

## **Part 1 Europe 2025 for Cathy's blog**

### **Friday April 5th**

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We left Siem Reap at 12:30pm. We had a shuttle trip to the Airport, caught a flight to Singapore, quick transit through Singapore and on to Heathrow. Another quick transit through Heathrow airport and on to Cologne.

We caught an Uber to our hotel and arrived there just after 12:00 pm local time after travelling for 29 hours!

In the bright sunshine, we actually didn't feel like sleeping and we went out to see the city sights. The first and obvious sight is the Dom.  
This is the Cologne Cathedral.



Photos cannot do it justice.  
There are so many wonderful (and whimsical) carvings.  
The stained glass windows are amazing.

The cathedral was built on the site of the Three Kings Shrine and building began in 1248. It took 632 years to build.







**This is a lecturn ( the symbol of Cologne is the double eagle).**



**Marble statue.**



**Mosaic flooring.**

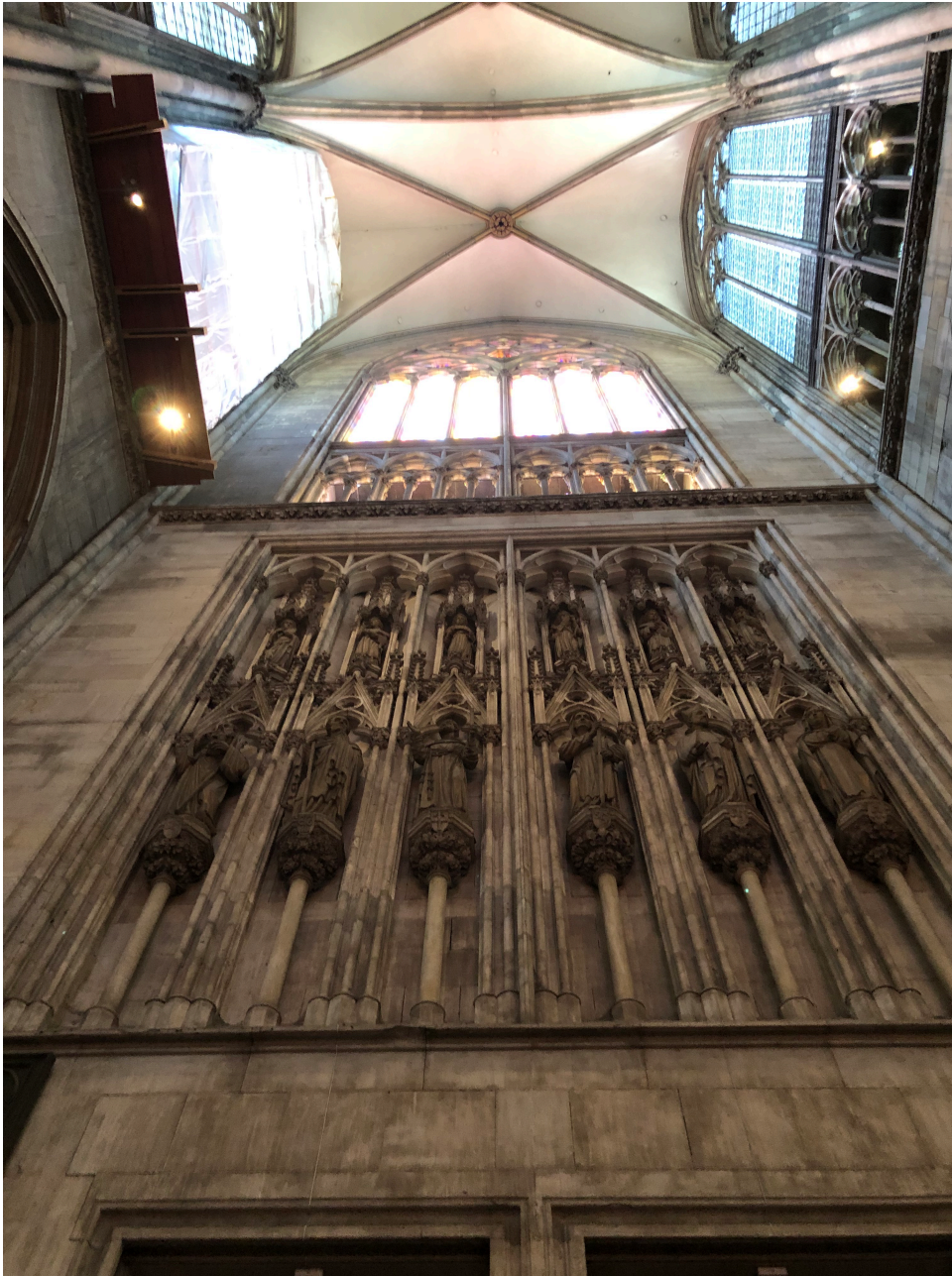


**A medieval tomb effigy carved and lying on the sarcophagus. Back in the day, the dead would lie in a coffin in the sarcophagus. Twelve bodies were buried in the Cologne cathedral including Kings and Archbishops.**





**These two creatures are carved at the feet of the effigy.**



**Carvings in the wall panels and the vaulted ceiling.**



**Even the wooden pews are beautifully carved.**



**Intricate patterns on the entrance door.**

There is simply too much to photograph or show. You will just have to visit the Cologne Cathedral yourself!

We walked across the Rhine River over the Hohenzollern Bridge. The sunshine was almost too bright but the air was cold. There are big statues of men on horses at each end.

Kaiser Willelm II  
King Fredrick Wilhelm III  
Emperor Frederick III  
Emperor Wilhelm I





We then sat at Reichardt's bakery and cafe across the square from the Dom, to eat cherry tart and drink coffee, before returning to the hotel to rest a bit.

We had tea at a local beer place, commonly called Gaffel Kolsch. They serve you Kolsch beer in tall, thin glasses, keeping a tally on a coaster. David had schnitzel, significantly bigger and thicker than our local Cambodian schnitzels, but very tender, with about three large potatoes worth of mashed potatoes. I had potato fritters, served with "black bread" and apple sauce

Then it was time to head back to the hotel room, to relax, to charge phones ect and to go to sleep.

We didn't get up until about 6:00am and although we were still tired, I think we short circuited the jet lag.