

## Kiel, Germany



Christened Europe's "sailing city," Kiel captivates with inspiring cultural attractions and a colorful maritime atmosphere.

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### Destination Details

Discover medieval history and cycle scenic waterfronts in this dynamic port city, Germany's gateway to the Baltic.

### Local Culture and Flavor

Kiel sits on the southwestern coast of the Baltic Sea, overlooking the world's busiest artificial waterway. This vibrant maritime metropolis is brimming with waterfront activities and nautical-themed attractions. Take a dip in the Baltic at Seebad Düsternbrook's sea bath resort, rent bicycles for a scenic ride along the Kiel Fjord or cruise the Kiel Canal aboard a shuttle ferry.

As a port city, Kiel's local delicacy is smoked fish, specifically Kieler Sprötze, a herring-like sprat which is smoked in a wood-burning oven with beech and alder boughs and eaten bones and all. In addition to Kiel's seafaring heritage, the city also boasts a 750-year-old beer-brewing tradition. You can tour the city's last operating beer hall at Kieler Brauerei and sample authentic homebrews fresh from the barrel.

### Past and Present

Kiel's legacy as a prominent seaport dates back to the Middle Ages when the city was founded. Although most of the Port of Kiel was rebuilt after World War II, you can still glimpse remnants of the city's past at the Alte Markt (Old Market) in Kiel's historic market square where the annual Kiel envelope (Kieler Umschlag) folk festival takes place. Perhaps the city's biggest claim to fame is playing host to the annual Kiel Week (Kieler Woche), the world's largest sailing competition, which has taken place in Kiel since 1882. This renowned regatta attracts millions of spectators and showcases thousands of sailing teams from tall ships to Nordic folkboats. Today, Kiel continues to uphold its reputation as the maritime center of Germany and a leading European institution for marine sciences. [Show Less](#)

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### Things to See and Do

Discover exciting sites and attractions both in and around Kiel.

#### Kiel Botanical Gardens

Wander the whimsical grounds and greenhouses of Kiel Botanical Gardens, home to nearly 14,000 plant species from around the world. Travel between continents—from the alpine regions of Central Europe to the deserts of Africa—in this wonderland of rare and exotic flora.

#### Kiellinie Promenade

Take a scenic stroll on the Kiellinie promenade, the city's beloved waterfront boulevard. Just over 2 miles (3.5km) long, Kiellinie offers a lovely view of Kiel's bustling harbor with a charming collection of al fresco cafes and riverine restaurants along the way.

#### Zoological Museum of Kiel University

Embrace your inner ocean explorer at one of Germany's oldest natural history museums. Investigate the latest discoveries in marine biology, marvel at the skeleton of a 46-foot sperm whale and much more.

#### St. Nikolai Church

Visit the city's oldest building, dedicated to the patron saint of seafarers in the 13th century. St. Nikolai Church

welcomes visitors to tour its original fresco paintings, 15th-century winged altarpiece and other ecclesiastical relics.

#### Kiel Maritime Museum

Explore over 200 years of history on the high seas at the Kiel Maritime Museum (Schiffahrtsmuseum Keil). Housed in a former fish market, the museum features nearly 600 exhibits showcasing Kiel's maritime legacy.

#### Kiel Canal

Watch massive ocean liners, rumbling container ships and glamorous yachts glide in and out of the world's busiest canal. The Kiel-Wik observation deck overlooks the Kiel-Holtenau lock for picturesque views from sunrise to sunset.

#### Holstenstraße

Amble Kiel's traditional pedestrian mall and one of the oldest streets in the city. Shop major international brands and trendy local boutiques, with plenty of dining options from cozy cafes to upscale eateries. [Show Less](#)



#### Port Adventures

Check back here approximately 120 days prior to your cruise departure for shore excursions specially selected by Disney Cruise Line, as you'll want to book in advance.



#### Travel Information

Find out what you need to know before you go to Kiel.

##### Language

German is the official language of Kiel; however, English is widely spoken.

##### Weather

Summers in Kiel are temperate and partly cloudy with an average high of 71° F (21° C) and a low of 55° F (12° C). Kiel does experience rain in the summer, with July being the wettest month, so packing a light umbrella is advised.

##### How to Pay

Germany's unit of currency is the euro (EUR). While most credit cards are widely accepted, some of the smaller restaurants and shops may not have credit card payment facilities.

##### How to Get Around

Public transportation, including "Hop-On Hop-Off" tour services, is readily available with buses and ferries both operated by the Kiel Regional Transportation association. The city is also quite walkable and bicycle friendly, with plenty of scenic waterways and pedestrian streets to explore.

##### Safety in Kiel

Kiel is considered a safe city, but visitors are always advised to follow safety precautions to protect valuables. [Show Less](#)

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Guests under 18 years of age must have parent or guardian permission to call.

#### Things to Do

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