



Christmas is around the corner

As the festive season lights up our cities, we're taking you on a winter journey through two of our d.HOLIDAY destinations: [Stockholm](#) and [Hamburg](#). From cozy Christmas markets by the water in Sweden's capital to Hamburg's historic Rathausmarkt and charming canalside stalls, this edition is all about discovering the magic of the season – with the peace of mind that your dialysis treatment is taken care of. With d.HOLIDAY, you and your loved ones can explore charming streets, sip something warm, enjoy local treats and soak up the holiday atmosphere, all while receiving the same high-quality care you know from home.

Christmas markets to visit in Stockholm

December is one of the cosiest times to visit Stockholm, when the city sparkles with lights, Christmas markets and a wonderfully festive atmosphere. From historic squares filled with traditional handicrafts to trendy neighbourhoods hosting creative design stalls, there's something for every taste.

Here are two of Stockholm's most famous and traditional Christmas markets to explore, perfect for soaking up the magic of winter in Sweden's capital.



Stortorget Christmas Market

A true Stockholm classic

Right in the heart of Stockholm's Old Town, Gamla Stan, you'll find Stortorget Christmas Market, a historic gem where the festive atmosphere is always in full swing. When snow settles on the red wooden stalls, the scent of mulled wine fills the air and the square lights up the winter darkness, it feels like stepping straight into a Christmas postcard.

This market has been held since 1837, making it the oldest Christmas market in Sweden. Today, 41 stalls line the square, offering everything from roasted almonds, glögg and sweets to sausages and game, as well as metalwork and beautiful handcrafted gifts to bring home.

When: Daily from 22 November – 23 December

Sunday–Thursday 11:00–18:00, Friday & Saturdays 11:00–19:00.



Skansen Christmas Market

Perfect for the whole family

Another historic favourite in Stockholm is the Christmas market at Skansen, loved by both visitors and locals. With roots dating back to 1903, it offers a wonderfully nostalgic Christmas experience. Around 70 market stalls are spread across the open-air museum, offering everything you'd expect from a traditional Swedish Christmas market – from sweets and delicacies to crafts and seasonal decorations.

There's plenty happening beyond the stalls too: join in the dancing around the Christmas tree at Bollnäs Square, listen to carols in the park at weekends, and soak up the festive atmosphere. And if you'd like to treat yourself, don't miss the stall selling wrapped "mystery gifts" – a fun surprise to take home.

When: Fridays–Sundays, 28 November–21 December, approx. 10:00–16:00/17:00 (check Skansen's website for exact opening hours and programme details).

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Festive spirit in Hamburg

Hamburg feels wonderfully atmospheric during the festive season, with lights reflecting in the canals and Christmas music drifting through the historic streets.

From the historic Christmas market on Rathausmarkt in front of the grand City Hall to the charming Fleetinsel market right by the water, the city offers a mix of iconic and intimate Christmas experiences.

It's a place where Hanseatic harbour flair meets cosy winter magic: you can sip hot Glühwein while looking up at the illuminated Rathaus, stroll past wooden stalls filled with handcrafted ornaments, and then continue along the canals to smaller markets with maritime charm. Whether you're drawn to the buzz of Rathausmarkt or the waterside warmth of Fleetinsel, Hamburg's Christmas markets capture a festive spirit that feels both elegant and inviting.



Rathausmarkt Christmas Market

Hamburg's most iconic Christmas tradition

From late November until just before Christmas, Hamburg's Rathausmarkt Christmas Market transforms the grand square in front of the City Hall into a magical festive world. As the city's most famous and centrally located Christmas market – designed each year by Roncalli's Circus – it brings together tradition, craftsmanship and a touch of theatrical charm.

Stroll between beautifully decorated stalls offering handcrafted toys, wooden ornaments, artisanal sweets and seasonal delicacies. Don't miss the enchanting flying Santa, who appears above the market several times each evening, telling stories and adding an unforgettable touch of Christmas magic.

Address: Rathausmarkt, 20095 Hamburg, Germany



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Did you know?



The Nutcracker has become one of the world's most beloved Christmas traditions but it wasn't always a success. When Tchaikovsky's ballet premiered in 1892, critics found it too strange, too whimsical and even "confusing". It wasn't until the mid-20th century that the ballet gained global fame, especially in the United States, where it became a seasonal classic performed every December. Today its shimmering notes are instantly associated with the magic of Christmas.

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