

VIKING DAILY

Saturday, November 29, 2025

MORNING

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*.

7:00–9:30 AM

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

9:00 AM

Welcome to Mannheim: *Viking Einar* arrives in Mannheim.

10:00 AM–5:30 PM

***Optional Excursion: Highlights of Heidelberg at Christmas.**

Group H

Meet your guide at Guest Services.

10:00 AM–1:00 PM

***Shore Excursion: Panoramic Mannheim & Yuletide Market.**

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

Meet your guide at the coach.

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

10:00 AM

Cast Off! *Viking Einar* leaves Mannheim for Rüdesheim.

Viking Einar

Contacts

Reception: +49 152 225 80 835

Program Director: +49 152 225 82 420

Ship Location: Viking Steiger 1, Mannheim & Rüdesheim, Germany

AFTERNOON

12:30 PM

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

12:45 PM

Welcome to Gernsheim: *Viking Einar* makes a brief stop in Gernsheim where guests will join the ship after the excursion.

2:30 PM

Nautical Talk: Join us in the *Lounge* for a nautical Q&A with our staff, or step inside the wheelhouse any time between these hours to visit Captain Lucia and learn more about your ship and the waterways we sail.

3:30 PM

Teatime: Experience the tradition of taking tea this afternoon. Enjoy from our selection of JING's 100% organic loose leaf black and green teas accompanied by an assortment of scones, pastries and sandwiches on the *Lounge*.

4:00 PM

Discover the World of Viking: Join Program Director Emilie in the *Lounge* to find out about different Viking itineraries and the countries you can explore with us; you will learn about how to receive exclusive onboard discounts for future bookings.

CRUISE CERTIFICATES - AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER ONLY AVAILABLE ON BOARD

Purchase a certificate and apply it toward a new booking. *** Receive a \$200 certificate toward another Viking itinerary for just \$100.** See Guest Services for more details or to purchase your certificate.

*Certificates, which are only redeemable after the current voyage ends, may be applied toward new bookings only, are limited to ten per guest with a maximum of one per person (two per booking), and may be transferred if the recipient's full

Weather: Cloudy. 43-48° F / 6-9° C

Sunrise: 7:56 AM | **Sunset:** 4:31 PM

EVENING

5:00 PM

Port Talk: Program Director Emilie invites you to the *Lounge* to find out about tomorrow's excursions and events.

5:00 PM

Welcome to Rüdesheim: *Viking Einar* arrives in Rüdesheim.

5:15–7:00 PM

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

5:30–10:00 PM

Optional Excursion: Dine in Rüdesheim.
Group D

Meet at Guest Services.

5:45–10:00 PM

***Optional Excursion: Wine Tasting & Dinner at Schloss Johannisberg Estate.**

Group E

Meet your guide at Guest Services.

6:00–7:15 PM

Transfer to Rüdesheim Festive Market.

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.

9:30 PM

Evening Entertainment: We welcome you to the *Lounge* to enjoy an after-dinner drink with music featuring our onboard musician Tiago.

A brief history of European Christmas Markets

Of Europe's many holiday traditions, perhaps none is more beloved than the annual appearance of its festive Christmas markets. Replete with cozy stalls selling all manner of handmade crafts by local artisans, delicious regional treats and authentic holiday accoutrement, each one of these charming markets boasts its own heritage and character. With a history dating back centuries, it is clear that this treasured custom has more than stood the test of time.

Though forerunners of today's Christmas markets began taking place in Europe during the Middle Ages, the world's oldest genuine Christmas market is Dresden's own Striezelmarkt, which was first held for one day only on December 23, 1434. Approval for the open air market was given by Frederick II, Elector of Saxony, "for communal benefit and in the best interests of our city of Dresden." This initial iteration of the Striezelmarkt was a meat market, held so that the people of Dresden would have a wide selection of fresh meats from which to choose for the upcoming yuletide festivities. This endeavor proved so successful that it became an annual tradition from that day forward, and the offerings supplemented the following year with various other goods. Beginning in the early 1500s, the duration of the market was expanded from a single day to encompass the Monday before Christmas through December 24. While the location of the Striezelmarkt has changed many times over the centuries, today it is held in same place as the original 1434 meat market: Dresden's Altmarkt square, the city's oldest.

While Christmas markets had begun to spring up in the years following the introduction of the Striezelmarkt, the 16th century is when they truly began to proliferate across the continent. Spurred on by an assertion by theologian Martin Luther, founder of the Protestant Reformation, that seasonal gifts were best given on Christmas Eve rather than days honoring other saints (as had previously been the custom), Christmas markets began appearing in earnest. In addition to celebrating the holiday season and providing a vehicle through which local vendors could sell their wares, they offered busy townspeople a way to procure everything they needed for Christmas in one convenient location.

Today, Europe's Christmas markets are enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. Perhaps take a moment to marvel at their long history as you explore the land in which many of our most cherished holiday traditions

A Cylindrical Icon in the City of Squares

One of the most notable landmarks in the city of Mannheim is its historic water tower, the Wasserturm. This circular tower is centrally located between the Rhine and Neckar rivers and is a standout in a city fashioned in a grid-like pattern. Built from 1886-1888 and designed by architect Gustave Halmhuber, it became a central feature of Friedrichsplatz, an art nouveau-styled square constructed in 1907 with picturesque fountains, promenades and arcades. The yellow sandstone structure measures 60 meters high (approximately 197 feet) and features the figure of the Greek goddess, Amphitrite, at its pinnacle. Its height makes it the tallest structure in the area and a frequent source of reference for those needing to find their way around the city. Like much of Mannheim after World War II, the water tower sustained considerable damage, prompting local residents to call for its restoration. As a beloved fixture in the city, it was rebuilt along with the National Theatre and other buildings that were important to Mannheim's history. Today it serves as a beacon that welcomes visitors and locals alike, while preserving the city's architectural heritage.

The origins of Christmas caroling

The modern practice of Christmas caroling began to take shape in 1224 AD, when Italian friar St. Francis of Assisi celebrated the first anniversary of his staging of the first-ever live Nativity scene. On this occasion, he led those in attendance in songs of joyous celebration, which proved to be quite a contrast to the church's traditionally slow, monotonous hymns. By the 14th century, singing had become an integral part of Europe's popular Christmas plays; held in public gathering spaces, these performances came to be known for ending with the actors leaving the stage and walking through the town streets, continuing to sing as they did so. The 15th century saw the rise of songs composed and sung in languages other than Latin, which greatly enhanced their popularity among the common people. Bands of performers began traveling across the continent performing these tunes, enabling them to transcend country borders. In 1521, the first known printed book of carols was produced in England. Though the following centuries bore witness to an attempt by the Puritans to suppress the practice of caroling and its fall from public favor, the dedicated work of historians and pastors to keep the tradition alive allowed this beloved seasonal custom to thrive and



Christmas Market in Europe

Mannheim, Germany

Located in the state of Baden-Württemberg, the city of Mannheim is situated at the confluence of the Rhine and Neckar Rivers. Mannheim was a medieval village until a fortress was built there in the early 17th century. The new city was destroyed shortly thereafter during the Thirty Years' War, but was rebuilt around the end of the 17th century. In the 18th century, the monumental Mannheim Baroque Palace and the graceful Roman Catholic Jesuit Church were erected. These structures are still standing and, together with the city's distinctive Water Tower and lovely Luisenpark (named for Princess Luise Marie Elisabeth of Prussia), are some of its major landmarks.

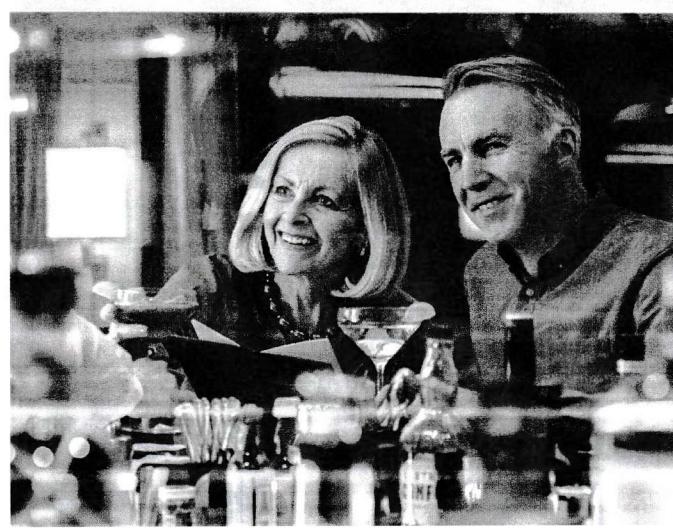
Rüdesheim, Germany

Located in the heart of Germany's Rheingau region, Rüdesheim is the area's center of winemaking. The famed Drosselgasse, a cobblestone street lined with taverns that pour local vintages and spill music into alleyways, attracts locals and visitors alike. Half-timbered medieval houses, narrow warrens and old inns lend the town a medieval flavor. Rüdesheim was a stop on the "Merchant Road" that bypassed the Hole of Bingen, a once-dangerous stretch in the river believed to swirl into a maelstrom.

Enjoy a COCKTAIL

Discover a new drink from our destination-curated cocktail menu, focused on using regional ingredients.

Ask your bartender or server for details.



Food for thought: Glühwein

One of the hallmarks of Europe's famed Christmas markets is the ubiquitous hot mulled wine known as glühwein. A mugful of this delicious spiced beverage is the perfect way to warm up while browsing the many stalls and taking in the yuletide atmosphere. One of the most delightful aspects of glühwein is the long-standing tradition of serving it in a commemorative mug, which is unique to both the market and the year and makes for a wonderful keepsake. A small monetary deposit called a pfand is included with the price of glühwein; should you wish to recoup it, simply return the mug to the stall at which it was purchased.

Glühwein is traditionally made with red wine combined with a variety of holiday flavorings including cinnamon, cloves, citrus and sugar. Glühwein mit Schuss (mulled wine with a shot) is served spiked with a shot of something stronger, such as rum, amaretto or brandy. Modern twists on the classic include weiss glühwein (made with white wine instead of red), heidelbeer-glühwein (made with blueberry wine) and feuerzangenbowle ("fire-tongs punch"), which is made by placing a rum-soaked, cone-shaped sugar cube on a metal grate, setting it on fire and allowing it to drip into a vat of mulled wine sitting below. A version made with fruit juice instead of wine, called kinderpunsch, is readily available at European Christmas markets and makes for a wonderful nonalcoholic treat.

The history of mulled wine can be traced back to 2nd-century AD Rome, when the beverage was heated using hot irons—a practice which is believed to have given rise to the word glühwein, which literally translates to "glow wine" after the glow of the flaming irons. The Romans found that adding honey and spices to red wine that had begun to deteriorate helped it stay drinkable for longer. As they traveled across the continent, they introduced glühwein throughout the area, where its popularity is believed to have increased across the centuries. While its first appearance in Germany is unknown, a gold-plated silver tankard used exclusively for glühwein dates back to 1420, when it was the prized possession of nobleman (and first known grower of Riesling grapes) Count John IV of Katzenelnbogen, in the western section of the country.

As you browse the stalls of the Christmas markets for handicrafts, treats and various local treasures, be sure to keep the chill at bay with a taste of this festive treasure.



Today in History

NOVEMBER 29

1929

American Commander Richard E. Byrd and his crew of three become the 1st to fly over the South Pole.

1972

Nolan Bushnell, co-founder of Atari, releases *Pong*, the 1st commercially successful video game, at Andy Capp's Tavern in Sunnyvale, California.

BIRTHDAY: 1832

Louisa May Alcott

American author; known for Little Women (d. 1888)

BIRTHDAY: 1898

C. S. Lewis

British novelist & essayist; best known for The Chronicles of Narnia (d. 1963)



NAUTICAL TERM

— of the day —

OVERREACH

If a ship holds a tack course too long, it has "overreached" its turning point, and the distance it must travel to reach its next tack point is increased.

