

**VORWEIHNACHTENSITTEN (PRE-CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS)****HOW TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS LIKE AN AUSTRIAN**

Speaking of shopping, the Christmas markets are open: Bundle up and find your nearest public square or platz, because chances are it has been transformed into a winter wonderland of lights, candied nuts, cinnamon Brezel, and mulled wine. Nothing raises seasonal spirits like a good Christmas market.



Polish your boots: December 6th is St Nicholas' Day. Hopeful children polish their boots the night before with the hopes that St Nick will visit and fill it with chocolates. St Nicholas' Day was once the day for giving presents, but Austria has since shifted its gift giving to Christmas Eve (December 24th).