

BAUHAUSLAND – Christmas traditions in the home of avant-garde design

Christmas markets, mulled wine, gingerbread and locally-made, one-of-a-kind gifts: Christmas in Germany is truly special. And nowhere more so than in **BauhausLand**, the German federal states of Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt, just south of Berlin. This is the region that gave us the Christmas tree, the Christmas carol and Christmas Eve gift giving – 500 years ago! But it is also the home of Bauhaus, the most avant-garde design movement of the past 100 years, which is celebrating its centenary in 2019.

Did you know? The Bauhaus professors had their own twist on the holiday season. They called it Julklapp, the winter solstice festival, with gifts delivered by gnomes!



WHERE ARE THE BEST CHRISTMAS MARKETS?

The smell of spices in the frosty air; the cutest gifts; the sound of carol singing: all are part of authentic Christmas markets that run from the end of November to Christmas Eve. Some are large, famous and crowded; others are just weekend events in villages. All are fun; all are authentic. For insider tips, contact our BauhausLand experts! Here are a few of our favorites.

Erfurt: The vast medieval Domplatz, dominated by the cathedral, has 200 stalls, selling everything from hand-blown glass tree ornaments from nearby Lauscha to Schittchen, a fruity 7-pound cake that is perfect for sharing with friends during the holidays. [More info](#)

Bauhaus Stadt Weimar: Students and graduates at the Bauhaus University Weimar hold their own Bauhaus Christmas Market, where their own unique handcrafted items are for sale. Drink mulled wine and enjoy the music; take home the perfect gift: A piece of Bauhaus! (Saturday 8th December). [More info](#)

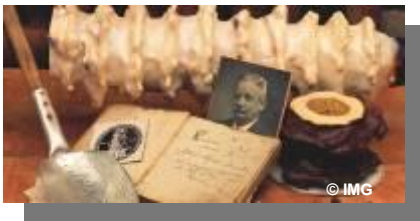


Bauhaus Stadt Dessau: As well as displaying jewelry and wood carvings, the Christmas market in the 500-year-old Marienkirche church features glass blowers creating tree ornaments as you watch. [More info](#)

Magdeburg: In Saxony-Anhalt's capital, travel back to the times of local hero, the 10th-century ruler, Otto the Great. Blacksmiths, glassblowers, painters and potters, all dressed in medieval garb, display their handmade wares. Find gifts made from traditional materials, such as wood, wool, clay, wax, horn and leather. The mulled wine and hot mead are served in clay jugs; bread is baked in wood-fired ovens. Welcome to the Middle Ages! [More info](#)

Quedlinburg: Germany's largest Advent calendar? That's in Quedlinburg, an hour's train ride from Magdeburg. Each day from 1st - 24th December, a different house opens its door, slowly creating the Quedlinburg Advent Calendar. One has candies for the children. Which one? Look for its shining star! Also unique is "Advent in the Courtyards," the opening of 20 inner spaces; usually closed to the public, these have special Christmassy scenes. The market square, with its medieval half-timbered houses, completes the perfect setting for a romantic holiday season, with live music at every corner. [More info](#)

Wernigerode: In the Harz Mountains, guarded by a romantic medieval castle, the town's 15th century half-timbered houses are beautifully decorated; stalls are set with local arts and crafts; thousands of lights sparkle along the cobbled streets. And to open the market, the Lord Mayor cuts into a giant Stollen cake. [More info](#)



Did you know? The town of **Salzwedel** claims to be the birthplace of **Baumkuchen cake**. Where better to celebrate this delicious treat than at the Christmas market?

WHO INVENTED THE CHRISTMAS TREE?

The first Christmas tree set up outdoors was in **Weimar** in 1815. A bookseller put a tree outside his shop for poor children to enjoy; that tradition continues annually with a 65-foot silver fir. But the idea of a tree came 300 years earlier. Walking through snowy woods under a starlit sky, religious reformer Martin Luther was so moved that he cut down a fresh tree, set it up indoors and **decorated it with real candles**. For his five-year-old son, he even composed the **first Christmas carol**, which is still sung today: "From Heaven above to earth I come, To bear good news to every home."

Did you know? Luther moved the **tradition of gift giving** from 6th December (Saint Nicholas' Day), to Christmas Eve on the 24th!



WHERE DO THOSE TREE DECORATIONS COME FROM?

The international tradition of hanging up tree decorations is another BauhausLand invention. A mere 60 miles from Weimar, sparkling ornaments have long been created by skillful glass blowers in the Thuringian forest village of **Lauscha**. In 1880, F. W. Woolworth, the five-and-dime store pioneer, introduced these elegant glass balls to the U.S.A. Today, **Lauscha** glassblowers still

create these **delicate tree ornaments**. And, where Thuringia meets the **Erzgebirge Mountains**, folk artists are known for their **toy making**. They continue the 150-year-old tradition of carving nutcrackers in the shape of soldiers or kings. They also make Christmas pyramids and carousels with candles.

Did you know? Pottery gifts reflect the local crafts tradition. Learn more at the Ceramics Museum in **Bürgel**, whose collection includes works by master potters, such as Otto Lindig, a student and teacher...at the **Bauhaus!**

SPOIL YOURSELF WITH CHRISTMAS TREATS

At Christmas markets, the sweet smell of cooking might be **Baumkuchen**, which is like a waffle, but cooked over an open fire. A 500-year-old treat, this cake is rich with eggs, butter, sugar, and flour. *(If you would like to try baking one at home, click **here** for our recipe!).* **Stollen**, the sweet yeast bread, packed with dried fruits, is another local delicacy, now enjoyed world-wide. Then, there is **Pfefferkuchen**, a hearty gingerbread made with honey. For something savory, munch on **Thuringian Rostbratwurst, Germany's best sausage**. Grilled over charcoal, it makes a perfect partner for the strong, malty Christmas beer, brewed for the winter season. A fun gift is a special **souvenir pottery mug** designed for drinking **Glühwein** (mulled wine). Treats to take home include **Halloren Kugeln** from Halle (Saale). These chocolate balls, with strawberry, cherry or blackcurrant flavors are made by Germany's oldest chocolate maker (1804).

Did you know? Before you start eating, say to everyone: "Lass es dir schmecken!" - "**Enjoy your meal!**"



How we can help.

Whether you're looking for detailed information on Bauhaus cities, or need the perfect picture, we're happy to help! We suggest driving routes through [BauhausLand](#) and help organizing or find the right contact person. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch at info@gobauhaus.com.

		TourComm Germany Olbrichtstr. 21 69469 Weinheim Germany
	The Bauhaus. Our Spirit. #moderndenken	Your Contact: Mrs. Alexandra Wachholz Phone: +49 (0) 6201 60208-24 info@gobauhaus.com www.gobauhaus.com
	SACHSEN-ANHALT Investment and Marketing Corporation	