Cologne in the day

Yes, the landmark of the Rhine city might be the Cologne Cathedra l, but Cologne has so much more to offer. For instance, a trip to the Heinzelmännchen fountain, the city hall, or the Melaten cemetery is highly recommended. The last could be considered quite the oppo site to this lassivious trip into the city’s past (www.lachexpedition.de/ touren/kolner-lachexpedition). The sightseeing tour, initially de veloped by Klaus-Jürgen “Knacki” Deuer, among others, offers a unique mix of informative anecdotes and entertaining comedy. Lastly, you can experience the traditional brewhause culture of Cologne first hand in a 2-hour tour that includes all kinds of local breweries—both well-known ones and local secrets (www.koeln.braeuhausreisen.de). In terms of both history and taste, it is definitely worth spending an evening at one of these.

During IDS, you should also con sider taking a break, every once in a while, to rest your feet. And what better way to do so than by enjoying a piece of homemade pie and a cup of hot Kaffee? Visit the cozy and slightly hidden Kaffeebar Ehrenfeld (www.kaffeebar-ehrenfeld.net) to find out what a “third wave” coffee is. If you’re looking for something a little less fancy, you might prefer Cafécafé Ehrenfeld (www.cafecafe.de). With coffee close to its heart, this café offers refuge from the hustle and bustle of the city metropolis in the form of creamy lattes and authentic New York style cheesecake—also not to be over looked is the breakfast, which includes homemade spreads that come highly recommended.

Just a couple of blocks down the street is a loco that will appeal to you if you have a predisposition to nostalgia. Café Schwesternherr offers a quaint coffeehouse vibe and a fam ilar living room atmosphere (www.schwesternherr-koeln.de). If you are longing for a holiday feel, however, a visit to Sabor ’emsoon is just the ticket: between surfboards hanging on the walls and little Spanish deli cacies, the tapas tastes almost twice as good. Located in the south of Cologne, Sabor ’emsoon is the perfect place to unwind and recharge your batteries after a busy day of dental business in the halls (saborermonn.de).

Cologne at night

Enjoy your stay at Cologne even after the doors of the IDS trade fair have closed. After all, you will be in one of Germany’s most vibrant and charming cities. As the sun goes down, Cologne reswakens in a dif ferent light; after hitting a “Büchken” kiosk for a beer—or two—to go, locals will make their way to their favourite Kölischebab bar, so why not join them?

The trendy bar Zum scheunereh is located next to the Köln West train station and is perfect for starting the evening; get to know some Cologne locals while enjoying a couple of local drinks and the live music on offer in the bar’s outdoor area (www.zum scheunereh.de). Every Thursday is Gin & Tonic day and glasses are served for only €2—different brands of gin can be tried for an extra €1.

 Afterwards, you can hit Ba mann & SOHN, which is close to the Ehrenfeld train station. It is here that beer garden atmosphere meets urban industrial vibe, and where the dynamic, alternative flair of the young district can be felt best (www.bmannundsohn.de). Coming early pays off!

The next destination is STAPEL. BAR, which is located within walking distance from Bumann & SOHN at the heart of the Heilus district. At STAPEL.BAR, you can buy freshly bre wed Gaffel Kölsch from the barrel and experience a colourful music pro gramme, including DJs, live acts and local artists (www.stapelbar.de). Are you intrigued by the original steel bar- board? Then this is also the place for a casual round of darts. If you are in the mood for dancing, you can spend the rest of the night in the northern part of Cologne between Ehrenfeld and Nippes, at the Odoner nightclubs to be exact. Apart from concerts, plays, flea markets and open air film showings, you can dance to predomi nantly electronic club music in the midst of obscure metal sculptures and impressive fireworks.

Arts and culture

As far as arts and culture are con cerned, Cologne has a great deal to offer. In the special exhibition “Andy Warhol—Pop goes art”, the Museum für Angewandte Kunst Köln is pre senting a private collection not pre viously shown to the public. The ex hibition features sketches and drafts and almost every record cover de signed, conceptualized and produced by the artist. Moreover, the Wallraf Richartz Museum is showing 130 loaned works from well-known col lections and museums in the US and Europe. The survey exhibition “Once upon a time in America” features pieces from over 300 years of American art, including works by Edward Hopper, Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollock. In addition, the “Under the magnifying glass” exhibition at the Museum Schnütgen is highly recom mended, as is the anniversary exhibi tion “All under heaven”, which cele brates 40 years of the Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst Köln. However, an insider tip is to visit the Museum Ludwig at the Cologne Heinrich Böll-Platz. The gallery, which resembles the Tate Modern in Lon don in terms of its artistic content, is exhibiting works from British art ists David Hockney and Richard Hamilton until April 2019. Further in formation on the exhibition schedule can be found online (www.museum ludwig.de).

In addition, if you enjoy watching historical retrospectives, previews or premières of independent film pro ductions, then the Filmforum NRW is for you. The entrance is situated on the south side of the museum (www. filmforumnrw.de). Another highlight for cineastes is the OSDN: the retro-style movie theatre often shows interesting European art house pro ductions (www.osdn-koeln.de).

Theatre-goers can attend the pre miere of Werther by Johann Wolf gang von Goethe at the Freies Wer dressstadium Kölner in 15 March (www.karlhermanns.de). If you still have some room left afterwards, you can hit Frittenwerk Köln for some deli cious homemade fries (www.fritten werk.com/koeln). Enjoy ones made from regional or regular potatoes with chive and cheese topping. Whatever you choose, make sure to also try the lemon aioli and the homemade guacamole. Naturally, humans are no saints and these large amounts of salt need to be counteracted some how, which is why a visit to one of the Köllisch-serving traditional re staurants is a necessity. Enjoy a chilied Kölsch beer like a true local at Berlhans en d’r Salzgass or Weins haus Vogel, where you can only sample an authentic Cologne food is served, but the spirit of the city can be ex perienced.