



to Experience, Learn, Shop

The cathedral (Dom) in the center of Cologne is the city's primary tourist attraction.

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Plan Ahead

Both trade shows operate massive Web sites to help accommodate visitors.

BETA International (www.beta-int.com) provides details and contact information for anyone planning to attend the trade fair.

SPOGA (www.spoga.de) offers a bit more in the way of travel helps for visitors. The producers of SPOGA also operate an office in Chicago, which maintains a second Web site (www.koeln-messenaftha.com).

You will need a passport to travel outside the United States, but neither host country requires a visa.

WWW beta-int.com
spoga.de

Getting There

American travelers have a variety of options for traveling to Birmingham and Cologne. Continental Airlines operates flights between its Newark Liberty International hub and Birmingham International. The airport is connected to the NEC complex via a short tram ride. You can easily catch a train, bus or cab to anywhere in the city from the airport.

Travelers can also connect to Birmingham through Amsterdam or London. Direct bus service from Gatwick and Heathrow in London to Birmingham airport is convenient and fairly inexpensive. Connecting by train is a bit trickier and is further complicated with luggage in tow. Visitors can also choose Manchester as a landing point, then travel two hours by train to Birmingham.

Koln Bonn Airport is nearest to the SPOGA venue. Trains run about every 20 minutes between the airport and downtown Cologne and the nearby Messeplatz.

Amsterdam is also a good launching point for a visit to SPOGA. Trains leave several times daily from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport bound for Cologne. The trip takes approximately two hours.

Trans-European trains are clean and comfortable and provide a unique opportunity to see the countryside.

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