

The Magic Of European Christmas Markets



Walking through a European Christmas market feels like being in a romantic winter wonderland movie. As the aroma of spiced wine mixes with the cool breeze, you will experience a feeling of joy and happiness as you roam a fairytale holiday market filled with festive treats.

Germany, Slovakia, Poland, Belgium, Austria, and Hungary are a few countries that put on a Christmas market that would impress the socks off Santa and all his elves. Every country has a unique market with various winter displays, events, parades and food and picking a favorite one is simply impossible.

Shopfronts are decorated in cheery festive Xmas themes that are so beautiful it's hard not to stop at each and every one. Historic architecture makes the perfect backdrop to this dreamy annual event. Many stalls line the streets with welcoming cafes and rustic restaurants dotted all over the place, so it is easy to rest if you get weighed down by all your shopping bags.

Christmas mugs, handmade knick-knacks, souvenirs, ornaments, toys, decorations, fabrics, fashion, food, and more are just some of the buys you will want to take home. Christmas decorations are probably one of the most exciting items at the markets because local artisans make beautiful decorative pieces that you will never find anywhere else. If you are obsessed with Christmas decorations, save a whole section in your suitcase for wooden sleds, nutcracker creations, handprinted trees, sparkly stars and Santa decos that are irresistible.

Delicate snow globes are not easy to travel with but worth the effort. When it comes to Christmas shopping, the European markets have something unique for everyone, even that most hard-to-shop-for person who has everything. If you are on vacation, you will probably be delivering the gifts late this year, but nobody will mind if they get a gorgeous Christmas-inspired gift from Europe.

Sweet treats are a big part of the European Christmas markets which are loaded with delicious temptations. Indulge in icing sugar cookies, crepes, cake, donuts, chocolate and candy. If you don't have a sweet tooth, there's plenty of other scrumptious options like roasted chestnuts, dumplings, soup and gingerbread cookies. You might even discover reindeer sausages or toki pompous (cooked dough with bacon, onion and cream toppings). Drinks with a dash of spice, peppermint or something stronger are great to carry around as you roam the markets.

The daytime and nighttime atmosphere at a Christmas market are quite different, so make sure you explore the markets at both times. During the day, there is a busy vibe as everyone shops and enjoys music with festive food and drink. At night the glow of the lights adds a romantic feel, and the pace of life seems to slow down a little. Locals and tourists linger over meals of traditional Christmas fare and soak up the Xmas atmosphere that surrounds the whole village or city.

An ice skating rink filled with happy children is a breathtaking sight and the little ones will also love to see puppet shows, Father Christmas, and live Christmas performances with all the classics being played. Even if you don't have children with you, your inner child will be thrilled to feel a level of excitement about Christmas that you might not have felt since your youth. Every corner seems to be another picturesque scene of festive yuletide cheer.

Find the nearest church or cathedral near the market because they are sure to be in the holiday spirit with nativity scenes, twinkling lights and Christmas carols. Spend

time reflecting on the rich history of the traditional Christmas markets that originated in Germany hundreds of years ago.

As the snowflakes fall, it is time to dash indoors for one more hot chocolate, glühwein or egg nog next to a Christmas tree adorned with pretty fairy lights. Make sure you take plenty of photos and video to remember this once-in-a-lifetime Christmas holiday experience.

Call us today to discuss what city might be calling your festive soul to visit. While December probably isn't a month you usually travel, this year can be different. We can arrange an amazing European winter vacation, with the highlight being the Christmas markets, faster than a 10-year-old can rip open a gift-wrapped box on Christmas Eve.

