

Sample Itinerary

Christmas Markets Tour near Frankfurt (9 days)

Mainz – Wiesbaden – Koblenz - Trier – Heidelberg – Würzburg –
Frankfurt



DAY 1 **USA – Frankfurt**

Departure from the USA (overnight flight)

DAY 2 **Frankfurt - Mainz**

Arrival in Frankfurt

Transfer to Mainz -20 miles (30 minutes by car, coach, or train)

Check into Hotel

Lunch

Visit to Mainz Christmas Market with Glühwein (Tradition hot spiced red wine)

Mainz Tourist Office

Brückenturm am Rathaus

55116 Mainz

Tel: +49 (6131) 286 2127

Fax: +49 (6131) 286 2155

E-Mail: a.gransee@info-mainz.de

www.tourist.mainz.de

**DAY 2
Cont'd**

Places of Interest:

- Gutenberg Museum
- St. Martin Cathedral
- Former Electoral Palace
- St. Stephen Church
- Kupferberg sparkling wine Museum
- Old Town

Mainz, the charming capital of Rhineland-Palatinate, ideally located at the confluence of the Rhine and Main, has *savoir vivre*, a unique ambience and a cosmopolitan outlook. Whether you come to Mainz as a tourist or to attend a conference or one of Mainz's numerous festivals, you cannot fail to be captivated by the open, friendly atmosphere of the town and its people. Combine a shopping excursion with a festive atmosphere as you stroll through the romantic old city and Christmas markets in the market square. Gaze at the old half-timbered houses bathed in festive lights and visit the shops of the craftsmen offering original specialties. Set against a backdrop of the over one thousand year old Cathedral of St. Martin; enjoy the scent of roasted almonds and gingerbread as the stress of everyday life is forgotten in this magical festival.



Christmas Time in Mainz



Dinner

Overnight in Mainz

DAY 3 **Mainz – Wiesbaden**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Wiesbaden – 9miles (15 minutes by car, coach, or train)

Check into Hotel

Visit to the “Twinkling Star Christmas Market” & the historic town

**DAY 3
Cont'd**

Wiesbaden Tourist Office

Marktplatz 1
65183 Wiesbaden
Tel: +49 (611) 172 9930
Fax: +49 (611) 172 9798
E-Mail: tourist-service@wiesbaden-marketing.de
www.wiesbaden.de

Places of Interest:

- Biebrich Palace
- Spa House
- Town Hall
- Castle Sonnenberg
- Biebrich Palace
- Roman Gate
- Hessian State Theater
- State House ('Landeshaus')
- Man-size Cuckoo Clock in the Old Quarter

Wiesbaden – The state capital of Hesse is located in the heart of the Rhine-Main region. The neighboring Rheingau region, one of the most beautiful and traditional wine growing areas in Germany, lives in harmony with Wiesbaden, also known as the Gateway to the Rheingau. The city's historical Old Town has been kept in best conditions and covers all architectural styles of past centuries. This classical flair fits perfectly with the city's development as a modern health center. Starting late November, take a stroll through Wiesbaden's "Twinkling Star Christmas Markets," where the picturesque "Schlossplatz" (Castle square) sets this fairytale like scene. Four gates decorated with lights and stars grant access to a cheerful mood and gifts for young and old. Enjoy choirs, nativity plays and storytelling after skating at the famous "Eiszeit" (Ice Time) public skating rink.



Town Hall by night



Twinkling Star Christmas Market

DAY 3
Cont'd

Dinner at the Wikinger Restaurant
Grabenstraße 14
65183 Wiesbaden
Tel.: +49 611 307 622
www.webers-wikinger.de

Overnight in Wiesbaden

DAY 4 **Wiesbaden - Koblenz**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Koblenz– 63 miles (1.5 hours by car, coach, or train)

Check into Hotel

Visit to Koblenz Christmas Market & the historic town

Koblenz Tourist Office

Jesuitenplatz 2
56068 Koblenz
Tel: +49 (261) 130 920
Fax: +49 (261) 130 9211
E-Mail: info@koblenz-touristik.de
www.koblenz-touristik.de

Places of interest:

- Deutsches Eck
- Ehrenbreitstein Fortress
- Electoral Palace
- Deutschherrenhaus
- Wine Village
- Empress Augusta Rhine gardens

**DAY 4
Cont'd**

Koblenz – Fortress walls and castle towers, palaces and patrician houses are vivid illustrations of a turbulent past. Founded by the Romans, Koblenz is set at the famous *Deutsches Eck* (German Corner), where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet. Ehrenbreitstein fortress and Stolzenfels Castle are part of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley UNESCO World Heritage site, along with the legendary Loreley and the romantic castles perched on the steep slopes above the Rhine. Located in the Rhine-Mosel district every year, the famous Koblenz Christmas Market provides Christmas charm and a romantic setting. Experience the music program “Christmas Vokal” in the atrium of city hall or shop “till midnight during “SternenShopping” (star shopping). Taste the Christmas spirit at the Christmas Bakery and take the kids to the Post Office for Kids. Boasting over 130 sales booths, guided church and market tours, and high quality craftwork, Koblenz during Christmas time is not something to pass up.



Koblenz Christmas Market



Stolzenfels Castle

Dinner

Overnight in Koblenz

DAY 5 Koblenz - Trier

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Trier– 80 miles (1.5 hours by car, coach, or train)

Check into Hotel

Guided City Tour and Visit to Trier Christmas Market

DAY 5
Cont'd

Trier Tourist Office

An der Porta Nigra
54290 Trier
Tel: +49 (651) 978 080
Fax: +49 (651) 978 0876
E-Mail: info@trier-info.de
www.trier.de

Places of interest:

- Cathedral of St. Peter
- Church of Our Lady
- Roman Monuments, e.g. Gate Porta Nigra, Amphitheater, Imperial Baths, Bridge
- Basilica
- Cathedral City district behind the Cathedral
- Electoral Palace
- St. Martin Abbey

Trier -Today Trier's glorious history is still to be witnessed at every step on a stroll through the bustling Old Quarter. The face of Trier is impressively shaped by the Roman era. Most famous relic is the Porta Nigra, the beautifully-preserved fortified gate from the great age when the city was known as "Augusta Treverorum." But all the other major stylistic epochs have also left behind their monuments here. The Trier Christmas Market is known for its romantic and pensive atmosphere making it one of the loveliest in Germany. In the 95 festive wooden booths in the medieval Main Market and in front of the imposing backdrop of the Trier Cathedral, one can find decorations, wooden toys, and hand-blown glassware. Pick up a bratwurst sausage and mulled wine as you meander through the famous and enchanting Trier Christmas Market.

Christmas Lights at the Cathedral



Trier Christmas Market



DAY 5
Cont'd

Dinner at "Kartoffelkiste" (Potato box)

Fahrstraße 13 - 14

54290 Trier

Tel. 0651 / 9790066

Fax 0651 / 9914848

mail@kiste-trier.de

www.kiste-trier.de

Overnight in Trier

DAY 6 **Trier – Heidelberg**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Heidelberg – 130 miles (2 hours by car, coach, or train)

Check into Hotel

Guided City Tour and Visit to Heidelberg Christmas Market

Heidelberg Tourist Office

Willy-Brandt-Platz 1

69115 Heidelberg

Tel: +49 (6221) 19433

Fax: +49 (6221) 142 254

E-Mail: touristinfo@heidelberg.de

www.heidelberg-marketing.de

Places of Interest:

- Heidelberg Castle
- Christmas Market at Kornmarkt and Bismarkplatz
- Church of the Holy Spirit
- Baroque Old Quarter
- Old Bridge
- University of Heidelberg
- Great Vat
- Pharmacy Museum

**DAY 6
Cont'd**

Heidelberg – Every year, millions of visitors from all over the world are inspired by Heidelberg, this youthful German town that is steeped in history. Science and learning have also played their own distinctive part in the history of Germany's oldest university town. Heidelberg is widely regarded as one of the best business locations in Germany, while the world-famous Heidelberg Castle still towers above the lanes and the picturesque jumble of roofs of the old town. The architecture contains elements of the Gothic and Renaissance periods. The castle gardens, the Great Vat (the world's largest wine barrel) and the remarkable Pharmacy Museum are also worth a visit. Romantic and idyllic, cosmopolitan and dynamic – Heidelberg effortlessly combines the apparent opposites of myth and modernity. During the Christmas months, take an advent stroll through the picturesque alley ways and famous sights of the Heidelberg Christmas Market. At the famous squares such as "Bismarckplatz" and "Kornmarkt," visit 140 stalls selling enchanting Christmas gift ideas. The delicious smells of culinary specialties such as "Christstollen" (Christmas cake) and baked apples provide a magical atmosphere while you listen to choirs and storytellers. For the romantic type, the festive market inauguration by the Heidelberg Christ child guarantees a festive and memorable time.

Heidelberg Castle in Winter



Marktplatz at the Christmas Market



Dinner at Alte Münz Schnitzelhaus

Neckarmünzgasse 10
69117 Heidelberg, Germany
Tel: +49 (06221) 43-4643

Overnight in Heidelberg

DAY 7 Heidelberg – Würzburg

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Würzburg – 110 miles (2 hours by car, coach, or train)

Check into Hotel

Guided City Tour and Visit to Würzburg Christmas Market

Würzburg Tourist Office

Am Congress Centrum

97070 Würzburg

Tel: +49 (931) 372 650

Fax: +49 (931) 372 652

E-Mail: tourismus@wuerzburg.de

www.wuerzburg.de

Places of Interest:

- Residence Palace (UNESCO World heritage site)
- Palace church and gardens
- Wine cellar “Staatlicher Hofkeller” beneath the palace
- Steinburg Castle
- Marienberg fortress
- Historic Town Hall
- Cathedral St. Kilian

Visit to the Residence Palace

Residenz Würzburg

Residezplatz 2, Tor B

97070 Würzburg

Tel: +49 (931) 355 170

Fax: +49 (931) 355 1725

E-Mail: sgvwuerzburg@bsv.bayern.de

www.residenz-wuerzburg.de

**DAY 7
Cont'd**

Würzburg – The capital of lower Franconia is one of the loveliest baroque cities in Germany and became famous as the center of Franconian wine production. It is a popular stop among tourists traveling the Romantic Road, beautifully embedded in the valley of the Main River and is surrounded by grapevine-covered hills. Interesting places to visit include the UNESCO World Heritage Site the Residence Palace, the medieval fortress Marienberg, the historic town hall building and the Romanesque cathedral “St. Kilian.” From the old bridge “Alte Mainbrücke”, you will enjoy fantastic views of the fortress “Marienberg” and the pilgrimage church “Käppele”. Long tradition and lots of holiday cheer is what one can expect at the Würzburg Christmas Market in the heart of Old Town. Dating back to the early 19th century, Christmas traditions in the historical market square with its Gothic Chapel provide a charming Christmas card scene. Sample delicious Christmas cookies with roasted almond while enjoyed the sounds of a wind band or watching the scenes from the Christmas story being performed by local artists. Ride the historic tram, “Christmas Express,” through the Old Town as you get into the Christmas spirit in Würzburg.



The Residence Palace



Gifts at the Christmas Market

Dinner

Overnight in Würzburg

Day 8 Würzburg – Frankfurt

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Frankfurt – 80 miles (1.5 hours by car, coach, or train)

**DAY 8
Cont'd**

Check into Hotel

Guided City Tour and Visit to Frankfurt Christmas Markets

Frankfurt Tourist Office
Kaiserstrasse 56
60329 Frankfurt am Main
Tel: +49 (69) 2123 8953
Fax: +49 (69) 2123 8243
E-Mail: citytours@infofrankfurt.de
www.frankfurt-tourismus.de

Frankfurt – As the seat of the European Central Bank and venue of more than 30 trade fairs per year, the modern city by the river Main commands center stage of the world's finance and economic markets. Frankfurt has always played an important role in European history. A number of historical buildings have remained to document this fact: the cathedral, where German kings were once crowned, St. Paul's Church, seat of the first German National Assembly, or Goethe House, birthplace of one of Germany's favorite sons. Today, Frankfurt is also recognized as a dynamic cultural center with many fine museums, theaters and galleries. The Christmas Market in Frankfurt invites visitors and locals to celebrate advent traditions in three plazas. Opening ceremonies are introduced by the mayor followed later by the ringing of 50 church bells in 10 churches. Visits from Santa Claus and advent concerts make Frankfurt a great place to bring in the Christmas cheer. Experience the historical traditions of this metropolitan city as you become acquainted with the markets culinary specialties.



Frankfurt Skyline



Römer Town Hall during Christmas

DAY 8
Cont'd

Places of Interest:

- Römerberg square
- Cathedral
- St. Paul's Church
- Banking district
- Alte Oper concert hall
- Museum Embankment
- Goethe's house

Overnight in Frankfurt

DAY 9 **Frankfurt – USA**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Frankfurt Airport

Departure to the USA