

# EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS



## ♪♪ You better watch out ... Regency and Mesto present

**Christmas Markets are coming to Town, and we have a gift for you: 1 complimentary travel with 7 paying guests! Shared by all traveling guests.**

Ask anyone who has visited a Christmas Market in Europe about their experience, and you will no doubt receive an enthusiastic response. But exactly what is it that people feel is so special about these temporary markets that set up in town squares during the 4 weeks before Christmas in Europe? Descriptions such as "magical" and "enchanting" are often used. Maybe it's not so easy to put into words. Perhaps it's the joyous anticipation of the holiday season, uplifting people's moods. Why not encourage yourselves to discover the magic? To sample the food and drink, shop for meaningful gifts, and discover the magic for yourselves. It's a sure way to rekindle the sense of child-like wonder that may have been lost regarding this time of year, a treat suitable for anyone young or old, family and friends.

This is a perfect partner for creating a special and magical Christmas Markets tour. With their network of offices in key destinations throughout Europe, they have the local staff, contacts and know-how to customize a tour that is unique for your travel. The company has contacts since back to 1906 ensures the deepest understanding of the destinations, with local experts in place to suggest unique and inviting experiences. Below is a sampling of cities that are internationally renowned and recommended for their

Christmas Markets. Please enjoy reading up on what each one has to offer, then click

[www.TravelClubAtRegency.com](http://www.TravelClubAtRegency.com) ~Program Coordinator Jeannette Chabina or

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## Munich



Germany is generally considered to be the destination where Christmas Markets first originated in a form recognizable to us today, and Munich is a fine gateway to start an itinerary, as well as a destination in it's own right. Munich offers a large Christmas Market situated handily next to it's year-round shopping area of Marienplatz. In addition, there are smaller markets that can be visited out in the Christmas village in the Residenz, as well as the medieval market at Wittelsbacherplatz. Numerous other smaller markets abound. Besides, there are opportunities for ice-skating, and once you have had enough mulled wine you can continue the evening in one of Munich's favorite beer halls.

## Nuremberg



Unofficially considered one of Germany's largest and most extensive Christmas Markets, Nuremberg has it all. Located approximately 2 hours north of Munich, this market can be done as a day trip, or as a logical next step as part of a more extensive itinerary. This market abounds with traditional German sweet treats such as gingerbread and almond cookies along with juicy bratwurst. You will find a substantial selection of hand-made crafts for sale available in this temporary wooden "city", with the eye-catching façade of the Frauenkirche looming as a backdrop. In addition to the main market, a separate, smaller "sister-cities" market carries goods representing countries from around the world, adding a nice international alternative to the more traditional offerings of the Hauptstadt.

## Salzburg



The main Christmas market is wonderfully located at the foot of the Hohensalzburg Fortress and around the venerable Cathedral of Salzburg. Vendors are grouped by categories such as Textiles, Food & Drink, Jewelry, Crafts & Toys to make it easier to find that perfect gift. Choral groups often make an appearance. Salzburg offers other markets. The Courtyard of Hellbrunn Palace forms a romantic example, with the sounds of games and children's activities echoing off the palace walls. Other examples include the St. Leonhard Advent Market located near a pilgrimage church, and the Advent Market located inside the courtyard of the Hohensalzburg Fortress itself.

## Vienna



Vienna is a good candidate for a one-stop Christmas Markets experience due to the considerable number of Christmas Markets lining its pretty squares and streets, along with some of the most stunning backdrops that you will find anywhere. For example, the Viennese Dream Christmas Market faces the glorious edifice of the Vienna City Hall, the Christmas Village Belvedere Palace uses the namesake palace - one of the most beautiful buildings in Vienna, and the Christmas Village on Maria Theresien Square looks out on the architecture of two impressive buildings, the Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Art. The numerous other Christmas markets and "villages" are often in walking distance to one another.

## Prague



Prague offers enough Christmas Markets to be a destination in its own right, but can be combined with Vienna for an itinerary that will show you an extensive variety and contrast in styles. Christmas Markets in Prague are one of the best ways to experience traditional Czech culture and traditional Czech foods. If a light dusting of snow covers the beautiful architecture of the city, then a magical atmosphere is inescapable! Prague's markets contrast with each other, and each offers its own special experience. Booths filled with goods, food, drink and entertainment are accompanied by daily tree-lighting ceremonies in some markets at dusk. Local crafts made out of wood and Czech glass make either wonderful gifts or ornaments to take back home. While too numerous to list here, the various markets are mostly walkable in Prague's relatively small city center.

## Zagreb



Zagreb has the distinction of being named "Best Christmas Market" 3 years in a row, and it's no wonder as the city is transformed into a winter wonderland adorned with 25 Christmas Markets. Daily open air entertainment and orchestral concerts evoke local flavor and add excitement along with the pervasive fragrance of mulled wine and spices wafting from the many stalls. Hand-carved wooden toys, painted and often featuring moving parts, are a particular local specialty. The city is full of energy, happy travelers and locals alike, and tasty food being served from wooden stalls adorned with lights. While Zagreb gets the attention, Christmas Markets are also found across Croatia, with notable examples in Split and Rijeka.