

## International Soccer Tour 2022 Itinerary

### Delaware FC

### England – London and Chester/Manchester

#### Travel dates:

Late July – Early August 2022.

#### Itinerary:

- Day 1 Departure from Philadelphia airport.
- Day 2 Arrival London airport. Transfer to your accommodation.
- Day 3 Sightseeing London, including The Tower of London, The Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and London's newest and highest attraction, The London Eye, with its spectacular views over London. Afternoon or evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 4 Visit Hampton Court Palace and Windsor Castle. For almost 200 years, Hampton Court Palace was at the center of court life, politics and national history. Windsor Castle is an official residence of The Queen and the largest occupied castle in the world.
- Day 5 Enjoy the day sightseeing in London. Visit to the Chelsea Village MegaShop and Stamford Bridge Stadium, Trafalgar Square and Covent Garden shopping precinct, Emirates and/or Wembley Stadium. Evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 6 Transfer to your accommodation in Chester. Chester is a magical city over 2000 years old; it is the most complete walled city in Britain. Walk the walls – 2 miles of entirely walkable walls, studded with historic towers and a bird's eye view of the city center. Look over the other side of the wall for a view of the Welsh mountains in the distance. Afterwards you can head for the Roman Amphitheater and The Chester Cathedral (14th century church).
- Day 7 Sightseeing York. With a stunning cathedral, the world's best railway museum, and the finest UK Viking attraction, York boasts major sights as well as smaller gems like medieval guildhalls, Georgian town houses & National Trust and English Heritage properties. Evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 8 Day trip to Manchester. One of the most popular sights is the Old Trafford stadium, home of Manchester United.
- Day 9 Transfer to London or Manchester airport. Return flight.

\*The above itinerary is a provisional/suggested itinerary and can/will change depending on your group's specific wishes, the final game schedule for your team(s) and any pro game visit(s) incorporated for your group. Sightseeing admission fees are not included in the prices but can be added and pre-booked based on your group's specific wishes. Consult us for more information.



Norco



Tower of London



Wisconsin Lutheran College



Thames River

**Price per person\*:**

45-49 people traveling - \$2,353.00  
40-44 people traveling - \$2,412.00  
35-39 people traveling - \$2,478.00  
30-34 people traveling - \$2,569.00  
25-29 people traveling - \$2,694.00  
20-24 people traveling - \$2,871.00

\* Prices are based on contracted airline fares for 2021. We will know more about fares for 2022 approx. 11 months prior to departure date, when airlines publish flights and fares for 2022, and can confirm pricing then.

**Price inclusions:**

- Round trip airfare, including airport taxes and fuel surcharges. Prices are always subject to availability of flights and fares at time of booking.
- Accommodations and meals as specified in this proposal – see below.
- Ground transportation – see below.
- Costs for arranging the sport program – see below.
- Services of a local tour assistant – see below.
- 1 free trip for every 19 paying participants.

**Sport program included:**

**London:** we will arrange 2 friendly games per team.

**Chester:** we will arrange 1 friendly game per team.

**Accommodation and meals included:**

**London:** 4-star Hotel accommodation in London.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Hotel accommodation in the outskirts of London about 10 miles from the city center.
- Rooms for 2 people with en-suite bathroom, trouser press, hairdryer, tea/coffee maker and TV.
- The hotel offers a restaurant, lounge/bar, outdoor patio/garden, fitness center and free Wi-Fi.

**Manchester area:** 4-star Hotel accommodation in the Liverpool/Manchester area.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Hotel accommodation Northwest England located between Manchester and Liverpool.
- Rooms for 2 people with private facilities, satellite TV and phone.
- The hotel has a restaurant/lounge, indoor heated pool, sauna/solarium and fitness center.

**Ground transportation included:**

During your entire stay a private bus will be available exclusively for your group – 10 hours a day.

**Local guide services included:**

A local tour assistant will be assigned to be exclusively with your group full time each day during your stay in each destination to provide you with any assistance when necessary, and help plan or amend your daily schedule as needed.

## **Options available (not included in prices)**

### **Sport program options:**

- We can arrange training sessions with youth academy coaches from English pro clubs like Manchester City, Everton FC, Tottenham Hotspurs or Fulham FC. Supplement for a 2-hour session, including field hire, is approx. \$650 total.
- Subject to availability we might be able to arrange training sessions with English FA coaches at St. George's Park, headquarters of the English FA, along with a tour of the facilities. Approx. supplement for a 2-hour session will be around \$800 total.
- We can arrange tickets to pro games, subject to availability. Ticket costs will depend on the game, but usually ticket costs range from approx. \$75-\$150 per person depending on the game.
- Visit and tour of a pro team stadium – between \$25.00 and \$30.00 per person.
- A 2-hour training session with your own coaching staff – costs \$260.00 per 2 hours.

### **Travel insurance option:**

Your participants have the option to purchase accident, illness and trip cancellation/interruption insurance, including a Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (CFAR) – more information about this insurance is included on your team website page.

### **Not included in prices:**

- Beverages (soda) with meals.
- Gratuities for representatives and bus drivers.
- Admission fees to attractions.
- Single rooms in hotels. Single rooms are available at a supplement of \$40.00 per person per night on top of the double room supplements outlined in the accommodation description.

## **Touristic information London**

**LONDON STADIUM TOURS:** Tour one of the famous pro team stadiums in London like Wembley, Emirates (Arsenal FC) or Stamford Bridge (Chelsea)

**THE LONDON EYE:** The London Eye is a giant Ferris wheel on the South Bank of the River Thames in London, England. The entire structure is 135 meters (443 ft.) tall and the wheel has a diameter of 120 meters (394 ft.). It is the tallest Ferris wheel in Europe. Includes 30-minute rotation, Samsung interactive capsule guides, entry to 4D cinema experience.

**TOWER OF LONDON:** The massive White Tower is a typical example of Norman military architecture, whose influence was felt throughout the kingdom. It was built on the Thames by William the Conqueror to protect London and assert his power. The Tower of London – an imposing fortress with many layers of history, which has become one of the symbols of royalty – was built around the White Tower.

**WINDSOR CASTLE:** A visit to the Castle includes the State Apartments, St George's Chapel and Queen Mary's Dolls' House. Windsor Castle is a royal residence at Windsor in the English county of Berkshire. The castle is notable for its long association with the British royal family and for its architecture.

**HAMPTON COURT PALACE:** Hampton Court Palace is a royal palace in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Greater London, in the historic county of Middlesex; it has not been inhabited by the British Royal Family since the 18th century.

**LONDON DUNGEONS:** The London Dungeon is a London tourist attraction which recreates various gory and macabre historical events in a gallows humor style aimed at younger audiences. It uses a mixture of live actors, special effects and rides.

**HARRY POTTER TOUR:** People the world-over have been enchanted by the Harry Potter films for over a decade. The wonderful special effects and amazing creatures have made this iconic series beloved to both young and old – and now, for the first time, the doors are open for everyone at the studio where it first began. You'll have the chance to go behind-the-scenes and see many things the camera never showed. From breathtakingly detailed sets to stunning costumes, props and animatronics, Warner Bros. Studio Tour London provides a unique showcase of the extraordinary British artistry, technology and talent that went into making the most successful film series of all time.

## **Touristic information Chester/Manchester and Northwest England**

Chester and Manchester both are located in the Northwest part of England. Chester lies right on the border between Wales and England. Chester is one of the best preserved walled cities in Britain. It has a number of medieval buildings, but some of the black-and-white buildings within the city center are Victorian restorations. Manchester lies within the United Kingdom's second-most populous urban area, with a population of 2.55 million. Manchester is notable for its architecture, culture, musical exports, media links, scientific and engineering output, social impact, sports clubs and transport connections. Manchester is home to two top EPL clubs, Manchester United and Manchester City FC.

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM:** The National Football Museum is a museum at the Urbis building in Manchester city center founded to preserve, conserve and interpret several important collections of association football memorabilia. The museum was originally situated in Deepdale, Preston, Lancashire, but moved to Manchester in 2012.

**IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM:** Visit the award-winning IWM North to discover powerful stories that reveal how war shapes lives, from a soldier's last letter home to the twisted steel of New York City's World Trade Center. Housed in Daniel Libeskind's iconic building representing a globe torn apart by conflict, IWM North offers a free day out like no other.

**TRAFFORD CENTER:** The Trafford Center is a largest indoor shopping center in Western Europe and leisure complex in Greater Manchester, England. Situated in the Metropolitan Borough of Trafford, the Centre is situated close to the Trafford Park industrial estate and lies approximately five miles west of Manchester city center.

**THE BEATLES MUSEUM:** The Beatles Story is a visitor attraction dedicated to the 1960s pop group The Beatles in Liverpool, England.

**BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH:** Blackpool Pleasure Beach is an amusement park and resort situated along the Fylde coast in Blackpool, Lancashire, England. It is one of the top twenty most-visited amusement parks in the world.

# International Soccer Tour 2022 Itinerary

## Delaware FC

### Spain – Barcelona

#### Travel dates:

Late July – Early August, 2022

#### Itinerary:

- Day 1 Departure from Philadelphia airport.
- Day 2 Arrival Barcelona airport. Transfer to your accommodation.
- Day 3 Bus or boat tour Tossa de Mar: visit the beautiful old fishing town made famous in the 1950's by Ava Gardner and James Mason in the film Pandora and the Flying Dutchman. Evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 4 Visit Barcelona by bus, covering the Bullring, the Gaudi buildings, Casa Battlló and the Pedrera, Plaza Francesc Masia, the Nou Camp - home of FC Barcelona, followed by Gaudi's unfinished Sagrada Familia Cathedral and lastly Parque Guell.
- Day 5 Visit the city of Girona. Sightseeing possibilities include St. Mary's Cathedral, built between the 11th and 17th centuries, Passeig de la Muralla, Monastery of Saint Pere de Galligants and Chapel of Sant Nicolau, the Arab Baths, Cases de l'Onyar, etc. Evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 6 Visit the sacred mountain-top monastery of Montserrat with its breathtaking views.
- Day 7 Free day in Barcelona visiting the places the bus cannot reach. Drop off and pick up point in the central Plaza Catalunya. Recommended are the: Ramblas with its human statues and street artists, Palau de la Musica, Barrio Gotico with its maze of narrow streets, Plaza Real, Cathedral. Evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 8 More sightseeing in Barcelona. Visit Montjuic, a prominent hill overlooking Barcelona with amazing views of the city and visit the Olympic facilities.
- Day 9 Transfer to Barcelona airport and return flight.

\*The above itinerary is a provisional/suggested itinerary and can/will change depending on your group's specific wishes, the final game schedule for your team(s) and any pro game visit(s) incorporated for your group. Sightseeing admission fees are not included in the prices but can be added and pre-booked based on your group's specific wishes. Consult us for more information.



Wartburg College



Camp Nou



University of Mary



La Sagrada Familia

#### Price per person\*:

- 45-49 people traveling - \$2,492.00
- 40-44 people traveling - \$2,555.00
- 35-39 people traveling - \$2,633.00
- 30-34 people traveling - \$2,738.00
- 25-29 people traveling - \$2,879.00
- 20-24 people traveling - \$3,090.00

\* Prices are based on contracted airline fares for 2021. We will know more about fares for 2022 approx. 11 months prior to departure date, when airlines publish flights, and can confirm pricing then.

**Price inclusions:**

- Round trip airfare, including airport taxes and fuel surcharges. Prices are always subject to availability of flights and fares at time of booking.
- Accommodations and meals as specified in this proposal – see below.
- Ground transportation – see below.
- Costs for arranging the sport program – see below.
- Services of a local tour assistant – see below.
- 1 free trip for every 19 paying participants.

**Sport program included:**

We will arrange three friendly games per team.

**Accommodation and meals included:**

4-star Hotel accommodation in the Costa Brava region in a seaside town like Santa Susanna, Calella, etc.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- The accommodation is situated near the town center and/or beach.
- Distance to Barcelona is approx. 30-35 miles. All rooms (3 bedded rooms) have a shower and toilet as well as air-conditioning.
- The hotel has a restaurant, bar, lounge, reception and sometimes an outdoor swimming pool.
- Double rooms are available as well at a supplement of \$ 15.00 per person per night.

**Ground transportation included:**

During your entire stay a private bus will be available exclusively for your group – 10 hours a day.

**Local guide services included:**

A local tour assistant will be assigned to be exclusively with your group full time each day during your stay in each destination to provide you with any assistance when necessary, and help plan or amend your daily schedule as needed.

**Options available (not included in prices)**

**Sport program options:**

- We can arrange tickets to pro games, subject to availability. Ticket costs will depend on the game, but usually ticket costs range from approx. \$75-\$150 per person depending on the game.
- A 2-hour training session with your own coaching staff – costs approx. \$300.00 per 2 hours.
- Training sessions with coaches from a Barcelona area pro club like RCD Espanyol – costs approx. \$1,050.00 total per 2 hours, including field hire. Consult us for more information.
- Visit and tour of a pro team stadium – approx. \$ 35.00 per person for Camp Nou Stadium Tour.

**Accommodation option Barcelona:**

On request, we can accommodate the group in a 3/4-star hotel in Barcelona, close to the city center while in Spain instead. Hotel is within walking distance of a train station and not far from the Sagrada Familia. All rooms have private facilities/bathroom, satellite TV, phone and climate control. Hotel has a

bar, lounge, workout room and small outdoor pool. Supplemental cost for this hotel option is approx. \$40.00 - \$60.00 per person per night (to be confirmed – depends on time of the year).

**Travel insurance option:**

Your participants have the option to purchase accident, illness and trip cancellation/interruption insurance, including a Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (CFAR) – more information about this insurance is included on your team website page.

**Not included in prices:**

- Beverages (soda) with meals.
- Gratuities for representatives and bus drivers.
- Admission fees to attractions.
- Single rooms in hotels. Single rooms are available at a supplement of \$40.00 per person per night on top of the double room supplements outlined in the accommodation description.



## **Touristic information Barcelona**

Barcelona is the capital city of the autonomous community of Catalonia in Spain, as well as the country's second most populous municipality, with a population of 1.6 million within city limits. It is the largest metropolis on the Mediterranean Sea. Barcelona has a rich cultural heritage and is today an important cultural center and a major tourist destination. Particularly renowned are the architectural works of Antoni Gaudí and Lluís Domènech i Montaner, which have been designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Barcelona is also home to two top pro clubs in Spain, FC Barcelona and RCD Espanyol.

**CAMP NOU:** Visit the Home of Barcelona FC, the away team changing room and the players' tunnel, the dugouts, the press room, commentators box and of course the Museum. The Museum is the most modern football museum thanks to its interactive wall spaces, large scale audiovisual displays and an extensive display of objects to explain the history of FC Barcelona and understand the values that make Barça "més que un club" -- "more than a club".

**SAGRADA FAMILIA:** The unfinished Cathedral by Gaudi, The expiatory church of La Sagrada Família is a work on a grand scale which was begun on 19 March 1882 from a project by the diocesan architect, Francisco de Paula del Villar (1828-1901). At the end of 1883 Gaudí was commissioned to carry on the works, a task which he did not abandon until his death in 1926. Since then different architects have continued the work after his original idea.

**MONTSERRAT:** Montserrat is a multi-peaked mountain located near the city of Barcelona. It is well known as the site of the Benedictine abbey, Santa Maria de Montserrat, which hosts the Virgin of Montserrat sanctuary and which is identified by some with the location of the Holy Grail in Arthurian myth. The mountain is composed of strikingly pink conglomerate, a form of sedimentary rock. Montserrat is Spain's first National Park.

**CASTELL DE MONTJUIC:** Barcelona's Montjuïc is a broad shallow hill to the southwest of the city center. The eastern side of the hill is almost a sheer cliff, giving it a commanding view over the city's harbor immediately below. The top of the hill (a height of 184,8 m) was the site of several fortifications, the latest of which the Castle of Montjuïc remains today. The fortress largely dates from the 17th century, with 18th-century additions. It served as a prison, often holding political prisoners, until the time of General Franco. The castle was also the site of numerous executions. On different occasions during the Spanish Civil War, both Nationalists and Republicans were executed there, each at the time when the site was held by their opponents. The Catalan nationalist leader Lluís Companys i Jover was also executed there in 1940, having been extradited to the Franco government by the Nazis.

**LA RAMBLA & BOQUERIA MARKET:** This busy street is just for pedestrians and is lined with outdoor markets, shops, restaurants and cafes. La Boqueria is a large public market in the Ciutat Vella district of Barcelona, and one of the city's foremost tourist landmarks, with an entrance from La Rambla, not far from the Liceu, Barcelona's opera house. The market has a very diverse selection of goods.

## International Soccer Tour 2021 Itinerary

### Delaware FC

### Germany – Munich and Cologne

#### Travel dates:

Late July – Early August, 2022

#### Itinerary:

- Day 1 Departure from xxx airport.
- Day 2 Arrival Munich airport and transfer to your accommodation in Munich.
- Day 3 Make a bus tour past all of Munich's famous sights such as: the Peterskirche; the Marienplatz, with the Old and New Town Hall; the Residenz, the Royal Palace; the Deutsches Museum; the Munich Municipal Museum; the Frauenkirche and the St. Michaelskirche. A trip to the Olympic village, built for the 1972 Olympic Games, will be included as well. Evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 4 Morning optional training session with your own coaching staff. Day excursion to Dachau. The name has been a symbol of horror and despair since the first Nazi concentration camp was built here in 1933. There is now a museum that houses an exhibition to document this grim piece of history.
- Day 5 Excursion to Schloss (Castle) Nymphenburg. Evening game vs. a local team.



Rye Revolution



Munich Skyline



Putnam City North High School



Allianz Arena Home of Bayern Munich

- Day 6 Transfer to your accommodation in Cologne, Germany.
- Day 7 Day trip Cologne; Cologne Cathedral, the Old City and Mungerdorfer Stadium. Evening game vs. a local club.
- Day 8 Morning optional training session with your own coaching staff. Rhein River Tour or Day trip to Düsseldorf.
- Day 9 More sightseeing in Cologne, or day trip to Amsterdam for sightseeing – visit the Anne Frank House and explore the canals of Amsterdam.
- Day 10 Transfer to Cologne or Amsterdam airport and return flight.

\*The above itinerary is a provisional/suggested itinerary and can/will change depending on your group's specific wishes, the final game schedule for your team(s) and any pro game visit(s) incorporated for your group. Sightseeing admission fees are not included in the prices but can be added and pre-booked based on your group's specific wishes. Consult us for more information.



City of Cologne



Rye Revolution



City Skyline



Northern State University

**Price per person:**

- 45-49 people traveling - \$2,537.00
- 40-44 people traveling - \$2,604.00
- 35-39 people traveling - \$2,678.00
- 30-34 people traveling - \$2,778.00
- 25-29 people traveling - \$2,919.00
- 20-24 people traveling - \$3,123.00

\* Prices are based on contracted airline fares for 2021. We will know more about fares for 2022 approx. 11 months prior to departure date, when airlines publish flights and fares, and can confirm pricing then.

**Price inclusions:**

- Round trip airfare, including airport taxes and fuel surcharges. Prices are always subject to availability of flights and fares at time of booking.
- Accommodations and meals as specified in this proposal – see below. Prices subject to availability of accommodations at time of booking.
- Ground transportation – see below.
- Costs for arranging the sport program – see below.
- Services of a local tour assistant – see below.
- 1 free trip for every 19 paying participants.

**Sport program included:**

**Munich:** We will arrange 2 games per team.

**Cologne:** We will arrange 2 games per team.

**Accommodation and meals included:**

**Munich:** 3-star Hotel accommodation on the outskirts of Munich.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Hotel in Munich just outside the city center.
- The hotel has a restaurant and bar/lounge.
- Accommodation in triple rooms (3 people). All rooms have TV, telephone, private bathroom with shower and toilet.
- Double rooms (2 people) available at a supplement of \$10.00 per person per night.

**Cologne:** 3-star Hotel accommodation in Cologne.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Hotel located in Cologne less than 10 minutes from the city center by train or bus.
- The hotel has a restaurant, bar/lounge with TV, spa and sauna as well as an indoor pool.
- Rooms for 3 people (triple rooms) include TV, telephone, bathroom with shower and toilet.
- Double rooms are available at a supplement of \$10.00 per person per night.

**Ground transportation included:**

During your entire stay a private bus will be available exclusively for your group – 10 hours a day.

**Local guide services included:**

A local bi-lingual tour assistant will be assigned to be exclusively with your group full time each day during your stay in each destination to provide you with any assistance when necessary, and help plan or amend your daily schedule as needed.

**Options available (not included in prices)****Sport program options:**

- Visit and tour of a pro team stadium – approx. \$30.00 per person.
- Visit to a pro game. Ticket prices are between \$60.00-\$120.00 or more per person depending on the game.
- A 2-hour training session with your own coaching staff – costs approx. \$300.00 per 2 hours.
- Training sessions with academy coaches from a German pro club – costs approx. \$650.00 per 2 hours, including field hire. Consult us for more information.

**Travel insurance option:**

Your participants have the option to purchase accident, illness and trip cancellation/interruption insurance, including a Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (CFAR) – more information about this insurance is included on your team website page.

**Not included in prices:**

- Beverages (soda) with meals.
- Gratuities for representatives and bus drivers.
- Single rooms in hotels. Single rooms are available at a supplement of \$40.00 per person per night on top of the double room supplements outlined in the accommodation description.

## Touristic information Munich

Munich is the capital and largest city of the German state of Bavaria, on the banks of River Isar north of the Bavarian Alps. Munich is the third largest city in Germany, after Berlin and Hamburg, and the 12th biggest city of the European Union, with a population of above 1.5 million. The city is a major center of art, advanced technologies, finance, publishing, culture, innovation, education, business, and tourism in Germany and Europe and enjoys a very high standard and quality of living, reaching #1 in Germany and #4 worldwide.

**Nymphenburg Palace:** The Nymphenburg Palace or, "Castle of the Nymph(s)", is a Baroque palace in Munich, Bavaria, southern Germany. The palace was the main summer residence of the rulers of Bavaria of the House of Wittelsbach.

**Dachau Concentration Camp:** Dachau concentration camp was the first of the Nazi concentration camps opened in Germany, intended to hold political prisoners. It is located on the grounds of an abandoned munitions factory near the medieval town of Dachau, about 16 km (9.9 mi) northwest of Munich in the state of Bavaria, in southern Germany. Opened in 1933 by Heinrich Himmler, its purpose was enlarged to include forced labor, and eventually, the imprisonment of Jews, ordinary German and Austrian criminals, and eventually foreign nationals from countries that Germany occupied or invaded. It was finally liberated in 1945.

**Olympic Park of Munich:** The Olympiapark in Munich, Germany, is an Olympic Park which was constructed for the 1972 Summer Olympics. The Park continues to serve as a venue for cultural, social, and religious events such as events of worship.

### Neuschwanstein Castle

Seven weeks after the death of King Ludwig II in 1886, Neuschwanstein was opened to the public. The shy king had built the castle in order to withdraw from public life – now vast numbers of people came to view his private refuge. Today Neuschwanstein is one of the most popular of all the palaces and castles in Europe. Every year 1.4 million people visit "the castle of the fairy-tale king". In the summer around 6,000 visitors a day stream through rooms that were intended for a single inhabitant. The setting of Neuschwanstein could not be more idyllic. However, movement in the foundation area has to be continuously monitored, and the sheer rock walls must be repeatedly secured.

**Marienplatz:** Marienplatz is a central square in the city centre of Munich, Germany. It has been the city's main square since 1158. In the Middle Ages markets and tournaments were held in this city square. Marienplatz was named after the Mariensäule, a Marian column erected in its centre in 1638 to celebrate the end of Swedish occupation. Today the Marienplatz is dominated by the New City Hall (Neues Rathaus) on the north side. The Glockenspiel in the tower of the new city hall was inspired by these tournaments, and draws millions of tourists a year. At the east side Munich's Old City Hall (Altes Rathaus) is located. It's a gothic council hall and ballroom and tower, which have been reconstructed. The pedestrian zone between Karlsplatz and Marienplatz is a crowded area with numerous shops and restaurants.

## **Touristic information Cologne**

Cologne is the fourth-largest city in Germany (after Berlin, Hamburg, and Munich). It is located within the Rhine-Ruhr metropolitan region, one of the major European metropolitan regions and the largest in Germany with more than ten million inhabitants. Cologne is located on both sides of the Rhine River, less than eighty kilometers from Belgium.

**Cologne Cathedral (free of charge):** Near the left bank of the Rhine, Cologne's towering landmark, the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Mary, is a masterpiece of High Gothic architecture. One of the largest cathedrals in Europe, it was started in 1248 and is considered the most ambitious building project of the Middle Ages. As impressive as its 157-meter tall twin towers is the cathedral's incredible interior. Covering an area of 6,166 square meters and boasting 56 pillars, highlights include the 12th-century Reliquary of the Three Kings created by local goldsmiths; the famous relief of the Adoration of the Kings from 1440; the Treasure Chamber with its many precious objects, including ancient reliquaries and manuscripts; and the panoramic views from the south tower, reached by more than 500 steps that pass the cathedral's famous bells (ear protection is provided on Sundays). A variety of excellent guided tours are available (at a fee of approx. \$10.00 per person), as well as events, including concerts and services (be sure to check for closures prior to arrival).

**Cologne's Old Town (free of charge):** As you explore Cologne's numerous historic churches and museums, you'll crisscross the city's lovely Old Town quarters with its many unique charms. In addition to old churches such as Great St. Martin, you'll find yourself traversing countless quaint alleys lined with traditional old houses, many now home to boutique shops, galleries, cafés, and restaurants. And with its many pleasant paths along the Rhine, you'll find ample opportunity to enjoy great views as you plan your route through this ancient city. You'll also find yourself in awe of the countless monuments and fountains that adorn the area, along with its Archeological Zone with its many ancient ruins and artifacts.

**The Roman-Germanic Museum (approx. \$10.00 per person):** Just a few minutes' walk from Cologne Cathedral, the Roman-Germanic Museum offers a fascinating insight into the city's rich archaeological heritage from the Paleolithic period to the early Middle Ages. Exhibits of interest are the Dionysus Mosaic dating from the 2nd century and the 15-meter-high funerary monument of Poblicius from the 1st century, both discovered during excavations in the city. The museum also displays other mosaics, Roman glass, domestic pottery and sculpture, and Roman and Germanic jewelry. Also of interest is Kolumba, the art museum of the Archdiocese of Cologne, notable for its art and antiquities.

**Cologne cable car (approx. \$8.00 per person):** Since its establishment in 1957 as the first European cable car to cross a river - in this case, the Rhine - the Cologne cable car has carried a whopping 15 million passengers. The views are, of course, the big draw, particularly those of the Old Town and Cologne Cathedral. Easily accessible by public transport, one of the best ways to tackle this fun attraction is to consider it a one-way trip, walking back to your starting point on the east or west bank of the Rhine. For more great views, a visit to Cologne Telecommunications Tower is worthwhile. Located northwest of Cologne's Old Town, Colonius, as it's known locally, is 243 meters high with a superb viewing platform and a revolving restaurant.