



***Itinerary For a Five Day Languages Study Tour to
Cologne By Coach. Prepared For The Modern Foreign
Languages Department.***

Dates: To Be Confirmed.



The itinerary is designed to balance visits of the greatest interest with recreative activities. It aims to make the maximum use of time without exhausting participants. The itinerary we have proposed is flexible and is only finalised after discussion with the Party Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the tour itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The tour can be guided throughout. All excursions are well prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The expert tour guide is able to help to run the tour according to Party Leader wishes. In this way Party Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than on the organisation of the tour. The whole stay is underpinned by excellent accommodation, catering, transport and security.

ACCOMMODATION



The Hotel Ibis**

Brugelmannstrasse 1, 50679 Koln, Germany.

Tel. 0049 22198931155. Fax. 0049 22198931555.

The modern Hotel Ibis is located on the south of the River Rhine in central Cologne. The centre of Cologne is within a short drive or tram ride & the location is ideal for our excursions of the Bonn & Cologne area. All of the twin rooms have en-suite bathroom facilities, televisions, telephones, desks & reading lamps. There is a pleasant bar & meeting area downstairs & the staff are particularly friendly & helpful. We have found the Hotel Ibis to be a comfortable & popular base for our groups visiting the Bonn & Cologne region.

CATERING

The catering in Cologne is very popular, with large continental breakfasts with hams & meats, substantial picnic lunches & dinners on the Cologne Sports University Campus where the manager delights in presenting English groups with some of the typical foods of the region. Typical dinners include a large salad starter followed by German sausage with vegetables, rice or chips & ice-cream or a cooked dessert. By having our dinner at the excellent Sports University Campus, we are able to use some of the campus sports facilities such as the indoor sports hall for games of football.

DAY ONE

07.00	Arrival of coach at School.
07.30	Depart School. Onward transfer to Port of Dover.
10.45	E.T.A. Port of Dover. Check in for next crossing.
12.05	Depart Dover.
14.45 <small>(Continental time is 1 hour in advance of U.K. time).</small>	E.T.A. Port of Calais. Onward transfer to Cologne.
20.00	<u>E.T.A. Cologne. Dinner at the Cologne University Restaurant.</u>
21.30	Transfer to Hotel Ibis.
22.00	E.T.A. Hotel Ibis. Allocate room keys & settle in.

DAY TWO

08.00 Breakfast.

09.15 Coach transfer to Cologne centre.

10.00 **Visit to Cologne Cathedral.**

Pupils will enjoy a guided tour of the cathedral by one of the Tourist Office's official guides. The cathedral is the best example of Gothic architecture in Northern Europe. The group will ascend the south belltower to see the Kaiserglocke bell, cast in 1874 from a French cannon captured in the Franco-Prussian War. The cathedral contains the reputed bones of the Three Wise Men of the East and has become the object of many pilgrimages. Pupils will climb the steep winding staircase to the very top of the cathedral spire, from where panoramic views over the city can be enjoyed.

12.00 Lunch in the Old Quarter.

13.00 **Shopping Time on the Hohestrasse**

During the early afternoon we will visit the Hohestrasse - the city's lively traffic-free shopping area, before walking on to the Altstadt with its network of narrow streets and the Alter Market.

14.00 **Visit to The Cologne Chocolate Factory.**

A famous industry of the Rhine region is the manufacture of fine chocolates and we will be visiting The Cologne Chocolate Factory. Here the pupils will see a video film and tour the factory to see how chocolate is made. At the end of the tour they can enjoy free samples and visit the factory shop.

16.00 Transfer to Cologne Bowling Centre.

16.30 **E.T.A. The Cologne Bowling Centre**

We always combine visits of the greatest interest with recreational activities & pupils will enjoy bowling at the modern 'Anchor Bowling Alley' in Albert. Teams will be six per lane & prizes will be provided for the highest scorer on each lane.

18.30 **Dinner at the Cologne Sports University.**

20.15 Transfer to Hotel Ibis, Cologne.

20.45 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis, Cologne.

DAY THREE

08.00 Breakfast.

09.15 Coach transfer to Koblenz.

10.30 **Visit to Burg Eltz Castle.**

Perched on a 70m rocky forested spur & surrounded by The Moselle River on three sides, the medieval Burg Eltz Castle is still owned by the same family that built it 33 generations ago in the 12th Century. Never touched by the damaging effects of war, the castle remains in remarkably good condition & is one of the major tourist sites in this part of Germany.

Over eight stories high, the castle dominates the local landscape with its fortified walls & grey turrets.

We will climb through the village at the foot of the castle to reach the main gate into the keep & past the fortified walls. We will then explore the interior before lunch.

13.00 Lunch & exploration of the surrounding town, Burg Eltz. .

15.00 Return coach transfer to Cologne.

16.30 **Afternoon Activities at the Cologne Sports University.**

Pupils will enjoy a game of football on a full-sized pitch in the well-maintained grounds of the Sports University, where many famous German footballers have trained & played.

Many groups also enjoy a long walk through the local forests before dinner.

18.30 **Dinner at the Cologne Sports University.**

20.00 Transfer to Hotel Ibis, Cologne.

20.30 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis, Cologne.

DAY FOUR

08.00 Breakfast.

09.15 Transfer to Cochem.

11.00 **Visit to Cochem Castle**

Built around the year 1000, the imperial Cochem Castle dominates the surrounding countryside & boasts a long history including being captured & destroyed by Louis 'The Sun King' XIV & The French during The Nine Years War. For hundreds of years the castle lay in ruins until it was bought by a Berlin businessman who restored it in the Gothic Revival style in evidence today. Nowadays the castle is owned by the city of Cochem & is a popular tourist visit for those visiting the Moselle River & its castles.

13.00 Lunch.

14.00 Return transfer to Cologne.

15.30 E.T.A. Cologne. Walk to the rear of Cathedral to boat.

16.30 **Cruise on the Rhine.**

We will meet our boat at the rear of the Cathedral & will enjoy a cruise on the wide River Rhine that will last for 45 minutes. We will alight the boat at Cologne Zoo.

17.30 **Visit to Cologne Zoo.**

We will have an opportunity to visit the excellent Cologne Zoo, where the collection of animals are well presented & well looked after. After our visit to the zoo, we will enjoy a cable-car ride across the Rhine.

18.30 **Cablecar transfer across River Rhine.**

Pupils will enjoy a cablecar transfer directly over the River Rhine which affords panoramic views over the Dom Cathedral. Upon arrival on the opposite side of the river we will enjoy some recreational time prior to the return transfer to the Cologne side.

19.30 Coach transfer to The Cologne Sports University.

19.45 **Dinner at the Cologne Sports University.**

21.00 Transfer to Hotel Ibis, Cologne.

21.30 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis, Cologne.

DAY FIVE

08.00 Breakfast, hotel check-out, loading of suitcases into coach.

09.00 Transfer to Calais. (Lunch en-route)

14.00 **Visit to The Cite de Europe Hypermarket, Calais.**

The Cite of Europe hypermarket is the largest in Europe and is popular with the many British shoppers who take advantage of the great differences in price between the same goods in Calais and in the UK. Most shops in the complex take Pounds Sterling as well as Euros.

15.45 Transfer to Port of Calais.

16.30 E.T.A. Port of Calais. Check in for next crossing.

17.55 Depart Port of Calais.

18.45 E.T.A. Port of Dover. Onward transfer to School.

(Note: Continental time is one hour in advance of British time)

22.15 E.T.A. School.

This is a Suggested Itinerary only. Please note that we make hotel & itinerary bookings upon receipt of the initial deposit payments. The timings & visits contained within this itinerary serve as a guide only & may change. The choice of hotel, visits & timings are confirmed upon receipt of initial deposits.