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Easter Markets of Vienna

“A-Ticket, A-Tasket”— The Easter Markets of Vienna

Spring is the time for an “egg”-cellent adventure.
Join us for a visit to an Easter Market.



Easter Market at Schönbrunn Castle (with giant yellow egg).



Vintage Lebzelter car (Altwiener Easter Market at the Freyung).

Which came first—the chicken or the egg? Whichever answer you prefer to this ancient philosophical question, the Easter Markets must have been the very next thing to emerge. During the week preceding Easter Sunday, innumerable towns in German-speaking countries and in England, between cobblestone streets and gabled houses, in the market square or the courtyard of a castle, are holding their traditional Easter markets. United in time and basic theme, but different in local custom, quality, and focus, they present decorated eggs and handicrafts related to Easter, along with food specialties and popular attractions for young and old alike.

The list of beautiful locations and special ideas is endless: In Bavaria, at Easter many village squares resemble elaborate stage settings with their backdrop of façades with “Lüftlmalerei,” huge frescoes of historical or religious content. Some markets use the setting of a UNESCO World

Cultural Heritage Site, like *Schönbrunn* Castle in Vienna or the monastery *Maulbronn* near Karlsruhe. The variety of Easter eggs and attractions is also endless, with Danish pearl embroidered eggs, wax-decorated eggs, eggs wound with colored wool threads, eggs with scratched designs, glass eggs, blown right before your eyes, and real eggs from hens, doves, ostriches, emus, and even crocodiles. Many Easter markets put up petting zoos with lambs, chickens, and live Easter bunnies, while others prefer hayrides or egg-painting workshops.

What used to perhaps be a small group of food stalls with open tables, on which painted or otherwise decorated eggs were sold (along with *Eierpunsch* (eggnog), beer, or fruit juice to go with Easter bread or pretzels) has in recent years developed into big business. Many now call themselves “International Easter Market”—perhaps alluding to the fact that the most elaborate decoration techniques and designs are often found outside of Germany, especially in the eastern European countries such as Romania, the Ukraine, or Russia, with their strong orthodox Christian