

# GERMAN Christmas

## Markets 2013

Frankfurt - Munich

Nuremberg - Berlin

(on a BUDGET!)

HIGHLIGHTS: Well traveled host from Minnesota, hosts in several cities, Markets in 4 Cities, The Must See Cathedral (Berliner Dom), High Speed Trains, (1st Class Train Seats) Meal in Absolute Darkness, up close and personal to the German people and culture. Free time with assistance to see what you like, Museums, Art, History, People...make your choice.

AIR - HOTEL - 1st Class TRAIN Pass & Local Trains

**\$2,049 Per Person**

Per Person/Double Occupancy  
Single Supplement \$275 Trip Interruption/Cancellation Insurance \$129  
\$100 Surcharge if less than 12 People  
This year limited to 15 Guests



Hi friends, John Reitmeier here. For years you've been along with me on my trips over the radio. Here's your chance to experience Europe and the Greatest Holiday...Christmas and their Christmas Markets! We'll be flying to Germany overnight and then riding the high speed trains... in FIRST CLASS. This trip involves some walking, but hey...if I can do it...YOU can do it! With hosts in several cities, visit Markets in Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, and the place that started it all the Christkindl Market in Nuremberg. Come with me to experience food from many countries, ride the high speed trains, find Christmas gifts that you can't get anywhere else in the world and many stops in Germany! This trip will make memories that you will keep for a lifetime.



**OUTBOUND FLIGHT - Delta**  
**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2013**  
Fargo-Minneapolis-Amsterdam-Frankfurt  
FAR-MPS 11/29 4676 3:15p-4:21p  
MSP-AMS 0258 5:20p-8:30a (arriving Saturday)  
AMS-FRA 9556 9:50A-11:05a

**RETURN FLIGHT - Delta**  
**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 2013**  
Berlin-Amsterdam-Minneapolis-Fargo  
TXL-AMS 9520 12:05p-1:25p  
AMS-MSP 0265 3:10p-5:20p  
MSP-FAR 0865 7:10p-822p

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## ITINERARY

◆ Links at the end

### DAY 1

Yahooooo! Our trip is starting. It is an overnight flight so make sure you get some sleep on the plane. This will be a trip to remember. **Not** only will we be seeing some of the most famous tourist attractions, but also some hidden treasures of Germany.



### DAY 2 Arrive Frankfurt

**Willkommen in Deutschland!** It has been a long flight and hopefully you were able to get some sleep. We begin with a stop at the hotel before heading to the Christmas Market on the Square.

- Local Train/Bus to City Center
- Hotel Check-in
- Bit of City Tour
- Christmas Market on the Square
- Lunch on the Square
- Sleep in Frankfurt

(Host Sebastian)

### Day 3

Feeling the Jet Lag? We will have a late breakfast before we are off to the **◆Stadel Gallery**. Stand in awe at the exquisite collection of over 2,900 paintings, 600 sculptures and 500 photographs An experience you will never forget. We will spend our evening in the walking district of Sachsenhausen.

- Late Breakfast
- Stadel Gallery
- ◆Evening/Dinner Sachsenhausen
- We'll visit the old Cider Houses!
- Sleep Frankfurt

(Host Sebastian and/or Alex)

### Day 4 AM Train to Munich

Duration 3:20-4:15 Hours

We will have an early breakfast in Frankfurt before departing on the train to Munich. Enjoy the beautiful scenery, including some awesome views of Bavaria! Visit the **◆Glockenspiel-City Center** before dining on Bavarian cuisine at the **◆Paulaner Restaurant**. Finish off the evening by having a Bier at the **◆Hofbräuhaus** (the oldest brewery in Munich).

- Early Breakfast in Frankfurt
- Walk to Train Station
- 1st Class Train Seat to Munich
- Hotel Check In
- Hofbräuhaus & Paulaner Restaurant
- Glockenspiel-City Center, Markets
- Sleep Munich

(Host Philippe Reitmeier)



Wild Pig, Red Cabbage & Klumpsa at the Paulaner Restaurant



Having a Bier at the Hofbräuhaus

### Day 5 AM Train to Nuremberg

Duration 1:15-2:00 Hours

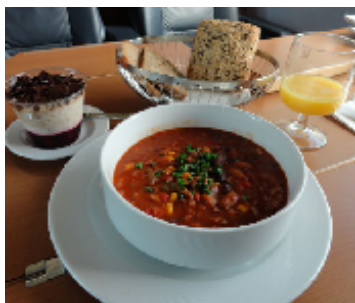
Nuremberg awaits us! Take in all the market has to offer. The delicious smells of roasted almonds, gingerbread, and glühwein (hot spiced wine) surround you as you walk from vendor to vendor. After a day of shopping, we will feast at the oldest sausage restaurant in the world, **◆Zum Goldenen Stern**.

- Breakfast in Munich
- Walk to Train Station
- Walk to Hotel/Check In
- ◆Christmas Market
- Evening: \*Oldest Sausage Restaurant in the World
- Sleep Nuremberg





ICE (InterCity Express)  
Pulling into the Station



Lunch on the Train



## Day 6 AM Train to Berlin

Duration 5-5:30 Hours

After a good nights sleep in Nuremberg we will travel 1st Class on the train to Berlin. In Berlin explore all that Mitte has to offer. The evening will end at **◆Unsicht-bar (Blind) Restaurant**. Your entire dining experience is in complete darkness. An unbelievably unique experience everyone should have!

- Breakfast in Nuremberg
- Walk to Train Station
- Arrive Berlin HBF
- Local Train: Ubahn/S/Bahn from HBF to Hotel/Check In
- Mitte area (shopping/bars/food)
- Evening: Unsicht-bar (Blind) Restaurant
- Hackescher Markt
- Sleep Berlin - **◆Easy Hotel Berlin**



Inside the breathtaking Berliner Dom

## Day 7

Put on those walking shoes! Today is the big day. First up is a tour of the **◆Berliner Dom**, the Kaiser's answer to the Vatican. After a short train ride to West Berlin, spend some time at the **◆KaDeWe**. This great department store has everything your heart desires. Enjoy a fantastic lunch on the 6th floor. Later in the day we will take in the **◆Gendarmenmarkt** or as its also known, the twin churches.

- Biggest Scheduled Day
- Early Breakfast
- MORNING: \*Berliner Dom
- Cab or Walk to Berliner Dom (Dom=Cathedral. The Kaiser's answer to the Vatican)
- Local Train to W. Berlin
- NOON: AFTERNOON: KaDeWe (DEPARTMENT STORE/FOOD COURT) Noon Visit/Lunch 6th Floor KaDeWe
- EVENING: Gendarmenmarkt (twin Churches W. Berlin)
- Train back to Mitte/Hotel
- Sleep Berlin

(Host Henry/Jan)

## Day 8

Travelers Choice. Making the most of our last day, we will make prior arrangements for whatever you would like to do. Choose from Museums, Art Galleries, or WWII etc. If you still have good feet....the 3.5 Hour **◆FREE** walking tour is HIGHLY suggested! Today is also your last chance to devour John's favorite

.....**Crispy Duck!**

- Free Day
- Sleep Berlin

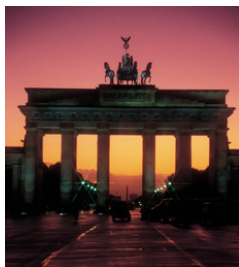


Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church

(Host Henry/Jan)



Berlin Wall Memorial



Brandenburg Gate

## Day 9 Depart Berlin to Home

All good things must come to an end. Breakfast and taxi ride to the airport, off to home.

- Breakfast
- TAXI to TXL-Airport
- FLY HOME - Berlin - Amsterdam - Minneapolis - Fargo (or your home airport)







**Expected extra spending: (estimates are all high)**

**Day 1** Local Train from FRA to Downtown: 4E

**Day 3** Stadel Art Gallery: Cab Over-3E, Ticket-12E, Cab Back-3E each

**Day 4** Hofbräuhaus in Munich: Beer is 5E/Liter

Paulaner Restaurant: 20-30E (they own their own farms, mate domestic sows wild boars... some of the best pork you can get anywhere!!)

**Day 5** Sausage Restaurant in Nuremberg: 20E Oldest in the world!!

**Day 6** Local Train from HBF to Berlin-Mitte: 4E

Unsicht Bar: 45-70E (Meal in TOTAL DARKNESS) (and worth every penny!)

**Day 7** Berliner Dom: Ticket 8E - Rent an IPAD self guided tour 4E

Train over to W. Berlin: 4E going 4E return

KaDeWe Lunch: 25E

**Day 8** Your Choice: Art Gallery/Museum/History: Typical 12-15 Euro Cabs Each way <10E total

Walking Tour is free but tip expected.

**Day 9** Taxi to Airport TXL: Usually 22E Total- each cab can take 3 people or more

**Alcohol is expensive...**typical cocktails are 7E and up. Beer (large mug) 5E

Food runs up and down...street vendors (Great food BTW) cheap, A restaurant with an Applebee's type menu will run 12-24 Euro. You haven't had Crispy Duck till you've had it from even the smallest joint in Berlin! You'll never eat American Cheese again!

**No Meals included** (except possible breakfasts as part of hotel stays)

**Typical temps** 25 degrees in evening 45 degrees in afternoon.

**This is a walking trip** You need 1 carry-on (suggest roller bag!) and 1 Large Suitcase (rollers mandatory!) (Pack light..you'll want to bring some things home!)

**Cell PHONES ANY GSM** (T-mobile/Sprint/AT&T) or VERIZON cell phone works, but VERY EXPENSIVE. (about \$1.50+/minute) SMS is 25-50 cents! (talk to your carrier about using 3G/4G service...or make sure it's SHUT OFF your phone) Suggest VOXER for smart phones. It's free on WIFI between each other and to HOME...send voice/chat/photos)

**Difficulty** Your travel guide weighs 350 and walk with a limp...If he can do it?...well...

**Credit Cards** Master Card most welcome, Visa Next...A/E not so much.

**Good place to change money** Kiosk at Airport/Train Stations. Most Germans pay in cash...the Euro has a 1 Euro and 2 Euro coin so you will have a pocket full of metal.

TIPPING is already added to your bill...it's customary to ROUND UP to the next EURO or next 5 Euro point. IE. Your bill is 4.30 Euro you give the server a 10 euro note, and say from 5 euro (they will give you back a 5 euro note and be very happy. Your bill is 27.40 Euro, you give them a 50 euro note and say "change back" or From 30 euro. Again they will be very happy!! Same with a taxi driver!

**TAXI/CAB** Typical german cabs will take 3 passengers (some vans now take more) Typical cost between any locations we'll be going will be 7-10 Euro (except last ride to TXL-Berlin Airport).

**Some Terms:**

**HBF** Hauptbahnhof (means great or central train station in each city)

**ICE** InterCity Express the fastest mostly non stop trains between Germany's larger cities.

**Rail Pass or EURORAIL PASS** ...all you can ride for as many days as you purchase. Tentatively we will purchase a 3 day Rail ticket, meaning on any of the days of travel, we can go where we want/as long as we want (in that day) and have a 1st class seat. (to actually reserve a seat on a particular train costs about 3\$ which we might do on high traffic days, but usually the train is wide open. There is good food and beverage service available at your seat or in the dining cars.

**U Bahn** the Subway

**S Bahn** above ground/on the street local trains or buses

**KaDeWe** Kaufhaus Des Westens (shopping center of the west)..the coolest/biggest/most expensive department store you'll ever walk through! 6 floors of awesome!

**John's Suggestions:**

Pack extra and OLD undergarments/socks. As you use them, throw them away. Two benefits, you're not carrying as many dirty clothes, and you'll have more space to bring things home. AND you got rid of your old undergarments :-)

Folks in Germany wear running shoes when they go running...otherwise they don't wear running shoes... your choice.

**Suitcases CANNOT exceed 50 Pounds, or it's VERY EXPENSIVE!**

John will have a portable scale for you to test your bag

**IN Berlin**, this is a neighborhood that John knows well.

**Suggested eating:** Awesome coffee shop/sandwich place Hidden but fun **Barcomi's Deli!!**

**Altes Europe** AN AUTHENTIC German Bar great old guy owns it. means OLD Europe. They still take DMark (german money) for your bill.

**ANY Sausage Street Vendor...**you'll never have a better Bratwurst!!!

**ANY PLACE** on Rosenthaler Strasse between Gipsstrasse and Hackescher Markt

**There is a great Spanish Tapas bar** - Small Plates/one or 2 bites and you order many.



Expect Sit down breakfast cost Approx.10 Euro, Lunch 10-15 Euro, Dinner 25-40 Euro. Of course you can eat cheap at street stands in many places! ( May 29, 2013 1 Euro = \$1.29 or 100\$ buys you 77 Euro.)



## Market Highlights

### BERLIN



The heart of "Winter Magic" beats particularly strongly on the **Potsdamer Platz Christmas Market** and in the Sony Centre, where there is a Christmas Market covering the Sony Centre's 4,000 square metre event area. Lots of lights, handicrafts, music and delicacies ensure a reflective atmosphere at this Christmas Market. The Winter World also offers fast fun on the largest mobile toboggan run in Europe, which is 12 metres high and 70 metres long. If anyone is still looking for more sporting activity after the toboggans they can skate on the 500 square metre open air rink. Finally, the nearly ten metre high Clock Tower from the Ore Mountains is always there to see too. An atmospheric backdrop guarantees a wonderful experience at the **Gendarmenmarkt Christmas Market** in one of the most beautiful squares in the city.



### NUREMBERG ...THE MOTHER CHURCH OF CHRISTMAS MARKETS.....



The Christmas Angel opens Nuremberg's famous Christkindlesmarkt on Hauptmarkt square in the old quarter. Soak up the medieval charm and the aroma of gingerbread, Nuremberg bratwurst and glühwein. The Nuremberg Kinder Weihnacht is the children's market and has an old-fashioned carousel, Ferris wheel and steam train. The Nativity scene trail runs between the two markets. By Christmas Eve, more than two million visitors from all over the world will have sampled the delights of the Nuremberg Christmas Market. About 180 wooden stalls, festooned with red-and-white cloth, have given the Christmas Market its name of "Little Town from Wood and Cloth." Favorite souvenirs include the "Nuremberg Plum People," little figures made from prunes.



## FRANKFURT



There has been a Christmas market in Frankfurt for over 600 years. Full of history and traditions the Frankfurt Christmas Market is one of Germany's oldest and most popular Christmas Markets in Europe. As soon as you catch your first glimpse of the Frankfurt Christmas Market you will not be able to resist all the beautiful temptations. Take a stroll across the market and you will enjoy a wonderful aroma of baked apples, roasted nuts, gingerbread and mulled wine - quite a contrast to the ever-present Frankfurt Skyline in the background! Its scenery of beautifully decorated stalls, the historical backdrop of the Römerberg market place, St Paul's church and the gigantic Christmas tree all contribute to an unforgettable experience.

## MUNICH



This Christmas market dates back to the 14th century when it was first known as "Nicholaus Markets." It is held on the Marienplatz in the heart of the city centre. Each day from the balcony of Munich's town hall, music lovers will be able to enjoy the festive season celebration with a special alpine Christmas Market concert. You definitely will know when this great city is ready for the season when its nearly 100 ft Christmas tree is lit with more than 2,500 candles. The glow from this magnificent decoration it truly puts you in the holiday spirit.

**Sound like a fun trip? Check out these links to see what you don't want to be missing!**

**Stadel Gallery** - <http://www.staedelmuseum.de/sm/index.php?StoryID=1190&websiteLang=en>

**Sachsenhausen** - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sachsenhausen\\_\(Frankfurt\\_am\\_Main\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sachsenhausen_(Frankfurt_am_Main))

**hofbraeuhaus** - [http://www.hofbraeuhaus.de/en/index\\_en.html](http://www.hofbraeuhaus.de/en/index_en.html)

**Paulaner Restaraunt** - <http://www.muenchen.de/int/en/restaurants/eating-out/paulaner-braeuhaus.html>

**Glockenspiel** - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rathaus-Glockenspiel>

**Munich Christmas Market** - [http://www.germany-christmas-market.org.uk/munich\\_christmas\\_market.php](http://www.germany-christmas-market.org.uk/munich_christmas_market.php)

**Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt**

<http://www.christkindlesmarkt.de/en/christmas-market/welcome-to-the-nuremberg-christkindlesmarkt-1.2371262>

**Zum Guldenen Stern** - [http://gogermany.about.com/od/sightsandattractions/ss/Best-Things-Nuremberg\\_6.htm](http://gogermany.about.com/od/sightsandattractions/ss/Best-Things-Nuremberg_6.htm)

**Blind Restaurant** - [http://www.unsicht-bar-berlin.de/unsicht-bar-berlin-v2/en/html/home\\_1\\_idea.html](http://www.unsicht-bar-berlin.de/unsicht-bar-berlin-v2/en/html/home_1_idea.html)

**Easy Hotel in Berlin** - <http://www.easyhotel.com/hotels/berlin.html>

**Berliner Dom** - <http://www.berlinerdom.de/index.php?lang=en>

**KaDeWe** - [http://www.kadewe.de/en/the\\_kadewe/](http://www.kadewe.de/en/the_kadewe/)

**Gendarmenmarkt in Berlin** - <http://www.gendarmenmarktberlin.de/wp/?lang=en>

**Free Walking Tour in Berlin** - <http://www.newberlintours.com/daily-tours/free-tour.html>

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