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## Top 10 Series: Top 10 Christmas Markets

Our team are constantly creating and researching ideas that represent ‘the best of the best’ so with the festive season fast approaching, we thought a top 10 of the best Christmas Markets might help get us all in the festive mood.

Active specialise in prize fulfillment and winner handling together with providing unusual prizes and holidays for sales promotions, sales incentives, instant wins, consumer competitions etc.

Enjoy...

### Prague Christmas Markets 04th November 2010 – 2nd January 2011

The Christmas markets in Prague are not just about the shopping. It is all about the special Christmas atmosphere that they create. The markets offer you not only a great opportunity to buy some unique presents, but experience the traditions that are still alive in Prague at this extra special time. The most popular markets are on the Old Town Square and the famous Wenceslas Square where Christmas items are sold by up to 80 stalls. Smaller ones are located on Namesti Republiky, Havelske Trziste and Namesti Miru.



### Berlin Christmas Markets 22nd November 2010 – 02nd January 2011

With over 50 Christmas markets every year, Berlin is a one of the greatest Germany cities in which to experience Germany’s Christmas markets. The capital is spectacular during the Christmas season. With many decorated stalls and the amazing aromas of mulled wine and cinnamon rising in the air, allow yourself to discover the vendor booths’ magic, charm, and unique items along the large boulevards and squares as well as on the small side streets..



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### Cologne Christmas Markets

22nd November 2010 – 23rd December 2010

Cologne has a special Christmas spirit as it hosts many markets and a large ice rink. Markets include; the oldest market ‘the Neumarkt’ which is one of the city’s liveliest and most beautiful; the traditional medieval market in the Old Town where you will also find the Alter Markt which is a perfect place to enjoy a warm glass of glühwein; the enchanting fairytale market; and finally the interesting floating Christmas market on board the elegant cruise vessel, ‘MS Wappen von Mainz’, set aside the banks of the Rhine.



### Krakow Christmas Markets

1st December 2010 – 24th December 2010

Each year Krakow’s Christmas market takes place on the city’s huge Rynek Glowny central square, amid the Old Town district. The trees in the square are adorned with bright lights that twinkle in the darkness and the traditional wooden stands sell a wide range of Christmas decorations and sweets as well as other items. Open-air eateries offer hearty meals and mulled wine, plus there are additional attractions such as shows, folk dances, carol concerts and a variety of street entertainers and musicians.



### Tallinn Christmas Markets

29th November 2010 – 7th January 2011

This charming market located in the old town reflects a medieval atmosphere and breathes new life into old traditions. This colourful market offers a wide variety of traditional Estonian products and handicrafts: toys, handmade Christmas decorations, candles, basketry, woolen sweaters and socks, sheepskin, linen fabrics as well as painted silk; the popular colorful felt hats, patch blankets, glass-ware, goods from clay, paintings, graphic art and many other.



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### **Copenhagen Christmas Markets** 15th November 2010 – 29th December 2010

At Christmas each year, Tivoli Gardens is transformed into a fantastic winter wonderland with 3 quarter of a million colourful lights illuminating the park. Something like 60 small shops sell all kinds of things: from gallons of delicious hot gløgg (mulled wine spiced with raisins and almonds) and candied apples, to wooden toys and Royal Copenhagen porcelain. There are concerts, pantomime and ballet performances for the family, you can also go ice skating under the stars on the park's frozen lake, or try the many exciting fairground rides.



### **Vienna Christmas Markets** 16th November 2010 - 23rd December 2010

During Advent Vienna is a city of nostalgia and romance, concerts and nativity displays and traditional Christmas markets. With several Christmas markets at Schönbrunn Palace, the Christmas market in front of City Hall, the traditional Viennese market on Freyung, the markets at Spittelberg, Am Hof and in front of the church of St. Charles Borromeo (Karlskirche). Stalls selling Christmas decorations, arts and crafts dominate with numerous arts and crafts stalls showing off the handiwork of numerous artisans from Austria and surrounding countries.



### **Munich Christmas Markets** 24th November 2010 – 31st December 2010

Munich's most famous and traditional Christmas market on Marienplatz in the heart of the city centre goes back as far as the 14th century. Around 100 merchants set up their stalls on Munich's largest urban square, offering many kinds of hand-crafted items and delicious goodies like roast apples and gingerbreads. The popular Krippelmarkt, a short stroll away on nearby Rindermarkt, specialises in cribs and other Nativity articles. Christmas music is played live from the town hall balcony every day and for children there are many free creative activities.



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### **Hamburg Christmas Markets** 22nd November 2010 – 23rd December 2010

In the Christmas run up, Hamburg’s Town Hall provides the superb setting for Hamburg’s most charming Christmas market. For over 100 hundred sellers have set up their shops on Hamburg’s largest urban square to create this winter wonderland. Roast apples vs. hotdogs, hand-crafted items vs. mass-produced merchandise and the quaint cottages designed by Bernhard Paul, director of the famed nostalgic Circus Roncalli, set this Christmas market apart from run-of-the-mill seasonal activities elsewhere.



### **Budapest Christmas Markets** 19th November 2010 – 29th December 2010

The Budapest Christmas Fair is one of cities highlights of the year. The market is held in Vorosmarty Square, one of the most beautiful in the city. With over 100 stalls, most of which offer unique hand crafted Hungarian produce from glassware, to sausages and everything in-between. Normally there is also a stage area where you can watch Hungarian folk dancing, music and stage plays and for those that are hungry there is no shortage of thick hot ‘goulash’, pancakes and sweet savouries, not forgetting gluh(mulled wine).



The highlight of the market is the opening of the Gerbeaud Advent Calendar at 5.00pm each evening. The Gerbeaud building is annually transformed into an ‘advent calendar’, with all the windows depicting a Christmas scene and opened each day up to Christmas day.