

Sample Itinerary

Germany's Christmas Markets (8 days)

Frankfurt – Stuttgart – Esslingen – Nuremberg (Nürnberg) –
Erfurt – Leipzig – Seiffen – Dresden



DAY 1 **USA – Frankfurt**

Departure from the USA (overnight flight)

DAY 2 **Frankfurt**

Arrival in Frankfurt

Hotel check-in

Guided city tour

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

DAY 2
Cont'd **Frankfurt**

Places of interest:

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

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. Frankfurt's Christmas market on Roemer Square is one of the biggest and, with about 3 million visitors each year, one of the most popular ones in Germany.



Christmas market on Römer Square



Alte Oper concert hall

Visit to local Christmas market on Römerberg, Paulsplatz and Mainkai (For dates and further visitor information please contact Frankfurt Tourist Office)

Dinner

Overnight in Frankfurt

DAY 3 **Frankfurt – Stuttgart**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Stuttgart – 130 miles (by car, coach, or direct connection with ICE high speed train)

Hotel check-in

DAY 3
Cont'd **Stuttgart**

Lunch

Guided city tour

Stuttgart Tourist Office
Lautenschlagerstrasse 3
70173 Stuttgart
Tel: +49 (711) 222 8237
Fax: +49 (711) 222 8218
E-Mail: info@stuttgart-tourist.de
www.stuttgart-tourist.de

Stuttgart – Charmingly situated in the heart of one of Germany's largest wine-growing regions, this vibrant metropolis fascinates visitors from all over the world. The state capital of Baden-Württemberg delights tourists not only by virtue of its magnificent panorama, its impressive gardens and parks, its fine squares, splendid palaces and buildings in a wide range of architectural styles, but also by its cultural diversity. Visit the medieval Old Palace - with its cloistered courtyard, the palace reflects the splendor of the former ducal town. Just around the corner, the magnificent baroque building of the New Palace and the Schlossplatz square are in the heart of the city and popular meeting places. Also a big draw for visitors is the sensational Mercedes-Benz World as well as the Porsche-Museum. For four weeks in the run-up to Christmas, Stuttgart is transformed into a magical winter wonderland. More than 250 stallholders offer seasonal wares, while concerts in the courtyard of the Old Palace set the festive tone. Amid the enchanting ambience, people from all over the world enjoy the city's famous Black Forest fruit loaf washed down with a mug of hot Glühwein.



New Palace Square



Christmas market in front of
Stiftskirche Church

Places of interest:

- State Gallery
- Opera
- Parliament Building
- Historic Center
- Medieval Old Palace

DAY 3
Cont'd

Stuttgart

Places of interest (cont'd):

- New Palace and Schlossplatz Square
- Mercedes-Benz Museum
- Porsche Museum
- TV Tower

Visit to Christmas market on Schlossplatz Square (for further dates and visitor information in German please check www.stuttgarter-weihnachtsmarkt.de, alternatively please contact Stuttgart Tourist Office)

Dinner

Overnight in Stuttgart

DAY 4

Stuttgart – Esslingen

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Esslingen – 9 miles (by car, coach, or train)

Guided city tour

Esslingen Tourist Office

Marktplatz 2
73728 Esslingen am Neckar
Tel.: +49 (711) 3969 3969
Fax: +49 (711) 3969 3939
Email: info@esslingen-tourist.de
www.esslingen.de

Places of Interest:

- Church of St. Dionys with twin towers
- Old Town Hall
- St. Paul's Minster
- Church of Our Lady
- Esslingen Fortress
- Neckarhalde Vineyards
- Kilmeyer House
- Market Square
- Pflegehöfe centres of trade and administration
- Little Venice

DAY 4
Cont'd **Esslingen – Nuremberg (Nürnberg)**

Esslingen – The former Free Imperial City of Esslingen am Neckar nestles in the Neckar Valley and is surrounded by vineyards. The city looks back on a history of over 1,200 years. A stroll through the winding cobblestone alleyways and inviting pedestrian zones of the historical Old Town can be recommended not only as a shopping experience but also as a walk into the past. The medieval Old Town is the only one in the Stuttgart Region to be so well preserved. The oldest row of half-timbered houses in Germany can be admired as well as patricians' and wine-growers' houses, churches, monastic administrative centers (Pfleghöfe), gate towers and towers. Esslingen does not only welcome its winter visitors with a charming Christmas market, but also offers a medieval market at the same time with booths and performances.



Christmas market in front of St. Dionys

Lunch

Transfer to Nuremberg (Nürnberg) – 135 miles (by car, coach, or by train via Stuttgart)

Hotel check-in

Guided city tour

Nuremberg Tourist Office

Frauentorgraben 3

90443 Nuremberg

Tel: +49 (6221) 97970

Fax: +49 (6221) 167 969

E-Mail: tourismus@nuremberg.dewww.tourismus.nuernberg.de**Places of Interest:**

- Old walled city with crafts shops and gothic churches
- Lutheran Lorenz Church
- Kaiserburg Castle
- Church of St. Sebaldus
- Church of Our Lady
- Albrecht Durer House
- Renaissance Town hall

DAY 4
Cont'd **Nuremberg (Nürnberg)**

Places of Interest:

- Toy Museum
- Germanic National Museum
- Documentation Center on the former Nazi Party rally grounds about Nürnberg in the Third Reich
- Christmas Market (December)

Nuremberg – Visitors to Nuremberg, a lively city with a medieval feel, will find evidence of its 950-year old history at every turn. Having been severely damaged during World War II, the medieval city center with its main buildings has been reconstructed using the original stone. Thick walls with 80 towers enclose the historical old quarter, where beautiful works of art in the Gothic churches, like the impressive Church of Our Lady, bear testament to the city's heyday – not to mention the impressive Kaiserburg Castle above the city. Nuremberg also was the First free imperial town to adopt the Reformation. In December, the city hosts one of Germany's oldest and most famous Christmas markets, the "Christkindlesmarkt" (Christmas Angel market), with local 'Bratwurst', traditional gingerbread and handcrafted goods. Eagerly awaited in particular by younger visitors is the appearance of the Christmas Angel at the opening ceremony.



Kaiserburg Castle



Christmas Angel at the Christmas Market

Visit to Christmas market on Hauptmarkt Square (For dates and further visitor information please check www.christkindlesmarkt.de/english)

Dinner

Overnight in Nuremberg

DAY 5 **Nuremberg – Erfurt**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Erfurt – 142 miles (by car or coach)

DAY 5
Cont'd **Erfurt**

Lunch

Guided city tour

Erfurt Tourist Office

Benediktsplatz 1
99084 Erfurt
Tel: +49 (361) 66400
Fax: +49 (361) 664 0290
E-Mail: service@erfurt-tourismus.de
www.erfurt-tourismus.de

Places of Interest:

- Cathedral
- Augustinian Monastery
- Luther Memorial
- Franciscan Church
- St. Mary's Cathedral
- St. Severus Church
- Merchant's Bridge
- Medieval Old Town
- Castle Molsdorf with park

Erfurt – Thuringia's largest city has one of the best-preserved medieval town centers in Germany, a delightful blend of wealthy patrician townhouses and fine half-timbered buildings. One of Erfurt's most distinctive sights is the remarkable Merchants' Bridge, the longest bridge in Europe to have houses along its entire length. Romanesque architecture enthusiasts will enjoy visiting the impressive ensemble at Cathedral Square. St Mary's Cathedral replaced the church built on this site by Bishop Boniface in 742 with its cycle of stained-glass windows (14th century) and huge "Gloriosa" bell (1497). St. Severus (1280) is a five-nave Gothic hall church which houses the sarcophagus of St Severus. The church and the cathedral are Erfurt's most famous landmarks, and during Christmas season they provide an impressive background for the city's popular Christmas market.



Erfurt Cathedral and St. Severus Church with Christmas tree (see also frontpage)



Castle Molsdorf in the snow

DAY 5
Cont'd **Erfurt – Leipzig**

Visit to local Christmas market in front of Erfurt Cathedral and St. Severus Church (For dates and further visitor information please check www.erfurter-weihnachtsmarkt.eu)

Transfer to Leipzig – 92 miles (by car, coach, or direct connection with ICE high speed train)

Hotel check-in

Visit to local Christmas market on Marktplatz Square

Dinner

Overnight in Leipzig

DAY 6 **Leipzig**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Guided city tour

Leipzig Tourist Office

Augustusplatz 9

04109 Leipzig

Tel: +49 (341) 710 4260

Fax: +49 (341) 710 4276

E-Mail: info@ltm-leipzig.de

www.ltm-leipzig.de

Places of Interest:

- St. Thomas Church with Bach's tomb
- St. Nicholas Church
- Luther House
- Luther Hall
- Old City Hall
- Former German Supreme Court
- Mendelssohn House
- Mädler Passage
- Monument of the Battle of the Nations
- Stasi-Museum in the "Round Corner"
- Grassi Museum with Museum of Musical Instruments, Museum of Applied Arts, and Ethnological Museum
- Museum of Fine Arts

DAY 6
Cont'd **Leipzig – Halle/Saale – Dresden**

Leipzig – The city of Leipzig has been an important influence in European commercial and intellectual life for centuries, and its sights are all part of the Leipzig experience. Johann Sebastian Bach was choirmaster in St. Thomas's Church, and many other composers spent time in Leipzig: Richard Wagner, Robert Schumann, Mendelssohn-Bartoldy, and the world famous St. Thomas Choir. Today many new artists live in Leipzig where a peaceful demonstration led to the reunification of Germany. Historical shopping arcades, livingly restored, are typical of the architecture in the city centre. There are great shops, a vibrant cultural scene and lively bars that stay open very late, all within a relatively small area. Every year during Christmas season Leipzig opens its Christmas market with over 250 booths and around 2 million visitors. Its roots can be traced back to the 15th century.



Old City Hall



Handicrafts on Leipzig's Christmas market

Lunch

Transfer to Halle/Saale – 26 miles (by car, coach, or train)

Visit to Halloren Museum in Germany's oldest chocolate factory

Halloren Schokoladenfabrik AG
Delitzscher Strasse 70
06112 Halle
Tel: +49 (345) 56420
Fax: +49 (345) 564-2282
E-Mail: info@halloren.de
www.halloren.de/english/index.php

Transfer to Dresden – 93 miles (by car, coach, or train)

Hotel check-in

Visit to local Christmas market "Striezelmarkt" on Altmarkt Square (for further dates and visitor information please check www.striezel-markt.de/striezel)

DAY 6 **Dresden**
Cont'd

Dinner

Overnight in Dresden

DAY 7 **Dresden**

Breakfast at the hotel

Guided city tour

Dresden Tourist Office

Ostra-Allee 11

01067 Dresden

Tel: +49 (351) 4919 2120

Fax: +49 (351) 4919 2244

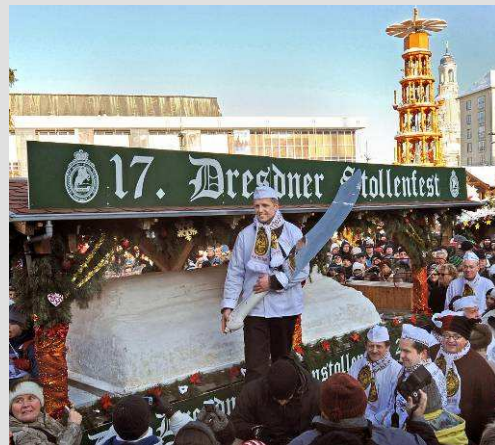
E-Mail: dresdendays@dresden-tourist.de

www.dresden-tourist.de

Dresden – Unique art treasures, internationally renowned resonating bodies, buildings of outstanding beauty – those are just a few highlights the Saxon capital has to offer. Tradition and modern spirit are equal components of Dresden's cultural flair. There are also charming landscapes alongside the Elbe river with cast meadows, exclusive residential areas and magnificent castles. The great enthusiasm for the resurrected Church of our Lady is still unbowed. Another highlight was the reopening of the Historic Green Vault in 2006. This marks the return of the famous collection of the princes of Wettin, one of Europe's richest treasures, to the Royal Palace of Dresden, its historical place of origin. Dresden's traditional Christmas market, the "Striezelmarkt", is one of the oldest ones in Germany. "Striezel" is the local word for Christmas stollen, and on the 2. Advent visitors can enjoy a piece of the giant 2.5 ton stollen that is prepared and sold every year.



Dresden's waterfront



The giant Christmas stollen is about to be cut

DAY 7
Cont'd **Dresden – Seiffen**

Places of Interest:

- Zwinger
- Church of our Lady
- Semper Opera
- Green Vault
- Great Garden
- Royal Palace
- Cathedral
- Procession of the Princes
- Brühl Terrace
- Kreuzkirche Church
- Academy of Arts and Art Society

Lunch

Transfer to the “woodcarver town” of Seiffen – 40 miles (by car or coach)

Visit to local Christmas market

Seiffen Tourist Office

Hauptstrasse 95

09548 Kurort Seiffen

Tel: +49 (37362) 8438

Fax: +49 (37362) 76715

E-Mail: fv-amt@seiffen@t-online.de

www.seiffen.de

Seiffen – The “toy town” of Seiffen in the Erzgebirge mountains is known for its woodcarving tradition, and its expertise in wooden toys like nutcrackers or the “smoking man” incense smoking figurines. The local Christmas market is a great place to find unique Christmas presents, or just to have a mug of Glühwein and enjoy the snowy mountain scenery.



Christmas market in “toy town”

Visit to Erzgebirge mountains toy museum with woodcarving museum

Erzgebirgisches Spielzeugmuseum

Hauptstrasse 73

09548 Kurort Seiffen

Tel: +49 (37362) 8239

E-Mail: info@spielzeugmuseum-seiffen.de

www.spielzeugmuseum-seiffen.de

DAY 7
Cont'd **Seiffen – Dresden**

Transfer back to Dresden – 40 miles (by car or coach)

Dinner

Overnight in Dresden

DAY 8 **Dresden – USA**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Dresden Airport

Departure to the USA