

Urban Explorer

City Tours Magazine



Hamburg - Germany's Gateway to the World

OVERVIEW

Hamburg is Germany's second-largest city and a major port on the River Elbe, often called the "Gateway to the World." Its harbor is one of Europe's busiest, and city life revolves around waterways, canals, and over 2,500 bridges—more than Amsterdam or Venice.

Must-See Places:

1. Speicherstadt & HafenCity

The iconic red-brick Speicherstadt, built between 1883 and the 1920s on oak piles, is the world's largest warehouse district and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visiting highlights include the **Wasserschloss**, the **Miniatur Wunderland**, the **Hamburg Dungeon**, spice and customs museums, and even a coffee roastery tour. Modern **HafenCity**, adjacent to Speicherstadt, features contemporary architecture like the Elbphilharmonie and the Spiegel building. It's easily accessible via U4 (Überseequartier), U3 (Baumwall), or buses, and walking tours frequently include both districts

2. Elbphilharmonie

Sitting atop an old warehouse in HafenCity, this spectacular concert hall dazzles with its wave-shaped glass façade. You can visit the **Plaza** — a free viewing platform offering sweeping harbor and city views that draw over 7 million visitors. Accessible by U4 (Überseequartier) or U3 (Baumwall), the Elbphilharmonie is a highlight on many HafenCity tours.

3. St. Michael's Church (Michel)

Nicknamed "Michel," this Baroque landmark with its 132 m copper spire towers over Hamburg and serves as a navigational aid for ships. Built in the 17th century and rebuilt twice, it features a stunning interior with five organs, marble pulpit, and grand altar. Opening hours vary seasonally (e.g., 9 am–7:30 pm in summer), and visitors can climb the tower for €8 (adults) or visit the crypt and "Hamburg HISTORY" film for €6 each, or grab a combo ticket (€10). Guided tours and an app are available, and the entry fee includes a small donation for upkeep. Reach it via U3 (Baumwall/Rödingsmarkt), S1/S3 (Stadthausbrücke), or buses 16/17.

4. Reeperbahn & St. Pauli

Hamburg's legendary nightlife hotspot, the Reeperbahn, is packed with bars, clubs, music venues, theaters, strip clubs, and the famous Davidwache police station. Live music thrives at venues like **Molotow** and **Kaiserkeller**, both steeped in Beatle history. While vibrant, the area can be wild late at night: local security staff advise vigilance due to instances of excessive drinking and occasionally unruly behavior. Best reached via Reeperbahn S- or U-bahn stations.

5. Miniatur Wunderland

The world's largest model railway exhibit, featuring 1,230 trains, 12,000 wagons, 5,280 buildings, 290,000 figures, planes, cars and more — a fan favorite and Germany's top-visited attraction. Open daily from ~09:30 to 18:00+, with potential queues (book skip-the-line tickets online). Guided "backstage" tours are available, and many ticket packages include Hafen boat rides.

Located in Speicherstadt at Kehrwieder 2, reachable via U3 (Baumwall), bus 6, or S1/S3 (Stadthausbrücke); bike-friendly options also exist with StadtRAD

6. Alster Lake

Split into the Inner and Outer Alster, this scenic urban oasis is perfect for strolling, boating, or dining riverside. Multiple boat rental spots like Bobby Reich, Pieper Sailing School, barca, Bodo's Bootssteg, and Bootsvermietung Dornheim offer rowboats, canoes, paddleboats, sailboats, and even gondolas. Prices range from €8 to €30+ per hour depending on boat type, and services run April–October (varies slightly). Easily reached via Jungfernstieg, accessible by S- or U-bahn.

TRAIN CONNECTIONS FROM MÜNSTER TO HAMBURG

There is **no direct connection** with only regional trains (RE/RB) from Münster to Hamburg. However, you can travel almost entirely with regional-only services using this route:

Suggested route:

- Travel with **RB66/RE2 from Münster to Osnabrück**
- Then continue with **RE9 to Bremen Hbf**
- you will take after that the **Metronom (ME RB41) from Bremen Hbf to Hamburg Hbf** (Hamburg Main trainstation)

Approximate travel duration: 4–5 hours, typically with 2 transfers depending on the schedule.

Metronom remains the operator of regional trains in the Hamburg–Bremen route.

Good to know:

This entire route can be used with the **Deutschland-Ticket**, which allows unlimited travel on all regional and local public transport throughout Germany for a flat monthly fee. No reservations are required for these regional trains



Amsterdam -

City of Canals and Culture

OVERVIEW



Amsterdam is a city where historic charm meets modern creativity. With its scenic canals, world-class museums, and rich cultural heritage, the Dutch capital offers something for every traveler. Whether you're here for the art, the architecture, or the food, Amsterdam is sure to leave a lasting impression.

Must-See Places:

1. Rijksmuseum

Step into the heart of Dutch art and history. The Rijksmuseum houses masterpieces by Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Frans Hals, including the iconic *Night Watch*. Don't miss the beautifully manicured gardens and the famous "I amsterdam" letters nearby.

2. Anne Frank House

A deeply moving experience, this museum preserves the secret annex where Anne Frank wrote her diary during World War II. Visiting the Anne Frank House offers a powerful reminder of the impact of history on individual lives.

3. Van Gogh Museum

Explore the life and work of Vincent van Gogh, one of the most celebrated and tragic figures in art history. This museum boasts over 200 of his paintings, drawings, and personal letters—an emotional and artistic journey.

4. Canal Tour

Get a unique view of the city by cruising along Amsterdam's UNESCO-listed canals. Opt for a daytime tour to admire the quaint houseboats and 17th-century architecture, or take an evening cruise for a romantic, illuminated experience.

5. Jordaan District

Once a working-class neighborhood, Jordaan is now one of Amsterdam's most desirable areas. Wander through its narrow streets filled with independent art galleries, cozy cafés, vintage boutiques, and hidden courtyards.

6. Vondelpark

Escape the bustle and relax like a local. Vondelpark is Amsterdam's largest green space, perfect for picnics, bike rides, or simply lounging on a sunny day. Free concerts are often held at the open-air theater during the summer.

7. Hortus Botanicus

Founded in **1638**, this is one of the oldest botanical gardens in the world. Located in the Plantage district, the garden includes a tropical greenhouse, butterfly house, palm hothouse, and a cozy café in an orangery. It's a peaceful haven for plant lovers and history enthusiasts alike. Escape the city buzz amid rare and exotic flora, and enjoy greenery tucked into the city center.

TRAIN CONNECTIONS FROM MÜNSTER TO AMSTERDAM

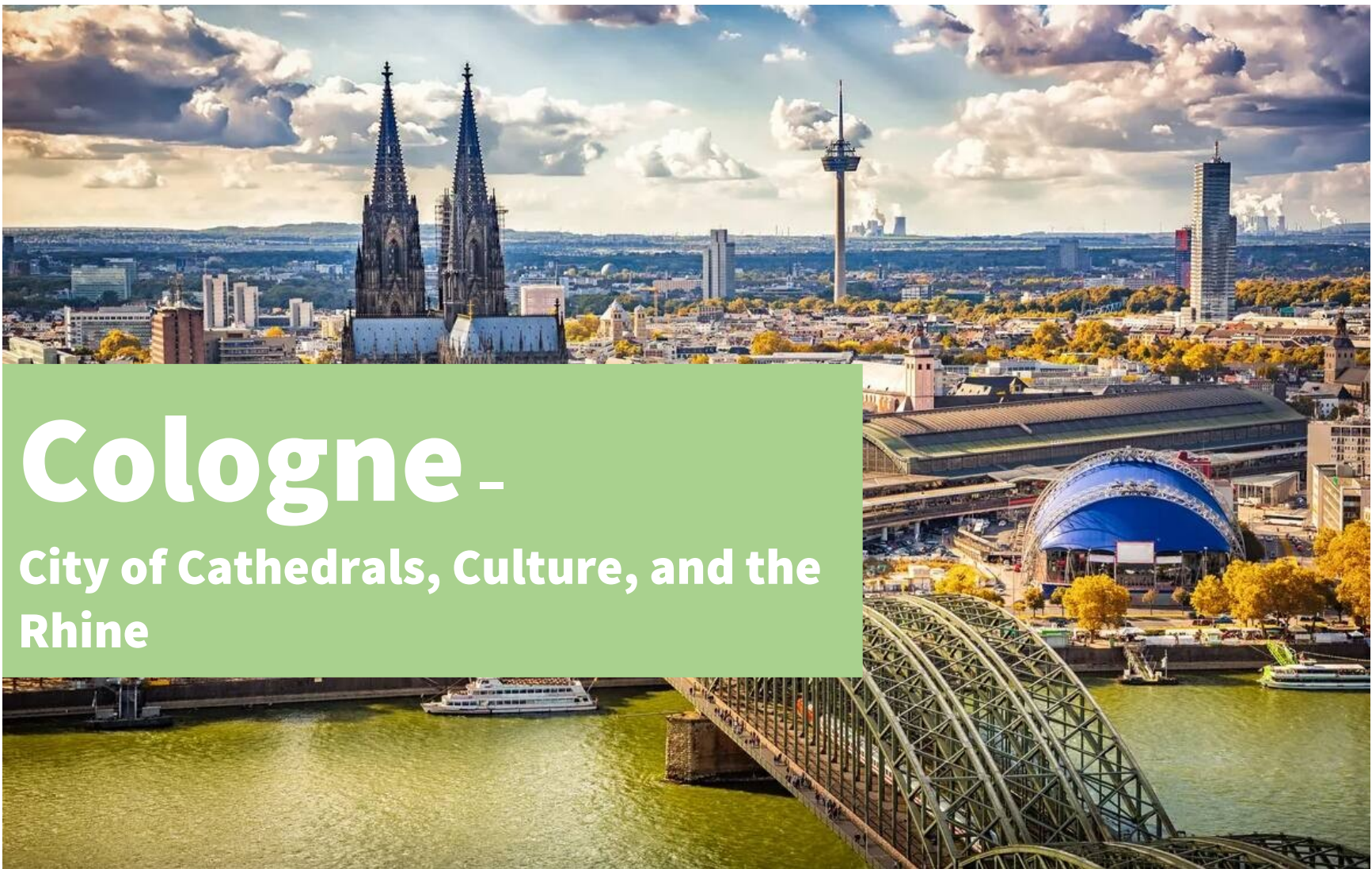


There are **two train travel options** from Münster to Amsterdam:

Suggested route:

- Direct Regional service (DB Regio NRW), known as **RB 64 Euregio-Bahn**, runs hourly and takes about **1 h 19 min**. Then From Enschede, you can board **Dutch InterCity trains** to Amsterdam, which run roughly every half hour and take around **2 h** via Almelo, Deventer, Amersfoort, etc.
- There is a direct train from **Münster Hauptbahnhof to Amsterdam Centraal** operated by **NS International (NJ404090 / NJ420)**, typically running once per day in each direction. The **morning** train departs around **06:54** and arrives at approximately **09:58** (about **3 hours**), while an **afternoon** train usually departs around **18:28** and arrives around **21:27** (about **2 hours and 59 minutes**). (NJ 40421)

Schedules can vary slightly, so it's recommended to check in advance.



Cologne -

City of Cathedrals, Culture, and the Rhine

OVERVIEW

Cologne is a city where ancient history and vibrant modern life blend seamlessly. Known for its stunning Gothic cathedral, lively old town, and rich cultural scene, Köln offers a unique mix of tradition and innovation. Whether you're exploring Roman ruins, admiring contemporary art, or enjoying a Kölsch beer along the Rhine, this dynamic city leaves every visitor with unforgettable memories.

Must-See Places:

1. Cologne Cathedral (Kölner Dom)

The city's most iconic landmark and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this towering Gothic masterpiece took over 600 years to complete. Climb the 533 steps to the observation platform for breathtaking views over the city and the Rhine River.

2. Museum Ludwig

Right next to the cathedral, Museum Ludwig houses one of Europe's best collections of modern art, featuring works by Picasso, Warhol, and Lichtenstein. A must-visit for contemporary art lovers.

3. Roman-Germanic Museum (Römisch-Germanisches Museum)

Discover Cologne's ancient roots with Roman artifacts, mosaics, and the famous Dionysus mosaic. The museum showcases the city's importance during the Roman Empire..

4. Old Town (Altstadt)

Wander the cobblestone streets of the historic old town, filled with colorful houses, medieval churches, cozy pubs, and plenty of charm. It's the heart of Cologne's culture and nightlife.e.

5. Hohenzollern Bridge

This famous bridge is covered with thousands of love locks and offers one of the best views of the cathedral. A perfect spot for a romantic walk, especially at sunset.

6. Rhine River Promenade

Take a stroll or river cruise along the scenic promenade. It's lined with cafés, street musicians, and panoramic views — great for relaxing or people-watching.

TRAIN CONNECTIONS FROM MÜNSTER TO COLOGNE

A direct connection from Münster to Cologne is available via the Regional-Express RE 7. This train runs approximately every hour, takes about **2 hours**, and is fully covered by the **Deutschlandticket**, making it a convenient and affordable option for regional travel without transfers.