

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

## WEIHNACHTSMÄRKTE—CHRISTMAS MARKETS

market: der Markt, die Märkte

Christmas market: der Weihnachtsmarkt, die Weihnachtsmärkte

### A VISUAL GUIDE TO GERMANY’S CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Another well-known Christmas market is the *Hanseatischer Weihnachtsmarkt* in Hamburg’s Gänsemarkt. This market will enchant visitors with gospel choirs, literary goodies, trumpet orchestras and church services.

In **Cologne**, the most popular market is located in front of the city’s stunning Gothic cathedral, the *Weihnachtsmarkt am Kölner Dom*, which boasts the largest Christmas tree in the Rhineland and a number of open-air concerts. There is also a medieval Christmas market at Cologne’s Chocolate Museum. Visitors in search of extra novelty can find it on the *MS Wappen von Köln*, the city’s floating Christmas market on the Rhine River.

**Dresden** is home to the world-renowned *Striezelmarkt* located near the recently restored *Frauenkirche*. The market is named for its traditional Christmas cake, *Hefestriezel*, which has come to be known as *Stollen*, a popular holiday treat across the country. The Stollen festival, which takes place this year on December 6th is one of the market’s highlights. Dresden also boasts the world’s tallest Christmas pyramid, celebrated this year on December 13th. Christmas pyramids – spinning towers decorated with lights and figures - originated in the *Erzgebirge* mountain region near Dresden.

While bigger cities have the most well-known Christmas markets, almost every German town boasts a smaller, and perhaps even more charming market, each with its own traditions and regional specialties.



Christkind:

The Christmas Angel, a girl between 16 and 19-years-old, is chosen every two years by Nuremberg residents and opens the Christmas market by reciting a short speech. She also visits charities, children’s hospitals and other Christmas markets. Representing the Christ child, the Christkind was first suggested by Martin Luther to replace the Catholic gift-giving figure of Saint Nikolaus.