

Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Today's Weather: Partly Cloudy  
16 – 26 °C / 60 – 79 °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.

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

**Concierge Desk Hours:** Should you need any assistance during your stay onboard please visit the Concierge.

**8:30 AM**

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

**9:40 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Shore Excursion: Marksburg.** Bus ride to Marksburg Castle and guided visit inside, 700-year-old hilltop fortress and enjoy fantastic views. This tour includes walking over cobblestones, steps and uneven ground; for passenger safety and enjoyment, we recommend you be in very good physical condition to participate fully in this castle visit.

**10:30 AM**

**Cast Off!** *Viking Atla* leaves Koblenz for Braubach.

**12:10 PM:** *Viking Atla* arrives in Braubach, Germany, to pick up guests from Marksburg.

**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 (Approximately)**

**Scenic Sailing:** Enjoy spectacular views and commentary by Program Director Caspar as we sail along the Middle Rhine River.

**2:00 - 6:00 PM**

**Concierge Desk Hours:** Should you need any assistance during your stay onboard please visit the Concierge.

**3:30 PM**

**Live Demonstration: Rudesheimer Kaffee.** Coffee, brandy, sugar, whipped cream, dark chocolate—join us in The Lounge to learn how to make this delectable coffee.

**3:30-4:15 PM**

**German Tea Time:** Have a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy a variety of cakes in the Lounge.

**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.

**9:00 - 10:00 PM**

**Concierge Desk Hours:** Should you need any assistance during your stay onboard please visit the Concierge.

**9:00 PM**

**Live Music:** Join your fellow guests for dancing and live music in The Lounge.

KOBLENZ



## At a glance: The history of Germany

The united country of Germany did not exist until 1871, when Otto von Bismarck created the German Empire. Prior to this, Germany was made up of individual territories including Franconia, Bavaria and Lorraine. Various rulers and dynasties have reigned, including Charlemagne (800 AD), the Saxon Dynasty (919–1024), the Salian Dynasty (1024–1125), the Hohenstaufen Dynasty (1138–1208, 1212–1254) and the Hapsburgs (beginning in 1273 and lasting well into the 20th century).

Excavation in Hedeby in northern Germany, close to the border of Denmark, revealed evidence that Vikings in the country in 948 AD.

In 1806, Napoleon defeated the Holy Roman Empire and post-Napoleonic Germany was dominated by Austria and Prussia.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Germany became more industrialized and began colonizing parts of North Africa. The international aspirations of the German Empire were a contributing factor of the First World War. The empire was defeated in 1918 and replaced by the Weimar Republic.

Germany's financial struggle following the First World War led, in part, to the rise of Hitler as the leader of a new German Empire in the 1930s. A combination of Hitler's aggressive foreign policy and eventual invasion of Poland precipitated the Second World War (1939–1945).

Following Germany's defeat in the Second World War, the country was divided into two states—the Soviet-occupied German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and the British, French and U.S.-occupied German Federal Republic (West Germany).

In 1990, after 45 years of cold war, Germany was reunified and Berlin was made the capital.

## Viking fact

Dragon-headed longships known as *drekar* were stealthy troop carriers. Under full sail, they could cross open oceans. Closer to land, the crew clutched oars and hoisted the prow over coastal waves for lightning-fast beach landings. Far surpassing English and French vessels in lightness, efficiency and maneuverability, these mighty longships carried Vikings from the rocky shores of northern England to the desert sands of North Africa.

**IMPORTANT SHIP CONTACT INFORMATION**

Your Viking ATLA team wishes you a happy and

**Ship Contacts:**

Reception: +49 152 225 380 48

**Ship Location:**

Sailing



## On the river: The Middle Rhine

The picturesque Middle Rhine is a river valley with precipitous cliffs, a castle perched on virtually every hilltop and quaint villages lining the river banks. Myths and legends abound in this area, such as the story of the Lorelei, the beautiful siren of the rocks who lured sailors to their doom.

This river valley extends from the old Roman town of Koblenz, via the Lorelei Rock, to Bingen and Rudesheim and includes the steep vineyards that produce the famous Rhine wines. In the Romantic era, the Rhine not only carried goods and people from many different countries, but was also a channel for a wealth of cultural influences and ideas; the religious buildings along the river are an elegant testimony to this.

In recognition of its status as one of the world's oldest and most magnificent cultural landscapes, UNESCO declared the Upper Middle Rhine Valley a World Heritage Site in 2002, stating that it is of "outstanding universal value."

## Can you hear the maiden singing?

Above Koblenz, at a point where the Rhine narrows and is at its deepest, the steep Lorelei Rock rises from the water. According to legend, it was here that the beautiful Lorelei maiden used to sit and sing sweet songs. Woe to the sailor who passed the rock at nightfall and was lured to his doom, the rapid water lashing him against the rocks.

The legend of the Lorelei has spawned many different songs, the most famous of which was a poem written by Heinrich Heine in 1823 and which has been put to music many times. Titled "The Lorelei," it is one of the most celebrated poems ever written in the German language. Here is a translation of the last verse:

The boatman has heard,  
it has bound him  
in throes of desire and love.

He's blind to the reefs  
that surround him,  
he sees but the Maiden above.

And now the wild waters awaken  
Then boat and the boatman  
are gone.

And this is what with her singing,  
The Lorelei has done.



## Koblenz

This beautiful town has a history that dates back to the Romans, who established a military stronghold in the town around 9 BC. These days, Koblenz is a delightful place to explore and to enjoy its charming cafés and shops.

The main shopping area is called **Vier Türme**, or "Four Towers," because of its 17th-century corner buildings, each of which features an elaborate oriel window. **Am Plan** is a historic square that was once used for medieval tournaments and is now a wonderful place to sit and watch the world go by.

At the point at which the Rhine and the Moselle meet, the **Deutsches Eck** ("German Corner") is dominated by a statue of **Kaiser Wilhelm I**. **Festung Ehrenbreitstein** is a mighty fortress that towers above Koblenz and sits on the mountain of the same name.

## Marksburg Castle

While many of the dramatic castles on the Rhine are rebuilt versions of the original, Marksburg Castle stands today as the best-preserved castle on the river. The reason that the fortress has seen 800 years of change and turmoil without being significantly blemished is its location—it sits atop a steep, isolated hill on a bend in the river. In the past, the formidable terrain so discouraged enemies that the castle was never attacked during the countless wars that raged around it through the centuries.

## Rhine wine wisdom

*Großer Rhein, saurer Wein/kleiner Rhein, süßer Wein.*

The bigger the Rhine, the sourer the wine/The smaller the Rhine, the sweeter the wine.

Traditional rhyme on the relationship between rainfall and wine quality.