

Best European Christmas Markets 2018

With only 42 sleeps left till Christmas day, it's time to grab your passport, prep your Instagram, put on your bobble hat, and head to one of Europe's best Christmas markets!

The Christmas market has become a key ingredient of Europe's festivities with capital cities and smaller towns joining in the craze with tastefully decorated market stalls covered in lights and native treats!

From the medieval streets of Prague to story-book surroundings of Copenhagen's fairytale winterscape and everywhere in between, *MyHolidayGuru* reveals the best European Christmas Markets, giving you the chance to combine an indulgent city break with festive shopping for more exotic and yuletide gifts.

Best for German Jingling all the way: Nuremberg, Germany

There are many contenders across Germany, but *Christkindlesmarkt* in Bavaria's medieval city wins the crown for the country's most famous market. The resplendent stalls dotted around the city's medieval squares offer *lebkuchen* (famous local gingerbread), chubby little bratwurst sausages and piping hot *glühwein* (mulled wine) booths. Winter in Nuremberg is crisp and chilly, but meandering through its Gothic streets that whisper about secrets of a tumultuous past, with a hot mug of sweet wine will keep your spirits high!

Best for Luxury: Vienna, Austria

Vienna is one of Europe's most enchanting and elegant cities to celebrate the festive season. Indulge in the classic café culture by sampling freshly baked pastries at Vienna's ubiquitous *Christkindlmarkts* or warm up with a spin on the ice-rink in the *Rathausplatz!* The imperial architecture and the old-world charm of the streets basked in sparkling lights give the city a magical appeal and makes for a wonderful backdrop for a fun-filled winter break. Be sure you book a ticket at one of the legendary Christmas concerts which take place in the city's magnificent churches!

Best value for money in 2018: Tallinn, Estonia

At *MyHolidayGuru* we keep a close eye on the best value winter escapes and with our expert knowledge we recommend Tallinn as the answer to a bargain dreamy white Christmas! Step in to a Christmas card as you wander past Tallinn's unspoilt 15th century buildings blanketed with snow. With over 60 small wooden huts selling handcrafted wreaths, sheepskin rugs and Russian fur hats, Rotermann Square is the place to cosy up with hot *sauerkraut* soup and Estonian spiced wine.

The highlight? The Christmas tree, of course! Tallinn has been raising it in front of its town hall since 1441, making it the first tree to ever be displayed in Europe.

Best for more than one market: Cologne, Germany

With no more fewer than seven jolly *Weinachten* markets, Cologne is a winner for magnitude! The most famous market takes place in the shadow of the colossal Cathedral in *Roncalliplatz*. You can't miss the gorgeous candy-coloured square or resist the aromas of sizzling sausages and winter spices! Nestled in the heart of the hipster Belgian district, *Stadtgarten* Christmas market transforms into a romantic hamlet with fairly-lit chalets – a treasure trove for lovers!

Best Fairy-tale Setting: Copenhagen

If Copenhagen is said to be a fairy-tale, then we know where Hans Christian Andersen got his inspiration from! The perfect Scandinavian atmosphere is created with over 500,000 lights that light up the winter darkness at Tivoli Gardens. This scandi-chic market is home to spectacular festive concerts, classic rides, and sweet little stalls selling home-made crafts and tree ornaments. *MyHolidayGuru* recommends sipping some spiced *gløgg* and promenading along the Nyhavn Harbour for the perfect Nordic Christmas.

Best for keeping festive vibes going post-Christmas: Prague

The Gothic fairy-tale of Europe - Prague's Christmas markets are a feast for both your eyes and belly. Prepare to indulge Czech delicacies such as spit-roasted hams or *Trdelník*, a traditional hot sugar-coated pastry, as you fall in love with the charms of wooden huts sprinkled throughout the Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square. The UNESCO-protected medieval Old Town that seems straight out of the pages of a children's storybook is adorned with hundreds of lights and the beautifully decorated wooden huts are jam-packed with festive goodies!

Best for Romance: Lake Como, Italy

Take the plunge and head for the glamour of Italy's romantic playground for the rich and famous. The wish-bone shaped glistening lake and snow-capped mountains serve as a dramatic backdrop to an open-air ice-skating rink and a nostalgic cluster of lantern-draped stalls selling sumptuous Italian treats. Venture a little further from the jaw-droppingly beautiful waterfront in to *Piazza del Duomo*, where festive illuminations will draw your eyes from wall-to-wall. Snuggle up in a cosy restaurant for an aperitivo as you gaze at the milky lights of the town rippling in the waters under the dark sky.

Best for Traditionalists: Marché de Noël Cathédrale, France

Proudly standing as the oldest Christmas market in France, *Marché de Noël* was first held in the city in 1570. Today, in the shadow of the magnificent Strasbourg Cathedral, you'll find

nearly 300 pretty wooden stalls packed with lovely tree ornaments, eye-catching Nativity figurines, and heart-warming specialties such as roasted chestnuts and *bredele* cookies.

Best for staying put: London, England

As the setting of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, the capital is brimming with light-lined shopping streets, Victorian-themed events, and sweet winter scents that bring back childhood memories! Get into the holiday spirit at Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland, attend a memorable performance at St Paul's Cathedral and shop for last-minute goodies in Knightsbridge or Camden! As a born and bred Londoner, the best way to experience Christmas begins with gazing at the fabulous window displays, before heading to South Bank to revel in the festive cheer and ending the evening in a candle-lit hideaway bar!

About myholidayguru.co.uk

Founded in 2014, MyHolidayguru searches daily for the British holidaymakers and adventure seekers. In 4 years, Myholidayguru has gained over 539.4k fans on Facebook and over 3k followers on Instagram, with a team of six people from across Ireland and the UK.

Our origin is due to the success of the blog holidayguru.com which has become one of the most popular travel blogs in the country. We have a presence in 10 countries, with our headquarters in Holzwickede (Germany).

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