of operations for RIMOWA since its founding in 1898 and continues to serve as its headquarters to this day. It seemed only fitting that we offer a guide to the place we've called home for well over a century.

Köln has an understated sophistication to it. As the fourth largest city in

Germany, it offers all the trappings of cultured urban living while remaining a quieter retreat to return to from worldly travels. We thought there would be no better welcome than through the lens of five discerning locals who have graciously shared the best Köln has to offer. Alongside that, we offer a handful of our own favourite haunts.

0 Look out for numbered location labels throughout and find them on the map at the end of the guide.

(8-9) Köln Hot Spots

The Qvest hideaway

If there's one place to lay your head after a grand tour of cultural landmarks, it has to be the Neo-Gothic QVEST Hotel, nestled in Köln's Old Town. With its 34 spacious rooms and suites - plus a museum-worthy collection of modern design, art, and photography - the building was originally constructed in 1897, one year prior to RIMOWA's founding. Recently renovated by Köln native and creative entrepreneur Michael Kaune, it offers the perfect blend of classic and contemporary in the heart of the city.





(10-11) Köln Hot Spots

Van Dyck Café und Rösterei

Eco-responsible bio coffee served in an impeccably designed industrial space. A welcome recent addition to the vibrant neighbourhood of Ehrenfeld, this award-winning roastery brews an extra-strong cup or allows you to stock up on beans in bulk. Take a roastery tour, a coffee seminar on sensory training, or just stop by for a quick espresso.





(12-13) Köln Hot Spots

Museum of East Asian Art

First opened in 1913, the collection is the oldest in Germany to focus on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean art. After the original museum was destroyed during WWII, a new building was unveiled in 1977. Designed by





Kunio Maekawa – a preeminent architect of Japanese Modernism who studied under Le Corbusier – the museum’s elegant stacked cube structure houses a Japanese interior garden created by sculptor Masayuki Nagare on the model of Zen-Buddhist gardens.



(14-15) *If you had one day in Köln...*

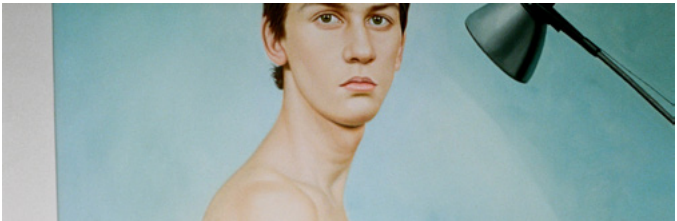
Eva Gödel



Q *Where would you have lunch?*

A I would go to **4** ➔ *Le Moissonnier*. It is a French bistro with a charming Art Nouveau decor.

Even with two Michelin stars, you can still enjoy a laidback atmosphere thanks to its great hosts, Liliane and Vincent Moissonnier.





Q *What area would you spend your time in?*

A I would go to **5** ➤ *Museum Ludwig* and, on the way, take a look at the Gerhard Richter window in the **6** ➤ *Köln Cathedral*. If it's sunny, I'd walk from there along the Rhine towards the **7** ➤ *KAP 686 skatepark*.

Q *Who would you meet and what would you do?*

A I'd visit my favourite gallery, **8** ➤ *Daniel Buchholz*, and sit for a chat with Daniel and co-owner Christopher Müller in their gallery's sunny yard. After that, I would go to the **9** ➤ *Walther König* bookstore on Ehrenstrasse to see the beautiful window display and get the newest art books.

Q *If you had to live elsewhere, what would you take with you from Köln?*

A The people. The best part about Köln is the openness and friendliness of its people.

Köln native Eva Gödel is the founder of Tomorrow Is Another Day, a model agency renowned for its street-casting approach.

Café Wahlen

For a traditional German teatime, Café Konditorei Wahlen offers a step back in time to a classic diner atmosphere that has remained nearly unchanged since the 1930s. Enjoy a midday respite from a busy day with decadent made-to-order cakes and a traditional German *Kaffee und Kuchen*.





(18-19) If you had one day in Köln...

Tom Król

Q *Where would you have lunch?*

A I'd make a reservation at **4** ▶ *Le Moissonnier* in the Agnesviertel. This bistro-style Parisian restaurant is one of my all-time favourite spots in Köln. Liliane and Vincent Moissonnier and their chef, Eric Menchon, serve sensational dishes, but there's also the option of an affordable lunch menu. The two Michelin stars speak for themselves.





Q *What area would you spend your time in?*

A I'd walk along the river Rhine, maybe letting it take me to the **11** *Belgisches Viertel*. This 2,000-year-old city manages to feel quite young because it has more than 50,000 students. This can best be felt in the bars and restaurants, which are usually packed with young people. Drop into the **12** *Fiebach, Minninger* gallery at Venloer Str. 26 to take a look at my paintings.

Q *Who would you meet and what would you do?*

A I would meet up with old friends at the **13** *Südstadt*, the area where most of us grew up. Südstadt is a good-time guaranteed.

Q *If you had to live elsewhere, what would you take with you from Köln?*

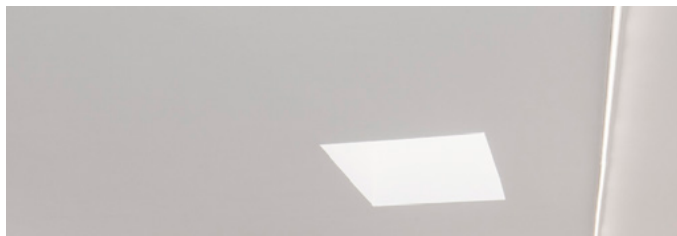
A Over the years, I've lived in many different countries and cities. However, Köln has always given me a particularly warm and welcoming feeling and I feel lucky to call this beautiful yet ugly place mine. If I needed to take one thing with me, it would be some Kölsch beer – a liquid reminder of home.

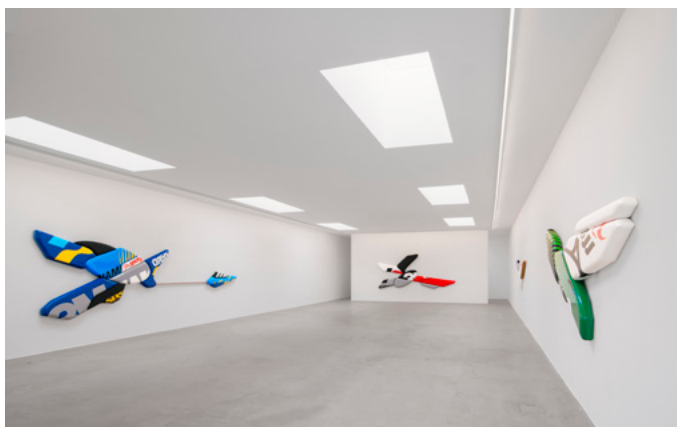
Contemporary artist Tom Król explores symbols and shapes inspired by the everyday.

(20 - 21) Köln Hot Spots

Rutt- kowski;68 Gallery

Founded in 2010, with spaces in Köln and Paris, this contemporary art gallery features both emerging and established artists rooted in fine arts, fashion, and pop culture. With its interdisciplinary stance, Ruttkowski;68 is a forerunner of Köln's cultural scene and always offers something fresh.

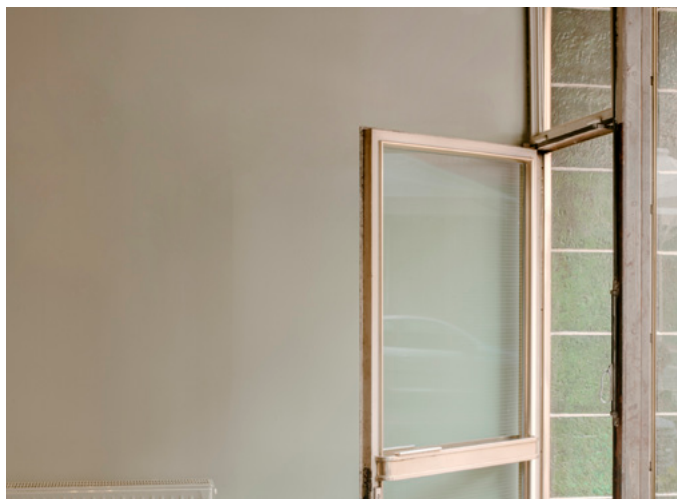




(22-23) Köln Hot Spots

Wallczka Restaurant

For a quick bite, a drawn-out brunch, or an indulgent dinner, stop by WALLCZKA to sample shared plates focused on reinterpreting traditional cuisines from around the globe. Its eclectic menu spotlights everything from Italian burrata to Russian quark pancakes or Korean kimchi, with vegan-friendly options available.





(24 - 25) *If you had one day in Köln...*

Michelle Elie

Q *Where would you have lunch?*

A To get a real feel for the city's traditional beer brew houses, I'd definitely have lunch (accompanied with at least two glasses of the local Kölsch beer) at any one of the many renowned local Brauhaus: **16** ▶ *Peters Brauhaus*, **17** ▶ *Haus Töller*, **18** ▶ *Brauerei Päßgen*, and **19** ▶ *Brauerei zur Malzmühle*. If you are not a beer drinker but want a nice, easy lunch, I would suggest **20** ▶ *Salon Schmitz*.





Q *What area would you spend your time in?*

A Normally, I'd spend my time visiting at least one or two museums because there is a great art scene here with many inspiring exhibitions. I'd definitely stop by the **21** *Kolumba Museum*, which is one of Köln's oldest museums located on the site of the former Saint Kolumba church. Its architecture is splendidly done by architect Peter Zumthor.

Q *Who would you meet and what would you do?*

A I would jump on the **22** *Köln cable car* and head over for a studio visit with locally-based artists like Gerhard Richter, Jürgen Klauke, and Georg Herold. The cable car provides a stunning view, crossing the Rhine and connecting the city to the **23** *Rheinpark*, which is the largest green space here. It also means you can avoid climbing the 533 steps up to the **6** *Köln Cathedral Tower*.

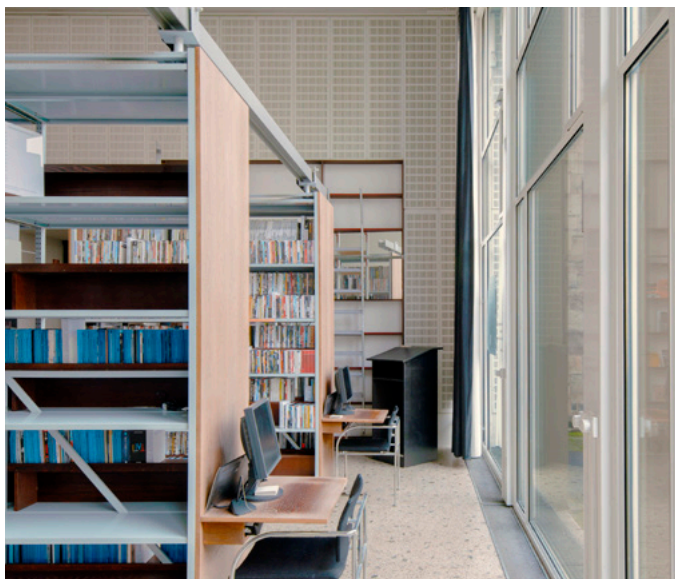
Q *If you had to live elsewhere, what would you take with you from Köln?*

A All the incredible natural parks within the city! It's amazing how green this city is with its many public parks and trees. Since lockdown, I've realised how important it is to live in a city surrounded by nature so that you have space and quietness within reach.

Born and raised in New York, former model and stylist Michelle Elie moved to Köln in 2000 with her husband and three children.

(26 - 27) Köln Hot Spots

KHM Academy of Art





Founded in 1990 with a focus on audiovisual media, the Academy of Media Arts first opened its doors to a mixed reception. It has described itself as an “unloved child” of Köln’s cultural landscape, an “electronic Bauhaus”, a “maverick”, and an “experiment without guaranteed success.” Since then, it has grown into a vaunted institution, in part precisely because of this philosophy of crossover curriculum. It received a modern expansion by the celebrated Köln-based architecture firm JSWD in 2005. Stop by to take in the unique design, or to enjoy any of its frequent public exhibitions and screenings.



(28 - 29) Köln Hot Spots

Keramion Museum

Designed by the Köln-based architect Peter Neufert - one of the first students of the Bauhaus Movement - the clean white cylinder of the Keramion Museum exhibits some of the world's most renowned historic and contemporary ceramic artists.





(30-31) If you had one day in Köln...

Tillmann Meister





Q *Where would you have lunch?*

A I would go to **26** *Maki Maki Sushi Green*. It's a bit off-the-grid on Mauritiussteinweg, but they serve the most delicious vegan sushi. It's a lovely, calm place with a super friendly team.

Q *What area would you spend your time in?*

A **12** *Südstadt* is really inspiring and it's a bit quieter than Ehrenfeld or Belgisches Viertel. It's full of cosy cafés and is situated close to the Rhine and some nice parks.

Q *Who would you meet and what would you do?*

A I might follow the Rhine to Ebertplatz to take a look at **27** *UNG 5's* new exhibition. This small art space uses two shop windows in the U-Bahn passway.

Q *If you had to live elsewhere, what would you take with you from Köln?*

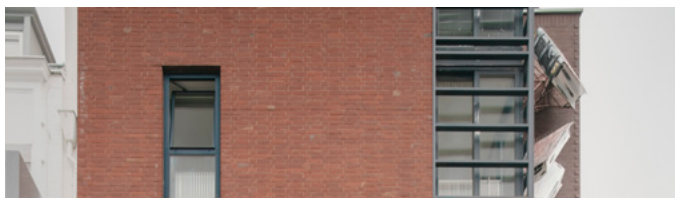
A I'd grab a bottle of 4711 Echt Kölnisch Wasser, a traditional German cologne that's more than two hundred years old. If not for the smell, definitely for the style.

Alongside his successful modeling career, Tillmann Meister crafts artisanal furniture from his home in Köln.

(32 - 33) Köln Hot Spots

Walther König Bookstore

With branches located in cultural institutions across Europe, Walther König has become one of the world's most distinguished bookstores and publishers. But you'll find the original in Köln. Founded in 1969, it's a mainstay for intellectual discourse, with its publications found in some of the most internationally acclaimed art museum libraries.





(34 – 35) *If you had one day in Köln...*

York Elie Meiré

Q *Where would you have lunch?*

A My all-time favourite food is a burger and, in my opinion, **28** *Beef Brothers* on Aachener St. make the best ones the city has to offer. Their burger is made American-style, but with a German level of quality. The staff is really friendly and you always feel welcome. If sushi, ramen, and Japanese tapas is more your style, head over to **29** *Daikan*, a popular restaurant with a modern kitchen that makes the most mouth-watering bites.





Q *What area would you spend your time in?*

A I'd explore the **11** ➤ *Belgian Quarter*, a creative district that has the best cafés, art galleries, and boutiques. Then I'd dance the night away with friends at one of the clubs there.

Q *Who would you meet and what would you do?*

A I would meet up with friends and go skating. My favourite skatepark is **7** ➤ *KAP 686* at the Rhein. The people there are always welcoming and the park is located in the **12** ➤ *Südstadt* near **30** ➤ *Chlodwigplatz*, where, like the Belgian Quarter, you can enjoy nice drinks and food. In the evening, I'd head over to the **31** ➤ *Stadtgarten* area. On Friday and Saturday nights all the students meet there to hang out. The cool thing about this area is that it's a park in the city centre with a restaurant and a club. The restaurant is a Biergarten with a terrace that serves good food and quality German beer.

Q *If you had to live elsewhere, what would you take with you from Köln?*

A I guess I'd take the community aspect with me. Even though it's a city, everybody knows everyone. Any area you visit, you're bound to run into someone you know – be it an old friend or a random person you met the previous night at a club.

Student York Elie Meiré was born and raised in Köln.

ads1a

The ads1a space holds particular intrigue for architecture enthusiasts. A former subway station, the 1970s concrete building was remodeled by Bernd Kniess into a starkly contemporary construction that reflects its urban environment. While the private exhibition space is not open for visits, it's worth seeing for its unapologetic embrace of modern design.





Cologne map



25 and 34 is slightly off the map

* Approximate walking distance from city centre

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Qvest Hotel |
| Address | Gereonskloster 12, 50670 Köln |
| Phone | +49 221 2785780 |
| Website | qvest-hotel.com |
| <hr/> | |
| 2 | Van Dyck Espresso Bar |
| Address | Körnerstraße 43, 50823 Köln |
| Phone | +49 221 29831182 |
| Website | vandyckkaffee.de |
| <hr/> | |
| 3 | Museum for East-Asian Art |
| Address | Universitätsstraße 100, 50674 Köln |
| Phone | +49 221 22128608 |
| Website | museum-fuer-ostasiatische-kunst.de |
| <hr/> | |
| 4 | Le Moissonnier |
| Address | Krefelder Str. 25, 50670 Köln |
| Phone | +49 221 729479 |
| Website | lemoisonnier.de |
| <hr/> | |
| 5 | Museum Ludwig |
| Address | Heinrich-Böll-Platz, 50667 Köln |
| Phone | +49 221 22126165 |
| Website | museum-ludwig.de |
| <hr/> | |
| 6 | Köln Cathedral |
| Address | Domkloster 4, 50667 Köln |
| Phone | +49 221 17940100 |
| Website | koelner-dom.de |
| <hr/> | |
| 7 | KAP686 Skateplaza |
| Address | Agrippinaufer, 50678 Köln |
| Note | Public space |
| <hr/> | |
| 8 | Galerie Buchholz |
| Address | Neven-DuMont-Str. 17, 50667 Köln |
| Phone | +49 221 2574946 |
| Website | galeriebuchholz.de |
| <hr/> | |
| 9 | Walther & Franz König Bookstore |
| Address | Ehrenstraße 4, 50672 Köln |
| Phone | +49 221 205960 |
| Website | buchhandlung-walther-koenig.de |
| <hr/> | |
| 10 | Café Wahlen |
| Address | Hohenstaufenring 64, 50674 Köln |
| Phone | +49 221 231625 |
| Website | cafe-wahlen.de |
| <hr/> | |
| 11 | Belgisches Viertel |
| Note | Public space |
| <hr/> | |
| 12 | Fiebach, Minninger Gallery |
| Address | Venloer Str. 26, 50672 Köln |
| Phone | +49 221 5104040 |
| Website | fiebach-minninger.com |
| <hr/> | |
| 13 | Südstadt |
| Note | Public space |

14 ▶ Ruttkowski;68
Address Lichtstraße 8, 50825 Köln
Phone +49 221 16993647
Website ruttkowski68.com

15 ▶ Wallczka Restaurant
Address Subbelrather Str. 295, 50825 Köln
Phone +49 221 29842156
Website wallczka.com

16 ▶ Peters Brauhaus
Address Mühlengasse 1, 50667 Köln
Phone +49 221 2573950
Website peters-brauhaus.de

17 ▶ Haus Töller
Address Weyerstraße 96, 50676 Köln
Phone +49 221 2589316

18 ▶ Brauerei Pääffgen
Address Friesenstraße 64-66, 50670 Köln
Phone +49 221 135461
Website paeffgen-koelsch.de

19 ▶ Brauerei zur Malzmühle
Address Heumarkt 6, 50667 Köln
Phone +49 221 92160613
Website brauereizurmalzmuehle.de

20 ▶ Salon Schmitz
Address Aachener Str. 28, 50674 Köln
Phone +49 221 92299594
Website salonschmitz.com

21 ▶ Kolumba Museum
Address Kolumbastraße 4, 50667 Köln
Phone +49 221 9331930
Website kolumba.de

22 ▶ Köln Cable Car
Address Riehler Str. 180, 50735 Köln
Phone +49 221 5474184
Website koelner-seilbahn.de

23 ▶ Rhein Park
Address Auenweg Rhein Park, 50679 Köln

24 ▶ KHM Academy of Media Arts
Address Peter-Welter-Platz 2, 50676 Köln
Phone +49 221 201890
Website khm.de

25 ▶ Keramion Museum
Address Bonnstraße 12, 50226 Frechen
Phone +49 2234 697690
Website keramion.de

26 ▶ Maki Maki Sushi Green
Address Mauritiussteinweg 2, 50676 Köln

Phone +49 221 93115678
Website sushigreen.de

27 ▶ UNG 5 Gallery
Address Ebertpl., 50668 Köln
Note Public space / The exhibitions are on display 24/7 in the pedestrian underpass of the Ebertplatz station.

28 ▶ Beef Brothers
Address Aachener Str. 12, 50674 Köln
Phone +49 221 80005260
Website beef-brothers.de

29 ▶ Daikan Izakaya Bar
Address Maastrichter Str. 9, 50672 Köln
Phone +49 221 30135915
Website daikan.de

30 ▶ Chlodwigplatz
Address Chlodwigplatz. Köln
Note Public space

31 ▶ Stadtgarten area
Address Venloer Str. 40, 50672 Köln
Phone +49 221 95299421
Website stadtgarten.de

32 ▶ Gallery ads1a
Address An der Schanz 1a, 50735 Köln
Note Appointment only

33 ▶ RIMOWA Store
Address Hohe Str. 139, 50667 Köln
Phone +49 221 16812079
Website rimowa.com

34 ▶ RIMOWA Factory
Address Richard-Byrd-Straße 13
Phone +49 221 9564170
Website rimowa.com
Note Appointment only

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