

Press Release, 29. February 2008

Cologne: Introducing a tolerant city

KölnTourismus and Gay Games VIII Cologne 2010 together at ITB Berlin
5th – 9th March 2008

Once again in 2008 at the Travel Trade Show (ITB), KölnTourismus introduces the cathedral city as a true gay-lesbian destination. Come and see us at the “Gay and Lesbian Pavilion” (hall 12, 151/152) where, for the first time, we will also be joined by the organisers of the Gay Games Cologne, which will be held in the city in 2010.

Being one the most tolerant, cosmopolitan and sporting of German cities, Cologne is the first German city to be chosen by the Federation of Gay Games to host the event.

“Be part of it!” is the slogan of the Gay Games VIII Cologne 2010: Everybody, regardless their sexual orientation, gender, religion or nationality can participate. Around 12,000 athletes and artists from over 70 nations are expected to celebrate the “open games” in Cologne during the first week in August 2010. Through 33 different sporting disciplines and four cultural events, awareness of improved tolerance towards homosexuals, bisexuals, transgender and transsexuals will be raised. Together they will demonstrate how both sport and culture can be enjoyed by all.

The Gay Games offer a wide range of competitions such as soccer, beach volleyball, billiards, chess, sailing and dancing. Cultural events include a choir and band festival, an art exhibition and the “International Rainbow Memorial Run” to commemorate AIDS and breast cancer victims.

You can reserve your place at the Gay Games VIII Cologne 2010 now at www.games-cologne.com.

2,000 years of history, the spectacular Cathedral, a riverside location as well as a thriving art scene make Cologne the place to be. Visitors rave about the Rhineland people and their joie de vivre. Cologne is loved by its people, and it shows. Women walking hand in hand or male couples in the street do not warrant a second glance. One in ten inhabitants of Cologne is attracted to members of their own sex. The huge number of gay and lesbian bars, cafes, restaurants and clubs shows how important and ingrained the scene has become to Cologne.



KölnTourismus



Discover Cologne inexpensively and easily with the Pink WelcomeCard, which offers more than 100 discounts in art and culture, leisure, shopping, wellness and eating out, as well as free public transport. The pink corner qualifies you for exclusive gay-friendly offers.

The most important date in every gay or lesbian calendar has got to be Cologne's Christopher Street Day (CSD / ColognePride). Every first weekend in July (4th – 6th July 2008), more than half a million participants and visitors come together in Cologne's city centre to celebrate and demonstrate. New this year is the party on Saturday (5th July 2008) with up to 10,000 guests at Germany's largest event location, the Kölnarena. In addition to the opening gala, the street fair, and the parade on Sunday, looking forward, this new event will become the fourth leg of CSD Cologne. Cologne's renowned party organisers have come together under name "COLORS" to entertain a buzzing audience with various DJs and live-acts on numerous stages.

During the two weeks leading up to CSD weekend, ColognePride presents additional highlights, one of them being the 5th anniversary of Fantasypride at Phantasialand theme park (21st June 2008).

Numerous other gay-lesbian sport and cultural events, such as the "Sommerblut" culture festival (10th May – 6th June 2008) or the charity soccer tournament "Come-Together-Cup" (22nd May 2008), are also very popular.

A summary of what Cologne has to offer and the events taking place are published by KölnTourismus in their "Out in Cologne" guide.

KölnTourismus and the Gay Games look forward to meeting you at their exhibition stand in the Gay & Lesbian Travel Pavilion in Berlin.

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