

## What to Do in Cologne in Besides Breaking RSA

*Dear SHARCS-Attendees, the following lists a few cultural highlights which you may want to explore in your spare time. All three attractions are only about 10 walking minutes away from the SHARCS workshop hotel. Please refer to the city map in your folder for the exact locations. Note that all museums, but not the cathedral, are closed on Mondays. The SHARCS team hopes that you enjoy your stay!*

**Very brief intro to Cologne:** Cologne is the oldest major city in Germany. The name Cologne stems from the Roman empress Agrippina. The wife of the Emperor Claudius was born on the banks of the Rhine and elevated her "Colonia" to the status of a city in the year 50 A.D. Today, traces of the Romans are still to be found at every turn in Cologne: the Dionysus mosaic in the *Römisch-Germanisches Museum*, sections of the Roman city wall and the Roman water system. The Roman road network is still reflected to this very day in the (irregular) layout of the city streets. The Hohe Strasse, a busy shopping street between the cathedral (Dom) and Neumarkt square, can look back over a two-thousand-year history of economic and social life. Cologne is nowadays internationally known for its churches and museums, its art and media scene, and as commercial center.

The **Cologne cathedral** with its two spires 157 m in height, has been the city's most famous landmark for centuries and the most well-known architectural monument in Germany. It took 632 years until construction of the largest German cathedral was completed. It was only with 19th century romantic enthusiasm for the Middle Ages and the commitment of the Prussian Court that construction work resumed in 1842. In 1880, completion of the cathedral was celebrated as a national event. The relics of the Three Holy Kings found their last resting place in the cathedral. The King's Sarcophagus (dating from the 13th century) surpasses all comparable golden sarcophagi in Western Christendom, in terms of scale and magnificence. Other outstanding works of art are to be found in the cathedral treasure chamber.



**Romano-Germanic Museum** Numerous finds illustrating everyday life in the Roman Empire lead visitors into the heart of the Roman city of COLONIA CLAUDIA ARA AGRIPPINENSIIUM (the Roman name of Cologne). The present building was built on the walls of a Roman villa which was discovered in 1941 and which contained the world-famous Dionysos mosaic. (Depicted to the left are the G8 leaders, including Bill Clinton and Gerhard Schröder, dining on the mosaic in 1999 – despite repeated request this option was not available for the SHARCS workshop.)

The worldwide largest collection of Roman glass vessels and a unique collection of Roman and early mediaeval jewellery are the highlights of the museum. Prehistoric finds from Cologne, the Rhineland and selected European sites dating from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages are also exhibited.



The collection of the **Museum Ludwig** comprises the most important stages and positions in the development of 20th century art and contemporary art. Roy Lichtenstein's "Maybe", Andy Warhol's "Brillo Boxes" and George Segal's "Restaurant Window", all icons of American Pop Art, had just been completed when in 1969 they were included as loans in the collection of the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum. The works came from Peter and Irene Ludwig who have built up the biggest collection of Pop Art outside the USA. Apart from pop art the Ludwigs also donated a large collection of Russian

Avantgarde from the period 1906 to 1930 and a voluminous collection of several hundred works by Pablo Picasso as a permanent loan. The Museum Ludwig also host the **Agfa Photo-Historama** This most important collection covering the cultural history of photography includes not only photographs from the 19th and 20th centuries and photograph albums, but also a collection of photographic and reproduction equipment of the entire photographic industry of the 20th century which is unique worldwide.

There are more than another dozen museums in Cologne, including the **Museum of East Asian Art**, and the **Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum of Ethnography**. Please refer a city map for the location of those.