

Was trinken die Deutschen? das BIER, die Biere

## 10 THINGS YOU DID'NT KNOW ABOUT BEER IN GERMANY

The first Friday in August marks International Beer Day. Sure, Germany is famous for beer. But here are 10 things you should know before tipping your glass.

### The Purity Law isn't like it used to be



Germany is least as famous for a penchant for rules as for its beer, so it's no wonder that there are rules for beer across the land. The 500-year-old Purity Law stipulates that the beverage may only contain water, hops, malt and alter yeast. But the law changed in 1987 when the EU said European imports didn't have to adhere. Most brewers in Germany still follow the traditional recipe.

### Germany is not Weltmeister in beer drinking



While Germany produces a third of the world's 15,000 beer varieties and boasts some 1,500 breweries, Germans do not take the gold (or amber?) medal for beer consumption. Germans drink around 110 liters of beer per person per year (that's roughly 300-320 beers), while the Czech Republic takes the lead with 140-150 liters per capita. That country is, after all, home to Pilsner.