

Germany and France – Christmas Markets



Trip Summary

Find your Christmas spirit on this seven-day journey through Germany and France's festive town centers. Enjoy a glass of traditional eggnog as you traverse some of the most magical Christmas markets in all of Europe. Hop across the border to Strasbourg to see France's oldest Christmas market, and don't forget to have some roasted chestnuts and Glühwein while shopping for that one-of-a-kind nutcracker or glockenspiel! We visit some of the most historic and charming Christmas markets in all of Europe on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

Itinerary

Day 1: Frankfurt / Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Pick-ups in Frankfurt Germany and depart for Rothenburg ob der Tauber, a medieval city with many stories to tell • Enjoy a walk from the famous night watchman as he leads you around this fabled city • Experience a pretzel-making class at a local shop, and don't forget to eat a few of your creations while sipping on some mulled wine at the enchanting Christmas market • *Overnight Romantik Hotel Markusturm (L, D)*

Day 2: Rothenburg ob der Tauber

After breakfast, we'll hike around the amazing wall that surrounds the Old Town of Rothenburg • Steeped in history, you'll have a new perspective on this medieval city, wandering its cobbled streets and walking along its ancient walls • After lunch, you'll have free time to do some shopping at the markets and wander the streets searching for that perfect Bratwurst while enjoying a local beer • *Overnight Romantik Hotel Markusturm (B)*

Day 3: Nuremberg

Today we set out to explore Nuremberg and one of the world's oldest Christmas markets, the Christkindlesmarkt • We'll take a tour of the old city, learning about the fascinating history as we walk along the old city walls and ramparts • Then, warm yourself up with some cheesy potato dumplings (Schupfnudel) or some Schwäbische Käsespätzle (German mac and cheese) • *Overnight Hotel Victoria (B, L)*

Day 4: Nuremberg

Fanning out across the ancient city of Nuremberg are Christmas markets galore, which means you'll want a free day to do some shopping • We'll trade stories in the evening as we meet for a nice dinner in the town center • *Overnight Hotel Victoria (B, D)*

Day 5: Strasbourg / Baden-Baden

Today it's off to Strasbourg, France to check out Christmas across the border • We'll take a short bike ride through the historic town center on the Grande Île, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and later through the lovely "La Petite France" district, where you'll visit the Cathédrale de Notre Dame with its famous astronomical clock • In the afternoon, visit the oldest Christmas Market in France • Tonight's a free night to enjoy the hotel spa in the enchanting spa town of Baden-Baden • *Overnight Dorint Hotel Maison Messmer (B, L)*



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Day 6: Baden-Baden

After a morning hike in the famous Black Forest, you'll have a free day to visit one of the town's famous spas – its thermal baths have turned the city into a fashionable spa town • Explore the festive Christmas market before our final farewell dinner at the hotel • *Overnight Dorint Hotel Maison Messmer (B, D)*

Day 7: Frankfurt

After breakfast, you'll bid "Auf Wiedersehen" to Baden-Baden and the magical Christmas markets you've encountered • We transfer two hours to Frankfurt for drop-offs at a destination of your choosing • *No Overnight (B)*

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Activities

Cycling:

Day 5 bicycle tour in Strasbourg

Walking/Hiking:

Day 1 walking tour of Rothenburg

Day 2 walking tour of Rothenburg town walls

Day 3 walking tour of Nuremberg

Day 6 hike in the Black Forest

Discovery: The magical cities you'll visit on this trip are brimming with Christmas spirit. Wander through the narrow, winding streets and town squares, breathing in the warm scent of cinnamon and cloves, and stopping to admire the twinkling lights that adorn the booths and buildings. Rothenburg ob der Tauber looks like it's straight out of a fairytale, especially during the holidays. Considered Germany's best-preserved walled town, a visit to this city feels like a trip back in time. In Nuremberg, you may want to explore the Imperial Castle – it was one of the most important castles of the Middle Ages. The mineral-rich spas in Baden-Baden have been used since Roman times, and are the perfect opportunity to relax and warm up after a week of exploring the markets.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They take the time to explain the local history and daily sightseeing options. Each activity has been carefully planned to please each traveler's interests. Austin Adventures guides are available to offer advice and assistance as you desire.

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Distinctive Accommodation

Nights 1 & 2: Romantik Hotel Markusturm

Built in the 1200's as part of the construction of the first city wall, what was once a hostel for passing travelers is now the Romantik Hotel. The Berger family (who has owned the hotel for four generations) strives to maintain the original structure and charm of the property while still providing modern amenities. Each of the 16 rooms is unique and provides a comfortable oasis after a day exploring the city. And, as the hotel is located just steps from the town square, you'll have plenty of opportunities for exploration.

Nights 3 & 4: Hotel Victoria

Located in a quiet yet central location, by the gateway to the Old Town of Nuremberg, Hotel Victoria looks as if it is straight off a postcard. With many of the best sights within walking distance, you'll feel surrounded by the magic and beauty of the city. The light, modern, and comfortable rooms are a stark contrast to the historic and beautiful exterior, and provide all the modern amenities you need. This is a stay you won't soon forget.

Nights 5 & 6: Dorint Hotel Maison Messmer

A warm welcome is the first of many wonderful reasons that a stay at the Dorint Hotel Maison Messmer is one of comfort and luxury. With rooms looking out over the hills and lush greenery of the black forest, restaurants serving delicious meals made with the freshest ingredients, and a spa to pamper you with wellness and beauty treatments, this hotel has it all, and then some.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Arrival & Departures

Prior to the trip, arrive at your own convenience in Frankfurt. On Day 1, we will meet you in the lobby of the Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof Hotel in Frankfurt at 8:30 a.m. After a transfer to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, the holiday festivities begin! After Breakfast on Day 7, we'll transfer from Baden-Baden to Frankfurt, where we'll drop you off at a destination of your choosing.

Trip Price

\$2,998 (\$580 single supplement)

Trip Length

7 days/6 nights

2021 Dates

December 18 – 24

Host City

Frankfurt, Germany
Airport code: FRA

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*During the holidays, Germany and
France's town centers practically
twinkle with fairy-tale festiveness*

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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Meals as listed in detailed daily itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old. Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.