Discover the original

Welcome to Germany’s Christmas markets

Festive traditions, magical memories

Destination Germany
Our prettiest Christmas markets
own and city centres throughout Germany are transformed by a sea of glittering lights during the festive season. The first Sunday that falls between 27 November and 3 December marks the beginning of Advent and heralds the arrival of the famous Christmas markets. Festively decorated stalls in enchanting settings are laden with unusual gifts, arts and crafts and seasonal food and drink. Choose from a vast range of Christmas cakes, cookies and hearty fare, become an expert on gingerbread and savour a slice of the famous Stollen. Glühwein with its blend of seasonal spices is the perfect drink to enjoy among friends at the Christmas market. With hunger sated, attention turns to traditional German arts and crafts, some of which are created before your very eyes. Elegant wood carvings, pottery and Christmas pyramids are wonderful little gifts to take back for your loved ones. Festive window displays, beautifully decorated town squares and seasonal entertainment add up to a magical experience brimming with contrasts.

Traditionally, Christmas Eve is the main focus of the season in Germany, with lavish celebrations following on Christmas Day and into Boxing Day. Why not come and see for yourself? Enjoy everything from festive entertainment and sightseeing to winter sports in the mountains. Join us in our Christmas wonderland.
There are so many wonderful things to see and do in Germany at Christmas. Stroll through festively decorated streets and explore the enchanting Christmas markets with their seasonal music and choir singing. Listen to the sounds of bells and trumpeters and attend one of the many concerts from classical to gospel in the churches and on outdoor stages. Adorned with decorations and festively lit, the pedestrian precincts and shopping centres offer everything your heart could desire. The arts and entertainment scene also takes a seasonal turn in December: in Germany’s major cities, you’ll find everything from plays, operettas and musicals to spellbinding readings. In addition, theme parks are open throughout Christmas for their winter seasons – take the whole family to magical Europa-Park Rust, a winter wonderland in white brimming with thrills, spills and surprises. There are also numerous winter sports you can get involved in and high-profile events such as the New Year ski jumping in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. You see, it’s not just Christmas trees and twinkling lights, Germany has something for everyone during the festive season.
Christmas in Niedersachsen!

Every region between the windswept North Sea coast and the rugged Harz mountain range has its own unique Christmas atmosphere. In the maritime north you can marvel at the only floating Christmas market in the city of Emden or enjoy the romantic festive period at the beach with views of the vast, blustering winter sea, just like in Wilhelmshaven.

Children will be amazed by the world’s biggest functioning Nutcracker figure, which stands at an impressive six metres tall, at the Osnabrück Christmas market. And another festive highlight: the Oldenburg Lambertimarkt in front of the City Castle, which turns into a wonderful, giant Advent calendar at Christmas time.

You think there’s only one Father Christmas? As well as German tradition, in the city of Stade near Hamburg, you will also find a “second” Santa’s little helper: Lucia, the Swedish Queen of Light, always makes an appearance and enchants young and old alike with her angelic wreath of candles. Further south, in the half-timbered town of Hann. Münden in the Weserbergland, there is also an exhibition of international chocolate Santas – good enough to eat...

Enchanting Christmas markets in front of a historic backdrop...

The Christmas markets in Braunschweig, Celle, Göttingen, Goslar, Hameln, Hannover, Hildesheim, Lüneburg and Wolfenbüttel sparkle in front of charming historic backdrops. Among idyllic half-timbered houses, Gothic gable brick and magnificent baroque facades, you will be tempted by the aroma of mulled wine and gingerbread in wonderful historic squares. Christmas shopping in the festively decorated pedestrian zones becomes a special occasion. A varied programme of events makes a pre-Christmas tour through the 9 cities an extra special experience. Whether it’s a Christmas forest, a festive fairytale mile, winter zoo or Christmas variety performances, every city has its own, very special charm and a whole lot to offer.
Hamburg: delightful Christmas markets

Whether you come to stroll around the Christmas markets, skate along the Alster promenade or do some Christmas shopping, Hamburg in the festive season is nothing less than magical.

Follow the Christmas star to Hamburg for a world of winter experiences:
- Historical Christmas market on the town hall square
- Festively decorated shopping arcades
- 11 Christmas markets in total
- “Fairytale” ships on the Alster
- Christmas concerts

Our Christmas package for you:
- **2 nights including a breakfast buffet** in the 5-star Park Hyatt Hamburg
- **1 welcome gift** from the hotel
- **1 €50.00 voucher** for top-brand cosmetics (per room)
- **5 course** evening meal with matching wines
- Use of the exclusive Club Olympus Spa & Fitness
- **1 voucher** for a glühwein
- **1 Hamburg CARD**

**Bookings and information:** +49 (0) 40 3005 1300 www.hamburg-tourismus.de
CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN NORTHERN GERMANY

Where Hanseatic heritage and ancient legends abound

When the sun begins to set, thousands of candles and lamps transform the harbours and houses of northern Germany into a sea of glittering lights. This is the time of the storytellers. While you sip grog, glühwein or the pirate’s tipple Lumumba, they regale you with dog-eared tales of adventure and horror to whisk you back to the age of seafarers and merchant traders. As lighthouses blink away in the distance, head to the town and city centres, whose magnificent red brick buildings provide the backdrop to the region’s enthralling Christmas markets. Browse for locally made crafts and sample festive treats such as Lübeck’s delectable marzipan. Enjoy a warm Hanseatic welcome and remember to keep an eye out for Father Christmas.
**Highlights in northern Germany:**

**Bremerhaven**
The port of Bremerhaven, the largest German town on the North Sea coast, has plenty to see and do and maritime entertainment of all descriptions, not to mention beautiful surrounding countryside. Attractions include lighthouses along the River Weser, museum ships anchored in the harbour and the German Maritime Museum, home to the oldest cog in the world. Also keep an eye out for ocean-going liners and old-fashioned tall ships.

**Relax and recharge your batteries on Rügen island**
Rügen — Germany’s number one island for spas, beauty and fitness. Restore your energy levels and enjoy the pampering of a lifetime. Watch those everyday stresses melt away and immerse yourself in a world of rest and relaxation. The island has over 30 temples to health and beauty to choose from, as well as spectacular chalk cliffs and beaches for enjoying the healthy sea air.

**Showtime in Hamburg**
All the top musicals have come to Hamburg, from Tarzan and the Lion King to Dirty Dancing. Don’t forget to catch one of these spellbinding shows when you visit the city. Who knows what will be playing when you arrive?

**Northern Germany**
- Fresh sea air along the Baltic and North Sea coasts
- Traditional fish markets
- Flat countryside perfect for walking and cycling
- Maritime flair and historical Hanseatic towns
Braunschweig

A dazzling display of lights

Braunschweig’s medieval Burgplatz square with its cathedral and castle is transformed into a glittering Christmas wonderland during the festive season. More than 140 lovingly decorated stalls present specialities made in Braunschweig and the surrounding region, including ceramics, glass and wooden gifts, candles and tree decorations. Carols, instrumental music and plays combine to create a magical festive atmosphere – what more could you ask for? For kids, there is a Christmas workshop and puppet theatre.

27 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 8pm
Sun: 11am – 8pm
Bremer Touristik-Zentrale
www.bremen-tourism.de

26 Nov – 29 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 9pm
Sun and 25 Nov 2008: 11am – 9pm
Closed on 24 & 25 Dec
Braunschweig Stadtmarketing GmbH
www.braunschweig.de

List of Hotels

The Town Musicians from the Grimm fairytale

A floating Christmas market in maritime Emden

A pair of bridges provide the only access to Emden’s Engelke Markt, which is on a giant pontoon in Ratsdeelt harbour. Surrounded by festively illuminated museum ships, this floating Christmas market is an unusual and exciting attraction in the East Frisian port town. The highlight is the arrival of Sinterklaas, the Dutch Santa Claus, by boat. Enjoy maritime flair, great food and drink and exquisite arts and crafts.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 7pm
Emden Marketing und Tourismus GmbH
www.emden-touristik.de

Flensburg

The Christmas pyramid centrepiece

Bathed in the gentle glow of the giant Christmas tree and Christmas pyramid, Südermarkt square is filled with beautifully decorated stalls selling crafts and festive treats. The Christmas market continues along the pedestrian area as far as Nordermarkt.

27 Nov – 29 Dec 2008
Mon – Fri: 11am – 8pm
Sat: 10.30am – 9pm
Sun: 11am – 8pm
Tourismus Region Celle GmbH
www.region-celle.de

Shopping

- Designer Outlets in Wolfsburg – shop in style in a relaxed and elegant setting.
- Hamburg fish market – popular with early birds, bargain hunters and anyone new to the city.

Recommended

- Stunning natural scenery on the North and East Frisian islands – each one is just a short trip from the coast.
- Lübeck 31 Dec 2008 – New Year’s Eve by the coast: ring in 2009 on Lübeck’s beach promenade at this huge open-air party culminating in the traditional New Year’s firework display.
- The Sea Life Aquarium in Timmendorfer Strand
square, with 60 traders from Germany and Denmark displaying their wares. Among the choir performances, processions and kids’ surprises, there’s plenty of scope for the two countries to get better acquainted.

**Goslar**

The enchanting Christmas forest in the UNESCO World Heritage town of Goslar is a fairytale come true: tens of thousands of lights illuminate the fir trees and a soft forest floor lies underfoot, while the air is filled by gentle music and tantalising aromas. Neighbouring Marktplatz square is the medieval setting for the Christmas market, whose 70 food, drink and craft stalls are arranged in the shape of a star. Kids can visit the petting zoo and ride the children’s railway.

26 Nov – 29 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 8pm
Sun: 11am – 8pm
Goslar Marketing GmbH Tourist Information
www.wiehnachtswald.de

**Göttingen**

Göttingen’s Christmas market on Marktplatz has a magical atmosphere with rows of booths around the medieval old town hall, the Goose Girl statue and St. John’s Church. Don’t miss the many fascinating craft demonstrations given by carpenters, woodcarvers, candlemakers, glassblowers and potters. Kids will simply adore the old-fashioned Ferris wheel. When stomachs begin to rumble, traditional stalls sell bratwurst, glühwein and other Christmas treats such as waffles, roasted almonds, toffee apples and sweet chestnuts.

26 Nov – 29 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 8.30pm
Sun: 11am – 8.30pm
Tourist Information
www.goettingen-tourismus.de

**Hamburg**

Discover history, tradition and Hanseatic heritage at Hamburg’s wonderful Christmas markets, which fill many of the city centre squares. The prettiest is held outside the impressive town hall and is hosted by Roncalli’s Circus. It has stalls laden with confectionery, toys and crafts, and the punch is even served by the circus artists. Old-fashioned carousels bring a gleam to everyone’s eyes, not just the children’s. Come to Hamburg for a festive experience you’ll never forget.

**BAD IBURG**

Traditions from the Teutoburg Forest

The Christmas market at Bad Iburg castle is held on the first weekend of Advent and opens with a grand choral concert. In this festively decorated historical residence once occupied by the prince bishops of Osnabrück, the many craft and other stalls extend as far as the labyrinthine courtyard. Accompanied by a fanfare of Christmas trumpets, this medieval experience has everything from silversmiths, woodturners and felters to jesters and a puppet theatre.

Historical Christmas Market:
24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Christmas Market by St. Peter’s Church & Hanseatic Christmas Market on Gänsemarkt square:
24 – 30 Dec 2008
Christmas market on Jungfernstieg:
11am – 9pm daily until 31 Dec 2008
Closed on 24 & 25 Dec 2008
Hamburg Tourismus GmbH
www.hamburg-tourismus.de

**RECOMMENDED:**

BAD IBURG Traditions from the Teutoburg Forest

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29 – 30 Nov 2008
Sat: 2.30pm – 10pm
Sun: 11am – 7pm
Stadt Bad Iburg
www.badiburg.de
Hameln (Hamlyn)

A sight to behold: the 11-metre Christmas pyramid

Explore one of northern Germany’s prettiest and most atmospheric Christmas markets in the heart of Hamlyn’s old town. Clustered around the market church and the breathtaking 11-metre Christmas pyramid are 70 festively decorated wooden huts. The historical wedding house plays its part in the guise of a giant illuminated advent calendar. For something really special, take a magical Christmas cruise on the River Weser.

26 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Thu: 10am – 8pm
Fri & Sat: 10am – 9pm
Sun: 11am – 8pm
Hameln Marketing und Tourismus GmbH
www.hameln.de

Hannover

One of three splendid Christmas markets

Hannover has no fewer than three markets to get you in the festive spirit. Set in the old quarter and around Marktkirche church, the traditional Christmas market has 150 stalls for browsing and eating. Journey back to a fascinating medieval age of glassblowers, potters and candlemakers at the historical Christmas village. For specialities from Finland, head to Balhoffplatz square for the Finnish Christmas village, which has a charm all of its own.

27 Nov – 22 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Hannover Tourismus GmbH
www.hannover-tourismus.de

Hannoversch Münden

Christmas treats from around the world

The Christmas market on Kirchplatz square in medieval Hannoversch Münden is dedicated to Doctor Eisenbart, the legendary travelling physician. A fairytale Christmas journey is the theme that ties together around 100 festive events in this unforgettable seasonal experience. Enjoy the international exhibition of chocolate Father Christmases in the Hagelturm tower, which is transformed into a 40-metre Christmas candle, or join one of the traditional nightwatchman tours.

29 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 8.30pm
Sun: 11am – 8.30pm
Touristik Naturpark Münden e.V.
www.hann.muenchen.de

Hildesheim

A fairytale setting: the historical market square

Hildesheim’s Christmas market is set against the enchanting backdrop of the historical market square and the Knochenhaueramtshaus, a former butchers’ guildhouse reputed to be the finest half-timbered building in the world. Stroll round the beautifully presented stalls and discover a host of delightful gifts and seasonal food and drink. Christmas concerts and performances add to the festive atmosphere.

24 Nov – 28 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Closed on 24 Dec
25 Dec – 26 Dec 2008: 2pm – 8pm
Subject to change
Hildesheim Tourist Information
www.hildesheim.de

Husum

Discover the magic of Husum Christmas market

The Christmas market in the heart of Husum brings out the best in this beautiful

ATTRACTIONS

AUTOSTADT WOLFSBURG

At Christmas, Volkswagen’s automotive theme park is transformed into a magical winter wonderland packed with seasonal surprises for the whole family. Attractions in previous years have included electrifying ice dancing shows and huge art and craft markets. In 2008, you too can look forward to another outstanding line-up of culture, entertainment and fabulous food and drink.

Open from 9am to 6pm all year round, except 24 and 31 Dec 2008.
Telefon (+49) 80 5361-400 www.autostadt.de
Kiel

Stroll around Kiel’s Christmas market in Holstenstrasse and on Alter Markt square for a yuletide trip to remember. Fill up with seasonal fare at the traditional punch and food booths and find wonderful Christmas gifts from the craft stalls. You can even go ice-skating and curling on the huge ice rink (750m²) in the town hall square. A Ferris wheel offers stunning views across the Kiel Firth and there is Christmas music at festive concerts in the town.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 8.30pm
Sun: 11am – 8.30pm
Kiel Tourist Information
www.kurskiel.de

Leer

Festive visitors to the East Frisian town of Leer on the North Sea coast are greeted by a giant Christmas pyramid. Bathed in a gentle glow, huge nutcrackers and incense burners in the form of smoking men are surrounded by fairytale huts and stalls selling crafts and yuletide treats. Sundays have a real maritime feel at the old-fashioned Achter d’ Waag Christmas market in front of the splendid museum harbour.

24 Nov – 30 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 7pm
Leer Tourist Information
www.stadt-leer.de

Lübeck

Lübeck, a Hanseatic town near Hamburg that dates back more than 1,000 years, is the setting for one of northern Germany’s prettiest Christmas markets. There’s something for everyone in the market square outside the historical town hall, from festive wooden decorations and handmade beeswax candles to the town’s traditional saltstone lamps. Don’t miss the historical Christmas market on 6 and 7 December, when the aromas of cinnamon, spices and sweet chestnuts waft through the town’s narrow medieval streets. It’s like stepping back into the 16th century, with traders and craftsmen plying old-time wares such as pottery, hand-wrought pieces and felt bags.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 7pm
Sun: 11am – 7pm
Lübeck Marketing GmbH
www.lueneburg.de

THE PHARISEE

A coffee with spirit enjoyed along the North Sea coast

Ingredients: coffee, a swig of rum, whipping cream (100g) and a teaspoon of sugar
Make a strong black coffee in a tall glass and add the rum. While the coffee is brewing, mix the sugar with the cream and whip until stiff. Use this to crown your drink and then sit back and enjoy.
Oldenburg

Something to set every stomach rumbling

St. Lambert’s Christmas market in Oldenburg has 125 stalls and wooden huts in the festively decorated old quarter. It is named after the brick-built St. Lambert’s Church, which provides a delightful backdrop together with the old town hall and the palace. The air is filled with Christmas music and the aromas of seasonal specialities. Watch over the shoulders of craftsmen as they work and find everything from stocking fillers to perfect presents.

25 Nov – 22 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 8.30pm
Sun: 11am – 8.30pm
From 5pm on the opening day
Oldenburg Tourist Information
www.oldenburg-tourist.de

Osnabrück

The world’s biggest musical box

Osnabrück’s historical Christmas market has twice been ranked as one of the prettiest in the region. To put you in the Christmas mood, its festively lit old quarter is taken over by stalls offering gifts, souvenirs and seasonal food and drink. Visit the world’s largest musical box, which plays 25 different Christmas songs, and the fully functional nutcracker that is six metres tall. There is also a silent Christmas market near the Heger Tor gate, where wooden huts offer a taste of the Renaissance in the glow of lamps and candlelight.

26 Nov – 22 Dec 2008 Daily: 12 noon – 9pm
Osnabrück – Marketing & Tourismus GmbH
www.osnabrueck.de

Rostock

Festive illuminations in the heart of the old town

Rostock’s historical town centre into one of the largest and prettiest Christmas markets in northern Germany. It all begins when Father Christmas arrives by boat in the harbour. Stalls and festive wooden huts extend from Neuer Markt square to the Fishermen’s Bastion, surrounded by the brick-built churches and town houses of this famous port. It’s everything a Christmas market should be and more. Culinary highlights include regional specialities such as smoked fish, smoked sausage and schmalzkuchen (bite-size donuts). Legends are re-enacted on the fairytale stage, while carousels provide old-fashioned fairground thrills.

27 Nov – 22 Dec 2008
Mon – Thu: 10am – 8pm
Fri & Sat: 10am – 9pm
Sun: 11am – 8pm
Tourismuszentrale Rostock & Warnemünde
www.rostock.travel
www.rostocker-weihnachtsmarkt.de

Schwerin

Twinkling fairy lights turn Rostock’s historical town centre into one of the largest and prettiest Christmas markets in northern Germany. It all begins when Father Christmas arrives by boat in the harbour. Stalls and festive wooden huts extend from Neuer Markt square to the Fishermen’s Bastion, surrounded by the brick-built churches and town houses of this famous port. It’s everything a Christmas market should be and more. Culinary highlights include regional specialities such as smoked fish, smoked sausage and schmalzkuchen (bite-size donuts). Legends are re-enacted on the fairytale stage, while carousels provide old-fashioned fairground thrills.

26 Nov – 22 Dec 2008
Mon – Thu: 10am – 8pm
Fri & Sat: 10am – 9pm
Sun: 11am – 8pm
Tourismuszentrale Rostock & Warnemünde
www.rostock.travel
www.rostocker-weihnachtsmarkt.de

Rostock Christmas Fair - the greatest in the north
27 nov.-22 dec. 2008

Come and see, you are welcome here!

All-inclusive offer „Sweet fragances, Christmas and fun” (bookable for 10 persons upwards; from 19.50 €/pers. incl. regionaly Christmas Dinner)
Contact: Tourismuszentrale Rostock & Warnemünde; Phone: +49(0) 381 381 23 70
eMail: touristinfo@rostock.de · www.rostocker-weihnachtsmarkt.de
Stade

The Christmas market in Stade with its festive crafts and decorations is held on Pferdemarkt and Fischmarkt squares against the backdrop of the delightful old quarter. Highlights include Lucia, the Swedish Queen of Lights, choir performances, instrumental music and Advent concerts in the Church of St. Cosmos.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10.30am – 7.30pm
Sun: 12 noon – 7.30pm
STADE Tourismus GmbH
www.stade-tourismus.de

Wismar

Wismar’s historical market square – with its brightly illuminated town hall, ornate fountain and fine old gabled houses – is transformed into a Christmas wonderland for the whole family. Enjoy hunting for gifts in a thoroughly enchanting atmosphere and don’t miss the delightful children’s Christmas market, the Finnish Village and Swedish specialties.

29 Nov – 21 Dec 2008
Daily: 10am – 8pm
Opens 29 Nov 2008 at 2pm with the arrival of Father Christmas
Tourist Information
www.wismar.de

Stralsund

The Christmas market in Stralsund, a UNESCO World Heritage town, offers an enchanting Advent atmosphere and a sense of Hanseatic tradition. It extends from festively decorated Alter Markt square – with its Gothic town hall and illuminated ice rink – past the historical town houses and shops to Neuer Markt square. A craft market can be found in St. James’ Church.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 7pm
Ice rink until 4 Jan 2009
Altstadtmanagement Stralsund e. V.
www.stralsund.de

Wolfenbüttel

The Christmas market in Wolfenbüttel is an intimate and enchanting festive tradition that dates back more than 420 years. It takes place in the centre of town on the historical market square, where 1,000 lights shine from the windows of the medieval town hall on fairytale dioramas and more than 50 yuletide stalls. On 1 Dec, don’t miss the living Advent calendar featuring Wölfchen and Büttelchen, the two Christmas mascots named after the town. At the heart of the market is the Polar Dome, where people of all ages can warm up and enjoy a friendly atmosphere. In recent years, Wolfenbüttel has become an insider’s tip for its charming and authentic Christmas market.

Mon – Sat: 11am – 8pm
Sun: 12 noon – 8pm
Wolfenbüttel Tourist Information
www.weihnachtsmarkt-wolfenbuettel.de

RECOMMENDED:

GLÜCKSBURG CASTLE
A right royal Christmas market

Glücksburg Castle provides the setting for an enchanting Christmas market in the midst of historical splendour. The bridge across the moat is lit up for the occasion and leads to the castle courtyard, where you can warm up with a mug of hot punch, glühwein and other festive favourites. The exciting entertainment on offer for kids gives you more time to spend browsing the delightfully presented stalls.

27 Dec – 28 Dec 2008
1pm – 8pm
TouristServiceCenter
www.gluecksburg.de
In the Erzgebirge mountains and the Vogtland region, people gather beneath festively decorated Christmas trees on historical market squares to eat, drink and be merry. The star of the show is the world-famous Stollen cake, the Dresden version of which gives its name to the city’s Christmas market. From Berlin to Wittenberg, visitors are captivated by the sheer variety of traditions: from pottery and hanging stars to festive trumpeters and mining customs, not to mention home-made treats made to age-old recipes. Browse for unusual wood carvings and see the world’s tallest Christmas pyramid in settings dominated by historic castles and palaces. A great way to round off your visit is a trip through snow-covered countryside on an old-fashioned narrow-gauge railway.
Saxon Elbland
Saxon Elbland is home to thousand-year-old towns and villages and one of Germany’s smallest wine-growing regions. Relax and enjoy everything the region has to offer on a steam boat cruise on the Elbe or in a tavern with a glass of quality-certified wine. The Saxon Elbland is a treasure trove of culture, history, architecture, porcelain and beautiful river scenery; a winning combination that gives it an appeal all of its own.

Lutherstadt Wittenberg: On the trail of Martin Luther
Embark on a tour of discovery and learn about the legacy of Martin Luther and his contemporaries, who changed the course of Western civilisation. Monuments to the famous church reformer have UNESCO World Heritage status and are just some of the many attractions on offer. Come along and see the multi-faceted appeal of Lutherstadt Wittenberg for yourself.

Berlin
Winter is a great time to visit the capital of Germany. Berlin has something for everyone, from museums and river cruises on the Spree to gourmet restaurants and nightlife – a diverse appeal that enthrals and excites visitors from all corners of the globe.

Eastern Germany
- A treasure trove of UNESCO World Heritage sites
- Winter sports in the Harz mountains
- The beautiful Elbe Valley in Saxony
- Historical towns and cities
Traditional customs are alive and well at the Christmas market in the old quarter of Annaberg-Buchholz, normally amid plenty of snow. One of the prettiest markets in the Erzgebirge, its traditional stalls sell locally-made Christmas pyramids, tree decorations and hand-carved gifts of all shapes and sizes. Enjoy the friendly, festive atmosphere and seasonal treats made to recipes handed down through generations. The Christmas capital of the Erzgebirge mountains stages a grand miners’ parade on 21 Dec 2008.

**Annaberg-Buchholz**

- Christmas market under a blanket of snow
- The line-up of entertainment, events and attractions has something for all ages: an enormous Christmas Angel on the lake, a three-metre snowman, a deer meadow, a fairytale forest, a Christmas pyramid, a Christmas arch and festively decorated huts and colonnades.
- 5 Dec – 14 Dec 2008
- Opening day: 5pm – 8pm
- Sat – Sun: 12 noon – 8pm
- Mon – Fri: 2pm – 7pm
- Historische Kuranlagen und Goethe-Theater Bad Lauchstädt GmbH
- [www.goethe-theater.com](http://www.goethe-theater.com)

***Berlin***

- Berlin is a fairytale in lights at Christmas. It has 50 traditional Christmas markets with cultural events, endless shopping opportunities and unusual winter attractions. Enjoy evocative festive concerts or head to Gendarmenmarkt square, the historical setting for the Weihnachtszauber, one of Berlin’s prettiest and most magical Christmas markets.
- Sun – Thu: 11am – 10pm
- Fri & Sat: 11am – 11pm
- New Year’s Eve: 11am – 1am
- Berlin Tourismus Marketing GmbH
- [www.winterzauber-berlin.de](http://www.winterzauber-berlin.de)

With Christmas lights as far as the eye can see, the **Christmas market at the spa gardens** in Bad Lauchstädt makes the most of the fairytale atmosphere of its historical setting.

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**Bad Lauchstädt**

- Christmas market in the spa gardens

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**Cottbus**

- Christmas stalls as far as the eye can see

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The fabulous setting for Cottbus Christmas market, one of the prettiest and most traditional in Lusatia, is held on the old market square. Lovingly decorated stalls, culinary specialties, a kaleidoscopic Live entertainment

- Semper Opera House in Dresden: a breathtaking venue with a high-calibre programme including ballet, opera and a wide range of concerts and performances.
- Krystallpalast variety theatre in Leipzig: experience an outstanding fusion of entertainment and world-class acrobatics accompanied by fine food and drink. Look forward to shows featuring performers from all corners of the globe.
programme of entertainment and a huge Christmas pyramid get young and old into the Christmas spirit beneath a sea of twinkling lights.

25 Nov – 21 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 7pm
CottbusService
www.cottbus.de

**Erfurt**

One of three Christmas markets in Dresden

Tradition comes to life at Dresden’s Striezelmarkt. Established in 1434, its name comes from Hefestriezel, better known as the original Dresden Christstollen. Every year, the Stollen Festival and grand parade are held in honour of this famous seasonal cake. The stalls are a treasure trove of local arts and crafts: carved wooden items from the Erzgebirge mountains, blue printed items and pottery from Lusatia, gingerbread from Pulsnitz, intricate hand-made lace from Plauen and hanging stars from Herrnhut. At the heart of proceedings is the world’s largest Christmas pyramid in the Erzgebirge style (14 metres), which provides the setting for the pyramid festival, a singing contest with a seasonal twist.

26 Nov – 22 Dec 2008
Sun – Wed: 10am – 8pm
Thu – Sun: 10am – 9pm
Erfurt Tourismus GmbH
www.erfurt-tourismus.de

**Lutherstadt Eisleben**

Children gather round to meet Father Christmas

The historical market square in Eisleben’s festively decorated town centre – also home to the Martin Luther house – is the scene for a beautiful Christmas market. Lovingly decorated wooden huts sell delicious treats and a wide range of souvenirs and gift ideas. Visit the three-storey Christmas pyramid and Nativity scene and let festive sounds from the Christmas stage fill you with the joys of the season. Fairytales and Father Christmases hand out little surprises every day and children can paint and do handicrafts in the woodland lodge.

6 Dec – 21 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 6pm
Sun: 1pm – 6pm
14 Dec 2008: Miners’ Christmas afternoon
Eigenbetrieb Märkte
www.wiesenmarkt.de

UNESCO World Heritage

- **Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz** – landscaped countryside of unparalleled beauty, the setting for palaces, parks and architectural gems. Discover picturesque landscape that earned high praise from Goethe.
- **Bauhaus in Dessau** – Germany’s most famous art, design and architecture school of the Classical Modern period.
- **Muskauer Park** – Worthy of a picture gallery, Prince Pückler’s idealised landscape is set in a beautiful valley of the Neisse river in Lusatia.

**BERLIN**

Seasonal splendour

This is a description that nicely sums up the Christmas market at Charlottenburg Palace. Festive lights and 50 illuminated Christmas trees bathe the stalls and the magnificent baroque palace in an enchanting glow. It all adds up to an unforgettable experience: hand-made arts and crafts, Christmas extravaganzas, old-fashioned carousels, barrel organs, Biedermeier concerts and performances by the city’s palace orchestra. Top chefs from near and far lend their talents to the gourmet marquees. Every evening, the palace opens to the public and re-lives the joys of Christmases past with traditional delights and authentically decorated tables.

24 Nov – 28 Dec 2008 Daily: 2pm – 10pm
Fri & Sun: from 12 noon
Werbeteam Berlin
www.berlin.de
www.werbeteam-berlin.de
Jena
Christmas amid a sea of lights

The oldest Christmas market in Thuringia is a delight for all ages. Its lovingly decorated stalls sell gifts, treats and other exquisite items. The traditional trumpet fanfare every day at 5pm attracts visitors in droves. Thousands of lights on the huge Christmas tree bathe the historical market square in a gentle glow. As you stroll around Jena and its enchanting market, you might just come across Father Christmas himself.

29 – 30 Nov 2008
6 Dec – 7 Dec 2008
Sat: 10am – 7pm
Sun: 10am – 6pm
Tourist Information Jena
www.jena.de

Leipzig
A fairytale Christmas wonderland

The history of Leipzig’s Christmas market goes all the way back to 1767. It is one of the largest and most beautiful in Germany, with around 250 stalls on the city’s historical market square. Attractions include the fairytale forest, the Old Leipzig medieval market and the world’s largest free-standing Advent calendar. Watch the grand miners’ parade, an old-established tradition in the Erzgebirge region, and enjoy the delightful trumpeters, concerts by the famous St. Thomas’s choir and performances of Bach’s Christmas oratorios in the city’s churches.

24 Nov – 22 Dec 2008
Sun – Thu: 10am – 8pm
Fri – Sat: 10am – 9pm
Leipzig Tourismus und Marketing GmbH
www.itm-leipzig.de

Magdeburg
A dazzling display of lights

The 1,200-year-old city and regional capital of Magdeburg pulls out all the stops for its Christmas market. It is set against the impressive backdrop of the historical town hall and the statue of the Magdeburg Horseman. The aromas of roasted almonds and candy floss waft through the air and you can even try green glühwein. An exciting children’s programme entertains kids of all ages.

9 Dec – 14 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 8pm
Tourist Information Dessau-Roßlau
www.dessau-rosslau-tourismus.de

DESSAU
A fairytale experience in a unique setting

Brick Gothic surroundings and festive music set the scene for a magical Christmas experience, where craftsmen, artisans and medieval merchants sell a range of beautifully decorated objects within the walls of St. Mary’s Church. To really enter into the Christmas spirit, combine your trip with a visit to the opera house or a Christmas concert at the Anhalt theatre.

9 Dec – 14 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 8pm
Tourist Information Dessau-Roßlau
www.dessau-rosslau-tourismus.de
Naumburg

Decorating Christmas trees is fun for all ages

Bathed in a festive glow, this charming Christmas market outside the church of St. Wenceslas is overlooked by Naumburg’s magnificent town houses. Aromas from roasted almonds and glühwein hint at delights to come, while craftspeople and stallholders offer a host of seasonal wares. On the first weekend of Advent, the town’s lovingly decorated historical courtyards open their doors to the public.

29 Nov – 21 Dec 2008
Daily: 11am – at least 7pm
Courtyards: 29 Nov 2008 1pm – 9pm
30 Nov 2008: 1pm – 7pm
Naumburg Tourist and Conference Service
www.naumburg-tourismus.de
www.naumburg-im-advent.de

Plauen

Christmas charm on the old market square

Christmas market in Plauen is held on beautiful Altmarkt square surrounded by historical town houses and the old town hall. The centrepiece is the huge illuminated Christmas tree and the giant revolving pyramid beside it. Countless stallholders offer festive wares and Father Christmas visits every day. Enjoy seasonal trade and traditional crafts, when entertainment was provided by musicians, minstrels and travelling entertainers. Experience the buzz of a medieval marketplace with Christmas concerts in the historical surroundings of Wartburg Castle, which was home to Martin Luther for a time.

29 Nov – 21 Dec 2008
Daily: 11am – at least 7pm
Courtyards: 29 Nov 2008 1pm – 9pm
30 Nov 2008: 1pm – 7pm
Plauen Town Council Tourist Information
www.plauen.de

Potsdam

Father Christmas in historical garb

Variety is the spice of Christmas in Potsdam: first is the Blue Festival of Lights in the historic city centre. The Bohemian Christmas market in the Weavers Quarter in Babelsberg is next. Then there is the enchanting Christmas market at Bornstedt castle (UNESCO World Heritage) and the Sinterklaas market in the Dutch quarter. Last but not least is the Star market on Neuer Markt square, where Germany’s Polish neighbours present their arts, crafts and culinary delights.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
23 Nov – 28 Dec 2008 Both daily from 11am – 8pm
2A on weekends only, see website
Potsdam Tourismo Service
www.potsdamtourismus.de

Schneeberg

A typical Christmas in the Erzgebirge mountains

Decorative candle arches burn brightly from windows across Schneeberg, bathing the town in a festive glow. This magical atmosphere reaches its high point at the Christmas market, which is located in the baroque centre. Musical accompaniment comes courtesy of brass bands, choirs and miners’ ensembles. Enjoy seasonal food and drink and discover how Germany celebrates Christmas. Don’t miss the Festival of Lights and the evening miners’ parade, a glorious occasion featuring music and traditional costumes.

29 Nov – 21 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 7pm
Miners’ parade: 7 Dec 2008 at 4.30pm
Schneeberg Tourist Information
www.schneeberg.de

RECOMMENDED:

EISENACH

Christmas market at Wartburg Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site

Step back to a time of merchant trade and traditional crafts, when entertainment was provided by musicians, minstrels and travelling entertainers. Experience the buzz of a medieval marketplace with Christmas concerts in the historical surroundings of Wartburg Castle, which was home to Martin Luther for a time.

29 – 30 Nov 2008
6 – 7 Dec 2008
13 – 14 Dec 2008
20 – 21 Dec 2008
10am – 7pm
Wartburg-Stiftung
www.wartburg.de
Kurort Seiffen

See the largest nutcracker in Germany

Seiffen, the cradle of tradition and handicrafts in the Erzgebirge mountains, really comes to life during the festive season. At the beautifully illuminated Christmas market you can look over the shoulders of the local craftsmen and see new items taking shape before your eyes. Treat your taste buds to Erzgebirge specialities in Germany’s most famous toy-making village. The whole of Seiffen is decked out like a fairytale and every day offers a new experience: the traditional miners’ parades (featuring miners’ guilds and a traditional children’s costume troupe), the torchlight procession on the mining trails, the miners’ Christmas in the visitor centre and Advent events in the church and toy museum.

29 Nov – 21 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 4pm
Fri – Sun: 10am – 6pm
Children’s costume parade: 29 Nov & 13 Dec 2008
Tourismusverein Kurort Seiffen
www.seiffen.de

Quedlinburg

An enchanting Christmas courtyard

Christmas is celebrated in true style in this 1,000-year-old medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage site. Attention focuses on the bustle and lights of the Christmas market, where colourful wooden huts fill the market square with beautiful gifts and delicious treats. The sounds of festive music and organ recitals ring out from the churches, and every day, a new half-timbered house on Schlossberg hill open its doors to the public for the Quedlinburg Advent Calendar. Equal-ly enticing is the Magic of Christmas, when shop windows across the town display a lovingly assembled collection of old-fashioned dolls, kitchens and toy groceries. From 11am to 8pm on 6 & 7 Dec and 13 & 14 Dec, Quedlinburg’s historical courtyards become festive marketplaces for exquisite items and rarities.

28 Nov – 21 Dec 2008
Sun – Thu: 11am – 8pm
Fri: 11am – 10pm Sat: 10am – 10pm
Quedlinburg Tourismus Marketing GmbH
www.quedlinburg.de
www.adventsstadt.de

Weimar

Christmas with Goethe and Schiller

Christmas in Weimar brings joy to the hearts of young and old: theatre for the little ones, classic tales by the town’s great poets, Christmas decorations from the Erzgebirge mountains, hand-blown glass art from Lauscha and wooden and tin toys that make superb stocking fillers. Four huge church gates mark the entrances to the Christmas market and commemorate the festival’s Christian origins. Organ music and carol singing in the churches and market square add to the festive charm of this UNESCO World Heritage town.

24 Nov – 22 Dec 2008
Mon – Thu: 11am – 8pm
Fri – Sun: 11am – 9pm
Weimar Tourist Information
www.weimar.de

Wernigerode

A Christmas market from the pages of a storybook

Decorated stalls bathed in a festive glow are set against the magnificent town hall and beautiful medieval houses. The aromas of roasted almonds and glühwein are a hallmark of the Christmas market in Wernigerode. Christmas events, including concerts, are held throughout the town. Why not board one of the Christmas trains up Mount Brocken on the Harz narrow-gauge railway? Ride through the snow-covered countryside in a historical carriage pulled by a steam engine and expect some surprises along the way.

28 Nov – 22 Dec 2008
Mon – Thu: 10am – 7pm
Fri – Sun: 10am – 8pm
Wernigerode Tourismus GmbH
www.wernigerode.de

Culinary delights

- Christstollen from Dresden – the city’s bakeries still make this traditional Christmas cake to recipes handed down through the generations using only fresh ingredients of the highest quality.
- Thuringian Rostbratwurst – no Christmas market is complete without a stall selling these delicious sausages that make a filling snack.
- Baumkuchen, a king among cakes – the name of this teatime treat means tree cake, which derives from its circular shape and the multiple layers or ‘growth rings’ it reveals when cut into slices.
**KÖNIGSTEIN FORTRESS**

**A Balkan fairytale**

This enchanting Christmas market is themed around fairytales from the Balkans. The seasonal programme is hosted by Königstein’s own Father Christmas and Friedrich von Kyaw, the fortress commander. Craftsmen and entertainers are on hand, while fairytale favourites and historical Christmas music create a festive atmosphere. See how people in the Carpathians celebrate Christmas. Attractions include the elves’ workshop and a Nativity scene with real farmyards animals.

29 Nov – 21 Dec 2008 Sat & Sun only: 11am – 7pm
Festung Königstein gGmbH
www.festung-koenigstein.de

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Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Wittenberg’s Christmas market has a setting that is second to none: it takes place on the market square framed by eye-catching town houses and the church where Luther once preached, which has a stunning winged altar by Lucas Cranach the Elder. The town’s Christmas courtyards have many a surprise in store amid delightful surroundings. Stroll through the festively decorated old town and enjoy the lights, sounds and smells of Christmas, including the unmistakable aromas of glühwein and roasted almonds. Not to be missed is the Martin Luther Nativity play on 21 Dec 2008 at the Church of St. Mary, where the great reformer delivered his sermons.

28 Nov – 21 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 7pm
Lutherstadt Wittenberg Marketing GmbH
www.wittenberg.de

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Zwickau

Zwickau, at the foothills of the Erzgebirge mountains, is home to one of the prettiest Christmas markets in Saxony. Every year, the town bathes in the glow of the giant Christmas tree lit up by 600 lights and the traditional Christmas pyramid. A remarkable range of festive goods is on offer alongside the kids’ craft hut and hand-carved Nativity scene. Zwickau Christmas market in the town’s old quarter is perfect for an evocative Christmas break. Every day at 4.30pm, Father Christmas comes along to say hello to the little ones. On 13 Dec, you can see the miners’ bands parade, a time-honoured tradition with marching bands and traditional costumes.

28 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Thu: 10am – 8pm
Fri & Sat: 10am – 9pm
Sun: 11am – 8pm
KULTOUR Z. GmbH
www.kultour-z.de

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**Historical Christmas market in Wartburg**

Long-forgotten crafts, ancient trades, music and games against a magnificent backdrop…

29 & 30 November 2008
6 & 7, 13 & 14 and 20 & 21 December 2008
10am – 7pm

UNESCO World Cultural Heritage – Wartburg Castle
D-99817 Eisenach // phone +49(0)3691 2500 // info@wartburg.de // www.wartburg.de
CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN WESTERN GERMANY

Where celebrations and new experiences go hand in hand

From the Saar Bow to the towns and cities along the Rhine and Main rivers, Christmas celebrations take on a multitude of forms in western Germany: Some do it with style and splendour, like Dortmund – home to Germany’s largest Christmas market and a giant Christmas tree creation – or Rüdesheim, which tops off its Christmas Market of the Nations with a spectacular firework display. Cosier and more intimate setups are found in Bad Hersfeld with its illuminated medieval backdrop and on Frankfurt’s Römerberg square. Church bells ringing out around pretty patrician town houses, Cologne’s floating Christmas market and long Christmas shopping promenades are just some of the aspects that make western Germany so magical at Christmas.
Highlights in western Germany

Romantic Rhine
The Romantic Rhine, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is flanked by lush valleys, dizzying vineyard terraces and volcanic landscapes. This breathtaking stretch of the river winds its way through ever-changing scenery from Bingen to just after Remagen. Sights and attractions along the way include castles, palaces, churches and ruins, while concerts, exhibitions and readings are just a small selection of the cultural fare on offer.

The Ruhr region
The Ruhr region has much to see and do and lots to discover. 150 years of industrial history have transformed it into one of the largest conurbations in Europe and a melting pot of cultures and nationalities. No matter what you’re looking for, it has something to offer you — from arts, entertainment and leisure to culture and events. The Ruhr region has even won the right to be the 2010 European Capital of Culture and it’s easy to see why.

Bonn – the birthplace of Beethoven
The capital of the former West Germany boasts a wide range of visitor attractions, but is best known as the home town of Ludwig van Beethoven. The house in which he was born and concerts by the Beethoven orchestra are unmissable cultural highlights and offer an insight into his life and work.

Western Germany
- Romantic, picture-postcard river scenery
- World-famous wine-growing regions
- A wide range of industrial heritage
- Baroque palaces, stately homes and venerable country estates
Aachen

Christmas magic in Aachen

The Christmas market in Aachen takes the form of a lovingly decorated Christmas village overlooked by the cathedral and town hall on the market square. Find everything from stocking fillers to hard-to-find gifts and don’t forget to sample the Printen, the city’s famous gingerbread. The kaleidoscopic line-up of entertainment includes music at the weekend.

21 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8.30pm
23 Nov 2008: 6pm – 9pm
Aachen Tourist Service e.V.
www.aachen-tourist.de

Bad Hersfeld

A festival town lit up for Christmas

The Christmas market of 30,000 lights is set on historical Linggplatz square in the old quarter of Bad Hersfeld. It takes its name from the number of bulbs that illuminate the beautiful medieval façades, adding to the glow from the huge Christmas tree. Choirs perform on the stage every day and additional attractions and entertainment run until 10pm on 6 Dec.

28 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 12 noon – 8pm
Opening day: 28 Nov 6pm – midnight
Bad Hersfeld Tourist Information
www.bad-hersfeld.de

Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler

Walking in a winter wonderland

Christmas stalls buzz with activity on the old market square in Ahrweiler. On the night of 13 Dec, they are illuminated by flickering torches for the midnight market. The Christmas market in Bad Neuenahr is held around the Kurgarten bridge that spans the Ahr river: enjoy specialities from the region and music to get you in the festive mood. Between Christmas and New Year, the riverside illuminations create a delightful setting for an enchanting stroll.

Ahrweiler: 28 Nov – 21 Dec 2008, weekends only
Fri: 3pm – 7pm Sat & Sun: 11am – 9pm
Bad Neuenahr 5–7, 12–14, 19–21 & 27–29 Dec 2008
Fri: 2pm – 9pm Sat & Sun: 12 noon – 9pm
Ahrtal-Tourismus Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler e.V.
www.ahrtaltourismus.de
www.uferlichter.de

Bernkastel-Kues

Enchanting Nativity scene at the Christmas market

The Christmas market in Bernkastel-Kues is set against the historical backdrop of the old town with its medieval squares, narrow streets and magnificent town hall. A varied programme of Christmas entertainment sets the festive tone. Other things to look out for as you stroll through the market include the fairytale house and the giant Advent calendar, where a new door opens every evening.

22 Nov – 21 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 7pm
Closed on 23 Nov 2008
Tourist Information
www.bernkastel.de

Bielefeld

Festive medieval charm in Bielefeld

Year after year, Bielefeld’s Christmas market buzzes with activity under a sea of twinkling lights. The stalls extend right across the

RECOMMENDED:

CLEVES

Christmas in historical gardens

The Christmas market in Cleves is set in the town’s splendid historical gardens, where guests from the spa used to stroll until well into the previous century. Exotic trees bathed in a kaleidoscope of festive lights conjure up a magical atmosphere for the artists, craftsmen and confectioners at nearly 50 stalls. Choirs and music ensembles perform daily in the rose garden pavilion.

28 Nov – 7 Dec 2008, Mon – Fri: 3pm – 9pm, Sat & Sun: 11am – 9pm
Kleve Marketing GmbH & Co. KG
www.kleve.de
town centre, with medieval houses decked out in seasonal style and Christmas entertainment for visitors. At the heart of the action is the old market square with its historical patrician houses. Here, you can visit the quaint House of St. Nicholas for traditional hot rum punch and food from the beechwood barbecue.

Daily: 11am – 9pm
Bielefeld Marketing GmbH
www.bielefeld.de

Bonn

Brightly-lit stalls in Beethoven’s home town

The illuminated façades on Münsterplatz, Bottlerplatz and Friedensplatz squares and in adjoining pedestrian streets provide the evocative backdrop for the Christmas market in Beethoven’s home town. If the scents of pine needles, glühwein, sweet chestnuts and gingerbread don’t get you in the Christmas spirit, the festive events on stage surely will. From 1 December, the historical town hall is transformed into a giant Advent calendar.

23 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Tourismus & Congress GmbH Region Bonn/Rhein-Sieg/Ahrweiler
www.bonn-region.de

Deidesheim

Sample some of the best glühwein in Germany

The Christmas market in this famous wine town takes the form of a delightful treasure trove set between Marktplatz, Burggraben and Stadtplatz squares. It’s a mini Christmas kingdom filled with angels, Nativity scenes and traditional wooden toys at more than 100 stalls. Watch craftsmen as they work and be sure to catch the art and Nativity exhibition. Don’t miss the concerts in the churches and at the market itself.

28 Nov – 21 Dec 2008 (Fri to Sun only)
Fri: 5pm – 9pm Sat: 2pm – 9pm
Sun: 11am – 9pm
Tourist Information
www.deidesheim.de

Brühl

Treat yourself to traditional German Christmas fare

Brühl is best known as the home of Augustusburg Palace (UNESCO World Heritage) and Phantasialand, but it also hosts a superb Christmas market. Enjoy delightful arts and crafts, enchanting music and delicious food and drink. Christmas markets in historical settings are also found in nearby towns and villages: at Gymnich Castle in Erftstadt, at Loersfeld House in Kerpen with its gourmet restaurant and English-style landscaped garden, and in medieval form at Kommandeursburg country estate.

25 Nov – 24 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Closed on Sun 7 Dec 2008
Rhein-Erft Tourismus e.V.
www.rhein-erft-tourismus.de

Cochem

The Christmas story brought to life

Cochem’s Christmas market with its magnificent Advent Magic tent is a feast for all the senses where you can enjoy culinary delights and yuletide concerts. Christmas at the castle: from 2pm to 6pm on 13 and 14 December 2008, the Christmas story will be re-enacted at Reichsburg Castle in a Nativity play featuring real farmyard animals.

28 Nov – 21 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 6pm
Cochem Holiday Region Tourist Information
www.cochem.de

Heavenly Christmas shopping in DÜSSELDORF

From 20 November to 23 December 2008, Düsseldorf invites you to visit the atmospheric Christmas market and to do your Christmas shopping here. The shops in the city centre will be open for your shopping pleasure on Sunday, 7 December 2008, from 10.00 to 6.00 p.m.!

Overnight accommodation from 58.00 €
per person in a double room

Information and reservations:
www.duesseldorf-weihnachtsmarkt.de or ☎ +49(0)211/1 72 02 854
Dortmund Christmas market has been spreading the joys of the season for more than 100 years. Thousands of lights on the tallest Christmas tree in the world bathe the entire scene in a festive glow and more than 300 stalls offer all the seasonal treats your heart could desire. Children can make their own presents and bake cookies in the Christmas village.

20 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 (closed on 23 Nov)
Mon – Sat: 10am – 9pm, Sun: from 12 noon
DORTMUND Tourismus
www.weihnachtsmarkt-dortmund.de

Essen

The International Christmas market in Essen has 250 stalls packed with fantastic gift ideas and culinary specialities from all over the world. Night owls will be pleased to hear that the market is open until midnight on 6 December. Journey back in time at the medieval market or watch a Nativity play enacted by mime artists at the cathedral. Our tip: the Adventian candlemaking house and the illuminated Ferris wheel.

20 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Thu & Fri: 11am – 10pm
23 Nov 2008 6pm – 10pm
6 Dec until midnight
EMG – Essen Marketing GmbH
www.essen.de

Fulda

At the Christmas market time in Fulda, the historical buildings of this baroque town are bathed in a magical glow. The air is full of delicious aromas – roasted almonds and glühwein – drifting over from the decorated stalls around the market church. Trumpeters play in historical costumes and organ recitals ring out from the cathedral. Explore the town’s baroque history on a guided tour and discover the world of snow globes at the Christmas exhibition in Vonderau Museum. A wide choice of culture and entertainment completes the picture.

28 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 11am – 8pm
Sun: 12.30pm – 7pm
Tourismus und Kongressmanagement Fulda
www.tourismus-fulda.de

Special tips
- A fairytale Christmas cruise in Rüdesheim – on a boat trip through the enchanting Upper Middle Rhine Valley, learn about Germany’s fairytales, legends and Christmas traditions through spellbinding readings.
- Candlelit Christmas concert in Wiesbaden – rich and technically accomplished festive music in St. Christopher’s Church in Schierstein, just outside Wiesbaden.
www.fulda.de
Frankfurt’s Christmas Market

26 Nov – 21 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 9pm/Sun: 11am – 9pm

Weekend deals from €57.00

International Christmas concerts: Fri, Sat and Sun at 5.10pm
Trumpet fanfares from St. Nicholas’s Church balcony: Wed and Sat at 6pm
Carillon at St. Nicholas’s Church: every day at 9.05am, 12.05pm and 5.05pm

Merry Christmas. Made by

Erleben Sie ein paar unvergessliche Tage im Dorint Maison Messmer und übernachten Sie in einem unserer elegant eingerichteten Zimmer mit Blick auf den Baden-Badener Weihnachtsmarkt.

Treat yourself to an enjoyable stay in the Dorint Maison Messmer and stay in one of our elegantly furnished rooms with a view over the Christmas Market of Baden-Baden.

Einzelzimmer/single room „Kurpark“  Doppelzimmer/double room „Kurpark“

ab/from 172,- €*  ab/from 218,- €*

* inkl. Frühstück/incl. breakfast
Once upon a time there was a Christmas market ...

The fairytale Christmas market on Königsplatz and Friedrichsplatz squares in Kassel is a truly magical experience. This year’s theme in the heartland of the German Fairytale Route is “The Wishing Table” by the Brothers Grimm. Attractions include the world’s tallest fairytale pyramid and festive offerings at numerous stalls in the town centre. There’s a buzzing Christmas atmosphere throughout, from the quaint Königsalm tavern to the corners of the fairytale forest.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Kassel Tourist GmbH
www.kassel-tourist.de
www.weihnachtsmarkt-kassel.de

There’s so much to see and do in this winter wonderland: sip a warming mug of glühwein on a horse-drawn carriage, have a go on the toboggan run or visit the life-size Nativity scene. The town hall courtyard provides an enchanting setting for the open-air Christmas vocal concert.

28 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Late-night shopping: 13 Dec 2008, 10am – midnight
Koblenz Touristik
www.weihnachtsmarkt-koblenz.de
www.christmasmarket-koblenz.com

Koblenz

Enjoy browsing the festive stalls

The picturesque old quarter of Koblenz, the town where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet, has over 130 festive wooden huts at its Christmas market. Explore this winter wonderland in the company of a tour guide, who’ll regale you with seasonal anecdotes.

28 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Koblenz Touristik
www.christmasmarket-koblenz.com

Landau

Landau is renowned for its wines and gardens, but every year the scent of pine needles, sweet waffles and glühwein marks the arrival of the traditional Thomas Nast Christmas market, named after the famous German-American cartoonist who was born in Landau. The friendliness of the local people is truly charming. Every day, 35 craftsmen demonstrate their skills in two heated halls, while children can visit the Himmelsbackstube to bake Christmas cookies.

27 Nov – 21 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Büro für Tourismus Landau
www.landau.de

COLOGNE

Christmas on the Rhine

The floating Christmas market on the Rhine in Cologne presents an alternative to the traditional markets: on board the “MS Wappen von Köln”, you can browse for gifts and enjoy panoramic views of the old town as you sip a mug of glühwein. Events held on other ships include dinner shows, culinary Christmas tours to suit all tastes and a fantastic New Year’s Eve party. Visit the KD Riverboats website for more details.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
KD Köln-Düsseldorfer
www.k-d.com

Köln (Cologne)

160 beautiful wooden pavilions against the backdrop of Cologne’s signature attraction await visitors to the Christmas market at the cathedral. Here, you can watch craftsmen at work and enjoy all manner of delicious treats. On Alter Markt square, kids can ride the carousel, catch a show at the puppet theatre and even pay a visit to Father Christmas. Neumarkt square hosts the city’s oldest Christmas market, while the one in Rudolfplatz focuses on the world of fairytales. The medieval Christmas market on the banks of the Rhine offers entertainers, minstrels and jesters. Nativity exhibitions, concerts and a wide choice of Christmas shopping are also part of the festive fun in Cologne.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
KölnTourismus
www.koelntourismus.de

RECOMMENDED:

CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN WESTERN GERMANY
Mainz

An enchanting, life-sized Nativity scene

St. Martin’s Cathedral in Mainz has been the historical backdrop for the St. Nicholas Market for over 200 years. More than 100 stalls present a range of arts, crafts and culinary delights. The limewood-carved Nativity scene with life-size figures and the 11-metre Christmas pyramid are two of the more popular attractions. A seasonal programme of music, entertainment and traditional carol singing features on the Christmas stage.

27 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Touristik Centrale Mainz
www.mainz.de/weihnachtsmarkt

Münster

Enchanting festive scene in Münster

Münster boasts 250 festive stalls spread out over five Christmas markets: find jewellery and handicrafts under twinkling lights on Platz des Westfälischen Friedens, toys and stocking fillers at the illuminated market by St. Lambert’s Church; crafts and local specialities in the Christmas village around the Kiepenkerl monument, a studenty vibe along Pferdegasse and a Nativity scene, carousel and more at St. Aegidius’ Church.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Münster Information
www.tourismus.muenster.de

Michelstadt

A christmas wonderland

More than 100 pretty little wooden huts in the streets and passageways around the medieval town hall (1484) create a wonderfully festive feel. Highlights include an enchanting life-sized Nativity scene, a seven-metre Christmas pyramid, an angel scene and a giant, brightly coloured wooden musical box.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Stadt Michelstadt
www.michelstadt.de

Oberhausen

From shopping malls to seasonal stalls

At Christmas, the Centro in Oberhausen is transformed into a fairytale world of twinkling crystals, colourful baubles, sweet-scented fir trees and spectacular fairy light displays. In the squares outside Europe’s largest shopping and leisure complex, you’ll find around 150 lovingly decorated wooden huts. Browse for unusual arts and crafts, enjoy sweet treats and tuck into hearty specialities.

15 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Fri: 11am – 10pm
Sat: 10am – 10pm
Sun: 11am – 9pm
16 Nov: 1pm – 9pm
23 Nov: 6pm – 9pm
Tourist Information Oberhausen
www.oberhausen-tourismus.de

Paderborn

Christmas market in Technicolor

The Christmas market in Paderborn is set against the illuminated backdrop of the town’s towering cathedral. Amid a magical atmosphere it features arts and crafts from all over Germany, a huge Advent calendar at the historical town hall, Paderborn’s Pfarrerskäppchen pastries, baked apples, traditional hot drinks such as heisse Bäuerin, heisser Wilhelm and potent rum punch, and a living Nativity scene.

26 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 11.30am – 8pm
Sun: 12 noon – 8pm
Stadt Paderborn
www.paderborn.de/weihnachtsmarkt

Shopping

- Wertheim Village and Zweibrücken Designer Outlet: shop for top designer labels at astonishingly low prices
- Centro in Oberhausen is Germany’s largest shopping centre
- Products from all over the world at the Zeil shopping precinct in Frankfurt

Attractions

- Chocolate – it’s one of those things you just can’t get enough of at Christmas. Visit the chocolate museum in Cologne to stock up, sample some different varieties or even make your own.
- Stuck for gift ideas? Take your partner, friends or family to see Starlight Express in Bochum, the smash-hit musical for all ages.
- UNESCO World Heritage in Essen: the Zollverein coal mine is one of Germany’s most popular industrial monuments.
Rotenburg a. d. Fulda

A charming scene to warm the heart

Rotenburg an der Fulda is a picture-postcard medieval town with a history that goes back more than 750 years. Its Christmas market is considered one of the most enchanting in the region and boasts one of the tallest Christmas pyramids in Germany. Thousands of Christmas lights adorn the town’s beautiful half-timbered façades.

5 Dec – 21 Dec 2008
Fri 5 Dec 2008: 4pm – midnight
Mon, Tue, Thu: 2pm – 7.30pm
Wed (“Christmas Night”): 2pm – 9pm
Fri: 2pm – 9pm
Sat & Sun: 12 noon – 7.30pm
Verkehrs- und Kulturamt
www.rotenburg.de

Rüdesheim am Rhein

A delightful winter wonderland

The Christmas Market of the Nations adds an international dimension to the festive season in Rüdesheim am Rhein. Set in the town’s chocolate-box old quarter, it features around 120 stalls with crafts, customs and traditions from twelve countries. Discover Finnish specialties in Drosselgasse and the flavour of the Far East in the Mongolian marquee. Varied entertainment runs every day, and you can go on a romantic river cruise or cable car trip. Europe’s largest Nativity scene is a sight to behold, but the highlight is a festive fireworks display for St. Thomas’ Night on 21 December.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Daily: 11am – 8pm/9pm
Rüdesheim Tourist Center
www.ruedesheim.de

Saarbrücken

Santa and his sleigh look from down on high

Saarbrücken’s historical St. Johanner Markt square and the region’s most popular shopping street, Bahnhofstrasse, provide the ideal setting for the Christkindlmarkt. The many fantastic attractions include a traditional alpine hut, a huge Advent wreath, a bell tower and life-size Christmas characters. Every evening at 7pm, Father Christmas and his reindeer sleigh hover over the market on a high wire and tell the story of Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer.

27 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Fri – Sat: 11am – 10pm
Tourist Information Region Saarbrücken
www.city-sb.de

Speyer

The Christmas and New Year’s market in front of the Old Mint

During the festive season, the air outside the Old Mint in Maximilianstrasse is full of delicious aromas, such as glühwein, roasted Aachener Printen and much more.

24 Nov 2008 – 11 Jan 2009
Wiesbaden Tourist Information
www.wiesbaden.de

Recommended:

Wiesbaden

Ice-skating fun and much more

One of Wiesbaden’s top festive attractions is the approx. 800m² outdoor ice rink overlooked by the Hessian State Theatre. The varied programme includes an ice disco, themed evenings and even curling. Afterwards, warm your hands round a mug of glühwein and enjoy delicious Christmas treats.

Wiesbaden Tourist Information
www.wiesbaden.de

AACHENER PRINTEN

Oldest than the city from which they take their name.

Although honey cake has been in existence for 4,000 years, gingerbread – its modern day equivalent – is thought to originate from experiments with spices and medicines that took place in medieval abbeys. Today, Printen are still made according to the traditional recipes. The blend of spices that give them their distinctive flavour is a closely guarded secret.

Souvenirs

For the perfect souvenir of your trip, take home a Bembel. Hessian taverns use these rounded earthenware jugs to serve traditional cider.

The Gutenberg Shop in Mainz has all manner of practical and unusual items based around the printed word.

Recommended:

Mainz

Christmas cheer from the Printing Capital

Mainz is the printing capital of the world and this Christmas market, set in the historic Altstadt, is a great place to bask in the festive cheer. The market offers a wide range of Christmas gifts, decorations and food. There’s also a children’s area with rides and games.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 9pm
Fri – Sat: 10am – midnight
Tourist Information Mainz
www.mainz.de

Mainz Tourist Information
www.mainz.de
almonds and Alsace Flammkuchen. At the heart of the action are stalls hosted by eight towns twinned with Speyer from as far away as Rwanda. Browse hand-crafted items in the town hall courtyard and watch the artisans at work in the marquees. A spectacular experience is the Old Gate, one of the tallest town gates in Germany, being lit up by a dramatic curtain of Bengal fire as the Christmas trumpets sound.

24 Nov 2008 – 6 Jan 2009
Daily: 11am – 9pm
Tourist Information
www.speyer.de

St. Wendel

Seasonal surprises galore

The Christmas market in St. Wendel is no longer the well kept secret it used to be. More than 100 delightful little wooden huts offer unusual hand-made items and a whole host of surprises. The oriental market adds a touch of romance and mystery to proceedings. Every afternoon, the Three Wise Men’s caravan of camels makes its way to the stable at Bethlehem in the company of jesters and fire-eaters. Here, actors in bright, colourful costumes re-enact the story of Mary and Joseph. Camels, falcons, wolfhounds and a wonderfully decorated stage help bring this ancient tale to life. Other attractions include: a giant Christmas pyramid, a gnomes’ forest (home to 200 of these pointy-hatted, cheeky chappies), a medieval craft market, a man-sized nutcracker, traditional Erzgebirge products and a toboggan run with real Alpine snow.

6 Dec – 14 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Marketing Office
www.sankt-wendel.de

Wiesbaden

Illuminated flowers over the Christmas market

Lights shaped like the lilies on the city’s coat of arms, festive aromas and Christmas music set the scene for Wiesbaden’s annual Christmas market. Called the Sternschnuppenmarkt, it takes place on picturesque Schlossplatz square around a towering, 30-metre Christmas tree adorned with beautiful decorations. Four gates in the shape of lilies form the entrance to this fairytale scene. The oriental-style stalls decked out in blue and gold are a treasure trove of arts and crafts, some of them made locally. There’s a wide range of products to choose from, including olive wood items, honey specialities, hand-blown glass art and sweet treats from the world’s greatest confectioners. Kids will love the old-fashioned carousels, children’s railway and life-size, wooden Nativity scene. Choirs, Nativity plays, trumpet fanfares and concerts complete the festive atmosphere.

25 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10.30am – 9pm
Sun: 12 noon – 9pm
Wiesbaden Tourist Information
www.wiesbaden.de

St. Wendeler Weihnachtspakete “BusPlus”


A special tip from Father Christmas:
Nativity exhibition at Mission House, tour of St. Wendelin’s courtyard incl. market and market garden for fresh, local produce, 3-course meal at “Hofküche”, a regional souvenir, free time to stroll around the Christmas market
Just €21.50 per person

Our classic all-inclusive deal:
Nativity exhibition at the Mission House, tour of a candle factory with factory outlet (Mon to Fri only), 3-course meal at “Wendelin”, guided tour of St. Wendelin’s basilica, free time to stroll around the Christmas market
Just €20.90 per person

One free place each for coach driver and tour leader
Bookings: +49 (0)6851 7788 • touristinfo@holzer-gmbh.de • www.sankt-wendel.de

Taster package:
3-course set menu with complimentary shot of ouzo in an elegant Greek restaurant in the pedestrian precinct. See the best of the Christmas market on an informal guided tour.
Mon to Fri, 12 noon – 9pm
Just €14.90 per person

One free place each for coach driver and tour leader

Tourist Information
www.sankt-wendel.de

Trier

Christmas market in medieval Trier

Amid the medieval surroundings of Hauptmarkt square and in front of the mighty cathedral, 95 festively decorated wooden huts create an enchanting Christmas atmosphere in Germany’s oldest town, renowned for its Porta Nigra gate. Hot tea or delicious glühwein help keep out the cold as you listen to Christmas carols played by brass bands and trumpeters. Arts and crafts, sweet treats and hot chestnuts all bring smiles to faces – what could be better?

24 Nov – 22 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am – 8.30pm
Thu: 10am – 10pm
Sun: 11am – 8.30pm
Tourist-Information Trier Stadt und Land e.V.
www.trier.de/tourismus
For a real white Christmas and the winter sports that come with it, set your sights for southern Germany: in Christmas markets from Franconia and Bavaria to the region that borders Austria and Switzerland the highlights of the festive season include glittering tree decorations, baroque settings, *glühwein*, Christmas choirs and carved wooden Nativity scenes steeped in hundreds of years of church tradition. You’ll find that Christmas is a time for tradition here, whether at the popular *Christkindlesmarkt* in Nuremberg – home of the famous *lebkuchen* – at the artists’ market in Würzburg or at quaint alpenhorn concerts in enchanting, tucked-away venues.
**Highlights in southern Germany**

**Spas & wellness in the Black Forest**
The Black Forest region is known for the high quality of services in its health resorts and spas. Winter is the best time to take advantage of its pure mountain air and beneficial climate. Alongside the various health and beauty treatments on offer, there are numerous cultural attractions and stunning unspoilt scenery for you to explore. Treat yourself to fine food and drink and sample the world-famous Black Forest gateau. One slice is never enough.

**Munich Tradition and modernity**
Munich is a great destination at any time of year, but winter really brings out the best in this wonderful city. The snow-covered capital of Bavaria is just a short hop from the Alps and boasts a veritable kaleidoscope of sights and attractions: from the world-famous Hofbräuhaus beer hall to palaces, parks and gardens and all the way to contemporary urban chic. Munich fuses folk tradition and stylish modern living like no other city on Earth.

**Winter sports in the Alps**
Why not combine your visit to Bavaria’s Christmas markets with a mini skiing trip in the Alps? Snow is guaranteed and there are plenty of other winter activities available, from alpine and cross-country skiing to ice skating and sleigh rides.
Altötting

A pretty and romantic Christmas scene

Altötting’s enchanting Christkindlmarkt is held around the Chapel of the Miraculous Image on Kapellplatz, a beautiful square lined by fine baroque buildings. Don’t miss the traditional Advent concerts with choirs and orchestras from Upper Bavaria and Salzburg, and the grand Christmas concert with the Bad Tölz boys’ choir and the Hammerau musicians.

28 Nov – 21 Dec 2008
Mon – Fri: 2pm – 8pm
Sat & Sun: 11am – 8pm
Wallfahrts- und Verkehrsbüro Altötting
www.altoetting.de

Augsburg’s Christkindlesmarkt is one of the oldest Christmas markets in Germany. It has been held for more than 500 years against the delightful backdrop of the Renaissance town hall. The highlight is the Augsburger Engeleßpiel, when angels playing music appear above the Christmas market and the town hall is transformed into a giant Advent calendar.

24 Nov – 24 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 8pm
Regio Augsburg Tourismus GmbH
www.augsburg-tourismus.de

Baden-Baden

Festive atmosphere at the spa assembly rooms

Baden-Baden’s enchanting Christkindelsmarkt is held in the famous Lichtentaler Allee park, against the backdrop of the spa assembly rooms which are illuminated by thousands of lights. There’s so much to see and do, with plenty of places to browse. On 24 November, the Christmas Angel arrives by carriage at the sky stage, which offers a fresh line-up of entertainment every day. On 6 December at 5pm, St. Nicholas drops by in a hot-air balloon to hand out small gifts to the children.

24 Nov – 28 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
24 Nov: from 5pm, 24 Dec: 10am – 3pm
Baden-Baden Kur & Tourismus GmbH
www.baden-baden.de

Bad Tölz

A storybook Christmas

Bad Tölz’s historical and romantically lit Marktstrasse is the ideal place to find yourself in the run-up to Christmas. Watch artists, craftsmen and chocolatiers at work and sample yuletide offerings such as Baumkuchen (tree cake), baked apples and hot chestnuts. Enjoy the sound of the Bad Tölz boys’ choir in the churches and at the spa assembly rooms and admire the lovingly designed Nativity scenes.

29 Nov – 24 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 7pm
24 Dec: 11am – 1pm
Tourist Information
www.baden-toelz.de

Bad Wimpfen

Historical costumes bring Christmas to life

Bad Wimpfen’s traditional German Christmas Market is one of the oldest in the country.

24 Nov – 28 Dec 2008
Mon – Fri: 2pm – 8pm
Sat & Sun: 11am – 8pm
Tourismusverwaltung Bad Wimpfen
www.baden-baden.de
and has a great medieval atmosphere. The old quarter and Hohenstaufen imperial palace form the backdrop for 160 festive stalls and a whole host of fantastic events. Join a tour of discovery with nightwatchmen and town guides in historical costume. Another addition to the yuletide magic is the Finnish Christmas village which offers a wide range of Scandinavian specialities.

Fri: 2pm – 9pm Sat: 11am – 9pm
Sun: 11.30am – 9pm
Tourist Information
www.badwimpfen.de

Bamberg

Bamberg's old town draped in snow

Christmas markets come in two guises in the UNESCO World Heritage town of Bamberg: the traditional Christmas market and the delightful medieval Christmas market in the authentic setting of Alte Hofhaltung Palace. Follow the popular Bamberg Nativity trail to see around 35 Nativity scenes found located throughout the town and at the Christmas market.

27 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 9am – 7.30pm Sun: from 11am
Medieval Christmas market:
6 – 14 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Nativity Trail: 28 Nov 2008 – 6 Jan 2009
BAMBERG Tourismus & Kongress Service
www.bamberg.info

Bayreuth

Shimmering lights bring the old quarter to life

Festively decorated with 7km of Christmas lights, the historical old quarter is a splendid setting for Bayreuth's Christkindlesmarkt. Picturesque stalls offer seasonal treats to delight the senses and there are more than 200 cultural events to entertain and enthral. The winter village in front of the Old Palace is a magical Christmas wonderland.

28 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Mon – Sat: 10am to approx. 11pm
Sun: from 11am
Kongress- und Tourismuszentrale Bayreuth und Umgebung e. V. 95444 Bayreuth
www.bayreuth-tourismus.de

Dinkelsbühl

O Little Town of Dinkelsbühl

Historical Spitalhof house is the setting for the enchanting Christmas market in this festively illuminated medieval town. There's something for everyone in these delightful surroundings, from decorations and locally made ceramics to seasonal herbs and spices, while the arts and crafts bazaar widens the choice further still. Sample Franconian specialities and visit the 60m² Nativity scene, a miniature version of the old town, at St. George's Minster. Enjoy festive music from brass bands and singers. The historical railway and appearance of St. Nicholas—who hands out fruit and nuts—are a delight for all, especially for children.

27 Nov – 21 Dec 2008 Daily: 2pm – 8pm
Touristik Service
www.dinkelsbuehl.de

Esslingen

A winter wonderland beyond compare

The centre of Esslingen – from the town hall to Hafenmarkt square – is transformed into a historical winter wonderland for Christmas. Against a backdrop of half-timbered façades, travelling folk such as entertainers, merchants and craftsmen put on a fantastic medieval spectacle. Marvel at fire jugglers, superbly costumed artistes from La Compagnie Entr’act and the torchlight procession for Winter solstice. Enjoy nailbiting thrills at the high-rope acrobatics or an old-fashioned pampering in the medieval bath house. Just as they would have done hundreds of years ago, market traders ply handcrafted goods and serve medieval-style kebabs, skewers of barbecued pork, wild ox, hot berry wine and sweet honey mead.

25 Nov – 22 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8.30pm
Esslinger Stadtmarketing & Tourismus GmbH
www.mittelalterliches-esslingen.de

Shopping

- Traditional pottery: Kochel ceramics in Bad Tölz
- From medieval to modern: shopping in Munich city centre
- Ingolstadt Village is a chic outlet centre stocking popular designer brands and top fashion labels.

Other recommendations

- Visit Neuschwanstein, the world-famous fairytale castle.
- Not just for kids: the Toy Museum in Nuremberg
- Take time out to visit Zugspitze, Germany’s highest mountain. It’s a winter experience for all.
CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN SOUTHERN GERMANY

Freiburg

Freiburg Christmas market in the heart of the old quarter is a delight for young and old. Arts and crafts on offer include hand-blown glass art and wooden toys, and there is also a candle workshop. Tempting aromas of glühwein, bratwurst and honey gingerbread drift through the town’s beautifully illuminated lanes. Children can bake their own treats in the Christmas bakery and create handicrafts in the Land of Lights.

24 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 8.30pm
Sun: 11.30 – 7.30pm
Freiburg Wirtschaft Touristik & Messe GmbH & Co.
www.weihnachtsmarkt-freiburg.de

Gengenbach

Gengenbach’s Christmas market takes place against the backdrop of the neo-classical town hall, which is transformed into a giant Advent calendar for the occasion. Every evening at 6pm – to the accompaniment of music and theatre – one of 24 illuminated windows opens to reveal a picture from Tomi Ungerer’s famous songbook, transforming the town hall into a treasure trove of the imagination. While in Gengenbach, pop in to see the fascinating exhibitions at the Museum in Löwenberg House.

30 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 3.30pm – 8pm
Sat & Sun: from 12 noon
Gengenbach Kultur- und Tourismus GmbH
www.gengenbachkult.de

Heidelberg

Heidelberg’s Christmas market, a blend of tradition and charm, is held on seven squares in the old quarter and features a number of festive stalls and a Christmas pyramid. There’s plenty of Christmas excitement, with sheep and donkeys to stroke, traditional food and drink from the region and seasonal entertainment. Enjoy Christmas on Ice and views of the festively illuminated castle at one of Germany’s prettiest ice rinks.

26 Nov – 22 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Christmas on Ice: until 4 Jan 2009
Heidelberger Kongress und Tourismus GmbH
www.cvb-heidelberg.de

Heilbronn

Browse for crafts and much more besides at around 100 wooden huts on market square, Kiliani plaza and in the pedestrian precinct. Ice skating outside the historical town hall followed by a hot drink in the ski lodge is winter fun at its best. Resplendent in the glow of 270 decorated Christmas trees, choirs and brass bands fill the air with festive sounds. Real animals are the stars of the show at the Nativity scene in the children’s land.

27 Nov – 22 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Heilbronn-Marketing GmbH
www.heilbronn-marketing.de

Ingolstadt

Held on Theaterplatz square, Christkindlmarkt in Ingolstadt is quite delightful, with lovingly decorated wooden stalls, narrow little alleyways and wonderful smells of baked goods.

26 Nov – 22 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Christkindlmarkt
www.ingolstadt.de

RECOMMENDED:

TÜBINGEN

Temptation in Tübingen

Now in its third year, Tübingen’s chocolART festival is the last word in temptation for chocolate connoisseurs. Chocolatiers from France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Germany offer a selection box of experiences: chocolate theatre, chocolate cookery classes, chocolate massages, chocolate and wine, to name but a few. To celebrate St Nicholas’ Day on 6 Dec, there is a special children’s day followed by late-night shopping for sweet tooths.

2 Dec – 7 Dec 2008 Thu – Fri: 10am – 8pm Sat: 10am – 10pm Sun: 11am – 7pm
Bürger und Verkehrsverein Tübingen www.tuebingen-info.de
apples and glühwein wafting through the air. Local brass bands and trumpeters provide a festive musical accompaniment, while the town’s churches and museums display Nativity scenes spanning a variety of periods and styles.

27 Nov – 23 Dec 2008
Daily: 9.30am – 8.30pm
Ingolstadt Tourist Information
www.ingolstadt-tourismus.de

Kempten

The biggest Christmas market in the Allgäu

Karlsruhe

Ice-skating fun for all ages

Karlsruhe is transformed into a fairytale Christmas city during the festive season. Why not explore its enchanting surroundings on a horse-drawn carriage ride? Delightful decorations around the ice rink on Friedrichsplatz square include a fairytale forest and giant cookie tray: the perfect backdrop for you to practice your pirouettes. At the popular Christkindlesmarkt, wooden huts cluster around the Christmas pyramid on market square. There is also a medieval market at Karlsruhe Castle in nearby Durlach.

27 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Stadtmarketing Karlsruhe GmbH
www.ka-city.de

Konstanz (Constance)

The festively illuminated Christmas boat

The Christmas market on Lake Constance is especially enchanting in the evening, with a myriad of twinkling fairy lights. It stretches from the old quarter to the harbour and even continues on-board the Christmas ship. In these magical settings more than 100 craftsmen and stallholders offer festive wares, while tastebuds are tantalised by seasonal specialities, such as glühwein, hot punch and sweets.

28 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8pm
Fri & Sat: until 10pm
Tourist-Information Konstanz GmbH
www.weihnachtsmarkt-am-see.de

Ludwigsburg

Ludwigsburg spreads its glittering wings

See Ludwigsburg in all its festive splendour and let yourself be captivated by one of Germany’s prettiest Christmas markets, with around 170 market stalls arranged in a baroque style. Figures of angels and gates illuminated by thousands of lights bathe the stalls below in a gentle glow. Take a leisurely stroll through the spacious lanes and enjoy Christmas delights of all description. There is a fresh line-up of entertainment on the stage every day.

25 Nov – 22 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Ludwigsburg Tourist Information
www.ludwigsburg.de

RECOMMENDED:

EUROPA-PARK

’Tis the season to be jolly! At Christmas, Europa-Park in Rust comes alive for its Magical Winter Weeks. Enjoy festive themes, spectacular winter attractions and shows for the whole family At Christmas, Germany’s largest theme park is a rollercoaster ride of fun, entertainment and winter wonder. There’s even room for a traditional Christmas market with all manner of yuletide treats, stocking fillers and seasonal gift ideas.

6 Dec 2008 – 11 Jan 2009
Daily: 11am – 7pm
(closed 24 & 25 Dec 2008)
www.europa-park.de

Nuremberg gingerbread

Wintertime is gingerbread time – sample the many different varieties of this traditional German treat. You can buy them packaged in beautiful, old-fashioned tins and boxes that are real collectors’ items.
Mannheim

Festive flair spread across two town squares

Watch craftsmen demonstrate their talents in the snow-white marquees on Kapuzinerplanken. Original gift ideas, great food and drink and their wonderful works of art make for an irresistible combination. Surrounded by Europe’s largest art nouveau ensemble, the area around Mannheim’s historical water tower is no less than a Christmas town in its own right. Up to Christkindlplatz square, 200 lovingly decorated stalls are arranged in festive little streets filled with the sights, sounds and smells of the season. Christmas music and merry dances from around the world bring joy to the heart.

26 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Manheim Weihnachtsmarkt-GmbH
www.weihnachtsmarkt-mannheim.de

München (Munich)

A sight to behold

Stroll around Munich’s traditional Christmas market on Marienplatz square and find everything you could want and more. For Nativity scenes, head to the Kripperlmarkt, one of the largest in the world. There is live music every day on the town hall balcony. Discover the meaning of words such as Kletznbrot and Fatschnkindl on cultural guided tours. Kids can play and do handicrafts free of charge in the Himmelswerkstatt, while the Krampus run brings Bavarian traditions to life. Don’t forget to visit the Christmas market run by artists and craftspeople in Schwabing. Munich’s cultural district that goes back over 1,200 years.

28 Nov – 24 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 8.30pm Sun: until 7.30pm 24 Dec: 9am – 2pm
Tourismusamt München
www.muenchen-tourist.de
www.christkindlmarkt-muenchen.de

Nürnberg (Nuremberg)

An unforgettable Christmas experience

The Christmas Angel opens Nuremberg’s famous Christkindlesmarkt on Hauptmarkt square in the old quarter. Soak up the medieval charm and the aroma of gingerbread, Nuremberg bratwurst and glühwein. The Nuremberg Kinderweihnacht is the children’s market and has an old-fashioned carousel, Ferris wheel and steam train. The Nativity scene trail runs between the two markets.

Marketing Passau Tourismus
www.christkindlmarkt-passau.de

Regensburg

The delights of the Christmas market await

TRIBERG
A very special winter wonderland

In winter, the frozen, snow-draped Triberg waterfalls are illuminated by half a million lights, providing a breathtaking backdrop for star-studded international shows and live music. In the evenings, a spectacular firework display lights up the sky above one of Germany’s most famous natural features.

25 Dec – 30 Dec 2008 Daily: 2pm – 9pm (Admission fee) TWZ Event GmbH
www.triberger-weihnachtszauber.de
Regensburg, the UNESCO World Heritage town on the Danube, has no fewer than three Christmas markets: Lucrecia craft market, the traditional Christkindlmarkt on Neu-pfarfplatz square and the romantic Christmas market at Thurn and Taxis Palace, where you can enjoy craft stalls and demonstrations. Take a stroll round them all and enjoy everything they have to offer. The concerts by the famous Regensburger Domspatzen boys’ choir are a true delight.

27 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 8pm
Romantic Christmas market
(Admission fee)
Regensburg Tourist Information
www.regensburg.de

Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Come at Christmas to see Rothenburg at its best. The Reiterlesmarkt, set in an idyllic location between the town hall and St. Jacob’s Church, is widely regarded as one of Germany’s prettiest Christmas markets. To complement this winter fairytale, a varied programme of entertainment runs until the new year. Also, don’t miss a visit to the all-year-round Christmas Museum.

28 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 7pm
Rothenburg Tourismus Service
www.rothenburg.de

Stuttgart

For four weeks in the run-up to Christmas, Stuttgart is transformed into a magical winter wonderland. More than 250 stallholders offer seasonal wares, while concerts in the courtyard of the Old Palace set the festive tone. The superbly decorated roofs of the traditional wooden booths add to the overall charm. Amid the enchanting ambience of Stuttgart’s Christmas market, people from all over the world enjoy the city’s famous Black Forest fruit loaf washed down with a mug of warming glühwein.

26 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 9pm
Stuttgart-Marketing GmbH
www.stuttgart-tourist.de

Ulm

At the Christmas market in Ulm, the town is bathed in a festive glow, the aroma of roasted almonds fills the air and trumpets ring out. Against the majestic backdrop of the Minster, which has the world’s tallest church tower, over 120 delightful stalls create a glittering Christmas atmosphere. There’s something new every day, with real sheep in the stable, life-size Nativity scenes, a fairytale tent and festive events. Ulm town centre is great for shopping with over 1,000 stores.

24 Nov – 22 Dec 2008 Daily: 11am – 8.30pm
Ulm/Neu-Ulm Touristik GmbH
www.tourismus.ulm.de

Würzburg

Würzburg’s Christmas market, one of the prettiest and most atmospheric in Germany, is set against the picturesque backdrop of the market square with Falkenhaus mansion and St. Mary’s Chapel. Browse through authentic, locally made items and enjoy seasonal food and drink in a friendly and traditional atmosphere. An artists’ Christmas market is held at weekends in the town hall courtyard. On 6 & 7 December, journey back to a long-forgotten age at the medieval Christmas market at Marienberg Citadel, which features a Nativity play from the 14th century.

28 Nov – 23 Dec 2008 Daily: 10am – 8pm
Sun: from 11am
Congress•Tourismus•Wirtschaft
www.wuerzburg.de

Recommended:

PRIEN/ LAKE CHIEMSEE
All aboard the Christmas boat to Fraueninsel island

Concerts in the medieval Minster await upon your arrival on the island. Then, filled with the joys of the season, head to the enchanting Christmas market for superb arts and crafts, products unique to the island and fish caught in Lake Chiemsee.

Fri: 2pm – 8pm Sat & Sun: 12 noon – 7pm
www.tourismus.prien.de

Online service
Visit our website
www.germany-tourism.de for helpful hints on the Christmas markets, and make your festive experience one you’ll never forget.
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*book via your travel agent or contact Europa-Park resort directly. Due to adverse weather, water-based attractions and rides such as the Silver Star are not available in winter.

Information: +49 (0)1805 776 688 (€0.14 per min.**) · www.europapark.de · Off the A5 Karlsruhe – Basel autobahn, exit 57b Europa-Park

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