A Magical Christmas
Christmas Market Guide
Baden-Württemberg

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Stuttgart

November 25 to December 23

Stuttgart's Christmas market is one of the biggest and oldest in Germany. Spread over several squares in the beautifully illuminated city center, the market stretches from Königsbau and the baroque Neues Schloss (New Palace) to Karlsplatz and Schillerplatz, with its medieval Altes Schloss (Old Castle), all the way to the market square. The most beautiful and atmospheric markets are those at Karlsplatz and Schillerplatz, with the old castle and surrounding alleys! The courtyard of the old castle sparkles with lights, and every evening there are free concerts of Christmas music. Don't hesitate to visit!

Wherever you walk, always look up. The Stuttgart Christmas market is famous for its Budendächer, the imaginatively decorated roofs on each of the almost 300 stalls. The façade of Stuttgart's town hall, which has been transformed into a giant Advent calendar, is also something special.

A special tip:
The Finnish Christmas village is located at the very end of Karlsplatz. Here you can enjoy delicious glögi, a hot punch with Finnish spices. You can warm up in the tepee and eat delicious salmon cooked over an open fire. A wide variety of Finnish products are sold in the pop-up store.

> Stuttgart Christmas Market
> Schlossplatz
> 70173 Stuttgart
> www.stuttgarter-weihnachtsmarkt.de/en/home/



© Susanne Maier

Karlsruhe

November 23 to December 23

During the Advent and Christmas season, Karlsruhe transforms into an ideal place for all Christmas market lovers. The Christkindlesmarkt takes place on two different squares. The lovingly decorated stalls are located around the mulled wine pyramid on the market square. The Ferris wheel high above the rooftops also provides a wonderful view of the Christkindlesmarkt and the Christmas atmosphere in Karlsruhe. Another highlight is that Santa Claus hovers over the market square twice a day.
Friedrichsplatz transforms into a romantic forest Christmas. The covered “Karls-Ruhe-Plätzles” seating areas invite you to linger. If you are still looking for a gift, you will find it here, as numerous stalls offer exquisite handicrafts. There is also something for the little ones. Every year, St. Stephan's church square is transformed into a magical children's land that makes children's hearts beat faster. A small steam locomotive cheerfully makes its rounds and, together with the lovingly staged fairytale scenes, transforms the square into a children's wonderland.

On one of the largest open-air ice rinks in Germany, against the unique backdrop of the impressive Karlsruhe Palace, you can go ice skating or try your hand at curling.

Tip:
The Karlsruhe Christmas Circus takes place at the same time as the Christkindelmarkt, rounding off the Christmas experience. For those who can't get enough, there is also a medieval Christmas market in neighboring Durlach.

> Karlsruhe Christmas Market
> Marktplatz
> 76133 Karlsruhe
> Karlsruhe: Veranstaltungskalender - Karlsruher Christkindlesmarkt



© KTG-Karlsruhe Tourismus GmbH, Foto: Bruno Kelzer

Heidelberg

November 23 to December 22

The romantic city of Heidelberg is magical during Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas. With its world-famous castle ruins on a hill and the Baroque Old Town below, the backdrop to the Heidelberg Christmas Market is one of the most beautiful in Germany. From late November onwards, you can immerse yourself in the Christmas spirit. Spread over six historic squares, 140 stalls and wooden pavilions offer unique local crafts and traditional Christmas delicacies. Each square has its own character. The Kornmarkt, for example, has a mini woodland with fir trees, and the Universitätsplatz a merry-go-round. You can also skate on the special ice rink at Karlsplatz, just below the picturesque castle.

Tip:
On all Advent Saturdays, the Advent guided tour takes place at 4:30 p.m., providing interesting facts about the region's Christmas and pre-Christmas traditions.
Parts of the Christmas market are also open until January 1, including the ice rink on Karlsplatz.

> Heidelberg Christmas Market
> Bismarckplatz
> 69115 Heidelberg-Altstadt
> www.heidelberg-marketing.de/en/event/heidelberg-christmas-market



© DZT, Francesco Carovillano

Freiburg

November 19 to December 23

With over 120 lovingly decorated stalls, the Freiburg Christmas market offers an atmospheric mix of arts and crafts, culinary delights and a festive atmosphere. It has been an integral part of the pre-Christmas season in the region for decades.

At seven locations in and around the old town - including Rathausplatz, Kartoffelmarkt, Franziskanerstrasse and Colombipark - visitors can expect a wide range of activities for young and old. Twinkling lights, the scent of fir trees and candlelight transform the city center into a festive winter wonderland.

Whether it's a family outing, a short break from the working day or a relaxed evening stroll, the Freiburger Christmas market offers special moments at any time of the day. Between handmade gift ideas, nostalgic toys and fragrant classics such as crêpes, mulled wine and roasted almonds, you can enjoy the pre-Christmas season to the fullest.

> Freiburger Christmas Market
> 79098 Freiburg
> Christmas Market Freiburg



© TMBW, Foto: Christoph Düpper

Ulm

November 23 to December 22

The perfect Christmas atmosphere awaits at the foot of Ulm Minster once again this year. Around the world's second-tallest church tower, lovingly decorated stalls present genuine handicrafts, all kinds of Christmas decorations, gift ideas and culinary specialties. Countless lights put the majestic Christmas tree in the right light. It stands right next to the living nativity scene with real animals. Additional highlights await families with the fairytale forest, children's merry-go-round and romantic yurt.

> Ulm Christmas Market
> Münsterplatz
> 89073 Ulm
> https://www.ulmer-weihnachtsmarkt.de/



© Ulmer Weihnachtsmarkt, Johannes Glöggler

Heilbronn

November 24 to December 22

Following Heinrich von Kleist's play ‘Das Käthchen von Heilbronn”, Heilbronn's Christmas market opens its doors once again in the run-up to Christmas. More than 60 stalls await visitors on Kiliansplatz and the surrounding pedestrianised paths, tempting them with handcrafted treasures, useful items and loving gifts for loved ones. The market also features a romantic ice rink that invites you to linger and enjoy the atmosphere.

A special highlight for visitor groups:
Every Monday to Friday, the ice rink is transformed into a curling rink from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Up to nine people per team can put their marksmanship to the test. The necessary equipment is provided. Sturdy shoes are recommended.

Käthchen Christmas Market Heilbronn
Marktplatz
74072 Heilbronn
https://www.heilbronn.de/tourismus/veranstaltung.de



©Heilbronn-Marketing-GmbH-Juergen-Haeffner

Ludwigsburg

November 24 to December 22

The Baroque Christmas market in the centre of Ludwigsburg, 15 minutes north of Stuttgart, leaves nothing to be desired. Around 150 lovingly decorated wooden stalls offer Christmas decorations, handmade candles, jewellery and much more. While you browse and enjoy, angels light up the baroque market square with their sparkling wings.

> Ludwigsburg Christmas Market
> Marktplatz
> 71634 Ludwigsburg
> Ludwigsburg Baroque Christmas Market | Travel Ludwigsburg | Ludwigsburg



© TMBW, Foto: Christoph Düpper

Konstanz

November 26 to December 23

The Constance Christmas Market is one of a kind. Where else would you find a Christmas boat moored to the quayside, with a 360° panoramic bar and a view of the lake and the snow-covered Alps? On shore, 100,000 lights, 10,000 gift ideas and 170 tempting stands await you, stretching around the concert shell and along the lakeshore to the decorated old town. But there's so much more, from top-class classical concerts to cultural events and special museum exhibitions. On the water, take an Advent cruise and enjoy coffee and cake aboard festively decorated BSB boats. The island of Mainau, famous for its flowers, offers the warmth of a spectacular butterfly greenhouse and indoor palm grove. Spend some time at SEA LIFE Konstanz, an award-winning aquarium. Or explore the city's alleyways with a guide dressed as a medieval knight!

> Konstanz Christmas Market
> Konzilstraße
> 78462 Konstanz
> https://weihnachtsmarkt-am-see.de/



© MTK, Leo Leister

Baden-Baden

November 26 to January 6

With its spas and museums, restaurants and boutiques, Baden-Baden is a major attraction all year round. But when it's decked out in its finest finery, this elegant seaside resort takes on a very special dimension. The Christmas market is held in the Kurpark, in front of the Kurhaus, right in the heart of the town. With the Kurhaus as a backdrop, candles flicker and lights twinkle, while more than 100 beautifully decorated wooden stalls offer arts, crafts and unusual local gifts.

The smell of mulled wine, roasted chestnuts and gingerbread is mouth-watering. Children are not to be outdone: At various craft stations, they can create Christmas-themed artworks and bake their own Christmas biscuits in the children’s bakery. Every day, the open-air stage hosts concerts and children's choirs.

> Baden-Baden Christmas Market
> Kurhaus
> Kaiserallee 1
> 76530 Baden-Baden
> www.baden-baden.com/en/events/baden-baden-christmas-market



© Baden-Baden Tourismus GmbH, V. Behringer

Bruchsal

November 23 to December 30

The Christmas Market in Bruchsal invites you to enjoy the Advent season in a festive atmosphere. Around the impressive Christmas pyramid, various music groups and choirs from local schools and kindergartens create a magical setting. For children, a special highlight is the visit from Saint Nicholas. At the many stands, visitors can find hearty dishes, sweet treats, and unique gift ideas. After the holidays, the market transforms into a winter market, perfect for ending the year in a cozy, social atmosphere.

Tip:
An Advent market is also held in the courtyard of Bruchsal Castle on the second and third weekends in Advent. The historic backdrop of the baroque palace then shines in a magical sea of lights, creating a romantic Christmas atmosphere.

> Christmas Market Bruchsal
> Otto-Oppenheimer-Platz and Kübelmarkt.
> Kaiserstraße 66
> 76646 Bruchsal
> Weihnachtsmarkt | Stadt Bruchsal



©Kraichgau-Stromberg Tourismus e.V.-Carsten Götze

Schwäbisch Hall

November 26 to December 20

The market square, St. Michael's Church and the picturesque alleyways of Schwäbisch Hall invite you to enjoy a cosy pre-Christmas season. The tantalising aroma of roasted almonds and mulled wine attracts visitors to the festively decorated stalls, which offer a variety of Christmas treats, handicrafts and original gift ideas.

> Schwäbisch Hall Christmas Market
> At market 9
> 74523 Schwäbisch Hall
> Weihnachtszauber: Stadt Schwäbisch Hall (schwaebischhall.de)



Foto: Nico Kurth

Calw

November 26 to November 29

Calw's market square, with its charming historical backdrop, is the ideal place to get in the mood for the festive Advent season. A stroll through the festively decorated alleyways of the old town, past magically illuminated half-timbered houses, is an unforgettable Christmas experience. Add to this the heavenly aroma of freshly baked biscuits and mulled wine, which are offered alongside wooden figures and sausage and cheese specialties from over 80 lovingly decorated stalls. Festive musical performances accompany the events and make a visit to the Calw Christmas market unique.

> City center Calw
> Marktplatz 9
> 75365 Calw
> Weihnachtsmarkt "Märchenhaftes Calw"



© Manuel Kamuf, Lightworkart

Gengenbach

November 27 to December 23

What makes Gengenbach so special? After all, the other towns in the Black Forest are charming, with their half-timbered houses and cobbled streets. But nowhere else can you boast the world's largest annual Advent calendar. In fact, it's the town hall, where 24 backlit “windows” display the “days” leading up to Christmas. Every evening at 6 p.m., everyone gathers in front of the 200-year-old baroque façade. Suddenly, the darkness is broken by blue, red and silver lights on the stone statues. A spotlight shines on a single window; the blind rises to reveal a new “window” to the applause of the crowd below. Over the past twenty years, the windows have paid tribute to internationally renowned names. In 2017, Andy Warhol was honored, as were Marc Chagall, Tomi Ungerer and Otmar Alt, a German artist known for his vivid colors. Finally, on December 24, all the windows were open. The town hall, a “treasure trove of fantasy”, is the world's largest annual Advent calendar. Music, mulled wine, food and games, as well as the Advent market in the main square, make for a wonderful family evening.

Gengenbach Christmas Market
Gengenbach historic market square
Victor-Kretz-Straße
77723 Gengenbach
https://www.gengenbach.info/gengenbach-entdecken/adventskalender-1



© Dieter Wissing

Esslingen

November 24 to December 22

Every year at Christmas time, Esslingen am Neckar just outside Stuttgart awakes in the Middle Ages and the clocks are turned back some 600 years.
With around 180 market stalls and a varied cultural program, the medieval and Christmas market brings medieval life to the town for four weeks.

Magnificent half-timbered houses and romantic alleyways provide the backdrop for one of the largest and most eventful Christmas markets in the region. Renowned artists from all over Europe provide a daily changing cultural and entertainment program with wit and mischief on four stages and in the alleyways, in which the audience is actively involved. Demonstrating craftsmen such as pewterers, felt makers, broom makers and scissor grinders show traditional craftsmanship from long-forgotten times. Some of them can also be tried out for themselves.

Not only medieval enthusiasts will get their money's worth: the Esslingen Christmas market also offers a wide range of handmade goods. Christmas decorations, nativity figures, light houses made of clay, nostalgic toys, colorful felted hats, natural clothing, furs, jewelry and much more are sold here.

A little tip:
The Christmas market is less crowded on weekdays. It's also a good idea to take the S-Bahn, which only takes 15 minutes from Stuttgart to Esslingen.

> Esslingen Christmas Market and Medieval Market
> Marktplatz
> 73728 Esslingen am Neckar
> www.esslingen-info.com/en/events/esslingen-christmas-medievalmarket



© Maximilian Schwarz

Bad Wimpfen

November 27 to November 29, December 4 to December 6 and December 11 to December 13

In the listed old town of Bad Wimpfen, the Old German Christmas Market transforms the Staufer castle complex into an atmospheric, pre-Christmas setting every year. With its medieval flair, it is one of the most beautiful markets in Germany and abroad.
Half-timbered houses glow with fairy lights, the aroma of delicacies fills the air and numerous arts and crafts stalls invite you to browse. There are little presents for children from the Christ Child and St. Nicholas. The supporting program offers highlights for all age groups, including night watchman tours and musical performances. The gourmet village in the Wormser Hof is a special experience. Visitors can look forward to culinary delicacies there.

Tip:
On November 25, the fanfare procession ceremonially opens the market. Afterwards, the town governor, the Christ Child, St. Nicholas and the guardsmen parade onto the town hall square. The town governor presents the historic town privilege from 1487.

> Bad Wimpfen Christmas Market
> Historic Old Town
> 74206 Bad Wimpfen
> Weihnachtsmarkt Bad Wimpfen – Der älteste Weihnachtsmarkt in Deutschland



© Stadt Bad Wimpfen

Tübingen

First week of December – chocolART (International Chocolate Festival)

December 11 to December 13 - Christmas Market

In Tübingen, 30 minutes south of Stuttgart, the Christmas market is held in mid-December, on the third weekend of Advent. This historic city, which boasts one of Germany's oldest universities (1477), is well worth a visit. In the first week of December, everything in the historic old town revolves around chocolate, as this is when the international chocolate festival takes place with around 90 exclusive chocolatiers and manufacturers from all over the world.
On the third weekend of Advent, the atmosphere on the historic market square becomes romantic. Over 350 light-decorated stalls sell homemade gifts and food from locals and artists.

Tip:
The Neckar Bridge offers a wonderful view of the old town.

> Tübingen Christmas Market
> Altstadt/Holzmarkt,
> 72070 Tübingen
> https://www.chocolart.de/
> www.tuebingen-info.de/veranstaltungen/tuebinger-weihnachtsmarkt-fcc1b26a75



© Verkehrsverein Tübingen, Foto Barbara Honner

Schwetzingen

November 26 to December 20 – every weekend

The Electoral Christmas Market around the imposing Schwetzingen Palace is an atmospheric highlight of the Advent season. On all four Advent weekends, the festively illuminated courtyard of honor, the gleaming palace façade and the enchanting palace square are transformed into a romantic winter backdrop. Between artfully decorated stalls, the scent of mulled wine and roasted almonds, it is a wonderful place to stroll and enjoy. The nostalgic carousel and the train will not only make children's eyes light up. An entertaining program of concerts, theater performances and Christmas events at Schwetzingen Palace will get you in the mood for the most contemplative time of the year.

Tip:
On the first weekend of Advent, Schwetzingen's twin towns provide international flair with typical local products and food.

> Electoral Christmas Market
> Schloss and Schlossgarten
> Schlossstraße 2
> 68723 Schwetzingen
> www.visit-schwetzingen.de/en/pleasure-tradition/christmas-market



© Stadt Schwetzingen, Foto: Tobias Schwerdt

Hohenzollern Castle

November 20 to January 10

Closed: Every Monday | 23.-25.12. | 31.12. | 01.01

When it comes to fairytale castles, Hohenzollern Castle is not far away. One hour south-west of Stuttgart, near Tübingen, towers one of the ancestral homes of the Hohenzollern imperial family and the Prussian family. From the castle, you have a fantastic view over the Swabian Alb.
The Royal Winter Magic is not a classic Christmas market, but a very elaborately designed special exhibition inside and outside the castle. It offers a Christmas atmosphere in a historical setting. Visitors can explore the castle and the halls and be whisked away into the Christmas world of royalty and majesty. As dusk falls, the facades in the castle courtyard are regularly illuminated. Tickets are required for the Royal Winter Magic.

Tip:
It is recommended to buy a ticket early, preferably the online ticket. There is also a shuttle bus to the castle.

> Hohenzollern Castle
> 72379 Burg Hohenzollern
> Royal Winter Magic - Burg Hohenzollern



© Burg Hohenzollern, Foto: Roland Beck

Stettenfels Castle

November 27 to November 29 and Decmber 19 to December 20

On a hill overlooking the vineyards of Untergruppenbach, near Heilbronn, the 1,000-year-old Burg (castle) can be seen in the distance. Here, 45 minutes northeast of Stuttgart, you can step back in time on the first and last weekend of Advent. In the well-preserved castle courtyard and former moat, traditional craftsmen in medieval costumes display their wares. Jugglers and minstrels entertain; noblemen and women stroll about in medieval dress. Smells of spices and wood smoke fill the air, while hot mead keeps the cold at bay. Prepared according to ancient recipes, dishes include grilled game, suckling pig and pastries. Shop for unique clothing, accessories and Christmas gifts. It all adds up to a very special atmosphere.

> Stettenfels Castle
> Burg Stettenfels 4
> 74199 Untergruppenbach
> https://www.burg-stettenfels.de/veranstaltungen-detail.php?id=1579



© Burg Stettenfels

Klosterhof Maulbronn

December 5 and 6

Against the impressive backdrop of the UNESCO World Heritage Maulbronn Monastery, the monastery courtyard is transformed into a festive winter wonderland on the second weekend of Advent. Over 100 lovingly decorated stalls offer handmade gift ideas, artisan products, Christmas treats and regional specialties. Visitors can look forward to an atmospheric supporting program with storytelling sessions, musical performances and a festive music service in the monastery church. You can immerse yourself in the past and experience life in the monastery on a guided tour.

> Kloster Maulbronn
> Klosterhof 5
> 75433 Maulbronn
> www.maulbronn.de/de/leben-wohnen/veranstaltungskalender/5823/weihnachtsmarkt-im-klosterhof



© Kraichgau-Stromberg Tourismus e.V., Foto: PuraMedia

Ravenna Gorge Christmas Market

November 26 to December 20

Weekends only, Tickets are necessary

Planning a pre-Christmas winter vacation in the Black Forest? About 30 minutes east of Freiburg, the small town of Hinterzarten is famous for its Christmas market in the nearby Ravennaschlucht Gorge. With the railway viaduct rising above it, it has a truly special and romantic atmosphere, especially at dusk. The market is open on all four Advent weekends.

From Hinterzarten, you can hike to the Christmas market via the Ravenna Gorge. The hike takes about an hour. However, guided hikes or romantic torch-lit walks are also offered.

The Christmas market sells handicrafts, unique handmade items from the region and, of course, specialties from the Black Forest. The Hofgut Sternen offers a wonderful opportunity to warm up. It is a traditional family inn located next to the Christmas market. The guest book reads like a history book: from Marie Antoinette to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, many famous personalities have signed it.
The best view of the market is from the top of the small hill next to the entrance.

Tip:
Visitors who have come to the Christmas market on foot can take a shuttle back to Hinterzarten. Due to the great popularity of the Christmas market, tickets should be purchased well in advance.

> Hofgut Sternen
> Höllsteig 76
> 79874 Breitnau/Hinterzarten
> www.hochschwarzwald.de/en/christmas-market-in-the-ravenna-gorge



© Schwarzwald Tourismus, Foto: Klaus Hansen

Christmas Garden

The Christmas Garden brings magical light installations, festive music and an atmospheric ambience to selected locations throughout Germany during the Advent season. In Baden-Württemberg too, two locations - in Stuttgart and on the island of Mainau - invite you to take a very special walk in the glow of lights.

Mainau Island

November 19 to January 9

The Christmas Garden on the island of Mainau is one of the most atmospheric highlights of the Advent season in Baden-Württemberg. Artistic light installations and over 30 imaginative illuminations create a fairytale atmosphere on a two-kilometre circular route through the wintry park landscape. Centuries-old trees, magnificent buildings and magical light figures are impressively staged with sound effects. A special highlight is the 15-metre-long glitter tunnel, which paves the way into a magical Christmas world - an unforgettable experience for the whole family.

> Christmas Garden
> Insel Mainau 1
> 78465 Insel Mainau
> www.christmas-garden.de/en/mainau/besuch/



© Christmas Garden, Foto: Markus Burkhardt

Stuttgart

November 13 until January 11

The Christmas Garden also provides a glamorous break during the Advent season in Stuttgart, the state capital of Baden-Württemberg. As dusk falls, the Wilhelma Zoological and Botanical Gardens are transformed into a sparkling winter wonderland. A fairytale Christmas world of light installations, projections and music unfolds along an atmospherically illuminated circular path. The historical backdrop of Wilhelma provides the perfect setting for an unforgettable experience in the heart of the city.

Christmas Garden
Neckartalstraße
70376 Stuttgart
www.christmas-garden.de/en/stuttgart/



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