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# The Citizen

Thursday, November 12, 2015 Sustaining & Supporting the Stuttgart U.S. Military Community Garrison Website: [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil) Facebook: [facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart](https://facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart) [stuttgartcitizen.com](http://stuttgartcitizen.com)



## HOLIDAY SEASON 2015

### Christmas Markets and more

Celebrating the holidays in Germany from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

**Special Edition**

Photo courtesy of in.Stuttgart / Fotograf

**FOOD**

Recipes for traditional Christmas Market Glühwein and cookies. — **PAGES 14-16**

**HISTORY**

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Experience an official "Chocolate City" during annual festival. — **PAGE 18**

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Winter Weather Advisories on Facebook @USAGarrisonStuttgart



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# Happy Holidays

## from the USAG Stuttgart Command Team

As we approach the Holiday season, we are afforded the wonderful opportunity to be mindful and grateful for our friends, family and extended military families here in Stuttgart and around the world as we celebrate a number of holidays that reflect the diversity, faith, and values of our great nation.

We are fortunate in the armed forces, especially here in the outstanding Stuttgart community, that when we are away from our family during the holidays, we can always count on our Army, Air Force, Marine and Navy family.

Whether it's a community tree lighting, a unit holiday party, or another holiday event, the people here help make these events feel

more like family gatherings than community events — that's why I'm so glad to live here. I encourage each and every one of you to keep looking out for your fellow community members and co-workers, just like you would your own family. For many, the holidays can be depressing and increased alcohol consumption can fuel the feelings of hopelessness. With our warm and welcoming community, let's reach out to others that are new and may not have places to go for the holidays. Be safe and be vigilant, remember to look out for one another.

The close of one year moves our attention to the challenges of the year to come. As the community moves forward, we can reflect

on the milestones of the past year, such as the opening of the new Stuttgart High and Elementary Schools on Panzer Kaserne and the new Patch Middle school. We can look forward to future opportunities as we continue to support our multi-service commands. The challenges will come as we welcome 2016, and we are thankful that we can rely on each other and rise to those new challenges as a community.

Through these upcoming holidays, and into the exciting new year, on behalf of USAG Stuttgart we wish the entire Stuttgart military family the very best.

**Happy Holidays! Stay safe and stay vigilant!**



Col. Glenn K. Dickenson,  
garrison commander



Heidi Malarchik, deputy



CSM Lynice D. Thorpe

# Helpful tips to keep safe this Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is an American tradition that brings family and friends together to give thanks for all of the great things we have been blessed with throughout the year. Every year at Thanksgiving, most of us engage in an annual rite of passage: stuffing ourselves mercilessly with turkey, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie — and let's not forget about football.

Thanksgiving also marks the official countdown to the holiday season for most Americans that we all look forward to.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

## Food Safety

- Safely cooking a turkey starts with correct defrosting. The turkey can be thawed in the refrigerator, submerged in water in leak-proof packaging or in a microwave.
- Cook the turkey immediately after thawing. Don't slow cook or partially cook the turkey, and check the temperature with a meat thermometer.
- Leftovers need to be put away within two hours after serving the food.
- Food should be stored in shallow containers.
- Meat should be removed from the bone before being put away.

## Fire Safety

Avoid fires by following these simple rules:

- Don't leave stovetop cooking unattended.
- When deep frying a turkey, keep the fryer outside, away from walls, fences and other structures.
- Keep the fryer away from moisture to avoid burns from steam and splattering oil.
- Use a timer and do kitchen checks when baking, broiling and roasting.
- Keep pot holders and food wrappers three feet away from the stove or other hot surfaces.
- Kids and pets should stay three feet away as well.
- Make sure the handles of pots and pans are facing inward on the stove.
- Avoid loose clothes, especially those with long sleeves, while cooking.
- Make sure all candles and smoking materials are put out after the guests leave.

## Travel Tips:

Prepare your vehicle for winter weather driving conditions.

- Observe the local laws (i.e. winter tires).
- Pack an emergency road kit (flashlight, shovel, snow chains, blan-

kets, water, food).

- Pack your cell phone and car charger.
- Buckle up and adjust your speed to road conditions.
- Fuel up, don't fill up. Avoid overeating, especially if you plan to drive afterward. We've all heard of the infamous "turkey coma."
- Eating causes your blood sugar to rise and the more you eat the higher it goes. Blood sugar levels above 200 mg/dl can make you very drowsy so

don't plan on getting behind the wheel immediately after a large meal.

- If you have a long trip home, make sure to give your food plenty of time to digest.
- Once on the road, take rest breaks at least every 2 hours. Never drive drowsy.
- Do not drink and drive. Use alternate transportation such as buses, trains, taxis or a designated driver.



Photo by Pushkin/Shutterstock.com

## Fun Facts about Thanksgiving

- It is not clear if pilgrims ever ate turkey during their inaugural Thanksgiving event in the 1620's, it is believed to have been celebrated with lobster, rabbit, fish, chicken, squashes, beans, onions, chestnuts, hickory nuts, leeks, maple syrup, dried fruits and honey, cabbage, radishes, eggs, carrots and goat cheese. The well-known writer Calvin Trillin has carried out mock campaigns for years to change the usual turkey to the modern day spaghetti carbonara!
- The first ever Thanksgiving event is believed to have lasted for three days.
- In their inaugural feast the pilgrims never used forks; they instead ate with spoons, knives and their fingers.
- When Benjamin Franklin was in office he wanted the turkey to be declared as the national bird.
- There is a football game hosted by the Detroit Lions on Thanksgiving Day which first took place in 1934 and it has continued on every Thanksgiving Day since then.
- Turkey contains more protein when compared with beef or chicken.
- Male turkeys gobble while hens on the other hand create a clucking sound.
- A fully grown turkey will have about 3,500 feathers.
- Turkeys raised commercially seldom fly.
- Turkeys can get heart attacks!
- The heaviest turkeys would weigh about 86 pounds.
- Wild turkeys have been known at times to spend the night up in a tree.
- Female turkeys are called a Hen whereas males are called a Tom.
- Wild turkeys are able to run twenty five miles per hour and are also able to fly up to fifty five miles per hour.
- Though turkeys do not have external ears they possess fantastic hearing power.
- No one knows exactly how turkeys got their name. It is believed that Christopher Columbus took the bird to be a peacock due its close resemblance and since East Indians used the word "tuka" for peacock, eventually the name got evolved to "turkey." Another theory is that the turkey makes a 'turk-turk' sound instead of saying 'gobble-gobble' and hence the name 'turkey'.

*Author profile: This article was written by Alex, expert blogger of [www.FeelKiev.com](http://www.FeelKiev.com), where you can find an apartment for rent in Kiev at a reasonable cost if you plan to celebrate Thanksgiving in this city. (No endorsement implied.)*

## Thanksgiving Events

### TURKEY TROT

Burn a few extra calories before the feasting begins Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Don't miss this great family fun event that promotes health and fitness. Race starts at 10 a.m. at Patch Fitness Center – Patch Barracks, Building 2337. Surprise giveaways for the first 300 registered participants. No Refunds on race entry fee. Cost: \$5 per person. Registration open now through race day.

*For information, contact DSN: 430-7136/civ. 07116807136.*

### THANKSGIVING WITH THE USO

United Service Organizations Stuttgart is hosting a full Thanksgiving feast with turkey, ham, and all of the fixings for the Stuttgart military community, for free, Nov. 26. Doors open at noon; Dinner is served at 1p.m. Whether you are new to the community or simply not up for the challenge

of cooking a turkey in a German oven, USO Stuttgart welcomes all DoD ID card holders to join for a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

*RSVP: Sign up at the USO Center, Building 2915 3rd floor on Panzer Kaserne, or call 07031-15-3345.*

### TURKEY DAY BONANZA WITH BOSS

Nov. 27 from 4-7 p.m. BOSS and the Warrior Zone are hosting a free Thanksgiving dinner for single service members and geobachelors. No registration needed. Patch Barracks, Building 2505 Swabian Special Events Center, Lower Level.

*For information, contact DSN: 430-5404/civ. 0711-680-5404.*

### Housing office closed

The Housing office is closed the day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 27.

# Celebrating Christmas in Germany



Photo courtesy of In- Stuttgart/Weidmüller

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Christmas in Germany casts a magical spell on cold and dark winter days. It's a time to celebrate long-standing family traditions, regional customs and values.

During their everyday routine, Germans pause and sit back to enjoy Christmas cookies, meet with family and friends at home or go to the many local Christmas markets, where they can taste hot Glühwein and Christmas punch.

"The most precious thing for me during the holiday season is the anticipation of Christmas. Everything is beautifully decorated and everything glows — this is very important during the darker winter season," said Dr. Martin Kilgus, a radio journalist with SWR International in Stuttgart.

The holiday season in Germany officially begins with Advent. Historically, Advent is the season in which Christians awaits the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas day.

An Advent tradition in Germany is the Advent wreath. The wreath is made out of fir tree branches and decorated with dried fruits, pine cones, glittering Christmas ball ornaments or stars. Four candles represent the light brought into the world by Jesus Christ. A candle is lit each Sunday until Christmas Eve.

During the 20th century, the Advent calendar was introduced in Germany to help count down the days before Christmas Eve ("Heilig Abend," or holy evening). The typical Advent calendar is made out of paper and has 24 doors, one to open each day from Dec. 1-24.

Children will find holiday season-inspired images or chocolate behind the paper doors. Some calendars also have boxes or small bags filled with presents to open each day.

Most people in Germany also begin to bake Christmas cookies during the Advent season.

"During the holiday season, I used to bake gingerbread, cinnamon stars and Gutsle [Swabian word for shortbread cut-out cookies] with my mother. The baking used to announce Christmas," said Kilgus, reflecting on his childhood memories.

"To this day my favorite cookies are the sugary cinnamon stars," he added.

The holiday season for Linda Tillmanns, an elementary and middle school teacher from Düsseldorf, officially commenced every year with the so-called "Weckmann."

"The Weckmann is a small cookie man fashioned out of sweet yeast dough. His eyes are made out of raisins, and he always carries a clay whistle in his arm. When the local bakeries started to sell the Weckmann, Christmas wasn't far," Tillmanns said.

Dec. 6 marks the birthday of Nikolaus, Bishop of Myra (known today as Turkey), and is celebrated in Germany as St. Nikolaus' (Santa Claus) Day. Legend has it that on his birthday, Nikolaus would don his precious bishop's coat, fill a big sack with nuts, apples, tangerines and honey cake, and load it on the back of his donkey. He then picked up his staff and walked along the streets, giving away the food to those he met.

Today, children place their boots outside their doors on the night of Dec. 5 in hopes that St. Nikolaus will leave some goodies in their shoes. Early on Dec. 6, most children find their boots filled with candy, gingerbread, toys, tangerines and nuts. In other cases, St. Nikolaus, also called "Weihnachtsmann," (Christmas man) visits children during the day in kindergartens and schools, or makes a grand entrance during the evening hours at home.

He is often accompanied by his helper, Knecht (servant) Ruprecht. Knecht Ruprecht carries all the presents for the children in a big sack on his back and has a birch switch hanging from his belt for those children who misbehaved during the year. While St. Nikolaus typically has a long white beard and wears a red coat with a red Santa hat, Knecht Ruprecht wears a brown or black coat and has a long gray beard.

Martin Kilgus has a St. Nikolaus Christmas ornament that he cherishes.

"I have this old porcelain St. Nikolaus figurine with a tea light in the middle. Every year during the holiday season, no matter where in the world I am celebrating Christmas, I put out my Nikolaus figurine to get into the holiday spirit," Kilgus said.

In Germany, Christmas Eve is celebrated with close family. Traditionally, the gift exchange takes place in the afternoon, followed by a festive meal. The choice of meal varies from goose with red cabbage, dumplings or potatoes, to fish, or, typical for Swabia, Saitenwürstle (sausages) with potato salad.

Many people in Germany visit

extended family and friends on Dec. 25 and 26, also called the first and second Christmas days.

The exchanging of gifts takes place under the festively decorated Christmas tree.

Linda Tillmanns decorates her tree each year with real candles, angels, birds and St. Nikolaus figurines. "It's wonderful sitting under this tree with family and friends singing Christmas songs together," she said.

Kilgus also has special memories related to Christmas trees.

"My dad grew Christmas trees in our garden," he said. "We used to cut the tree and decorate it with glass ball Christmas ornaments and Lametta (tinsel) in the afternoon of Dec. 24. I was decorating and setting up the nativity scene, while my mother was cooking calf tongue with rice for dinner."

Calf tongue may not be part of everyone's holiday plans, but whether you're German or American, the holiday season can be filled with laughter, joy and even a little bit of magic. For Kilgus, part of this magic comes from simply being with loved ones around the Christmas tree, upwrapping presents and nibbling on Christmas cookies — together. Despite the cold outside, he enjoys the warmth that comes from being with those he loves.

"I simply enjoy the time with family and friends; everybody comes home for the holidays," Kilgus said.

In the words so many Germans will be saying to each other this month: "Fröhliche Weihnachten" (Merry Christmas)!

# The origin of Christmas markets

by Nicole Karsch-Meibom

Kaiserslautern American Contributing writer

They are called “Weihnachtsmarkt” or “Christkindlmarkt,” originally depending on whether the region is Protestant or Catholic. Whatever the name, however, they are great opportunities to get into the spirit of the season. Get ready for Christmas markets of all kinds — from festive to freaky, from traditional to trendy.

The idea that the “Christkind”

(Christ child) brings Christmas gifts dates back to the Protestant reformer Martin Luther (1483 to 1546). In his time, it was traditional to give children presents on Dec. 6, St. Nikolaus Day.

To turn away from the Catholic veneration of saints and saint’s days, Luther laid gift-giving in his household on Christmas Eve. He told his children that “Holy Christ” had brought their presents. This tradition quickly took hold in Lutheran families.

Through the years, this fictional gift-giver took form. It was most likely the medieval German tradition of Christmas plays, with an angel of the Annunciation as the main character, which gave the Christmas angel its earthly appearance. As angels of all sorts began to be depicted as female, and not only male, the Christkind also took on a feminine appearance. That is why today a young woman is chosen usually to play the part of the Christkind.

Nevertheless, whatever the name, from crib figurines to wood carvings, it can all be found at a Christmas market. Depending on the size of the event, some markets last from the end of November to Christmas Eve, whereas others might just take place on one single weekend. Note that Sunday will be a remembrance day on which all shops in Catholic regions will be closed. Deciding which market to visit can be difficult, since there are so many.



Christmas market—The Stuttgart Christmas market is a large and popular one that draws visitors even from neighboring regions. Christmas markets started with the Protestant Reformation, but have since become a widely popular German tradition enjoyed by throngs of visitors yearly. — *Photo courtesy of in.Stuttgart / Fotograf*

**PANZER ROAD CONSTRUCTION**

Beginning Oct. 23, Hardee Street, which runs between the Panzer Hotel and Patch Elementary School playground, closed for repairs from the end of the Army Community Services/Bank/USO building to the end of Patch Elementary School. Hardee Street has become a one-way street in the direction of the tunnel beginning at the end of Patch ES. All traffic departing the new Panzer High School/Panzer Elementary School complex is required to turn left or right at the end of the tunnel. Exercise caution when exiting the tunnel because this intersection will become extremely busy while the street is closed for repairs. The detour facilitates completion of the cobblestone resurfacing, which should significantly improve the roads.

Cobblestone construction is expected to be complete by Nov. 30.

**PEDESTRIAN GATE UPDATE**

As of Oct. 27, the Robinson Barracks pedestrian Gate is now operational.

**SAFETY ALERT FROM THE USAG STUTTGART SAFETY OFFICE**

During the past weeks, it was repeatedly observed that personnel were walking or running on or near on-post roads in reduced

visibility conditions without wearing reflective equipment. Consequences can be fatal if a pedestrian is run over by a vehicle because the driver was unable to see them in time.

AR 385-10 mandates wearing reflective garments or equipment for personnel running, marching or jogging (not in formation) or otherwise exposed to traffic hazards as part of their duties (e.g. road guards, traffic control personnel, (road) construction crews, police etc.). Non-Army tenant organizations will comply with the above since the Army is the installation host.

All other personnel not captured by the above (off-duty, family members, etc.) are strongly encouraged to also use reflective equipment while exposed to traffic during times of reduced visibility, both on- and off-post.

Reflective equipment increases the visibility distance in the dark from 25-40 meters / 80-130 ft (dark/bright clothing) to 130 - 140 meters (430 ft). This means valuable extra time and distance for pedestrians to be recognized by vehicle drivers.

**STUTTGART VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Do you have questions about how to cast your absentee ballot? Please contact the installation Voting Assistance Officer at

431-2865/civ.07031-15-2865.

**COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN – OVERSEAS**

The 2015 Combined Federal Campaign Overseas ends Nov. 20. The CFC is an annual workplace giving campaign. This year's theme, "Give because you care!" encourages participants to contribute to their favorite charities. Up to 6% of campaign gross is returned to the overseas installations Family Support & Youth Programs which is then used to invest in better quality of life programs for service members, their families, and federal employees.

For information, contact the Community Area Project Officer at DSN: 421-3446.

**INFO ON CHILDCARE AND SCHOOLS**

Child, Youth and School Services have an information booth at the Panzer Main Exchange from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 17, Dec. 1 and 15. Become a Family Child Care provider; free training, job mobility, continuing education credits and professional resources are available.

For more information, call DSN: 430-4047/4100 or civ. 0711-680-4047/4100.

School Liaison Office have an information booth at the Panzer Main Exchange from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 17, Dec.1 and 15. Find out about their roles in the community. This is a great opportunity for in-processing families with questions about schools.

For more information, call DSN: 430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465.

**HEALTHCARE: OPEN SEASON**

Nov. 9 through Dec. 14 is open season. Department of Defense civilians have the option of adjusting or changing healthcare plans.

**GET IMMUNIZED – FLU SEASON**

Flu Vaccine is free for everyone! U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart offers influenza vaccinations at schools and in USAG Stuttgart community locations in November. Civilians and Soldiers who

are not seen at our Health Clinic(s) prior to receiving their Flu vaccination at the Patch or Kelley Health Clinic will be asked to fill out a registration form, also available to download at stuttgartcitizen.com.

**School Schedule**

- Nov. 17-19, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Stuttgart High (Panzer Kaserne)

**Community Schedule**

- Nov. 16, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Panzer Exchange
- Nov. 23, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Patch Fitness Center
- Nov. 24, 9 a.m. to noon at Robinson Barracks Brewed Awakenings
- Nov. 30, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Panzer Exchange

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS OPEN HOUSE**

The Panzer Education Center is sponsoring a Graduate Programs Open House on Nov. 17-18 on Patch and Kelley Barracks. Find out about on-site and online certificates, master's, and doctoral degrees available in Stuttgart from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, The University of Oklahoma, and University of Maryland University College. Program experts from each school will be available to answer your questions about earning a graduate degree overseas. Walk-ins welcome, no appointment or documentation needed.

Nov. 17 from 4-7 p.m. at Patch Barracks Gym, Bldg. 2337

Nov. 18 from 4-7 p.m. at Kelley Barracks Gym, Bldg. 3326

**FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP**

Join the workshop hosted by The Panzer Education Center, Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Building 2915, lobby. Get face-to-face help on the application process. Walk-ins are welcome, snacks and refreshments will be provided. For information, contact DSN: 431-2506/civ. 07031-15-2506.

**NOVEMBER IS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH**

Stop by the Panzer Kaserne

Exchange, at the Food Court Atrium, Nov. 20 from 8 a.m. to noon to get information on Diabetes from a Diabetic Educator, Wellness Clinic staff, and a Registered Nutritionist.

**DODEA VIRTUAL TOWN HALL**

Dr. McMullen, Department of Defense Education Activity Europe director, has planned a Facebook Town Hall Meeting, Dec. 3, 2015 at 6-7pm on the DoDEA-Europe Facebook site (facebook.com/dodeaeurope). The focus of this meeting is College and Career Readiness Standards.

Community members are encouraged to submit questions for the Director early by emailing feedback@eu.dodea.edu.

**KELLEY THEATER – COMMUNITY THEATER**

The next scheduled performance series, "The Sound of Music" is set to begin in December.

**The Sound of Music Performance Schedule:**

- Dec. 11-12, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 18-19, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19, 3p.m. - A special invitation only performance for The Exceptional Family Member Program.
- Dec. 20, 3 p.m.
- Jan. 8-9, 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 10, 3 p.m.
- Jan. 15-16, 7:30 p.m.

Consider buying season tickets, you can reserve your tickets and view the full schedule of upcoming shows at stuttgart.armymwr.com, or call DSN: 421-3055/civ. 0711-729-3055.

**ARMY-NAVY GAME**

In anticipation of one of college football's most celebrated rivalries, the Dec. 12 Army-Navy football game happening in Philadelphia, Soldiers will take on Sailors and Marines in Stuttgart's official Army-Navy flag football game, Nov. 21 on Patch Husky Field at 1pm. All ID cardholders and their guests are invited to join in the stands to view the game, and cheer on our service members.

**PANZER MALL CONCESSIONS**

**Nov. 16-22**  
Landrock's Oil Paint  
Petra Wurzinger's  
Furniture & Home Decor  
Peter's Polish Crystal  
Jacky's Home Decor  
Eva's Polish Pottery  
Giovanni's Masks

Tent Events  
**Nov. 16 & 17** Rag & Bone  
  
Auction  
**Nov. 19-30** Roza's Carpets

**Nov. 23-29**  
Alphabet Photo  
Espisito Wood Inlaid  
Rohlf's Glass Art  
Priester Wood Burner  
Bob Wallis' Posters  
Helga's Wine



# Get holiday mail out in time

The postal holiday season is Nov. 14-Jan. 2, 2016.

## Mail transit times from Stuttgart to the U.S.:

- Express mail: 2-5 days\*
  - Priority/1st Class: 4-10 days
  - Partial Airlift (PAL): 2-4 Weeks
  - Space Available Mail (SAM): 4-6 Weeks
- \*Could be longer if U.S. customs inspects the mail.

## Mail your holiday packages by the following 2015 deadlines:

- Space Available Mail (SAM) Parcels: Nov. 25
- Partial Air Lift (PAL) Parcels: Dec. 3
- Priority Parcels/1st Class Letters and Cards: Dec. 10
- Express Mail: Dec. 17

## Holiday hours of operation:

Community mail room customer service windows will be open Saturday's, Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19 and Jan. 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Patch**  
Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thurs: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sat: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Panzer**  
Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thurs: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Kelley**  
Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thurs: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Robinson**  
Tues and Thurs: 1-4 p.m.

Note: All APOs will be closed Thanksgiving Day,

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, New Year's Day and all Sundays.

All CMRs will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and all Sundays.

## Make an appointment

Customers may make appointments for holiday mailing. Appointments will be made for the one hour period before the APO opens for business. Call for appointments during the hours that the APO is open for business at:

- **Kelley APO: 421-2542**
- **Panzer APO: 431-2563**
- **Patch APO: 430-7226**

## Remember to prepare customs forms for USPS in advance!

To complete a Customs Form online, use the following links:

[www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) (This is the USPS "Click-n-Ship site, which customers should use when shipping personal mail. When using this site, the customer pays for the postage online.)  
[https://cns.usps.com/cfo/ShippingInformationAction\\_input](https://cns.usps.com/cfo/ShippingInformationAction_input) (This is the site to use when sending mail through the Military Postal System (APO to APO.))



Photo by xactive / Shutterstock.com

## US customs rules for holiday shopping overseas

### What to know when sending items back to the United States

By Robert Szostek  
U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal Public Affairs

Some people are just not good at buying the right gifts. While this is often a matter of taste, people new to Europe should note that many items available in Europe that may seem like good Christmas presents violate U.S. customs rules.

Some products are banned from the United States and others may only be carried in baggage, but not mailed. Violations of customs, agriculture or postal regulations can lead to hefty fines and confiscation of the goods.

### What NOT to mail

- Meat and meat products
- Nativity Scenes or products that contain moss, bark, pinecones, untreated straw or other materials found to contain insects. Note: nativity scenes that are produced us-

ing finished wood, plastic, or commercially cleaned and lacquered straw (except rice straw) are fine to mail.

- Alcohol including wines, beer, spirits and liquor-filled candies. That's right, the U.S. Postal Service bans all liquor from being mailed, even if it is inside a piece of candy.
- Cuban rum and cigars
- Kinder-brand chocolate eggs and similar items are banned in the United States.
- Wildlife products such as ivory, whale teeth carvings, known as netsuke or scrimshaw. When buying furs, shoppers should insist on a certificate of origin stating the animal's scientific name to avoid buying prohibited endangered species products.
- Caviar

To read the full article, visit [www.stuttgartcitizen.com](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com).

For more information on shipping items back to the U.S., visit [www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/kbyg/sending-us](http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/kbyg/sending-us).

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Stuttgart-Paris 4 times a day directly in less than 3¾ hours. Lay back and relax on the TGV as you speed towards your destination at up to 320 km/h.

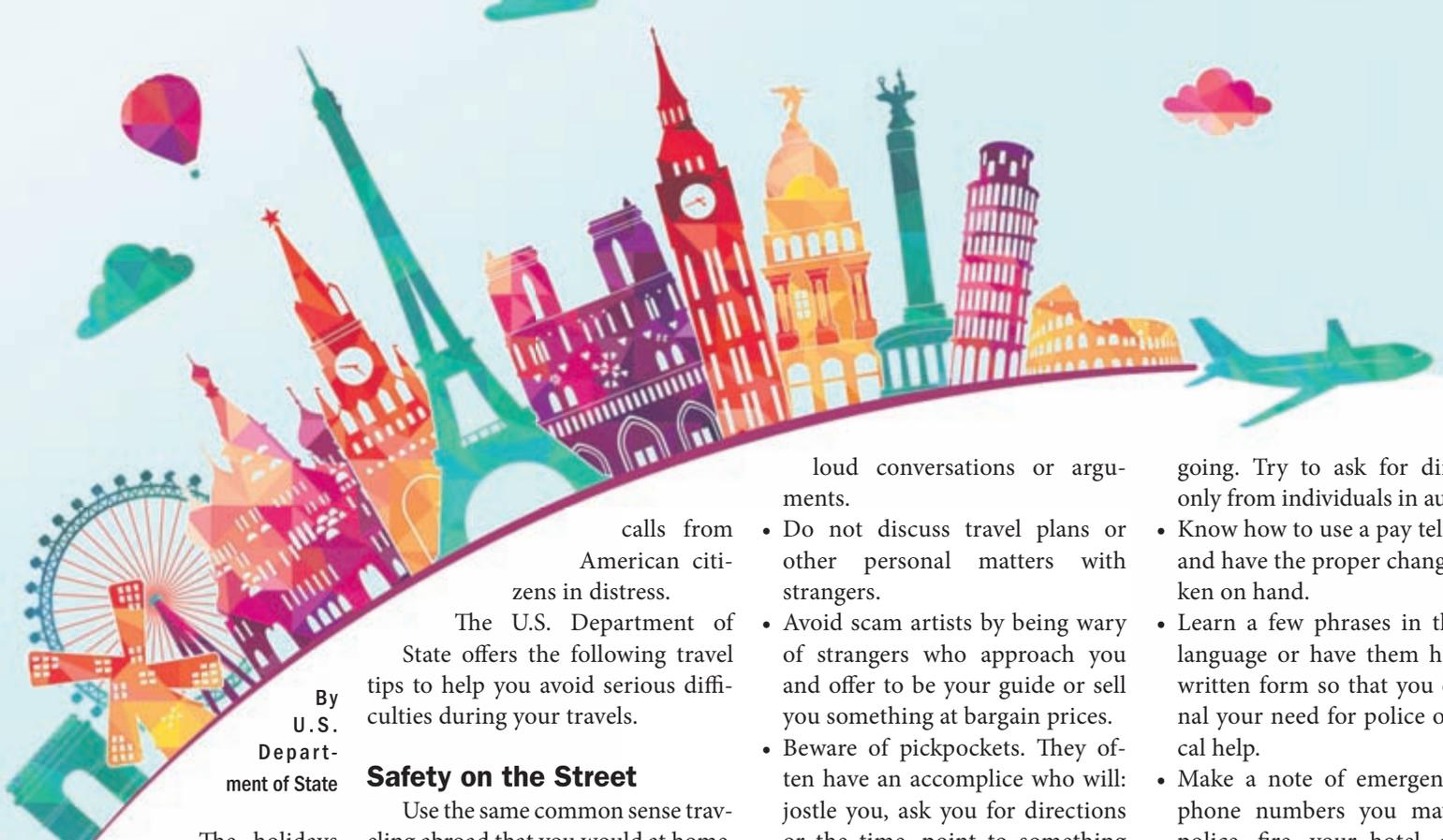
Enjoy the service and comfort on board. First class passengers receive a light, tasty meal, served at their seat. Information and reservation in English at [bahn.com/en](http://bahn.com/en)

Get in, relax.



in Kooperation / en coopération

# State Department tips to make holiday travels safe



By  
U.S.  
Department of State

The holidays are a good time to explore Europe. The odds are you will have a safe trip. Travelers can, however, become victims of crime and violence, or experience unexpected difficulties.

No one is better able to tell you this than the U.S. consular officers who work in more than 250 U.S. embassies and consulates around the globe. Every day of the year, U.S. embassies and consulates receive

calls from American citizens in distress.

The U.S. Department of State offers the following travel tips to help you avoid serious difficulties during your travels.

## Safety on the Street

Use the same common sense traveling abroad that you would at home. Be especially cautious in (or avoid) areas where you may be more easily victimized. These include crowded subways, train stations, elevators, tourist sites, market places, festivals and crime-ridden neighborhoods.

- Don't use short cuts, narrow alleys or poorly lit streets.
- Try not to travel alone at night.
- Avoid public demonstrations and other civil disturbances.
- Keep a low profile and avoid

loud conversations or arguments.

- Do not discuss travel plans or other personal matters with strangers.
- Avoid scam artists by being wary of strangers who approach you and offer to be your guide or sell you something at bargain prices.
- Beware of pickpockets. They often have an accomplice who will: jostle you, ask you for directions or the time, point to something spilled on your clothing, or distract you by creating a disturbance.
- Beware of groups of vagrant children who could create a distraction to pick your pocket.
- Wear the shoulder strap of your bag across your chest and walk with the bag away from the curb to avoid drive-by purse-snatchers.
- Try to seem purposeful when you move about. Even if you are lost, act as if you know where you are

going. Try to ask for directions only from individuals in authority.

- Know how to use a pay telephone and have the proper change or token on hand.
- Learn a few phrases in the local language or have them handy in written form so that you can signal your need for police or medical help.
- Make a note of emergency telephone numbers you may need: police, fire, your hotel, and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.
- If you are confronted, don't fight back — give up your valuables.

It is a good idea to sign up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program — think of it as checking in — so that you may be contacted if need be, whether because of a family emergency in the U.S., or because of a crisis in the area in which you are traveling. It is a free service provided by the State Department, and is easily accomplished online.



# Travel back to US now easier with mobile app technology



## U.S. and Canadian citizens can expedite the entry process into the U.S.

The Mobile Passport App lets you skip the line at U.S. airports for Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Just fill out your profile and answer CBP's questions — then go straight to the "Mobile Passport Control" express lane at the airport.

Download the free Mobile Passport app available at popular app stores, or visit <http://mobilepassport.us>.

### How it works

#### Step 1: Download the free app and set up your profile

Enter your profile information as it appears on your valid, official pass-

port. You can set up profiles for your entire family. Your information will be encrypted and shared only with CBP.

#### Step 2: Answer a few questions

Answer CBP's four brief questions about your trip. Then carefully review ALL of your information for the trip.

#### Step 3: Submit to CBP

Once you land, connect to wireless or wi-fi and submit your data to CBP. Remember: when you submit, you are confirming under penalty of law that your information is correct. Within a few seconds, you will receive a CBP receipt with an encrypted barcode. Your receipt will be valid for 4 hours.

#### Step 4: Skip the line and save time!

Follow the MOBILE PASSPORT CONTROL signs and skip the lines! Show your passport to the CBP officer and scan the barcode on the CBP receipt. And that's it!

### About Mobile Passport Control

In order to manage growing volumes of trade and travel, U.S. Customs and Border Protection launched Mobile Passport Control (MPC), the first authorized app to expedite a traveler's entry process into the United

States. The app, much like the Automated Passport Control kiosks (APC), streamlines the traveler inspection process and enables CBP officers to focus more on the inspection and less on administrative functions. This first-of-its-kind app was developed by Airside Mobile and Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) in partnerships with CBP.

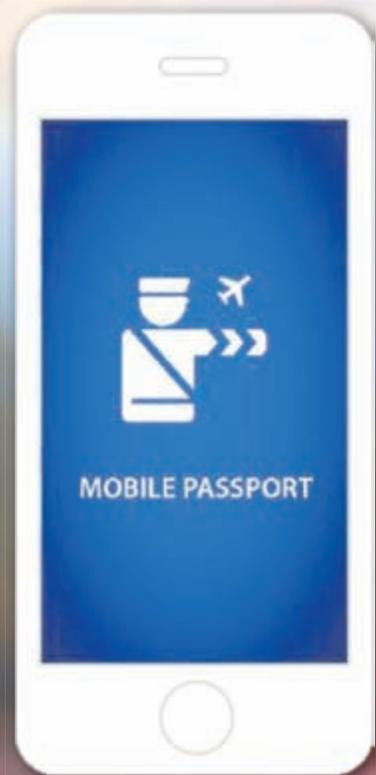
CBP officially launched the pilot program of MPC at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport on August 13, 2014. Eligible travelers with a smartphone or tablet can download the Mobile Passport Control app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Travelers will be prompted to create a profile via the app with their passport information. The profile includes the traveler's name, gender, date of birth, and country of citizenship. Upon landing in the United States, travelers will complete the "New Trip" section by selecting their arrival airport and airline, taking a self-photo, and answering a series of custom declaration questions. Once the traveler submits their customs declaration form through the app, the traveler will receive an electronic receipt with an Encrypted Quick Response (QR) code. This receipt will expire four hours after being issued. Travelers then bring their

passport and mobile device with their digital bar-coded receipt to a CBP officer to finalize their inspection for entry into the United States.

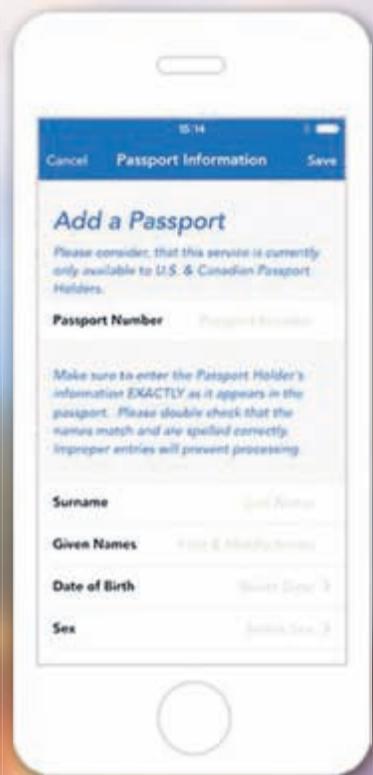
The MPC app enables a traveler or family group to pre-position their biographic information prior to speaking with a CBP officer. The CBP officer is then able to focus on identity verification, admissibility and questioning to determine purpose and intent of travel. This process will ultimately reduce the traveler's time spent with the CBP officer—helping to improve service levels and decrease wait times.

MPC is just one part of CBP's resource optimization strategy which is transforming the way CBP does business in land, air and sea environments. As part of its commitment to innovation, CBP last year rolled out Automated Passport Control, which is now available in 25 locations, and automated the I-94 form. CBP has also enrolled more than three million travelers in trusted traveler programs such as Global Entry, NEXUS and SENTRI. These programs allow CBP officers to process travelers safely and efficiently while enhancing security and reducing operational costs.

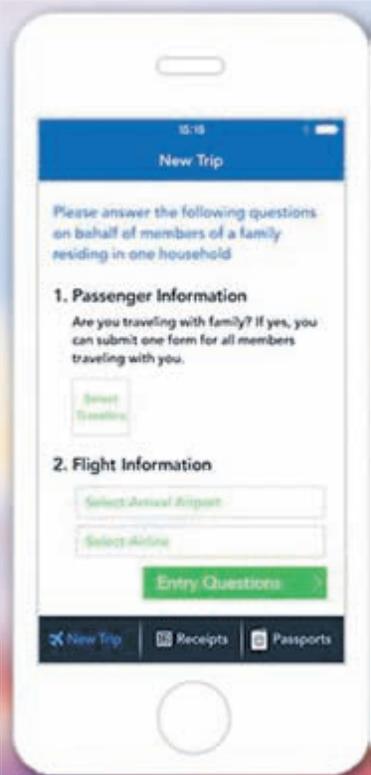
*For more information, visit [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov).*



Download the app



Set up your profile



Fill out the form



Get the receipt

# A Garrison Tradition: Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremonies

Every year it seems the holiday season was just here and now there's a new one on the horizon. With deployments uprooting families and world events that distract and disrupt, families need a traditional event, an old standby to make them stop and appreciate the season's joy. If ever there was such an event, it's the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Depending on Mother Nature you may experience snow or sun, flowers or flurries, winds or warmth, but unwrap the ceremony and you'll find the same heart-warming staples — holiday carols, refreshments, and of course the stars of the show — Santa and the newly lit tree.

It may seem that Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Programs is especially busy at this time of year, but their programs are nonstop all year in keeping with their mission to serve and enhance the lives of all members of the Army Community — Soldiers who serve as well as the families and civilian personnel who serve and support them day in and day out. To this end, they operate recreation and leisure programs for adults and children all year round. Information about these activities in Stuttgart can be found at [stuttgart.armymwr.com](http://stuttgart.armymwr.com).

## U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Holiday Tree Lighting

- Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m. on Kelley Barracks
- Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m. on Panzer Kaserne
- Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m. on Robinson Barracks
- Dec. 4 at 5:30 p.m. on Patch Barracks

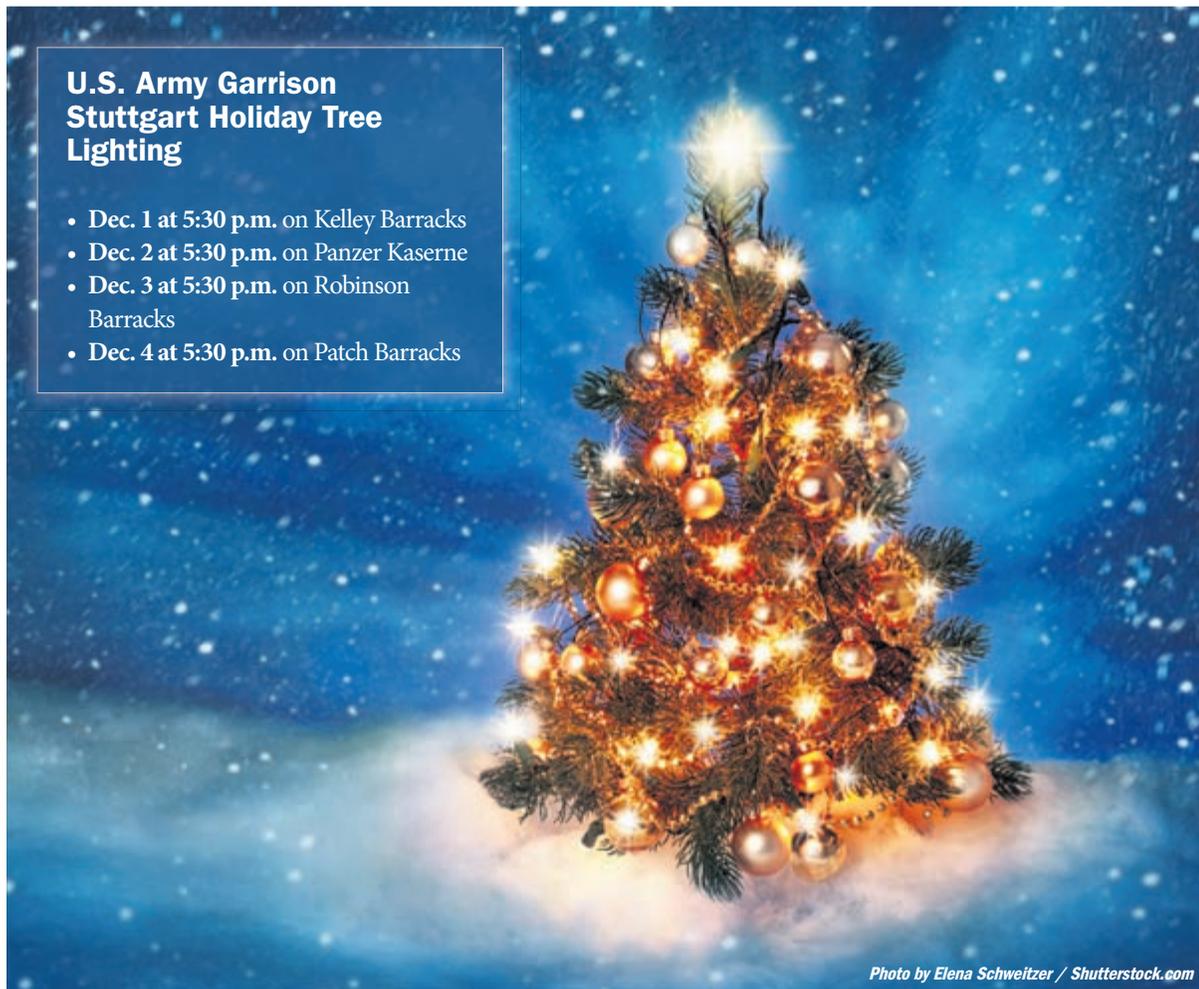


Photo by Elena Schweitzer / Shutterstock.com

## Events to get into the holiday spirit

### Christmas Movies Night with BOSS

Dec. 4: Christmas Movies Night, BOSS, Warrior Zone, 7 p.m. Join us at the Warrior Zone for a free movie and popcorn. 60 inches of viewing pleasure to include very comfortable recliners. Give yourself a chance to sit back and unwind in a relaxing environment. Warrior Zone will be welcoming the holiday spirit with the best Christmas movies. DSN 430-7135/CIV0711-680-7135.

### Hohenzollern Christmas Market Tour

Dec. 5: Hohenzollern Christmas Market Tour, Outdoor Recreation, Panzer Kaserne. Find the perfect Christmas gift for your loved ones at the Hohenzollern Christmas Market. \$50 per adult, \$40 per youth (17 and under). Price includes transportation, ODR escort, shuttle to castle and entrance to castle grounds. Register by Dec. 3. Trip departs 10 a.m. and returns approximately 11 p.m. DSN 431-2774/civ. 07031-152774.

### USO Pictures with Santa

Dec. 8 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. children and adults alike are invited to come to the USO and get

their photos taken with Santa. We will have snacks, crafts, and stories to help pass the time while you wait for your turn with the big guy! Santa loves the USAG Stuttgart community and is so excited to come see all of his favorite kids! Do not miss the chance to take photos with the jolly old elf himself at the USO Center, Building 2915 3rd floor on Panzer Kaserne, open to all DoD ID card holders.

### USO Santa Paws

Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon visit the USO for chance for you fur babies to have their photos taken with Santa. For many of us, fur babies are just as important as our human babies and we think that's just how it should be! So, we are hosting a special event just for our furry friends to celebrate the holiday season and take photos with Santa. Enjoy meeting other furry friends and treats for pets (or owners too!) Safety first: please be aware of your furry friends' ability to play nice with others in close quarters and all pets must be kept on a leash. USO Center, Building 2915 3rd floor on Panzer Kaserne, open to all DoD ID card holders. Because furry friends

have been nice all year too!

### USO trip to Stuttgarter Weihnachtsmarkt

Dec. 13 from 4-9 p.m.; Sign up begins November 16th at 10 a.m. at the USO Center, Building 2915 3rd floor on Panzer Kaserne, open to all DoD ID card holders.

To help community members step outside of their comfort zone and enjoy all the beauty of the Christmas market season, USO Stuttgart will take a lucky group of community members to the Stuttgarter Weihnachtsmarkt to enjoy one of our favorite German traditions. While the location of the fabulous market is in our backyard, it can be a tricky parking situation so we're loading a bus and taking the stress out of it. Buses depart from Panzer, Patch, and Robinson Barracks. Don't wait to sign up, this free trip fills up fast!

For more information on Stuttgarter Weihnachtsmarkt, visit [www.weihnachtsmarkt-deutschland.de/](http://www.weihnachtsmarkt-deutschland.de/)

### Single & Unaccompanied Service Members Christmas Dinner

Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. single and unaccompanied service members are

invited to celebrate the season with a family style dinner and gifts to ensure that everyone feels a sense of home this holiday. The USO gathers over 100 service members to enjoy a traditional holiday feast complete with games and gifts for all in attendance! Don't let transportation or living on a different base keep you away from the fun, call the USO and they may be able to help! Sign up at the USO Center, Building 2915 3rd floor on Panzer Kaserne, or call 07031-15-3345.

### Kelley Club Holiday Dinner

Dec. 24: Kelley Club is offering a free Holiday dinner for single and unaccompanied service members. For more information, call DSN: 421-4660/civ. 0711-7207-0694.

### USO Cookie Drop

United Service Organizations volunteers share cookies with those on duty over the holidays. The USO will be collecting homemade Christmas cookies to distribute to the community. Drop of cookies Dec. 21 at the USO Center, Building 2915 3rd floor on Panzer Kaserne. For information, or to volunteer your baking skills, contact the USO Center, or call 07031-15-3345.

**EVENTS: Shopping and Sales**

Continued from Page 10

**Winter Market**

MWR's annual Winter Market is Nov. 20-22 featuring activities catered to youth and adults alike. For the adults, over 30 European vendors are set up selling pottery, pictures, wine, jewelry and much more. Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) will also be wrapping gifts onsite. The Post Office has extended their hours to be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to give guests the opportunity to mail those wrapped gifts back home. (Just be sure to remember to do your customs forms online at usps.com.)

The event also includes a Resale Extravaganza at the Patch Arts and Craft Center, which allows guest to purchase anything from bowling balls to outdoor supplies.

For transportation needs, the Shopping Express is available to give rides to all the event locations. In addition, Jave Café is selling specialty drinks and will be open later from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special festive drinks include a Candy Cane Javaccino, a vanilla base

with whipped cream and peppermints on top, and Christmas in a Cup, a cinnamon latte with white mocha and peppermint syrup.

For the kids, there is a special market in the Hub and free pictures with Santa offered by the Photo Studio. Spots for the pictures can be reserved now by calling the Photo Studio at DSN: 430-2328/civ. 0711 680-2328.

What would a winter be without cookies and hot chocolate? Free cookies and hot chocolate are available for everyone who attends. More food options will also be available for purchase, such as funnel cakes and Frito pies.

Pre-order your Christmas trees too! The Boy Scouts will also be taking order forms for Christmas trees on the spot, available for pickup in December. See more on Christmas trees on page 12.

For more information on the Winter Market, visit [stuttgart.armymwr.com](http://stuttgart.armymwr.com).

**Thriftmas Market**

The Patch Thrift Shop annual "Thriftmas Market" is Dec. 3-5 with

extended hours for the event on Thursday from 3-7 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Stuttgart Community Spouse Club Patch Thrift Shop team, and volunteer elves, stage one of kind Holiday merchandise that the community has been donating all year long. Along with holiday decorations, lights, Christmas trees and seasonal clothing, shoppers can enjoy traditional food, beverages, and live entertainment. This event is open to all DoD ID card holders. Available "elves" seeking volunteer opportunities can visit [www.stuttgartspousesclub.org](http://www.stuttgartspousesclub.org) and/or the SCSC Patch Thrift Shop Facebook page for more information. For more information, stop by or contact SCSC Patch Thrift Shop, Building 2332 at civ. 0711-680-5510.

**Golf Shop Holiday Sale**

Dec. 5 - 24: Golf Shop Holiday Sale, Stuttgart Golf Course, Kornwestheim, The Golf Shop Holiday Sale kicks off

Dec. 6, 1 - 3 p.m. Come out and enjoy free finger food and drinks. You don't want to miss savings up to 50% on balls, gloves, shoes, golf bags, apparel, hard goods and accessories from Dec. 6 - 24. This is your opportunity to find the perfect holiday gift for a great price. US ID cardholders can enter the free drawing. Only one entry per family. Drawing will be held Dec. 24 at noon for prizes and merchandise (must not be present to win). For information, contact 07141-879-151.

**Bowling Ball and Bag Sale**

Dec. 12 - 18: Christmas Bowling Ball and Bag Sale, Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center, Panzer Kaserne, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Save 10 - 15% on select bowling balls and bags at the Pro Shop inside the Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center. For information, contact DSN 431-2575/civ. 07031-15-2575.

Watch out for more upcoming USAG Stuttgart Holiday event information, and holiday cheer at [stuttgartcitizen.com](http://stuttgartcitizen.com)!

# USAG~Stuttgart Religious Support Office 2015 Holiday Schedule

November 24 - Tuesday

Patch Chapel & Panzer Chapel  
9:00 AM Greening of the Chapel

November 26 - Thursday

RB Chapel  
2:00 PM Thanksgiving Celebration

November 28 - Saturday

RB Chapel  
9:00 AM Greening of the Chapel

December 6 - Sunday

Patch Religious Education Center (REC)  
6:00 PM Chanukah

December 8 - Tuesday

Immaculate Conception  
Patch Chapel  
11:45 AM Catholic Mass  
Panzer Chapel  
6:30 PM Catholic Mass

December 14 - Monday

Patch Chapel  
6:00-7:00 PM Advent Reconciliation

December 24 - Thursday

Panzer Gym  
4:00 PM Catholic Christmas Pageant  
5:00 PM Catholic Christmas Eve Children's Mass  
Patch Chapel  
5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Service  
RB Chapel  
6:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Service  
Patch Chapel  
7:30 PM Catholic Christmas Eve Mass

December 25 - Friday

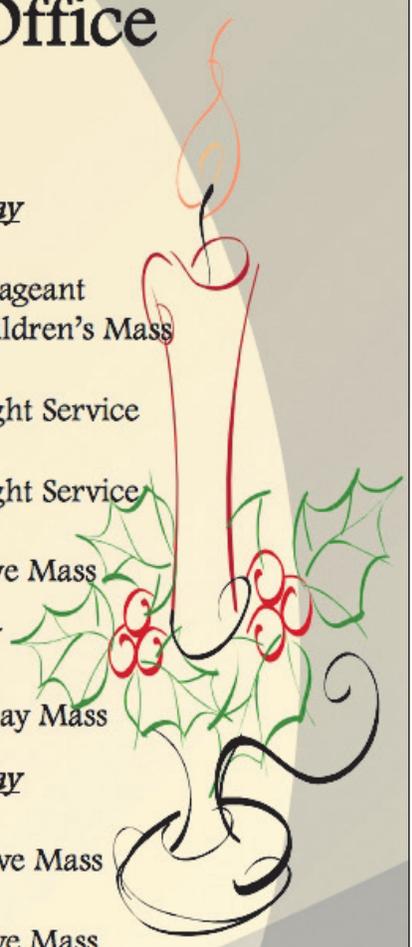
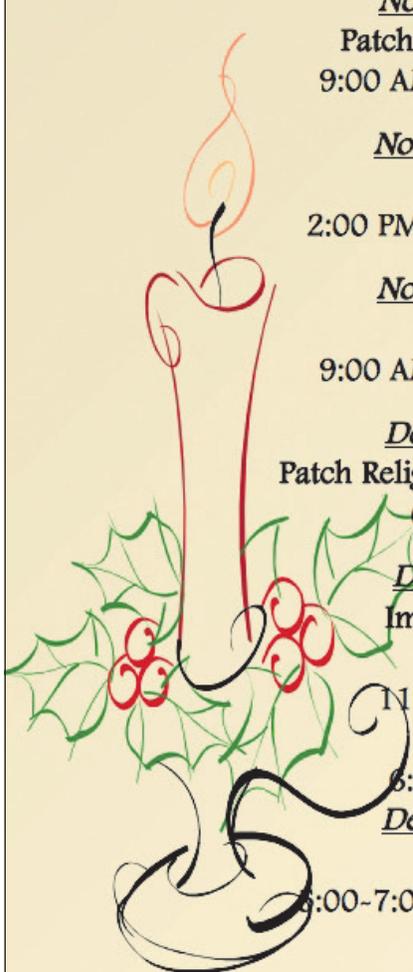
RB Chapel  
10:30 AM Catholic Christmas Day Mass

December 31 - Thursday

Panzer Chapel  
5:00 PM Catholic New Year's Eve Mass  
Patch Chapel  
7:00 PM Catholic New Year's Eve Mass

January 1 - Friday

Holy Day of Obligation  
RB Chapel  
10:30 AM Catholic New Year's Day Mass



# Tips to ensure a safe, happy holiday season

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Fire Administration, an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires result in 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in direct property damage.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and your tree from creating a tragedy.

## Candles

**Tip: Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.**

- If you do use lit candles, make sure candles are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- Keep candles away from walls and drapes, and avoid using them in decorations or displays. Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas. Never leave a burning candle unattended and never put lit candles on a tree
- Watch for dripping wax.
- Keep candles away from air vents or open windows where the flame can be fanned and ignite nearby flammables.



## Lights

**Tip: Consider using battery-operated light strands indoors, or solar lights outdoors.**

- Check electric Christmas lights for frayed or damaged wires or loose

connections. Wires should not be warm to the touch.

- Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe.
- Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- Never leave lights on unattended.
- Always unplug lights before leaving the house and do not leave them on while sleeping.
- All decorations should be placed away from heat vent

## Trees

What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities follow these suggestions:

- Choose a fresh one without shedding needles.
- Water the tree daily.
- Do not place the tree near a source of heat such as a radiator. Try to place the tree near an outlet so that an extension cord is not needed for electric tree lights.
- If you use an artificial tree, make sure it is fire resistant.

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be.

## Selecting a tree

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

## Caring for your tree

- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree.
- Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

## Where to find fresh Christmas Trees

The Boy Scouts Troop 324 begin taking pre-orders for Christmas trees at the Winter Market on Patch, Nov 20-22. Trees will be available in December. Boy Scouts Troop 324 plans to sell additional trees at various times and locations on the garrison installations. For more information, visit [troop324.de](http://troop324.de).

Vendor with pre-cut Christmas trees can be seen throughout the Stuttgart area with temporary stalls, including at most Christmas Markets.

Other stores likely to carry trees for sale are garden and home stores such as; OBI, Ikea, Bauhaus, Dehner, Toom or Hornbach.

## Christmas Tree Farms to cut your own

### Uhlandhof

Uhlandhof offers different types and sizes of Christmas trees. You can select and cut your own favorite tree on the tree plantations around the farm, or there are also hundreds of pre-cut trees to choose from.

Free tours on the farm's covered cart

are available Dec 4, 15, 21-22, along with horseback riding, a Christmas market and Santa Claus, welcoming kids with pre-Christmas gifts. Also, visit the Forest Hutzelwald of with wooden animals to learn more about German forests.

Uhlandhof is located approximately 40 km from Stuttgart, at Uhlandhof 1, 73110 Hattenhofen.

For more information, visit [http://uhlandhof.de/christmas\\_time.htm](http://uhlandhof.de/christmas_time.htm).

## Weihnachtsbaum-Kulturen

Since 1991, Weihnachtsbaum-Kulturen has cultivated Christmas trees, specializing in Nordmann fir. According to their website, customers can pick out a tree in autumn, then in December, this exact tree will be cut down and prepared.

Weihnachtsbaum is located approximately 21 km from Stuttgart, at Heckbachstraße 7, 71404 Korb. For information, contact 0170-868-8901, or visit [www.weihnachtsbaum-haendler.de](http://www.weihnachtsbaum-haendler.de).

*Editor's note: Events published for Informational purposes only, no endorsement implied.*



# Holiday Crafting at Patch Arts & Crafts Center

Explore your creative side at Patch Arts & Crafts Center, open to all Soldiers, families, retirees, and civilians. The center offers classes, supplies and studio space for:

- Quilting and sewing
- Needlework
- Jewelry making
- Scrapbooking
- Kid's Crafts
- Digital photography
- Fine arts
- Pottery and glass arts
- Matting and framing
- Laser engraving

Activities exist for people of all skills levels, and friendly, knowledgeable staff are ready to help bring your creative ideas to life. Arts & Crafts Centers offer modern equipment, supplies for purchase and monthly workshops and classes in a variety of subjects.

Arts & Crafts Centers also

service your framing, engraving, and special recognition needs. Honor a Soldier, spouse, or special person with engraved gifts and customized products.

## Holiday Theme Craft Classes

**Christmas Drum Woven Basket**  
Nov. 12 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Adult class, material included.

**Christmas Quilted Skirt**  
Nov. 12 from 5-9 p.m.  
Adult class, materials not included.

**Advent Calendar for tweens (ages 10-12)**  
Nov. 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Pizza, drinks, and crafting materials included.

**Christmas Quilted Skirt**  
Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Adult class, materials not included.

**Quilted Star Ornament**  
Nov. 20 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Adult class, requires sewing classes 1 and 2, materials included.

**Quilted Ball Ornament**  
Dec. 3 from 2-4 p.m.  
Adult class, materials included.

**Design a Stocking for tweens (ages 10-12)**  
Dec. 4 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Pizza, drinks, and crafting materials included.

**Scrappy Christmas Wall Hanging**  
Dec. 5 from 2-4 p.m.  
Adult class, requires sewing classes 1 and 2, materials included.

**Woven basket Sammy McSnow**  
Dec. 11 from 2-4 p.m.  
Adult class, materials included.

**Scrappy Christmas Tree for tweens (ages 10-12)**

Dec. 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Pizza, drinks, and crafting materials included. Requires sewing classes 1 and 2.

*For the full schedule of crafting classes, class pricing and participation information, contact DSN: 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270, visit <http://stuttgart.armymwr.com>.*

**Hours of Operation**  
Tue-Wed & Fri: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Thu: 2-9 p.m.  
Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed: Sun, Mon and U.S. Holidays

## Black Friday Sale

Don't miss the day-after Thanksgiving, Black Friday Sale, at the Patch Arts & Crafts Center, Patch Barracks, Nov. 27 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. All store merchandise is 20 - 70% off.



Photo by Jeanette Dietl / Shutterstock.com

# Practice food safety during the holidays



Photo by circlePS / Shutterstock.com

By David Kloberdanz  
Army Public Health Center (Provisional)

As the holiday season quickly approaches, many of us are looking to spend some quality time with family and friends. Nothing draws us closer together than enjoying a delicious home-cooked meal with the ones we love, but things can take a turn for the worse if food safety is not kept in mind. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 48 million people get sick from foodborne illness each year. Of those that contract a foodborne illness, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die. The following are a few food safety tips to keep you, your families and your friends healthy during the holidays.

Foods most commonly associated with foodborne illnesses are raw foods of animal origin; that is raw meat and poultry, raw eggs, unpasteurized milk and raw shellfish. Adequate cooking will kill most bacteria and their toxins. Fruits and vegetables consumed raw are also a particular concern. Washing can decrease but not eliminate contamination, so cooking to proper time and temperature is vital. Also, unpasteurized fruit juices can be contaminated if there are pathogens in or on the fruit that is used to make it. The best bet is to only drink pasteurized juices.

One of the biggest pitfalls many make when cooking for the holidays

is they do not plan ahead. Make a list of all the foods that you will need to prepare your meals and know which foods need to be refrigerated or kept warm. Keep in mind which foods have short shelf lives to ensure you are using them before spoilage occurs. Know how long each food takes to thaw, prepare and cook to avoid time or temperature abuse.

Do not combine shopping for your foods with holiday gift shopping. If you must combine meal shopping with holiday shopping, bring along a cooler and ice to keep foods cold as you check off items on your gift lists.

Sanitize food contact surfaces — Wash counters, cutting boards, utensils and any other surface that will come in contact with food. Ensure you are using warm soapy water. After washing, wipe or spray with a bleach solution and allow to air dry. To get the proper concentration of bleach, add 1/2 tablespoon bleach to one gallon of water. Always allow food contact surfaces to air dry instead of wiping dry. Immediately clean up spilled foods. When serving foods, always use a clean plate and separate serving utensils for each food item.

Practice good personal hygiene — Wash your hands with soap and water before handling food. Wash hands with soap and water when switching foods during preparation. Wash your hands after smoking, eating, touching any part of the body, taking out the trash, playing with pets or taking

breaks. Wash your hands after every chance of contamination. It is especially important to wash your hands after using the bathroom, assisting children in the bathroom or changing diapers. Use water as hot as you can comfortably tolerate and sing the Happy Birthday song to yourself in your head while washing. This will ensure you are washing long enough - 20 seconds. It is best to use disposable paper towels to dry your hands and throw them away after each use. Sneeze/cough into the crook of your arm and always away from food or other people. Bandage any cuts on your hands. Do your best to keep hair out of foods by wearing hats or tying up long hair. Keep fingernails neatly trimmed and clean.

**Cook** — Cook foods to the proper internal temperature. Always use a calibrated metal stem thermometer to check temperatures and measure at the thickest part of the food. Ground meat should look brownish when cooked to 160 F. Poultry can appear light or dark and should be cooked to an internal temperature of 165 F. Fish should look milky and flake easily with a fork when cooked to an internal temperature of 145 F. Cook turkey, stuffing, casseroles and leftovers to 165 F; beef, veal and lamb roasts to 145 F; "fully cooked" ham to 140 F and fresh ham, pork and egg dishes to 160 F. Keep hot foods hot. Cook plant foods to 135 F. Maintain a minimum internal food temperature of 135 F while serving to guests.

**Cool** — Cool all cooked foods

down to 70 F within two hours and then down to 41 F within an additional four hours if not using immediately. This can be accomplished if you cool big pots of soup and stews by pouring them into smaller containers before placing into the refrigerator, using ice as an ingredient or by stirring the food in a container placed in an ice water bath. Keep cold foods cold. Maintain internal food temperatures below 41 F when serving to guests and storing. Do not thaw foods at room temperature and never rush the thawing process. Instead, thaw foods in a refrigerator that maintains an internal temperature of 41 F or below, or you can thaw foods as a part of the cooking process.

**Cross-contamination** — Separate food by product when purchasing, storing, preparing and serving. Separate stored raw foods from cooked foods and ready to eat foods. Use separate utensils, cutting boards, pots and pans for each food item you are preparing and serving. As hard as it might be, keep guests out of the kitchen to avoid the temptation of tasting foods as they are being prepared. Provide a serving utensil for all foods served to prevent germs on hands from spreading.

The holiday season is a very special time to spend with family and friends. There will be lots of preparation for big meals and shared bounty, so following these food safety precautions can assure wonderful gatherings and memories in your home.

# Lebkuchen

## (Gingerbread)

By Petra Lessoing

86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, Ramstein Air Base (as edited by USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs office)

Gingerbread of an amazingly wide variety of styles, flavors and shapes adorn stalls at all of Germany's Christmas markets, and even in the German home, a traditional plate of Christmas sweets almost always includes "Lebkuchen," or gingerbread.

Lebkuchen is known as one of the most popular, oldest and beloved Christmas cookies in Germany. A large variety is available — there are lebkuchen in different shapes, with chocolate, nuts or marmalade filling.

Its origin dates back to Teutonic times. Teutones thought the predecessor of lebkuchen, the "Honigkuchen," or honey cake, had magical powers and helped keep bad spirits away.

In the Middle Ages, gingerbread was used as a means of payment. Vassals paid their feudal duty with the specialty, and dukes and civil servants were bribed with it. It was known for bringing good luck at weddings and

baptism ceremonies. Gingerbread was difficult to obtain by most people because it was a valuable specialty made of expensive ingredients.

In the 11th century, a handwritten document from a monastery near Lake Tegernsee in Bavaria mentions the "Pfefferkuchen," or pepper cake, for the first time. In 1293, the first gingerbread baking guild was documented in Silesia. In the 14th century, the making of gingerbread became popular in Munich, Frankfurt, Basel, Vienna and Nuremberg, which is famous for its "Nürnberger Lebkuchen."

Beekeepers from a little town near Nuremberg helped bring fame and a good reputation to the town. With plenty of fir and pine trees, oak trees and linden, sloe trees, hazelnut bushes, spurge-laurels and heather growing in the forests near Nuremberg, enough nectar was available for the bees. The so-called "Zeidler," forest and house beekeepers, founded a large guild and harvested the honey from honeycombs in tree holes or crevices.

At that time, honey was the only

existing sweetener. Due to worldwide commercial connections of local merchants, the bakers of gingerbread were able to receive all necessary ingredients — pepper, ginger, cinnamon and other spices.

In the Nuremberg area, the beekeepers maintained about 50 farms and in 1350, Emperor Karl IV gave them the privilege of being the only people authorized to harvest the honey in his forests. The beekeepers wore their own costumes, crossbow and arrows and were the emperor's bodyguards. They also maintained their own court of justice where they handled all crimes committed in the forests and against the beehives.

In 1796, Prussian occupants limited this jurisdiction, and three years later, they took it away totally.

Today, the making of gingerbread is still considered an art shrouded in secrets. The modern production still relies on old recipes that masters have passed down from generation to generation. Gingerbread is a must when arranging a Christmas cookie plate in Germany.

### Making it at home...

Recipe reprinted with permission from [www.myrecipes.com](http://www.myrecipes.com)

#### Ingredients:

3 cups honey  
2 1/4 cups firmly packed brown sugar  
3 eggs, beaten  
1 tablespoon grated lemon rind  
3 tablespoons lemon juice  
8 1/4 cups all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda  
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon  
1 1/2 teaspoons ground allspice  
1 1/2 teaspoons ground nutmeg  
1 teaspoon ground cloves  
1 cup diced candied citron  
1 cup chopped pecans  
Sliced almonds

#### Preparation:

Bring honey to a boil in a large Dutch oven; remove from heat, and cool slightly. Stir in sugar, beaten eggs, lemon rind, and juice. Combine dry ingredients; gradually add to honey mixture, stirring well. Stir in citron and pecans. Cover mixture and chill overnight.

Shape into 1-inch balls; place 2 inches apart on greased cookie sheets. Dip bottom of a glass in cool water, and gently press balls to 1/4-inch thickness. Press an almond slice in center of each cookie. Bake at 400° for 10 minutes. Remove cookie sheets from oven. Brush glaze on cookies, and cool completely on wire racks. Store cookies in airtight containers.

# Glühwein

## (Mulled wine)

German Embassy Public Affairs Office,  
Washington

No German Christmas market is complete without “Glühwein,” the hot, spiced mulled wine that warms holiday merrymakers from the inside out as they stroll through these charming little villages of cloth and wood with family and friends.

“Glühwein,” which literally means “glowing wine,” is served at every Christmas market in Germany. It often comes in a limited-edition, seasonally inspired and creatively adorned ceramic mug. For a small additional fee, you can either keep this cute little mug as a memento of a visit to a particular Christmas market — often the year and name of the town or city where you purchased your cup of Glühwein is inscribed on the mug — or you can return it to get your deposit (Pfand) back to buy something else, like your next glass of Glühwein ...

Glühwein is usually prepared

from red wine, which is heated up and spiced with cinnamon sticks, cloves, star anise, orange juice plus zest and sugar, as well as — albeit more rarely — with vanilla pods. Sometimes it is also drunk “mit Schuss” (with a shot), which means that a shot of rum or another liquor has been added.

The expression “Glühwein,” or “glowing wine” apparently stems from the hot irons once used for mulling. Although this is no longer the case today, the historic origins of Glühwein reportedly date back to when wine started going bad, but thrifty folks did not yet want to throw it out, so they added some honey and spices to make it drinkable again.

Today, the beverage is popular in German-speaking, as well as in the Alsace region of France and many other parts of northern Europe. The oldest documented Glühwein tankard is attributed to Count John IV of Katzenelnbogen, a German nobleman who was purportedly the

first grower of Riesling grapes. His gold-plated lockable silver tankard is dated to about 1420.

Glühwein can be enjoyed with “Lebkuchen,” the chewy spice cakes perfected centuries ago in Nuremberg and popular all over Germany, or all manner of other treats served up at traditional German Christmas markets, including roasted nuts like “gebrannte Mandeln” (burnt almonds), “Reibekuchen” (potato pancakes), or “Stollen,” a dense, marzipan-infused fruit cake masterminded by Dresden-based bakers. Or you could just enjoy your Glühwein with a piping hot bratwurst.

Some markets in Germany and Austria also serve “Weißer Glühwein,” or Glühwein made with white wine. Other warm seasonal alcoholic beverages, are known as “Punsch” (punch) and “Grog.” Kids are also sometimes served “Kinderpunsch” (children’s punch) based on non-alcoholic variations on the same theme that tend to taste

similar to fruity and spicy hot apple cider

Another popular variant of Glühwein in Germany is the “Feuerzangenbowle.” Popular on New Year’s Eve, it shares the same recipe, but for this drink a rum-soaked, cone-shaped sugar loaf (sugar cone) is set on fire and allowed to drip into the wine.

But the Glühwein most commonly sold at seasonal Christmas markets is made with red wine. Luckily everyone is on foot in the narrow “streets” criss-crossing these cozy markets set up on town squares, given that indulging in several glasses of Glühwein could result in some wobbly walking, at least until the next tasty seasonal snack is consumed to help soak up all of that Glühwein goodness!

*Editor’s note: This article is reprinted with permission from the German Missions in the United States (German Embassy), from their website: [www.germany.info](http://www.germany.info).*

## Making it at home...

*Glühwein recipes vary greatly, but the core of most of them centers around the following ingredients:*

### Ingredients:

- 750 milliliters (one bottle) of red wine.
- 1 or two citrus fruits (lemon, orange etc.), cut into slices or wedges
- A few sticks of cinnamon
- Sugar (anywhere from a couple of tablespoons to 3/4 of a cup, depending on taste)
- Additional seasonings (anise, clove nutmeg and ginger are all popular seasonings), used sparingly

### Directions:

The ingredients are mixed (squeeze fruit juices into mixture, then add the squeezed wedges or slices), and brought just to a boil before being removed from the heat to steep. After a time of steeping (usually an hour or two, though some like to leave it for a day or more), the solid ingredients are strained out and the wine is served hot in ceramic or glass mugs.



# What's happening in FMWR

## TRIPS WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION

### Salzburg Christmas Market

Come to the beautiful Salzburg Christmas Market and enjoy holiday favorites on Nov. 21, 8 a.m. The trip includes transportation. Register by Nov. 13. Trip returns around midnight.

### Ski trip to Soelden

Break into the ski season on the Thanksgiving Holiday Ski trip to Soelden, Austria from Nov. 26 - 29. Ride the slopes and have a great time with family and friends. Trip includes transportation, three overnights in a 4-star hotel, three breakfasts and dinners, and ski/snowboard equipment rental package with ODR.

For more on upcoming tours and trips, call DSN: 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

## COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

Buy, sell or trade at the Patch Fitness Center, Patch Barracks, Nov. 13-14. Check out great bargains or make some extra cash. Set up and pre-sale Friday, 5 - 8 p.m. Flea market continues Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, call DSN: 430-2110/civ. 0174-248-9940.

## LIMITED TIME JAVA CAFÉ SPECIALS

Pumpkin Chai from Nov. 16 - 20 at Java Café, Patch Barracks. Get right into the holiday spirit with a spicy blend of pumpkin syrup and chai tea concentrate.

Tasty Marshmallow Hot Chocolate from Nov. 23 - 27. You will think you are sitting around the fire with marshmallow flavor added to an already tasty hot chocolate.

For more information, call DSN: 430-8365/civ. 0711-680-8365.

## MOLDING MACHINE SAFETY CLASS

Learn how to use the machine to perfect your one-of-a-kind project at the Kelley Arts & Crafts Center, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. to noon. The class is perfect for rounding corners and adding carvings to your next wood project. Classes are every 2nd Saturday of the month. Class size is 4 people. Safety class required: Safety classes are every Wednesday, 6 - 7 p.m. Classes run through April 9. For more information, call DSN: 421-2519/civ. 0711-729-2519.

For more Family and MWR events, visit [www.stuttgart.armymwr.com](http://www.stuttgart.armymwr.com).

## COMING TO PATCH THEATER

- Thu Nov 12 - Spectre (PG-13) 6 p.m.
- Fri Nov 13 - Hotel Transylvania 2 (PG) 6 p.m.  
The 33 (PG-13) 9 p.m.
- Sat Nov 14 - The Peanuts Movie (PG) 3 p.m.  
The 33 (PG-13) 6 p.m.  
Spectre (PG-13) 9 p.m.
- Sun Nov 15 - Goosebumps (PG) 4 p.m.  
Spectre (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Mon Nov 16 & Tue Nov 17 - Closed
- Wed Nov 18 - The 33 (PG-13) 6 p.m.
- Thu Nov 19 - The Visit (PG-13) 6 p.m.
- Fri Nov 20 - The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (PG-13) 6 p.m.  
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Sat Nov 21 - The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (PG-13) 3 p.m.  
The Night Before (R) 6 p.m.  
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (PG-13) 9 p.m.
- Sun Nov 22 - The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (PG-13) 4 p.m.  
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
- Mon Nov 23 & Tue Nov 24 - Closed
- Wed Nov 25 - The Good Dinosaur in 3D (PG) 6 p.m.  
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (PG-13) 9 p.m.

**Editor's note: The movies listing was the most current at the time of publication. Dates are subject to change. Please check with your local theater for the most up-to-date schedule.**



© 2015 - Columbia Pictures / Photo courtesy of Movieweb.com

In "Spectre," a cryptic message from James Bond's past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organization. While M battles political forces to keep the secret service alive, Bond peels back the layers of deceit to reveal the terrible truth behind Spectre.

## Family and MWR Advertisement

[stuttgart.armymwr.com](http://stuttgart.armymwr.com)



### WINTER MARKET, PATCH BARRACKS

Nov. 20 - 22: Fri & Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Get a jump start on your holiday shopping at the 2015 Stuttgart Winter Market. Enjoy 3 days of holiday excitement. There will be over 30 European vendors in the Patch Fitness Center and Community Club. There will also be a Family and MWR Resale Extravaganza at the Patch Arts & Crafts Center. Enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies, pictures with Santa at the Photo Studio and train rides to all the event locations. Purchase scrumptious snacks from private orgs, gluhwein and pretzels sold by the Patch Community Club and get your gifts wrapped by BOSS. Come out and shop for great holiday items in time to send back to your family and friends in the US! Sponsored by: Service Credit Union, Stuttgart Marriott Hotel Sindelfingen, First Command, Form Aktiv and GEICO. (No Federal endorsement implied).

DSN 421-2193/CIV 0711-729-2193

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# 'chocolArt': Tübingen's feast for chocoholics



Photo courtesy of chocolart.de

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Those who cannot resist the sweet and delicate taste of chocolate or are simply looking for a savory gift, may want to head to Tübingen for the International Chocolate Festival, or "chocolART," the largest chocolate festival in Germany.

The festival, which runs Dec. 1-6 throughout downtown Tübingen, features more than 100 skilled chocolatiers from Europe, South America and Africa who offer a variety of fine chocolates.

During the festival, visitors will find chocolate creations that differ from products typically offered in a supermarket.

At the event there will be over one hundred vendors from over 20 countries.

Tübingen's historic half-timbered houses are festively illuminated during the International Chocolate Festival, or "chocolART," the largest chocolate festival in Germany. This year's festival will run Dec. 1-6 throughout Tübingen's downtown area. Chocoholics may be happy to hear that chocolates can be sampled throughout

the event.

Visitors can experience chocolate in many ways throughout the festival, since the chocolatiers play with exotic ingredients and offer various chocolate and praline compositions that make for a different taste.

Another unique treat is chocolate beer, a dark beer with a hint of cocoa. This year, chocolate beer from Belgium and France will be featured at the event.

The chocolate festival also features chocolate massages, hands-on classes on making pralines and truffles, chocolate art, chocolate menus in restaurants, chocolate tastings, chocolate exhibitions, a seminar on chocolate and wine, and a class on painting with cocoa.

A highlight is the "chocolate-Room" at Tübingen's market square. Chocolatiers will create chocolate art in two transparent tents. While watching the "Maitre Chocolatiers" work on their pieces of chocolate art, visitors can breathe in the sweet smell of cocoa. Better still, all of the chocolates can be sampled on the spot.

"It's not that chocolates are a substitute for love. Love is a substitute for chocolate." — Miranda Ingram,

British writer.

The "TübingerSchokoschaumkuss" (chocolate foam kiss), or, "Chocolino," is a chocolate-coated marshmallow treat also produced at the chocolate room. Chocolatiers typically add honey to the creamy filing and the chocolate shell is made of 60 percent cocoa.

The festival also aims to promote fair trade and fair trade chocolates and cocoa products can be found throughout the festival.

Children can also create their own chocolate at the Ritter Sport "KinderSchoko-Werkstatt" located at Holzmarkt.

In addition to the festival, Tübingen has another historical connection to the world of chocolate.

According to Tübingen's city archives, the famous Schwarzwälderkirschtorte, or Black Forest cake, was invented in 1930 in Tübingen by the

confectioner Erwin Hildenbrand.

This year, a treat was created especially for the chocolate festival: a Black Forest cake made out of high-quality ingredients served in a small glass. A chocolate praline with a creamy Black Forest cake filling will also be available. The cake and praline can be found at the "Tübinger Zuckerbäcker" at Marktplatz.

The festival is open Tuesday from 1-8 p.m., Wednesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

According to the event organizer, the chocolate festival typically is very crowded on weekends. Therefore patrons are advised to travel to Tübingen with public transportation.

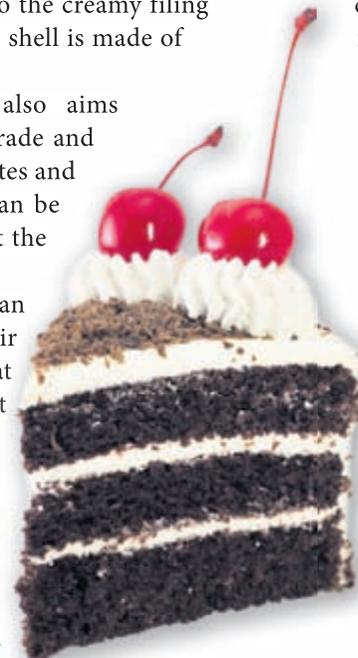


Photo by tofumax / Shutterstock.com

For more information, visit [www.chocolart.de](http://www.chocolart.de).

# Christmas Markets Guide



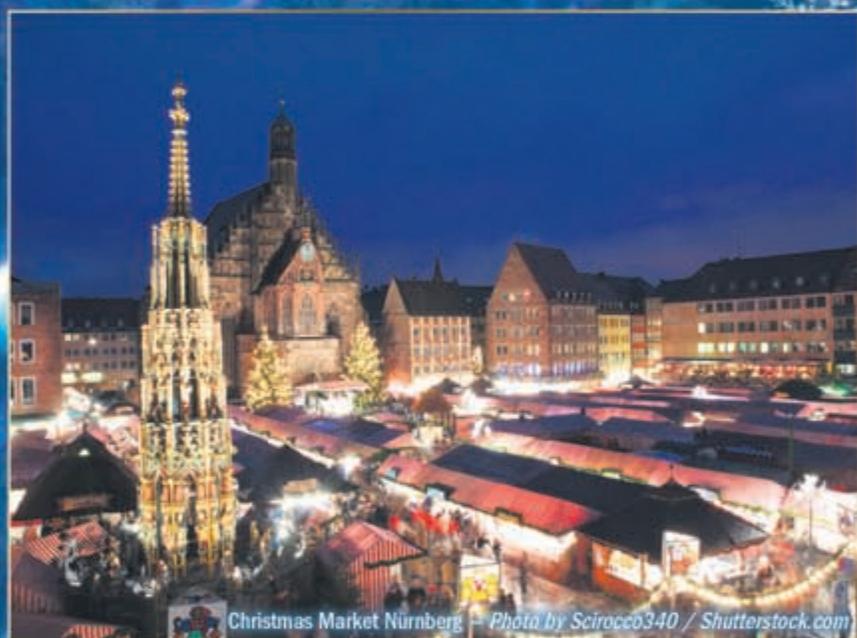
Christmas Market Munich — Photo by Rudy Balasko / Shutterstock.com



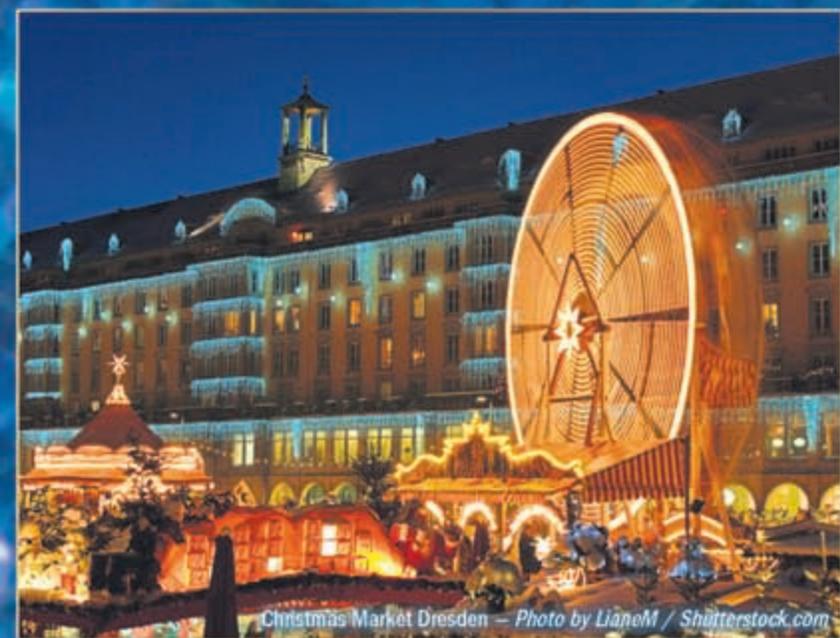
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Christmas Market Prague — Photo by Marten\_House / Shutterstock.com



Christmas Market Nurnberg — Photo by Scirocco340 / Shutterstock.com



Christmas Market Dresden — Photo by LianeM / Shutterstock.com

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

information on some of the most popular markets throughout Germany and Europe. So venture out, explore and take in the season's offerings. After all, Christmas markets are a treat for all senses — a feast for your eyes, ears, taste buds and soul.

The holiday season is about to begin and it's time for the many Christmas markets known to Germans as "Weihnachtsmärkte," or "Christkindlesmärkte." The following will provide you with



Christmas Market Stuttgart — Photo by Phillip Grablč / Shutterstock.com



Christmas Market Stuttgart — Photo by hal pand / Shutterstock.com

## LOCAL

### Stuttgart

**Nov. 25 to Dec. 23:** The Stuttgart Christmas market is located in the downtown area and spans from Marktplatz to Schillerplatz, Karlsplatz and Schlossplatz. With more than 250 festive booths and attractions, it is considered one of Europe's largest Christmas markets.

Children of all ages can enjoy an ice rink, a small Ferris wheel and a miniature train. A Finnish Christmas village can be found at Karlsplatz. The market will be open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Nov. 25, the market will be open from 5-9 p.m. and Dec. 19 (long shopping night) from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Stuttgart's "Wintertraum," or winter's dream village, is located on Königstrasse, next to Schlossplatz, and features an ice skating rink and various booths selling Christmas market-inspired food and beverages, such as Bratwurst, Crêpe, roasted almonds, Glühwein and more. The Wintertraum opens Nov. 18 and lasts until Jan. 1, 2016. Wintertraum is open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. On Dec. 24, the market is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dec. 25 and 26 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Jan. 1, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Esslingen

**Nov. 24 to Dec. 22:** Esslingen's medieval Christmas market features over 180 booths and huts in the city center. Costumed vendors offer arts and crafts, food and drink, plus there's plenty of entertainment, such as jugglers, fire-breathers and jousting. The market will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. On Nov. 24, the market will be open from 5-8:30 p.m.

### Ludwigsburg

**Nov. 24 to Dec. 22:** A baroque-inspired Christmas village is located in Ludwigsburg's historic downtown area. The market is illuminated by arches and gates made up of thousands of tiny lights. More than 170 stands offer Christmas decorations, handmade candles, jewelry and much more. The market is also famous for its freshly baked gingerbread and

"Holzofendinnede," or Swabian pizza. The market is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Böblingen

**Nov. 25-29:** The Böblingen Lake sets the stage for this traditional Christmas market with entertainment, shopping and food. The market will be open daily from noon to 9 p.m.

### Möhringen

**Nov. 28:** The Möhringen Christmas market, located on Maierstrasse next to the Martin's Church, will be open for one day only, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The market offers handmade decorations, jewelry and pottery, as well as hearty food and freshly-made "Glühwein," or mulled wine. The market also is known as Stuttgart's largest fund-raising Christmas market.

### Vaihingen

**Nov. 28-29:** The Christmas market is located in downtown Vaihingen and spans from the town hall to the "Schwaben Galerie" shopping mall. More than 120 booths offer Christmas decorations, arts and crafts, and food. Children can enjoy a merry-go-round and bouncy castle. A historic "Old Toy Railways in Operation" exhibition will be held at the "Bürger Forum" (Schwabenplatz 3) on the Schwabenplatz Square exclusively during the Christmas market.

The market is open Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Nov. 29 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The exhibition will be open Nov. 28 from noon to 6 p.m. and Nov. 29 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Schorndorf

**Nov. 28 to Dec. 20:** The Schorndorfer "Weihnachtswelt," or Christmas world, will be held throughout the historic downtown area and at the market square in front of the town hall.

A life-size nativity scene, sheep, arts and crafts and seasonal food and beverages will be offered. The market will be open Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Rudersberg

**Nov. 27-29/ Dec. 4-6/ Dec. 11-13/ Dec. 18-20:** Enjoy the season at the "Adventswald," or advent forest, in Rudersberg (Rems-Murr district). Large fir trees will turn the "Alte Rathausplatz" into a festively-illuminated advent forest and Christmas market with cherished offerings of the season all provided by local vendors.

Visitors can indulge in Swiss raclette (melted Swiss cheese), "Maroni," or roasted chestnuts, homemade organic potato chips and cherry Glühwein.

The advent forest will be open on weekends only: Friday from 5-10 p.m., Saturday from 2-10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Fellbach

**Dec. 3-21:** The market is located in the downtown area and spans around the city's town hall. Music, festively-decorated booths, a fairy-tale tent and an ice skating rink are also featured. The market will be open Monday to Friday from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Herrenberg

**Dec. 4-6:** More than 50 decorated booths will offer a colorful array of gifts, crafts, food and more. The market will be open Friday from 2-9 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Sindelfingen

**Dec. 4-6:** The Sindelfingen Christmas Market will be held all throughout the downtown area. The market will offer handmade arts and crafts, entertainment, a live nativity scene, a historic merry-go-round, food and Glühwein. The market will be open Dec. 4 from 6-10 p.m., Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Sindelfingen "Weihnachtsbasar"

**Until Nov. 15:** The "Messe Sindelfingen," or fair, will celebrate the Christmas bazaar's 40th anniversary. More than 250 vendors will offer culinary delights of the season, such as



Christmas Market Stuttgart — Photo by hai pand / Shutterstock.com



Christmas Market Ludwigsburg — Photo by S. Kuelcuc / Shutterstock.com

ginger bread, "Bratwurst," or brats, and Glühwein as well as holiday-inspired decorations, flowers, art, antiques, paintings, jewelry, toys and more. Musical entertainment will also be provided. The Weihnachtsbasar is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entrance is free of cost.

**Bad Cannstatt**

**Dec. 5:** The "Niklasmarkt," or St. Nicholas market, will be open for one day only, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Marktstrasse.

**Leinfelden**

**Dec. 5-6:** The "Engelmarkt," or angel's market, is located at "Neuer Markt" in downtown Leinfelden. The market features a holiday concert and choir performance Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. Small booths offer arts and crafts, food and homemade baked goods. The market is open Dec. 5 from 3-9 p.m. and Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Echterdingen**

**Nov. 28/ Dec. 5/ Dec. 12/ Dec. 19:** The "Adventszauber," or Advent magic, will be held at Rathausplatz in the downtown area. Shoppers can enjoy "Bratwürste," or brats, and Glühwein as well as live music and choir performances by local clubs and associations. The market will be open on Saturdays only from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Tübingen**

**Dec. 11-13:** The market spans all throughout Tübingen's historic downtown area and features hundreds of decorated huts and booths set up in front of the city's beautiful half-timbered houses. If you are looking for an

extraordinary holiday gift, Tübingen is the ideal place. Most of the goods offered are handmade: jams and honey, shawls, gloves, ceramics, toys, paintings, candles and Christmas tree decorations. The market will open Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. **Chocoholics beware:** Tübingen will host the "ChocolART" chocolate festival Dec. 1-6. The festival will feature more than 100 chocolatiers from Europe, South and North America, and Africa offering fine chocolate creations. Chocoholics will be glad to hear that they can sample all chocolates on the spot.

**CASTLES**

**Durlach**

**Nov. 26 to Dec. 22:** The medieval Christmas market in Durlach, near Karlsruhe, features medieval traditions such as brewing "Met," or honey wine, jousting tournaments and fire-breathers, as well as glass blowing, gift huts and more. The market is located at Schlossplatz in front of the "Karlsburg" Castle and will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Hechingen**

**Nov. 27-29, and Dec. 4-6:** The Burg Hohenzollern Royal Christmas market claims to be one of the most romantic German Christmas markets held in a castle setting. Visitors can enjoy the castle's atmosphere and history while shopping for family and friends in the castle's courtyard and ramparts. There is an entry fee of €10 for visitors 17 and over, which includes parking and a shuttle bus service. The

market will be open Friday from 2-9 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Neuenbürg**

**Dec. 12-13:** The Advent Market will be held in and around the Neuenbürg Castle and makes for one of the most festive Christmas markets in the region. The castle was built 1200 A.C. by the Dukes of Calw-Vaihingen. More than 60 vendors will offer arts and crafts, wooden sculptures, jewelry, felted accessories and more. Holiday-inspired food and beverages and musical entertainment will also be provided. The market will be open Dec. 12 from 2-9 p.m. and Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parking will be available downtown Neuenbürg and shuttle buses will take visitors from "Wilhelmshöhe," "Rathaus" and "Schloss" stops to and from the castle. Shuttle bus tickets cost €1 per person.

**Heidelberg**

**Dec. 3-15:** Colorful lights, the aroma of "Lebkuchen," or gingerbread, and the majestic atmosphere of the castle make the "Schlossweihnacht" a magical Christmas experience. The market features arts and crafts, tasty treats, classical music and costumed tour guides. The market will be open daily from noon to 9 p.m.

Note: The main Christmas market in the center of Heidelberg will run from Nov. 23 through Dec. 22 and will be open Sunday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Maulbronn Monastery**

**Dec. 5-6:** The Maulbronn

Monastery is one of the most well-preserved medieval monasteries north of the Alps. During the Christmas market, visitors can take in the historic atmosphere while enjoying sugar cookies, Glühwein, Bratwurst and "Schupfnudeln," or Swabian potato noodles. The market offers arts and crafts, felted accessories, jewelry, home decor, Christmas decorations and fine honey products. Musical performances also create a festive atmosphere throughout the market. The market will be open Dec. 5 from noon to 9 p.m. and Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Bruchsal**

**Dec. 11-14, and Dec. 18-20:** Bruchsal's baroque castle serves as the backdrop for a romantic fairy-tale Christmas market. Visitors can enjoy Glühwein, shop for gifts, taste fresh Weihnachtsstollen (sweet Christmas bread) or simply enjoy the live music. The market will be open Friday and Saturday from 3-9 p.m., Sunday from 1-9 p.m., and Dec. 14 from 3-9 p.m.

**Stettenfels-Heilbronn**

**Dec. 19-20:** Burg (fortress) Stettenfels in Untergruppenbach, near Heilbronn, will hold a medieval Christmas market. Visitors can stroll through the castle's courtyards and outer buildings to shop and enjoy the season's offerings. Glühwein, gingerbread, and "Stollen," or sweetened fruit bread, as well as decorations and candles can be purchased. Entrance to the fortress is €5 for adults; children 15 years old and under are free. On Dec. 19, the market will be open from 1-9 p.m. and Dec. 20 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

# Christmas markets in Germany, Europe

## Vienna

**Nov. 13 to Dec. 26:** The "Wiener Christkindlmarkt" will be located in front of the city's impressive Gothic town hall at Rathausplatz. Besides the many booths, a large Christmas tree will be set up in front of the town hall. The market will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Nov. 20 to Dec. 23:** The arts and crafts and Advent market will be located at Karlsplatz in front of the majestic Karl's Cathedral dating back to 1737. The market will be open daily from noon to 8 p.m.

**Nov. 21 to Dec. 31:** The culture and Christmas market in front of Castle Schönbrunn, one of Austria's most popular landmarks and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural World Heritage Site sets a historic stage to enjoy the Advent season. The market will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Dec. 25-31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A "Neujahrsmarkt," or New Year's market, will also be held in Schönbrunn from Jan. 1-3, 2016. The market will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Salzburg

**Nov. 19 to Dec. 26:** The "Salzburger Christkindlmarkt," located at Domplatz and Residenzplatz, offers a glorious ambiance to get into the holiday spirits. Whether you're looking for arts and crafts, special gifts, or Austrian "Schmankerl," or goodies, be sure to find it here. Besides, there is much to explore in this historic city where the famous composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born. The market will be open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. On Dec. 24, the market will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Dec. 25-26 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Colmar

**Nov. 20 to Dec. 31:** This Christmas market in the picturesque town of Colmar invites visitors to celebrate "Noël en Alsace." The market is located at Place des Dominicains and open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday

from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Dec. 24, the market is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 25 from 2-7 p.m., Dec. 26 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Ulm

**Nov. 23 to Dec. 22:** The Christmas market will be held throughout the downtown area and the "Ulmer Münster," or cathedral. The cathedral boasts the highest steeple in the world (161.5 meters). The market offers arts and crafts, food, Glühwein and a nativity scene with live animals. The market is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## Munich

**Nov. 27 to Dec. 24:** The traditional "Christkindlmarkt" will be held at Marienplatz and throughout the historic downtown area. The market will offer arts and crafts, ginger bread, wood carvers, a nativity scene, and an ice skating rink. The market will be open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Augsburg

**Nov. 23 to Dec. 24:** This Christmas market has nearly 150 stands, all located around a large Christmas pyramid in the city's historic downtown area. The market will be open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Nov. 27, the market will be open from 10 a.m. to midnight and Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

## Baden-Baden

**Nov. 23 to Dec. 30:** A trip to this traditional "Christkindelsmarkt" located at the Kurhaus Kolonnaden is like strolling through a scene from a winter fairy tale. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 24 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Freiburg

**Nov. 25 to Dec. 22:** The Christmas market will span throughout the historic downtown area around Rathausplatz, Kartoffelmarkt, Unterlindenplatz and on Franziskaner- and Turmstrasse. The market is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to

8:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## Frankfurt am Main

**Nov. 26 to Dec. 22:** The Christmas market is located at the historic and picturesque Römerberg, Paulsplatz and Mainkai in the downtown area. The market is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## Dresden

**Nov. 26 to Dec. 24:** The "Dresdner Striezelmarkt" is Germany's oldest Christmas market dating back to 1434. The market is located at Altmarkt in the historic downtown area. The market is open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Nov. 27 to Dec. 24:** The traditional Christmas market around the "Frauenkirche" will be open Sunday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Nov. 27 to Dec. 23:** The Christmas market at Neumarkt near the Frauenkirche makes for a magical setting and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Dec. 5-20:** This small, but cozy Christmas market on Körnerplatz at the Loschwitzer historic downtown area is open Monday to Thursday from 1-8 p.m., Friday from 1-9 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to

## Nürnberg

**Nov. 27 to Dec. 24:** One of Germany's most well-known and famous Christmas markets is located around the Frauenkirche in downtown Nürnberg. Make sure to sample some handmade "Nürnberger Lebkuchen," or ginger bread. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Rothenburg ob der Tauber

**Nov. 27 to Dec. 23:** While visitors to Käthe Wohlfahrt's "Christmas Village," can enjoy Christmas all year long, a visit to this medieval village during the holiday season is especially festive. The "Reiterlesmarkt" is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. to

8 p.m., Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10:30 to 7 p.m.

## Straßburg

**Nov. 27 to Dec. 31:** This Christmas market is one of Europe's largest Christmas markets and the oldest one in France since it was first held in 1570. More than 300 booths will sell Alsatian Christmas foods and decorations. The market spans around the "Straßburger Münster," or cathedral, built in 1439. The market is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Dec. 24, the market is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 25 from 2-6 p.m., Dec. 26-30 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Bad Wimpfen

**Nov. 27-29/ Dec. 4-6/ Dec. 11-13:** The "Altdeutsche" Christmas market is one of the most traditional Christmas markets in Germany. Come out and enjoy this historic city with its many half-timbered houses. The market spans throughout the historic downtown area and offers arts and crafts and many handmade products including plenty of food and that favorite Christmas market beverage, Glühwein. The market will be open Friday from 2-9 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Garmisch

**Nov. 28 to Dec. 23:** This Christmas market is small but unique with snow-covered mountains and beautifully painted houses. The Christmas market in Garmisch will be held all throughout the downtown area and Richard-Strauss Platz. The market will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Prague

**Nov. 28 to Jan. 1, 2016:** The Christmas markets in the Czech Republic's capital are known as Europe's most famous markets and the largest one is held at the Altstädter Ring in Prague's historic downtown area. Take in the Advent season and all its offerings: tasty food, culture, candles, lights, decorations and more. The market is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

# Reibekuchen

## (Potato pancakes)



By Greg Jones  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Walking through just about any Christmas Market in Germany, the aromas of the wide variety of enticing food offerings can be dizzying. The aromas of roasted chestnuts, fresh baked bread, and the distinctive cinnamon-and-red-wine bouquet of Gluhwein combine to create an olfactory memory that spells Christmas time for seasoned Christmas market goers.

If you happen to notice an enticing deep-fried potato smell pushing through all of that you may be nearing a Reibekuchen stand.

The Reibekuchen is a sort of potato and flour pancake that is deep fried in oil and served fresh, and very

hot, with a few different sauces. While the term pancake is used to describe Reibekuchen, don't think Sunday mornings with maple syrup. These are not your auntie's basic pancakes. In fact they are very similar to fried hash brown patties.

The most common accompaniment to Reibekuchen is a type of apple-sauce, the sweetness of which counters the savory fried potato. Also very common is a type of sour cream served with them. Whether sweet or sour, the Reibekuchen is a popular treat at most Christmas markets in Germany.

Reibekuchen are also known as Kartoffelpuffer in some areas, and were probably popularized during the Potato Decree of 1756, when King of

Prussia, Friedrich the Great ordered the Prussian bureaucracy into a potato information campaign to fight spreading fear of famine. This event popularized the potato in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, and most likely the Reibekuchen's wide spread popularity is simply a part of the love of potatoes that was developed by this effective information campaign.

Reibekuchen are most often served in threes on small paper plates with the sauce of your choice, or no sauce at all. One glance at them, and how they are prepared (deep fried on a pool of oil) will make it clear that they're not in the low fat category of Christmas snack. If your diet will allow it however, they can be a tasty way to stave off hunger and cold at the Christmas market.

### Making it at home...

*Recipes for Reibekuchen vary but most start with something along these lines:*

- 2 lbs of Potatoes, peeled and shredded or grated (most recommend starchy potatoes)
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons of flour
- Seasonings to taste (salt, pepper, powdered garlic, and chives are all popular seasonings)

#### **Preparation:**

Mix grated potatoes, chopped onion, eggs and flour into a dough. Ladle dough into pancakes on a pool of cooking oil on medium to high heat. Fry until golden brown. Season to taste with salt, pepper, garlic powder, chives or other similar seasonings. Serve with applesauce or German Apfelmuss.

As an easier alternative, Reibekuchen are also available in the frozen food sections of most German grocery stores (usually near the frozen French fries). They are ready made and just need to be fried or heated according to the directions on the package.

# Christstollen

## (Christmas bread)

by Nicole Karsch-Meibom  
Kaiserslautern American Contributing writer

If you haven't tasted it yet, go ahead! Stollen — or German Christmas bread — is a holiday season must have. With almonds, fruits and marzipan, this cake is a typical Advent delight in Germany.

The "Christstollen," as it's properly called in German, dates back to the 15th century. Originally, it was an Advent fasting meal in monasteries made from flour, yeast and water. Since those ingredients didn't provide much taste, Saxonian nobility asked for authorization to use butter, the use of which had been forbidden by church authorities. But, Pope Nickolaus V denied the request. Fortunately, six decades later the permission did come, and the Holy Father sent the "Butter letter" in 1491.

Ever since, stollen has become a popular cake. Today, you can find more than 12 different types of stollen in Germany, starting with the most known almond and marzipan stollen down to the red wine or oranges and Cointreau stollen.

Basically, many regional bakeries have introduced their individual stollen variation, so it's best to try them for yourself.

Because stollen originates from the Saxonian capital of Dresden, the locals honor it by organizing the oldest German Christmas market, the Dresdener Striezelmarkt — Striezel being the locals' name for stollen — from Nov. 27 to Dec. 24 (visit [www.dresden.de/en/05/08-Christmas.php](http://www.dresden.de/en/05/08-Christmas.php)).

### Making it at home...

*If you can't make it to Dresden, bake your own stollen!*

#### Ingredients:

- 50 grams slivered almonds
- 500 grams raisins
- 50 grams candied orange peel
- 50 grams candied lemon peel
- 50 milliliters rum or apple juice
- 400 grams flour
- 1/4 liter milk
- 1 cube fresh yeast
- 3 spoons of honey
- 450 grams butter
- 1 small spoon of salt
- 100 cooking marzipan
- 1/2 vanilla bean
- 1 organic lemon
- Flour for baking preparations
- About 150 grams powdered sugar.

#### Directions:

Soak the fruit in rum for several hours. If you want to leave out the alcohol, use apple juice instead.

Pour boiling water on the almonds and leave them for 10 minutes. Then, strain and mix with the fruit. Mix 200 grams flour, tepid milk, crumbled yeast and honey into a pre-dough. Put some flour on it and leave it to rest and rise in a warm place until the surface starts to crackle.

Cut the vanilla bean open and scrape out the pulp. Add it to the pre-dough with the rest of the flour, 200 grams chipped butter, salt, grated marzipan and the lemon zest. Knead it for 10 minutes. You can also use the dough hook. Once done, again leave the dough to rise in a warm spot for one hour. Cover it with a dry cloth to prevent draft. After that time, the dough should have doubled. Work it again thoroughly on a floured surface and mould it into a bread shape.

Heat the oven to 200 degrees Celsius and bake your stollen for 15 minutes. After that, reduce oven temperature to 180 C and leave the stollen in the oven for another 45 minutes. If needed, cover the cake after 25 minutes with some baking paper to keep it from getting too dark.

Once removed from the oven, spread it with melted butter immediately. Professional bakers recommend letting the cake cool down for a day before sprinkling powdered sugar generously on it for a thick coating. Store it in a cool place.

What happens next is entirely up to you! Some wrap it in waxed paper and aluminum foil to let it rest for six weeks at least in order for the stollen to mature. Others leave the cake for a few days only. The Dresden bakeries recommend a maturing time of two weeks. A producer from the Saxonian Ore Mountains even stores his stollen without any wrapping in a real mining tunnel for a month. Whatever your choice may be, why don't you try it out for yourself?



# UNDERWATER WORLD



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- ANEMONE
- COD
- CORAL REEF
- CRAB
- DOLPHIN
- FISH
- FLYING FISH
- HALIBUT
- HERRING
- JELLYFISH
- LOBSTER
- MORAY EEL
- MUSSEL
- OCEAN
- OCTOPUS

- OYSTER
- PLANKTON
- SALMON
- SCUBA DIVING
- SEABED
- SEAHORSE
- SEAWEED
- SHARK
- SHELL
- SQUID
- STARFISH
- STINGRAY
- TURTLE
- URCHIN
- WHALE

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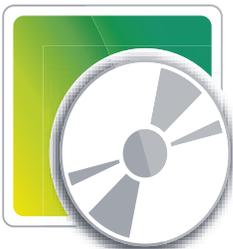


## Find 15 differences



Take a look at what's going on in Stuttgart's schools.

# Youth Activities



### Art Contest

In this photo we see Maddy Chalkley (left) and Kayleigh Cullivan reading an announcement about Patch Middle School's Yearbook Art Contest. The winner will have the honor of having their wolf drawing (PMS's mascot) grace the cover of the first ever Patch MS Yearbook. The deadline is December 1, and all entries will be judged by Mr. Lloyd's Yearbook Class. — *Photo by Ed Thornburg*



### Student Council Elections

The students at Patch Middle School recently held their Student Council Elections for school officers. The results were: President, St. Clair Mellard; Vice-President, Abby (ARO) Robertson; Secretary, Brianna Moore; Treasurer, Connor McCullough and Parliamentarian, Reagan Allvin. Here we see St. Clair in his Pathways to Career class. Congratulations to our new officers and to all the candidates who participated so enthusiastically. — *Photo by Michele Winter*



### Red Ribbon Week

In its 30th year as the nation's largest and oldest drug prevention campaign, Red Ribbon Week reaches over 100 million people each year throughout the United States. DoDEA overseas schools also celebrate "Red Ribbon Week." At Patch Middle School students were encouraged to dress as their favorite action hero for the celebration. Here we see four of our action heroes taking the lead in our drug prevention campaign. — *Photo by Ed Thornburg*



### Halloween

The students at Patch Middle School went all-in for Halloween this year. The students were given the opportunity to dress up in their "Trick or Treat" costumes. Shown here is just one example of the great student costumes. Even the staff participated, and it was a fun day for all. — *Photo by Ed Thornburg*

Take a look at what's going on in Stuttgart's schools.

# Youth Activities



### Seminar Class

Seminar Class is the capstone of our Middle School Concept. It's a class where everyone is expected to help their classmates achieve their highest potential. Team building is an important aspect, as seen in this photo. Students participate in an activity called "Lava River" where an imaginary river of lava must be crossed using "magical" stepping stones. In an activity like this, you certainly get to know your classmates in a team supportive environment. — *Photo by Ed Thornburg*



### Band Concert

Patch Middle School recently held its Fall Concert to a full house of parents, students and staff members. Shown here is the Advanced Band, being directed by Ms. Marleen Bye. — *Photo by Mr. James Lloyd*



### Helium Stick

To help prepare for Space Camp in Belgium, students in the Astronaut Club take on the challenge of the Helium Stick. During the activity students are required to work on their communication and team building skills in order to get the stick to the ground. It's a lot harder than it looks. Just ask any one of these future astronauts. — *Photo by Ed Thornburg*

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*Holding Forth the Word of Life Phil. 2:16*



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# Have fun with the locals



## Christmas market Wed, Nov 25 – Wed, Dec 23 Stuttgart, city center

Visit Stuttgart's traditional Christmas market in the historic city center from November 25 to December 23. For more than 300 years this Christmas market has been one of the most beautiful and biggest in Europe. Find traditional and modern Christmas decoration, toys, food and much more while strolling through the alleys drinking Glühwein (mulled wine). A childcare program will be provided by the municipality. Hours of operation are November 25 to December 23, 2015 from Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, go to [www.stuttgarter-weihnachtsmarkt.de](http://www.stuttgarter-weihnachtsmarkt.de)

## EVENTS

### Disney's Musical Tarzan

Thu, Nov 13

Stuttgart, Apollo Theater

Join Tarzan on his great adventure on stage at the Apollo Theater in Stuttgart on November 13 at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy this dynamic and exciting show with breathtaking aerial acrobatics, fascinating lights, sound effects and costumes. This is not just a musical, it's an adventure! For more information and tickets, go to [www.stage-entertainment.de](http://www.stage-entertainment.de)

### German red wine prize

Sat, Nov 14

Fellbach, Alte Kelter

The Deutsche Rotweinpreis (German red wine prize) will be awarded at Alte Kelter in Fellbach on November 14. In the afternoon, Germany's top red wine makers will present their best wines before the actual ceremony starts at 6.30 p.m. including a five course dinner and selected red wines. Advance tickets for the presentation are €10, €148 for the ceremony. For more info and tickets, contact the Tourist Information Bureau Fellbach at 0711-580058 or the organizer at [www.rotweinpreis@vinum.de](mailto:www.rotweinpreis@vinum.de)

### Fire and Ice

Sat, Nov 21

Reutlingen, city center

Shop till midnight, yes midnight!! Enjoy a unique shopping experience in Reutlingen's city center on November 21 from 6 p.m. While you are shopping, enjoy the entertainment of ice sculptors turning a block of ice into a piece of art, fire shows and illuminated pylons. There will be plenty of Christmas stands to get gifts for someone special! For information, visit [www.rt-aktiv.de](http://www.rt-aktiv.de)

### Christmas market

Mon, Nov 23 – Wed, Dec 23

Augsburg, city center

The Augsburg "Christkindlesmarkt" is a village of booths forming one of the most beautiful Christmas markets in Germany. The angel performance of the Augsburg Christkindlesmarkt is well-known and unique. Twenty-four angels appear on the beautiful facade of city hall and transform the building into a huge Advent calendar. The angels appear every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 6:00 p.m. One exception is December 23. On this day the angels appear at 7:00 p.m. and walk down stairs to the entrance of city hall. For more information, go to [www.augsburgerchristkindlesmarkt.com](http://www.augsburgerchristkindlesmarkt.com)

### Arts & crafts market

Sat, Nov 22 & Sun, Nov 23

Fellbach, Schwabenlandhalle

Enjoy the 30th Freizeit-Kunst & Kunstgewerbemarkt (arts and crafts market) at the Schwabenlandhalle Fellbach November 23 and 24. Opening hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days. In the 3,000 sqm big hall about 200 craftsmen and artists will present handmade work pieces from pottery to dolls, teddies and fashion. A children's program offers creative activities. For more information, go to [www.freizeit-kunstmaerkte.de](http://www.freizeit-kunstmaerkte.de)

### Stuttgart's best wines

Sat, Nov 21

Stuttgart, Phoenixhalle

Don't miss a special wine tasting at the event "Stuttgart's beste Weine" (Stuttgart's best wines) at the Phoenixhalle im Römerkastell, Stuttgart on November 21 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. More than 30 winemakers will present their best wines in this historic location. For more info and tickets from €16, contact the Tourist Information Bureau Stuttgart at 0711-2228100 or go [www.stuttgart-tourist.de](http://www.stuttgart-tourist.de)

### Medieval and Christmas market

Tue, Nov 24 – Tue, Dec 22

Esslingen, city center

Starting November 24 to December 22 the Medieval and Christmas market will take place daily from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. On the first day, there will be an opening celebration at 5 p.m. Enjoy this unique market with a lantern parade to the castle, music and the romantic side streets that sets this Christmas market to be the nicest one of Southern Germany! For more information, go to [www.tourist.esslingen.de](http://www.tourist.esslingen.de)

### Baroque Christmas market

Tue, Nov 24 – Tue, Dec 22

Ludwigsburg, Marktplatz

Enjoy a Barock-Weihnachtsmarkt (Baroque Christmas Market) at the market place in the heart of Ludwigsburg from November 24 to December 22. This beautiful baroque market square turns into a Christmas winter wonderland. Enjoy the scents of the Glühwein, the chestnuts, the gingerbread and sounds of Christmas music from live performances. There will be more than enough for families to enjoy! Plenty of parking garages are available close to the market in the city center.

For more information, go to [www.ludwigsburg.de](http://www.ludwigsburg.de)

## CONCERTS

### Lunch concert

Thu, Nov 13

Stuttgart, Staatstheater

Lunch concert does in fact not include an actual meal but promises to temporarily satisfy your hunger for culture and classical music, until you want to come back

for more. Stuttgart's city theater invites you to an extraordinary lunch break at their opera house on November 12 from 12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, go to [www.stuttgart.de](http://www.stuttgart.de)

### Deep Purple

Sat, Nov 21

Nürnberg, Arena Nürnberger Versicherung

Deep Purple are an English rock band formed in Hertford in 1968. They are considered to be among the pioneers of heavy metal and modern hard rock. See them live. For tickets visit [www.eventim.de](http://www.eventim.de)

## SPORTS

### International horse riding show

Wed, Nov 18 – Sun, Nov 22

Stuttgart, Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle

Visit one of the world's most important competitions in equestrian sports the "Stuttgart German Masters" an international horse riding show in the Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle from November 18 to 22. About 160 riders, 300 horses from more than 25 countries and 60.000 visitors take part in this event every year when world cup examinations in show jumping, four-in-hands, dressage and vaulting are held.

For more information, go to [www.stuttgart-german-masters.de](http://www.stuttgart-german-masters.de)

### Soccer

Sat, Nov 21

Stuttgart, Mercedes Benz Arena

See the Bundesliga team play on November 21 in Stuttgart. VfB Stuttgart is up against FC Augsburg. Ticket prices start at €27. The game will start at 3:30 p.m.

For more information, go to [www.vfb.de](http://www.vfb.de)

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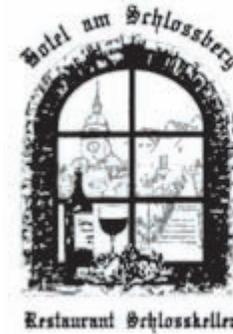
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**ELECTRONICS**

All ads and pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com)

**Rayman Raving Rabbits**, Wii game, perfect condition, like new! €10, [copongracz@gmail.com](mailto:copongracz@gmail.com), \*\*See pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com)

**SmackDown vs. Raw 2010**, Wii game, like new!, €12, [ccopongracz@gmail.com](mailto:ccopongracz@gmail.com) \*\*See pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com)

**Steering wheel "Microsoft Side-winder Force Feedback"** for your PC! Love to play auto games? Wanna feel like yr r driving for real? Then dont miss this!, pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com), €20, [copongracz@gmail.com](mailto:copongracz@gmail.com) \*\*See pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com)

**Treadmill - Proform 635 CW**, \$400.00, [timboney\\_52@hotmail.com](mailto:timboney_52@hotmail.com), well maintained/functioning treadmill. Adjusts for speed & slope. Cross fit ski poles adjustable for tension. Emergency situation stop.

**Metal Slug Anthology**, Wii game, played once, perfect condition - like new! €15, [copongracz@gmail.com](mailto:copongracz@gmail.com) \*\*See pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com)

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**Caution: Some Classified ads have become a target for scams. Please be cautious if potential buyers offer you payment methods other than cash.**

**Super Mario kart lunch cooler**, \$8,017622987498

**Aeropostale long sleeve**. Pink. On the front are pictures of peaces signs and the label name is shown. Size M. Barley worn. Good condition. For pics see [www.class-world.com](http://www.class-world.com). €9. [jani.na.wuttke@gmx.de](mailto:jani.na.wuttke@gmx.de)

**Bob the Builder fans** or just a fan work work shop. Perfect for X mas present or just like that. Make any boys dream come true, \$15,017622987498

**Bible study books** etc, \$20, [isabell\\_1\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:isabell_1_98@yahoo.com)

**Beautiful hand-made purple / pink felt flower brooch**, perfect gift, can be pinned on jackets, scarves, bags and more! €12, for pics see [class-world.com](http://class-world.com) [jennifer.wilking@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifer.wilking@hotmail.com)

**Black knitted pullover**. Size XS but fits also for size M. €5. See [www.class-world.com](http://www.class-world.com) for pictures. [Janina.Wuttke@gmx.de](mailto:Janina.Wuttke@gmx.de)

**Beautiful hand-made felt shoulder bag** in purple with flower design, medium size, [jenniferwilking@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniferwilking@hotmail.com)

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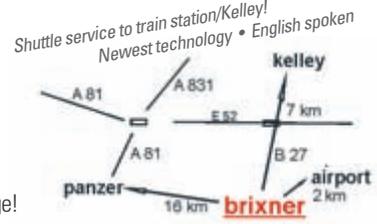
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**Dark green Roxy Jeans.** Size 30. Find pictures at [www.class-world.com](http://www.class-world.com). €10. [janina.wuttke@gmx.de](mailto:janina.wuttke@gmx.de)

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**Necklace, fashion jewelry,** black, different pearls & stones, \$5, [s.vogl75@web.de](mailto:s.vogl75@web.de)

**Fisher 177 with poles,** boot size 39. Whole package \$80. Stuttgart area. Contact [synapse613@aol.com](mailto:synapse613@aol.com)

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**Garmin 360 Navigation,** \$50, [spvendor@gmail.com](mailto:spvendor@gmail.com)

**Handbag "Alexander": Brown,** leather bag, hardly used, perfect condition! €8, pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com), [copongracz@gmail.com](mailto:copongracz@gmail.com)

**Handbag "Esprit brand":** Small bad, black leather, ideal if you only need to carry few things around with you like purse, cell phone etc., €5, pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com), [copongracz@gmail.com](mailto:copongracz@gmail.com)

**Handbag: Classy black leather** bag. Hardly used, perfect condition! pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com), €15, [copongracz@gmail.com](mailto:copongracz@gmail.com)

**Hollister strapless top.** White color, size M. With ribbons to tie a bow on the back. €15. For pics see [www.class-world.com](http://www.class-world.com). Contact [janina.wuttke@gmx.de](mailto:janina.wuttke@gmx.de)

**New Set of 4 Tires,** \$700/OBO, [kgspang@hotmail.com](mailto:kgspang@hotmail.com), Michelin LTX M/S P255/65R17 108T, Purchased/Shipped the Wrong Size Tires so looking to sell locally vice shipping back. Valued over \$900 for the set, not counting shipping costs.

**Oak bar stools,** swivel, with backs. Nice. \$40 each or both for \$75. Contact [synapse613@aol.com](mailto:synapse613@aol.com)

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**Pumps, black, hardly worn,** great condition, size 9M!, €5, pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com), [copongracz@gmail.com](mailto:copongracz@gmail.com), pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com)

**Reversible throw. Fitted sheet** pillow case and lining. Never used. Paid over \$100, asking \$65,017622987498.

**Rossignol Trail EVO 170** with poles, boot size 43. Compare at ORS [skis.direct.com](http://skis.direct.com). Whole package \$145. Stuttgart area. Contact [synapse613@aol.com](mailto:synapse613@aol.com)

**Sandals "Anne Klein":** Classy Sandals "Anne Klein": Classy shoes, brown leather, great to wear at work or for going out at night. Only slight signs of usage. Size 9M, €5, pics on [class-world.com](http://class-world.com), [coemser@gmail.com](mailto:coemser@gmail.com)

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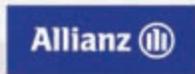


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