

**HIVE**

**information centres**

*Supporting the Service Community*

# Christmas Markets Guide



*Think Information....*

*Think **HIVE!***



## HIVE BLOGS

Keep your finger on the pulse and sign up for current station and local information. Read about health, education, employment, what's on, discounts, charities, welfare, housing and relocation. It's all covered!

[www.sennelagerhivegermany.blogspot.com](http://www.sennelagerhivegermany.blogspot.com)

[www.brunsummhive.blogspot.com](http://www.brunsummhive.blogspot.com)

[www.shapehive.blogspot.com](http://www.shapehive.blogspot.com)

1. Go to the top left-hand corner of the Blog and enter your email address in the box (not Dii)
2. Respond to the confirmation email which will be sent to you automatically

You will now receive email alerts summarising posts to the Blog. Just click on links to read more!

Other HIVE Blogs can be accessed through the Army website at:  
<https://www.army.mod.uk/personnel-and-welfare/hives/>



<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Introduction to Christmas Markets	4
Christmas in the Netherlands	5
Local Christmas Markets in the Netherlands	6 - 7
Christmas in Belgium	8
Christmas Markets in Belgium	9 - 10
Christmas Traditions in Germany	11
Christmas Markets in Germany	12 - 16
Santa's Journey	17
Postal Dates	17
Useful Websites	17
HIVE Mission Statement & Disclaimer	18

## INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Christmas markets conjure up tempting aromas, magical atmospheres and the festive glow of yester-year in enchanting settings.

Christmas Markets provide opportunity for friends and family to meet up and enjoy hot mulled wine (glühwein) and stroll around the beautifully decorated stalls. These stalls offer handicrafts and gifts, delicious regional specialities and festive baking.

The aromas of hot chestnuts, grilled sausages, lebkuchen and other tasty snacks further enhance the ambience.

Many Christmas Markets start in the last week of November and run through to Christmas Eve or a day or two before. They are usually open daily from 10am to about 8 and 9 pm.

The history of Christmas markets goes back to the Late Middle Ages in the German-speaking part of Europe, and in many parts of the former Holy Roman Empire that includes many eastern regions of France and Switzerland.

Dresden's Strietzelmarkt was first held in 1434, the Christmas markets of Bautzen were first held in 1384 and Frankfurt was first mentioned in 1393. Munich and Augsburg were even older.

The Vienna "December market" was a kind of forerunner of the Christmas market and dates back to 1294. During this period they were simply known as street markets that sold items associated with the celebration of Christmas and overtime have evolved into the 'Traditional Christmas Market'.

One of the longest reigning traditional Christmas Markets in Germany is the Christkindlesmarkt (Christian Children's Market) at Nuremberg, which begins on the first Friday before advent and is an impressive event for all to see. It is a popular place to buy presents for the children and is a perfect opportunity for all the local craftsman and artists to be able to sell their wares.

Traditional music fills the crisp winter air with colourful decorations and toys on sale plus mulled wine and kinderpunch for children to taste and really get into the Christmas spirit.

More information on this event can be found at <http://www.christkindlesmarkt.de/en/>

## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Dutch children in the Netherlands look forward to St. Nicholas Day on 6th December when they eagerly await the arrival of Sinterklaas (Saint Nicholas).

Sinterklaas is a kindly bishop. He wears red robes and a tall, pointed mitre on his head. He travels with his servant called Zwarte Piet (Black Peter). Sinterklaas travels by ship from Spain to Amsterdam's harbour every winter. With him he brings his white horse and a huge sack full of gifts for the children. The mayor and all the people of Amsterdam flock to the harbour to greet Sinterklaas as he arrives. Bells ring out, the people cheer, and a brass band leads a parade through the streets. The parade stops at the royal palace, where the Queen welcomes Sinterklaas.

Families celebrate St. Nicholas Eve at home with lots of good food, hot chocolate, and a letterbanket. This is a "letter cake" made in the shape of the first letter of the family's last name. In some families, each person gets a little letterbanket with their first initial.

Then out come the carefully chosen and wrapped "surprises." Every gift is accompanied by a personal verse written by the giver about the recipient. And even though the gifts are from family and friends, they all are signed "Sinterklaas." No one is supposed to know who really gave the gift.

At the end of the evening, the children set their shoes by the fireplace. The shoes are filled with hay and carrots for the horse. Sinterklaas rides through the streets on St. Nicholas Eve. The children sing songs and tell their parents how well, or how badly, they have behaved throughout the past year. In the morning the well-behaved children awake, their shoes filled with nuts, candy, and other surprises.

Families go to church together on Christmas Eve and then again on Christmas morning. They gather together for a family dinner of roast hare, venison, goose, or turkey. Eggnog and a mulled drink are specially made for this celebration.

December 26th is called Second Christmas Day. Often the family goes out to a restaurant to eat on this day.

## LOCAL CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN THE NETHERLANDS

### **Valkenburg**

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> November – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (city Market)  
Location: Kerststad Valkenburg  
Time: Various (see web link)

Experience a unique Christmas in the caves of Valkenburg. Markets are held in both the Velvet and Municipal caves, make sure you wrap up, it can get cold down there! It is a magical experience not to be missed. You'll also find a small market in the town next to the VVV. The annual 'Christmas Fairytales' parade features beautifully lit floats and dancers in breath-taking costumes.

For more information visit: <https://www.christmastownvalkenburg.com>

### **Magical Maastricht Festival**

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021  
Location: Vrijthof Square, Maastricht

Young and old can have fun on the 800 m2 skating rink. You can admire the Maastricht skyline from the big wheel, while a grand carousel decorated with beautiful, typical Maastricht scenes provides fun for all ages. Stroll through the Christmas market looking for original gifts and enjoy the special performances in the atmospheric Vrijthof pavilion. Take a breather and grab a seat on one of the heated Christmas café terraces and enjoy winter treats like hot chocolate with whipped cream, 'oliebollen' (deep-fried doughnut balls), or mulled wine.

For more information please visit: <https://www.visitmaastricht.com/magical-maastricht>

### **Kerstwereld Rolduc, Kerkrade**

Date: Dec 11 & 12 + Dec 18 & 19 (Weekends only)  
Location: Rolduc Abbey

Kerstwereld (Christmas World) Rolduc usually takes place in the 900-year-old beautiful and unique Abbey however this year will be at the site of the Discovery Museum on the Museumplein in Kerkrade. With more than fifty cosy stalls and church music performed by several choirs from the local area this really is a Christmas treat.

For more information please visit: <https://www.kerstwereldrolduc.nl/nl/home/>

### **Winter time in Heerlen**

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Location: Town centre

Heerlen transforms itself into a magical winter playground with an ice rink and a large ice slide there is lots of fun to be had by all ages. Take a walk round the Christmas stalls, listen to the live music all whilst enjoying delicious food and drinks.

For more information please visit:  
<https://www.visitzuidlimburg.nl/agenda/detail/wintertijd-heerlen/78193/#>

## **Leiden Floating Christmas Market**

Date: TBC

Location: Winkelgebied Nieuwe Rijn, 2312 JB

Leiden stands out as one of the most unique Dutch markets due to the water element. It takes place in the middle of one of Leiden's most lovely canals. From the floating Christmas market to a floating ice rink and choirs all throughout the city to street theatre in the style of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'.

For more information please visit: <https://www.visitleiden.nl/en>

## **Amsterdam Christmas Market**

Date: 11th December – 19th December

There are light festivals and ice rinks open at various dates.

During the Christmas season Amsterdam is the place for winter joy and entertainments for adults and kids. Every year in December the square is transformed into the Amsterdam Christmas village with an ice-skating rink. Sip on mulled wine and stroll along the various booths to look for the perfect gift. With its Light Festivals, Christmas Circus, Fun fairs Amsterdam seems to have lots to offer.

For more information please visit:

<https://amsterdam.org/en/event/119/christmas-market.html>

## **Deventer Dickens Festival**

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

During the annual Dickens Festival more than 950 characters from the famous books of Dickens – Oliver Twist, Marley and Mr. Pickwick, Scrooge – will revive in the streets of Deventer. The festival combines with the Christmas market where there is traditional Dutch food, drinks, and souvenirs. All the shops in Deventer will be open.

For further information please visit: <https://dickensfestijn.nl/>

## **Sittard Winter Dream**

Date: TBC

Wëntjerdrum is the local word for winter dream a festive dream world with a beautifully illuminated marketplace all dressed up in a festive, wintry look, with beautifully-decorated façades and wintry trees along with various attractions for children on the wonderful, historic marketplace. Throughout the city centre, you will find fun winter-related activities, with music and live performances.

For more information please visit: <https://wentjerdrum.nl/>

***For more information and directions to the various squares please visit;***

***<https://www.christmasmarkets.com/location/holland/>***

***or***

***<https://christmasmarketsineurope.com/netherlands-christmas-market-opening-dates/>***

## CHRISTMAS IN BELGIUM

In Belgium there are two main languages, Flemish and Walloon (a version of French) and the two languages are spoken in different regions.

In Flemish Happy Christmas is 'Vrolijk Kerstfeest' and in Walloon 'djoyeus Noyé'.

On Christmas Eve ('Kerstavond' in Flemish and 'le réveillion de Noël' in Walloon), a special meal is eaten by most families. Apéritif and hors d'oeuvres are served, followed by a starter typically of sea-food, followed by a main course of stuffed turkey. The dessert is 'Kerststronk' (Flemish) or 'la bûche de Noël' (Walloon) which is a chocolate Christmas Log made of sponge roll layered with cream, and the outside is covered with chocolate butter cream and made to resemble a bark-covered log.

Children in Belgium have two Christmas visitors, as they do in Netherlands. 6<sup>th</sup> December, 'Sinterklaas/St. Niklaas' (Flemish) or 'Saint Nicholas' (Walloon) brings presents to children. Different regions of Belgium have different customs and traditions about St. Nicholas.

Small presents are left under a tree or in Christmas stockings left near the fire-place and are opened on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.

The traditional Christmas breakfast is the same as the normal Sunday breakfast eaten throughout the year. This is freshly baked crusty rolls with butter & cold meats and/or jam, followed by pastries (similar to Danish pastries) called "koffiekoek(en)" (meaning coffee cake(s) as they are normally eaten with a cup of coffee!).

In Walloon districts (the south of Belgium), a special sweet bread called 'cognou' or 'cognolle' made in a shape that is supposed to be like baby Jesus is eaten for Christmas breakfast.

Some families have Advent Crowns made from fir or leylandii greenery.

## CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN BELGIUM

### **Bruges**

Date: 26th November – 9th January 2022  
Location: Markt 1-5, 8000 Brugge, Belgium  
Time: Monday – Friday 1030 - 2200hrs  
Friday and Saturday 1030 - 2300hrs

Medieval Bruges, with its beautiful setting, is host to one of the most famous Christmas Markets in Belgium, offering the best of winter products, Christmas gifts and warm glühwein and snacks. Stalls can be found on the Market Square and on Simon Stevinplein (Ice Rink).

For more information please visit: <https://allexciting.com/bruges-christmas-market/>

### **Winterland Hasselt**

Date: 20th November – 9th January 2022  
Location: Kolonel Dusartplein, 3500 Hasselt

This is the 13th edition of Winterland Hasselt. Over the years, it has grown from a modest Christmas market to an amazing winter village where even Santa has a house! Winterland will be held in Hasselt, the capital city of Limburg. During this period, the Kolonel Dusartplein will be transformed into a winter wonderland.

For more information please visit: [www.ieper.be](http://www.ieper.be)

### **Brussels**

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November – 2nd January 2022  
Location: Sint-Katelijneplein 40, 1000 Brussel, Belgium

Brussels Christmas Market, the Winter Wonders takes place in the heart of Brussels. Visitors will be enchanted by many aspects of the winter festival including the magical lumière illuminations on the Grand-Place. Attractions include merry-go-rounds on Place Sainte-Catherine, the large wheel and ice rink at Marché aux Poissons, stalls for stocking up on gifts and treats within a 2km trail.

For more information please visit: <https://www.brussels.be/winter-wonders>

### **Liege**

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November – 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
Location: St. Lambert square and the Liège Market Square, Belgium  
Time: Daily from 1100

The Village de Noël de Liège (Christmas Village) has over 200 wooden chalets offering gastronomic specialities, handicrafts and souvenirs. Liege Christmas Village has been running for 30 years and is not only the largest market of its kind in Belgium, but the one with the longest pedigree.

For more information please visit: <https://www.visitezliege.be/en/offre/le-village-de-noel>

## **Mons**

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

Location: Grand Place, Belgium

The Mons Christmas Market is held under the theme “Heart of Snow” (“Coeur de Neige”). There’s a 900m<sup>2</sup> ice skating rink that’s also accessible for people with reduced mobility, as well as a curling piste.

At the Mons Christmas market you will find a big Christmas tree, street artists and around 50 vendor stands where you can buy craft gifts and seasonal products.

For more information please visit: <https://monscoeurenneige.be/>

## **Ghent**

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> December – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Location: Emile Braunplein 39, 9000 Gent

Time: Daily 12:00-00:01

At Ghent Christmas Market, you can enjoy the best of the city's sights, whilst sampling the delights of the region's food and drinks, such as chocolates, cookies and local specialities.

Ghent's city centre receives a Winter Wonderland makeover, with an ice-skating rink set up under the City Pavilion. The giant Ferris wheel located in front of St Bavo's Cathedral allows a panoramic view of the city, whilst the Christmas market with stalls manned by international trader's returns to Korenmarket.

For more information please visit: <https://visit.gent.be/en/calendar/christmas-market>

## **Antwerp**

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2022

Location: Grote Markt, Antwerp

Time: Monday to Thursday 1200 - 2200hrs  
Friday & Saturday 1200 – Midnight

Antwerp Christmas Market at Grote Markt has approximately 90 festive stalls offering all kinds of traditional speciality goods, a range of food and drinks on sale, and nativity scenes, all set amidst the backdrop of Antwerp's historic building. Antwerp's Christmas Market is a very important part of Antwerp's overall 'Winter in Antwerp' festive programme and offers visitors a wonderful Advent experience. The market stretches from Groenplaats through to the Market Square, via Suikerrui to Steenplein, The Groenplaats is adorned with festive Christmas lights with music playing in the background. Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and a glass of Glühwein, a real speciality of the Christmas market in Antwerp. An ice rink is not too far away from the Groenplaats.

For more information please visit: <https://fullsuitcase.com/antwerp-christmas-market/>

***For further information on Christmas Markets in Belgium visit:***  
<https://christmasmarketsineurope.com/belgium-christmas-market-dates/>

## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN GERMANY

### **Advent**

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. Many homes display a circular wreath of decorated pine branches with four candles on it. One candle is lit on the first Sunday in Advent, two on the second Sunday and so on until all four candles are lit on the Sunday before Christmas. Sometimes a large centre candle is lit on Christmas day.

### **St Nicholas' Day**

For children the highlight of Advent is St Nicholas' Day on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Historically on the night of 5<sup>th</sup> December children left out food for St Nicholas' horse. Now they leave their polished boot or shoe outside their door for St Nicholas' visit. In the morning they hope to find it filled with sweets and treats. Good children will receive lots of sweet treats, whilst others may find mainly twigs!

St Nicholas has a long white beard and wears a red robe and a tall mitred hat. He will often make an appearance at fairs and markets and is accompanied by his servant, Knecht Ruprecht.

### **Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve is the main day of the family's celebration. Shops and offices close at mid-day and most people spend the afternoon preparing for the evening celebrations. The children are kept away from the room with the decorated Christmas tree until all the preparations are complete, just after dark. Then the tree lights or candles are lit.

The traditional Christmas meal is eaten on Christmas Eve and features duck, goose, rabbit or a roast. The family may go to church at midnight, or possibly late afternoon, and will spend the evening together and exchange their gifts.

Families with young children generally don't allow them in the living room that afternoon so parents can get everything ready for Father Christmas' arrival. Often there is a knock at the door late afternoon/early evening and the children find Father Christmas has called with gifts.

### **Christmas Day & Boxing Day**

December 25<sup>th</sup> is known as the First Day of Christmas and is a quieter day spent with family with more eating.

Boxing Day, also known as St Stephen's Day, is the Second Day of Christmas and is often spent with friends.

## GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS

### **Essen Weihnachtsmarkt**

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> November – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Under a glittering canopy of 45,000 lights, the 200-plus stalls of the International Christmas market in Essen are packed with fantastic gift ideas and culinary specialities from all over the world. The festively decorated stalls extend from the Willy-Brandt-Platz, along the Rathenaustraße, to the Kennedyplatz, the Flachsmarkt up to the Markt.

Set out on a journey into the past in the medieval market; at the Great Cathedral; and experience the true meaning of Advent at the nativity play (Krippenspiel). The illuminations from the Essen Festival of Lights and the avenues of conical lights are magnificent to behold.

The 500-year-old tradition comes to life once again in the Nativity land of Essen. On your way through the city, you can discover wonderful Nativity scenes at 20 locations of peace and contemplation. You will sometimes even have angels showing you the way.

For more information visit:

[https://www.visitessen.de/essentourismus\\_veranstaltungen/essen\\_weihnachten\\_startseite.en.html](https://www.visitessen.de/essentourismus_veranstaltungen/essen_weihnachten_startseite.en.html)

### **Dortmund Weihnachtsmarkt**

Date: 18th November – 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Location: Hansaplatz, 44137, Dortmund

The world's tallest Christmas tree stands in Hansaplatz every year. In total, 1,700 fir trees soar 45 metres into the sky and a 4-meter tall angel crowns the top. Around 48,000 lights beam festive illumination for all who come to delight in the holiday spirit of the Dortmund Christmas Market.

With around 300 stands, this market is amongst the largest and most popular in Germany.

Besides typical Christmas items, there are numerous other arts and crafts from various cultures around the world. To round off the experience, a diverse array of culinary delights and traditional mulled wine (Glühwein) stands offer some delicious treats.

For more information visit: <https://weihnachtsstadt-do.de/>

## **Düsseldorf Weihnachtsmarkt**

Date: 18th November – 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021

A stroll through the city centre during the pre-Christmas time is a wonderful experience. Unlike in other cities, the atmospheric Christmas market in Düsseldorf is not staged centrally as a large funfair, but rather individually at different locations in the lively city centre.

On the market square in front of the historic Town Hall (Rathaus) several artisans present their goods in nostalgic stalls. One of them is a nativity carver from Bethlehem who produces life-size figurines from olive wood. At the Flinger Strasse, the Christmas wares on offer are hand-painted replicas of Düsseldorf town houses.

For more information visit: <https://www.duesseldorf-tourismus.de/en/our-top-events/duesseldorf-christmas-market/>

## **Aachen Weihnachtsmarkt**

Date: 19th November – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Location: Friedrich-Wilhelm-Platz, 52062, Aachen

Every year the squares and streets around Aachen's Cathedral and Town Hall are transformed into a glittering spectacle with lights and festive aromas. The enchanting "Christmas village" is a popular destination for tourists.

There is a traditional carousel for the children, as well as delicious local delicacies from Potato fritters, to "Spekulatius" (Spiced Cookies) and marzipan bread which are distributed all over the world.

For more information visit: <https://www.aachen-tourismus.de/en/discover/events/aachen-christmas-market/>

## **Monchau Weihnachtsmarkt**

Date: 19th November – 19th December 2021 (Weekends only)

Location: Marktplatz 52156 Monschau

Time: Daily from 1100hrs

Monschau Christmas Market stalls are so pretty they entice to shop or to linger. The local shops, restaurants, galleries, antique shops etc fit perfectly into the pre-Christmas spirit. There is a House of Christmas in Monschau open throughout the months of March to December, this building offers Christmas decorations for sale on all 3 floors.

For more information please visit: <https://www.solosophie.com/monschau-christmas-market/>

## **Soest Weihnachtsmarkt**

Date: 22nd November – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Location: Rathausstraße, 59494, Soest

Enjoy the beautiful Christmas atmosphere in the historic town of Soest. Framing on one of the most beautiful places in Westphalia, impressive green sandstone churches and historic buildings surround 90 lovingly decorated wooden houses between the Cathedral, City Hall, St Peters Church and Market Square.

On the romantic walk of Vreithof; meander in to quaint, inviting, illuminated stalls offering baked goods and hot food to the visitors. Hot wine and brandy punch are served against the cold. Other stalls complete the typical Christmas market town program by selling Christmas crafts and products. The Christmas market has a long tradition and gets its visitors into the mood for the festive season.

For more information visit: <http://www.soester-weihnachtsmarkt.de/>

## **Münster Weihnachtsmarkt**

Date: 22nd November – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Location: PrinzipalMarkt, Münster

Münster's Christmas Market becomes more festive and more fairy-tale like every year. Set against the charming backdrop of the illuminated old quarter, its five Christmas Markets are all within a stone's throw away from each other.

There are 300 stalls in all, offering a huge range of toys, decorations and crafts, as well as sweets, treats, snacks and hot drinks.

For more information visit:

<https://www.stadt-muenster.de/en/weihnachtsmarkt/home.html>

## **Köln Weihnachtsmarkt**

Date: 18th November – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Location: Köln City Centre

The aroma of baked apples, cinnamon biscuits and mulled wine will waft through the alleys, and many differently themed Christmas markets will invite people to stroll, shop and explore. The booths near Cologne Cathedral are arranged around a huge Christmas tree, next to which is a stage for a diverse programme of live music performances. At the "Heimat der Heinzel" (Home of the Heinzelmannchen) on Heumarkt, visitors will be thrilled to find a spectacular skating rink. But Cologne has many other smaller Christmas markets that have plenty to offer:

The "Markt der Engel" (Angel Market) on Neumarkt will treat you to a magnificently shining sea of stars, while the "Nikolausdorf" (St. Nick's Village) on Rudolfplatz will create a family-friendly atmosphere.

Between Rudolfplatz and Schaafenstraße is the gay-lesbian Christmas Avenue market, where everyone can enjoy a party atmosphere and a diverse programme of stage events.

At the Harbour Christmas Market next to the Chocolate Museum you can look forward to a maritime ambience. And if you prefer a more idyllic setting, you shouldn't miss the Christmas market in the Stadtgarten, where more unusual handicrafts will be sold.

For more information visit: <https://www.weihnachtsmarkt-stadtgarten.de/>

## **Berlin Weihnachtsmarkt**

Date: 22nd November – 31st December 2021

Location: Throughout the city

Whether you prefer a magical traditional market or a livelier and more urban one Berlin can offer them all. Meander around the many stalls and discover their magical charm, and unique items. Stroll through the large boulevards and squares as well as on the small side streets and even in a handful of museums.

The Charlottenburg Castle Christmas Market in Berlin is host to one of the most famous Christmas markets in Berlin. The castle and its park are aglow in a romantic light where approximately 150 vendors sell their wares.

Experience a Nordic-Scandinavian Christmas Market, the Lucia Market, at the Kulturbrauerei (Cultural Brewery). Situated in the Prenzlauer Berg district of Berlin, you'll find 20 historic buildings and 6 charming courtyards.

Looking for a nostalgic Christmas Market? You'll find this between the Staatsoper and Opernpalais. Traditional confectioners, craftspeople and candle makers offer their wares in more than 200 enchanting wooden huts. Children will love the crib with real animals and a wooden horse carousel. For more information visit: <https://www.weihnachtsmarkt-berlin.de/>

## Schloss Merode Weihnachtsmarkt

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> November – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021  
Location: 52379 Langerwehe-Merode

At 5pm, 6pm and 7pm, the Christmas market angel appears at the highest window of the castle to recount the story of the Nativity. At this time, all the guests are invited to sing carols in the castle courtyard. Varied musical programme (choirs, musicians, fanfare and brass-band), Children's carousel, Punch-and-Judy shows, Nativity scene with live animals, rounded off with a live trumpet solo "Silent Night" on the Castle bridge on market days.

For more information please visit: <https://www.weihnachtsmarkt-merode.de/>

## Rothenburg Ob Der Tauber

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021  
Location: Reiterlesmarkt, 91541 Rothenburg

Massive stone town walls studded with 42 towers; half-timbered houses with red-tiled roofs; cobblestone streets and flower-filled window boxes: That is Rothenburg ob der Tauber, located on the famous Romantic Road. A local specialty that shouldn't be missed is the "Schneeball" or snow ball, made from strips of sweet dough fried and covered with powdered sugar or chocolate. Rothenburg ob der Tauber is also home to the German Christmas Museum. To complement this winter fairy-tale, a varied programme of entertainment runs until the New Year.

For more information visit: <https://www.rothenburg-tourismus.de/en/veranstaltungen/rothenburgs-historical-christmas-market/>

## Würzburg Weihnachtsmarkt

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November - 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021  
Location: Upper and Lower Market Square, Eichhornstraße

In the heart of Würzburg's Old Town one of Germany's most picturesque and enchanting Christmas Markets attracts thousands of visitors every year. The Christmas market's tradition dates to the early 19th century. The historic market square with its Gothic Chapel of St Mary and its abundance of Baroque architecture provide a scenic backdrop for some 100 wooden stalls.

For more information visit: <http://www.wuerzburg.de/en/visitors/christmas-market/index.html>

***For more information on other Christmas markets throughout Germany visit:***

<https://happytowander.com/german-christmas-market-opening-dates/>

## SANTA'S JOURNEY

From 1<sup>st</sup> December, you can track Santa on his magical journey across the World.

Visit: [www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org)

Make Christmas magical using Portable North Pole to receive a personalised message, video or phone call from Father Christmas himself.

Visit: <https://www.portablenorthpole.com/en/>

You can also track Santa on Google Santa Tracker as he makes his journey around the world.

Visit: <https://santatracker.google.com/#village>

## POSTAL DATES FOR CHRISTMAS

Please visit the following website for the 'Last Dates of Posting' document.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/837858/Christmas\\_postage\\_announcement\\_2019\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/837858/Christmas_postage_announcement_2019_.pdf)

Sending a letter to Santa:

Santa/Father Christmas,  
Santa's Grotto,  
Reindeerland,  
XM4 5HQ

For further information regarding letters to Father Christmas visit:

<http://www.royalmail.com/letters-to-santa>

## USEFUL WEBSITES

[www.germany.travel](http://www.germany.travel)

[www.germany-christmas-market.org.uk](http://www.germany-christmas-market.org.uk)

[www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)

<http://www.holland.com/global/tourism.htm>

<http://www.christmasmarkets.com/location/holland/>

<http://www.visitbelgium.com/>

<http://www.christmasmarkets.com/location/belgium/>

<http://uk.france.fr/>

<http://www.christmasmarkets.com/location/France/>



## MISSION STATEMENT

HIVE Information Centres support the Chain of Command and Service Communities through the provision of up to date and relevant information.

## DISCLAIMER

The content of any brochures or advertisement displayed in the HIVE does not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of HM Government, the Ministry of Defence or Army HIVE.  
The accuracy of brochures displayed is not guaranteed.

We make every effort to ensure that our information is current and correct. Your help is invaluable in keeping materials up to date. Please share any additional information with us and inform us if you think any changes should be made.

Contact details can be found on the previous page of this booklet.