

## Cracking Christmas Markets

Europe's Christmas markets usher in a magical world of hand-crafted toys, local festive delicacies, beautiful decorations and bags of good cheer. Booking.com is spreading the Christmas spirit with their pick of the best markets – from old favourites to new finds - across Europe as well as where to stay to get the most out of your visit. It's time to grab a glass of gluhwein or steaming hot chocolate and take to the (probably quite chilly!) streets to explore the best of the local fayre before cosying up in each area's top reviewed accommodations, as shared by fellow Christmas market fans on Booking.com.

Sample the finest French wines at a market dating back to 1570, experience a white Christmas at a majestic market in Estonia, stay in a 16<sup>th</sup> century inn in France or listen to the bells ringing while staying at a traditional guesthouse in one of Austria's most majestic cities. Jingle all the way!

### Bolzano, Italy

There's no such thing as a Christmas without a market in Bolzano, and in this picturesque town that means a festive haven surrounded by snow-capped mountains that you can ski down or explore by cable car.

**Where to stay in style:** [Parkhotel Laurin](#) – Gaze at the old city from your bedroom and make your way down to the, yes, fireplace. This luxury oasis is only 200 meters from the Christmas market.



**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Rosengarten Rooms](#) – stay in the historic centre at this brightly coloured hotel with beautiful wooden floors, situated just minutes from the market.

### Colmar, France

A historic, fairy-tale looking town steeped in tradition, with a pedestrianized centre where the warm Christmas mood is contagious, there are stunning decorations and not just one but five Christmas markets. What's not to fall in love with?

**Where to stay in style:** [Hotel Le Colombier Suites](#) – live the fairy-tale at this charming, Renaissance style hotel with a spiral staircase built in 1543 and located right in the heart of town.



**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Modern Studio Centre](#) – capture a real French feeling during your Christmas escape at this modern, bright apartment tucked away and only a few minutes' walk to the markets and canals.

## Trento, Italy

Christmas trees aren't the only things you'll see lit up in Trento. Castles and cathedrals also shine brightly as you stroll through the merry markets and explore this beautiful town.

**Where to stay in style:** [Relais Villa Madruzzo](#) - Treat yourself at this classy oasis with incredible views overlooking Trento, and relax in the wellness centre which includes a Turkish bath and outdoor hot tub.

**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Le Tre Gemme](#) - Not too far down the road, have yourself a shabby chic Christmas at a B&B that's sure to charm anyone who walks through the door.



## Innsbruck, Austria:

Christmas in the Alps! Fill your day with exciting winter sports and fill your cup in the evening with steaming hot gluhwein from the delightful market.

**Where to stay in style:** [Best Western Plus Hotel Goldener Adler Innsbruck](#) - Look down from your window at the lit-up town and look up at the gorgeous mountains at this hotel, known for its great atmosphere and location.

**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Nattererboden](#) - Stay in a traditional and very cosy Austrian lodge in the middle of a beautiful meadow just above Innsbruck.



## Strasbourg, France

This self-proclaimed "Christmas Capital" is known for having one of the oldest and grandest Christmas markets in Europe—we're talking Christmas magic since 1570.

**Where to stay in style:** [Hotel & Spa Le Bouclier D'or](#) - A beautiful 16<sup>th</sup> century building that welcomes you to its wine bar and wellness centre after a long day of merriment.

**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Studio de tourisme Austerlitz](#) - In the midst of Strasbourg's Christmas cheer, cosy up in a quaint studio apartment just minutes from the market.



## Tallinn, Estonia

Dreams of a white Christmas come true amongst the cobbled lanes and gabled rooftops of Tallinn where candles light the streets and a visit to the old-fashioned Christmas market can be followed by an invigorating skate on the Old Town rink.

**Where to stay in style:** [Schlössle Hotel](#) - A picturesque hotel located in center of the old town. Dine by the fireplace in the elegant cave-like restaurant or jump in the sauna to thaw out from Jack Frost's cold bite.

**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [My City Hotel](#) - With its beautiful architecture, grand entrance, and access to the Finnish spa and sauna, this winter you can experience a great value royal Christmas.



## Bratislava, Slovakia

If there was ever a time to visit Bratislava, Christmas market season is that time!

**Where to stay in style:** [Arcadia Hotel](#) - Views of the Franciscan Church and the Bratislava Castle are just a couple of the perks at this 5 star boutique located only 50 metres from all the festivities.

**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Hotel Michalská Brána](#) - Tucked back in the quiet streets of Bratislava's historic center, enjoy a glass of that warming gluhwein on the terrace.



## Salzburg, Austria

Salzburg is already one of the most majestic cities in Austria, but visiting during Christmas is guaranteed to make you all warm and fuzzy inside.

**Where to stay in style:** [Hotel Goldener Hirsch, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Salzburg](#) – This luxury hotel is perfectly located for some of Salzburg's best sights - Christmas market included – the festival hall and Mozart's birthplace are just steps away.



**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Gästehaus im Priesterseminar Salzburg](#) - The sound of church bells during Christmas is all part of the magic, something you'll be bound to hear during your stay at this sweet boutique next to the historic Trinity Church only minutes from the market.

## Wroclaw, Poland

The streets resound with joy at Wroclaw's Christmas market where you can experience some of Poland's finest holiday treats.

**Where to stay in style:** [Grape Hotel](#)- *This renovated palace immediately draws you in with its high ceilings and tasteful décor inspired by various wine regions. Go for a walk in the surrounding park or treat yourself at the luxurious spa centre.*



**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Apartament Central](#) - *Where all you have to do is peak out your window to experience the mesmerising market and old town centre.*

## Bruges, Belgium

Oh the charms of Bruges! Christmas markets in this enchanting city are a Chocolate lovers utopia.

**Where to stay in style:** [B&B Ambrogio](#) – *Settle in to this classy B&B which rests along one of the lit up canals—one of Bruges' most spectacular features.*

**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Geerwijn](#) - *Stay in the heart of this captivating city and enjoy the picturesque( and quick) stroll to the market.*



## Vienna, Austria

Where the streets are covered in romantic fairy lights and the backdrop of the markets are some of Austria's most stunning architectural masterpieces, this is a market not to be missed.

**Where to stay in style:** [Palais Hansen Kempinski Vienna](#) - *This hotel (more like palace) was built for the World Exhibition in Vienna in 1873 and is located in the centre of the city, providing a stunning backdrop.*



**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Hotel de France Wien](#) – *Complete with the finest French décor, you can stay at this radiant 5 star hotel for a great price, making this a very Merry Christmas.*

## Merano, Italy

An illustrious river flowing from the surrounding mountains runs beside this historic town, adding an extra special charm to the jauntily set up markets.

**Where to stay in style:** [Hotel Terme Meran- Terme Merano](#) – Relish in a panoramic view of the mountains while staying at this gorgeously situated and ornamented hotel.



**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Manzoni Rooms](#) - This sweet and simple place is adorned with beautiful wooden beams bringing you that Christmas cottage feeling while enjoying the surrounding wintery scenery.

## Cologne, Germany

Stroll through Cologne's brilliant market situated in front of the famous grand Cathedral with some hot mulled wine often poured in a festive mug, yours to keep!

**Where to stay in style:** [Excelsior Hotel Ernst am Dom](#) - After your market meander, simply cross the street to find your perfect stay. Make sure to head down the magnificent marble staircase to the relaxing piano bar and listen to some live tunes.



**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Hotel Domstern](#) - A quick walk to from the market leads you to this quiet and comfy family-run hotel offering a tasty breakfast buffet to get you started on your morning shopping!

## Berlin, Germany

Berlin is filled with Christmas markets of all shapes and sizes, each one bursting with bright lights and special German goodies.

**Where to stay in style:** [Regent Berlin](#) - The Christmas season is all about good flavour. Something this hotel brings to the table with its tasteful antique furniture, marble floors and Michelin-star cuisine.



**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Hotel Palace Berlin](#) - When it's time to take a break from the business of Berlin, this little gem is fit with everything you need to relax and enjoy the holiday.

## Winchester, UK

Little wooden chalets placed by a Cathedral's historic close gives you a pleasant introduction to the medieval streets and hidden treasures of Winchester.

**Where to stay in style:** [Wykeham Arms](#) - Known for its charm, excellent food, local ales and log fires, this 18<sup>th</sup> century inn takes you back to Christmases of a bygone era.

**Where to stay on a shoestring:** [Just a B](#) – This little apartment is quaint, affordable and according to Booking.com reviewers, it's in a perfect location!

