Useful information and travel tips

Organisers
Deutsche Messe und Förderung der Deutschen Industrie, the commercial enter-
prises of the Association of German Dental Manufacturers (VDZ)

Koelnmesse
Exhibition opening hours
- Messe: 09:30 to 18:00
- Administration: 09:00 to 16:30

Admission online
- 1-day ticket: €13.00
- 2-day ticket: €20.00
- Season ticket: €30.00
- 1-day ticket for students/special ticket for children accompanied by adults: €7.50

Admission on site
- 1-day ticket for adults: €16.00
- 2-day ticket: €25.50
- Season ticket: €36.00
- 1-day ticket for students/special ticket for children accompanied by adults: €9.50

IDS app
With an offline search, interactive hall plan, personal checklist and other interesting information regarding IDS 2013, the IDS app allows visitors to plan their trip at any time and from anywhere, according to Koelnmesse. Other services include a product database, information about the fairground as well as integrated access to Business Matchmaking 365, a service that aims to bring visitors and exhibitors together even before the show. The app is free and can be downloaded from the iTunes Store and Google Play.

Press and media
Free copies of the daily international daily show newspaper will be distributed on site and provide visitors with the latest from IDS 2013, new products and things to do in Cologne. Daily news updates, photographs and videos in English will also be available online at www.dentaltribune.com.

Passport and Visa
Owing to the Schengen regulations, nationals from a country of the European Union do not require a visa to enter the Federal Republic of Germany. All other foreigners require a visa for stays in the country. A visa is not required for semianual visits of up to 90 days for nationals of those countries for which the European Union has abolished the visa requirement. A current list is available on the website of the Federal Foreign Office at www.aussenwirtschaft.ato.de/EN/

How to get to Cologne
Cologne/Bonn airport is served by most European and international airlines. With more than ten million passengers per year, it currently ranks number six in a nationwide comparison of passenger statistics. As official airline of IDS 2013, Lufthansa is offering visitors reduced rates for flights from over 250 cities in around 100 countries to the airports in Cologne, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt/Main. In order to make use of the discount, visitors must visit www.lufthansa.com/meetingsandevents and enter the code ‘DEZZYL’.

Visitors planning to travel by train can take advantage of the discount offered by Deutsche Bahn (www.bahn.de/en/).

Airport transfer
Reaching Cologne by taxi (stand located at Terminal 2) costs between €25 and 30. A less-expensive alternative is the urban train (S-Bahn), which departs regularly from the InterCity Express railway station in Terminal 1. With their IDS ticket, exhibitors and visitors can use buses, trains and urban trams on the local public transportation network of the Rhine-Sieg Transport Authority (VRS), including the transfer between the Koelnmesse fairground and the airport free of charge.

Banking and currency
As a member of the European Union, Germany uses the euro as legal tender. The exchange rate is about €0.74 to the US dollar (as at 10 February 2013). Credit card usage is still low compared with other European countries and limited to larger department stores, hotels, restaurants and petrol stations. Maestro cards, however, are accepted almost everywhere, with a few exceptions, like newspaper stands, bakeries and fast-food restaurants, which only accept cash. Banks are open from 8:30 to 16:30 on weekdays.

Medical insurance
Although the German health-care system has declined slightly recently, the country still has a high standard of medical care. Emergency treatment, however, can be costly and therefore travel health insurance, which is offered by most insurance companies, is highly recommended.

Weather
While average temperatures in Cologne range from 11 to 2°C (51–35°F), the weather in March can be very unpredictable. As spring starts on 20 March this year, warm clothes and rain gear are necessary when visiting the city.

Links
- www.germanytourison
- www.travelplanet.com/germany
- www.visit-cologne.com
- www.nytimes.com/2012/04/01/travel/36-hours-cologne-germany.html

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