

Thursday, August 7th, 2014

Today's Weather: Partly Cloudy
18 – 25 °C / 65 – 77 °F

6:00 - 11:00 AM

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

7:00 - 10:00 AM

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

7:30 - 10:00 AM

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

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Concierge Desk Hours: Should you need any assistance during your stay onboard, or be interested in an activity requiring a reservation, please visit the Concierge.

10:30 AM

Welcome to Cologne: *Viking Atla* arrives in Cologne, Germany.

10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Shore Excursion: Cologne City Tour. Guided walking tour of Cologne city. Visit the Old Town, the Great Saint Martin's Church and other attractions.

13:00 PM

Lunch: Join us for lunch in The Restaurant.

13:00 PM

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

2:00 - 5:30 PM

Free Shuttle into Cologne City Centre: If you'd like to visit the Cologne City Centre, please see the timetable at reception.

5:00 PM

Presentation: Germany Today. A fascinating talk on Germany and its place in Europe today.

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Concierge Desk Hours: Should you need any assistance during your stay onboard, or be interested in an activity requiring a reservation, please visit the Concierge.

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Cocktail Hour: Enjoy one of our cocktails and live music in The Lounge.

6:45 PM

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

7:00 PM

Dinner: We invite you to join us for dinner in The Restaurant.

7:00 PM

Bar Menu: Enjoy a casual meal on The Aquavit Terrace.

8:45 - 10:45 PM

Optional Shore Excursion: Cologne's Beer Culture. Walking tour through Cologne's beautiful illuminated alleys, sampling the city's famous beer.

9:00 PM

Live Music: Enjoy an after-dinner drink and live music featuring "Classical Cologne."

10:45 PM

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

COLOGNE



German beer

Today's beer connoisseurs in Germany tend to be loyal to a style rather than to a brand. And, as you can imagine given the long history of the beverage, there are many styles. We've provided a cheat sheet for you below, should you find yourself ordering a *bier* in a local *wirtshaus*:

- **Bock:** Among the heaviest and maltiest brew in the world, but also remarkably smooth.
- **Doppelbock:** A stronger and usually darker version of bockbier. It is exceptionally malty, with very little bitterness. Literally means "double bock."
- **Dunkel:** This beer tends to be very malty with a gentle hop accent.
- **Hefeweizen:** The most popular type of wheat ale is the hefeweizen, or "yeast wheat." This is an unfiltered variety of weissbier. Its nourishing brewer's yeast gives it a whitish and slightly opaque appearance.
- **Helles:** A blond lager. *Helles* means "a light one." However, this designation refers to the beer's color, not to its calorie count or alcoholic strength.
- **Leichtbier:** This is a lighter version, in terms of alcohol and calories, of regular beer.
- **Pils:** Pils is arguably the most popular beer style in the world. Blond and brilliantly clear, this effervescent lager style was invented in 1842 in the Czech city of Pilsen.
- **Radler:** Germans drink a radler when they want a low-alcohol beer without resorting to a "light" brew. It is half blond lager (Pils or Helles) and half lemonade.
- **Weissbier:** Literally "white beer" in German, this style of beer gets its name from the yellowish-white tinge of pale malted wheat. Another common name for this brew is weizenbier ("wheat beer").

Concierge tip

Our favorite bookstore, the Mayersche Buchhandlung, with stores at Neumarkt 2 and Schildergasse 31, stays open until 8:00 PM. Both locations are multistory book emporiums with sizeable English-language sections and many great coffee-table books on Cologne and the Rhine.

Word of mouth

"In Köhln, a town of monks and bones/And pavements fang'd with murderous stones/And rags, and hags, and hideous wenches/I counted two and seventy stenches / All well defined, and several stinks! / Ye Nymphs that reign o'er sewers and sinks/The river Rhine, it is well known/Doth wash your city of Cologne;/But tell me, Nymphs, what power divine/Shall henceforth wash the river Rhine?"

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Cologne" (1834)

IMPORTANT SHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Your Viking ATLA team wishes you a happy and

Ship Contacts:

Reception: +49 152 225 380 48

Ship Location:

Siebengebirgslinie,
Zochbrücke, Cologne



Zoom in: Cologne

After your city tour, enjoy a free afternoon exploring this historic city. A stroll through Cologne is a stroll through time. With an ancient Roman wall, medieval and Gothic churches, avant-garde structures and a brand new postmodern quarter right on the river, there is so much to see and do.

WHERE TO GO

Cologne's most famous attraction is its cathedral, whose filigree twin spires dominate the skyline. **Kölner Dom**, known locally as "The Dom," is Germany's largest cathedral. If you're feeling energetic, climb the 509 steps up the Dom's south tower to base of the steeple. Cologne is also home to dozens of museums and galleries.

Museum Ludwig at Heinrich-Böll Platz is devoted to modern art and houses one of the largest collections of works by Pablo Picasso (open Tue-Sun, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM, closed Monday). **The Fragrance Museum, Farina House**, opposite the Town Hall in the heart of the city, claims to be the birthplace of Eau de Cologne (open Mon-Sat, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM; Sun, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM). Chocolate lovers should head to the **Schokoladen Museum**, a shrine to the art of chocolate-making, conveniently located on the river just a short walk from the ship (open daily, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM).

Prost! (Cheers!)

Cologne is renowned for its wealth of places to eat and drink—you will find everything from gourmet restaurants to more than 100 traditional brewpubs, known as a *brauhaus*. Here, the food is hearty and delicious and the city's famous Kölsch beer is served chilled and fresh by waiters called "Köbes," wearing the traditional costume of the brewery. They carry the Kölsch to your table on a circular tray called a "crown," which is specially designed for the Kölsch glasses (*stangen*). The glasses are small, but be warned—the smooth, top fermented beer is surprisingly strong and if you don't put a mat over your glass to indicate that you have had enough, your drink will be swiftly replaced.

Say it with padlocks

Lovers all around the world have unique ways of showing their affection for each other, but few are as enduring as the act of locking your love with a padlock and throwing away the key. The love lock tradition is thought to have originated in China, where lovers would write their names or initials on a padlock, lock it to a public fixture and throw the key into a river so that the two lovebirds could never be parted. Few displays are more impressive than that on the **Hohenzollernbrücke Bridge** that spans the Rhine River in Cologne. The bridge features padlocks, handcuffs, tin cans and bicycle chains inscribed with couples' names and romantic messages. When the bridge operator recently threatened to remove the padlocks, public outcry ensued and the locks stayed.



Fast facts: Germany

WHERE: Western Central Europe. Germany is bordered by the North Sea, Denmark and the Baltic Sea to the north; Poland and the Czech Republic to the east; Austria and Switzerland to the south; and France, Luxembourg, Belgium and The Netherlands to the west

SIZE: 138,000 square miles, nearly three times the size of England and slightly smaller than Montana

GEOGRAPHY: Numerous mountains, vineyards, wetlands, and cliffs make Germany a country of contrasts. It is home to a mountainous south, flat land in the north, some low-lying islands and beaches, as well as many rolling plains and a rich farmland.

CURRENCY: Euro

LANGUAGE: German

GOVERNMENT: Federal republic, led by both a president and a chancellor

POPULATION: 81 million

RELIGION: Protestant 38%, Roman Catholic 34%, Other or None 26%, Muslim 1.7%

A taste of Germany: fruits of the forest

Rhineland is "The Garden of Germany." This landscape bright with cherry trees and almond blossoms, where the sweetest strawberries give way to red and white currants and fruits of the forest is celebrated in the decadent Schwazwälder Kirschtorte, better known as "Black Forest Gâteau." Try to resist this dessert featuring layers of chocolate sponge cake doused with generous amounts of fiery kirschwasser and rich cream, and topped with cherries and chocolate shavings. Just one taste is enough to inspire you to utter those immortal words of Marie Antoinette, "Let them eat cake."

A few helpful German words

Hello/Good day—*Guten tag* (Goot-en tahk)

Good morning—*Guten tag* (Goo-ten MOR-gen)

Good night—*Gute nacht* (Goo-ten nahdt)

Yes—*Ja* (yah)

No—*Nein* (nine)

Thank you—*Danke* (DAH-kuh)

Please—*Bitte* (BITT-uh)

Excuse me—*Entschuldigen sie* (end-SHOOL-degen zee)