

# VIKING DAILY

Thursday, November 27, 2025

**Weather:** Partly cloudy. 32-40° F / 0-4° C

**Sunrise:** 7:53 AM | **Sunset:** 4:41 PM

## MORNING

### 4:30 AM

**Welcome to Breisach:** Viking *Einar* arrives in Breisach, Germany.

### 6:00–11:00 AM

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

### 6:00–10:00 AM

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

### 7:00–9:00 AM

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

### 8:10 AM–12:30 PM

**\*Optional Excursion: The Colmar Pocket in World War II: Museum & Memorial.**

**Group H**

Meet your guide at Guest Services.

### 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

**\*Optional Excursion: Festive Colmar and Riquewihr.**

**Group E**

Meet your guide at Guest Services.

## AFTERNOON

### 12:30 PM

**Lunch:** Join us for lunch in the *Restaurant* or on the *Aquavit Terrace*.

### 1:45–6:00 PM

**\*Shore Excursion: Freiburg Yuletide Market & Organ Concert.**

**Group A, B, C, D, E & L (Leisurely)**

Meet your guide at the coach.

### 2:00–6:00 PM

**\*Optional Excursion: Medieval Staufen & Schnapps Distillery.**

**Group F**

Meet your guide at Guest Services.

### 2:00–6:00 PM

**\*Optional Excursion: Medieval Staufen & Wine.**

**Group G**

Meet your guide at Guest Services.

*\*Please bring your personalized ticket, the audio receivers and earpieces from your stateroom with you.*

## EVENING

### 5:00–6:30 PM

**Drinks & Live Music:** Join fellow guests for a casual get-together in the *Lounge*.

### 6:45 PM

**A Toast to Our Guests:** Captain Lucian and Hotel Manager Frank invite you to join them in the *Lounge* for a toast to welcome you on board.

### 7:00 PM

**Port Talk:** Program Director Emilie invites you to the *Lounge* to find out about tomorrow's excursions and events. Alternatively, you may watch the briefing on your stateroom TV.

### 7:15 PM

**Dinner:** We invite you to join us for dinner in the *Restaurant* or on the *Aquavit Terrace* which will open 15 minutes after the Restaurant hours.

### 8:00 PM

**Cast Off!** Viking *Einar* leaves Breisach for Kehl.

### 9:15 PM

**Evening Entertainment: Christmas Tree Trimming Party:** Decorate our tree with us while enjoying refreshments and camaraderie. You'll have the chance to embellish an ornament for the tree with your own choice of holiday greeting with your fellow guests.

## Viking Einar

### Contacts

Reception: +49 152 225 80 835

Program Director: +49 152 225 82 420

**Ship Location:** Viking Dock,

### Wi-Fi Network: Viking Einar

**Wi-Fi:** Connect up to two devices (one per guest) simultaneously to your stateroom's complimentary Wi-Fi. To alternate between devices, use your PIN.

**Please note:** Various factors on the rivers may result in slower online connectivity.

## Credit Card Registration

To avoid the payment process and delays at Guest Services on the last night of your cruise, we recommend that you provide your credit card information to Guest Services at your convenience during the cruise. We will use this to settle your account so you may disembark without any delay.

## Safety Reminder

Your safety is our top priority. If you missed the Welcome Briefing or have questions after watching the safety video on your stateroom TV, our Nautical Team is here to assist you.

## Christmas traditions around the world

The holiday season is a time to celebrate with family and friends, and partake of the many traditions that make this special time of year so magical. Though such Christmastime staples as evergreen trees, wreaths and ornaments can be found the world over, many regions boast their own unique holiday customs.

**The Philippines'** "Christmas capital," San Fernando, is home to the annual Giant Lantern Festival. This grand event attracts participants from nearby villages who compete to build the winning lantern. Routinely reaching sizes of around 20 feet (6 m), these spectacular creations feature dazzling kaleidoscopic patterns and are lit with electric bulbs.

One of **Norway's** Christmas Eve traditions is the practice of hiding brooms in a safe place. According to legend, witches and evil spirits roam the land on this night looking for brooms to steal so they may ride on them.

In **New Zealand**, Christmas falls just a few days after the summer solstice. Given the warm temperatures, many residents enjoy camping or spending time at the beach. It is not uncommon to catch a glimpse of Santa Claus dressed in a T-shirt and sandals. On Christmas Eve, he might expect to find beer and pineapple slices left out for him to enjoy.

## The Black Forest's fairytale origins

Houses that seem made of gingerbread. Dark, mist-filled woods. Romantic castles and farmhouses that have not changed in centuries. When you come to the Black Forest region of southwest Germany, you can almost see Hansel and Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood, Rumpelstiltskin or Snow White scampering into the woods. The region has long been associated with these fairytales that came to us courtesy of the brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. The Grimm brothers were philologists and linguists whose goal was to collect, catalog and preserve the folklore that resonated with a romantic vision of German national culture. The truth is, while many of those tales were part of the Black Forest oral tradition, they were told all over Germany—and even beyond—and their origins are largely unknown. The tale of Cinderella, for example, was borrowed by the Grimms from the French author Charles Perrault. The Grimm brothers lived mainly in Steinau (Hesse), Göttingen (Hanover) and Berlin, but not in the Black Forest. The official Fairytale Road that traces their work stretches nearly 400 miles from Hanau to Bremen in the north. Even so, as you take in the dark beauty of the Black Forest, you will still feel the magic that rekindles your childhood nostalgia and sense of wonder.

## Jolly Old St. Nick

Santa Claus is based on the legend of St. Nicholas, a monk believed to have been born during the 3rd century AD in present-day Turkey. Stories abound of his generosity, and over time he came to be revered across Europe for his kindness toward children. Though the 16th-century Protestant Reformation helped temper this veneration, as its teachings discouraged the worshipping of saints, St. Nicholas continued to be celebrated in The Netherlands. Here, the Dutch version of his name (Sint Nikolaas) was eventually shortened to "Sinter Klaas," which was later Anglicized to Santa Claus. In the rest of Europe, dark tales began to arise of threatening figures dressed in shaggy furs who would accompany St. Nicholas as he delivered presents to good children—ready to dole out punishment to those who were disobedient. Beginning in the early 19th century, works by American writers intrigued by Sinter Klaas began to appear, featuring him dressed in such clothing but with a far more congenial disposition. By the end of the century, the legend of Santa as we now know it had been fully realized, and what followed was a sort of "reverse immigration" back to Europe in which their frightening icons were replaced with this





Jolly Old St. Nick

## Breisach, Germany

Breisach is built on a basalt rock outcropping in the Rhine plain, opposite its French sister city, Neuf-Brisach. Breisach is located in one of the warmest parts of Germany, across the river from French Alsace, which is famous for its wine growing. But Breisach, too, can boast about its wine: it is home to Europe's largest cellars, with a storage capacity of more than 160 million liters. The most prominent landmark of Breisach is the Romanesque-Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral, built between the 12th and the 13th centuries. Its two towers are visible from throughout the city and from the Rhine.

## SILVER SPIRITS BEVERAGE PACKAGE

This covers all house wines; beers and liquors, including cocktails, well drinks, mixers and long drinks; and soft drinks throughout the day. We are pleased to provide a wide selection of regional and fine wines, and brand-name liquors. If purchased, 30% discount on treasure wines.

**For details and to purchase, please visit Guest Services.**

# Food for thought: Gingerbread

"And I had but one penny in the world, thou should'st have it to buy gingerbread."

— William Shakespeare, *Love's Labour's Lost*

From humble gingerbread men to elaborate gingerbread houses, there are few spices more synonymous with the holiday season than warm, spicy ginger. From Germany's renowned lebkuchen to Switzerland's biber and Norway's pepperkaker, regional variations on the yuletide favorite can be found across the European continent and beyond.

First brought to the Mediterranean region by Arab traders more than 2,000 years ago, ginger root was lost to most of Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire. It is believed to have been reintroduced during the 11th century by the Crusaders, who are said to have brought it to the continent from the Middle East via the Silk Road. Often used to disguise the taste of ill-preserved meats during medieval times due to a lack of proper refrigeration, ginger's use in baked goods also increased as a result of it and other spices becoming more affordable and accessible to the continent's general populace.

Monks in Nuremberg are said to have begun making the city's famous lebkuchen gingerbread during the 13th century. By the late Middle Ages, decorated gingerbread cookies had become a staple at fairs throughout England, Germany, France and The Netherlands. During the 16th century, Queen Elizabeth I is believed to have sparked the trend of shaping the cookies into recognizable figures such as kings, queens, religious symbols and animals after she ordered some made to resemble individual dignitaries who were coming to visit her court. Gingerbread's status as a Christmastime treat likely arose from its associations with religious iconography and ceremonies.

Jolly gingerbread houses date back to 16th-century Germany and were later made famous by the Brothers Grimm, whose iconic collection of folktales was first published in 1812 and included the story of Hansel and Gretel. The house made of sweets which the children encounter in the woods was widely interpreted as being made of gingerbread, and so the practice of making colorful, festive gingerbread houses and decorating them with an array of confectionery was made popular throughout the region.

During your travels, be sure to enjoy a taste of this treasured holiday custom while strolling through one of Europe's delightful Christmas markets.



*Today in History*

## NOVEMBER 27

**1896**

*Thus Spake Zarathustra*, by Richard Strauss, debuts in Frankfurt; today, the beginning of the piece is best known as the opening music to *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

**1910**

New York City's Pennsylvania Station opens—at the time the world's largest railway terminal.

**1924**

The 1st Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is held in New York City.

**BIRTHDAY: 1701**

Anders Celsius

*Swedish astronomer who proposed the Celsius temperature scale (d. 1744)*



## NAUTICAL TERM

*— of the day —*

### BEAR DOWN

This is the action of sailing downwind rapidly toward another ship or landmark.

