



Travel

The Best Christmas Markets Outside of Europe

Make travel plans to these unexpected, glimmering wonderlands



BY AFAR
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Toronto's Christmas Market | Photo: Tourism Toronto

Is there any better place to embrace the holiday spirit than at a Christmas market? European countries (namely, [Germany](#) and [France](#)) get most of the fame for these charming extravaganzas, but don't think the cheer stops there. Travelers can enjoy markets all over the world, from far-flung destinations like [Singapore](#) and [South Africa](#) to glimmering winter wonderlands right here in the [States](#). Whether you're looking to shop for gifts, have a craving for hot chocolate (or wine) or simply want to overload on all things Christmas, be sure to add these eight unexpected countries to your winter travel plans.

Canada

The Great White North is home to some of the world's most dynamic Christmas markets. Enjoy delightful events all across [Canada](#), with many taking place in its most buzzing regions this season. British Columbia hosts six prominent markets and craft shows. Two of the most exciting include the [Vancouver Christmas Market](#) and [Arts Whistler Holiday Market](#)—at the latter, you can explore more than 100 local vendors with live music and a backdrop of [world-renowned slopes](#). Heading east, you'll find seven main events in [Alberta](#), such as Spruce Meadows' [International Christmas Market](#), hosting choir performances and 250+ vendors; [Calgary's](#) Heritage Park Historical Village transformation into [Once upon a Christmas](#); and Banff Christmas Market, which feels straight out of a fairy tale, thanks to wagon rides through some of Mother Nature's best work. Additional Canadian standouts include [Toronto Christmas Market](#), [Montreal's Le Grand Marché de Noël](#) and [Quebec City's German Christmas Market](#), which will be celebrating its 10th anniversary.