



One of the prettiest train routes through Germany is without a doubt the route which runs along both banks of the Rhine, particularly the section between Mainz and Cologne. It is preferable to travel across this section by slow train, affording passengers the opportunity to enjoy their beautiful surroundings. Set against the hills, particularly those facing south, vineyards are part of this view, while castles and fortresses may be found

everywhere, usually on hilltops, but also sometimes on islands that are in the middle of lakes. One of the most famous locations along the Rhine is the Loreley Rock, a slate cliff located at a sharp bend in the Rhine. In the past, this was the site of regular shipwrecks. These shipwrecks gave rise to the myth of the beautiful blond maid Loreley, who would sing her songs from the top of the rock, thereby luring sailors to their death.





Cologne is an important and dynamic railway intersection in Germany, with a famous railway bridge across the Rhine. However, it is also one of the most appealing cultural cities in the country. For starters, there is the famous Gothic Dom, located near the station. Although construction began as early as the thirteenth century, it was stopped by a lack of funding in the fifteenth century, and was not completed until the late

nineteenth century. As if by a miracle, it was practically spared from the ravages of the Second World War. The rest of Cologne's city centre is easy to explore on foot from the station. Dating back to Roman times, this Altstadt (Old City) is a charming web of narrow streets, surrounded by cafés, shops and restaurants. The main shopping street is the Hohe Straße which is a pedestrian-only zone. Cologne is also famous for its museums,