



Press release

Münchner Christkindlmarkt 2023

(Nov. 27, 2023) The traditional Münchner Christkindlmarkt (Munich Christmas market) will once again take place on Marienplatz (square) and in the surrounding streets from November 27 to December 24. It is the city's oldest Christmas market, dating back to the 14th century. Approval has been granted for a total of 133 stands at the Christkindlmarkt this year, around half of which will be selling goods. At 5 pm on Monday, November 27, the Mayor of Munich Dieter Reiter will officially open the market by lighting the Christmas tree.

The Christkindlmarkt extends from Marienplatz to Alter Peter church, into the Fußgängerzone (pedestrian zone – Kaufingerstrasse and Neuhauser Strasse) and into Sendlinger Strasse and Rindermarkt. The stands are open Monday to Saturday from 10 am to 9 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 8 pm. Sale of goods also begins at 10 am on the opening day, Monday November 27. On Christmas Eve, December 24, the market is open from 10 am to 2 pm.

New festive lights

A new lighting concept will illuminate the city centre this year from 27 November to 7 January. Light projections in the Christmas colours of red, gold and green on Sendlinger Tor (gate) and Karlstor (gate) showing a blend of sharply defined and blurred circles will

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Christkindlmarkt
MÜNCHEN



create a warm, festive mood. Various symbols such as stars, the Frauenkirche (cathedral), hearts and the red “C” of the new Christkindlmarkt logo will sparkle on the street lamps, while some of the lamp posts will be encased in luminous lozenge-patterned netting. A total of around 150 lantern toppers are to be used, along with 60 lozenge-patterned mantles. One particular highlight will be the two larger-than-life Schäffler dancer figures illuminated opposite the Jagd- und Fischereimuseum (hunting and fishing museum). The dance archway that connects the two provides the perfect photo point. The lighting concept is rounded off with two star islands which provide a wonderful spot for people to linger, and two original wooden barrels with decorated Christmas trees. When dusk falls at around 4 pm, the lantern toppers and the lozenge-patterned mantles are switched on together with the street lighting. They remain lit until 10 pm. In the morning, they light up the winter darkness from 6 am until the street lamps are switched off. Only energy-saving LEDs are used here. The lighting project is financed under the state of Bavaria’s urban development programme through its special fund for town centre revitalization.

New design for the Christkindlmarkt

Munich’s markets and festivals go together to form a brand family. After the Oktoberfest and the Auer Dult, the Christkindlmarkt will also have a standardised brand identity featuring a logo and wordmark/symbol that replaces the previous motif and logo for communication purposes. The warm, inviting red of the new wordmark/symbol combination *Christkindlmarkt München* depicts Christmas festivity, while the Gothic lettering reflects the Christkindlmarkt’s tradition-steeped, historical



background. The Gothic “C” is a striking and distinctive calligraphic icon, its curve reproducing the shape of a gift ribbon.

Christmas tree

The Christmas tree with its 3,000 candles will illuminate Marienplatz until 6 January 2024. Like last year, the lights will not be switched on until 4 pm in order to save energy. The candles are turned off at 11 pm. They come on again at 6 am and stay on until around 8.15 am. Here, LED technology ensures energy efficiency.

Tree donor municipality and partner cities in the Prunkhof

The 25-metre high Serbian spruce was donated by the municipality of Königsdorf in the district of Bad Tölz-Wolfratshausen. Like every year, the tree donor municipality and its associations will run a mulled wine stand with snack specialities in the inner courtyard of the Town Hall – the Prunkhof. Typical products from the Munich partner cities of Sapporo and Kyiv can likewise be purchased at two stands in the courtyard.

Guided tour “Christmas Lights and Magic”

On a walk around Marienplatz, our official guides not only share interesting facts about the past and present of the Christkindlmarkt, they also introduce guests to Christmas customs and present selected stalls. Guests can look forward to mulled wine and roasted almonds at the end of the tour. For details and booking, see einfach-muenchen.de/xmas

Good gifts

Just like in the old days, the Christkindlmarkt offers a wide range of



Christmas gifts. Traders sell high-quality products including Christmas tree decorations, pottery and biscuit cutters. The range of classic items on sale also features wax models, Zwetschgenmaderl (figures made out of plums), angel hair and straw stars.

Krippenmarkt (Nativity market)

On the special market for nativity scenes – probably the largest of its kind in Germany – you will find everything you need for a genuine nativity scene, ranging from miniature lanterns to the gifts of the Magi. Nativity scene experts also offer repairs and restorations, as well as custom-made items. A dedicated *Krippenmarkt* was held in Munich for the first time as long ago as 1757.

Apples, cinnamon and almonds

Visitors are not just attracted to the Christkindlmarkt by mulled wine and other hot drinks with the spicy scent of cinnamon and cloves. Whether you're looking for edible Christmas gifts or a nice hot snack, gourmets are bound to find just what they're looking for on and around Marienplatz. Vegans, diabetics and those with gluten or lactose intolerances will likewise find the right food and drink to suit their dietary requirements.

Advent music live from the Town Hall balcony

Traditional Bavarian parlour music from the Town Hall balcony featuring wind ensembles, singing groups and choirs will set the mood for the Advent season, with live performances starting at 5.30 pm from Sunday to Thursday. On Thursdays, world music is performed from countries such as Sweden, Italy and Japan. The programme of live music also includes soul,



jazz and Balkan beats. The brass group Grünwalder Turmbläser traditionally play at the close of the Christkindlmarkt at midday on December 24.

Carols under the Christmas tree

Anyone who prefers to sing themselves can meet with like-minded music lovers for “Carols under the Christmas tree” in front of the Peterskirche church. From November 29 onwards, people gather here every Wednesday at 4.30 pm to spend half an hour singing Bavarian Advent and Christmas carols under professional direction – whatever the weather. Those with disabilities have barrier-free access. The lyrics of the carols are also handed out in Braille and large print, as well as being translated into sign language live for the deaf. Mobile induction loops are available for the hearing impaired. Guide dogs are allowed.

Krampus run

Despite all the shaggy-looking figures and creepy masks, there’s no need to be afraid at the Krampus run through the Christkindlmarkt from 3 pm to 5 pm on Sunday, December 10. The Krampus tradition has existed in the Alpine region for about 500 years. It is a custom that goes back to the mythological Christian figures of Bishop Nicholas and his companion Krampus.

Himmelswerkstatt (“Heavenly Workshop”)

In the festively decked out Ratstrinkstube, children aged 6 to 12 can transform themselves into little angels with golden wings and shimmering robes before getting creative. The meeting point is the Town Hall gateway



at the Fischbrunnen fountain. The *Himmelswerkstatt* is open from November 30 to December 17. The daily starting times are 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm, with each session lasting approx. 1.5 hours. Since participant numbers are limited, those interested in taking part are recommended to sign up in advance at www.kindermuseum-muenchen.de

The Kasperl at the Christmas market

At 2 pm and 3 pm on three Advent Sundays (December 3, 10 and 17), puppeteer Nikolaus Zettl immerses children and adults in a world of Kasperl puppet fun. Meeting point: Passage to the inner courtyard (Prunkhof) of the Town Hall, entrance Weinstrasse. Duration approx. 20 minutes.

For further information on the Christkindlmarkt such as the layout plan, programme and specialities, see www.christkindlmarkt-muenchen.de.

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