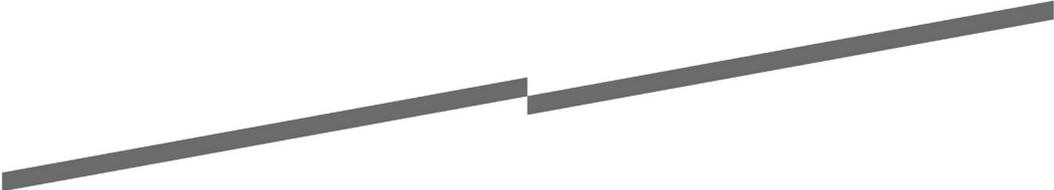




Press release

A Christmas tree for Munich from Hohenpeißenberg

(Nov. 16, 2022) A Christmas tree from the district of Weilheim-Schongau will be the landmark of the Christkindmarkt (Christmas market) on Marienplatz (main square). The silver fir from Hohenpeißenberg is the third tree in succession to come from the district in Upper Bavaria. In 2020, the municipality of Steingaden on the western border of the district donated a tree, while in 2021 the tree came from Peiting. The district of Weilheim-Schongau was responsible for selecting the tree. For 2022, an approximately 50-year-old Siberian silver fir from the municipality of Hohenpeißenberg was chosen as the “Christmas tree for Munich”. The tree measures about 25 metres in height and around 75 centimetres in diameter at the bottom of the trunk. Until now, the silver fir has stood on the western edge of Hohenpeißenberg. It had to be felled anyway for safety reasons because a power line runs past the spot. A replacement is due to be planted at the same location. In the presence of Hohenpeißenberg residents, the local press and representatives of the Weilheim-Schongau District Office, the silver fir was felled on the morning of Wednesday, November 2, by the municipality’s roads and parks maintenance team and loaded onto a heavy transport vehicle.



District Administrator Andrea Jochner-Weiß: “We’re thrilled that the Christmas tree for the Bavarian capital will once again come from our wonderful district. We very much hope that in these difficult times especially, the tree on Marienplatz will be a symbol of hope for all citizens of Munich and for all visitors to the city, contributing to a happy Christmas for everyone in Bavaria.”

Thomas Dorsch, Mayor of the donor municipality Hohenpeißenberg: “It’s a very special honour for us that the tree this year is from our town. A brightly lit Hohenpeißenberg tree on Marienplatz in Munich will be sure to create a wonderfully festive atmosphere.”

Clemens Baumgärtner, Department of Labour and Economic Development of the City of Munich: “Twice we have had to cancel the Christkindlmarkt – though we never missed out on the Yuletide symbol of peace at Marienplatz. This year in particular, the Christmas tree will send out a message of hope for many – something that is all the more important in these difficult times. Personally, I can’t wait to see our Christmas tree lit up in all its splendour.”

Today, November 3, the heavy-haulage operation started at 2 am, with the tree setting off on a 75-kilometre journey through three districts. The Christmas tree was finally delivered to Marienplatz at 6 am. A team from Munich’s professional fire department used heavy-duty equipment to ensure the tree was erected and then lowered and wedged into a two-metre-deep hole in the ground in front of the Neues Rathaus (New Town Hall) by means of a crane.



Staff of the street lighting division in the city's construction department will decorate the tree with fairy lights from November 7 onwards. Economical LED lighting is used for this purpose. The silver fir from the Weilheim-Schongau district will stand as the landmark of Munich Christkindlmarkt through to Christmas eve. At the opening of the traditional Christmas market at 5 pm on November 21, the Mayor of Munich, Dieter Reiter, together with District Administrator Andrea Jochner-Weiß, will officially hand over the tree to the people of Munich as the bells of the Alter Peter church are sounded. During Advent, the district and its towns will run a mulled wine stall serving traditional snacks in the magnificent courtyard of the neo-Gothic town hall through to December 23. In compensation for the pandemic-related cancellation of the Christkindlmarkt in 2020, the donor municipality of Steingaden in Pfaffenwinkel will also be permitted to run a beverage stand with tourist advertising on Marienplatz (stand number 40).

Lit up by some 3,000 candles, the Christmas tree from Hohenpeißenberg will be aglitter through to January 6, 2023. Rather than being switched on in the morning, the lighting will not go on until dusk from around 4 pm onwards: the idea here is to do more to save energy in addition to using LED technology. The lights will be switched off at 11 pm. The tree is expected to be removed again from January 16 onwards and will then be available for another "career", for example as a maypole. Interested parties can contact the Management Committee of the City of Munich on +49 (0) 89 233-92605.



Munich has benefited from Christmas tree donations ever since 1977 – and there is a long waiting list of municipalities offering trees. As a thank-you for the Christmas tree, the municipalities – whether in Germany or abroad (Austria, Italy) – are permitted to serve mulled wine during the Munich Christkindlmarkt in the inner courtyard (Prunkhof) of the Town Hall and put on a presentation as a tourist destination.

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The official URLs for information about the Munich Christkindlmarkt:

<https://www.christmasmarket-munich.com/press>

Facebook/Instagram: muenchner.christkindlmarkt

Image material

Photos and videos relating to Munich and the Christkindlmarkt can be downloaded conveniently from the München Tourismus media portal after registering once: www.einfach-muenchen.de/fotoservice