

Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Today's Weather: Mostly Cloudy  
16– 22 °C / 60 – 72 °F

## 6:00-11:00 AM

**Café Breakfast:** Coffee, juice and pastries are available at the coffee station in front of The Lounge.

## 6:30-9:30 AM

**Continental Breakfast:** A selection of beverages and breakfast items are available on The Aquavit Terrace.

## 7:00-9:30 AM

**Breakfast:** Enjoy a buffet breakfast and a choice of dishes cooked to order in The Restaurant.

## 8:00 AM

**Welcome to Kinderdijk:** Viking Atla arrives in Kinderdijk, The Netherlands.

## 9:00-11:00 AM

**Shore Excursion: Kinderdijk Windmills Tour.** Visit this unique and historic World Heritage Site, with its network of windmills and ingenious flood-management devices.

## 11:15 AM

**Back on Board:** Please be back on board the ship by this time. We will depart Kinderdijk for Cologne shortly thereafter.

## 12:30 PM

**Lunch:** Join us for lunch in The Restaurant.

## 12:30 PM

**Café Lunch:** If you prefer, enjoy a lighter, buffet-style lunch on The Aquavit Terrace.

## 2:00 PM

**Safety Drill:** Your safety is of paramount importance to us.

## 2:30 PM

**Presentation: Dutch Water Management.** In the Viking Lounge.

## 5:30-7:00 PM

**Cocktail Hour:** Enjoy a cocktail and live music in the Lounge.

## 6:30 PM

**A Toast to Our Guests:** Captain Vojtech Mellar and Hotel Manager Andreas S. Klauschke invite you to join them in the Lounge for a toast to welcome you and fellow guests aboard.

## 6:45 PM

**Daily Briefing:** Program Director Caspar van Helden invites you to the Lounge to find out about tomorrow's excursions and events.

## 7:00 PM

**Dinner:** Chef de Cuisine Noel Jontongco and Maître d' Pavel Domanicky invite you to The Restaurant for a special welcome dinner.

## 7:00 PM

**Bar Menu:** Enjoy a casual meal on the Aquavit Terrace.

## 9:00 PM

**Going Dutch:** From Dutch cheeses to the Dutch Masters, join us for a fascinating talk followed by tastings of delicious Dutch cheeses and jenever.

## IMPORTANT SHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Your Viking Atla team wishes you a happy and memorable day!

### Ship Contacts:

Reception: +49 152 225 380 48  
Program Director: +49 152 225 381 77

### Ship Location:

Kinderdijk, Nederland.

## KINDERDIJK

## A taste of The Netherlands: Say cheese!

Or Gouda or Edam or Maasdammer...

With its lush green pastures, happy cows and multibillion-pound dairy industry, it is no surprise that Holland is the world's largest exporter of cheese. There are many varieties—blue, clove, smoked, herbed—but three of the most popular are:

**Gouda:** About half of The Netherlands's cheese production is devoted to this iconic, semi-hard cheese that has a mild, piquant taste. Gouda is fantastic for cooking—try extra belegen (extra ripe cheese that has been aged for 7–8 months). The oldest varieties are aged for at least 10 months and are excellent for eating with a sharp mustard.

**Edam:** This cheese is the second-most important cheese in The Netherlands, accounting for 27% of the country's total cheese production. This semi-hard cheese has a mellow, salty taste that is popular with all ages, especially children.

**Maasdammer:** This cheese has large holes, a domed shape and a sweet, nutty taste. Leerdammer and Maasdam are the best-known brands of Maasdammer cheese.

## Concierge tip

One of the nicest views of the Kinderdijk windmills is offered along the Molenstraat. When you leave the ship, cross the street and turn right. Walk as far as the wooden fence and you will be rewarded with a splendid view of this unique UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## Viking fact

While southern Europeans established trade routes on land, Scandinavia's high mountains meant that goods had to be delivered to coastal villages by sea. As a result, shipping trade routes into fjords and inlets formed as early as the 8th century. Control of these waterways was critical to Norse survival, so shipbuilders also designed vessels for protection.

## Word of mouth

"My perfect Viking River Cruises moment was on a Rhine river cruise. We docked early at the UNESCO site of Kinderdijk, ready for an excursion to see the windmills. My husband and I left the boat for a walk and found the local cycle hire shop. It was too early for it to be open but the owner kindly agreed to do us a deal on cycle hire for just 40 minutes. We cycled along the path to see the windmills rising out of the early morning mist like a 17th-century Dutch painting—a magical landscape which we had all to ourselves apart from a fisherman and the wildlife. We even got back in time to catch the 'official' excursion group as well!"

—Mrs. Teresa Squires, Norfolk, U.K.

The Wi-Fi password is: **viking2013**. Please contact the front desk if you are having technical difficulties.



## At a glance: The history of The Netherlands

- Amsterdam was once a maze of lakes, swamps and peat at or below sea level; the oldest archaeological finds date from Roman times, but there is virtually no evidence of a settlement.
- In the Middle Ages, the entire region consisted of autonomous duchies and counties. Even though a Spanish monarchy ruled the area, the merchants of this seaside region were busy trading herring, wool and furniture—and amassing their wealth.
- The Dutch East India Company grew their wealth from spice trade with India and Indonesia, and ships sailed as far away as today's Sri Lanka to establish colonies.
- Perhaps seeing the potential for power, Prince William of Orange led a rebellion against the Spanish crown in 1568, beginning what would become the Eighty Years' War. With the 1648 Peace of Westphalia, The Netherlands won independence. In the years following, it built a vast overseas empire and became the world's leading maritime power.
- Until the 16th century, The Netherlands was bound with Belgium and Luxembourg—the three were known as the "Low Countries."
- In the late 1700s, French forces made The Netherlands a vassal state after helping to end a four-year conflict with Britain. Napoleon annexed the territory in 1810. After Napoleon's final defeat, the United Kingdom of the Netherlands was created in 1815. The new nation included today's Belgium, but religion prevented complete unity. Belgium was mostly Catholic, and didn't believe the ruling government, led by Protestants, would foster the "equality for all" doctrine upon which the new country was founded. Belgium seceded in 1830.
- During WWII, The Netherlands stayed neutral, but was invaded by the Germans. The country was devastated and most of its Jewish population was murdered.
- In 1945, The Netherlands became a charter member of the United Nations.

## Dutch windmill wisdom

Wie niet wit wil worden, moet uit de molen blijven.

If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

(Literally: If you don't want to get white, stay out of the mill.)



## The windmills of Kinderdijk

The Netherlands is, of course, famous for its windmills, with none so captivating as those you can explore at Kinderdijk, a village in the province of South Holland, about 15 kilometers east of Rotterdam.

Granted World Heritage Site status in 1997, the windmills of Kinderdijk are used to pump water from the polders using internal or external scoops into reservoirs, on two levels. At one time there were more than 150 windmills in the Alblasserwaard and Vijfheerenlanden area; today the total is only 28, of which 16 are in the Kinderdijk area.

The eight mills that survive on De Nederwaard were all built in 1738. They are bonnet mills (only the top section revolves with the wind), built from brick and with large sails that come within one foot of the ground, and thus are nicknamed "ground sailors." Eight mills are also in place on De Overwaard. All date from 1740, although one was reconstructed in the 1980s.

In the words of the UNESCO organization: "The Kinderdijk-Elshout mill network is an outstanding man-made landscape that bears powerful testimony to human ingenuity and fortitude over nearly a millennium in draining and protecting an area by the development and application of hydraulic technology."

## Fast facts: The Rhine River

- The Rhine is one of Europe's most important waterways, offering some of the most picturesque cruising, especially where it runs through the Rhine Gorge, with its castle-topped hillsides and ancient towns, vineyards and castle ruins.
- At 820 miles, it is Europe's longest river, rising in the Swiss Alps and flowing to the North Sea at Rotterdam. A major international waterway, it runs through six countries and forms an international border in several places.
- Through its tributary, the Main River, the Rhine is connected to the Danube by the Main-Danube Canal.
- The Germans respectfully refer to their longest and most important river as "Father Rhine."
- Today, ships can travel safely between Basel and the North Sea, but that wasn't always so. Robber barons in their castles, guilds and corporations in the towns and customs stations all used to make trouble for ships' captains. In the 14th century, there were 62 customs stations, and many cities had staple rights, enabling them to force every ship to unload and offer its cargo for sale locally. That all ended in 1831 when the Rhine Shipping Act was signed in Mainz and the Rhine could prosper as an international waterway.