



London Lights and European Christmas Markets

Embrace the sparkle and spirit of a magical winter Christmas.

14 Days | Thursday 10 to Wednesday 23 December 2026

Your journey begins in London, where glittering displays, towering Christmas trees and iconic landmarks shimmer with seasonal joy. Visit the Christmas themed Covent Garden, cruise the Thames to historic Greenwich, marvel at Blenheim Palace in its Christmas splendour and take in the dazzling illuminations of Oxford and Regent Streets before discovering the wonders of Harrods. Then travel into the heart of Europe for an unforgettable journey through its most atmospheric Christmas markets and medieval towns. Wander UNESCO-listed Regensburg, the storybook lanes of Rothenburg ob der Tauber, charming Freiburg, romantic Strasbourg, fairytale Colmar and lakeside Lucerne. With ample time to meander cobbled streets, sip mulled wine and explore festive market stalls, this Christmas adventure promises pure holiday enchantment.

Highlights

- Celebrate Christmas in London with time to explore Covent Garden and the city lights
- Cruise the Thames to Greenwich and enjoy a traditional pub lunch
- Visit Blenheim Palace, transformed into a festive Christmas wonderland
- Discover St Paul's Cathedral and walk London's South Bank to Borough Market
- Fly to Bavaria and embrace the Christmas spirit in medieval Regensburg
- Join a guided tour of UNESCO-listed Regensburg with a tasting of Bavarian specialities
- Explore Rothenburg ob der Tauber and the charming German Christmas Museum
- Stay three nights in Freiburg, gateway to the Black Forest and its Christmas markets
- Visit Strasbourg's Petite France, famous as the Capital of Christmas
- Wander Colmar's half-timbered streets and glittering decorations before travelling to Lucerne
- Explore lakeside Lucerne with an Old Town walk and scenic cruise on Lake Lucerne

Inclusions

- 14 day tour begins London, finishes in Zurich
- Flight from London to Munich, hotel transfers, tips and gratuities
- English-speaking Tour Manager and local guides as per itinerary
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as specified, 19 meals
- Comfortable coach travel in Europe
- Luggage handling at main hotels where available
- Villa Carlotta Travel tour host (subject to minimum numbers)
- A scheduled pre-departure meeting with your tour leader and fellow travellers
- 4-foot rating -highly active due to walking on cobblestones with uneven and slippery surfaces

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Your holiday itinerary (ex Perth, Western Australia)

Day 1. Arrive London (D)

Arrive in London where the city is alive with the excitement of the season. After clearing formalities, you transfer to your central hotel and have the remainder of the day at leisure. Perhaps stretch your legs with a gentle wander nearby or simply rest after the long journey. This evening, meet your fellow travellers and Tour Manager for a welcome dinner, the perfect opportunity to toast the start of your European Christmas adventure.

5 nights: DoubleTree by Hilton London – Tower of London, London

Day 2. London sightseeing and Christmas lights (B)

Today a local expert introduces you to many of London's famous sights at the most beautiful time, on a panoramic and walking tour. See Trafalgar Square, the exterior of Buckingham Palace, Westminster, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben. Finish in lively Covent Garden, one of London's oldest marketplaces and a favourite meeting place for performers and artists. Enjoy free time to browse the shops and festive decorations before returning to the hotel along a route that showcases London's spectacular Christmas lights.

Day 3. River Thames to Greenwich and pub lunch (BL)

This morning board the local river bus and cruise along the Thames, passing sights such as the Tower of London from the water. Disembark at Greenwich, often called the village of London and wander past market stalls and independent shops. You then have a choice of museum visit: explore the historic tea clipper Cutty Sark or discover maritime stories at the National Maritime Museum. A traditional pub lunch full of local character is included. Afterwards you may return with the group to central London or stay longer in Greenwich and make your own way back later, enjoying the festive atmosphere at your own pace.

Day 4. Blenheim Palace Christmas experience (BL)

Leave London for the rolling countryside of Oxfordshire and a visit to magnificent Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill and one of England's most impressive stately homes. At Christmas this grand estate becomes a winter wonderland, with themed decorations and a sparkling atmosphere. Enjoy a special Christmas afternoon tea and free time to browse the seasonal market stalls or stroll through the beautifully manicured gardens. Return to London in the early evening with time to experience the city's magical streets after dark.

Day 5. St Paul's Cathedral and London's South Bank (BD)

Today begins with a visit to the iconic St Paul's Cathedral, crowned by its world-famous dome and an instantly recognisable feature of the London skyline. After free time for lunch, join your Tour Manager for a walk across the Millennium Bridge to London's South Bank. Take in views of Shakespeare's Globe and the riverside skyline before finishing at bustling Borough Market, where food stalls tempt with seasonal treats. This evening, gather with new friends at a traditional English restaurant for a farewell dinner to celebrate your time in London.

Day 6. London to Regensburg, Germany (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Germany. On arrival you travel to Regensburg, a beautifully preserved medieval city on the Danube River. After checking in, the remainder of the day is free to settle into your Bavarian surroundings, perhaps taking a short evening stroll among the twinkling lights and wooden stalls.

3 nights: Hampton by Hilton Regensburg, Regensburg

Day 7. Regensburg at leisure (BD)

Enjoy a relaxed day at leisure to discover Regensburg at your own pace. Wander through narrow lanes lined with historic buildings, seek out cosy cafés or begin exploring the Christmas markets that dot the Old Town. This evening share dinner with your group and soak up the warm Bavarian hospitality.

There are new requirements for UK citizens holding dual citizenship with other countries including Australia. UK citizens MUST enter using their UK passports as of FEB 2026. For more information please visit [United Kingdom Travel Advice & Safety | Smartraveller](#)

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Day 8. Regensburg guided tour and Christmas markets (B)

With a local guide you explore Regensburg, one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities. See the Old Stone Bridge, the first stone bridge built across the Danube, and the ancient Roman gate, Porta Praetoria. Stroll through the Old Town, alive with festive colour and the aromas of seasonal treats, then enjoy a tasting of Bavarian favourites. The afternoon is free to browse the various Christmas markets, each with its own character, or you may choose an optional excursion to the Romantic Christmas Market at Thurn and Taxis Palace, set in an atmospheric palace courtyard.

Day 9. Regensburg – Rothenburg ob der Tauber – Freiburg (BD)

Leave Regensburg and travel through the heart of Franconia to picture-perfect Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Here you step into the past as you wander cobbled streets and half-timbered houses. Visit the delightful German Christmas Museum, filled with glittering glass ornaments, nutcrackers, Christmas pyramids and displays of festive traditions. Later continue to Freiburg, set on the western foothills of the Black Forest and settle into your hotel for the next three nights. Enjoy a cosy dinner at the hotel restaurant this evening.

3 nights: Hotel Elements Pure, Freiburg

Day 10. Freiburg sightseeing and markets (B)

This morning take the local streetcar into Freiburg's Old Town for a choice of guided tours. Learn about the city's history on a walking tour through medieval streets and hidden corners or focus on its Christmas heritage with a tour highlighting festive customs in the historic centre. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the Christmas markets, explore local shops or find a café to watch the world go by in this lively German university town with influences from the neighbouring French and Swiss cultures.

Day 11. Freiburg – Strasbourg, France – Freiburg (BD)

Travel across the border into France to visit Strasbourg, where Roman, French and German influences blend beautifully. On a guided tour you discover the Old Quarter known as "Petite France", with its waterways, timbered houses and the impressive Cathedral of Notre Dame. Afterwards you have free time to explore the many markets and decorations that make Strasbourg famous as the Capital of Christmas. Later return to Freiburg and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant featuring regional Alsace cuisine.

Day 12. Freiburg – Colmar – Lucerne, Switzerland (B)

Today you visit Colmar, another jewel of the Alsace region, where half-timbered houses, cobblestone streets and canals create a fairytale backdrop. During the festive season the town is decorated with lights, garlands and Christmas displays. Enjoy time to wander, shop for gifts or sample local specialties before travelling on through the mountains to Lucerne in Switzerland. Nestled beside a serene lake and surrounded by snow-tipped peaks, Lucerne is enchanting in its winter finery.

2 nights: Hotel Astoria Lucerne, Lucerne

Day 13. Lucerne sightseeing and Lake Lucerne cruise (BD)

Winter's crisp air is softened by the scents of cinnamon and mulled wine as you join a local guide for a walking tour of Lucerne's Old Town. See the Chapel Bridge, historic squares and painted façades, then enjoy free time in the afternoon to continue exploring, perhaps seeking out more Christmas markets or relaxing by the lakeside. Later take a scenic cruise on Lake Lucerne, admiring the surrounding mountains and shoreline villages. This evening, share a farewell dinner of Swiss cuisine with your fellow travellers and reminisce about the highlights of your European Christmas journey.

Day 14. Zurich to Perth (B)

After breakfast it is time to say goodbye to Lucerne. Transfer to the airport in Zürich for your return flights to Perth. As you fly home, reflect on London's glowing streets, the magic of Germany's Christmas markets and the charm of France and Switzerland in winter.

Itinerary is subject to change. Terms and conditions apply. Call 08 9754 2026 for details.

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LAND ONLY - Cost per person twin share, tipping included.

Price \$ 12, 757

Single Option \$ 2,390

Earn 255 villabucks

GROUP AIR PACKAGE – including flights and transfers are still to be finalized. For more information, please contact our helpful Villa staff.



For travellers with good agility and stamina. In addition to Active requirements, these tours include longer walks over challenging terrain such as soft sand, rocky paths, and occasional creek crossings. Expect multiple walks up to 3 hours long per day, over multiple days. Some itineraries visit remote regions where carrying a day pack with food, water, and suitable outdoor clothing is essential. Not suitable for travellers using walking aids or requiring assistance.

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