

Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Today's Weather: Cloudy  
17 – 29 °C / 62 – 85 °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.

**9:00 AM**

**Welcome to Würzburg.** *Viking Atla* arrives in Würzburg, Germany.

**9:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

**Shore Excursion: Würzburg Residenz and Walking Tour.** Tour Würzburg's Bishops' Residenz, one of Germany's largest and most ornate baroque palaces.

**9:30 AM - 6:00 PM**

**Optional Shore Excursion: Rothenburg ob der Tauber.** Motor coach ride to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, walking tour of Rothenburg and a lunch followed by a visit to Würzburg Residenz.

**1:30 PM**

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

**1:30 PM**

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

**5:30 - 7:00 PM**

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

**6:15 PM**

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

**6:45 PM**

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

**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**

**Evening Entertainment:** Join us in the Lounge for a Music Quiz. Followed by music and dancing.

WÜRZBURG



## Did you know? Rothenburg

The name "Romantic Road" reveals how people feel when they travel from Würzburg to Füssen. Also described as the "grandfather" of Germany's scenic routes, the road takes you through historic towns with striking buildings and historical sites that have lost none of their original charm.

Jewels include magnificent stately homes, palaces of courtly splendor and medieval timber-framed architecture—all of which create a spectacular backdrop of riches, history, art and culture. The Romantic Road is also Germany's festival road: from May until autumn, it buzzes with historical festivals, entertainment, delectable food and tangy beer.

The best-preserved medieval town in Germany, **Rothenburg** fits the notion of romance perfectly. If you are feeling fit, walk the 1.5-mile **city wall** that encircles Rothenburg to see brilliant examples of architecture from the Middle Ages. The wall connects five medieval gates, complete with guard towers, that date from the 13th to the 16th centuries. Or climb to the top of the **Rothenburg Town Hall Tower** for fabulous views of Rothenburg and the surrounding countryside. The entire town is a museum and you may want to stroll the narrow cobblestone streets and admire the Gothic, Renaissance and baroque houses and fountains, dreaming of life in a slower, quieter age.

## Würzburg Residenz palace

For centuries, the Würzburg prince-bishops wielded enormous power and wealth, and the city of Würzburg grew in opulence under their rule. Their crowning glory is the UNESCO-listed Würzburg Residenz, one of Germany's finest baroque palace ensembles, built between 1720 and 1744.

Commissioned by Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp Franz von Schönborn, this palace of palaces was designed and built by the architect Balthasar Neumann. Neumann's famous grand staircase, with its unsupported vaulted ceiling, features the largest ceiling fresco in the world. *The Four Continents*, created between 1752 and 1753 by the Venetian painter Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, even features Balthasar Neumann perched smugly on a cannon. The opulence of the prince-bishops' imperial apartments is breathtaking. The Kaisersaal ("Imperial Hall") is a combination of marble, gold stucco and more incredible Tiepolo frescoes. The magnificent Hofkirche ("Court Chapel") in the southern wing is an early example of Neumann's penchant for spatial illusions. A walk through the palace gardens offers a chance to enjoy art and nature at their best. The views from the palace alone are worth the visit.

## Word of mouth

*"Though based on intensive study of the human body, [Tiepolo's] work is about as realistic as grand opera. Enter it, and you're inducted into a majestic yet unpredictable fantasy land. It is full of soaring and twisting space, transparency and delicious shot-silk color—a place dedicated to the imagination and filled with idealized personages from history, myth and fable."*

—Robert Hughes (1938–2012), art critic and writer

### 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:**

Löwenbrücke Pier L1,  
Würzburg



## River portrait: The Main

Unlike the Rhine, of which it is a tributary, the Main is not a superhighway in terms of river traffic. To paraphrase William Least Heat Moon, it is a Blue Highway. Looking at a map of Germany, the Rhine often seems to waste no time rushing for the Rhine delta. The Main, on the other hand, takes its time, veers off to the left or the right, doubles back on itself and seems to be in no hurry to get to its mouth at the city of Mainz. One of the ancient names for the river is Moine, which is said to mean 'crooked snake'—a very apt description.

The lazy, winding river ran parallel to the border of the Roman Empire for a significant part of its length, and later became a dividing line between northern and southern Germany, long before modern-day Germany was even thought of. In medieval times, the people living south of the border spoke a dialect, Middle High German, that became the forerunner of today's standard German language. North of the Main line, Low German was the norm, a language that still survives in regional dialects and in the language spoken in The Netherlands.

The divide is also a cultural one, which is expressed in a term that is sometimes used—Weisswurstäquator, or "the white sausage equator." South of the Main, white sausages are an important and beloved food; north of the line other sausages are more popular. The actual location of the white sausage equator, just like that of the Swiss Rösti Chasm, is a matter of considerable debate. The cultural divide resulted from more than simply the preference for this sausage or another—north of the Main, most of the German lands lived under the influence of the Protestant Prussian Empire, while south of the river, the various states and principalities stood under the influence of the Catholic Austrian Empire.

The north-south division is fairly recent: when Nuremberg Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer traveled from Bamberg to The Netherlands in 1520, the Main cut across a bewildering patchwork of different sovereignties and jurisdictions. The document that cleared him for free travel, issued by the Prince-Bishop of Bamberg, gave Dürer and his wife free passage across 17 borders between Bamberg and Mainz. The Dürers also passed by 27 toll stations, an indication of what riverboat captains had to contend with as they carried their freight up and down the rivers. The business of exacting tolls may seem excessive at first glance, but local landowners were often responsible for building and maintaining towpaths along the rivers. Before the Main received its many locks and weirs, there were a great many rapids and shallow areas where ships needed to be towed or cargo needed to be portaged. This led to considerable traffic on and alongside the river, and the necessary use of the infrastructure of course did not come free.

There was rapid development on the river during the 20th century, which today has 34 locks and 33 hydro-power stations and carries ships with payloads of up to 1,500 metric tons. This transformation culminated in the opening, in 1992, of the Rhine–Main–Danube Canal, which allows passage by river ship across the entire face of Europe from the North Sea to the Black Sea. Yet, the traffic is not comparable with that of the Rhine, and you are likely to experience the Main as the ancient Celts did, as a river in no hurry.



## Zoom in: Würzburg

"If I could choose my place of birth I would consider Würzburg," wrote author Hermann Hesse. Completely understandable when you visit this beautiful capital of Lower Franconia, famous for its art, architecture and delicate wines.

The architectural splendors that define the town reflect a range of time periods. Art, culture and Franconian wine are essential parts of Würzburg life. Attractions of note include the splendid **Würzburg Residenz**, former residence of the Würzburg prince-bishops and a UNESCO World Heritage Site; **Würzburg Cathedral** (Würzburg Dom), the cathedral dedicated to Saint Kilian that features a vast collection of artwork; and **Festung Marienberg**, a fortress that has presided over Würzburg since 1201.

If museums are your passion, here are a few of the city's gems:

The **Mainfränkisches Museum** features works by regional artists. Of special interest are its prehistoric collection, artifacts of the Franconian wine culture and the anthropological collection with traditional costume. The museum is also home to the world's biggest collection of works by medieval master wood sculptor, Riemenschneider. (Open daily, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM)

**Shalom Europa** is an ultramodern cultural center created by the Jewish community of Würzburg. Built around 1,504 medieval tombstones discovered in the 1980s, the museum portrays traditional and contemporary Jewish life and survival over the past 900 years. (Open daily, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM)

Housed in the home of his birth, the **Deutsches Röntgen Museum** on Remscheid is dedicated to Wilhelm Röntgen, who is credited as the discoverer of X-rays. (Open daily, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM)

## What to buy

For lovely prints, woodcarvings, wine glasses, beer steins, gorgeous handmade Christmas ornaments and, of course, wine, Würzburg and Rothenburg are brimming with goodies to give or, better still, to keep!

Würzburg's main shopping streets are Schönbornstrasse and Domstrasse, a pedestrian zone with big department stores and chain stores. On Juliuspromenade you will find more exclusive shops as well as designer boutiques. When you need a break, stop for a coffee or drink in one of the many cafés or wine bars.

Many Franconian wines come in round and flattened bottles known as *bocksbeutel*. Reputable vineyards and estates include Bürgerspital zum Heiligen Geist, Juliusspital and Staatlicher Hofkeller.