

Romantic Germany – a Winter Fairy Tale

Koblenz, October 2016: Romantic Germany / Rhineland-Palatinate – Rhine, Moselle and in addition the German Wine Route, three regions in the south west of Germany, full of variety and well worth seeing, invite visitors to a special winter fairy tale. From 18 November on, traditional Christmas markets in picturesque little half-timbered towns and stunning castles will be a pleasant, entertaining way to shorten the wait for Santa Claus. Some examples? In Koblenz, the baroque Town Hall with its 24 dormers will be turned into a giant Advent Calendar. In Trier, Germany's only Wine Queen will pour out some premium wines from local winemakers for you. Or how about the unique underground Christmas market in romantically lit wine cellars in the town of Traben-Trarbach? Those who can't get enough of quaint Christmas markets can simply carry on celebrating the festive season here, into the first week of January.

Romantic Rhine – legends, myths and fairytale castles

The impressive landscape of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley UNESCO World Heritage site with its many castles and palaces is a worthy stage for the Christmas market in the Rhine-Moselle city of Koblenz (18 November – 22 December). Romantic horse-drawn carriages roll over the picturesque city squares in the old part of Koblenz, with aromas of freshly roasted almonds, mulled wine and gingerbread. wafting through the air. Choirs, music societies and festive Christmas lights create a magical atmosphere in the old part of the city. A new little door of the Advent calendar with the 24 dormers of the baroque Town Hall opens every day. A surprise for adults and children!

The following Christmas markets are recommended if you like things to be a little more tranquil: Andernach with its living manger scene (21 November – 24 December), Brohl-Lützing/Burg Brohleck (26 November), the magic of Advent at Sayn Castle (26 – 27 November), Bad-Hönningen (26 – 27 November), Oberwesel (26 -27 November).

Moselle – vineyards and castles as far as the eye can see

The romantic Moselle Valley is characterised by many churches, monasteries and naturally also knights' castles. It would be hard to find a more beautiful backdrop to mark the pre-Christmas season. The Christmas Market in Trier (21 November – 22 December) is one of the most beautiful Christmas markets in the whole of Germany. It is frequently distinguished as being "idyllic and romantic". Trier Cathedral and the medieval main market are the backdrop for the 95 festively decorated wooden huts of the 37th Christmas Market in Germany's oldest city. Germany's only Mulled Wine Queen is looking forward to your visit and will personally pour out the "original Moselle winemaker's mulled wine". For little guests: in addition to an historical wooden doll show, the only singing Santa Claus in Germany will be making several appearances at the main market.

Those wishing to experience something really special shouldn't miss out on Cochem Castle Christmas held in the castle on the third weekend in Advent. Unique: The Christmas story as a nativity play with actors and live animals. Magical Christmas stalls in the Rose Court.

The underground Moselle Christmas market in the historical wine cellars of **Traben-Trarbach**, which is celebrated after New Year's Eve right into the new year, is equally as impressive.

German Wine Route – one of the oldest tourist routes in Germany

Festively decorated and scintillating, **Neustadt an der Weinstraße** is waiting for you in the heart of the Palatinate. Kunigunde Market will be held in the historical courtyards of the old part of Neustadt on the four Advent weekends this year again. Tall Christmas trees, lit up with thousands of tiny lights, roasted chestnuts, music and glittering decorations will guide you from courtyard to courtyard. Slow-food service enterprises and producers from Neustadt and its surroundings will present visitors with a feast for the eyes and the palate, with everything from premium wines to truffles, jewellery and decorations, in an impressive Christmas atmosphere. Stands with specialities from Italy, Spain, France, England, Sweden and the Netherlands will take you on a culinary journey through Europe. From Neustadt, it is not far to Speyer, where the Christmas and New Year Market will be celebrated right through to 8 January 2017.

Getting there:

Rhineland-Palatinate is easily accessible and offers good value for money, making it ideal for a short trip in the pre-Christmas season. The airports in Frankfurt-Hahn (Ryanair), Cologne-Bonn (Eurowings), Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden (Ryanair), Frankfurt International (Lufthansa, British Airways, etc.) and Luxemburg (Ryanair) are located in the immediate vicinity.

More information on the region, its events and our suggestions for routes is available at www.romantic-germany.info.

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