



Germany & Netherlands Christmas Market Itinerary

Duration: 7–10 days

Cities: Frankfurt → Cologne → Amsterdam

Perfect for: First-time European holiday travelers, Christmas market enthusiasts, culture & food lovers

Day 1: Depart from Home & Arrive in Frankfurt, Germany

- **Travel Tip:** Most international flights from the U.S. arrive in Frankfurt in the morning. Plan for a slower day as you adjust to the time difference.
 - **Optional Hotel:** Hilton Frankfurt City Centre or similar centrally located hotel
 - **Suggested Activities:**
 - Visit **Römerberg** and **Paulsplatz** Christmas Market
 - Stroll through the **Alt-Sachsenhausen** district
 - Explore **St. Paul's Church** or the **Main Tower** for views of the city
 - **Local Treats to Try:**
 - Apfelwein (Apple Wine)
 - Schnitzel
 - Bethmännchen (marzipan cookies)
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Day 2: Day in Frankfurt + Train to Cologne

- **Morning Idea:**
 - Grab coffee and breakfast near your hotel
 - Optional: Visit the **Palmengarten** (botanical gardens)
- **Travel Suggestion:**
 - Take a mid-day train to Cologne (~1 hour)
 - Book train from **Frankfurt (Main) Hbf** → **Köln Messe/Deutz**
- **Optional Hotel:** Hilton Cologne or similar central hotel
- **Evening Activity:**

- Stroll one or two Christmas markets nearby
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Day 3: Full Day in Cologne

- **Christmas Markets to Explore:**
 - Cologne Cathedral Market (Kölner Dom)
 - Old Market (Alter Markt)
 - Harbour Market (near Chocolate Museum)
 - Angel's Market at Neumarkt
 - Village of St. Nicholas
 - Stadtgarten Market
 - **Other Optional Activities:**
 - Tour the **Cologne Cathedral**
 - Visit the **Chocolate Museum** or **Ludwig Museum**
 - Take a Rhine River cruise if available
 - **Foods to Try:**
 - Reibekuchen (potato pancakes)
 - Mulled wine (Glühwein)
 - Currywurst
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Day 4: Travel to Amsterdam, Netherlands

- **Train Suggestion:**
 - Morning train from **Köln Hbf → Amsterdam Centraal** (~3-4 hours)
 - **Optional Hotel:** The Times Hotel or boutique stay in Jordaan/Canal District
 - **Evening Idea:**
 - Canal cruise (evening or sunset)
Dinner at a cozy Dutch café
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Day 5: Amsterdam Sights + Local Flavor

- **Must-Do Activities:**

- Tour the **Anne Frank House** (book in advance!)
 - **Markets to Visit:**
 - Albert Cuyp Market
 - Waterlooplein Flea Market
 - Foodhallen (indoor food court with global eats)
 - **Evening Suggestion:**
 - Try a traditional Dutch pub ("brown café")
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Day 6: Art & Culture in Amsterdam

- **Morning:**
 - Visit the **Van Gogh Museum** (or choose the Rijksmuseum if preferred)
 - **Afternoon Ideas:**
 - Explore the **Bloemenmarkt** (flower market)
 - Shop or wander through **Nine Streets (De Negen Straatjes)**
 - **Other Markets to Consider:**
 - Noorderkerk Market (Monday)
 - Spui Art Book Market (Fridays)
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Day 7: Depart for Home

- **Travel Tip:**
 - Schiphol Airport is ~20 minutes from central Amsterdam by train
 - Arrive 2.5–3 hours before your flight
 - **Last-minute ideas:**
 - Pick up cheese, stroopwafels, or Dutch souvenirs before heading out
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Optional Add-ons:

- **Day trip from Frankfurt:** Heidelberg or Rüdesheim

- **Day trip from Amsterdam:** Zaanse Schans (windmills) or Haarlem
 - **Day trip from Cologne:** Bonn or Düsseldorf
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Notes & Tips:

- 📅 Book major attractions in Amsterdam (Anne Frank House, museums) in advance!!
 - Try to group markets by walking proximity in each city
 - Carry cash—some stalls may not accept cards
 - Bring layers! December weather is chilly and markets are outdoors
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Holiday Food to Try Along the Way:

- **Germany:** Bratwurst, Lebkuchen, Glühwein, Flammkuchen
- **Netherlands:** Stroopwafels, Bitterballen, Oliebollen, Dutch cheeses