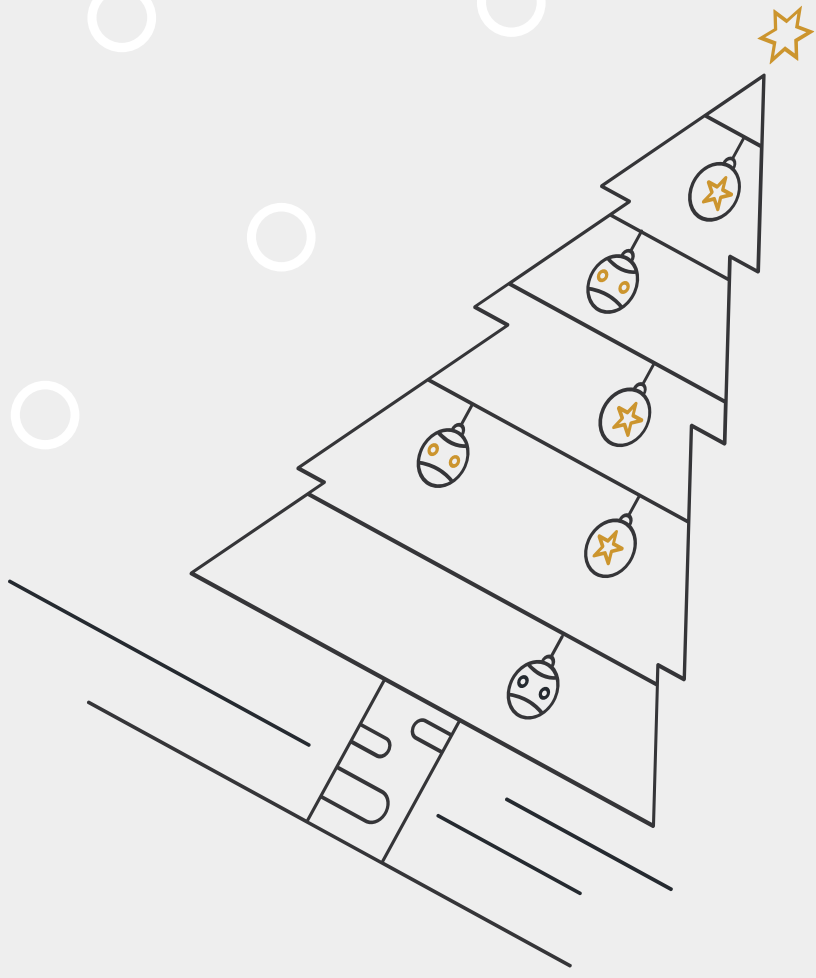


# Christmas in Vienna

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Winter is a delightful season to visit the Austrian capital. Giant trees glitter with ornaments and twinkling lights, and carols float from street corners. Shops tempt with elegant window displays, streets are decked out in holiday finery, and seasonal concerts showcase Vienna's superlative musical heritage.

# CHRISTMAS MARKET

- A highlight of winter in Vienna is the Christmas market in front of the elaborate Town Hall, whose facade is decorated for the occasion.
- Christkindlmarkte are a feature of many German-speaking cities and have a long pedigree; Vienna's was established by royal decree in the 13th century.



Here, Christmas trees are tied with red ribbons and festooned with gilded pine cones. Carolers and musicians wander through the crowds like the minstrels of old. Cheerful wooden booths sell music boxes, pewter beer mugs and hand-blown glass ornaments. Lacework, felt slippers and objects made from deer antler are other typically Austrian goods.





## ICE SKATING

- If you wish to twirl and glide through the crisp Viennese air, then the Vienna Ice Skating Association is the place. They have a large outdoor ice rink that opens from early morning.
- The Christkindlmarkt often has a rather romantic ice skating trail through the adjacent park, though the skating takes a break in 2021. In normal years, it acts as a kind of warm up for the much-larger Ice World event.



All the main shopping streets put on a Christmas display and, of course, many large stores and hotels do so, too.

In terms of colours, Vienna tends not to do garish. So expect plenty of classic whites, reds and greens, often with a touch of “alternative” thrown in.

The lights tend to go on sometime in the second half of November without too much advance notice on the specific date. This year, however, they appear a bit earlier: from November 12th.

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# Christmas lights



# Weihnachtspunsch

- A fine idea for that steaming mug of something warm is Weihnachtspunsch (Christmas punch): the drink comes in dozens of flavours and keeps the chill at bay on a cold winter's evening. The markets serve their punch in collectable mugs, and each market normally has its own unique mug design.
- Incidentally, drinking a mug or two of punch is not a "thing" just for tourists. Locals regularly meet friends after work around a bar table outside a Christmas market stand.



# Resources

## VECTOR

- <https://www.wien.info/en/shopping-wining-dining/markets/christmas-markets-342664>
- <https://www.visitingvienna.com/entertainment/christmas-in-vienna/>
- <https://www.visitingvienna.com/entertainment/10-things-at-christmas/>

## PHOTOS

- [https://lelongweekend.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/N75\\_4147-1024x684.jpg](https://lelongweekend.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/N75_4147-1024x684.jpg)





**Merry Christmas!**