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#### COMMANDER

SEAN P. KLIMEK, Lt Col, USAF, PhD

#### BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER EUROPE

**CAROLINE MILLER** 

#### PUBLISHING & MEDIA DESIGN, DIRECTOR

MARIE WOODS

#### WRITER-EDITOR

MARY DEL ROSARIO, AMANDA PALUMBO

#### **GRAPHIC ARTISTS**

CARRIE FARRELL, LAURA HERSH, ANDREA VARGAS

#### **ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

KAREN LEWIS

#### MARKETING COORDINATOR

RACHEL COTTER

#### MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING, MANAGER

DOUG DOUGHERTY

#### MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING, CONSULTANTS

SEAN ADAMS, HEIDI BAYFIELD, NATE JAMISON, TOM KEYS, CLAUDIA STIER. JEFF TEESELINK

#### **ADVERTISING COORDINATORS**

AL GREEN, KRISTI KIMMEL

#### **COVER DESIGN BY**

CARRIE FARRELL

#### **ADVERTISING OFFICE**

Unit 29480, APO, AE 09211 Postfach 1980, 67607 Kaiserslautern, Germany +49(0)631-3615-9000

or email: dougherty.doug@stripes.com

#### **CONTACT US:**

Telephone: +49 (0) 0631-3615-9111 or DSN: 314-583-9111

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THE STORYTELLING.

## Germany's TRADITIONS





## When the weather turns cold and the holidays are upon us, it's time to start celebrating in Germany!

Starting with St. Martin's Day in November and continuing through the end of December, there is always an event in which to participate. Whether indoors or out in the open, get ready to celebrate some of Germany's most festive traditions.

On Nov. 11 each year, St. Martin's Day, "Martinstag" is celebrated in honor of St. Martin of Tours, a Roman soldier. Legend says that Martin and other soldiers were returning on horseback to a town called Amiens during a heavy snowstorm, when he came upon a beggar. The poor man's clothes were ragged, and it was clear he would not survive the night. Martin had neither food, shelter nor money to offer the beggar so instead, he cut his heavy red soldier's cloak in half and covered the man to keep him from freezing to death. It is said that later that evening Martin dreamed of Jesus Christ, where Christ revealed it was he who had been the beggar and thanked Martin for his cloak.

In order to share St. Martin's selflessness,

German children are taught through reenactment in local churches, where children dress in costumes for the storytelling. After the story is told, the children embark on a procession through their village carrying beautiful paper lanterns to a bonfire, or Martin's Fire, "Martinsfeuer." Children also sing carols and go door to door to collect money for the church or treats. You may also find local parades and festivals celebrating St. Martin.

#### OFTEN FAMILIES WILL SET UP AD-VENT WREATHS, "ADVENTSKRANZ" ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE SEA-SON, WHICH HOLD FOUR CANDLES.

The month of December brings Advent, a time to prepare for the arrival of the Christ child, "das Christkind" on Dec. 25. From Dec.1-24, there are various ways to celebrate Advent. Some choose to give up things (similar to Lent), while others choose to indulge in special treats like chocolate or alcohol-filled Advent calendars. Often families will set up Advent wreaths, "Adventskranz" on the first Sunday of the sea-

son, which hold four candles. Each candle represents one week of Advent.

Many towns and cities throughout Germany will host Christmas markets. Lovingly decorated wooden huts will likely line the square of the town that is putting on the event. You'll find traditional items like gingerbread cookies, Lebkuchen, marzipan and mulled wine, Glühwein. Mulled wine is a fan favorite at the markets. Oftentimes you can collect ceramic mugs with the name of the town's market and the dates as keepsakes. Craftsmen also sell their wares at the markets, and the range of items available is amazing. Think anything from handmade jewelry to delicate glass ornaments painted with vivid Christmas scenes.

Germany is full of traditions and customs for the holiday season. Share the story of St. Martin with your children or spend hours wandering through a winter wonderland in search of the perfect Christmas gift. No matter what you choose to do, cherish the time you have with friends and family while experiencing all Germany has to offer. ■

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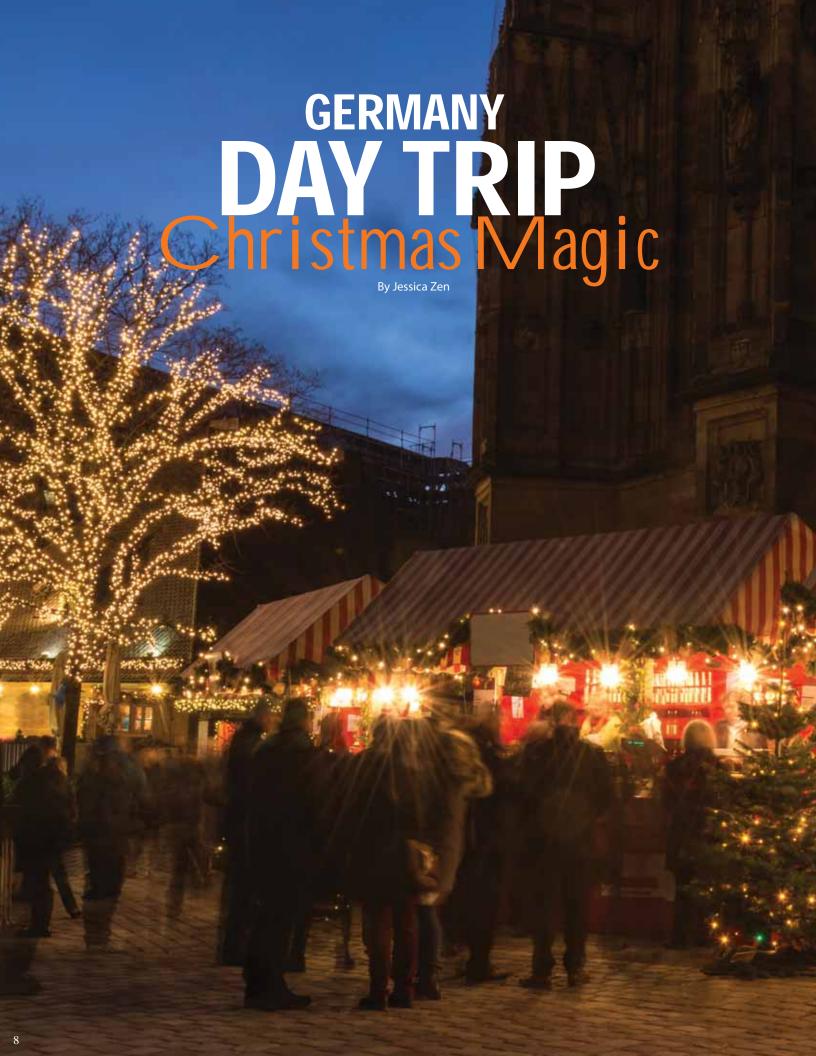
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#### **GERMANY DAY TRIP**

# 

Ingle all the way to the Romantic Christmas
Fair at Gut Wolfgangshof for a market you won't soon forget. The spirit of the holidays comes alive at this winter wonderland located just outside of Nuremberg making it the perfect day trip!

#### CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Nestled in an idyllic setting of Franconian half-timbered buildings, the ambiance of this Christmas fair is nothing short of magical. Lights, torches and candles glisten in the moonlight to illuminate the scene of holiday cheer. Over 120 vendors sell their lovingly-made goods in quaint wooden huts, a historic cowshed, a hayloft and a grain hall. A windmill stands tall over the fair, adorned with twinkling lights while visitors bundled up against the cold crunch through the snow, taking in the sights.

Items for sale vary greatly and include nativity sets, lanterns, scented candles, jewelry, fire pits, slippers, leather bags, wool products, sculptures, lotions, dog treats, ornaments and so much more! In addition to the items for sale, there are also craft demonstrations. Watch in awe as leather turns into a bag, paper turns into a beautiful flower and wicker turns into a lovely basket. Make a few purchases and watch people's faces light up when you present them with a homemade gift from Bavaria!





NESTLED IN AN IDYLLIC SETTING OF FRANCONIAN HALF-TIMBERED BUILDINGS,
THE AMBIANCE OF THIS CHRISTMAS FAIR IS NOTHING SHORT OF MAGICAL.
LIGHTS, TORCHES AND CANDLES GLISTEN IN THE MOONLIGHT TO ILLUMINATE
THE SCENE OF HOLIDAY CHEER.

Each night, a fire-dragons show delights viewers of all ages. There is also an advent calendar hunt that features new pictures. If food is what you're after, search no more! The kitchen of Marcus Pregler is serving up Bavarian Kücherl, a delicious cake, and the sweet smell wafts through the chilly air. The kitchen staff of Schloss Hexenagger grills crisp sausages. You can also find every type of crepe imaginable, as well as various sweets, meats and roasted nuts. It's just not a Christmas market without traditional glühwein (mulled wine) or children's punch, both in abundance here.

#### **FAMILY FUN**

This fair is not just for adults. Children can get hands-on and tinker with toys while working with Santa's elves. They can create magic forests with elves and reindeer made out of natural materials.

Mobiles made of wood or clay to hang in your window can also be crafted and will remind you of happy times together at the fair. Adults may even like to get involved by painting

country door signs. For a real thrill, go on a live camel ride. If that's a bit too much, opt to just pet the friendly animals.

#### **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

The 2019 fair is open on Nov. 22-24, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Dec. 6-8 and 13-15. Online tickets are available and are a great option to avoid standing in line. Adults are 6 euros, children 6-15 years old are one euro. There is ample parking space on site in a field for one euro per car. Another option is to take the train to the Anwanden S-Bahn stop and either walk or take a free ride with the delightful horse-drawn carriage for less than half a mile. From Stuttgart, Gut Wolfgangshof is about two hours northeast. It is located within Bavaria and travel time depends on departure point. Dogs are welcome on leashes.

Plan a trip today to Gut Wolfgangshof for a magical Christmas fair that is fun for the whole family. Buy a gift, eat some local food and have a great time!



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# TOP FIVE

By Jessica Zen

FREEZING YOUR TOES OFF EACH HOLIDAY SEASON TO VISIT ANOTHER CHRISTMAS MARKET THAT IS THE SAME AS THE PREVIOUS 10 YOU VISITED IS A BORE. HISTORY BUFFS, WINE LOVERS AND SHIP FANATICS ALIKE CAN ENJOY THESE OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY EVENTS WHILE CELEBRATING THIS MERRY TIME OF YEAR.



#### **MEDIEVAL MAGIC**

The Christmas Market in Bochum takes you back in time to the 15th century. Here you'll find craftsmen, traders, minstrels and buffoons, all dressed in costumes from this time. The world's smallest ferris wheel is housed here amongst almost 200 old fashioned stalls. Every day the region's only flying Santa will appear in a reindeer drawn sleigh overhead between 5 - 7 p.m. near Pauluskirche in the heart of the city. Available gifts include tree decorations, ceramics, glassware and wooden toys. The market is open from Nov. 21 - Dec. 23, 2019.



#### **AN ISLAND OASIS**

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. The Frauenchiemsee Christmas market is open from Nov. 29 – Dec. 1 and Dec. 6 – 8 this year. It is open on Friday from 2 - 7 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday from 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. Getting to Frauenchiemsee is easy. 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.

THIS CHRISTMAS HAVEN WILL HAVE YOU MERRILY HUMMING HOLIDAY FAVORITES LIKE "SILENT NIGHT" AND "LET IT SNOW" BEFORE YOU LEAVE.



#### A WINE LOVERS PARADISE

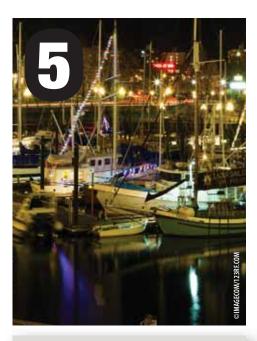
The Mosel Wine and Christmas market in the underworld of Traben-Trarbach is celebrated in a dimly lit network of historical wine cellars. This market is particularly wonderful because the aroma of mulled wine, roasted almonds and fir sprigs dances through the warm subterranean air. Hidden beneath the streets of the town you'll find stalls with high quality items, culinary specialties and all the wine products you could possibly imagine. The market is open Nov. 22 - Dec. 15 and Dec. 20 - Jan. 1, 2019.



#### FOR GROWN UPS ONLY

The Santa Pauli Christmas market in Hamburg is definitely geared towards an adult-only crowd. This market focuses on "blurring the boundaries between conventional Christmas tradition and the frivolous love of life." This market is in full swing from Nov. 18 - Dec. 23, 2019. Opening hours are Mondays - Wednesdays from 4 - 11 p.m., Thursdays from 4 p.m. to midnight, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 p.m. - 1 a.m. and Sundays from 1 - 11 p.m. The market is located in the vicinity of the Schmidt Theater and admission is free.

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 FLOATING MARKET

The port city of Emden 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. With lit up masts and sails, it's an absolute wonder to behold with the illuminated town hall in the backdrop. Market goers can wander onto the ships and marvel at their holiday cheer and merriment. The 2019 market is open 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.

#### TIP

If you want to bring your family to this market, there are child-oriented programs only on Sundays. Otherwise, leave the kids at home and enjoy some adult only time.



By Amanda Palumbo

One of my favorite things when traveling is finding that perfect spot for the perfect photo that tells the city's perfect story. While you can describe almost any European village as picturesque, there's a Nordic group that stands out from the pack. Head north of the Baltic to Scandinavia and visit these scenic spots.



#### OSLO

Norway's capital is nestled in the country's southern coast and sits along the Oslofjord. Known for its sweeping green spaces, photographers flock to Oslo. Luckily, much of the area is flat, so when you do find higher ground you're often looking at what resembles a postcard.

Oslo's best view is the Holmenkollen Ski Jump and Museum. The jump has an observation deck nearly 200-feet high with a panoramic view of the area's deep blue waters, lush green forests and white snowy peaks. If you're brave enough and want a moving view of Oslo, take Holmenkollen's zipline. It's 1,200 feet of pure adrenaline as you plummet 350 feet.

You can't visit Olso without admiring and snapping a photo of its gorgeous waterfront. If you want a great shot of the beach and its city skyline stacked behind it, hop on one of the many boat tours offered. One even takes you on an old-school wooden sailboat.

#### STOCKHOLM

When a city is made up of 14 islands and more than 50 bridges, you can't really find a bad view of Stockholm. If you want that Instagram-perfect picture, Skinnarviskberget is the place to take it. It's Stockholm's highest natural point where there are spectacular views of the city's old town with colorful buildings built in the 17th and 18th centuries. You'll also spot the city hall's famous spire featuring three golden crowns. City hall is also a favorite viewpoint. Climb the 365 steps up the 350-foot high tower to get another remarkable view.

If you feel like you just haven't gotten quite high enough to see all of Stockholm, Skyview is the place for you. Balloon-like gondolas take you around and to the top of the world's largest spherical building, the Ericsson Globe. Think of it as the world's safest Ferris Wheel, as you slowly ride up 425 feet above sea level and gently come down to the ground.

#### COPENHAGEN

Denmark's capital claims to have some of the best sunsets in the world and nobody is arguing with that claim. One of the best places to photograph a classic Copenhagen sunset is The Round Tower. A 17th century observatory with a 360-degree view of the city 115 feet up. You will have to hike up quite the spiral staircase to get to the top. It will likely be cold and windy but it's all worth it once you see the view.

In central Copenhagen, there is The Black Diamond, the nickname for the waterfront extension to the Royal Danish Library. What makes this a spectacular spot for a photo is the building's exterior, made up of a polished black granite facade. As the sun sets, light reflects off both the water and the building's irregular angles creating every photographer's dream during the golden hour.

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"Once a year, go someplace you've never been before."

– Dalai Lama



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# EXPLORE THE BEST OF SCANDINAVIA

By Elizabeth Jones

What countries truly qualify as being a part of Scandinavia? While many reputable sources claim Denmark, Norway and Sweden make up the region, other sources of the same credibility claim those three plus Finland and Iceland are also included. For the perfectionists out there that need to know the answer — unfortunately, the short answer is that there truly is no answer. Despite the undecided definition, you can still explore the best of the most common concept of Scandinavia — Denmark, Norway and Sweden!

#### **DENMARK**

#### Copenhagen

Denmark's capital is known for its abundance of shopping and dining opportunities. The Strøget, located in the historic district, is Europe's longest pedestrian-only shopping zone. Here you'll find your favorite top-of-the-line and budget-friendly brands scattered through the 1.1 kilometer-long shopping area, making it a true fashion lover's paradise.

Compared to the other Scandinavian capitals, Copenhagen is home to the most Michelinstarred restaurants with exactly 15 dispersed across the city. Copenhagen's compelling culinary scene is one it takes great pride in by featuring a variety of high-profile restaurants, kitchens that cook with organic ingredients (most of which are grown in-house) and hole-in-the-wall restaurants owned by some of the world's best sous chefs.

A trip to Copenhagen wouldn't be complete without strolling along the iconic Nyhavn water-front filled with colorful houses, bars and restaurants. More than just a buzzing entertainment district, Nyhavn provides the perfect photo opportunity for all Instagram-loving tourists.

#### **Tivoli Gardens**

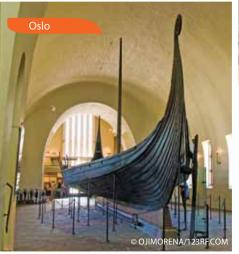
Pay a visit to the world's second oldest amusement park which was originally opened in 1834 and has transformed into a top tourist destination. With over 27 rides, 300 concerts a year and a wide array of global delicacies, a trip to Tivoli Gardens offers nothing short of a good time.











From captivating cityscapes to magical outdoor escapades and rich history to innovative lifestyles, exploring the best of Scandinavia will be an adventure of a lifetime.

Shaped by massive glaciers from many ice ages, fjords resemble a half-oval, underwater valley boasting dramatic, picturesque scenery.

#### **NORWAY**

#### Oslo

Home to a vast amount of landmarks, museums and outdoor treasures, the capital of Norway is filled with plenty of sightseeing opportunities. View the inside of the Royal Palace, the 19th century residence of Norway's King and Queen, with a guided tour. Be sure to uncover Norway's Viking history at the Oslo Viking Ship Museum filled with well-preserved wooden Viking ships dating back as far as the 9th century.

For the outdoor enthusiasts, the city holds plenty of rustic parks, the magnificent Oslof-jord's waterways and islands which can be found a short distance from the city center, as well as the ski slopes and forests of Nordmarka.

#### **Fiords**

Noted as the symbol of Norway, over 1,000 fjords can be found throughout the country. Shaped by massive glaciers from many ice ages, fjords resemble a half-oval, underwater valley boasting dramatic, picturesque scenery. The most popular destinations include the Lysef-jord area, Hardangerfjord region, Aurlandsfjord, Nærøyfjord, Sognefjord area, Geirangerfjord area, Hjørundfjord, Romsdalsfjord and the Trollfjord. Many tourists kayak, hike or take a cruise to reach these breathtaking beauties. The Norwegian fjords are truly a stunning sight to behold.

#### **Lofoten Islands**

Sprinkled across the Norwegian Sea and high above the Arctic Circle are the glorious Lofoten Islands. Tremendous landscapes and spectacular characteristics can be found throughout this archipelago to include magnificent mountain peaks, arctic fjords and sheltered bays. Connected by bridges and tunnels, the primary islands of Austvågøy, Vestvågøy, Flakstadøy and Moskenesøy, are separated from the mainland of Vestfjorden. Other than their beauty, the islands are famously known for their small fishing villages that offer visitors the chance to stay in a Rorbu, also known as an old fisherman's cabin. Be sure to indulge in stockfish — a traditional cuisine made from spawning cod.



#### **SWEDEN**

#### Stockholm

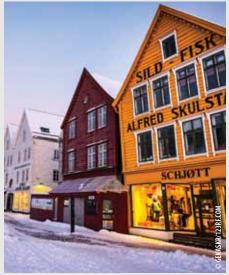
Made up of 14 islands connected by many bridges, exploring the capital of Sweden is rather easy. A top spot to visit is the strikingly romantic neighborhood of Stockholm's old town, Gamla Stan, which lures tourists with its vibrant atmosphere of well-kept 17th century buildings housing shops and restaurants. If you have a love for interior design, up-and-coming fashion trends, attention-grabbing product packaging and bold prints — Stockholm is a dream come true. See these items displayed across the city's stores, coffee shops, restaurants and museums which will have you leaving Stockholm inspired and a bit more trendy.

#### **Abisko**

Battle the frigid winter nights to experience the item on everyone's bucket list — witnessing the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights. Typically from October to March, find the beautiful colors of green, red and purple dance across the sky. Abisko National Park is noted for being the best place to see nature's most fascinating light show due to the area's promising clear skies, regardless of the weather in surrounding places.









### **Bucket List**

#### **Norway Edition**

By Elizabeth Jones

Contradicting landscapes, striking natural wonders, a booming capital city and one-of-a-kind experiences—it's no surprise that Norway is noted as being one of the most beautiful countries in the world. When traversing this gorgeous country, cross these bucket list items off your list!



- Take a trip to experience Norway's jaw-dropping fjords.
- Make the journey to the spectacular Lofoten Islands.
- View the beauty of the Northern Lights between October March.
- Ride the train along the picturesque Bergen Line.

- Hike through blue glacier caves for a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
- Road trip the famous Atlantic Road route.
- Introduce your taste buds to "fiskeboller," white fish blended with eggs, milk and flour into a ball.
- Try "brown cheese," a Norwegian delight you can find at hotel buffets and cafes.
- Have a glass of "mjød" (mead), a traditional drink dating back to the Viking Age.

Have you ever been to Norway? Tell contentteam@stripes.com some bucket-list-worthy items you would put on this list! ■



# STARS STRIPES.

## 12 MARKETS OF Christmas Loading...





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# Copenhagen in 24 HOURS

By Amanda Palumbo

From its humble beginnings as a small Viking fishing village in the 10th century to the sprawling gorgeous city it is today, Denmark's capital should earn a spot on your travel bucket list. Scandinavia's city by the bay has something for every type of traveler.

#### **MORNING**

When you leave Copenhagen's airport, a good first stop is Vor Frelsers Kirke, Danish for Church of our Savior, a quick 15-minute tram ride away. Dating back to the 1600s, the Baroque Luthern-Protestant church has a unique helix spire with a winding golden staircase. Bring a bottle of water because you're going to get a workout climbing up all 400 of those stairs to the top of the tower. Once there, you will see breathtaking views of the city.

If the weather is nice, stroll over to the Butterfly 3-way Bridge to the Inderhavnsbroen, a pedestrian and bicycle bridge that spans the entire harbor. This is Nyhavn, or New Harbor, the 16th century narrow canal where wooden boats are still used today and rainbow-colored homes line each side. There are more than enough restaurants and cafes to grab lunch and admire the beautiful area.

#### **AFTERNOON**

Work off that delicious Danish lunch by taking a walk along the harbor to Den lille Havfrue, The Little Mermaid statue. The more than 100-year-old bronze sculpture is a tribute to Hans Christian Anderson's famous fairytale. It's also one of the most photographed landmarks in Denmark.

The tram can take you to the place featured on many Danish stamps and currency, Rosenborg Castle. Tour 400 years worth of Scandinavian history, including seeing Denmark's crown jewels.

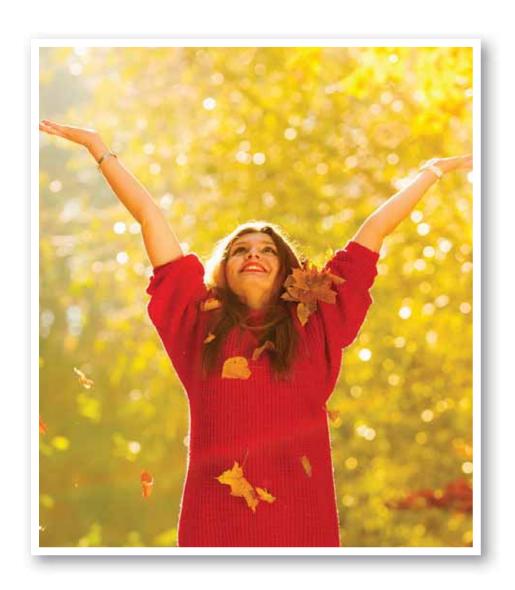
From a castle to a palace, a quick walk brings you to Christiansborg Palace. The palace is home to Denmark's Supreme Court, prime minister and parliament. A palace tour shows you where Danish royalty entertains guests from around the world.

#### **EVENING**

Denmark is gorgeous at night and one place lit up to perfection is Tivoli Gardens. The world's second oldest amusement park isn't just rides and carnival games. There are bars, restaurants, concerts, massive gardens and water fountains along with an aquarium. There will be something for every member of the family.

Copenhagen is a fine destination any time of the year. Whether you're cooling off during its mild summers or hitting up the Christmas markets during the holidays, it's a prime location just a hop, skip and a jump from most of Europe.

**Tip:** Copenhagen is one of the most bikefriendly cities in Europe. You can even rent one with a GPS tablet to navigate around the city. ■



## HELLO MOVEMber

**EVENTS AROUND GERMANY** 

# EDITORPS Picks November Events

By Karen Bradbury



#### ST. LEONHARD HORSE-BACK PROCESSION

Nov. 6 in Bad Tölz

The patron saint of farmers is honored as costumed celebrants travel to a chapel on a hill in decorated carriages.



#### **NOVEMBER MARKET**

Nov. 8-10 in Pirmasens

Enjoy a turn on the Ferris wheel, take in a free concert, or sample wines and culinary specialties of the Pfalz in a heated tent on the Schlossplatz.



#### **HOCHHEIM MARKET**

Nov. 8-12 in Hochheim am Main

One of the last volksfests of the autumn season features rides, treats, local wines, beer tent, live music and a bustling marketplace.



#### ST. MARTIN'S PARADE

Nov. 10 in Heidelberg

The legend of St. Martin is brought to life with a parade featuring the saint himself on horseback and a parade of children holding their lanterns aloft.



#### KREATIV - EXHIBITION FOR CREATIVE DESIGN

Nov. 21-24 in Stuttgart

Artists and crafters can find all the essentials for their favorite hobbies at the city's exhibition grounds.



#### CRAFT BEER FAIR

Nov. 22-23 in Mainz

Meet the up-and-coming generation of German brewers and sample their tasty creations in the stylish industrial-chic indoor venue of Halle 45.



### TOLLWOOD WINTER FESTIVAL

Nov. 26-Dec. 31 in Munich

The Theresienwiese is the site of a Christmas market featuring international handicrafts and a mix of free and ticketed shows.



#### CHRISTMAS MARKET IN THE RAVENNA GORGE

Nov. 29-Dec. 22 in Breitnach

For a unique Christmas market, try this one located under a railway viaduct in the Black Forest, open Fridays through Sundays only.



#### **CHOCOLART CHOCOLATE MARKET**

Dec. 3-8 in Tübingen

Germany's largest chocolate festival offers the chance to sample and purchase the tasty cocoa-based creations of some 100 international exhibitors. By night, colorful projections illuminate the facades of the half-timbered buildings of the Old Town.







#### **KRAMPUS RUN**

#### Dec. 5 in Salzburg, Austria

Fearsome horned, fur-covered and masked beings known as the Krampus descend upon the Salzburg Christmas market to scare visitors into their best behavior.



#### **EVE OF ST. NICHOLAS DAY**

#### Dec. 5 in Prague, Czech Republic

Saint Nicholas, an angel and devil walk around the Old Town Square, asking children if they've been good in the past year. If the answer is yes, they receive a small treat.



#### L'ESCALADE

#### Dec. 6-8 in Geneva, Switzerland

Citizens recall how a surprise attack by the Duke of Savoy's army back in 1602 was thwarted by a cauldron of boiling soup with costumed processions and a bonfire.



#### BATTLE OF THE BULGE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 13-15 in Bastogne, Belgium

Bastogne remembers the U.S. forces' assistance in the defense of their besieged city in 1944 with parades, static displays, wreath-laying, a perimeter walk and more.



December

By Karen Bradbury



#### HABITS DE LUMIERE

#### Dec. 13-15 in Epernay, France

Festivities enlivening the famed Avenue of Champagne include illuminations, fireworks, artistic performances, culinary demonstrations and a vintage automobile parade.



#### **DICKENS FESTIVAL**

#### Dec. 14-15 in Deventer, Netherlands

Carol singers, orphans, drunkards, clerks, fine gentlemen and other characters from the books of Charles Dickens evoke the flavor of a 19th century Christmas celebration.



#### **UMBRIA JAZZ**

#### Dec. 28-Jan. 1 in Orvieto, Italy

This beautiful hill town is the site of a jazz festival that has both a summer and winter edition.

Concerts take place in bars, theaters, churches and other surprising venues.



#### **HOGMANAY CELEBRATIONS**

#### Dec. 30-Jan. 1 in Edinburgh, Scotland

New Year's celebrations in the form of a huge street party with concerts and "cèilidh," traditional Irish music, attract an international crowd. Tickets are required for most events, so plan accordingly. OUR HONOR

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