

Beat: Travel

The Roman German Museum

Roman history in Germany

Cologne, 07.02.2017, 08:48 Time

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Apart from looking at the Cologne Cathedral in Cologne, the Roman German Museum is another must-see attraction. Located just minutes away from the main train station, there's no excuse not to see it. Among its many artifacts, the most famous are the Dionysos mosaic and the philosopher's mosaic. These are almost complete specimens of Roman mosaics built by the Romans when they settled the area.

Upstairs, there are original Roman stone sculptures and carvings ranging from decorative items to tombstones. There are also metal items such as locks and keys and ornate lampstands. Speaking of ornate, decorative household fittings plaid with motifs from the natural world reflects the wealth of the Romans in being able to afford such items. Of course, no museum on Roman history would be complete without a statue of the multi-breasted goddess Artemis. Among famous figures, there's also the Flussgottmaske, it is the face used on many modern-day novelty palm reading machines in shopping malls and airports, just remember not to be tempted to touch any of the exhibits!

If German isn't your forte the museum also sports English explanations as well as French descriptions due to Cologne's close proximity to the border. Don't be surprised to see a French school group passing through. The museum is open everyday but Monday from 10am to 5pm. Entry costs €9 for adults and €5 reduced. For extended hours and further information, please visit www.roemisch-germanisches-museum.de.

Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-10647/the-roman-german-museum.html>

Editorial office and responsibility:

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Jonathan Got

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