

Stuttgart invites to the most beautiful Christmas market

The exciting metropolis of Stuttgart has a special fascination for visitors at Christmas time. First mentioned in a document in 1692, the Christmas Market in Stuttgart with its



more than 250 delightfully decorated stands is not only one of the oldest, but certainly also one of the most beautiful and largest Christmas markets in Europe. The unequalled illuminations, the wonderful smell of cinnamon and vanilla, the festive Advent concerts, the small wooden houses lovingly decorated with angelic figures, fir

branches and Christmas balls, and the "fairy-tale land" on Schlossplatz form a fabulous backdrop and produce a Christmas atmosphere which fills millions of visitors every year with enthusiasm.

The Stuttgart Christmas Market is traditionally opened on the last Thursday in November with a ceremonial concert in the inner courtyard of the Altes Schloss (Old Palace). The stands will be open from **24th**

November – 23rd December 2010, and Advent will then begin. The magic "fairy-tale land" will be built for children on "Schlossplatz" (Palace Square), just 5 minutes' walk from the main railway station. Between the Königsbau and the Neues Schloss there will be numerous attractions as nostalgic children's roundabouts, a giant Ferris wheel, fairy-tale figures and a mini railway station with a real steam train.

A few metres further on, around the Altes Schloss, Schillerplatz, Kirchstrasse, Marktplatz and Hirschstrasse, the decorated small wooden houses will be open daily from 10 am to 9 pm and on Sundays from 11 am onwards. They offer an overwhelming range of Christmas items and gift ideas from Christmas tree decorations, crib figures, toys, woodcuts, puppets and candles through to lambskin shoes. There is

also a wide range of culinary delights, which makes it difficult to choose between hot



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chestnuts, lebkuchen, roasted almonds, grilled sausages and mulled wine. Every year, there is also a Christmas Antiques Market downtown, where Christmas items, kitsch and curiosities are sold. But there are not only tree decorations, crib figures, toys, woodcuts and candles to buy. Every evening from 6 pm onwards, choirs and music groups perform on the steps of the city hall and in the Renaissance-style inner courtyard of the Altes Schloss.

Of course, a trip to the Christmas Market can also be combined with a visit to the many sights in Stuttgart and its surroundings: You can start, for example, with a visit to one of the most interesting art museums of the Germany, the State Gallery (Staatsgalerie) with its high-class exhibitions or the brand new and spectacular Art Museum Stuttgart. And naturally a visit to the new sensational Mercedes-Benz museum and Porsche car museum. In the evening, you might be drawn to a performance in the Stuttgart Opera house with the famous Stuttgart Ballet or the internationally renowned State Opera (Staatsoper), which has been voted "Opera House of the Year" several times.



With its elegant shopping arcades, exclusive boutiques, large department stores and the longest pedestrianised zone in Germany, Stuttgart is a paradise for all shopping enthusiasts.

Stuttgart Marketing GmbH is offering a Christmas package which includes hotel accommodation and breakfast, a welcoming cocktail and a voucher booklet ("Christmas Magic"). Further information can be obtained from Stuttgart-Marketing GmbH, Lautenschlagerstraße 3, D-70173 Stuttgart phone: +49 (0)711 22 28-246, fax: +49 (0)711 22 28-251 or pauschalarrangements@stuttgart-tourist.de