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# European Christmas Markets



**A Pup's Perspective**  
JASPER'S FAVORITE MARKETS

**10 European Stocking Stuffers**  
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## EDITOR'S LETTER

**H**appy Holidays! This dark time of year takes on special meaning for each of us as we celebrate in our own ways. Whether with lights or candles, quiet moments or raucous bonfires, winter traditions are the best part of the season.

In this edition of "European Christmas Markets", we've compiled details on regional activities and events to help make your holiday planning easy.

Experience the beginning of winter by visiting the many Christmas markets. Our Christmas Market Directory is sure to help you find your favorite. Read all about the fun markets in Mainz, Wiesbaden and Augsburg. For something different, try an unusual Christmas market or pop over the border to shop at the French markets in Colmar.

We know how important furry family members are. So, we have a special

story in this edition featuring local dog Jasper, and his take on visiting Christmas markets. If your favorite part of the holiday season is shopping, be sure to check out our suggestions for 10 European Stocking Stuffers. To get in the spirit, you can read our staff's favorite gift memories.

Not staying home? Winter is a great time to travel in Europe and we've included tips on how to celebrate while traveling. Avoid those crowds and experience your holidays like a local. Take things further by hitting up one of the many festivals and markets that stay open into the New Year.

Being stationed in Europe will mean a different kind of holiday time for many of us. Whether you celebrate with family or friends, embrace new traditions, try some new foods, wrap your mittens around a mug of glühwein and get out to enjoy the darkness!



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FRENCH  
CHRISTMAS  
MARKETS  
IN  
COLMAR

OPEN DAILY IN 2023:

**NOV. 23**  
THROUGH  
**DEC. 20**

*Colmar has six festive markets that each house their own kind of holiday spirit.*




By: Mary Del Rosario and Kat Nickola



Located in northeastern France is the striking Alsatian town of Colmar. Teeming with cobblestone streets, half-timbered medieval buildings, Gothic churches and quaint shops, the town seems to pop out

of a fairytale. At Christmastime, add twinkling lights and festive city squares and Colmar becomes a picture-perfect European Christmas destination.

Visit [www.noel-colmar.com](http://www.noel-colmar.com) for more details.



continued on page 8

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from

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## GOURMET MARKET (NEW THIS YEAR!)

Located at the Place de la Cathédral, this gourmet food market is new in 2023. Master chefs will be on hand to create culinary masterpieces for the discerning visitor. From appetizers to desserts, there will be delicious dishes to match every palate.



## DOMINICAN CHURCH MARKET

The Place des Dominicains is home to the Dominican Church which dates back to the early 14th century. This is the largest market in Colmar with 60 huts set up outside the church. It is a place where families shop for Christmas and friends gather for food and drinks.

## OLD TOWN MARKET

The historic Place de l'Ancienne Douane located in the heart of the old city hosts roughly 50 stalls. The market is set up on both sides of the city's canal near the Schwendi Fountain. Contemporary creations and traditional Christmas decorations can be found here.





## INDOOR CRAFT MARKET

Adjacent to the old town market, the Koïffhus is a 15th-century building that hosts local craftsmen and women.

Inside you will find items from master glaziers, cabinet makers, wood sculptors, jewelers, hat-makers and other traditionally-skilled artisans.



## CHILDREN'S MARKET

Let your kids sip their own warm beverage, ride the mechanical horses or drop a letter in the giant mailbox for Père Noël. Near the Petite Venice area, in the Place des Six Montagnes noires, this children's market has 43 cute cottages for shopping, plus a pretty nativity scene.



## ALSATIAN VILLAGE MARKET

This market in the Place Jeanne d'Arc is surrounded by charming half-timbered buildings giving it an old-fashioned village atmosphere. Here you will find booths selling traditional local craft items and foods like foie gras, schnapps and bredalas de Noël (Christmas cookies).



## NEARBY MARKETS

### TURCKHEIM

*(15-minute drive)*

This quaint village market is open daily from Nov. 24 to Dec. 30, 2023 (closed Dec. 25).

### REOUÉWIHR

*(25-minute drive)*

This extremely scenic, traditional Alsatian town hosts a market daily from Nov. 25 to Dec. 21, 2023.

### RIBEAUVILLÉ

*(30-minute drive)*

A medieval-themed Christmas market takes over this picture-perfect village for two weekends, Dec. 2-3 and Dec. 9-10, 2023.

### KAYSERSBERG-VIGNOBLE

*(25-minute drive)*

A local market and fir garlands line the main street of this town on the weekends from Nov. 24 to Dec. 19, 2023.

### EQUISHEIM

*(15-minute drive)*

The market at the center of this circular medieval village is open from Nov. 24 to Dec. 30, 2023 (closed Dec. 24-26)

## COLMAR

Apart from the Christmas markets, Colmar offers many activities and sights to enjoy.

Head to the MUSEE D'UNTERLINDEN to see modern art by Monet, Picasso and Renoir, plus incredible medieval paintings and statuary, including the famous Isenheim Altarpiece by German painter Mathias Grunewald.

Stroll along the canal at PETITE VENICE. This stunning neighborhood possesses delicious canal-side restaurants, quaint bridges and colorful half-timbered houses built on the edge of the Lauch River canal.

For high-end French cuisine, try ATELIER DU PEINTRE, an elegant French restaurant on Rue Schongauer. From foie gras to grilled scallops, your taste buds will not be disappointed!

May your cups be filled with endless amounts of vin chaud and your hearts be filled with Christmas cheer! ■

# STAFF



## Picks

This year, we sent our staff down memory lane and asked them for the best present they ever received for the holidays.

By Tamala Malerk



### Kat Kringle

The best Christmas gift I ever got was a globe when I was 10. I was such a nerd and loved this thing. I made a place of honor for it in my room, memorized all the countries, and planned on where I was going to go when I grew up. The bonus was that my cat Nigel also loved the box, which became a cat bed for years. The globe disappeared when I went to college; it's ridiculous that I kept it so long since it still had the USSR.

### Lords a Leapin' Leah

As far as my favorite gift... nothing sticks out in mind, just the years we would get to visit family we never saw, those were the best years, couldn't tell you today what the gifts I got then were, just the joy.



### All is Calm Ayla

The best gift I have gotten was probably when I was 6. I got a Barbie jeep!

### Holly Heidi

The best Christmas gift I ever received was a trip to the Cayman Islands, to spend the holidays with my parents. I was a young professional and didn't have money to travel, so it was a generous and thoughtful gift and gave me wonderful memories that I cherish to this day.

### Snow Angel Stacy

The best gift I received wasn't actually a present. It was helping my 84-year-old grandmother decorate Christmas cookies for the first time, last year. It was wonderful and priceless.



### Zazzie Zaddie

My husband and I don't exchange physical gifts; we always plan a trip to a place we both want to go to and that is our gift to each other. If I had to pick the best holiday trip it would be going to Amsterdam for the first time. The best part of the trip was having my Pomeranian with us and seeing her reaction to Pommes Frite.

### Comet Capri

I am not sure that I have a favorite gift, so I thought instead I'd share my most unique gift which is...coal. My family has a very strange tradition of passing around a lump of coal to a different member of the family each year and you have to be creative about how you give it to them, so they don't know it's coming. It's been going on for 20+ years now and it's so funny every year to see the cool ways it gets passed to the next person and their reaction when they get it and have to hang on to it for a whole year/figure out a way to regift it the next year.

### Jolly Julianna

The best gift I received is a cookbook my aunts put together with my Nonna. They included a rolling pin. The book continues to be used every year for the last 20 years.

### Jubilant John

DIY Gin set.

### Kris Kandace

My best gift ever was a trip to Hong Kong with my aunt when I was 10. ■

# 43. Trierer Weihnachts Markt

BEST  
CHRISTMAS  
MARKETS  
2022  
TRIER

BEST  
CHRISTMAS  
MARKET  
2024  
★NOMINEE★



Fotos:  
Werner Hardt / Thomas Vatheuer /  
Trierer Weihnachtsmarkt

## Up to December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Unique romantic atmosphere in the heart of the city

Now in its 43rd year, the Trier Christmas Market will again be one of the loveliest in all of Germany. Set on the medieval Main Market and in front of the imposing backdrop of Trier Cathedral, the attractively decorated booths offer a fitting framework for this wonderful event. Delicious regional specialties, festive arts and crafts attracts will invite visitors to stroll in the cozy atmosphere of Trier's Old City. Guests from Germany and abroad enjoy the genuine "vintner hot mulled wine" from the Moselle and the "hot mulled Viez" (apple wine) from apple trees in the Eifel hills. The one and only "Mulled Wine Queen" in Germany resides solely in Trier, as an ambassador for the popular hot drink. It's worth a visit this year to Main Market and the Cathedral up to December 22nd, 2023!



Mon. to Thu.: 10:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Fri. and Sat.: 10:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Sun.: 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

# The Christmas Markets of Mainz & Wiesbaden

By Mary Del Rosario

Lights twinkling above the beloved holiday stands, the Tannenbaum (Christmas tree) adorned with red and gold ornaments, the aroma of roasted chestnuts filling the air and a cup of glühwein warming up your cold, almost numb hand — nothing puts us more in a holly, jolly mood than Germany's famous Christmas markets. The Mainz and Wiesbaden Christmas markets in particular know just how to transform the Scrooges into Buddy the Elf.

## Mainz Christmas Market

Creating an atmosphere that can only be described as magical and festive, the Mainz Christmas market is set in the historical area of the city's 1,000-year-old St. Martin's Cathedral. 100 jovial and brightly-lit stands blanket the city and provide opportunities to do some last-minute Christmas shopping or to even buy souvenirs for loved ones back home.

Considered to be the traditional cultural event, the Staatstheater Mainz will also be performing a Christmas spectacle that even Santa will be proud of!

In front of the printing shop of the Gutenberg Museum, the Mainzer Weihnachtstdorf, or Christmas village, provides an option for a large group to gather in a Christmas barrel and hut surrounded by a festive campfire. Be sure to reserve early as there is a high demand.

To see more Christmas festivities sprinkled in Mainz, head to the Schillerplatz and Neubrunnenplatz to enjoy Christmas décor, lights and an overall joyous spirit.

## Things to see outside the market

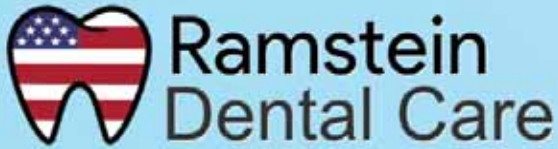
Aside from the famous cathedral where the market takes place, Mainz is also home to the Gutenberg Museum which commemorates Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press. While at the museum, go to the printing shop where visitors can print their individual Christmas cards.

## Know before you go...

- Open Nov. 30–Dec. 23: Sun.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–8.30 p.m. and Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m.–9 p.m.
- Public transportation is best, especially if you have plans to eat, drink and be merry...with glühwein. The Christmas market can be reached by almost all of the bus lines of the Mainz public transport company (Mainzer Mobilität).
- As a gift, the city offers parking hours and you can receive a parking voucher at several shops in the city center, depending on your purchases at these shops.

*continued on page 14*





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## *Wiesbaden Christmas Market*

Haven't had your fill of welcoming this joyous season? The Wiesbaden Christmas market, just 22 minutes away from Mainz, lets you spread Christmas cheer even more! Known as The Twinkling Star Christmas Market, or Sternschnuppenmarkt, Wiesbaden knows how to make the Yuletide gay and get us excited for that special day in December. The market, which opens on Nov. 28, is located on the Schlossplatz between the Rathaus and the Stadtschloss. This market is so highly rated that it was voted "No. 1" in recent years. With colorfully lit stages, Christmas décor that looks like Santa's elves have done the job and friendly vendors, it's not hard to see why. Don't forget to marvel at their unique display of over 70 10-meter-high lit blue and golden lilies coming to life above the Schlossplatz!

The colorful Christmas lights should be admired from up above as well, so head to the platform of the Market Church to see festive lights and holiday displays. From there, you can even see Frankfurt's skyline!

The Wiesbaden Ferris wheel also provides its guests with a fantastic view of the illuminated and jolly market.

Head on over to Luisenplatz with the kids and explore the Twinkling Star Children's Market where everyone can ice skate.

## *Things to see outside the market*

The capital of Hesse offers fun activities other than its beautiful Christmas markets, so explore Wiesbaden's main spa building known as the Kurhaus. This neoclassical building has many art nouveau touches which can be seen in the glass dome.

A Russian Orthodox church is a rare sighting in Germany, but the golden onion domes of St. Elizabeth's Church on Neroberg hill are worth a visit. Inside the church, you can view the elaborate Grand Duchess Elizabeth Mikhailovna's tomb.

If your children enjoy the zoo, treat them to the Tier und Pflanzenpark Fasanerie. The hunting lodge, built in the 1740s, also houses a restaurant as well as exotic specimens such as Spanish fir, the thickest sequoia in Germany and wild boar, barn owls and other creatures. ■

## *Know before you go...*

- Open from Nov. 28–Dec. 23
- Originating from nearby Frankfurt, try Bethmännchen, marzipan decorated with almond slices.
- To sound like a local, wish Germans a "Frohe Weihnachde und e guude Rudsch."



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# A PUP'S Perspective

By Samantha Juhan, Creator of @helloitsjasper



**A** chilly gust of wind rushes past as we step out of the busy train car. Basking in the crisp air, ears flapping in the breeze, I pause. That smell... could it be? Was it finally time? Taking a big sniff, I yip with delight and start trotting faster. Weaving left and right through the crowd, I hear a joyful laugh burst from behind me.

**'JASPER, SLOW DOWN!'  
MY DOG MOM GIGGLES,  
'THE BRATWURST AREN'T  
GOING ANYWHERE.'**

Slowing my stride, I walk beside her as we exit the station. Twinkling lights and a burst of festive music welcome us. I was right, it's time for the Christmas markets!

For the past four years, I've been a dog on a mission to see every Christmas market Europe has to offer and I'm dragging Dog Mom along for the ride. Today, we're attending our first market of the season! With a wagging tale and lopsided smile, I stroll beside her through the stalls. The fragrant warmth of Dog Mom's mulled wine fills my senses. It's spiced with clove, cinnamon and an endless array of colorful berries. I've noticed that humans like to collect these market mugs that the drinks are served in. While it's not really my thing, Dog Mom seems to enjoy it. I guess it's just the human version of a squeaky toy collection.

As we walk past a cauldron of roasting chestnuts, they crackle and fill the air with simmering smoke. The energy at Christmas markets is always buzzing and filled with life. Hopping up on Santa's sleigh, I pose for Dog Mom as she waves my impending reward above her head. Mouth watering, I keep my eyes on the prize.

"Good boy!" She exclaims while chucking a piece of glorious bratwurst my way. Nothing beats a Christmas market bratwurst! Besides maybe Christmas market spätzle, Christmas market kartoffelpuffer or possibly Christmas Market trdelník.

Speaking of snacks, something smells delicious. Poising my nose in the air, we follow my super sniffer to a stall overflowing with freshly baked gingerbread. The best part? They have a dog-safe cookie jar just for me! Delightfully munching on my treat, I settle into Dog Mom's side. Occasionally, we need a break from the cold, and a cabin-themed bar, adorned with a singing reindeer head, is the perfect place to rejuvenate.

Joyous laughter echoes as flurries of snow flutter across our next stop, the ice skating rink. Perching my paws on the railing, I offer barks of encouragement to the skaters. Towering in the distance is a grand fir tree, dotted with shimmering bows and glittering lights. Below the tree stands a live band, swaying to the beat as they encourage onlookers to dance. Not one to miss out on a party, I gallop over! Onlookers offer me pats of encouragement as Dog Mom holds my front paws in an attempted, but failed waltz. The smell of fresh-cut trees, spiced wine and gingerbread fills our senses as we dance.

As the night dwindles to an end, we make one last round to collect our souvenirs. A billowing blanket of heat wafts from the glassmaker's tent as we observe them shaping our newest ornament. Carrying on to the woodcarver's tent, they offer me a stick jokingly as Dog Mom picks out a traditional Weihnachtspyramide. By the time we reach our train, I'm exhausted from all the fun we've had. Snuggled on top of my fluffy blanket, I allow the gentle rocking of the train to lull me to sleep as I dream of the next dog-friendly Christmas Market to come. ■



**JASPER'S TOP**

**10**

*Dog-Friendly*

**CHRISTMAS MARKETS**



**RAVENNA GORGE, GERMANY**



Garmisch-Partenkirchen 

#♥GaPa

*Enchanted winter season in Garmisch-Partenkirchen*

Discover Garmisch-Partenkirchen: Spend the day skiing or enjoy a long snow hike in the mountains. When the sun sets, you can immerse yourself in the most idyllic Advent atmosphere: Enjoy a cup of mulled wine or a bag of hot chestnuts at the Christmas market. Or what about some laps on the ice rink on Mohrenplatz, look for Christmas gifts in the pleasant little shops or admire the different nativity scenes ("Krippen") from oriental to traditional Bavarian in the Partenkirchen shop windows.

On a stroll through the Michael Ende park at the center of Garmisch you will be enchanted by the fantastic light installations. And have a snack or a drink at one of the many foodtrucks with family and friends.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Garmisch-Partenkirchen this Advent!

For more information contact our holiday advisors under +49 8821 180 700, [info@gapa-tourismus.de](mailto:info@gapa-tourismus.de), [gapa-tourismus.de](http://gapa-tourismus.de)

*Discover your true nature.*



10

# *European Stocking* STUFFERS

---

By Kat Nickola

Whether you are sending gifts to loved ones back in the States or filling stockings here at your duty station, these small gifts are sure to bring European flare to your Christmas morning.

### *Candle Carousels: Germany*

These adorable small metal carousels come with a tiny tealight candle holder. The fun dangling shapes twinkle in the candlelight and glitter around the room. As a bonus, they pack flat into a small box.



### *Tulip Bulbs: The Netherlands*

I can't think of a better gift for a gardener than a precious tulip bulb directly from the farm. Best purchased in the fall and winter, bulbs bought in the Netherlands are the finest in the world.

### *Little gnomes: Scandinavia*

A hit with kids and adults alike, these funny little gnomes come in a variety of colors and sizes. Each gnome's massive conical hat and beard cover its rounded body, with only a cute nose to show for the face.

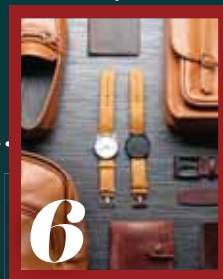
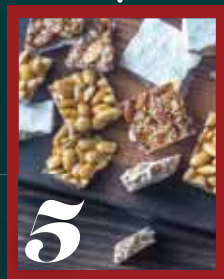


### *Amber jewelry: The Baltics*

Formed eons ago from conifer resin, Baltic amber jewelry usually comes in strands of naturally shaped beads. It is available in different quality levels and prices, making it a great gift for any jewelry lover.

### *Turrón: Spain*

No stocking would be full without candy, and this Spanish nougat made of honey, sugar, egg white and nuts is the perfect European addition. There are both hard (duro) and soft (blando) varieties of Turrón in lots of nutty flavors.

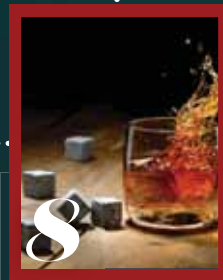
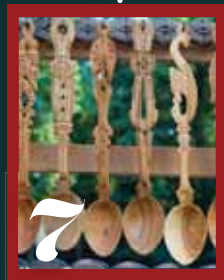


### *Leather items: Italy*

Known for its quality, the history of Italian leatherworking goes all the way back to the eighth century B.C. Etruscans. Leather wallets, belts or roses are the perfect size to fit in a special stocking.

### *Wooden Spoons: Romania*

Made with linden tree wood, traditional Romanian wooden spoons have intricately carved handles that carry meaning. A 12-rayed sun offers protection, the rooster symbolizes hope and the owl brings wisdom.

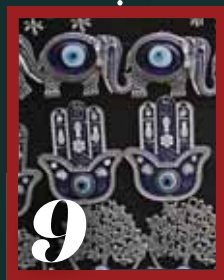


### *Whisky Stones: Ireland*

These small stones made from marble, soapstone or granite are used in place of ice. The chilled cubes won't dilute a beverage or absorb any unwanted flavors while still keeping drinks cool.

### *Evil Eyes: Greece & Turkey*

Thought to ward off bad intentions, the bright blue and white concentric circles of the evil eye symbol are common in the Middle East. The small glass charms and amulets are commonly hung in the home.



### *Embossed rolling pins or stamps: Poland*

These wooden utensils are perfect for the baker in your life. The individual stamps and rolling pins have intricately carved patterns that transfer to any rolled-out cookie dough like shortbread, gingerbread and sugar cookies. ■



## A RENAISSANCE TRADITION: *The Augsburg Christkindlesmarkt*

By Tamala Malerk

Augsburg is one of Germany's oldest cities, with a Christmas market which dates back to the 15th century when gingerbread makers held a market shortly before Christmas. Since 1949, it has been known as the "Christkindlesmarkt." Along with being one of the oldest Christmas markets, this market has also been called, "Germany's most beautiful Christmas market." This gorgeous market has plenty for you to do as you are visiting markets across Bavaria.

### **THE ANGEL PERFORMANCE AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT**

Since 1977, angels have graced the market with their performances. Twenty-four angels gather at City Hall and create a living Advent calendar. Inspired by a Hans Holbein painting, small girls from the town are selected for the task of performing as angels every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Other entertainment at the market includes folk singers, opera singing, a manger scene, the boys' choir and Christmas songs.

# NOV. 27 - DEC. 24, 2023

There are a variety of P+R areas and parking garages in the area; however, these fill up very quickly on Advent weekends. The city of Augsburg highly recommends that you utilize public transportation for ease.

## AUGSBURG FAIRYTALE ROUTE

Children can pick up entry cards for a puzzle game at the Tourist Information Office so they can win prizes for items they find on this route. Window displays along the route show how different animals celebrate the holidays and spend the winter: the bears gather their Christmas tree, the ducks try ice skating, etc.

## OTHER SITES IN AUGSBURG

Music lovers and history buffs alike will appreciate the Leopold Mozart House. Father of the famous Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Leopold Mozart's house museum contains letters and artifacts that reveal the fascinating story of Leopold, who was an accomplished musician, composer and music manager in his own right.

Adults and children will love the Augsburger Puppenkiste, the puppet theater. Before or after the show, you can tour the on-site museum, which houses famous puppets such as "The cat with the hat" and "Luke the engine driver." The museum also offers guided English tours so you can fully immerse yourself in the experience.

It is not a day in a German city if you do not find yourself at one of Germany's many castles and palaces. Augsburg's Schaezler Palace is a must-see for architecture and art enthusiasts. Completed in 1770, this gorgeous palace is not only an architectural masterpiece but also contains multiple collections of paintings and the Rococo garden of the palace. ■



**WATCH  
LIVE!**



# K'town Advent



**Christmas Market** Nov. 20 – Dec. 23  
(City-Center)

**Arts and Crafts Market** Dec. 01 – Dec. 23  
(Fruchthalle)

**Christmas Market** Dec. 02 – Dec. 10  
„Edith-Stein-Haus“ (old town)  
with handicrafts, waffles and  
Glühwein

**New Year's Eve Market** Dec. 27 – Dec. 30  
(City-Center)

More Info:  
[www.kaiserslautern.de](http://www.kaiserslautern.de)

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UNIQUE & UNUSUAL

# Christmas Markets

By Grace Bernhardt and Tamala Malerk

Most Christmas markets have their charming qualities, but once you have hit the major markets you may find yourself looking for something a little out of the ordinary. How about a romantic Christmas market, set deep in the forest? Or perhaps you're willing to venture underground to find that perfect holiday gift? Here are a few of the more unusual Christmas markets we have found.

## Christmas IN A Cave

For an unusual Christmas market experience, head underground into the caves of Valkenburg to explore three different holiday venues and some above-ground fun too. The various markets and attractions will be open from **NOV. 17, 2023 TO JAN. 7, 2024**. However, each market and attraction has its own schedule. For example, the Christmas parade is only on Wednesday's and Sunday's between **NOV. 18 AND DEC. 23**. Go to [christmastownvalkenburg.com](http://christmastownvalkenburg.com) for dates, maps and more information.



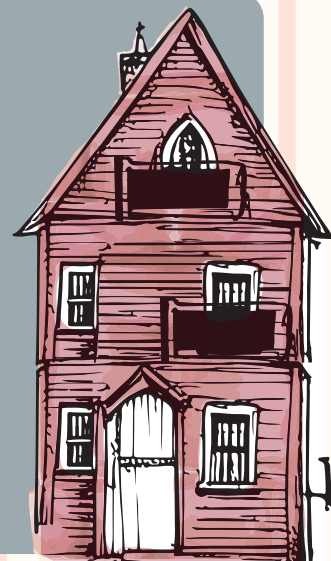
## STEP BACK IN TIME TO Victorian London



For those in the U.K., visit the Gloucester Quays Christmas Market held weekends from **NOV. 4 TO DEC. 17**. The market is held on the historic docks and features characters dressed in Victorian attire wandering the city. You can also catch brass music, choirs, street entertainers, a carousel, food, drink and, of course, artisan crafts! For the adults, there's an ale tavern and a microbrewery.

## MARKET FOR Halloween Lovers

Ignore the warnings of Hansel and Gretel and make your way to the Witches' House in Giesing, Germany. Enjoy the market from **NOV. 30 TO DEC. 23** and enjoy other workshops and more until Dec. 31. See acrobatics shows, enjoy live music, witness fantastical creatures, shop crafts, eat food and more.



continued on page 24

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# Poland's

## UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE

Make your way to the Wroclaw Christmas Market where the pastel buildings will add to the ambiance of shopping in a magical land. The market is open from **NOV. 24, 2023 TO JAN. 7, 2024**. Don't miss picking up one of the unique boot-shaped mugs. They are redesigned yearly.



# Belgian Ice Palace & BRUGES CHRISTMAS MARKET

For a double dose of holiday magic, check out the Ice Palace and the nearby Christmas market in Bruges, Belgium. The market is open from **NOV. 24, 2023, TO JAN. 7, 2024**. Artists worldwide gather to create magnificent works of art inside the ice palace (a large tent) cooled to negative five degrees Celsius. Sculptures are up to two meters high!



## FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN

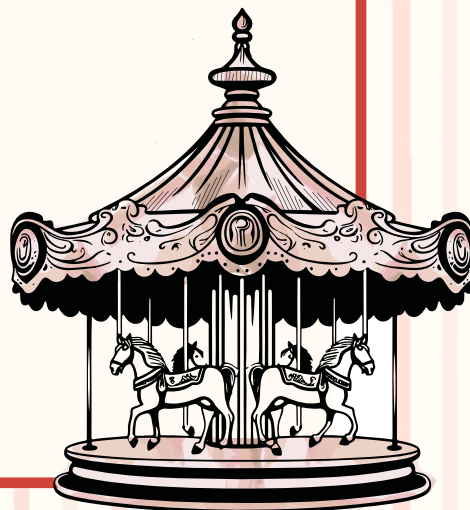
# IN THE *Wild West*

Make your way to Bavaria's Pullman City for a Western winter wonderland. Santa sings and you can meet him along with other fairy tale characters. There are country Christmas shows. See the giant stuffed animals. Take a romantic Christmas-lit walk, and so much more. This event occurs **FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, NOV. 10 TO DEC. 17** and there is a free shuttle bus from several parking areas for ease of travel.



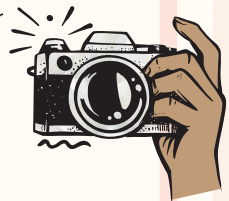
# ENCHANTED *Forest Market*

Head into the land of fairy tales as you visit the enchanted forest market in Trippstadt-Johanniskreuz, Germany. Located in the Naturpark Pfälzerwald near Kaiserslautern, this market boasts more than 60 booths lit in the romantic light of lanterns, torches and bonfires. Children will be excited to find a carousel, pony rides, a craft room and an evening acrobatic fire show. This market is open for one weekend only, **DEC. 2-3**, so mark your calendar!



# *Make It* TO THE *Markets*

These unusual Christmas markets are sure to make your holidays merry and memorable. Did we miss one of your favorite out-of-the-ordinary markets? We'd love to hear from you! Send us some pictures and stories from your favorite unique Christmas markets to [contentteam@stripes.com](mailto:contentteam@stripes.com) for a chance to be featured on our social media platforms and website. ■





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**MELIVA**  
MVZ WESTPFALZ

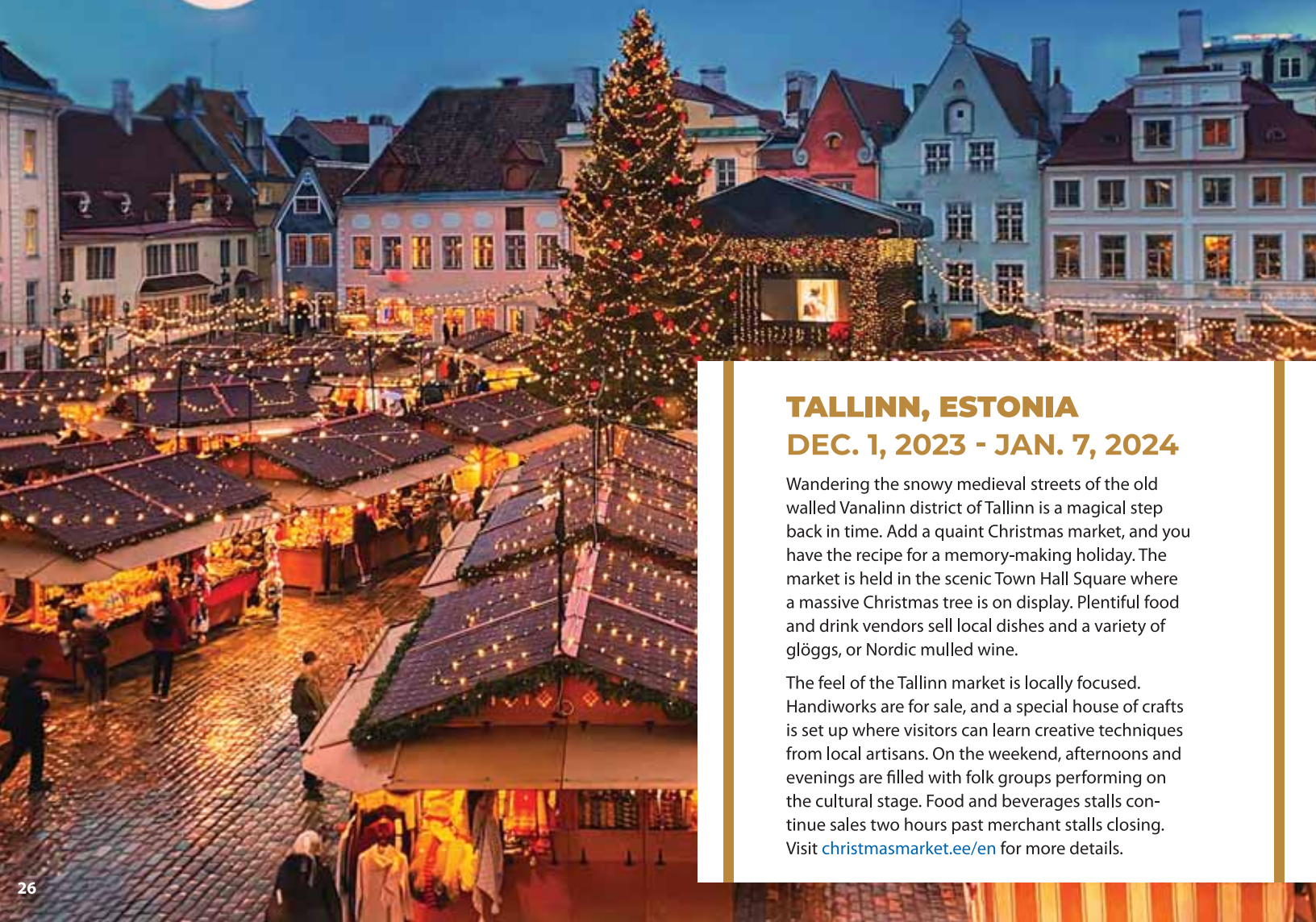
# Markets

## TO VISIT IN THE

# New Year

By Kat Nickola

While many holiday markets dwindle after Christmas, outside traditional Germanic regions they can last longer. Here are some European markets worth visiting after the winter holidays and into the New Year.



### **TALLINN, ESTONIA**

**DEC. 1, 2023 - JAN. 7, 2024**

Wandering the snowy medieval streets of the old walled Vanalinn district of Tallinn is a magical step back in time. Add a quaint Christmas market, and you have the recipe for a memory-making holiday. The market is held in the scenic Town Hall Square where a massive Christmas tree is on display. Plentiful food and drink vendors sell local dishes and a variety of glöggs, or Nordic mulled wine.

The feel of the Tallinn market is locally focused. Handiworks are for sale, and a special house of crafts is set up where visitors can learn creative techniques from local artisans. On the weekend, afternoons and evenings are filled with folk groups performing on the cultural stage. Food and beverages stalls continue sales two hours past merchant stalls closing. Visit [christmasmarket.ee/en](https://christmasmarket.ee/en) for more details.



## **DOLOMITE REGION, ITALY** **NOV. 24, 2023 - JAN. 6, 2024**

Christmas in Italy is traditionally celebrated until Epiphany on January 6, and in the mountains of Tirol that means Christmas markets are often open into the New Year. You will find some of the most magical mountain villages in the snowy Dolomite region. Start in the valley city of Bolzano (Bozen) whose market is situated in the central Piazza Walther. The 80 colorful stalls make up the oldest and largest Christmas market in Italy.

Take a drive high into the mountain villages where picturesque local Christmas markets sparkle below magnificent peaks. In Bressanone (Brixen) the market is shadowed by a beautiful cathedral and the nativity scene display is an 800-year-old tradition. The tiny ski towns of Val Gardena and Ortisei host cute markets perfect for an evening après ski. In Brunico (Bruneck) you can wander a few Christmas markets through the old town lanes below the castle. Visit [www.dolomiti.it/en](http://www.dolomiti.it/en) for travel information in the Dolomite region.



## **BRUGES, BELGIUM** **NOV. 24, 2023 - JAN. 7, 2024**

Winter Glow in Bruges is more than just a Christmas market. It is a modern winter festival that extends throughout the city. There is a light experience trail to eight light installations, including a laser show at the BMCC convention center, glowing trees at the Old Water House and holograms across Capuchin's Square. An artificial ice rink floats on the Minnewater Lake for all those skating fanatics, while others can enjoy drinks and snacks at the cozy Winter Bar next door.

As for markets, the large Grote Markt Square hosts traditional vendors. Two blocks away, the smaller Simon Stevinplein market focuses on local produce and handmade crafts. All attractions are open for the length of the market, but hours are shortened on holidays. See [visitbruges.be/en/winter-glow](http://visitbruges.be/en/winter-glow) for detailed planning.



## EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND NOV. 17, 2023 - JAN. 6, 2024

For something off the charts, book tickets for the wild and crazy New Year's Eve celebration that is Hogmanay in Edinburgh, Scotland. Or visit the calmer, free, and family-friendly Sprogmanay events on New Year's Day. After that, the Christmas season continues for another week at the sprawling markets.

The markets are located below Edinburgh's famous castle along the Princes Street Gardens and its adjacent roads in the heart of the historic old town. In addition to shopping at the numerous stalls, eating delicious street food and imbibing a warm beverage, there are other fun activities like an ice-skating rink, a Christmas tree maze and rides. Visit [www.edinburgh-christmas.com](http://www.edinburgh-christmas.com) or [www.edinburghshogmanay.com](http://www.edinburghshogmanay.com) for information.

## PRAGUE, CZECHIA DEC. 3, 2023 - JAN. 6, 2024

Surround yourself with beauty and history in Prague, where many markets dot the city. Three of these Christmas markets stay open after the new year. The largest market is hosted in Old Town Square where numerous stalls are nestled between the oldest working astronomical clock in the world and a turreted 14th-century gothic church. A second large market occupies Wenceslas Square where a statue of St. Wenceslas, who is buried in Prague, watches over a large selection of stalls selling food, drinks and local crafts.

To truly get the historical atmosphere, trek over the river and up the hill to Prague Castle where the Christmas market features 70 selected vendors offering holiday gifts and local Czech food. Be sure to wander out the southern gate for a magnificent view of the city.

See [www.prague.org/prague-christmas-market](http://www.prague.org/prague-christmas-market) for details.




**Rothenburger Reiterlesmarkt  
(Christmas Market)**  
December 1st – 23rd, 2023

Opening hours:  
Monday – Thursday 11 am – 7 pm  
Friday – Sunday 11 am – 8 pm  
[www.rothenburg.de](http://www.rothenburg.de)




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# Christmas Forest

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# Celebrate the **SEASON** While Traveling



By Stacy Roman

The holiday season in Europe is spectacularly magical. If you're one of the hundreds of millions planning to take to the roads, rails, seas or skies, you may be wondering how on earth to enjoy and celebrate the holidays. Don't worry, we've got you covered.

## PRE-HOLIDAY SHENANIGANS

1

### Decorate

Even if we are traveling for Christmas and New Year, we always put decorations up. Granted, I refuse to put them up before Thanksgiving, but you can bet my seriously ugly metal reindeer will grace my front door with his presence the day after. Putting up a few of your favorite or sentimental decorations on display can help set the holiday mood.



### Bake Treats Early

If making cookies for the Big Guy is a tradition, why not make them earlier and become a cookie Santa for your neighbors and friends? Bringing goodwill (and baked goodness) to those around you can go a long way in celebrating the season. And you'll still get to lick the frosting bowl.

2

3

### Reserve Your Spot

When you're in the throes of planning, be sure to see if your accommodation does anything special for the season. Many hotels will be completely decked out to the nines and offer a special dinner. There may be a story time with Santa or a countdown to New Year's to partake in. Room service is always a good idea if you're staying in a hotel and missed out on reservations. Cruise lines will often offer unique packages built around the holiday. Be sure to check early and reserve your spot in advance.



## DURING THE HOLIDAY

5

### Bring a Piece of Home

You don't need to pack the whole tree, but holiday-themed pajamas, stockings, or even just downloading a holiday playlist to mark the occasion can help make it feel homey. If you're staying with friends or family, offer to make or bring your favorite holiday dish. Even if no one else is particularly fond of Aunt Bethany's Jello mold, it's still a reminder of home.



4

### What To Do With Gifts?

Visiting family or friends makes it easier in the gifting department. If you order online, presents can be sent directly. Remember to check "This is a gift" during checkout to avoid any Christmas morning spoilers. Be mindful of quantity, size and prohibited materials for gifts your family will need to bring back to your duty station.

You may also have to get creative. Last year, my youngest asked for an electric guitar. Because we were traveling, we really didn't want to lug it around and risk damage. Instead, we purchased a cheap inflatable guitar and put a note saying the real one was waiting for them at home.

Or, rather than buying material items, why not opt for an experience instead? Tickets to an amusement park, a football match, a concert or even a baseball game in the upcoming season are great options.

7

### Celebrate Like A Local

When we traveled to Edinburgh for New Year, we realized we'd be there for Hogmanay. This fantastic local holiday is one of Europe's largest New Year's celebrations and stretches over three days. With a torchlight procession (be sure to wear an old coat that you don't mind getting melted wax on) and an epic street party, it is by far one of my favorite holiday travel experiences. My oldest, who celebrates his birthday on New Year's Eve, has repeatedly stated that nothing has come close since that party.



6

### Make It Special

If your family attends religious services, there are a plethora of famous and historical cathedrals and basilicas to visit. European Christmas markets are also one-of-a-kind and add a touch of magic to the season.

**Traveling for the holidays doesn't mean you have to be a Scrooge. With some advance planning, a handful of decorations and creativity, you can make your holiday travel festive and fun. Just remember to pack a little extra patience. ■**

# Spice UP YOUR Glühwein

By Tamala Malerk

Nothing says Christmas market season like a cup of glühwein to warm you up while shopping or watching your favorite holiday specials. However, the flavors can get repetitive. Here are some ways to jazz up your glühwein and keep you warm all season long.

## Best Glühwein Add-Ins:

ORANGE SLICES



VANILLA POD



LEMON SLICES



NUTMEG



CINNAMON STICKS

GINGER



BRANDY OR RUM



STAR ANISE



CARDAMOM POD



MAPLE SYRUP



Are you having a holiday party and need to know what to pair with your own home-made batch of Glühwein? Try some of these festive European dishes.

### Appetizers/Snacks

- Cheese and charcuterie boards
- Pickled vegetables
- Bacon-wrapped dates
- Stuffed mushroom

### Main Courses

- Kaesepaetzle
- Roasted meats
- Grilled lamb or chicken
- Flammkuche

### Desserts

- Dark chocolate
- Glühwein compote (see recipe)
- Apple tart
- Gingerbread cookies



# MAKE YOUR OWN GLÜHWEIN COMPOTE

This delicious fruity compote is a great topping for ice cream, cakes, tortes and more.

## What You Need:

- **2 CUPS GLÜHWEIN**  
*(or alcohol-free red grape juice)*
- **1 TEASPOON CINNAMON POWDER**
- **48 OUNCES OF FROZEN MIXED BERRIES.**  
*A combination of strawberries, blueberries, blackberries and/or cranberries works well. You can also add apples, pears, kiwi, cherries, pineapple, mango, grapes or plums. Make it your own.*
- **LEMON ZEST** *(Optional)*
- **¼ CUP RUM**  
*(or a non-alcoholic substitute such as Lyre's White Cane spirit)*
- **3.4 OUNCE BOX OF INSTANT PUDDING**  
*(We recommend French vanilla, white chocolate, vanilla, cheesecake or butterscotch varieties)*
- **1 TABLESPOON VANILLA-FLAVORED PLANT-BASED MILK**
- **DARK CHOCOLATE SHAVINGS** *(Optional)*

## How to make it:

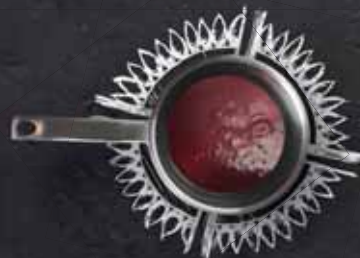
- 1.** Pour glühwein and rum into a medium-size pot.



- 2.** Add the instant pudding, cinnamon powder and vanilla plant milk, and whisk the mixture until everything is well blended and smooth.



- 3.** Heat the mixture at medium-high for five minutes.



- 4.** Add the frozen berries and mix carefully.



- 5.** Shut off the heat and allow the mixture to sit until the berries are defrosted.



- 6.** Serve warm or chilled. ■



Adapted from [allgermantastes.com](http://allgermantastes.com)

# 2023 German Christmas Market Directory

## **BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG**

(USAG STUTT GART AREA)

### **Aalen**

Nov. 27—Dec. 23

### **Bad Wimpfen**

Fridays-Sundays Dec. 1—15

### **Baden-Baden**

Nov. 23, 2023—Jan. 6, 2024

### **Breitnau**

Fridays-Sundays Nov. 24—Dec. 17

### **Bruchsal-Castle**

Nov. 27—Dec. 30

### **Burg Hohenzollern Castle**

Nov. 24, 2023—Jan. 7, 2024

### **Esslingen**

Nov. 23—Dec. 21

### **Freiburg**

Nov. 23—Dec. 23

Rathausplatz, Franziskanerstraße, Unterlindenplatz & Kartoffelmarkt

### **Friedrichshafen**

Bodensee-Weihnacht Friedrichshafen,

Nov 30—Dec. 27

Weihnachtsmarkt Schloss Friedrichshafen, Dec. 7-10

### **Gengenbach**

Nov. 30—Dec. 23

### **Göppingen**

Nov. 30—Dec. 28

### **Heidelberg**

Nov. 27—Dec. 22

Kornmarkt, Marktplatz, Universitätsplatz, Anatomiegarten & Bismarckplatz

### **Heilbronn**

Nov. 21—Dec. 22

Marktplatz, Kiliansplatz, Sülmerstraße

### **Karlsruhe**

Nov. 28—Dec. 23

### **Konstanz** (*Constance*)

Nov. 30—Dec. 23

### **Ludwigsburg**

Nov. 23—Dec. 22

### **Mannheim**

Nov. 27—Dec. 23

### **Prien**

Fridays-Sundays Dec. 1, 2023—Jan. 6, 2024

### **Stuttgart**

Schillerplatz, Nov. 29—Dec. 23

Vaihinger Markt, Dec. 2-3

### **Tauberbischofsheim**

Fridays-Sunday Dec. 1-17

### **Triberg**

Weihnachtszauber at the waterfall, Dec 25-30

### **Tübingen**

Dec. 15-17

### **Ulm**

Nov. 27—Dec. 23

## **BAYERN** (USAG BAVARIA AREA)

### **Abensberg** *Kuchlbauer's Tower* Christmas

Wednesday-Sunday Nov. 22—Dec. 22

### **Altötting**

Nov. 24—Dec. 17

### **Aschaffenburg**

Nov. 24—Dec. 21

### **Augsburg**

Nov. 27—Dec. 24

### **Bamberg**

Nov. 28—Dec. 23

### **Bad Alexandersbad**

Dec. 9-10

### **Bad Hindelang**

Fridays-Sundays Nov. 30—Dec. 17

### **Bad Tölz**

Nov. 24—Dec. 23

### **Bad Wörishofen**

Fridays-Sundays Dec. 8-17

### **Bayreuth**

Nov. 27—Dec. 23

### **Berchtesgaden**

Nov. 30, 2023—Jan. 03, 2024

### **Coburg**

Dec. 1-23

### **Dinkelsbühl**

Nov. 28—Dec. 22

### **Erlangen** *Huguenot Town*

Nov. 27—Dec. 24

### **Frauenchiemsee**

Thursdays -Sundays Nov. 30—Dec. 10

### **Fürth**

Weihnachtsmarkt Fürth, Nov. 30—Dec. 23

Fürther Altstadtweihnacht, Nov. 30—Dec. 23

### **Füssen** *St. Mang Monastery*

Fridays- Sundays Dec. 8-17

### **Garmisch-Partenkirchen**

Nov. 23—Dec. 23

### **Iphofen**

Dec. 9-10,

### **Kaltenberg Castle**

Fridays - Sundays Nov. 24—Dec. 17

### **Kempten**, Nov. 29—Dec. 22

### **Lindau**

Thursdays - Sundays Nov. 23—Dec. 17

### **Miltenberg**

Fridays - Sundays Dec. 1-17

### **Mittenwald**

Dec. 14-17

### **Moosach**

Nov. 24—Dec. 23

### **München (Munich)**

Nov. 23—Dec. 24, Marienplatz and other areas

Weihnachtsdorf Residenz Kaiserhof München,

Nov. 23—Dec. 22

Christkindlmarkt Marienplatz München,

Nov. 27—Dec. 24

Münchner Adventsspektakel und Mittelalterlicher

Weihnachtsmarkt am Wittelsbacherplatz

Nov. 27—Dec. 23

Tollwood Winterfestival München,

Nov. 23—Dec. 31 (Market ends Dec. 23)

Schwabinger Weihnachtsmarkt, Dec. 1-24

### **Nördlingen**

Dec. 1-23, Old Town

### **Nürnberg** (*Nuremberg*)

Dec.1- 24

### **Regensburg**

Christkindlmarkt Regensburg, Nov. 27—Dec. 23

Adventsmarkt St. Katharinenhospital Regensburg,

Nov. 27—Dec. 23

Lucrezia Markt, Dec. 1-23

Romantischer Weihnachtsmarkt auf Schloss Thurn und Taxis, Nov. 24—Dec. 23

### **Rothenburg ob der Tauber**

Dec. 1- 23

### **Spalt**

Dec. 2- 3

### **Tegernsee**

Fridays-Sundays Dec. 1-23

### **Würzburg**

Dec. 1- 23

### **Zirndorf**

Fridays-Sundays Nov. 24—Dec. 17

## **HESSEN** (USAG WIESBADEN AREA)

### **Bad Homburg**

Romantische Weihnachtsmarkt am Schloss Bad

Homburg, TBD

Weihnachtsstadt Bad Homburg, Nov. 23—Dec. 30

Louisenstrasse: TBD

### **Büdingen**

Dec. 6-10

### **Burg Ronneburg**

Saturdays & Sundays Dec. 2-10

### **Darmstadt**

Nov. 20—Dec. 23

### **Eppstein**

Dec. 16-17

### **Erbach**

Fridays-Sundays Dec. 3- 24

### **Eltville**

Dec. 9-10



**Frankfurt am Main**

Nov. 27—Dec. 21

**Geisenheim-Johannisberg Castle**

Dec. 2-3

**Hochheim am Main**

Dec. 8-10

**Idstein**

Dec. 1-3

**Kassel Fairytale Market**

Nov. 27—Dec. 30

**Marburg**

Dec. 1- 23

**Michelstadt**

Wednesdays to Sundays Dec. 1-23

**Neu-Anspach**

Fridays-Sundays Dec. 2-1

**Ronneburg**

Fridays-Sundays Dec. 2-17

**Rüdesheim am Rhein** *Christmas Market of Nations,*

Nov. 20—Dec. 23

**Wetzlar**

Nov. 28—Dec. 29

**Wiesbaden**

Nov. 28—Dec. 23

**RHEINLAND-PFALZ & SAARLAND** *(KMC AREA)*

**Andernach**

Nov. 24—Dec. 24

**Ahrweiler**

Dec. 8-10

**Alzey**

Nov. 27—Dec. 30

**Bad Kreuznach**

Nov. 17—Dec. 17

**Bad Münster am Stein**

Dec. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17

**Bann**

Dec. 16-17

**Baumholder**

Dec. 8-9

**Bernkastel-Kues Area**

Altstadt Bernkastel, Nov. 24—Dec. 23

Veldenz, Dec. 2-3, 9-10

Forest Hut Ürzig, Dec. 16-17

**Castle Eppstein**

Dec. 16-17

**Cochem**

Nov. 24—Dec. 17

**Cochem Castle**

Dec. 9-10

**Deidesheim**

Fridays-Sundays Dec. 1-23

**Homburg**

Dec. 10-30

**Idar-Oberstein Castle**

Dec. 2-3

**Kaiserslautern**

Stiftsplatz to Schillerplatz,

Nov. 27—Dec. 23 & Dec. 27-30

Kulturmarkt in the Fruchthalle, Dec. 1-18

**Kindsbach**

Dec. 9-10

**Koblenz**, *six locations,*

Nov. 24, 2023—Jan. 7, 2024

**Landau**

Nov. 24—Dec. 21

**Landstuhl,**

St.-Andreas-Markt, Dec. 2-3

Stadthalle, Dec. 8-11

**Ludwigshafen**

Nov. 8—Dec. 23

**Mainz**

Nov. 30—Dec. 23

Cathedral Square, Bahnhofplatz, and Hofengarten,

Nov. 30—Dec. 23

Schillerplatz, Neubrunnenplatz,

Nov. 30—Dec. 23—Dec. 27-30

**Neuleiningen Medieval Castle Village:**

Dec. 2-3, 9-10

**Neustadt**

Dec.1—Dec.17

**Queidersbach**

Dec. 1-2

**Saarbrücken**

Nov. 20—Dec. 23

**Saarlouis**

Nov. 22—Dec. 23

**Satzvey Castle Middle Ages Market**

Dec. 2-3

**Schopp**

Dec. 2-3

**Speyer**

Nov. 27, 2023—Jan. 1, 2024

**Stelzenberg**

Nov. 26

**St. Wendel Middle Ages Market**

Dec. 8-17

**Traben-Trarbach**

Fridays-Sundays Nov 24, 2023—Jan. 1, 2024

**Trier**

Nov. 24—Dec. 22

**Trippstadt**

Dec. 2-4

**Weiskirchen**

Dec. 2

**AROUND GERMANY**

**Berlin Markets**

Weihnachtsmarkt am Gendarmenmarkt,

Nov. 27—Dec. 31

Weihnachtsmarkt an der Gedächtniskirche,

Nov. 27—Dec. 31

Historischer Weihnachtsmarkt auf dem RAW-

Gelände, Nov. 16—Dec. 22

Rotes Rathaus Weihnachtzeit,

Nov. 27—Dec. 30

Weihnachtsmarkt vor dem Schloss Charlotten-

burg, Nov. 27—Dec. 31

Spandauer Weihnachtsmarkt in der Altstadt,

Nov. 27—Dec. 22

**Bremen**

Nov. 27—Dec. 23

**Bonn**

Nov. 24—Dec. 23

**Dresden Striezelmarkt**

Nov. 29—Dec. 24

**Düsseldorf**

Nov. 23—Dec. 30

Nordstrasse, Flingerstrasse, Marktplatz, Jan-

Wellem-Platz, Stadtbrückchen, Schadowplatz,

Engelchenmarkt

**Hamburg**, *thirty locations,*

Nov. 13—Dec. 23

**Köln (Cologne)**

Cathedral, Nov. 23—Dec. 23

Neumarkt, Nov. 20—Dec. 23

Harbour, Nov. 23—Dec. 23 and

Dec. 26, 2023—Jan. 7, 2024

Heumarkt and Altermarkt,

Nov. 24, 2023—Jan. 1, 2024

Stadtgarden, Nov. 23—Dec. 23

**Leipzig**

Nov. 28—Dec. 23

**Weimar**, *four locations,*

Nov. 28, 2023—Jan. 5, 2024

Note: most markets will be closed on Dead Sunday (Nov. 26), Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) and Christmas Day (Dec. 25)

*Disclaimer: Scheduled events and dates are subject to change. Some markets require tickets, advanced registration, limited capacity or other restrictions.*



Check our website for the most up to date directory. Visit [europe.stripes.com/christmasmarkets](http://europe.stripes.com/christmasmarkets).



We wish you  
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a good start into  
the new year!

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