The Journey at a Glance

The next pages gives you the framework of your journey – the route, the key stops and connections – and also a glimpse of what's ahead: evenings by the Rhine, the sparkle of Frankfurt, and sunlit days among vineyards.

DETAILS

11 DAYS, 3 PLACES, TRAIN + RENTAL CAR

Thursday, 05 June 2025 – Sunday, 15 June 2025
(10 nights in total)

from Cologne (5days)
by train to Frankfurt (3days)
by rental car to Freiburg (3days)

Throughout your trip, getting around will be simple — both while exploring the cities and when continuing on to your next destination. More on the next page.



COLOGNE

Highlights: Cathedral · Chocolate Museum · Rhine sunsets

Culture meets coziness: step beneath the soaring spires of the Cathedral, taste chocolate in all its forms, and drift along the Rhine at sunset. Add a walk through the Belgian Quarter's cafés and boutiques, and you'll see Cologne's easy mix of history and everyday charm.

FRANKFURT

Highlights: Skyline · Art · Local flavors

Energy and flavor collide: gaze out across the skyline from a rooftop terrace, explore galleries and hidden street art, and ride the quirky Ebbelwoi Express. Between the skyscrapers you'll also find bustling markets and riverside spots where locals slow down with a glass in hand.

FREIBURG

Highlights: Old town · Black Forest Trails · Vineyards

Sunshine and tradition intertwine: stroll cobbled alleys in the medieval old town, then slip into the shade of the Black Forest on nearby trails. In the evening, vineyards and regional wine invite you to pause — a slower rhythm that feels both timeless and refreshing.

Transport & Connections

During your travel, getting from place to place will be straight-forward. You'll find simple options for moving within each city and convenient connections between them by train or rental car.

WITHIN THE CITY

Walking and local transport

In each city, the main sights are within walking distance. You can also rely on the Tram (Straßenbahn) for easy connections, and in Frankfurt there is the additional Subway (U-Bahn) network.

Tickets for tram/subway

- Cologne KVB: buy ticket here
- Frankfurt RMV: buy ticket here
- Freiburg VAG: buy ticket here



Bikes & scooters

For short distances, bikes and e-scooters are a flexible way to get around in Cologne, Frankfurt and Freiburg

- Bikes/E-bikes: In Cologne, Nextbike (KVB-Rad) offers many docking stations across the city
  - In Frankfurt, Nextbike (Call a Bike system) makes it easy to pick up bikes near major stations and along the Main.
  - In Freiburg, Frelo (also part of the Nextbike network) provides convenient access across the compact city and toward green paths.
- Scooters (E-scooters): App-based rentals are widely available in all three cities: In Cologne you'll find Tier, Lime and Voi, in Frankfurt Tier, Lime and Bolt, and in Freiburg primarily Tier and Voi.

Both are great for exploring lively quarters and making spontaneous detours to scenic riverbanks and green paths, from Cologne's Rhine to Frankfurt's Main and Freiburg's leafy lanes.

START IN
Cologne



Step into the rhythm of the Rhine city for the first part of your journey. Five days give you time to take in the cathedral's spires, wander the riverside paths, and enjoy evenings in lively beer halls.

Cologne | Frankfurt | Freiburg

SUGGESTED STAY
4 nights (Day 1-5)

WHERE TO STAY

Rest your Head – in Cologne

Each accommodation has been carefully selected to reflect your preferences and keep you close to the planned activities and sights – combining convenience with a welcoming atmosphere.



HOTEL INNSIDE | €€

Boutique hotel in a listed townhouse, just a 5-minute walk from the train station. Offers a rooftop bar with skyline views and a spacious spa area. Rooms are modern and quiet, with many overlooking a leafy courtyard.

Recommended for its mix of central location, historic charm, and quiet atmosphere.
Breakfast buffet included.

Price: from €95/night | Book here | Website | Google Maps

AIRBNB ALTSTADT APARTMENT | €€

Stylish loft with a private balcony in the vibrant Belgian Quarter. Fully equipped kitchen, perfect for self-catering and longer stays. Cafés and nightlife are just around the corner.

Perfect for self-catering and longer stays, close to nightlife and cafés.

Price: from €80/night | Book here | Website | Google Maps

LINDNER HOTEL COLOGNE | €€€

Modern city hotel within walking distance of Cologne Cathedral and the Rhine promenade. Features a wellness area with pool, sauna, and fitness facilities, as well as an in-house restaurant and bar.

Recommended for its central location, comfortable rooms, and full-service amenities.

Price: from €120/night | Book here | Website | Google Maps

WHERE TO EAT

Taste the City – in Cologne

This page brings together cafés, restaurants, and bars within walking distance of your accommodation and the suggested activities – chosen to give you a taste of the city's local flavors and vibrant atmosphere.



CAFÉS

- Kaffeesaurus – Trendy café | brunch & bowls | €€
- Café Wölkchen – Family-run café | homemade cakes | €
- Café Augusta – Traditional café | classic German pastries | €€
- The Coffee Gang – Specialty coffee | modern vibe | €€
- Kaffeekommune – Creative brews | local favorite | €
- Café Rico – Cozy Café | breakfast spot | €€

RESTAUTANT

- Reibekuchenbud – Street food stand | crispy potato fritters, local favorite | €
- Hänneschen und die Pfeffermühle – Traditional Kölsch Restaurant | small plates & local charm | €€
- Cloud Kitchen – Casual eatery | international street food mix | €€
- Udum Vegan Restaurant – Plant-based restaurant | modern vibe | €€
- Lommerzheim – Local Kölsch Pub | schnitzel classic | €€

BARS & DRINKS

- IceBar Cologne – Themed bar | frozen cocktails & unique experience | €€
- Seiberts – Cocktail bar | award-winning | €€€
- Spirits – Gin & whisky bar | cozy atmosphere | €€
- Päffgen – Brewery | traditional Kölsch | €

Price Guide:
€ = casual
€€ = mid-range
€€€ = upscale
€€€€ = fine dining

Step into the City – in Cologne

WHAT TO DO

Here you'll find a handpicked selection of activities tailored to your interests – thoughtfully arranged with short distances across the city, recommended visit durations, and helpful links. This way, exploring becomes simple and seamless – leaving you free to enjoy the experience itself.

CITY & STORIES

Exploring Belgian Quarter | 2 h

Start your day with a cozy breakfast at café Kaffeesaurus in the Belgian Quarter, or begin your stroll directly from the neighborhood and explore its charming little shops and boutiques.

Google Maps

Walking Tour "Rude Bastards" | 2 h

Join the "Rude Bastards" walking tour for a unique take on Cologne's history, told with humor and boldness.

Price: €3

Tickets | Google Maps

Cologne's Fragrance House 4711 & Boutique Stroll | 2 h

At Cologne's Fragrance House 4711, iconic scents have been crafted since 1792 (optional 50-min guided tour on Saturdays at 1 pm, German only). Then stroll Ehrenstr. and Breite Str. with their stylish boutiques and hidden shops before reaching the chocolate museum.

Free entry (optional guided tour €7.50 – book ahead)

Tickets | Google Maps

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHT

Day trip to Aachen

If you'd like to see more beyond Cologne, a day trip to Aachen is a rewarding option. Famous for its **UNESCO World Heritage Cathedral** and historic center, Aachen combines imperial history with local traditions.

Thermal springs, narrow alleys, and the city's famous Aachener Printen (a spiced gingerbread specialty, see photo below) give it a flavor you won't find anywhere else.

How to get there: Direct trains connect Cologne and Aachen in 30–60 minutes, depending on which train you take, with several departures every hour. Check connections.

Tip: Leave in the morning to have plenty of time for the Cathedral, a stroll through the old town, and a stop at the Elisenbrunnen. Don't miss the chance to try Aachener Printen — available in many traditional bakeries around the old town.



Traditional Aachener Printen in a shop window



Golden sunset views along the Rhine

UNWIND & HIGHLIGHTS

Kölner Lichter | 2-3 h | One-day event: 1 August 2026

End your day with the Kölner Lichter, Cologne's famous fireworks and light spectacle over the Rhine, starting at 10:30 pm. Performances along the riverside are free, while tickets secure the best views of the fireworks from the riverbank or aboard illuminated ships.

Free (open-air event)

Tickets | Google Maps

Rhine Sunset Cruise with Lounge Vibes | 1.5 h

The sunset cruise is the perfect way to round off your day in Cologne — relaxed, atmospheric, and with the city lights as your backdrop.

Price: €47.80 (only Wednesday + Thursday)

Tickets | Google Maps

ON-THE-WAY TIP

Limburg

If you decide to rent a car, you can make a stop in Limburg an der Lahn on the way from Cologne to Frankfurt. Its medieval old town with half-timbered houses and the striking Limburg Cathedral make it a charming break on your journey.

What to do in a short stop:

- Stroll the medieval lanes with half-timbered houses
- Visit **Limburg Cathedral** (free entry, great town views)
- Pause at **Café Will** on the market square – perfect for coffee & cake
- Enjoy a meal at the **Wirtshaus an der Lahn** – a traditional riverside tavern with regional specialties

Parking near Old Town | Cathedral Info | Café Will | Wirtshaus an der Lahn



Limburg Cathedral rising above the calm waters of the Lahn