



— Travel —

The Most Charming Holiday Markets to Shop Around the World This Season

By [Patricia Doherty](#) on November 07, 2017



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If your holiday spirit is drowning in gift catalogs, overplayed seasonal tunes, and everyday demands, the perfect antidote could be a visit to one of the many Christmas markets around the world. It might seem counter-productive to leave town during this busy time of the year, but taking a few days to recapture that holiday feeling will renew your energy and enjoyment of the season.

Since they began as winter markets in Europe during the late Middle Ages, Christmas markets have become more popular and more elaborate in recent years. As in their past, the markets specialize in handcrafted gifts, local food specialties, music, and happy crowds celebrating the season.

Why not pack up the family—or get away on your own—to experience the charm, history, and atmosphere of a Christmas market?

We describe a few here, but there are many others in Europe and around the world waiting for you with a mug of warm spiced wine or hot chocolate. One tip: Check the market schedules before making your travel plans.



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Quebec City, Canada

November 23 – December 23

The Quebec City German Christmas Market celebrates Germany's holiday traditions and festivities. Located near City Hall and Notre Dame Cathedral in the heart of Quebec City, friendly folks in charming wooden kiosks offer bratwurst, pretzels, gingerbread, mulled wine, and more. Shop for imported products including toys, candles, decorations, sweets, and incense smoker figurines. Enjoy the lights, music, singing, and a visit from Santa Claus in the children's area, *kindermarkt*. You can take a ride in a horse-drawn carriage, go ice-skating, or attend concerts. If time allows, explore Old Quebec, a 400-year-old walled city and UNESCO World Heritage site.