



PRELUDE
TOURS

European Christmas Market

TRAVEL TIPS



BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE USA

- Check that your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date.
- Consider travel insurance.
- Set up an international phone plan or eSIM.
- Bring a European plug adapter (Type C/E/F) and a portable charger.
- Download offline maps and your hotel information.
- Notify your bank of international travel.
- Pack essential medications in your carry-on.



SHOPPING & SOUVENIRS

- Christmas markets offer unique gifts, ornaments and handcrafted items.
- Bring a reusable shopping bag.
- Keep your purchases and receipts together.
- Leave room in your suitcase, or pack a lightweight foldable bag for the return trip.
- Many vendors can ship items directly to the United States, especially fragile or bulky purchases. Ask about shipping costs and timing.



MONEY

- Carry some euros - small denomination bills and coins).
- Credit cards are widely accepted, but smaller stalls may prefer cash.
- Use a secure crossbody bag or purse.
- Keep your money and valuables close, especially in crowded areas.



FLIGHTS & LUGGAGE

- Check your airline's baggage allowance for international flights (size and weight limits can be stricter in Europe).
- Keep valuables, medications and a change of clothes in your carry-on.
- Consider a luggage tag with your name, phone number and email. (Prelude Tours will provide a luggage tag)



DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

- Expect cold, damp weather. Temperatures can be near freezing or below.
- Dress in layers (thermal layers, sweater, warm coat).
- Bring a waterproof coat, hat, gloves and scarf.
- Wear comfortable, waterproof walking shoes.
- Pack a compact umbrella.
- Consider hand warmers for especially cold days.



FOOD & DRINK

- Enjoy local specialties such as gingerbread, roasted nuts, sausages, waffles, chocolates and regional treats.
- Many markets serve hot drinks (glühwein, hot chocolate, etc.) in collectible mugs. You typically pay a deposit and can either return the mug for the deposit or keep it as a souvenir.
- Packaged chocolates, cookies, candies and many commercially packaged foods are generally allowed to bring home. Avoid fresh foods, meats and dairy products. Check current U.S. Customs rules.



ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE

- Visit the markets during the day and again in the evening when the lights are on.
- Take time to enjoy the atmosphere, music and traditions.
- Learn a few local words (hello, please, thank you, Merry Christmas).
- Be prepared for crowds, especially on weekends.
- Don't rush — the Christmas markets are as much about the experience as the shopping!

