

Winter 2013 Edition

Jaunts with Jdomb's Travels



Adventure travel with a glass of wine!

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Our Favorite Christmas Markets and Destinations



Adventure travel with a glass of wine!

Aviano Area Christmas Markets

- Morsano al Tagliamento November 8 - 24
- Pordenone November 24 – January 13
- Sauris December 7 - 8
- Sacile December 1 – 24
- Poffabro December 1 – January 6

Villach, Austria

Around the parish church and on the Rathausplatz square a charming Christkindl market with many stalls is set up.

November 22 – December 24

Opening hours:

Daily from 10.00 am to 7.00 pm

Friday-Sunday from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm

12.24 from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Day trip! Stop in nearby Tarvisio to browse the leather market for more great gifts.



Salzburg, Austria



The ambiance of Salzburg's Christkindlmarkt will get anyone in the Christmas spirit and makes an ideal setting to start of the Christmas season. Every year visitors are enchanted by the charm of Cathedral Square, the traditional booths, the strings of lights and the variety of handicrafts on sale. [Read more...](#)

November 21 – December 26

Opening hours:

Daily from 10.00 am to 8:30 pm

Friday from 10.00 am to 9.00 pm

Saturday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

Sunday from 9:00 am to 8:30 pm

Where To Stay We recommend the [Radisson Blu Hotel Altstadt](#), just a 10 minute walk along the river to the old city center. The Radisson Blu is also dog friendly! Our dog, Emma, appreciated the large room and king size bed.

Salzburg, Austria

Advent Magic in Hellbrunn

A courtyard, a path lined by torches and an oversized Advent calendar are part of the Magic of Advent. Romantic booths, tempting treats and pre-Christmas gift ideas add to the charming atmosphere. Children can enjoy a sledge ride drawn by real reindeer, and an exciting entertainment program between the orangery and the park will assure festive Advent afternoons at Hellbrunn Palace for all.

Where: In Hellbrunn Courtyard

When: 21st November - 24th December 2013

Opening Hours: Wednesday - Friday: 01:00 p.m. - 08:00 p.m., Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays: 10:00 a.m. - 08:00 p.m., 24th December: 10:00 a.m. - 02:00 p.m., from 1st December also Monday and Tuesday 01:00 p.m. - 08:00 p.m.

Christmas Market on Mirabell Square

The Christmas Market in front of Mirabell Palace has become a center of attraction for young and old over the last few years. Culinary delicacies, mulled wine and lovingly decorated stalls invite visitors to stop and browse. This centrally located market is easily accessed opposite the bus stop and car park and just a few minutes' walk from the train station.

Where: Mirabell Square, Goethestraße

When: 21st November - 24th December 2013

Opening Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 10:00 a.m. - 08:00 p.m., Thurs: 09:00 a.m. - 08:00 p.m., Saturday & Holidays: 10:00 a.m. - 09:00 p.m., Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 08:30 p.m., 24th December: 10:00 a.m. - 03:00 p.m.

Advent Market in the Sterngarten

A small, pre-Christmas haven is tucked amongst the buildings in the Sterngarten between Getreidegasse and Griesgasse: the "Stern Advent Markt". Far from the hustle and bustle, the market's unparalleled charm invites visitors to stroll along its booths and purchase traditional handicrafts in the artistic setting.

Where: In the courtyard of the Sternbräu, between Getreidegasse and Griesgasse

When: 21st November – 26th December 2013

Opening Hours: Sunday to Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 07:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 07:00 p.m.

Salzburg, Austria

Advent Market St. Leonhard

The Advent Market is located near the St. Leonhard Pilgrimage Church. Try out the traditional gingerbread, roasted chestnuts, punch and children's bakery, and be inspired by the array of tasteful gifts on display. There is also an entertainment programme with brass bands and Advent events.

Where: Next to St. Leonhard Pilgrimage Church

When: 30th November – 22nd December 2013

Opening Hours: Saturday: 02:00 p.m. - 07:00 p.m., Sunday and 8th December: 11:00 a.m. - 07:00 p.m.

Romantic Advent Market in the Hohensalzburg Fortress Courtyard

Featuring local arts and crafts, charming gifts, Christmas treats and a lively social programme.

Where: Fortress Hohensalzburg

When: 29th November – 22nd December 2013

Opening Hours: Friday - Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 07:00 p.m.

Advent at Lake Wolfgangsee

About 1 hour's drive from Salzburg City you will find the beautiful Lake Wolfgangsee. The inviting, peaceful glow of lanterns across the water draws guests from near and far to contemplate in, wonder at and enjoy the Lake Wolfgangsee Advent Market. There is a joyful anticipation of Christmas in the air and visitors are able to experience fascinating customs still in practice today. The Lake Wolfgangsee Advent Market is celebrated annually in St. Gilgen, Strobl and St. Wolfgang, and this year is no exception.

Where: St. Gilgen, Strobl and St. Wolfgang

When: 22nd November - 23rd December 2013

Opening Hours: Thursday & Friday: 12:00 - 07:30 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 07:30 p.m.

Vienna, Austria

The Christmas Markets in [Vienna](#) truly are an age-old tradition. The forerunners of the present-day events date back to the Middle Ages when in 1298 Albrecht I granted Vienna's citizens the privilege of holding a December Market or "Krippenmarkt". Since then, the character and prevalence of these markets has changed considerably. Nowadays over 20 official Advent Markets sell a vast array of seasonal gifts and mouth-watering treats.

Magic of Advent in the Rathauspark

The Christmas Market on Vienna's City Hall Square is an unforgettable highlight for visitors eager to get into the Christmas spirit. The unique backdrop of the Burgtheater and Vienna City Hall gives this Christmas Market a charm all of its own, and the delicious aroma of punch, traditional gingerbread, roasted almonds and honey is sure to lull all visitors into the seasonal joy.

Where: Rathauspark, on the square in front of the City Hall

When: 16th November - 24th December 2013

Opening Hours: Daily: 09:00 a.m. - 09:30 p.m., Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., 24th December: 10:00 a.m. - 06:00 p.m.

Where To Stay We recommend the [Go With Oh](#) apartments. Use the promo code JDOMBSTRAVELS to get 10% off your booking



Vienna, Austria

Christmas Village Belvedere Palace

Explore baroque lifestyle and traditional handicrafts. The popular Christmas Village is set against the glorious baroque backdrop of the world-famous Belvedere Palace, one of Vienna's most beautiful and significant sights. More than 40 festively decorated market stalls offer traditional handcrafted goods, elaborate Christmas decorations and special culinary delights.

Where: Belvedere Palace, Prinz Eugen-Straße

When: 22nd November - 23rd December 2013

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 09:00 p.m., Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 09:00 p.m.

Christmas Village Maria-Theresien Platz

Experience impressive Viennese buildings and traditional Christmas customs at the Maria-Theresien Platz this winter, located between the Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Art. There is no escaping the Christmas atmosphere with festively decorated market stalls and a vast array of culinary delights

Where: Maria-Theresien Platz

When: 20th November - 26th December 2013

Opening Hours: Daily: 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., 24th December: 11:00 a.m. - 03:00 p.m.

Christmas Village at the University Campus

The Christmas Village at Vienna's former General Hospital ("Altes AKH") will enchant the visitor with its traditional Viennese atmosphere. The lovingly designed and decorated market stalls located on the many narrow alleyways offer beautiful Christmas gifts as well as delicious mulled wine.

Where: Universitätscampus, Alserstrasse

When: 16th November - 23rd December 2013

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday: 02:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Saturday & Sunday & Holidays: 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Vienna, Austria

Art and Christmas Market Schönbrunn Palace

Approximately 60 exhibitors present handicrafts and original gifts such as hand-made Christmas decorations and nativity sets for visitors to admire and purchase right in front of the famous Schönbrunn Palace. The fragrance of fresh Christmas cakes, biscuits and hot punch fills the air and creates a wonderful atmosphere.

Where: Parade Court, in front of Schönbrunn Palace

When: 23rd November – 1st January, 2014

Opening Hours: Daily: 10:00 a.m. - 09:00 p.m., 24th December: 10:00 a.m. - 04:00 p.m., 25th December 2012 - 1st January 2014: 10:00 a.m. - 06:00 p.m.

Christmas Market Spittelberg

Spittelberg is a revitalized heritage district from the Biedermeier period with narrow side streets. At the Christmas Market you will find objects d'art, ceramics, warm jumpers, rugs and jewellery made of silver, enamel and brass.

Where: Spittelberg, behind the Volkstheater

When: 15th November - 23rd December 2013

Opening Hours: Monday - Thursday: 02:00 p.m. - 09:00 p.m., Friday: 02:00 p.m. - 09:30 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 09:30 p.m., Sunday & Holidays: 10:00 a.m. - 09:00 p.m.

Old-Style Viennese Christmas Market

The Altwiener Christkindlmarkt is located against the backdrop of numerous palaces in the Freyung district of the Old Town. The goods on offer cover everything from hand-decorated Christmas tree candles to traditional basket ware.

Where: Freyung, Schottengasse

When: 22nd November - 23rd December 2013

Opening Hours: Daily: 10:00 a.m. - 09:00 p.m.

Zagreb, Croatia

Zagreb's Christmas market sets up on Trg Ban Jelačić, or Ban Jelacic Square. The square is decorated with lights, a Christmas tree, and a giant festive wreath is draped around the fountain there. Stalls at the Zagreb Christmas market sell hand-made Croatian gifts and souvenirs. Hot wine and savory sausages are available in the tent in the Square, giving you a place to escape out of the cold. A number of cultural events also take place on the square during this time, from choir groups and workshops to Santa himself.



Rides are also available in the Jolly Christmas Tram with Santa Clause, Granny Clause, fairies, elves and many other cheerful characters. The tram picks up on the corner of Ban Jelačić Square and Praška Street, the ride takes half an hour and the tickets at the price of 25.00 kunas are available at ZET shop in Petrićeva Street.

When: December 1 – 23, 2013

Prague, Czech Republic

The [Prague](#) Christmas markets light up the city center, and bringing locals and tourists together to share in the holiday spirit in a true 'winter wonderland' setting.

The main markets are held at the Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square (just 5 minutes walk from each other), with smaller ones operating at Republic Square and at Havel's market.

Opening times:

30th November - 12th January 2014.

Mon-Fri 15:00-19:00; Sat-Sun 10:00-19:00.

(Except: 24/12 10:00-15:00. 25-26/12 12:00-19:00.)

Puppet Fairytale Theatre - Sat-Sun 15:00.

Puppet Theatre - Daily 17:00.



Where to Stay: We recommend [Go with Oh Prague](#) apartments. Use promo code JDOMBSTRAVELS to get 10% off your booking!

London, England



Hyde Park goes all Christmassy with the sparkly additions of rides and attractions including a Giant Observation Wheel and two circuses - 'Christmas Circus' and 'Cirque Berserk' - from the family-friendly Zippos Circus.

November 22 – January 5, 2014

Opening hours: daily 10am-10pm. Closed Dec 25

Ice skate at the nearby rink at the Natural History Museum.

Opening hours: Sunday – Wednesday from 10:00 – 22:00 Thursday – Saturday from 10:00 – 23:00

Where to Stay: We recommend [Go With Oh](#) apartments. Use the promo code JDOMBSTRAVELS to get 10% off your booking

Rovaniemi, Finland

Yes, Jennifer, there is a Santa Claus and he lives way up north at the Arctic Circle in Finland! [Read more:](#)



Paris, France

The markets, with their iconic clusters of wood chalets offering custom holiday treats like mulled wine, gingerbread, sausages and specialties from various regions of France, are an essential part of celebrating [Christmas in Paris](#).

Paris' largest Christmas market stretches along the Champs-Élysées with the many wooden stalls selling vin chaud (hot mulled wine), roast chestnuts and other traditional Parisian holiday treats.

Open: From November 15th - January 5th, 2014

Location: Avenue des Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde

Metro: Champs Élysées-Clemenceau or Concorde

Where To Stay We recommend the [Go With Oh](#) apartments. Use the promo code JDOMBSTRAVELS to get 10% off your booking



Paris, France

Christmas Market at La Défense

With 350 stands, one of the largest and most festive Christmas markets around-- in the surreal setting of high-rise buildings.

Open: TBD

Location: Parvis de la Défense (near the Grand Arche)

Metro/RER: La Défense

Christmas Market and Ice Rink at Trocadero

Featuring over 120 stands peddling Christmas goods, an ice-skating rink and "snow villages". This one's ideal for the kids.

Open: Daily from December 8th to January 2nd, 2014

Location: Place de la Trocadero, across from the Eiffel Tower

Metro: Trocadero

Christmas Market and Santa's Village at place Saint-Germain-des-Prés

Open from December 6th, 2013 through January 2nd, 2014 .

Location: Place Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Paris 6th arrondissement

Metro: Saint-Germain-des-Prés

Christmas Market at Notre Dame Cathedral

This year a market dedicated to arts, crafts, and fine cuisine is set to spring up on the square outside Notre Dame Cathedral, where a giant Christmas tree generally stands as well each year. Mulled wine, roasted chestnuts, warm chalets and even Santa Claus are reportedly set to take the square by storm.

Open: Thursday – Monday before Christmas

Location: Place du Parvis de Notre Dame, Metro/RER St Michel or Cité

Beware of the King Cake!

The galette des Rois (King cake) is found in Paris at Christmas time. Its most notable feature is the hidden fève (prize), usually a porcelain figurine, in the cake. Whoever finds the fève in their slice of cake gets to wear a paper crown and be King (or Queen) for the day. I can imagine that in the U.S. a hard, pointy figurine baked into a cake would be considered a safety risk, but that's not at all the case here in France, with lines of galette-hungry customers snaking out of every bakery that you pass. Tim found one of these porcelain collectibles in his cake and was king for the day! Of course, we only learned of the tradition after he thought a piece of the mixer had fallen into his cake. Definitely a memorable experience!



Jesolo, Italy

Nativity displays or presepi are an important part of the Christmas to Epiphany season in Italy. Perhaps one of the most unusual is the Jesolo Sand Nativity. Each year since 2001, 1500 tons of sand is painstakingly sculpted into extraordinary works of art by the best sand sculptors in the world. Visitors come from around the world to admire scenes of everyday life and all the traditional activities that are typical of a traditional nativity set. [Read more...](#)



Jesolo, Italy

Each December, running Santas, or Babbo Natale in Italian, take to the streets and beach in Jesolo for the annual Babbo Natale Run. There is a 2.5K family run and a 10K competitive run. The only requirement – you must don a Santa suit! [Read more...](#)



Asiago Christmas Garden, Italy

For many years, the traditional Asiago Christmas Garden market has adorned the city center with its characteristic wooden houses, where merchants and craftsmen of Asiago selling handicrafts of various kinds. During the weeks before Christmas Asiago is tinged with magic, the main streets of the light of lights, music, entertainment and decorations.

DAYS AND HOURS

The Asiago Christmas Garden is open November 9 – December 21 on Saturdays from 10:30am – 12:30pm and 3pm – 7pm; Sundays from 10:30 – 7pm; and December 21 – January 6, 2014 daily from 10:30am – 7pm.



Cortina Christmas Market

During December Corso Italia, the heart of Cortina d'Ampezzo, will host the traditional adorned wooden stands. Every day from 12th to 31st December you can buy handicrafts and local food while you stroll in the famous street with its exclusive shops. About twenty stands will exhibit wooden handicrafts, Christmas decorations and compositions, embroideries, jewels, gift ideas, slippers, candles, children toys and much more.



Not to Miss:

- **Snowboardcross Europe cup**, from December 21 to 23 on the Faloria slopes
- **Musical greetings**: on Christmas Day Corso Italia will be filled with the melodies of the Cortina music band in period costume

Opening Hours:

Weekdays: from 3 pm to 8 pm

Holidays: from 10 am to 8 pm

Gubbio

The world's largest Christmas tree, known also as the Mount Ingino Christmas Tree and the Gubbio Christmas Tree, was first lit in 1981 when the people of Gubbio decided to celebrate Christmas in a different way. The tree is seen as the glorification of Gubbio's patron saint, Sant-Ubaldo. He was a twelfth century bishop of Gubbio and is buried in the *Basilica di Sant'Ubaldo* at the top of Mount Ingino, where the comet star crowns *l'Albero piu' Grande*. In 1991, the Guinness Book of World Records officially declared it the world's largest Christmas tree and its been lit annually at 6:30pm on December 7th ever since. [Read more..](#)



Not to Miss:

- Nearby Perugia Christmas Market

Opening Hours:

Weekdays: from 3 pm to 8 pm

Holidays: from 10 am to 8 pm

Where to Stay: We recommend [Castello di Petroia](#)

More Christmas Markets in Italy

Trento, in the Trentino-Alto Adige Region, holds one of the best Christmas markets in a beautiful setting. Christmas markets start at the end of November and include more than 60 traditional wooden huts selling a variety of crafts in Trento's center. A large Nativity Scene is created in *Piazza Duomo*, too.

Bolzano, also in Trentino-Alto Adige, holds a daily Christmas market through December 23.

Campo Santo Stefano in Venice becomes a Christmas village in December with wooden houses set up in the piazza and stalls selling high quality Venetian handicrafts. There's also regional food, drink, and music.

Trieste, also in northeastern Italy, holds its market, *Fiera di San Nicolo*, the first week of December. The market sells toys, candy, and Christmas items.

Verona holds a huge Christmas Market with over 300 stalls and tables the second weekend of December through December 13, Santa Lucia Day.

Piazza Santa Croce in Florence has a popular German Christmas market with many booths.

Milan holds a market in the historic center from early December through January 6.

Bologna holds a Christmas market in the historic center from late November through early January.

Bratislava, Slovakia

[Bratislava](#) Christmas Markets take place annually from late November to December in three central squares - Hviezdoslavovo Square, Main Square and Frantiskanske Square. The squares fill up with wooden booths with vendors offering traditional Slovak Christmas decorations and gifts and a variety of traditional food and drinks.

When: 22nd November – 23rd December, 2013

Where To Stay We recommend the [Go With Oh](#) apartments. Use the promo code JDOMBSTRAVELS to get 10% off your booking



Igloo Village Kranjska Gora, Slovenia

Have you ever wanted to stay in an igloo? [Read more...](#)



Price: 250 € / igloo for a maximum of 4 persons (families 20% discount). Reservations: via email info@eskimska-vas.si

Ljubljana, Slovenia

A Christmas break in Ljubljana is a perfect choice. The compact historic city center is easy to explore on foot. The Christmas Market can be found alongside the Ljubljanica river and is adorned by a tall Christmas tree and a range of market traders selling authentic crafts. The aroma of roasted chestnut, mulled wine and festive pastries fills the air.



Open December 3 – January 1, 2014 10:00-22:00 daily.



Zürich, Switzerland

Zürich's Christmas atmosphere is simply captivating with snow-capped Alps framing Lake Zürich and a plethora of holiday lights and Christmas trees in every square!



Zürcher Christkindlimarkt, located at RailCity, is Europe's biggest indoor market with more than 160 wooden market stalls tempt shoppers with colorful handcrafted trinkets, delicious St. Nicholas pastries, gourmet chocolates, butter cookies and mulled Glühwein wine. A 50' Christmas tree steals the show adorned with an array of 5000 sparkling Swarovski Christmas ornaments.

Zürich, Switzerland

Located behind RailCity, the Live On Ice skating rink is set up against the backdrop of the Swiss National Museum. Hundreds of Christmas trees, a fondue tent, mulled wine and a cosy panoramic lounge keep the Christmas spirit alive.



Next, stroll over to Werdmühleplatz to take in the Singing Christmas Tree concert. Children from local schools stand on a tiered stage, arranged and decorated to look like a Christmas tree, and sing Christmas carols and other popular songs. A small Christmas market is also in the square.

Winter Activities



Adventure travel with a glass of wine!

Tobogganing at Merano 2000

Tobogganing is a very traditional sport in Südtirol. The multiple world champion and Olympic winner, Armin Zöggeler, is the most well known toboggan driver of Italy and comes from the little village of Foiana, near the city of Merano.



Try out the 5km long toboggan run or Alpine Bob, Italy's longest bobsled track. You descend over one kilometer. A hand brake allows you to control the speed and warning signs let you know when to break around the turns. [Read more:](#)

Where to Stay: We recommend [Miramonti Boutique Hotel](#)

Zermatt

Zermatt is home to Switzerland's most famous mountain, the Matterhorn. You can stay in an igloo right below the looming mountain, complete with outdoor jacuzzi and a Swiss fondue feast!

Zermatt is also famous for world-class skiing, an incredible toboggan run, and its car free village that will make you feel like you're stepping back in time. You can even try your hand at curling!



Filzmoos

Filzmoos is home to an annual winter hot air balloon festival. Literally hundreds of balloons take to the sky over Austria's snowcapped Salzburg Alps!



You can also take part in winter fun like a horse drawn sleigh ride up the mountain to a mountain hut, skiing, snowshoeing, and winter hiking. [Read more...](#)

Where to Stay: We recommend Landhaus Filzmoos which is literally steps away from the ski runs!

Thank You!

