simply Winter

Munich’s Christmas Markets and Winter Delights 2023/24

simply-munich.com #simplymunich
“I love Christmas markets!”

Is this something you could imagine yourself saying? If so, for you – and all those who adore hot chestnuts, roasted almonds, mulled wine, and arts and crafts – we have compiled a list of the most attractive Christmas markets in Munich’s neighbourhoods: from the traditional Münchner Christkindlmarkt (Munich Christmas market) on Marienplatz (main square) in the historic city centre to the alternative Tollwood Winter Festival in Ludwigsvorstadt and the queer Pink Christmas in Glockenbachviertel.

And on the pages that follow you’ll find tips for other winter delights, too, such as a visit to the world’s largest collection of nativity scenes at the Bayerisches Nationalmuseum (museum), concerts, events and lots of other ideas for what to do on cold winter days and how to round off the year.

Enjoy the winter season in Munich!
Münchner Christkindlmarkt on Marienplatz

The original among all the Christmas markets

A stroll through the traditional market in the heart of the city is simply a must in the run-up to Christmas. After all, you can’t miss out on that absolutely gorgeous bauble to complete your tree decoration, while your nativity scene’s flock of sheep eagerly awaits some new additions, too. Not to mention that mulled wine and bratwurst taste even more delicious when savoured in the crispy winter air. This traditional market with roots dating back to the 14th century is considered the original among Munich’s Christmas markets. Set against the romantic backdrop of the neo-Gothic Town Hall on Marienplatz, its neat rows of stalls convey a historic Bavarian charm that seduces all the senses. The market not only showcases a lively display of traditional customs and crafts, it also has what is probably Germany’s largest Kripperlmarkt (Nativity market) for crib scenes. Here, you can find everything you need for a genuine Christmas crib set-up – from the stable lantern to the gifts of the Three Kings. A dedicated Kripperlmarkt was held in Munich for the first time as far back as 1757.

At the Krampuslauf (traditional Krampus run) across the Christmas market, there’s no need to be afraid of the creepy creatures and shaggy-looking fellows. Live Bavarian parlour music from the Town Hall balcony featuring wind instruments, singers and choirs will set the mood for the Advent season, starting at 5.30 pm from Sunday to Thursday.

November 27, 2023 to December 24, 2023
Venue: On Marienplatz (main square) and in the Fußgängerzone (pedestrian zone)
Opening hours:
Mon-Sat 10 am – 9 pm, Sun 10 am – 8 pm, Christmas Eve (Dec 24) 10 am – 2 pm

TIP!
The Himmelswerkstatt (“Heavenly Workshop”) is a craft workshop for children aged 6-12. The little ones can even dress up as angels if they like. The workshop will be held every day at Munich Town Hall from November 30 to December 17 from 2.30 pm to 4 pm and 4.30 pm to 6 pm. Admission is free.
www.christkindlmarkt-muenchen.de
Tollwood Winter Festival: A Sensual Experience with a Mirror Tent (Spiegelzelt)

Tollwood sets Theresienwiese (Oktoberfest fairground) alight. From November 23 to December 31, the Tollwood Winter Festival transforms into an extraordinary Christmas market, offering a cultural programme filled with theatre, performances, children’s events, concerts and much more. At the “Market of Ideas”, you can savour exotic dishes of the pre-Christmas season until December 23, or test your aim at curling. More than 90 percent of all events are free of charge. The motto this winter: “Art washes away the dust of everyday life from the soul.” (Pablo Picasso).

Limbo Unhinged brings back the mirror tent to the Tollwood Winter Festival this year. It is a show that transcends boundaries and unhinges the world. It is more than just circus or cabaret, dance and burlesque. The grooving band, mesmerising acrobatics, Australian humour and a sword swallower turn the erotic-sensual variety theatre into a fantastic journey.

With an exclusive organic menu, the evening unfolds into an extraordinary experience. Tickets from 38.50 euros or optionally with menu from 85.50 euros are available from the Tollwood ticket hotline +49 89 383850 0 (free shipping) or from München Ticket. Tickets for the exclusive New Year’s Eve Gala with a five-course menu in organic quality are available for 165 euros. www.tollwood.de/en/
Christmas markets in the neighbourhoods

City centre
1 Münchner Christkindlmarkt on Marienplatz
   See page 4 and 5 for details

2 Winter magic at Viktualienmarkt (food market)
   November 20, 2023 to January 5, 2024
   Venue: Viktualienmarkt
   Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10 am – 8 pm, (Dec 24) 6 am – 2 pm,
New Year's Eve (Dec 31) 6 am – 8 pm, closed Sunday/public holidays
   www.markthallen-muenchen.de

3 Christmas Village in the Kaiserhof of the Residence
   November 23 to December 22, 2023
   Venue: Munich Residence, entrance Residenzstrasse,
   Odeonsplatz (square)
   Opening hours: 11 am – 9 pm daily,
   opening day (Nov 23) from 2 pm, on Dec 22 until 8 pm
   www.dasweihnachtsdorf.de

4 Munich Advent Extravaganza and
   Medieval Christmas Market
   November 27 to December 23, 2023
   Venue: Wittelsbacher Platz, (square) Briener Strasse 6-10
   Opening hours: 11 am – 9 pm daily,
   opening ceremony (Nov 27) 5 pm
   www.mittelaltermarkt-muenchen.de

5 Münchner Feuerzangenbowle (traditional Munich
   fire-tongs punch) at Isartor (gate)
   November 27, 2023 to January 7, 2024
   Venue: Isartor, Tal 50
   Opening hours: 11 am – 10 pm daily, Christmas Eve (Dec 24)
   11 am – 2 pm, New Year’s Eve (Dec 31) open end
   www.muenchner-feuerzangenbowle.de

Ludwigsvorstadt
6 Tollwood Winter Festival
   See page 6 and 7 for details

Glockenbachviertel
7 Pink Christmas, the queer Christmas market
   November 27 to December 23, 2023
   Venue: Stephansplatz (near Sendlinger Tor (gate))
   Opening hours: Mon – Fri 4 pm – 10 pm, Sat/Sun 2 pm – 10 pm
   www.pink-christmas.de

Haidhausen and Bogenhausen
8 46th Haidhausen Christmas Market
   November 28 to December 24, 2023
   Venue: Weißenburger Platz (square)
   Opening hours: daily 11 am – 9 pm, Christmas Eve (Dec 24)
   10 am – 2 pm; (Dec 5 and Dec 6) Santa Claus is coming
   www.haidhauser-weihnachtsmarkt.de

Schwabing
9 Schwabing Christmas Market – Das Kunstvergnügen
   (“The Pleasure of Art”)
   December 1 to December 24, 2023
   Venue: Münchner Freiheit
   Opening hours: Mon-Fri midday – 8.30 pm, Sat/Sun 11 am –
   8.30 pm, Opening Friday (Dec 1) 6 pm – 8.30 pm
   Christmas Eve (Dec 24) 11 am – 2 pm
   www.schwabingerweihnachtsmarkt.de

Olympiapark (Olympic Park)
10 Märchenbazar (“Fairytale bazaar”)
   November 23 to December 29, 2023
   Venue: Grounds of the Tollwood Summer Festival,
   Spiridon-Louis-Ring 100
   Opening hours: Mon-Thu 4 pm – 11 pm, Fri 4 pm – midnight,
   Sat midday – midnight, Sun 11 am – 9 pm, closed Christmas
   Eve (December 24), December 25, 2 pm – 9 pm, December
   26, 2 pm – 10 pm
   www.maerchenbazar.de

Schlachthofviertel
11 Christmas Market on the Alte Utting (disused pleasure
   boat) – Die Sternenflotte (“The Star Fleet”)
   November 24 to December 23, 2023
   Venue: Alte Utting, Lagerhausstrasse 15
   Opening hours: Mon-Wed 4 pm – 11 pm, Fri 4 pm – midnight,
   Sat midday – midnight, Sun 11 am – 9 pm, closed Christmas
   Eve (December 24), December 25, 2 pm – 9 pm, December
   26, 2 pm – 10 pm
   www.alte-utting.de

Please note that all Christmas markets will remain closed
on Totensonntag, November 26, 2023.
For details of more Christmas markets, see:
www.simply-munich.com/christmas-market
Christmas market typology

All those Munich Christmas markets – and you’ve still got no idea which ones to go to? The Christmas market typology at www.einfach-muenchen.de will help you find out which Christmas market type you are.

Are you more of a traditionalist who cherishes the magic of children believing in Father Christmas, or a cosmopolitan type who couldn’t imagine Advent without a cup of hot Caipi ... or are you still in urgent need of a set of knight’s armour before Christmas? Don’t worry – there’s something to suit everyone.

To make it easier for you to choose, we’ve taken a close and somewhat humorous look at the Munich Christmas markets: what are the most striking features, what would typically end up in your stomach or in your shopping bag? What type of music is played, and what might the slogan of the market be? You’ll find the results here. Enjoy!

For the full article with the Christmas market typology, visit: www.simply-munich.com/typology

Here you can find out more about what is going on in Munich during the winter and at Christmas – including mulled wine stands, a love letter to the Munich winter, saunas in and around the city, ski tours and much more:

www.simply-munich.com/winter

www.simply-munich.com/christmas
Christmas Markets in Munich

1. Münchner Christkindlmarkt on Marienplatz (main square)
2. Winter magic at Viktualienmarkt (food market)
3. Christmas Village in the Kaiserhof of the Residence
4. Munich Advent Spectacular and Medieval Christmas Market
5. Munich fire-tongs punch at Isartor (gate)
6. Tollwood Winter Festival
7. Pink Christmas
8. 46th Haidhausen Christmas Market
10. “Fairy tale bazaar” Olympic Park

See the following apps for full details of services:
MVV-App, MVG Fahrinfo. München Navigator and online
Christmas Lights and Magic – a guided tour of Munich in the festive season

Don’t forget your hat, scarf and gloves – and off we go! The tour of the Munich Christmas Market at the foot of the Neues Münchner Rathaus (town hall) takes you to selected craft and delicacy stalls and back into the history of the traditional market. Let’s go, right into the middle of the colourful Christmas hustle and bustle!

On Marienplatz, a Christmas tree as tall as a house with countless lamps provides atmospheric lighting and moments of reflection, while numerous stalls on the square offer hot drinks, all kinds of delicacies and inspiration for Christmas presents.

Our guides can tell you about the history of the city’s oldest Christmas market, whose roots date back to the 14th century and they are also familiar with Munich’s Christmas traditions.

In conversation with the stall vendors, you will find out just how much passion and craftsmanship goes into the products, and at the end of the tour there’s a free treat of roasted almonds and mulled wine for everyone!

**Date:** every Saturday at 4 pm (while the Christkindlmarkt is on)

**Meeting point:** under the Christmas tree at Marienplatz (main square)

**Duration:** 1.5- 2 hours

**Prices:** Adults 28 euros, from 65/ students 25 euros, children aged 4-14 23 euros (including one bag of almonds and a cup of mulled wine (incl. deposit) per person)

**Cancellation:** free of charge until 24 hours before the start of the tour

**Booking:** simply-munich.com/xmas or at the tourist information centres at Marienplatz and Central Station
Events
November to January

From November, there will be Christmas concerts, internationally renowned authors will visit Munich for the Literature Festival, and fans will celebrate a reunion with Holiday on Ice in the Olympiapark!

**Concert and event highlights at the turn of the year 2023/2024**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 9, 23</td>
<td>Varieté: GOP No half measures</td>
<td><a href="http://www.variete.de/muenchen">www.variete.de/muenchen</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 15 -</td>
<td>Literaturfest München (Literature Festival)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.literaturfest-muenchen.de">www.literaturfest-muenchen.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 3, 23</td>
<td>Musical: Ku’damm 56</td>
<td><a href="http://www.deutsches-theater.de">www.deutsches-theater.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 6, 23</td>
<td>Piano night: Daniil Trifonov</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gasteig.de">www.gasteig.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 9, 23</td>
<td>Concert: Münchner Philharmoniker</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gasteig.de">www.gasteig.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 13 -</td>
<td>Concert: Singing Christmas Carols with Enrico de Paruta</td>
<td><a href="http://www.heilige-nacht.com">www.heilige-nacht.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18, 23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 15 -</td>
<td>Concert: Night of the Proms</td>
<td><a href="http://www.olympiapark.de">www.olympiapark.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 17, 23</td>
<td>Christmas Oratorio</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gasteig.de">www.gasteig.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Munich Bach Choir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 23, 23</td>
<td>Concert: Christmas Swing</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gasteig.de">www.gasteig.de</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subject to change without notice. For the latest information, please consult the relevant websites.**

---

**New Year’s Eve 2023: The five best places to watch the fireworks display**

1. **Marienplatz**
   A popular meeting place for everyone who wants to see in the New Year right in the historic centre of Munich (U3/U6 Marienplatz)

2. **Leopoldstrasse**
   There will be a lot going on once again on the Schwabing Boulevard – and especially at Münchner Freiheit. (U3/U6 Münchner Freiheit)

3. **Olympic Hill**
   The view of the city skyline brightly lit by fireworks is hard to beat. (U3/U6 Olympiazentrum)

4. **Monopteros**
   For those who prefer to welcome the New Year in a romantic tête-à-tête with their partner, the charming circular temple atop a hill in the English Garden maybe the favoured scene. (U3/U6 Universität)

5. **Friedensengel (Angel of Peace)**
   At the foot of the statue you can enjoy wonderful views of Munich. (U4/U5 Prinzregentenplatz)

The Nativity Scene Collection at the Bayerisches Nationalmuseum

Humour in Bethlehem?

The Bayerisches Nationalmuseum in Munich owns the most artistically valuable and extensive collection of nativity scenes in the world. We talked to curator Thomas Schindler about the collection’s humorous, bizarre and true-to-life details.

Do you have a favourite nativity scene, Mr Schindler?

My favourite nativity scene is the one made of paper from Bohemia, comprising more than a thousand elements. It has a wealth of surprising humorous allusions.

Humour in the Christmas Story at Bethlehem? That’s not really what you’d expect ...

These elements were intended to pique the curiosity of children, encouraging them to examine the nativity scenes closely. Many nativity scenes featured playful and humorous details. In Naples, it was the „caccione“ – a man discreetly attending to his bathroom needs. In Munich nativity scenes, it’s often a dog in the act of answering nature’s call, while in the Bohemian paper crib, it’s the cows leaving their patch. Though it may appear somewhat crude, such depictions were considered entirely natural. The child who first spotted these hidden figures was rewarded as with small gift.

The Neapolitan crib scenes are particularly rich in detail...

In fact there’s even a name for the particularly detailed style – finimenti. This means that the figures are designed down to the smallest detail so they appear very true to life, such as the Neapolitan butcher amidst pork sides and chains of sausages, or the distinguished lady, recognisable by her numerous brooches, necklaces and bracelets, and her counterpart, the poor fisherman in a torn shirt and smoking a pipe.
Do Munich nativity scenes also include these distinctive features?

Munich’s nativity scenes include animals that do not normally appear in nativity scenes, such as fighting bulls and fish. Here, the Christmas story even includes people completely covered in hair and fantasy creatures.

Do also exhibit modern nativity scenes?

Yes, take a look at the more than eight-metre-wide nativity scene by well-known Munich graphic artist Walter Tafelmeier from the end of the 1960s. It’s highly reminiscent of the cover of the Beatles album Yellow Submarine!

To find out more...

The whole interview is available online at: www.simply-munich.com/nativity-scene

Collection of nativity scenes at the Bayerisches Nationalmuseum: www.bayerisches-nationalmuseum.de/en/visit

Tip: For details of other nativity scenes on display during the Christmas season and nativity scenes in Munich’s churches, see: www.muenchner-krippenfreunde.de
Simply stylish gifts

Part of the fun of a city break to Munich at this time of year definitely includes a pre-Christmas shopping spree. Check our website for suggestions for shops, boutique manufactories and workshops with special Christmas offers that are only to be found in Munich.

Christmas-Shopping

The other large shopping centres such as Fünf Höfe, Schäfflerhof, Hofstatt and the stores along Maximilianstrasse, Sendlinger Strasse and the Brienner District are also festively decorated. Here, in the numerous tradition-steeped stores you’ll find just what you’re looking for in terms of special gifts from Munich. Whether you’re after gifts for loved ones at home or simply want to treat yourself: we’ve put together a selection of first-class addresses in Munich where you can shop both online and offline – including everything from traditional department stores to museum shops.

Christmas boutique manufactories

Would you like something handmade for Christmas? Something that is particularly valuable because it has been sawn and turned by hand, drawn from wax or made from fine-quality paper? A large number of boutique manufactories and craft businesses have survived in Munich. Some of them even belong to the exclusive group of former purveyors to the royal court of Bavaria. To this day, they stand for quality and luxury. We found out something about the history of these stores – and also managed to get a few tips from the experts for you.

Enjoy your festive experience!
Winter hiking in Munich and the surrounding area

You don’t necessarily need skis – you can walk, do a winter summit hike or go tobogganing. The nearby mountains make Munich a perfect starting point for easy-going winter sports. And the city itself is transformed into a wonderland when it snows, too. Four tips for winter outings.

Schloss Nymphenburg (Nymphenburg Palace) and Botanical Garden

The canal in front of the palace teems with skaters, and Eisstockschiessen (a Bavarian form of curling) has a long tradition here. Nested in a landscape of snow-covered trees, meadows and small lakes, you will discover the Amalienburg, a summer residence. Additionally, there are three other pleasure lodges from the 18th century that grace the palace gardens. It’s lovely and warm between the palms and cacti in the greenhouses of the Botanical Garden next door, and from December onwards the tropical butterflies hatch here once again in all their glorious colours.

How to get there: Tram 19 to Schloss Nymphenburg, 10 minutes’ walk to the palace.

Riederstein (1207 m)
The Riederstein is one of the best-known peaks on Lake Tegernsee – the small chapel on its summit is visible from the shores. The ascent is easy to manage even in winter.

How to get there: Regiobahn BRB (train) to Tegernsee, then RVO bus 9559 to Schwaighof
www.tegernsee.com/a-wanderung-riederstein

Wallberg (1722 m)
This easy summit hike is rewarded with a panoramic view of the Bavarian Alpine foothills and Lake Tegernsee. Germany’s longest toboggan run (6.5 km) goes from the Wallbergbahn mountain station down into the valley. The descent is quite fast, so it’s a good idea to wear a helmet. Toboggans can be rented at the valley station.

How to get there: Bavarian Regiobahn BRB (train) to Tegernsee, then RVO bus 9556 for Wildbad Kreuth, get off at Wallbergbahn.
www.wallbergbahn.de/en/winter

Partnachklamm

The Partnachklamm gorge near Garmisch-Partenkirchen is also accessible in winter. Admission costs between 3 and 6 euros. If you only want to visit the gorge itself, you can turn round and go back when you get to the end (approx. one hour). The way back via Vordergraseck is more scenic (approx. two hours, 300 metres’ elevation gain).

How to get there: Train to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, then continue on bus lines 1 or 2 to the ski stadium.
www.partnachklamm.de

For more tips on winter outings and activities in Munich, see:
www.simply-munich.com/winter-ideas
Simply a museum visit

Munich’s exhibition halls offer a unique escape from the winter chill, inviting you to explore 5,000 years of art and cultural history. Many establishments remain open on the Christmas public holidays and at the turn of the year, as indicated in the table on the right. On these days you will be able to enjoy a completely unobstructed view of the masterpieces you’ve always wanted to admire.

simply-munich.com/museums
München Tourismus provides you with information and inspiration for your visit to Munich.

**Service Center**
Phone +49 (0)89 233-96500, Mon-Fri 9 am – 5 pm
Email tourismus.gs@muenchende

**Tourist Information Centre:**
Rathaus (Town Hall) (Marienplatz 8) and Central Station (Luisenstrasse 1)

**Services**
- Information about Munich and its tourist activities
- Booking of hotel rooms
- Sale of: München Card and München City Pass, guided sightseeing drives or guided walking tours through the city, special guided tours, activity vouchers, excursions to the surrounding countryside and the castles and lakes of Bavaria
- Souvenirs and tourist brochures

Seasonal changes possible

All current opening hours and services are listed online at [www.simply-munich.com/touristinfo](http://www.simply-munich.com/touristinfo) and book directly at [www.simply-munich.com/booking](http://www.simply-munich.com/booking)

**City tours – booking and information**
Online: simply-munich.com/booking
On site: Tourist Information at the Rathaus, Marienplatz 8*
*Please note the current opening hours
Email: tourismus.gs@muenchende
Phone: +49 89 233-96500 (Mon – Fri)

**Munich barrier-free**
Experience Munich with all your senses: Embark on a barrier-free journey through Munich with an official city guide and enjoy an exciting, diverse and contemporary exploration of Munich’s rich history and stories.

Whether you are in a wheelchair, have mobility challenges, are blind, visually impaired, hearing impaired, deaf, or experience learning difficulties – our trained guides will show you the most attractive aspects of the city and tailor the tour to your individual needs.

More information on barrier-free access in Munich:
[www.muenchen-tourismus-barrierefrei.de/en](http://www.muenchen-tourismus-barrierefrei.de/en) oder
[www.simply-munich.com/barrier-free-tour](http://www.simply-munich.com/barrier-free-tour)

**The official city guest tickets**
- Munich Card as 24-hour ticket
- Over 85 museums and attractions
- Free admission with the München City Pass
- Up to 70% discount with the München Card
- Full use of public transportation without additional charge
- No extra ticket required for bus and rail travel

[www.simply-munich.com/cards](http://www.simply-munich.com/cards)
Enchanting tour of the Neo-Gothic Town Hall

The heart of the city is Marienplatz with its imposing Neues Rathaus. The interior with its numerous stained glass windows, whimsical stone figurines, grotesque faces and mythical creatures, paintings and dark wall panelling is at least as impressive as the building’s neo-Gothic facade. A tour of the spacious building is great during the day, but when darkness falls, the high rooms and wide corridors create a magical atmosphere! One highlight is the Jurisprudence Library with walls of books reaching up to the ceiling, spiral staircases and wrought-iron chandeliers. It’s Hogwarts all over again!

Meeting point: in front of the tourist information centre at Marienplatz
Duration: 1.5 – 2 hours
Prices: Adults 20 euros
from age 65/ students 17 euros
Children age 4 to 14 12 euros

Dates and booking:
simply-munich.com/town-hall
or at the tourist information centres at Marienplatz and Central Station
Sports, recreation and wellness
Just around the corner: the M-Bäder

Christmas eve
December 24, 2023
The M-Bäder are open until 2 pm (admission until 1 pm). Ice-skating at Prinzregentenstadion: 9:30 am to 2 pm (admission until 1 pm)

Christmas holidays
December 25 and 26, 2023
The regular Monday and Tuesday opening hours apply for the M-Bäder and M-Saunen. Ice-skating at Prinzregentenstadion: 9:30 am to 9:30 pm

New year’s eve
December 31, 2023
The M-Bäder are open until 2 pm (admission until 1 pm). Ice-skating at Prinzregentenstadion: 9:30 am to 2 pm (admission until 1 pm)

New year’s day
January 1, 2024
The M-Bäder and M-Saunen open at 10 am, regular Monday closing times apply. Ice-skating at Prinzregentenstadion: 10 am to 9:30 pm

Also open during the Christmas holidays
More information: www.swm.de