

VIKING DAILY

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Weather: Mostly cloudy. 32-47° F / 0-8° C

Sunrise: 8:04 AM | **Sunset:** 4:30 PM

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*.

7:30–9:30 AM

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

8:30 AM

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

9:00 AM

Scenic Sailing Presentation “Travelers Along the Rhine”:

Enjoy spectacular views and intermittent commentary by your Program Director Emilie as we sail along the Middle Rhine.

Please note: Commentary can be heard in the *Lounge*, the *Aquavit Terrace* and on the Sundeck over the PA system

12:00 PM

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

AFTERNOON

1:00 PM

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

1:20–4:30 PM

***Optional Excursion: Medieval Marksburg Castle.**

Group G

Meet your guide at Guest Services.

1:30–3:30 PM

***Shore Excursion: Historic Koblenz at Christmas.**

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

Meet your guide outside the ship.

2:30–5:30 PM

***Optional Excursion: The Fortress of Ehrenbreitstein.**

Group F

Meet your guide at Guest Services.

EVENING

5:00–6:15 PM

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

6:15 PM

VES Cocktail Party: If you are a guest who has sailed with Viking before, please feel free to join us in the *Aquavit* for the Viking Explorer Society cocktail party.

6:45 PM

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

7:00 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.

9:00 PM

Evening Entertainment: Koblenz String Quartett (live music).

Classy and alluring – enjoy the lively performance of highly talented string players! Join them in the *Lounge* as for an unforgettable evening. Alternatively, you may watch the briefing on your stateroom TV.

3:00 AM (Monday Morning)

Cast Off! *Viking Einar* leaves Koblenz for Cologne.

Viking Einar

Contacts

Reception: +49 152 225 80 835

Program Director: +49 152 225 82 420

Ship Location: Viking Steiger

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

River portrait: The Middle Rhine

“Old Father Rhine,” as Germans affectionately call their cherished river, begins as a trickle in the Swiss Alps. From these great heights, it flows 820 miles through several countries to the North Sea. The Upper Rhine carves out Germany’s borders with Switzerland and beautiful French Alsace. In the heart of Germany, the Middle Rhine creates a stunning canvas of picturesque forests, vineyards and castles before leveling into the Lower Rhine, The Netherlands and the scenic Rhine River Delta.

Castles and wine take center stage—particularly along the Middle Rhine, brimming with remarkable beauty, history and culture. On the steepest riverbanks, grapes are still harvested by hand, a tradition dating back 2,000 years to when the Romans introduced viticulture to the area. Later, medieval noblemen built soaring castles to oversee trade, collect tolls and defend kingdoms from marauders and power seekers. Storybook villages rise along forested shores. Today, the Rhine—where renowned Rieslings, crisp chardonnays and other vintages are just a pour away—is one of Europe’s most spellbinding rivers.

This river valley extends from the old Roman town of Koblenz, via the Lorelei Rock, to Bingen and Rüdesheim, 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 also served as a channel for the exchange of a wealth of cultural influences and ideas. Painters, poets, thinkers and naturalists ventured to the Rhine to interpret its many facets. The artwork born of the region is known today as “Rhine Romantic.” Although its popularity peaked at the end of the 19th century, the beloved river is far from forgotten. 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 sweetly. Woe to the sailor who passed the rock at nightfall and was lured to his doom, transfixed by her beauty and song as the rapid water lashed his vessel against the rocks.

The Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree

During the holidays, London is steeped in 19th-century Dickensian traditions of figgy pudding and Father Christmas. One of the city’s most celebrated ornamentations, however, is not of English origin. Rather, the magnificent Trafalgar Square Christmas tree hails from the forests of Oslo, Norway.

Towering some 60 feet over Trafalgar Square’s fountains, the Norwegian spruce’s symbolism runs deep. The story of this beloved evergreen begins during World War II. As the Nazis invaded Norway in 1940, King Haakon VII and his family and government sought refuge in Britain and conducted the war effort from London. At war’s end in 1945, they returned to their liberated country to govern from their own soil. In 1947, the king repaid Britain’s depth of kindness with a pledge. His country would brighten England’s Christmas each year with a fitting holiday gift picked straight from his country’s renowned wilderness.

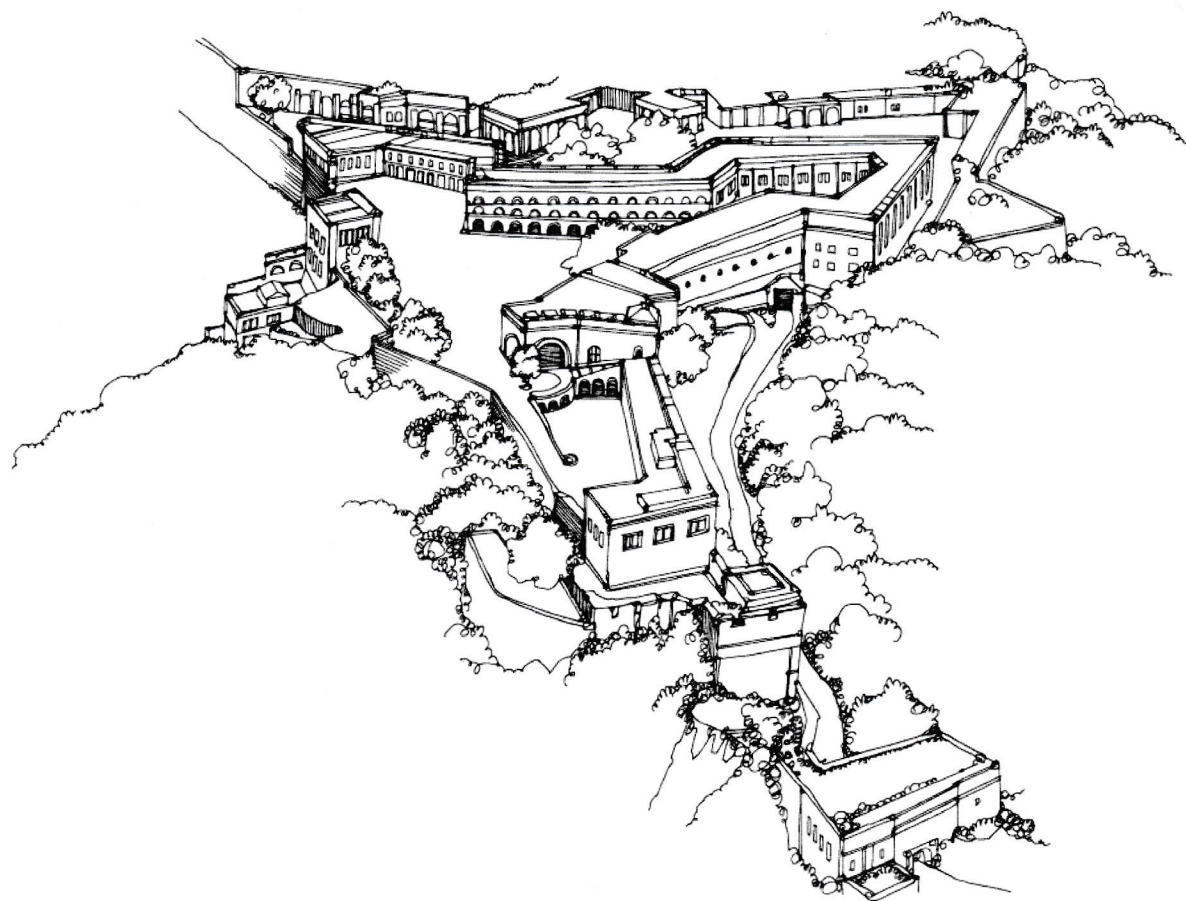
Today, the lighting of the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree in early December marks the official start of the holiday season in London. In keeping with Norwegian tradition, it is adorned with a simple, elegant display of white lights. And in Dickensian tradition, the tree is frequently serenaded by carolers.

An evergreen tradition

Hanging a wreath on a door or wall is as essential to yuletide decorating as setting up a Christmas tree. Interestingly, both traditions share the same origin story, and it has been said that the Christmas tree inspired the wreath.

The custom of bringing evergreens home during winter began in the 16th or 17th century among northern and eastern Europeans, with Germans often credited for starting the Christmas tree tradition. Historically, Christians trimmed trees into triangles to represent the Trinity—referring to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost as one being. Pruning the tree was part of the preparation process, and instead of wasting the trimmed branches, Europeans wove them into wreaths, which were originally used as Christmas tree ornaments.

Throughout history, wreaths have been powerfully symbolic. In ancient Greece and Rome, athletes wore crowns of olives, laurel, wild celery and pine as emblems of victory and power. The evergreen material used for Christmas wreaths was thought to represent resilience and hope, as the original source trees had survived harsh winters. These arrangements symbolized



Ehrenbreitstein Fortress

Koblenz, Germany

Koblenz is a traditional German country town at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers. Founded more than 2,000 years ago, this former trading settlement rests on a massif of the Middle Rhine Highlands. Its cobblestone streets, wood-beamed houses adorned with flowers, ancient market square and medieval churches recall the fairy-tale Germany of old. At the "German Corner," where the two rivers converge, a massive equestrian statue of Prince William I observes the lovely riverside scene. The famed Teutonic Knights set up their first base here in 1216. The Romanesque Basilica of St. Castor, Koblenz's oldest building, dates to 836.

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*Certificates are only redeemable after your current voyage is complete. Cannot be combined with other onboard offers. Other exclusions apply.

Food for thought: *Lebkuchen*

The city of Nuremberg is the capital of *lebkuchen*, the beloved German Christmas cookie. During the holiday season, you are sure to see it everywhere: dangling from trimmed trees, hanging at Christkindlmarkt stalls and tempting you from bakery windows. You might recognize it as a type of soft gingerbread, bearing a stronger flavor and often decorated with colorful icing or monogrammed with good tidings. The trademark spiciness of *lebkuchen* comes from such ingredients as cinnamon, cloves, aniseed, ginger, cardamom, allspice, coriander and nutmeg; the cookies are often presented in ornately decorated tins or boxes, or baked in larger heart shapes and decorated to be hung as ornaments. Baking these cookies fills the air with a fragrant and cozy aroma, evoking warm memories of holidays past.

The history of *lebkuchen* can be traced back to 14th-century Nuremberg, when local monks would bake the so-called “honey cakes” using the bounty of spices available to them, given the city’s advantageous location at the crossroads of medieval trade routes. Also at their disposal was honey harvested from the nearby Reichswald Forest—a necessary ingredient, as East Indian cane sugar was far too scarce and expensive for common usage. By 1345, an entire industry of *lebkuchen* bakers, called *Lebküchner*, had sprung up in Nuremberg, ushering in a delicious local tradition that remains to this day. An especially noteworthy moment in the history of this holiday staple occurred in 1437, when Frederick III, Holy Roman Emperor, bestowed a single *lebkuchen* bearing his likeness on about 4,000 local children. Today, more *lebkuchen* is exported from Nuremberg than anywhere else in the world.

Since the early 1800s, one of the most popular varieties of *lebkuchen* produced in Nuremberg has been the flourless *Elisenlebkuchen*, said to be named after the daughter of an 18th-century *Lebküchner*. While the original recipe consisted only of ground hazelnuts, honey and spices, today’s bakers often add a small amount of flour (no more than 10% of the total mixture, as dictated by law) in order to add stability to the finished product. *Elisenlebkuchen* are also known for their high nut content—legally at least 25% of the total mixture, but often considerably higher. The most common nuts used are hazelnuts, almonds and walnuts. These sweet treats may be served plain or covered in a sugar or chocolate glaze, decorated with candied citrus peel or whole almonds.



Today in History

NOVEMBER 30

1966

Barbados is granted independence from the United Kingdom.

1974

The most complete early human skeleton is found in Ethiopia and named Lucy, after The Beatles’s hit song “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.”

2016

UNESCO adds Belgian beer to its Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

BIRTHDAY: 1874

Winston Churchill

British prime minister & Nobel Laureate in Literature (d. 1965)

BIRTHDAY: 1874

Lucy Maud Montgomery

Canadian writer; known for penning the Anne of Green Gables series (d. 1942)



NAUTICAL TERM

– of the day –

GONE BY THE BOARD

This refers to anything seen to have gone overboard or spotted floating past the ship. “By the board” was considered lost at sea.

