WEATHER IN GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS

Weather is as difficult to predict accurately, especially in northern Europe in March. Forecasts will get more reliable in the days before departure. In March we can expect a generally cool and damp climate, with average temperatures a bit colder than in New Jersey, ranging between high temperatures of about 30 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit, most likely in the mid 40s to mid 50s Fahrenheit. Germany and the Netherlands receive more rainfall in this season, so pack an umbrella, raincoat, or poncho.

Europe, like almost the entire world outside the United States, uses the metric system, recording temperatures in degrees Celsius, rainfall in centimeters or millimeters, and wind speeds in kilometers per hour. Conversion from Celsius to Fahrenheit is complicated because Celsius system is based on the freezing (0 degrees C) and boiling (100 degrees C) points of water. Makes a lot of sense, right? Mr. Fahrenheit’s logic was a bit wackier. He set 0 degrees as the temperature of a water, ice, and salt mixture. 100 degrees was the point, he determined, where the thermometer landed when it was held in the mouth or under the armpit (hopefully in that order). Go figure. To convert the Celsius water-based temperatures to the Fahrenheit slush & body-orifice scale, take the degrees Celsius, multiply by 9, divide by 5, and add 32 (or F=C x 9 / 5 + 32). Voilà. And yes, there is an app for that.

For a forecast using the Fahrenheit scale, the weather.com or USA Today sites are as good as any. The cities we will be visiting will be Munich, Weimar, Berlin, and Amsterdam.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) weather site is better, but they use the metric system. The BBC offers much more information and background on the climate of Germany and the Netherlands.