

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

WEIHNACHTSMÄRKTE—CHRISTMAS MARKETS

market: der Markt, die Märkte

Christmas market: der Weihnachtsmarkt, die Weihnachtsmärkte

Christmas markets in Germany

Known for its high-tech solutions to real-life problems, Germany is "the land of ideas". But in a more mystical way it is also arguably "the land of Christmas". Despite the oft-criticized commercialism this behemoth of Christian holidays has taken on across the western world, Christmas in Germany still retains a traditional touch.

SHOPPING:

Although large stores in big cities take credit cards, few restaurants, small shops or market vendors do. Cash is really the way to go. ATMs are easy to find, even in small towns.

Christmas markets are almost always in or near a city's pedestrian shopping district. Take time to browse department and specialty stores. Cookware, stemware, table linens, leather boots, children's shoes, women's stockings, terry robes, truffles, Ravensburger jigsaw puzzles, playing cards and mirrors are items that tend to be of superior quality and are worth seeking out.

Continental shopping

Another European shopping trip puts the emphasis on handcrafts. The West Germans and Austrians stage big open-air, pre-Christmas markets, with decorations, toys, embroidery, gingerbread and all sorts of other yule-related things for sale and carolers singing all the while.

SHOPPING LIST

Some traditional, German-made products to look for at Christmas markets:

- Nussknacker: Nutcrackers.
- Pyramiden: Candle-powered revolving pyramids.
- Raeuchermaennchen: Incense smokers.
- Zinnsoldaten: Tin soldiers.
- Glaskuegeln: Glass balls.
- Spieldosen mit Zinnfiguren: Music boxes with tin figurines.
- Wachsendel: Wax angels.
- Holzfiguren: Wooden figurines.
- Strohsterne: Straw stars.
- Weihnachtskrippe: Creche or Nativity scene.
- Krippenfiguren: Figurines for Nativity scenes.

SHOPPING TIP

Erzgebirge: a low mountain range south of Dresden and Thuringer Wald, the Thuringian Forest, are home to most of the skilled craftspeople and workshops producing carved wooden nutcrackers, pyramids and incense burners. Thuringer Wald also is known for its glass-blowing artisans. Look for the names of these regions, both in the former East Germany, in products and stands. They are marks of good quality.



Aber ein Besuch auf dem Weihnachtsmarkt bringt Beate in die richtige Weihnachtsstimmung