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It's the Best Time OF THE YEAR



Mary Del Rosario
Lead-Writer Editor
Stars and Stripes Europe

Christmas has started early this year! Santa's elves have listened to your wishes and decided to gift you this magazine filled with everything you need to know about Europe's beloved Christmas markets. The magic of this holiday season lies within the cheerfully decorated stalls, aromas of roasted chestnuts and other market goodies wafting through the air and mulled wine lifting your spirits.

If this is your first holiday season in Europe, you'll get to explore a season like no other—from the ornate Christmas decor to the feeling of a whole community coming together— Christmas in Europe will be one of your favorite things you'll look forward to every year. If you're a seasoned market goer, perhaps you'll find a new market to explore and make memories in.

Planning to travel outside of Germany? In this magazine, you'll find inspiration

for all your Christmas market desires in cities such as London, Prague, Budapest and much more! Curious to see how other European countries celebrate Christmas? We've got you covered as we talk about different European Christmas traditions! Want your kids to delight their taste buds in all the German treats they can get their hands on? Read more about the "Weihnachtsbäckerei," or Christmas bakery for an unforgettable experience. Want to channel your inner Buddy the Elf and revel in all of Christmas' glory? We've picked the best Christmas markets in all of Europe that will even get the Scrooges in a holly, jolly mood.

Christmas in Europe is a truly magical experience no matter where you celebrate and my hope to anyone who is feeling the holiday blues is for you to get out and enjoy all the Christmas markets, for they'll bring anyone cheer! So, bundle up and prepare yourself for a season filled with love, twinkling lights, mulled wine and cobblestoned streets dotted with festive huts. From all of us at Stars and Stripes Europe, we wish you and yours a jolly holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year!



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2019 European Christ-
mas Market Directory



The New Winter Highlight for the Whole Region in Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Light fantasies for young and old.

The Michael-Ende-Kurpark (spa gardens) have always been a place with a special atmosphere. But now – as if magically attracted by human imagination – a whole folk of fabulous creatures made of sparkling light is gathering there. In the direct neighbourhood of the Christmas market and the ice rink of the winter magic at the Mohrenplatz, you will find the GaPa Funkelland with its enchanting light sculptures. A wondrous world of marvels and discoveries!

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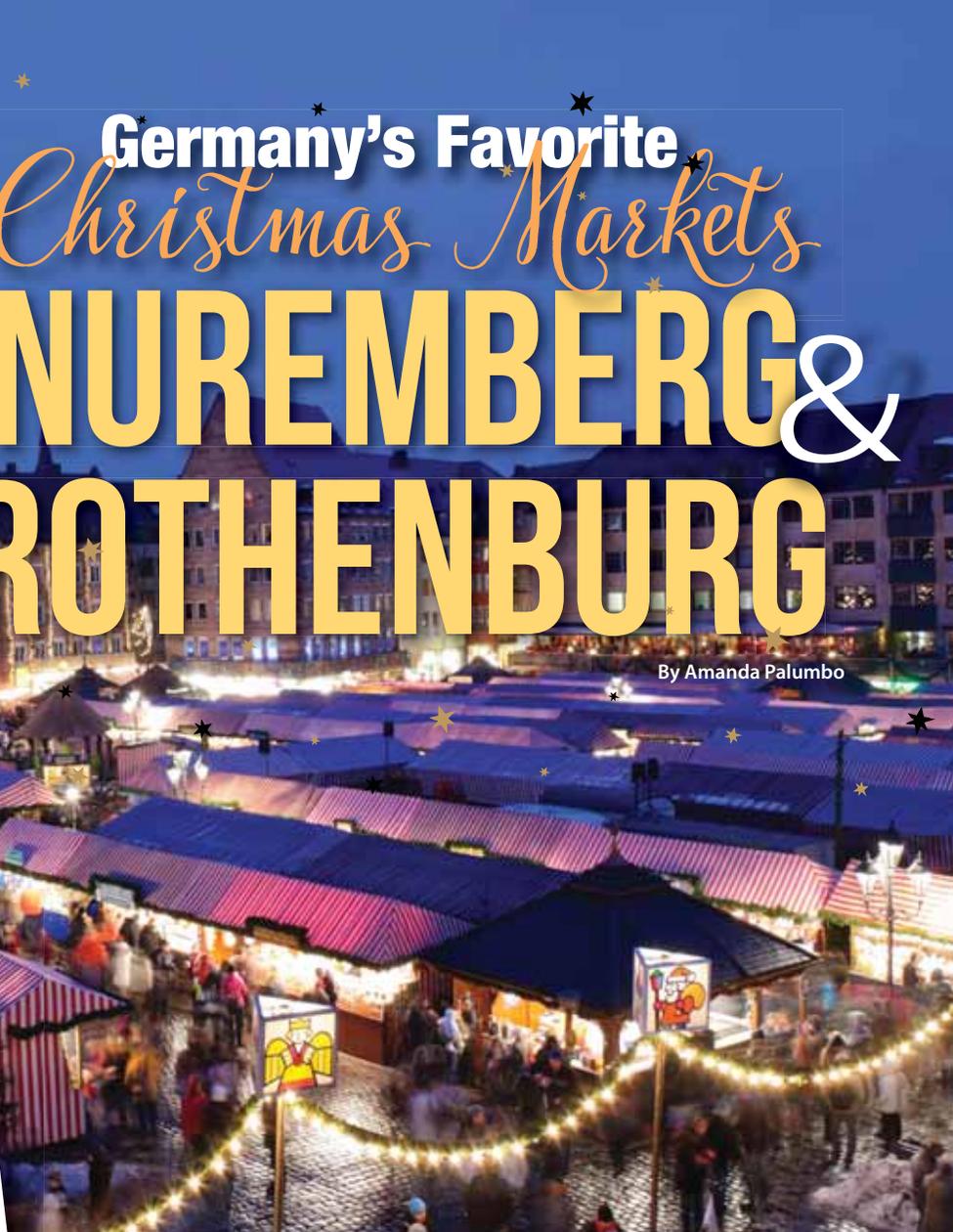
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Germany's Favorite *Christmas Markets* **NUREMBERG & ROTHENBURG**

By Amanda Palumbo

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There is an unmistakable pride that runs through Bavaria that makes the rest of the world stand up and take notice. Bavaria does things big and sticks to tradition like how “salz” sticks to “brezel.” That same fervor is true for the area’s Christmas markets, namely Nuremberg and Rothenburg.

NUREMBERG CHRISTMAS MARKET

Bavaria’s second-largest city has been doing Christmas markets for more than 400 years. To call them experts seems preposterous because they are so much more than that.

Food and drink

All Christmas markets have Glühwein but Nuremberg’s mulled wine is an EU protected designation that has to meet special quality

standards and be manufactured in the city. A crowd favorite is Gerstacker’s blueberry flavor or “Heidelbeer-Glühwein.”

Nuremberg has a serious sausage game spanning 700 years. For a sausage to be called the “original Nuremberg,” it has to be produced in the city and weigh exactly 23 grams. The sausages are also the size of your fingers and spiced with marjoram. Order “Drei im Weggla,” which translates to “three in a bun.”

From something salty to something sweet — look for lebkuchen, or gingerbread. “Elisenlebkuchen” is a special gingerbread cookie made without flour. It is huge, flat and often dipped in chocolate or powdered sugar.

What to buy

If you’re looking for something truly Nuremberg, keep an eye out for “Zwetschgenmännle,” or prune men. Dating back to the 18th century, these dolls have a wire skeleton with a walnut head, arms and legs made of prunes and a body made of figs.

Also grab a “Rauschgoldengel,” or gold rush angel. These 17th century dolls are made of folded gold paper. They will be a treasured Christmas figure to pass on through the family

The Children’s Market

Nuremberg is the Disney World of Christmas markets. Just around the corner from the adult fun in a market just for kids. There are rides, visits

from Santa and hands-on activities like baking, making ornaments, even a children's post office.

Dates and times:

Nov. 29 – Dec. 24
Monday - Sunday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
December 24: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Getting there:

- ✦ From Kaiserslautern: 3.5-hour drive or 4-hour train ride
- ✦ From Garmisch-Partenkirchen: 3-hour drive or train ride
- ✦ From Stuttgart: 2.5-hour drive or 3-hour train from Stuttgart



ROTHENBURG OB DER TAUBER

Rothenburg is a medieval town that transforms into a winter wonderland with 500 years' worth of traditions. From deep-fried balls of sugary goodness to some of the most elaborate decorations, this historical market is one of Bavaria's gems.

Food and drink

I'm sure "deep-fried balls of sugary goodness" peaked your attention so let's talk about those first. A "schneeball," which translates to snowball, is a short crust pastry dough, deep-fried and covered in delicious toppings like chocolate, powdered sugar or nuts.

There will, of course, be Glühwein but you should also try a glass of Franconian wine, a wine as dry as my humor and often made from small Mom-and-Pop wineries.

What to buy

Rothenburg is a Christmas decorator's dream city. Käthe Wohlfahrt's Christmas Village is headquartered here, with the largest selection

of Christmas decorations year-round. If you're not interested in buying anything, just taking a walk around will get you in the holiday spirit.

Adding to its charm, Rothenburg has very few big chain stores. The city square is lined with lots of local shops, including a stuffed animal store!

Deutsches Weihnachtsmuseum

Rothenburg is also home to Deutsches Weihnachtsmuseum, Germany's Christmas museum. Located right next to Käthe Wohlfahrt's Christmas Village, you can see some of the oldest and most elaborate Christmas decorations.

Town Hall Tower

If you want that Instagram-worthy shot, head to Town Hall Tower. Open until 8 p.m., you can get a bird's eye view of the market. If you're lucky, you may even get a perfect shot of a snow-covered market. It will be the cover of next year's Christmas card.

Dates and times:

Nov. 29 - Dec. 23
Monday - Thursday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday - Sunday: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Getting there:

- ✦ From Kaiserslautern: 3-hour drive or 4-hour train ride
- ✦ From Garmisch-Partenkirchen: 3.5-hour drive or 5-hour train ride
- ✦ From Stuttgart: 1-hour 40-minute drive or 3-hour train from Stuttgart

Christmas is all about tradition and there is no shortage of that in beautiful Bavaria. I guarantee you and your family will hold on to this memory for a lifetime. ■



The Christmas Markets of **STUTTGART** & **ESSLINGEN**

By Jessica Zen



Glistening lights, stalls lovingly styled with their finest Christmas decor, a children's wonderland and so much more await you at the Christmas and Medieval Markets in Stuttgart and Esslingen this year. Bust out your warmest footwear and load up the family for these fantastic markets in Germany!

STUTTGART CHRISTMAS MARKET

The annual Stuttgart Christmas Market, "Weihnachts Markt," draws over 3.5 million visitors each year. Not only is it one of the biggest markets, it is also one of the oldest, officially dating back to 1692. With the town hall facade posing as an advent calendar, this market is bustling with Christmas magic.

The Stuttgart Christmas Market hosts 290 stalls, each featuring something unique. The wide range of wares includes wooden toys, nativity figurines, sweet treats, international culinary delights and the famous Glühwein. In addition to the stalls, there are live concerts with over 60 musical groups performing as part of the official program.

For an antique lovers' dream, be sure to stop at the antique market on Karlsplatz square. Here you'll find over 20 vendors offering rare pieces, all within a heated tent. If you already have antique pieces that you want valued, bring them with. Experts at the market will value antique items free of charge.

Children can also enjoy the holiday festivities in fairytale land. Take a journey through this winter wonderland on a mini steam engine and continue on with some engaging activities. Children can visit stalls to decorate gingerbread hearts, build chocolate fruit kabobs or craft a candle. With so many activities and things to see, the family is sure to be entertained for hours.

There is also a live nativity scene that includes lambs, sheep, goats and a donkey on Sporerstrasse. The caretakers of the animals run a stall next to the nativity scene selling farm products like cheese and wool clothing.

Know before you go

- ❖ The Stuttgart Christmas Market is open Nov. 27 - Dec. 23.
- ❖ Opening times are Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- ❖ Special opening times are Nov. 27, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Dec. 14, 10 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. for late night shopping.
- ❖ The market is set in the middle of the city center. It is easy to get to from the main train station. Parking is available; however, it is recommended that you arrive via public transportation.

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Things to see outside the market

Car fanatics will love that both Mercedes-Benz and Porsche have museums in Stuttgart. The Mercedes-Benz Museum is home to over 160 vehicles, ranging from some of the first automobiles to modern racing machines. It chronicles the influence of Carl Benz' cars on technology, social history and popular culture. The Porsche Museum has over 80 cars on display and currently has a special exhibition called "70 Years of the Porsche Sports Car." The exhibit features a 356 Speedster from 1954, which was one of the first four Speedsters ever built.

For a great view of the city, go to the Fernsehturm, an iconic TV tower with an observation deck and cafe. This 60-year-old tower took almost two years to build and cost \$4.2 million. The Stuttgart landmark is the world's first telecommunications tower and was designed by structural engineer Professor Fritz Leonhardt.

Stuttgart's impressive architecture can be seen at the Old Castle. Originally built in the 10th century as a water fortress to protect the stud gardens, this castle evolved into a residence for the counts of Wuerttemberg in the 14th century. The castle is now home to the Wuerttemberg State Museum, which displays valuable pieces that represent the history of the state.

The neighboring town of Esslingen is just a short 20-minute drive from Stuttgart and is home to a truly unique Medieval Christmas Market.

ESSLINGEN MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS MARKET

Take a trip back in time at the Esslingen Medieval Christmas Market. In addition to the traditional market food and fun, you will find vendors dressed in historical garments, craftsmen demonstrating their skills and stage artists showing off their juggling, musical and other nonsensical skills. Esslingen provides not only a market, but also a historical production. It's only appropriate, as the half-timbered houses create the perfect setting for an adventure into the past.

Once upon a time, craftsmen were a common sight and normal part of day-to-day life. Nowadays, seeing a blacksmith shape iron is incredibly rare. Don't miss out on witnessing blacksmiths, knife grinders, glass blowers, basket weavers, spoon carvers, saddlers and leather makers ply their trades. Try to keep up in medieval times during workshops that offer hands-on training.

After all the hard work of crafting something from scratch, check out the plethora of hearty victuals offered. Warm up with dishes like freshly baked "Heurekaaner," grilled pork, stews, duck leg

or venison goulash. If you want to skip the meat, there are also "pakoras," deep fried vegetables, falafel and potato dishes. Don't forget to add a beverage! Hot berry wine, honey-sweet mead, brandy punch or a hot, spiced beer are a great way to keep warm. What better way to spend the holiday season than learning a new trade and delighting in cuisine from the medieval ages?

If building your own trinkets isn't quite your speed, don't worry. Merchants at colorfully decorated stalls offer their goods for sale, no work required except perhaps some light bargaining. Items like old lighters made from tinder and polypore, handmade candles, handcrafted knives and jewelry are all available.

Know before you go

- * The Esslingen Medieval Market is open Nov. 26 - Dec. 22. The first day hours: 4 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The last day hours: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Regular hours: Sunday - Wednesday 11 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Thursday to Saturday 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- * The market is located near the Rathausplatz and Hafenmarkt. There is a shuttle bus on the weekends in Advent. Round trip is 2 euros per person. On Saturday the shuttle runs every 30 minutes beginning at 11:00 a.m.; last departure 8:45 p.m. On Sunday the shuttle runs

every 15 minutes beginning at 11:00 a.m.; last departure 9:00 p.m. The shuttle runs from Esslingen-Mettingen/Daimler parking area to Schelztor bus stop and back or from Oberesslingen/Eberspächer company to Augustinstraße/Kleiner Markt bus stop and back.

Things to see outside the market

Esslingen Castle has towered over the town for over 700 years and is a great place to get a postcard perfect picture of the town. It was never home to nobility, but rather served as a part of the town fortifications to protect from attackers. The High Watch Tower originated in the 14th century, whereas the Big Tower was added in 1520 as a gun turret.

There are many old churches in this town, including Stadtkirche St. Dionys, where the history of Esslingen began in the year 777. The current church is the third of constructions on the original site and is a Gothic structure with outstanding stained glass windows from 1300. The windows are amongst the most beautiful medieval stained glass pieces in Germany.

The Old Town Hall, considered one of the most beautiful buildings in town with its colorful exterior, was built between 1422-1423 as a sales hall and tax house. The Renaissance facade, which was added in the 1580s, is particularly lovely. There is also a curved step gable, bell tower and astronomical clock where the current Registry Office resides. ■



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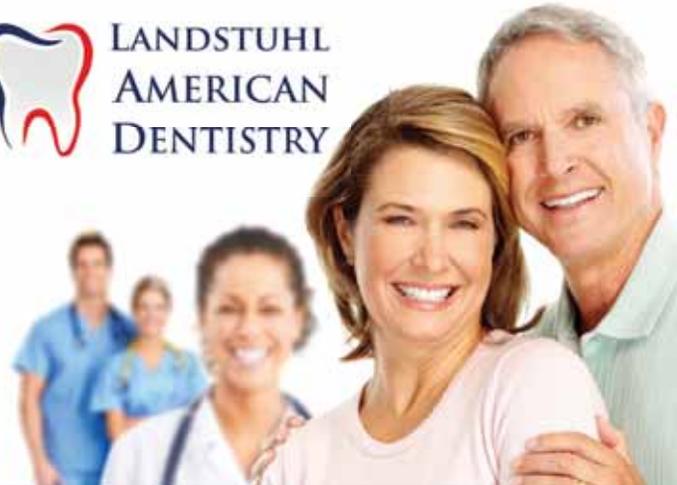
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The Christmas Markets

of MAINZ & WIESBADEN

By Mary Del Rosario



Lights twinkling above the beloved holiday stands, the aroma of roasted chestnuts filling the air and a cup of Glühwein warming up your cold 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 even 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 1000-year-old St. Martin’s Cathedral. One hundred jovial and brightly lit stands blanket the city and provide opportunities to do some last-minute Christmas shopping or even buy souvenirs for loved ones back home.

Speaking of shopping, head to Kirschgarten, Mainz’s historic city center, which is thoughtfully decorated in all things Christmas and alit with beautiful lights. Also, be sure not to miss the 11-meter high Christmas pyramid upon entering

the market as well as a hand-carved, life-sized nativity scene in front of Gotthard Chapel of St. Martin’s Cathedral. In this cathedral, several concerts will be performed.

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

In front of the printing shop of the Gutenberg Museum, the “Mainzer Weihnachtdorf,” or Christmas village, provides an option for a large group to gather around 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 Neubrun-

nenplatz to enjoy Christmas décor, lights and an overall joyous spirit.

Know before you go

- ✳ Public transportation is best, especially if you have plans to eat, drink and be merry... with Glühwein. The Christmas market can be reached via the Mainz public transport company (MVG).
- ✳ Dress appropriately and bundle up! Being out in the cold for several hours will have you feeling like Frosty the Snowman so be sure to invest in warm gloves and layer up!

* 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.

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.

If you're a fan of the Roman history, check out the Museum of Ancient Seafaring where well-preserved remains of Roman war ships are waiting for their story to be told.

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!



WIESBADEN CHRISTMAS MARKET

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 November 26, is located on the Schlossplatz between the Rathaus and the Stadtschloss. This market is highly rated that it was voted "No. 1" in recent years. With colorfully lit stages, Christmas décor that looked like Santa's elves had done the job and friendly vendors, it's not hard to see why. Don't forget to marvel at their unique display of over seventy 10-meter high blue and golden lit lilies coming to life above the Schlossplatz!

Seeing 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 holidays displays. From here, you can even see Frankfurt's skyline!

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

If the young ones are eager to try ice skating, head to the ESWE-Eiszeit, an ice skating rink at the Warmer Damm which is a mere 6-minute walk from the market. At this rink, two Alpine chalets will also be provided to accommodate small and large functions, perfect for entertaining groups of friends.



Know before you go

- * Originating from nearby Frankfurt, try "Bethmächen," marzipan decorated with almond slices.
- * At 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., you can enjoy listening to German Christmas carols in the tower of the Market Church
- * To sound like a local, wish Germans a "Frohe Weihnachde und e guude Rudsch."
- * Tour the famous market with a short walking tour that hits all the major market highlights. These tours are available on Fridays and Saturdays at 3 p.m. and costs 7 euros per person.

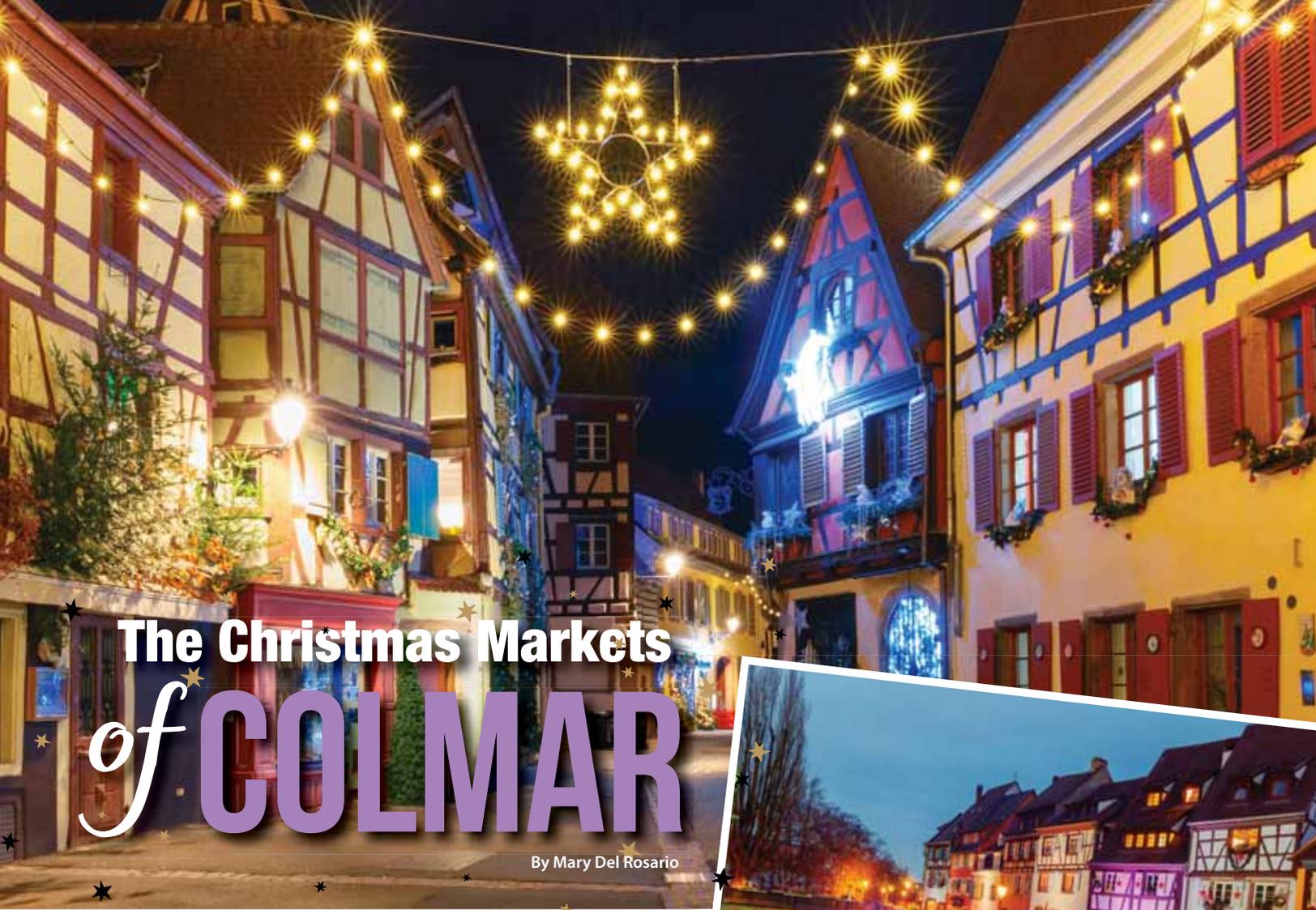
Things to see outside the market

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 Neroberg makes it seem as if you were in Russia with its ornate golden onion dome. Inside the church, you can view the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Mikhailovna, wife of Duke Adolf of Nassau'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 of course, wild boar, barn owls and other creatures.

This Christmas season, take part of the magic that German Christmas markets offer. The markets are not only there to sell spiced mulled wine, Lebkucken and presents, but it gathers us as a community to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. "Frohe Weihnachten!" ■



The Christmas Markets of COLMAR

By Mary Del Rosario



Located in northeastern France is the striking town of Colmar. During Christmas, the town transforms into a picture-perfect holiday background. In order to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year, head to the Colmar Christmas Market, a beguiling market chock-full of holiday glee.

THE CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Because Christmas in Colmar is an occasion not to be missed, the town has five festive markets that house their own kind of holiday spirit. From Nov. 22 to Dec. 29, over 180 stalls of handmade crafts, holiday novelties, hot cocoa and other delightful festival goodies will have you humming to the tune of "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." The magic of Colmar's markets is that they offer fun for every taste and age!

Place des Dominicains - Considered to be the dominating market, this area is home to the Dominican Church that dates back to the early 14th century. 60 huts gather together to create a warm and welcoming feeling of all things Christmas just outside this church. Festive meals

and drinks call families and friends to enjoy a memorable time together.

Place de l'Ancienne Douane - This historic square located in the heart of the old city hosts around 50 little stalls dotted around the Schwendi Fountain. The market is set up on both sides of the Lauch River and contemporary creations along with traditional Christmas decorations can be found here.

Place Jeanne d'Arc - A recreation of the traditional Alsatian village, find local products and delicious foods such as foie gras, biscuits, cold meats and of course, wine! Bring your favorite foodie along as they would be sure to appreciate this market!

La Petite Venise - This market is devoted to children complete with 43 colorful cottages filled with treasures only Santa and his elves could have invented. Be sure to also take them to see the beautiful nativity scene and have them ride the horses on the carousel! Children

can sip on their own vin chaud, mulled wine with some warm apple juice. Before leaving, have your young ones drop a letter to Santa in the market's giant mailbox.

The Koifhus - Set in a 14th and 15th century-old building, the market at the Koifhus focuses on the trade aspect. For example, you will find stands from master glaziers, cabinet makers, wood sculptors, jewelers, booksellers and antique sellers.

Know before you go

- ❖ When heading to these markets, be sure to bring plenty of euros as many vendors will not accept card.
- ❖ To ensure a less stressful way of commuting, public transportation is the best.

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- ❖ Participate in guided tours to see all the memorable Colmar market highlights.
- ❖ Get your hands on “Bredele,” bite-sized biscuits made in the Alsace region. These delectable goodies include almond, honey or lemon flavor.

Things to see outside the market

Apart from the famous Christmas market, Colmar offers many activities and sights to enjoy. From the food to the museums, having a memorable time in this beautiful French town won't be hard to accomplish!

For the history buffs, head to the Musee d'Unterlinden, a museum that hides a prized medieval stone statue collection. However, the star is the late Gothic Retable d'Issenheim by painter Mathias Grunewald.

Want to experience a taste of Venice? Stroll along Little Venice or the Quartier de la Krutenau, just past the Rue Saint-Jean. The stunning neighborhood possesses delicious canal-side restaurants, quaint bridges and colorful half-timbered houses which make it known as “Little Venice” due to the fact that these houses were built on the edge of the Lauch River canal.

Though Christmas market goodies are irresistible, sometimes one has to try scrumptious French food, so try Atelier du Peintre, a well-raved French restaurant on rue Schongauer. From foie gras to grilled scallops, your taste buds will not be disappointed! This restaurant has an elegant flair so be sure to dress appropriately and expect prices to be on the higher end. When in France, right?

Things to do nearby

Ribeauvillé - Just a 25-minute drive away from charming Colmar, this village was one of the two places that inspired the village in *Beauty and the Beast*. Feel like Belle as you wander and get lost in



the cobblestoned streets. During your wandering, stop by Auberge du Parc Carola, an international restaurant that's quaint on the outside, but is a foodie's paradise on the inside. Famous chef Micahela Peters serves one-of-a-kind dishes such as roe deer with spiced red cabbage and Alsatian wild boar tart with Granny Smith apples.

Riquewihr – North of Colmar, you'll find the attractive village of Riquewihr, the second of the two villages that inspired the Disney classic. Aptly named one of the most beautiful villages in France, soak in the view of the hills and shop at the many boutiques. The historic buildings are well preserved and medieval and Renaissance elements can be seen from the houses and historic buildings. While here, don't miss the Castle of the Dukes of Württemberg, a 16th-century castle which boasts many elements of medieval history. For a jaw-dropping view of the region, head to the Château de Saint-Ulrich, one of three castles that overlook Ribeauvillé. ■



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The Christmas Markets of MUNICH & FRAUENCHIEMSEE

By Jessica Zen



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From the traditional market in Munich to the one of a kind market on an island in Frauenchiemsee, there's something special waiting for everyone at the Bavarian Christmas markets. Surrounded by the Alps, you'll feel as if you are in a winter wonderland during these holiday celebrations.

MUNICH CHRISTMAS MARKET

Jingling bells, fantastic food smells and all the best gifts are just waiting for you to discover them at the Munich Christmas Market. With over 160 stalls, there is certainly no shortage of things to see spread throughout the Marienplatz and beyond.

The biggest attraction, quite literally, of this market is the Christmas tree that towers in front of the new town hall. The square is decorated with over 2,500 candles that light up the night and create a calming Advent ambiance.

Bavarian culture is on full display during this market, as locals sell a variety of handmade items including hand-painted glass Christmas ornaments, sheepskin jackets and even figurines made from dried fruits and nuts. From the food market you'll find fresh chestnuts, fruit cakes and herb liqueurs along with fan favorites like Glühwein and gingerbread cookies.

Don't miss visiting the Square of Stars in the Rindermarkt for a romantic walk through frosted trees glittering with luminous stars. Here you'll find Bavarian delicacies like bratwurst, flamed salmon and steaming hot beer.

To add a few special pieces to your nativity scene, visit Neuhauser Strasse for Germany's

largest nativity market. From a stable lantern to gifts from the three wise men, this section of the market has everything you need to create the most stupendous nativity scene.

Know before you go

- ✦ The Munich Christmas market is located in the Marienplatz. It stretches to the tower of the old town hall, its inner courtyard, along Kaufingerstraße and Neuhauserstraße to the Richard-Strauss-Brunnen, and from Weinstraße to the Sternenplatzl at Rindermarkt. It is easily accessible from the subway, U3 and U6. Exit the subway at Marienplatz.
- ✦ The market is open Nov. 27 - Dec. 24.

* There is an annual Krampus Run around the Munich Christmas Market where participants dressed in elaborate costumes frighten market goers. This run was recorded as early as the 16th century and is especially popular amongst the younger crowds.

Things to see outside the market

St. Peter's Church, the oldest in Munich, is located in the Marienplatz and offers a stunning view of the city from the tower. The locals refer to the church as Old Peter. Construction began in the 11th century, but the church has been rebuilt and expanded several times. The church is home to an 18th century gilded high altar, large ceiling frescoes and the jeweled skeleton of St. Mundita.

Nymphenburg Palace is an impressive baroque structure that once housed former rulers of Bavaria. It was commissioned as a summer residence in 1664, though construction and changes took place through the 1800s. Today many rooms are on display, including a Coat of Arms Chamber, the bathroom of King Maximilian II and Karl Theodor's chamber.

New Town Hall is a neo-Gothic building with a soaring tower and chiming clock with 42 bells and 32 life-size figurines. The 300-foot facade features almost the entire line of the House of Wittelsbach in Bavaria. The Glockenspiel tower figurines dance daily at 11 a.m. and noon. For a great panoramic view of the city, climb the tower to the observation deck.

If you just can't get enough of the traditional Bavarian Christmas markets, travel an hour south of Munich to Frauenchiemsee, where the magic continues.

FRAUENCHIEMSEE CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Frauenchiemsee Christmas Market is a one-of-a-kind market located on an island surrounded by the perfectly clear waters of Lake Chiemsee and the magnificent Bavarian Alps. With such a picture-perfect backdrop, an incredibly romantic winter wonderland emerges. In addition to the market, the entire island is strung with lights and holiday decorations, setting the scene to get in the holiday spirit. This Christmas haven will have you merrily humming holiday favorites like "Silent Night" and "Let It Snow" before you leave.

Though smaller than the Munich market and hosting only 90 stalls, this certainly isn't a market



you want to miss. There's no shortage of culinary delicacies, handmade items and mulled wine on the island of Frauenchiemsee.

In addition to the stalls, there will be performances by carol singers, Christmas readings from both local and national celebrities and a range of other activities including a children's program. This unique market is truly something special to behold.

Know before you go

- * The Frauenchiemsee Christmas market is from Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 and Dec. 6 - 8. It is open on Friday from 2 - 7 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday from noon - 7 p.m.
- * Getting to Frauenchiemsee is easy with regular ferries from Prien at Lake Chiemsee. With just one ticket you can go from the train station in Prien to the Prien/Stock harbor and get on a ferry to the market. If you arrive by car, there are parking areas near the train station or at the harbor.

Things to see outside the market

Neuschwanstein Castle, the famous fairytale castle of King Ludwig II, easily accessible from Prien. Ludwig lived in a fantasy world to remove himself from reality, and thus surrounded

himself with fantastic castles. In 1869, construction for the "new castle" began. Tickets to visit this amazing piece of history can be purchased at the ticket center in Hohenschwangau, the village below the castle.

The neighboring island of Herrenchiemsee is home to New Palace Herrenchiemsee, another massive home built for King Ludwig II, modeled after Versailles. Construction began in 1878 but was never fully completed, as Ludwig II died in 1886. Visitors are able to view the king's rooms, the State Staircase and the Great Hall of Mirrors.

The Hohensalzburg Fortress is located just 45 minutes south of Prien in Austria and is the biggest fully preserved castle in central Europe. The fortress, tower of Salzburg on Festungsberg hill, was initially built by archbishop Gebhard in 1077 to protect the principality and archbishops from attack. In the 20th century the fortress was used to hold prisoners of war during WWI and Nazi activists before Germany's annexation of Austria in the 1930s.

Without a doubt, the markets in Bavaria shouldn't be missed. Munich boasts a Christmas tree that is sure to steal your breath away, while Frauenchiemsee offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to see an island dedicated to Christmas, surrounded by one of the most gorgeous backgrounds the world has to offer. Pack a scarf, maybe even some base layers, and get ready for some of the most fantastic Christmas markets you have ever seen! ■

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Experience Christmas IN PRAGUE

By Jqana Coleman



As one of the most beautiful cities in the world, the Czech Republic's capital city is quite enchanting any time of year. During the holidays, however, the "city of 1,000 spires" transforms into a magical fairytale of inviting lights, sounds and smells. And, as the city's markets and historical buildings remain open on Christmas and New Year's, Prague makes the perfect city for those who want to experience a destination Christmas holiday.



Prague's two main Christmas markets are an easy five-minute stroll from each other, located in historic Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí) and Wenceslas Square (Václavské náměstí). Smaller markets can also be found at Republic Square (Republiky náměstí), Peace Square (Míru náměstí) and the permanent market at Havel'ská Trziste.





Old Town Square's market, the city's largest, is open daily from Dec. 1 - Jan. 6, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The market in Wenceslas Square is also open daily and until Jan. 6.

Visitors will find many interesting and unique gifts like handmade Christmas decorations, fine jewelry, embroidered lace and linens, handmade clothing accessories, ceramics, ironworks, Czech potpourri, frankincense, candles, wooden toys and puppets and dolls in beautiful, traditional dress. Tasty treats include roasted meats on open spits, traditional cookies and pastries such as "Trdelník," chimney cake, fresh grog, mulled wines and warm "medovina," a traditional Czech honey liqueur. Beers on tap include locally brewed Pilsner Urquell (the world's first Pilsner beer, produced in Plzeň, CZ in 1842), Staropramen and Budweiser Budvar.

Old Town Square's impressive Christmas tree is shipped in annually from the Krkonose mountain region that straddles the Czech/Polish border and is draped with thousands of lights illuminated each evening. Children can pet the live animals that are part of the giant nativity, and school children perform carols in daily shows on the stage.

The square, dating to the 12th century, is the original town marketplace and location of Tyn Church, the double-towered Gothic cathedral that dominates the city's skyline, and the world-famous astronomical clock. Legend has it that after the clock's designer completed the clock in 1410, city counselors had him blinded so he wouldn't make a clock as fine as this for anyone else. Whether you believe the tale, the clock is an exceptional work of mechanical ingenuity and shouldn't be missed.

Wenceslas Square, Old Town's former horse market, is named after the country's patron saint and flanks Old Town and New Town. Several hotels line the square and adjoining streets, which make it a great location to stay during your visit.

Be sure to take time between markets to stroll along the architectural masterpiece of Charles Bridge, one of the world's best-preserved medieval bridges, and the main pedestrian connection between Old Town (Staré Město) and Lesser Quarter (Malá Strana) across the Vltava River. Then, head for Prague Castle (Pražský hrad), the world's largest castle and best vantage point for the city's skyline.

Make the most of your time in Prague with these other attractions and historical locations. Join a walking tour through the Jewish Quarter and learn about the impact of the Holocaust; take a half-day tour to the "Bone Church" in Kutná Hora. Stroll through the Wallenstein Palace, see the ballet or opera, or shop for garnets at Cesky Granat Turnov, crystal at Moser, or hidden treasures at Praha Thrift Store or Bric a Brac. Whatever you choose, the Czech people are warm, friendly and welcome you to their home with open arms, embodying the perfect spirit for the holidays. ■

NOT JUST

By Jessica Zen

ANOTHER MARKET:

Engelkemarkt



Christmas is just around the corner and the endless lists of markets in every city, town and village can become overwhelming. It's hard to decide which market is best and has something truly unique in comparison to the countless others. For an incredibly magical Christmas market experience, visit the port city of Emden in northwest Germany. This East Frisian city by the sea is home to the Engelkemarkt, a special Christmas market that takes place not only on land, but also on ships! Emden takes Christmas to a whole new level by removing the traditional winding cobblestone streets of the market and adding water to create a floating paradise. The ships masts and sails being lit up with thousands of twinkling lights is an absolute wonder to behold!

The illuminated town hall of Emden presents the perfect backdrop to this maritime Christmas village, which graces the town each year during the Christmas season. The stalls are lavishly decorated for the holiday and offer a variety of hot beverages, tasty treats and unique decorations. The crisp air carries the scent of cinnamon, gingerbread, vanilla and almond throughout the market while visitors "ooh and ahh" over the many specialties and handmade ornaments. At the heart of the market is a large Christmas pyramid that serves mulled wine, punch and more. But that's not all...

The nearby harbor hosts both museum and traditional sailing ships that are also lit for the evening's festivities. Market goers can wander onto the ships and marvel at their dedication to bringing holiday cheer and merriment, despite the chill in the salty air. Calmly sway back and forth on the ships as you marvel at the perfect combination of Christmas and seafaring tradition.

Wander onto the ships and marvel at their dedication to bringing holiday cheer and merriment.

What quality market would be complete without the star of the show? Starting on Dec. 1, Santa Claus visits the city garden stage daily at 5 p.m. with gifts for all of the children, further enhancing the joy and anticipation for Christmas to come. Kids can enjoy the magic of the lights after receiving their new gifts from Santa, while parents enjoy sipping on grog and browsing the many stalls both on and off the ships.

The Engelkemarkt gets its name from the figure of the golden eagle that rests over the city wall on the Emden coat of arms. This market is family-friendly and open to anyone who wants to get away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas season and just enjoy the spectacular lights, food and drinks offered while browsing the selection of goods.

The 2019 Engelkemarkt is from Nov. 25 to Dec. 23 and Dec. 27 to 31. Visitors are welcome from 11 a.m. to approximately 8 p.m. daily and from 11 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m. on Dec. 31.

Delight in an age old tradition at Emden's fairy tale Christmas market. It won't be an experience you'll soon forget. After all, it isn't every day that you board a ship in the North Sea decked out in Christmas finery! ■



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By Genevieve Northup

TIPS FOR MERRY Market Memories

You couldn't ask for a better place to enjoy the most wonderful time of year. To make the most of the magical Christmas markets across Europe, consider these helpful hints from seasoned festivalgoers.

Dress in layers and prepare for cold, rain and wind.

Almost all markets are outdoors, which means you will be exposed to the elements. It may not seem chilly the first half-hour, but you are likely to get cold after standing around. Put on several layers you can take off if you get too hot while you're out. Wear thick socks, tall boots, gloves and a hat to protect your extremities. If it isn't cold enough for snow, you may have to contend with rain. Pack an umbrella and opt for a waterproof coat with a hood.

Get an extra set of mittens.

The cobblestoned streets are lined with inviting booths — and orphaned mittens. It is difficult to eat bratwurst, answer your cellphone and fish out euro coins with gloves on. Often the removed glove is lost, and you are left with one cold hand.

Bring Wet Wipes, bottled water and tissues.

Your hot crepe with oozing Nutella is going to be a mess, so have Wet Wipes for the aftermath. Also, water is hard to find. Tissues are good for runny noses and unstocked portable bathrooms.

Put necessities in a purse, reusable shopping bag or small diaper bag.

In light of recent terrorism in Europe, many Christmas markets have tightened security and no longer permit large bags and backpacks.

Leave strollers, pets and valuables at home.

Stalls are tightly packed, and the remaining paths are narrow, making it difficult to navigate if you have a stroller or pet in tow. The crowds are also the opportune location for pickpockets, so don't bring credit cards and IDs you do not need.

Double-check opening hours, and jot down directions to the market and parking.

Make sure you know how to reach the fest on foot, whether from a train station or parking area. It is also a good idea to have the address

and phone number for the local tourism office and a brochure for the market, if available.

Get plenty of euros in advance.

Most vendors do not take plastic payment, and ATMs at the markets (if there are any) often have long lines.

Take the train...

Driving and parking can be expensive and stressful, plus you may have difficulty convincing a friend to pass up tasty, warming Glühwein.

Or stay overnight.

Choose a two-star hotel or Airbnb property near the festivities. If those are booked or too pricey, look for one near a public transportation stop.

Show up early on a weekday.

Some markets are only open on weekends, and going during the day is best. Stick around just long enough to see the beauty after dark and toast one last mug of Glühwein.

Remember where you parked.

If you have a smartphone with GPS, drop a pin so that you can locate your car later. Also ensure that you understand the signs and rules for where you have parked.

Set a schedule and meeting location.

It is easy to get separated when you go out with a group, so designate a place and time to reconnect.

Peruse before purchasing.

With 200 or 300 stalls, deciding what you want to eat and buy at big markets is harder to do. Mouth-blown, hand-painted glass ornaments and wooden holiday items make great souvenirs and gifts.

Get perfect holiday card photos.

Almost every market has a central Christmas tree that makes a lovely backdrop for your family selfie. Locate a giant version of the Christmas pyramid, a hallmark of holiday décor in Germany. ■



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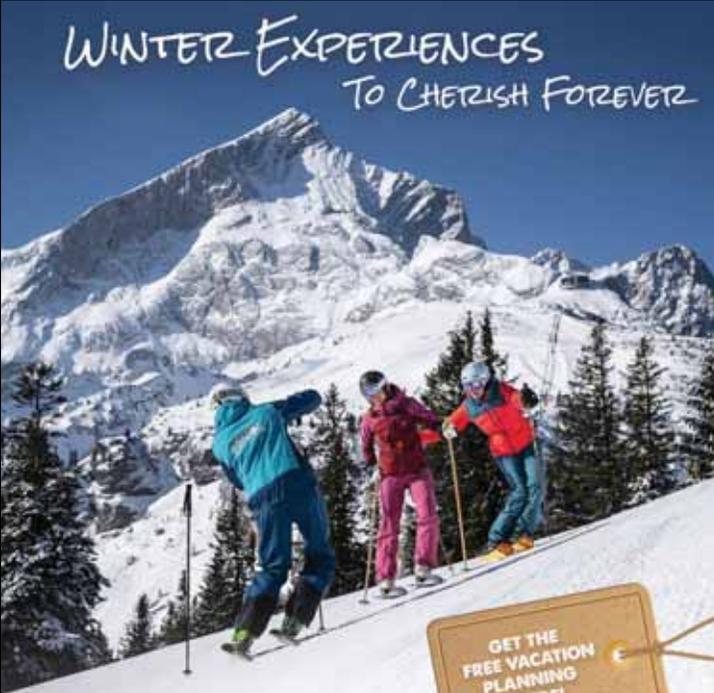




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11 CHRISTMAS MARKET

Photo Opportunities

By Jessica Zen

One of the most exciting parts about the weather turning cold in Germany is the growing anticipation for the Christmas markets, "Christkindlmarkt." Finding unique gifts or the most ostentatiously decorated Christmas tree is part of the fun of the hunt. Social media is also very important to market goers and getting the perfect picture is just as crucial as drinking Glühwein at every opportunity. Here are 11 quirky Christmas market photo-ops to take your Instagram feed to the next level.

- 1 Photo with the seasonal Glühwein or holiday mug. This should be simple, as Glühwein is served at every market.
- 2 Snap a pic with a camel or other live manger animals that make a guest appearance.

- 3 Smile big next to the most massive Christmas tree you can find covered in lights, tinsel and ornaments.
- 4 Point to the entrance sign or arch to the market. It's also essential so that you can document which market you are attending.
- 5 Take a selfie with the Christmas pyramid/candle carousel. Who can find the biggest one?

continued on page 30





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continued from page 28

- 6 Fill your camera roll with some sort of wurst sandwich. It's almost impossible to leave a market without eating one.
- 7 Photo with your favorite/most unique handmade ornament.
- 8 Say cheese with the manger scene.
- 9 A picture while you take a bite out of lebkuchen, gingerbread cookies.
- 10 Photo with your crew; because who goes to the market alone?
- 11 Take a picture of chestnuts roasting on an open fire. Bonus points for a video channeling your inner Nat King Cole.

Can you get all 11 photos taken at one market? Find your favorite location and be on the lookout for these fantastic opportunities to inspire others to visit these winter wonderlands. You'll end up capturing memories that will last a lifetime, and hopefully some seriously outstanding selfies. Happy Holidays! ■



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The WEIHNACHTS Bäckerei

By Carrie Farrell



*In der Weihnachtsbäckerei
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macht so mancher Knilch
eine riesengroße Kleckerei.
In der Weihnachtsbäckerei*



*(In the Christmas bakery/there are many treats/between
flour and milk/some joker is making/a gigantic mess –
In the Christmas bakery)*

.....

This catchy holiday tune is a favorite among German children during the holidays and reflects a long-held tradition of holiday cookie baking.





The Christmas season is a very special and magical time in Germany. People get into the Christmas spirit by strolling through illuminated streets and brilliantly decorated Christmas markets in nearly every town — both large and small. Homes and “Tannenbäume” (Christmas trees) are adorned with twinkle lights and families focus heavily on spending time with loved ones and friends.



SHARING IN TRADITION

During the whole Advent period, besides shopping for presents, families stress the importance of giving the most precious of all gifts: time. Time builds childhood memories that last forever. A great way to make the season memorable and spark a child's imagination is by visiting a Weihnachtsbäckerei (Christmas bakery). The Weihnachtsbäckerei plays a time-honored role for children both young and old. It is an occasion for children to gather with friends and family to participate in the merriment of traditional and seasonal baking. The Weihnachtsbäckerei can be found among the many stalls at Christmas markets and at local village bakeries across Germany. Village master bakers will even offer a Weihnachtsbäckerei program providing local children the opportunity to

bake Christmas cookies under the supervision of trained masters of their profession.

Whether a family run bakery or a hut at a Christmas market, children bake their own cookies at the “Weihnachtsbäckerei.” From rolling out the dough, cutting shapes and decorating cookies to their very own taste with a variety of icings, nuts, jams, various colored candies and, of course, lots and lots of snow. Or, what we unimaginative adults call powdered sugar. Once the ingredients of childhood imagination are complete the dough is popped in the oven for, what every child would describe as an eternity. As the timer finally rings, not a second too soon either, the delicious treats are ready to be devoured. Although there was surely a lot of nibbling going on in between, there will be plenty of cookies left to take home.

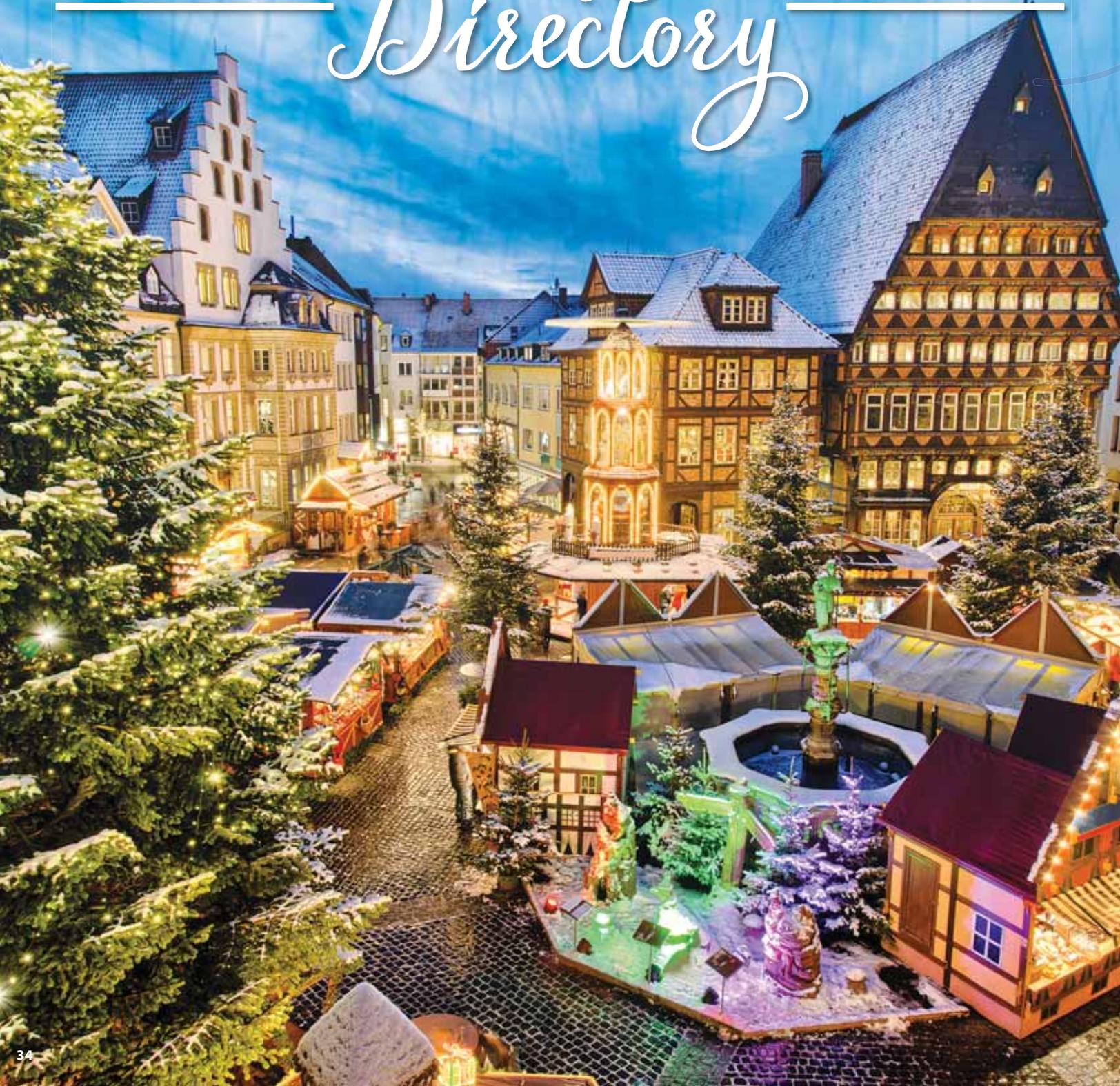
HANDS-ON BOOTHS FOR CHILDREN

Some Christmas bakeries are considered all-around “hands-on” booths. In addition to cookie baking, these festive huts are a great stop for little ones to participate in simple holiday crafts such as Christmas card making and sand art. Other art booths expose children to more extensive hands-on trades such as candle-making, leather work and glass painting to name a few. Here, kids can explore their creativity while making unique Christmas gifts to take home. Not only will someone be the lucky recipient of a handmade gift, but more importantly these activities make memories and promote both physical and mental development.

It's a special kind of magic that greets children during the Advent season in Germany. Taking part in the tasty tradition of cookie baking is sure to be an unforgettable experience for your kids while in Germany. Not to mention making new friends is so much easier when treats are involved! “Frohe Weihnachten!” ■



2019 European
CHRISTMAS MARKET
Directory



2019 Christmas Markets Germany

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Baden-Baden

Kurhaus Colonnades and Old Town
Nov. 28 - Jan. 6

Breitnau

Devil's Valley Railway
Dec. 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-23

Burg Hohenzollern

Hohenzollern Castle
Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, Dec. 6-8

Esslingen

Esslingen Marktplatz
Nov. 26 - Dec. 22

Freiburg

Rathausplatz, Franziskanerstraße,
Unterlindenplatz and Kartoffelmarkt
Nov. 21 - Dec. 23 (Closed Nov. 24)

Heidelberg

Kornmarkt, Marktplatz, Universitätsplatz,
Anatomiegarten and Bismarckplatz
Nov. 25 - Dec. 22

Heilbronn

Marktplatz, Kiliansplatz and in the Sülmerstraße
Nov. 26 - Dec. 22

Karlsruhe

Friedrichsplatz
Nov. 26 - Dec. 23

Konstanz (Constance)

Markstätte
Nov. 28 - Dec. 22

Ludwigsburg

Marktplatz
Nov. 26 - Dec. 22

Mannheim

Kapuzinerplanken (Water Tower)
Nov. 25 - Dec. 23

Schwetzingen

Schwetzingen Palace
Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, Dec. 5-8, 12-15, 19-22

Speyer

Alten Münze (Old Mint) on Maximilianstrasse
Nov. 25 - Jan. 6 (closed Dec. 25-26)

Stuttgart

Schillerplatz
Nov. 27 - Dec. 23

Triberg

Weihnachtszauber at the waterfall
Dec. 25-30

Tübingen

Old town
Dec. 13-15 *one weekend*

Ulm

Münsterplatz
Nov. 25 - Dec. 22

BAYERN

Augsburg

City Hall
Nov. 26 - Dec. 24

Bamberg

City center
Nov. 28 - Dec. 23

Berchtesgaden

Advent market, old town
Nov. 28 - Dec 31 (closed Dec. 25)

Dinkelsbühl

Spitalhof Christmas Market
Nov. 28 - Dec. 22

Frauenchiemsee

Lake Chiemsee
Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, Dec. 6-8

Füssen

St. Mang monastery
Dec. 6-8, 13-15

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Richard-Strauss-Square
Nov. 24 - Dec. 23

Lindau

Seepromenade
Nov. 21 - Dec. 15

München (Munich)

Marienplatz and other areas
Nov. 27 - Dec. 24

Nördlingen

Romantic Christmas market, old town
Nov. 29 - Dec. 23

Nürnberg (Nuremberg)

Hauptmarkt
Nov. 29 - Dec. 24

Regensburg

Various markets
Nov. 22 - Dec. 23

Rothenburg ob der Tauber

City Hall
Nov. 29 - Dec. 23

Würzburg

Marktplatz
Nov. 29 - Dec. 23

BERLIN & BRANDENBURG

Berlin

Various markets

Nov. 24 - Dec. 31 (closed Dec. 24)

Bremen

Innenstadt
Nov. 25 - Dec. 23

HESSEN

Bad Homburg

Schlossplatz
Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22

Darmstadt

Marktplatz
Nov. 25 - Dec. 23

Frankfurt am Main

Römerberg, Paulsplatz and Mainkai
Nov. 25 - Dec. 22

Kassel

Fairytale Christmas Market, Königsplatz
and Friedrichsplatz
Nov. 25 - Dec. 30 (closed Dec. 24-26)

Limburg an der Lahn

Neumarkt
Nov. 29 - Dec. 29

Marburg

Downtown
Nov. 29 - Dec. 23

Michelstadt

Old German market
Nov. 29 - Dec. 22 (closed Dec. 2-3, 8-9, 16-17)

Rüdesheim am Rhein

Christmas Market of Nations, old town
Nov. 21 - Dec. 23

Wetzlar

Schiller Square, Station Street
Nov. 28 - Dec. 29

Wiesbaden

Twinkling Star Market, Schlossplatz
Nov. 26 - Dec. 23

NIEDERSACHSEN (LOWER SAXONY)

Braunschweig

Around cathedral and Domplatz
Nov. 27 - Dec. 29 (closed Dec. 24-25)

Celle

Old town
Nov. 28 - Dec. 29 (closed Dec. 24)

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2019 Christmas Markets Germany

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Goslar

Marktplatz
Nov. 27 - Dec. 30

Göttingen

Marktplatz
Nov. 27 - Dec. 29 (closed Dec. 24-26)

Hameln

Old town
Nov. 27 - Dec. 23

Hannover

City center
Nov. 25 - Dec. 22

Hildesheim

City Hall
Nov. 25 - Dec. 29 (closed Dec. 24-25)

Lüneburg

Historic Christmas Market, city center
Nov. 27 - Dec. 23

Osnabrück

Historical Center and Marketplace
Nov. 25 - Dec. 22

NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN

Aachen

Marktplatz
Nov. 22 - Dec. 23

Bonn

Münsterplatz
Nov. 22 - Dec. 23 (closed Nov. 25)

Dortmund

Hansaplatz
Nov. 21 - Dec. 30 (closed Nov. 24, Dec. 25)

Düsseldorf

City center
Nov. 21 - Dec. 30 (closed Nov. 24, Dec. 25)

Köln (Cologne)

Various markets
Nov. 25 - Dec. 23

Münster

Various markets
Nov. 25 - Dec. 23

RHEINLAND-PFALZ

Bernkastel-Kues

Old town
Nov. 22 - Dec. 22 (closed Nov. 24)

Cochem

Endertplatz (Castle Market)
Nov. 29 - Dec. 22

Deidesheim

Marktplatz
Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 20-22

Idar-Oberstein

Felsenkirche and Schleiferplatz
Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, Dec. 6-8

Kaiserslautern

Schillerplatz and Stiftskirche
Nov. 25 - Dec. 23

Koblenz

Old town
Nov. 22 - Dec. 22 (closed Nov. 24)

Ludwigshafen

Berliner Platz
Nov. 20 - Dec. 23 (closed Nov. 24)

Mainz

Marktplatz
Nov. 28 - Dec. 23

Neustadt a.d. Weinstrasse

Marktplatz
Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 20-22

Trier

Hauptmarkt
Nov. 22 - Dec. 22

Trippstadt-Johanniskreuz

Forest Christmas Market
Dec. 14-15 *one weekend*

SAARLAND

Homburg

Christian-Weber-Platz
Nov. 30 - Dec. 31

Merzig

Townhouse
Nov. 28 - Dec. 24

Saarbrücken

St. Johanner Market
Nov. 25 - Dec. 23

Saarlouis

Kleiner Markt
Nov. 25 - Dec. 23

St. Wendel

Fruchtmarkt
Dec. 7-15

SACHSEN (SAXONY)

Dresden

Striezelmarkt, city center
Nov. 27 - Dec. 24

Friberg

Freiberger Obermarkt
Nov. 25 - Dec. 23 (closed Nov. 24)

Leipzig

Marktplatz
Nov. 26 - Dec. 23

Marienberg

Marktplatz
Nov. 27 - Dec. 22

SACHSEN-ANHALT

Halle (Saale)

Marktplatz
Nov. 26 - Dec. 23

Magdeburg

Alte Markt
Nov. 25 - Dec. 30 (Closed Dec. 24-25)

Quedlinburg

Marktplatz
Nov. 27 - Dec. 21

Wittenberg

Marktplatz
Nov. 26 - Dec. 30

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN & HAMBURG

Flensburg

Downtown
Nov. 25 - Dec. 31 (Closed Dec. 24-25)

Hamburg

Various markets
Nov. 18 - Dec. 30 (closed Dec. 24-25)

Kiel

City Center
Nov. 25 - Dec. 23

Lübeck

Lubecker Rathaus
Nov. 25 - Dec. 30

THÜRINGEN

Erfurt

Cathedral Square
Nov. 26 - Dec. 22

Weimar

Marktplatz
Nov. 26 - Jan. 5 (Closed Dec. 24-25, Jan. 1)

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2019 Christmas Markets Rest of Europe

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AUSTRIA

Innsbruck

Alstadt, Marktplatz and Maria-Theresien-Strasse
Nov. 15-Dec. 23

Salzburg

Hellbrunn Castle
Nov. 21- Dec. 24

Vienna

City hall
Nov. 16 - Dec. 24

BELGIUM

Antwerp

City Hall
Dec. 7 - Jan. 5

Bruges

Simon Stevin Plein and Market Square
Nov. 22

Brussels

La Grand Place
Nov. 29 - Jan. 5

Ghent

Winter Festival
Dec. 6 - Jan. 5

CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague

Old Town Square, Wenceslas Square, Republic Square, Havel's Market and St. George's Basilica
Nov. 30 - Jan. 6

DENMARK

Copenhagen

Tivoli Gardens
Nov. 16 - Jan. 5

ENGLAND

Birmingham

Victoria Square and New Street
Nov. 7 - Dec. 23

Gloucester Quays

Victorian Christmas Market
Nov. 14 - 24

London

Hyde Park
Nov. 21 - Jan. 5

Manchester

Various locations
Nov. 9 - Dec. 22

FRANCE

Colmar

Town center
Nov. 22-29

Metz

Place d'Armes
Nov. 20 - Jan. 5

Paris

Notre Dame Cathedral and Place des Abbesses
Dec. 14-23, Dec. 1-24

Reims

Parvis de la Cathédrale
Nov. 22 - Dec. 29

Ribeauville

Town Center
Dec. 7-8, 14-15

Riquewihir

Historic city center
Nov. 30 - Dec. 22

Strasbourg

Cathedral Square
Nov. 22 - Dec. 30

HUNGARY

Budapest

Vorosmaty Square
Nov. 8 - Jan. 1

ITALY

Candelara

City Center
Nov. 23-24, Nov. 30 - Dec.1, Dec. 7-8, 14-15

Florence

Piazza Santa Croce
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

Rome

Various locations
Dec. 1 - Jan. 6

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam

Various locations
Nov. 28 - Jan. 19

Valkenburg aan de Geul

Cave Markets
Nov. 15 - Jan. 05

SPAIN

Barcelona

Various locations
Nov. 23 - Jan. 6

Madrid

Plaza Mayor
Nov. 24 - Jan. 6

SWEDEN

Göteborg

Liseberg
Nov. 15-17, 22-24, 28-30, Dec. 1, 4-8, 10-23, 26-30

Stockholm

Stortorget Square
Nov. 23 - Dec. 23

SWITZERLAND

Basel

Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz
Nov. 28 - Dec. 23

Bern

City Center
Dec. 1-24

Interlaken

Various locations
Dec. 14-22

Luzern

Various locations
Nov. 15-17, Dec. 3-23

Zurich

Main train stations
Nov. 23 - Dec. 23

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