



## Storylines: Christmas in Zurich

During Advent and at Christmas, Zurich exudes a truly magical atmosphere. However, in addition to enchanting Christmas markets, events, and light installations, Christmas in Zurich is also urban, chic, and contemporary: quirky pop-up bars, designer markets, and not-so-silent Christmas sounds make Advent in Zurich an unforgettable experience.

→ [zuerich.com/christmas](https://zuerich.com/christmas)

## Ready, Set, Christmas!

Christmas begins in Zurich on the last but one Thursday in November, when everyone converges on the Bahnhofstrasse to witness the “Lucy” Christmas illuminations being switched on at 6pm precisely. And when all the 12,000 white, blue, and red LED crystals along the famous shopping mile suddenly shine out simultaneously, the street resounds with admiring “ahs” and “ohs” from the onlookers. This event marks the start of the atmospheric Advent season in Zurich. On the same evening, all the Christmas markets in the city center open their doors to the general public.

→ [zuerich.com/christmas-events](https://zuerich.com/christmas-events)

### Enchanting Worlds of Light

Alongside “Lucy”, other wonderful Christmas installations bathe the picturesque narrow, winding streets of the Old Town, the most frequented squares, and tucked-away corners in a magical light. Zurich is transformed into a giant walk-in light installation that makes an evening stroll through the city an even more enchanting experience. The city’s year-round lighting concept, known as the “Plan Lumière”, is further enhanced by the Christmas illuminations, and Zurich is turned into one big, brightly-lit Christmas village:

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<b>Left of the River Limmat</b>	Augustinergasse and Rennweg shine out in a particularly romantic light. Rennweg is adorned with tiny lights that look like falling snow.
<b>Right of the River Limmat</b>	Along the history-steeped Limmatquai, a variety of Christmas decorations provide a festive light.
<b>Near and in the Main Station</b>	The “Illuminarium” light show projects a wonderland of 3D lights onto the facades of the inner courtyard of the National Museum. In addition, the Swarovski Christmas tree sparkles brightly in the main concourse of the Main Station.
<b>By Lake Zurich</b>	Circus Conelli on the Bauschänzli is also a magical sight. Erected close to the water, it is enshrouded in a mystical ambiance due to the rising fog.

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### Which Christmas Market is Best Suited to Whom?

The Christmas markets in Zurich stand out as a result of their high quality and diversity: each has its own special character and exudes a unique charm. Consequently, in Zurich, every visitor will find their favorite Christmas market.

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<b>“Wienachtsdorf” Christmas village at Bellevue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Products by up-and-coming Zurich and Swiss designers</li><li>• Food trucks with specialties from all over the world</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large fondue chalet, an outdoor ice rink, and a children's village</li></ul>
<b>“Dörfli” Christmas market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oldest Christmas market in the historical Old Town</li><li>• Particularly romantic ambiance</li></ul>
<b>Münsterhof Christmas market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quality products from the surrounding Zurich boutiques</li><li>• Framed by the Fraumünster church and history-steeped guild houses</li></ul>
<b>“Christkindlimärkt” at Zurich Main Station</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Largest indoor Christmas market in Europe</li><li>• 15 meter (50 ft) tall Christmas tree decorated with thousands of sparkling Swarovski crystals</li></ul>
<b>The Singing Christmas Tree and “Wiennachtsmärt”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children's choirs and music groups from the region perform their repertoire of Christmas carols on a vertical podium shaped like a Christmas tree.</li><li>• Centrally located just off Bahnhofstrasse</li></ul>
<b>City Christmas market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Between the Jelmoli and Globus department stores</li><li>• Perfect for extending a shopping spree</li></ul>
<b>“Wiennachtsmärt” Winterthur</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In the heart of the Old Town of Winterthur</li><li>• Featuring a large St. Nicholas parade</li></ul>
<b>Einsiedeln Christmas market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impressive backdrop in front of Einsiedeln Abbey</li><li>• Enormous Christmas tree</li></ul>
<b>“Christkindlimärt” Rapperswil-Jona</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Picturesque medieval setting in the Old Town of Rapperswil</li><li>• One of the largest Christmas markets in Switzerland</li><li>• Life-size nativity scene</li></ul>

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Detailed information about the Christmas markets:

→ [zuerich.com/christmas-markets](https://zuerich.com/christmas-markets)

## Christmas for: Christmas Fans, Romantics, and Families

St. Nicholas takes excited children on a ride through Zurich in his smart, red “Märlitram” fairy tale tram, while in Baden, hundreds of little bells ring out loudly until the Christmas light installation is switched on: Christmas is the most beautiful time of year for romantic Christmas fans, families, and especially children. Ice skating, tobogganing, steaming hot drinking chocolate, Christmas cookies, and more sweeten the cold season of the year. And in Zurich, many organizers, restaurants, and museums particularly specialize in family activities.

## Christmas fans and families should be sure not to miss these 6 activities in Zurich:

1. Märli tram: St. Nicholas drives children through Zurich's city center in the historical Christmas fairy tale tram.
2. Candle dipping at Bürkliplatz: here visitors can make their own candles surrounded by the bittersweet scent of hot beeswax.
3. Elfendörfli (elf village): children will find a special Christmas market on the terrace of the Opera House, with a children's movie theater, Santa Claus's post office, a book corner, and a supporting activity program.
4. "Lichterwecken" event in Baden: hundreds of children "awaken" the Christmas light installation with their tinkling bells.
5. Waldhüsli on the Käferberg: at the beginning of December, St. Nicholas spends a week living in his little forest hut on the Käferberg and looks forward to welcoming children and families.
6. Further inspiration for Advent with children:

→ [zuerich.com/advent-for-children](https://www.zuerich.com/advent-for-children)

## Christmas for: the Trend-Conscious and Fashionistas

Zurich is the boutique metropolis where trend-conscious people and fashionistas can find everything their shopping heart desires within the smallest of areas. The world's most famous brands are rowed up along the prestigious Bahnhofstrasse. Zurich's Jelmoli and Globus department stores are also located here. Beautiful boutiques in the Old Town offer out-of-the-ordinary and unique pieces, while Zurich design and local manufactories are mainly to be found in Zürich-West and in the triangle near the Kanzleiareal (Tribeka). And Swiss diversity can be found in a compact space at Europaallee, as well as at the nearby Main Station, Sihlcity, or Zurich Airport.

### When Shopping Becomes an Event

At Advent, special late-night and Sunday shopping provides an opportunity to enjoy a leisurely hunt for that perfect gift without having to keep an eye on the time. On the late-night shopping day, the stores in the city center remain open until 10pm and welcome customers with special lighting concepts and a party atmosphere featuring live DJs, fashion shows, and bars with specially created cocktails. Sunday shopping in the run-up to Christmas offers some welcome inspiration for gift ideas, as well as an additional shopping opportunity.

- Late-night shopping on November 21, 2019, until 10pm
- Sunday shopping on December 1, 8 & 22, from 11am – 6pm
- New Year's shopping on January 2, 2020 from 9am – 8pm

→ [zuerich.com/shopping](https://www.zuerich.com/shopping)

→ [zuerich.com/christmas-shopping](https://www.zuerich.com/christmas-shopping)

## Christmas for: Foodies

Zurich is the food metropolis of Switzerland. So it goes without saying that at Advent, too, the city attaches particular importance to its passion for great food, intense flavors, and gastronomic trends from all over the world. Gourmets and inquisitive foodies can easily combine their pre-Christmas visit to the city with a gourmet tour through Zurich. Whether in one of Zurich's first-class restaurants, at the "Wienachtsdorf" Christmas market with its countless food trucks serving cuisine from all over the world, or at a spontaneous pop-up outlet: there is always an opportunity to indulge in Zurich.

→ [zuerich.com/restaurants-in-zurich](https://zuerich.com/restaurants-in-zurich)

→ [zuerich.com/cafés](https://zuerich.com/cafés)

### **These 11 Zurich manufactures provide the perfect foodie gift from the City on the Limmat:**

Christmas in Zurich tastes different. The restaurants serve up local products that should also be tasted locally. Of course, they are also suitable as special gifts for your loved ones back home.

1. Le Saucier – award-winning cuisine in a jar
2. Züri Fondue – fondue mix made from regional ingredients by Thomas Meyer
3. DasPure – ecological delicatessen
4. Mikks – freshness in a bottle
5. Tirggel St. Jakob
6. Leibacher Biber – the typically Swiss almond specialty
7. Gents – Swiss tonics and cocktail mixers
8. Tsüri Sauce – the diversity of Zurich as a BBQ or marinade sauce
9. Umami – microgreens from the heart of the city of Zurich
10. mikas Stadtjäger – choice meat products
11. Chocolate (La Flor, Taucherli, Garcoa)

→ [zuerich.com/christmas-shopping](https://zuerich.com/christmas-shopping)

### **The Most Contemplative Apéros at Advent in Zurich**

The people of Zurich love their apéros. These convivial social gatherings usually take place after work at the close of the day. There is no time limit for an apéro; it usually ends in an evening meal or other activity. Particularly at Advent, families, friends and work colleagues take this opportunity to look back on the past year together with their loved ones and to toast the coming year.

### **Seasonal apéro ideas during a visit to Zurich:**

- Take a walk through the snow-covered forest with a flaming torch to the Hotel Zürichberg and enjoy a glass of mulled wine accompanied by a view over the city.
- Take a ride on the cogwheel train up to the castle-style hotel, The Dolder Grand. On the ice rink in the middle of a secluded forest, you can warm yourself with grog, punch, hot chocolate, and more.
- Taste gin cocktails in the highest building in Zurich: in the Clouds bar at the top of the Prime Tower, with a view over the sparkling lights of the city.
- Enjoy a short round trip on Lake Zurich and marvel at the countless glittering lights on the lakeshore.

- Head up to one of the cool rooftop bars (Modissa, Hiltl, Urania) overlooking the Bahnhofstrasse and escape the hustle and bustle on the street down below.

### **The weirdest fondue locations:**

There are no limits to fondue mania in Zurich. Cheese is melted and stirred at every opportunity: in a moving eTukTuk, for example, where the actual sightseeing is more or less of secondary importance. Or in the cozy Fondue Tram, which trundles through the streets of Zurich while inside, fondue forks are being dipped into the steaming melted cheese. At the same time, fondue pop-up outlets are springing up like mushrooms: with great attention to detail, entire fondue chalets built out of timber are appearing, inside which fireplaces and soft animal furs create a cozy ambiance. Whether in the smart forest wagon of the Restaurant Degenried in Frau Gerolds Garten, located in the urban Zürich-West quarter, or at the Sorell Hotel Zürichberg, offering the most beautiful view of the festively-lit city: there is never a shortage of cheese in Zurich.

→ [zuerich.com/fondue](https://zuerich.com/fondue)

## Christmas for: People Seeking Relaxation

There is lots going on in Zurich at Christmas and the city pulsates with life and merriment. Nevertheless, it is still possible to find a tranquil spot: a short ride by tram, train, or bus will take you to the most beautiful natural landscapes.

### **6 ideas for finding peace and quiet:**

- Winter walks: whether along the historical fortification wall in the heart of the city, along Lake Zurich and the River Limmat, in the snow-covered forests around the city, or on one of the nearby mountains with a view: countless solitary winter paths invite you to enjoy a stroll in the fresh air.
- Cruise on the lake: clear your head with an invigorating lake breeze and the tiny ice crystals glittering in the air.
- Sauna at the Seebad Enge: work up a sweat and then plunge into the ice-cold Lake Zurich – a sure way to revive your spirits. At the Seebad Enge lakeside swimming facility, the sauna experience is celebrated in style, and from the shore you can often watch intrepid sauna-goers as they plunge into the lake with an exhilarated whoop.
- Hamam Münstergasse: in the heart of the Old Town, those seeking relaxation can immerse themselves in the tranquil, fragrant world of a hammam.
- Candle making: carefully dip the long wick into the hot, molten beeswax. Wait, allow the excess wax to drip off, wait, dip again, and repeat. The meditative repetition of this action gradually gives rise to beautiful, sweet-smelling works of art. The traditional candle-making event at Bürkliplatz has been a place of contemplation and encounter since 1969 – for people of all nationalities and from all walks of life.

- Discover secret urban oases: the entrance hall of the Zurich police headquarters by Giacometti, the cloister of the Grossmünster, and many other cultural oases are wonderful places of peace and reflection.

→ [zuerich.com/relaxation-at-advent](https://zuerich.com/relaxation-at-advent)

## Zurich's Christmas-Makers

- Guido Schweizer: the tram driver loves his work as Santa Claus and has been doing this extra job for many years.
- Katja Weber: with her "Wienachtsdorf" Christmas village at Bellevue, she enchants thousands of delighted Christmas market visitors every year.
- Hans Kunz: Together with his wife, he produces the best mulled wine in town in his apartment. Besides the "Roter Joe's", his "Rosy's Gin" is particularly popular – and regularly outdoes many of its rivals in blind tastings.
- Hot chestnut sellers: they shape the cityscape in winter, and with their aromatic chestnuts they provide a moment of warmth in visitors' hearts and stomachs.
- Dolder master ice groomer: if he fails to regularly smooth the ice, he disappoints ice skating, curling, and Bavarian curling enthusiasts of all ages.
- The person who switches on "Lucy": who actually has the honor of kicking off Advent in Zurich by switching on the Christmas illuminations?
- St. Nicholas: the intrepid Christmas figure goes swimming in Zurich even in winter – at the legendary "Santa Claus Swim" event.

### More Information

→ [zuerich.com/christmas](https://zuerich.com/christmas)

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