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STRASBOURG CAPITALE DE NOËL

A HEART-WARMING EXPERIENCE!



2023



A HEART-WARMING EXPERIENCE!

While the star brought a warm glow to Strasbourg Capital of Christmas in 2021 and the snowflake blew a light, swirling breeze over the 2022 edition, this year is the year of the heart, making the whole city and its visitors move to the rhythm of its beats.

Whether painted onto ceramics, engraved on the back of an Alsatian chair or stamped into Bredle dough, the heart perfectly symbolises the emotions of the people of Strasbourg as they share their traditions with all those who come to visit.

It is also at the very essence of this event, where solidarity goes hand in hand with generosity, where the personal meets the collective and where authenticity is key to environmental responsibility.

Listen to the beating heart of Strasbourg Capital of Christmas as you learn about its history, touch it with your fingertips as you stroll through the city's illuminated streets, taste it as you sample the region's culinary specialities, smell it as you approach the pans of mulled wine and the bakers' ovens, and watch it beat in the hearts of those who share these moments with you.



EDITORIAL

The season when the heart of our city beats even faster than usual is upon us, when eyes widen and magic happens for both young and old, locals and visitors, from near or far. This new booklet will guide you through the streets of Strasbourg, the alleys of the Christmas Market, and also through the changes we have made.

To ensure that our Capital of Christmas remains open, accessible and firmly focussed on the future, we've begun the process of transforming it. And this new edition will give further proof of just how far we've come.

Last year, a randomly selected citizens' jury submitted its recommendations and we are committed to implementing them. They will be our roadmap for the next three years. The events continue to spread beyond the city centre and into the surrounding areas. Eco-responsible initiatives are being stepped up, including those involving the city's décor and cultural calendar. Traditions have been brought back to life and re-interpreted to create a lively and united market full of meaning and unforgettable flavours. The Christmas Market has reinvented itself thanks to the people who breathe life into it: this year the market is fairer, friendlier, more festive and more eco-friendly than ever before.

We wish you a warm and magical December and a wonderful Christmas.

JEANNE BARSEGHIAN

Mayor of Strasbourg

GUILAUME LIBSIG

Deputy Mayor responsible
for urban events

TRADITIONS



THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The earliest mention of the display of fir trees at the end of the year was found in an account book of the Oeuvre de Notre-Dame⁽¹⁾ (Strasbourg) dating back to 1492. This tradition then spread throughout Alsace, the German-speaking countries and Central Europe. The Christmas tree is a symbol of light that brightens the long winter nights. It then crossed the Atlantic to find its place at the heart of the American Christmas imagery we know today.

Originally, Christmas trees were placed in public places, usually in front of churches. They were introduced into homes in the 18th century and were initially suspended from the ceiling because they were decorated with edible treats such as biscuits, nuts and apples. According to legend, it was a shortage of apples caused by drought that inspired the Meisenthal glassmakers to create the famous blown glass baubles that can still be seen today at the Strasbourg Christmas Market.

From 1850 onwards, Christmas trees were "taken down" and placed on the floor of the house or onto a table. Since then they have remained an important symbol of Christmas in the homes of the people of Strasbourg, who continue to preserve this tradition that is now practised the world over. **The Grand Sapin in Place Kléber** → P. 11 is perhaps the ultimate expression of this tradition and is a shining beacon of the Capital of Christmas that lights up the dark winter evenings, offering a magical backdrop for passers-by and visitors.

⁽¹⁾The Oeuvre Notre-Dame foundation is dedicated to the upkeep, conservation and restoration of Strasbourg Cathedral.

THE ILLUMINATIONS

In partnership with the City of Strasbourg, the **Vitrines de Strasbourg** association lights up the streets of the capital every year at Christmas, adding to the festive excitement of the event.

The decorations are varied and original, and often **allude to the names of the streets, squares and their respective histories**. Many building façades bear witness to the **importance of this tradition for the people of Strasbourg**, helping to brighten up the city as it welcomes throngs of enthusiastic visitors.

The decorations and illuminations are in themselves a **real spectacle to behold**. As you wander from one street to the next, make sure you catch a glimpse of the intricate details in the windows, on the trees and in shop fronts. They also highlight **Strasbourg's rich historical and architectural heritage**, including the **Grande-Île**, the city's historic centre, and the **Neustadt** district, both of which are included on **UNESCO's World Heritage List**.

+ See → P. 27 to discover some exceptional illuminations that are well worth a visit.



ADVENT

Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation before the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent wreath or Àdvantskränz is a tradition of Protestant origin invented by Johann Wichern in Hamburg in the 1830s. Wichern, the director of Raue Haus, an institution for disadvantaged children, had the idea of **lighting a candle every day from 1 to 23 December to keep the children entertained.**

The Advent wreath as we know it today, made from branches (fir, spruce, holly, laurel) and decorated with **four candles lit in succession each Sunday before Christmas**, was created in around 1860. In Alsace, the first mention of the wreath dates back to 1894, but it gained popularity during the inter-war period.

The Advent calendar is another way to mark the run-up to Christmas. Every day starting from 1 December, **one of its twenty-four windows is opened.** Behind each flap is a picture, a sweet or a small gift.

The first Advent calendar was printed in 1903 by Munich-based Gerhard Lang. His aim was to continue his mother's tradition of attaching twenty-four biscuits to cardboard to calm his excitement. He was also inspired by the ancient tradition of **giving children a picture depicting different Christmas traditions on each day of Advent.**



SWEET TREATS

A delight for the eyes as well as the taste buds, **Bredle**, small biscuits cut out with a biscuit cutter before baking, are a Christmas staple. Alsatians like to **prepare them with family and friends during the Advent period before giving them to loved ones.** There are many different recipes available, ranging from **Bütterbredle (small butter cakes) to Zimmetsternle (cinnamon stars)**, to name but a few.

Gingerbread, another Advent delicacy, was first referred to as a Christmas gift in Strasbourg in 1412. Gingerbread, which was prized for its rare ingredients (honey and spices), **was given to children on St Nicholas' Day or Christmas day from the 16th century onwards.** Over time, it became popular to coat it with a glaze imitating the patterns on the moulds of the period.

A glass of **mulled wine, or glühwein**, is often served as an accompaniment to these sweet treats. A beverage of Germanic origin, white or red mulled wine is flavoured with citrus fruits and spices such as star anise or cinnamon.

Christmas beer dates back to the 16th century. In the autumn, breweries would empty their stocks of barley and hops to prepare for the new harvest. **This surplus is used to produce a special brew for consumption at the end of the year.** Christmas beer is **dense, distinctive, spicy and strongly hopped.** It was given to the brewery's employees and most important customers as a gift.

*Alcohol abuse is dangerous for your health.
Drink in moderation.*

IMPORTANT FIGURES

LEARN ALL ABOUT THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS FIGURES
VIA VIDEO USING THE QR CODES!



CHRISTKINDEL

The protestant equivalent to the Catholic Saint Nicholas is the Christkindel. **This young woman, dressed in white** and likened to the Scandinavian Saint Lucy, showers well-behaved children with gifts on the evening of 24 December. She first appeared in the 16th century as a **popular representation of the Christ Child**, and in 1570 Strasbourg's Christmas Market, Christkindelsmärik, was named after her.

At the end of the 19th century, Alsatian families began to freely adopt different traditions. This is how the **Christkindel made her way into Catholic families**, before being replaced a few generations later by **Father Christmas**.



SAINT NICHOLAS

Since the middle ages, children in Alsace, as well as in the rest of the Rhine basin, have eagerly awaited the visit of the **Nikläus** (Saint Nicholas) every **6 December**. In fact, in 4th-century Asia Minor, Saint Nicholas (thought to be the Bishop of Myra at the time) was considered to be **the patron saint of children**, and there is evidence that he has been worshipped since the 11th century.

Saint Nicholas is a much-loved figure in Lorraine, the Rhine Valley, northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Even today, it is customary for children to leave their shoes outside the door, along with a few sweets for the bishop and his donkey. The next morning, the children find their shoes overflowing with chocolates, **mandarins**, and **Mannele** (brioche figures in the shape of the three children that the saint is said to have saved from the infamous butcher's salt cellar.)



HÀNS TRÀPP

According to legend, Hàns Tràpp, also known as **Hans von Trotta or von Dratt**, was originally a **knight brigand with a sinister reputation**. At the end of the 15th century, he lived at Berwartstein Castle, now in the Palatinate, not far from Wissembourg. **An evil figure who reigned terror, he was a constant source of worry** for the inhabitants of northern Alsace until his death in 1503. Renamed Hàns Tràpp, in popular imagery he is associated with both the Christkindel and Saint Nicholas.

Hàns Tràpp represents **the otherworldly shadows of winter** and is a reminder of ancient popular beliefs.



SANTA CLAUS

The original Saint **Niclaas**, brought to America by Dutch settlers, was the inspiration behind the American **Santa Claus**. He first appeared under his new name in the 1823 poem *The Night Before Christmas*, written by Clement Clarke Moore.

From the 1880s onwards, Santa Claus crossed the Atlantic once again and became intermingled with local European **traditions of St Nicholas, a strange Nordic "Winter Man"** and even **traditional bogeymen**, such as Hàns Tràpp in Alsace. The result is a curious blend of cultures.

In France, he is known as **Père Noël**, in German-speaking countries as **Weihnachtsmann**, and in Alsace as **Wihnächtsmänn**.

The imagery of the 1900s is full of these ever-changing depictions of Father Christmas, who sometimes carried a **bishop's crook**, a sack full of toys or a martinet, and dressed in green, red, purple or even multicoloured outfits. In 1931, an **advertising campaign by Coca-Cola transformed Father Christmas into the figure we know today**, and the popularity of the traditional American Christmas made him the world's most famous gift-giver.



CHRÏSTKÏNDELSMÄRIK

PLACE BROGLIE

Christkindelsmärik is the Alsatian dialect name for Strasbourg's traditional Christmas Market. First held in 1570, it is one of the oldest Christmas markets in Europe and for a long time was the only one in France. After being held in various locations in the city (Cathedral forecourt, Place du Château, Place Kléber, etc.), it was in 1871 that this highlight of Strasbourg Capital of Christmas took up permanent residence in **Place Broglie** 1.

Pass under the famous **Christkindelsmärik arch** ★ and soak up the charming and unique atmosphere where the scent of cinnamon mingles with the flavours of Alsace:

sauerkraut, tartes flambées and other specialities.

This is one of the best places to find decorations for your Christmas tree and table. Once you're in the square, be sure to pass by the **City Hall** ★ and discover an exhibition of archives about Strasbourg's Christmas Market just opposite, at the back of the stalls.

TOP TIP
SPOTTED BY LOCALS

Take a photo under the **Christkindelsmärik arch** ★ to have a lasting memory of your time at Strasbourg Capital of Christmas.



AROUND THE CATHEDRAL

PLACE DE LA CATHÉDRALE AND PLACE DU CHÂTEAU

In the Middle Ages, before the arrival of the Christkindelsmärik, a "Klausenmärik" or St Nicholas market was held in Strasbourg. At the time, it was held in the **Place de la Cathédrale** 2 on or around 6 December. Stalls selling gingerbread and other sweets stood alongside herbalists, saddlers, second-hand boutiques and haberdashers.

The stalls have now spread all the way to the **Place du Château** 3, where they stand on the cobblestones in the heart of the town surrounded by magnificent Vosges pink sandstone buildings at the

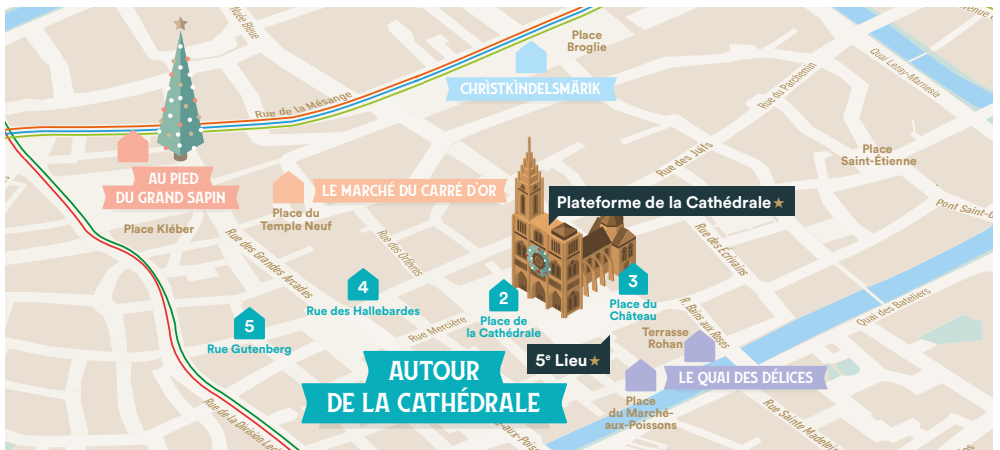
foot of the Cathedral. They can also be found just a stone's throw away in **Rue des Hallebardes** 4 and **Rue Gutenberg** 5. Here you'll find traditional Christmas goods (candles, Bredle, decorations, hot drinks...). It's the ideal place to find a souvenir of your visit to the market, either to give as a gift or to keep for yourself.



TOP TIP SPOTTED BY LOCALS

If you're feeling energetic, why not climb the 332 steps up to the **Cathedral platform** ★? From here you'll have a breathtaking panoramic view of the city.

The first floor of **5° Lieu** ★ houses a free permanent exhibition on Strasbourg's heritage, with an unbeatable view of the surrounding stalls



AT THE FOOT OF THE GRAND SAPIN

PLACE KLÉBER

Situated in the heart of the city, **Place Kléber** ⁸ is an important meeting point and crossroads for the people of Strasbourg. All the key ingredients of Strasbourg Capital of Christmas can be found here: togetherness, enchantment, local craftsmanship, and a friendly atmosphere with a dedicated area to sit back, relax and enjoy a tasty Alsatian dish.

The Village du Partage ⁹ can also be found at the foot of the **Grand Sapin** [★]. 90 charities take it in turns to promote the values of solidarity, fraternity and humanism in the true spirit

of Christmas. Here you can make responsible purchases, donate to charity collections and take part in community events, which are described in more detail on pages 22 and 23.

Or why not head to the **Aubette** ¹⁰ where you can pick up precious souvenirs from centuries past, second-hand items and hand-crafted gifts? From 24 November to 1 December, the Noël des Brocanteurs takes place. From 9 December to 23 December, **OZ, the Noël des métiers d'art**, takes place. These are perfect opportunities to (re)discover

TOP TIP SPOTTED BY LOCALS

Why not sample "la Soupe Étoilée" at the foot of the Grand Sapin? For over 10 years, the Humanis collective of charities has been organising the Soupe Etoilée initiative, which involves the preparation of delicious soups which are made and served by Michelin-starred chefs from the region. The purchase of these soups supports Humanis' solidarity initiatives, including its integration project. To find out more about the programme and where to buy the soups visit soupeetoilee.humanis.org



THE GRAND SAPIN

Standing majestically at the heart of the square, the Grand Sapin is a key symbol of Strasbourg Capital of Christmas. Every year, the public follows its journey with bated breath **from the forests of the Vosges to the centre of Strasbourg!** From cutting the tree down and transporting it to placing it on the square and decorating it, everything is closely supervised to ensure that the eagerly-awaited

annual event can be announced in October. At the foot of the tree a magical décor awaits you where

you can live out your winter wonderland fantasies of simply take a pretty photo.

This year's Christmas tree decoration features the emblem of the 2023 event: the heart. It is decorated with garlands of pearls, luminous candles, red baubles, kelsch hearts, wicker stars and cross-stitched snowflakes. The different decorations symbolise the **warmth of the home** at Christmas time, **the magic** of the city, and **the generosity** and sense of togetherness that we share at this time of year.

As in previous years, the tree and decorations have been chosen with **eco-**

responsibility in mind, using recyclable materials. What's more, a number of social economy **associations and passionate craftspeople have helped make them**, namely the Hélène de Coeur association, Inclusiv C'CITE and ESAT Caramentis.

+ Stop by **any day, on the hour between 4pm and 9pm**, to discover the musical illuminations of the Grand Sapin.

The Grand Sapin is sourced from a sustainably managed forest. The Office National des Forêts works tirelessly to maintain the vitality of forests and strengthen their ability to adapt to climate change.



IDENTITY CARD

Origin: Bousson national forest, near Cirey-sur-Vezouze, route forestière de la Marie Louise

Species: Pectin fir abies alba

Age: 80 years

Height: 30 metres

Weight: Approximately 6 tons

Width: 10 metres

Contracting authority: City of Strasbourg
Events Department

Project management: Office National des Forêts

Illuminations and decorations: Sigmatech

THE QUAI DES DÉLICES

TERRASSE ROHAN, PLACE DU MARCHÉ-AUX-POISSONS

Gingerbread, sweets and other Christmas treats were the focus of attention as far back as the Middle Ages at the St Nicholas market, and again from 1570 when it was replaced by the *Christkindelsmärik*. The Christmas Market is first and foremost a great place to do your Christmas shopping!

The Quai des Délices is ideal for lovers of gourmet food. Here you'll find all the right flavours to enjoy with friends over a delicious meal, to give as a tasty gift or even just to tide you over until the big day.

On the terrace of Palais Rohan 📍 sample some fine wines from the region's

vineyards. Sweet teeth are equally well catered for and will delight in the traditional Bredle and bakery stalls.

Take the opportunity to admire the **view towards the Ill** where you'll see boats bobbing on the river and pedestrians strolling along the quayside.

Just round the corner, in the **Place du Marché-aux-poissons** 📍, continue your culinary journey with a selection of hoppy beers and other savoury, mouth-watering dishes.

TOP TIP SPOTTED BY LOCALS

Sit back and relax on **terrasse Rohan** 📍 and watch **the stars twinkling** ✨ on the quayside right before your eyes! Almost 400 stars have been hung from the Pont du Corbeau to the Pont Saint-Guillaume to highlight the city's rich historical and architectural heritage.



THE CARRÉ D'OR MARKET

PLACE DU TEMPLE NEUF

In need of inspiration for a great gift? Then look no further than the **Place du Temple Neuf** 🏠. This market is brimming with beautiful decorations, candles, sweets, jewellery, and sweet and savoury treats... there's something for everyone!

And if you want to take your shopping one step further, the surrounding streets are lined with famous boutiques and artisan pastry-makers, chocolate-makers, restaurateurs, bakers, cheese-makers and more. Once you've had your fill of window shopping, make sure you admire the area's magical décor.



TOP TIP SPOTTED BY LOCALS

Just a stone's throw away is the **Rue des Orfèvres** ★, adorned with the most eye-catching illuminations. It's often very popular, so take your time walking through it and immerse yourself in a real-life Christmas fairytale. At the end of the street, make sure you take a look at Strasbourg's **Notre-Dame Cathedral**.



LES IRRÉDUCTIBLES PETITS PRODUCTEURS D'ALSACE

SQUARE LOUISE WEISS

Here, farmers and artisans better known as the **Irréductibles Petits Producteurs d'Alsace** offer local products that are 100% made in Alsace.

If you're looking to tantalise your taste buds, make a detour to **Square Louise Weiss** 15 to discover a whole range of produce: home-made jams, hot apple juice, chocolate in all its forms, Bredle, condiments, tasty biodynamic Alsace wines and many other delights await you.

And what could be better than trying before you buy?

You'll be able to sample the produce at the stalls and enjoy a chat with these passionate people who are dedicated to their crafts.



TOP TIP SPOTTED BY LOCALS

The nearby **covered bridges** ★ and the **Vauban dam** ★ are well worth a visit. From the roof of the dam you can admire breathtaking views of the city and its Cathedral.



ADVENT VILLAGE

After tucking into the delicacies offered by the **Irréductibles Petits Producteurs d'Alsace**, come and recharge your batteries with friends and family in the **Advent Village**★.

In keeping with the traditional four-week preparation period prior to Christmas day, this cheerful village **offers plenty of opportunities for socialising**. With its magical, timeless décor, it is the perfect place for children and families to enjoy a **wide range of activities**.

Come and keep Christmas traditions alive with **creative workshops** where children and their parents can make traditional Christmas decorations, decorate the tree and make greetings cards. The Advent Village also hosts **a whole programme of shows**: theatre, storytelling, Christmas concerts, you name it!

This year, the focus is on children, **with stalls built and decorated to suit them**.

- ✦ **Where?**
Square Louise Weiss
- ✦ **From 24 November to 24 December 2023**
- ✦ **Village open continuously from 11.30am to 9pm**

Discover the programme at noel.strasbourg.eu



LA PETITE FRANCE

PLACE BENJAMIN ZIX AND PLACE SAINT-THOMAS

La Petite France is an enchanting destination whatever the season: authentic half-timbered houses, charming, cobbled streets bordered by the River Ill, a picturesque **swing bridge** ★ and a **lock** ★ from which you can watch the boats come to a standstill... the atmosphere is warm and welcoming. When the city is transformed into the Capital of Christmas, the decorations adorning this area of the city are well worth the detour.

Place Benjamin Zix 13 is home to some wonderful stalls. Here you'll find everything your heart desires to decorate your home and brighten up your festive table, from pretty candles

to delicious herbal teas... in short, everything you need to bring the special atmosphere of this magical place home and enjoy the warmth of those long winter evenings.

You'll find the same kind of treasures in **Place Saint-Thomas** 12, as well as plenty of treats and mouth-watering hot drinks to soothe the cold and hungry.



TOP TIP SPOTTED BY LOCALS

For a “picture perfect” photo, head to the **lock** ★ passage just beside Place Benjamin Zix. It's a well-known viewpoint, and for good reason!



THE OFF MARKET

PLACE GRIMMEISSEN

First held in 2016, the OFF market is a place where consumption and commitment go hand in hand. With **containers used as stalls**, it brings together key players in the social, community-based and environmentally-friendly economy.

From vintage furniture, second-hand goods and customised clothes to original local arts and crafts, books, second-hand toys and organic food, everything here is unique and ethical!

Place Grimmeissen is buzzing with activity: take your time to sample organic and fair-trade dishes and enjoy a **packed programme**

of activities, including weekly events (such as afternoon workshops for youngsters and citizen talks) and exciting theme days.

People tend to drop by the OFF market to meet friends but usually end up staying longer to find a responsible gift or enjoy a dinner of organic AND local "tarte flambée"!



TOP TIP SPOTTED BY LOCALS

Discover a range of events for all that have been designed and organised by committed citizens of Strasbourg, with an eclectic programme that can be viewed at

marcheoffstrasbourg.fr



CHRISTMAS ACROSS THE CITY



Strasbourg isn't the Capital of Christmas for no reason: as the festive season approaches, the whole city embraces the tradition of sharing.

And it's not just the historic centre that bustles with activity: the city's different neighbourhoods also fully embrace the event.

STALLS AND ENTERTAINMENT THROUGHOUT THE CITY

Neuhof-Meinau, Port du Rhin, Gare, Tribunal, Musau... The suburbs of the city get into the Christmas spirit, whether for an afternoon, a day or a whole weekend. **On the agenda:** entertainment for children and families, creative workshops, tree decorating, refreshment and food stands, solidarity sales, shows and concerts, in conjunction with local charities and partners.

TOURING CAMPER VAN

To spread Christmas cheer throughout the city, a camper van roams the different neighbourhoods offering entertainment for all tastes. Keep your eyes peeled!



Discover the programme at noel.strasbourg.eu



MY NEIGHBOURHOOD CHRISTMAS TREE

For the duration of Strasbourg Capital of Christmas, residents will be able to decorate **Christmas trees right in the heart of their neighbourhoods**. The trees await decorations from all those who want to spread the spirit of Christmas whilst taking part in a collective project.

Original, colourful decorations in all sizes are welcome, whether made from recycled materials or home-made. The most important thing is that they're weatherproof!

+ Discover the creativity of our neighbourhoods for yourself on our social networks!



MARKETS AROUND STRASBOURG



Keen to explore the surrounding areas of Strasbourg? The Christmas market is a widespread tradition throughout the region and on both sides of the Rhine.

STRASBOURG EUROMETROPOLIS: 33 TOWNS AND VILLAGES GET INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT

From the decoration of façades to the illumination of streets and monuments, the inhabitants of the communes around Strasbourg **preserve the tradition of Christmas in Alsace.**

A series of stalls in the Place de l'Église, a small market in a farmhouse, entertainment for children, forest trails... There are plenty of activities to choose from, all of which promise to take you **right to the heart of local life.**



Discover the programme at noel.strasbourg.eu

IN ALSACE

Christmas is also an opportunity to (re) discover the region. Colmar and its famous "Little Venice" are just 30 minutes away by train (from 23/11 to 29/12). If you're a fan of the great outdoors, Munster hosts a Christmas market "Au Coeur des Montagnes" (from 24/11 to 23/12). Another **quirky experience** is the 1700-style Christmas in Neuf-Brisach (8 to 10/12). There you'll find vendors and extras dressed in period costumes, traditional stalls and entertainment reminiscent of days gone by.

The list of markets and events is long: Orbey, Ungersheim, Grendelbruch, Bergheim, Saverne, Orschwiller, Haguenau, Ottmarsheim, Mulhouse, Barr, Obernai, Soufflenheim... You may struggle to pronounce them, but you won't have any trouble enjoying them!



For more information on Alsace's Christmas programme, visit the **Alsace Destination Tourisme website:** alsace-destination-tourisme.com

GERMANY

Across the border, too, tradition is alive and well. In Freiburg im Breisgau, 150 artisans are on hand to welcome you as you soak up the friendly atmosphere of the old town. At the foot of the Ravenna Gorge, the tall stone viaduct illuminates the 40 stalls at the Christmas market, which is open every weekend in December. Or if you've had your fill of Christmas markets, why not head to the traditional half-timbered village of Gengenbach, where the world's largest Advent calendar awaits you?

With Christmas markets, mulled wine evenings and Advent concerts, the towns and villages of the Ortenau also offer plenty of opportunities to **enjoy the festive season.** From cutting down Christmas trees to blowing glass baubles, there's something for all the family.



For more information on the **Black Forest Christmas markets**, visit the **Tourist Office website:** schwarzwald-tourismus.info



For full details, visit the **Ortenaukreis tourism website:** ortenau-tourismus.de/weihnachten

AN ECO-RESPONSIBLE CHRISTMAS

This 2023 edition of Strasbourg Capital of Christmas implements many of the recommendations made by the Citizens' Jury⁽¹⁾ regarding the eco-responsibility of the event.

THE SORTING AND REDUCTION OF WASTE

This year for the first time, Strasbourg Capital of Christmas will provide **recycling bins for visitors**. These will be used to recycle plastic bottles and cans.

The organic waste produced by all stallholders at the Strasbourg Christmas Market will also be sorted, collected and recycled. **This initiative is completely carbon-free** as the waste is collected 4 times a week by teams travelling by cargo bike. The waste will then be converted into biogas and injected into Strasbourg's gas network.

Another new initiative is **the option to bring your own containers** for hot drinks or food bought at the market. Indeed, as the first rule of zero waste goes: "The best kind of waste is the waste we don't produce".

ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING

Strasbourg Capital of Christmas is renowned for its superb illuminations.

And so, in order to maintain our reputation whilst being energy-efficient, **all lighting systems have been fitted with low-energy LEDs⁽²⁾**. Like last year, Strasbourg Capital of Christmas is **taking part in the joint effort to reduce energy costs by optimising the timing of its illuminations⁽³⁾**.

The **Vitrines de Strasbourg** association, which is responsible for these illuminations, has opted to use decorations made from recycled plastic bottles. The bottles are processed by grinding and then 3D printing, thus helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For its part, the city largely **re-uses its decorations from one year to the next**, repairing them and using the second-hand market for the most part.

⁽¹⁾ Made up of 50 people selected by drawing lots, the citizens' jury put forward recommendations for developing Strasbourg Capital of Christmas to meet today's social and environmental challenges.



Read the final report at noel.strasbourg.eu

⁽²⁾ Deployed throughout the city since 2010, the replacement of old bulbs with LED systems has reduced the electricity consumption of Christmas lights tenfold.

⁽³⁾ The illuminations can be seen every day from 24 November to 7 January, from 4pm to 11pm.





REUSABLE CUPS

No visit to the Christmas Market is complete without a hot drink. Just make sure it's served in a **reusable cup!**

All stallholders at Strasbourg Capital of Christmas are stocking the same **returnable cups** decorated in the event's colours. They are very hard-wearing and can be washed and reused several times.

If you've finished with your cup (and don't want to keep it as a souvenir of this year's event!), simply return it to a Strasbourg Capital of Christmas drinks vendor **in exchange for a deposit or drop it off at one of the Market's collection points**. For each cup collected €1 is **donated directly to charity**.

The city has also launched a trial of bio-sourced cups. Produced from GMO-free cereals, **they can be recycled through composting and biodegradation**.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

A carbon footprint assessment of the event will be carried out this year. This involves quantifying the direct and indirect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions linked to the organisation and staging of the Strasbourg Capital of Christmas event.

This detailed analysis will make it possible to identify the levers to be used and, ultimately, to propose a short- and medium-term action plan to reduce these emissions.

6 TOP TIPS

TO BE A RESPONSIBLE VISITOR



- 1** I **keep the reusable cup** I was served my first drink in and reuse it throughout my time at the Market.
- 2** When I no longer need my cup, I **return it to a Christmas Market drinks vendor** to collect my deposit, or I **drop it off at one of the donation points provided** (unless I want to keep it as a souvenir!).
- 3** I **sort my waste** by disposing of all plastic waste and cans in their dedicated bins. They will then be reused.
- 4** Where possible I **bring my own container** so I can enjoy delicious traditional dishes while reducing waste.
- 5** To get around Strasbourg, I **use public transport, cycle or walk**.
- 6** I **donate** any good quality items that I no longer need at the solidarity collection chalet in the Village du Partage, place Kléber → **P. 10**.



A list of items suitable for donation can be found at noel.strasbourg.eu

AN INCLUSIVE AND SUPPORTIVE CHRISTMAS



VILLAGE DU PARTAGE

As always, the **City of Strasbourg** is **supporting charities** by hosting them at the foot of the Grand Sapin. This tradition is the perfect opportunity to share and listen, but also to discover different charities to maintain a sense of community as the year comes to a close.

For this year's event, almost 90 charities, spread across **14 stalls**, are in attendance and will be happy to **speak to you about the values they uphold on a daily basis** such as helping society's most vulnerable people, social integration, support for people affected by illness or disability, humanitarian aid, international sponsorship, defending human rights and animal welfare.

The Village du Partage also features a number of not-to-be-missed initiatives, including **Volunteer Day, the Mannele Solidaire and the Soupe étoilée.**

The 11th edition of the Humanis collective's Soupe étoilée sees the return of four Michelin-starred chefs from Alsace who will prepare **four soups with seasonal flavours and colours.** Each soup purchased **supports the solidarity projects** established by the Humanis collective, including its integration project.



Find out more about the events and the chefs at noel.strasbourg.eu



COLLECTION OF DONATIONS

This year, the charities at the Village du Partage are joining forces to offer a **space dedicated to the collection of donations.**

Would you like to donate? Check all the details at noel.strasbourg.eu and find the collection point in the Village du Partage.

SOLIDARITY CUPS

Another way to support a charity is with a **reusable cup**. Once you've finished your drink, **return your cup to one of the 12 collection points located** in the various squares.

The €1 deposit is then donated directly to a charity.

This measure is also **environmentally-friendly** as the cups are reused.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

The City of Strasbourg continues to stand by the Ukrainian community to defend and preserve its identity and culture. A dedicated programme will run during Strasbourg Capital of Christmas.



Find out more about the programme at noel.strasbourg.eu

FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

To ensure that everyone can enjoy the Strasbourg Capital of Christmas experience, **special tours are being organised for people with disabilities.**



For further details visit noel.strasbourg.eu



COMMEMORATING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS

In tribute to the victims of the terrorist attack on 11 December 2018, **a commemorative concert will be held on 11 December 2023 at 6pm at the Palais de la Musique et des Congrès in Strasbourg**, organised by the Des larmes au sourire association and the Strasbourg ensemble et solidaire collective, with the participation of the SOS France Victimes 67, VIADUQ France Victimes 67, ASTU associations, the support of the AVA victims' associations, Maison de Bartek and the support of the Bas-Rhin prefecture and the city of Strasbourg.

Strasbourg has not forgotten the five victims who tragically died and all those who were injured and deeply affected by this terrorist attack.

We must remember the great outpouring of solidarity that enabled our town to come back to life in the face of so much grief.

STRASBOURG CAPITAL OF CHRISTMAS HANDICRAFTS



In keeping with the Ville et Métiers d'Art label that the city has enjoyed for many years, Strasbourg Capital of Christmas seeks to celebrate the work of craftspeople whose skills go back centuries, helping to keep traditions alive.

If you're a fan of local crafts, beautiful decorative objects and authentic gifts, this selection was made for you!

OZ. AN ARTS AND CRAFTS CHRISTMAS

The Fédération des métiers d'art d'Alsace (Frémaa) is showcasing the talent and expertise of around fifty craftspeople in a charming pop-up boutique where lovers of one-off pieces can find unique, hand-crafted gifts in an ultra-short circuit. Ceramists, glassmakers, cabinet-makers, and jewellery and fashion designers are eager to unveil their latest collections.

★ From 9 to 23 December
at the grande salle de l'Aubette,
place Kléber → P. 14

CREATORS' MARKET

Open exclusively during the Advent period, these pop-up markets will take over areas in several parts of the city dedicated to crafts from Alsace, and even from Strasbourg!



Find the full list at
noel.strasbourg.eu

BOUTIQUES

All year round in Strasbourg, many businesses have made it their mission to help you discover the full diversity of local creations. Keep your eyes peeled and don't hesitate to explore the local art and craft shops as you make your way around the city!



A selection is available at
noel.strasbourg.eu

DECORATE YOUR HOME

Festive tablescapes, Christmas trees, window decorations, personalised Advent calendars and wreaths... **Christmas is the perfect time to give free rein to your creativity!** The stalls are brimming with ideas to help you get your home feeling festive in no time. Whether you're a fan of tradition or prefer original contemporary designs, there's sure to be something to inspire you.



STRASBOURG CAPITAL OF CHRISTMAS

FOOD



There's one festive treat that no Strasbourger will ever forget: the Bredle, those little biscuits cut out with a cookie cutter before baking, whose mouth-watering aroma wafts pleasantly through every home in the run-up to Christmas.

But this sweet treat is just one of many local Christmas specialities that delight foodies of all ages.

Wherever you go, you'll come across plenty of stalls serving traditional drinks and snacks. Your taste buds are in for a treat: Strasbourg Capital of Christmas is opening up its kitchens to you!

THE BAKERS OF QUAI DES DÉLICES

Quai des Délices → P. 12 is the perfect place to (re)discover the delights of an Alsatian Christmas. The **Fédération des boulangeries du Bas-Rhin** will be delighted to welcome you and help you discover all the delicacies that the region has to offer. Tradition, local products, know-how and "home-made" products are the pillars of the profession.

Keep an eye out for **cookie-cutters** in a range of different shapes so you can get baking too!



MAKE YOUR OWN BREDLE

Bredle is best enjoyed when shared. As the big day approaches, Alsatians are eager to give away small bags of their own biscuits.

You too can try your hand at making Bredle, whether with a traditional or more original recipe. You'll find inspiring recipe books in any of Strasbourg's bookshops, as well as



in this booklet put together by Strasbourg City Council staff, which can be viewed [using this QR code.](#)

LES IRRÉDUCTIBLES PETITS PRODUCTEURS D'ALSACE

For those who want to take their gastronomic experience one step further, don't miss the **Irréductibles Petits Producteurs d'Alsace** in **Square Louise Weiss**, → P. 14. This is where the creativity and talent of local farmers and artisans join forces with the magic of the festive season.

WINSTUBS AND OTHER RESTAURANTS

Strasbourg's restaurant scene is just as generous as its inhabitants! From the traditional **winstub** to the **100% plant-based** restaurant, not forgetting **world cuisine** and other revamped specialities, there's something for everyone! Feel free to pop in and ask for a menu.

- + In Strasbourg, if you can't pronounce Flammekueche in the Alsatian way, it's better to say "**tarte flambée**" rather than "flamme-cuche"!

STRASBOURG CAPITAL OF CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN



Christmas is often a time to be with family. So, it's only natural to visit Strasbourg Capital of Christmas with your children.

You'll marvel at the wide-eyed wonder on their faces as they await the big day. **Strasbourg Capital of Christmas** is brimming with ideas to keep them entertained.

DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Wherever you are in Strasbourg, there's a Christmas tree waiting to be decorated nearby. Let your creativity run wild with this fun, community project.



Find your nearest location at noel.strasbourg.eu

ENJOY THE ACTIVITIES IN THE ADVENT VILLAGE

For the duration of Strasbourg Capital of Christmas, the **Advent Village** → P.15 offers a range of shows and creative workshops to get you in the mood for the festive season. For children who are elf-like in spirit, this year the Advent Village is offering an area for building and decorating stalls to their own size.

+ **Where?** Square Louise Weiss



For the full programme visit noel.strasbourg.eu

DISCOVER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFF MARKET

The **OFF market** → P.17 offers a variety of family activities. From captivating performances to creative workshops and relaxation areas, there's something for everyone. Children can enjoy themselves with funfair-inspired games from Creative Vintage, explore the secrets of plastic recycling with Octopus' OctoLabo, learn about composting with La Maison du Compost, get creative by painting a Christmas canvas, listen to stories told in French and French sign language, or marvel at enchanting puppet shows.



For the full OFF Christmas programme, visit marcheoffstrasbourg.fr

STORYTELLING AND CRAFTING IN MEDIA LIBRARIES

Head to one of 33 media libraries in Strasbourg and the Eurometropolis to take part in the events put on by the city's librarians: a winter show, craft workshops to make your own decorations or sew a handmade present, special Christmas story times... there's something for all ages and all tastes!



For full details of the programme, visit the media libraries website mediatheques.strasbourg.eu



STRASBOURG CAPITAL OF CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS



In the run-up to Christmas, Strasbourg is decked out in all its finery. Streets, houses, façades of monuments, windows and balconies sparkle with countless decorations, each more original than the last.

Every year, the **Vitrines de Strasbourg** association puts on **impressive illuminated displays** in the shopping streets of the Capital of Christmas. Here's just a small selection that is sure to put stars in your eyes!



L'ALLÉE MAJESTUEUSE

Step through the **Gateway of Lights** into the magic of Strasbourg Capital of Christmas. Christmas baubles with surprise decorations, lined with red curtains, will guide you towards the **Grand Sapin**. And don't miss the angel musicians on rue Mercière.

BARREL DISPLAY

In Rue des Tonneliers, **22 luminous, sparkling barrels** are suspended as a tribute to the history of the street, where barrels delivered to the quays were rolled to the shops.

THE "CATHEDRAL FIR"

Come and admire the brand new 10-metre tall "**Cathedral Fir**" in Place de la Gare.

THE GIANT CHANDELIER

With its magical decorations, the **giant chandelier** is located on the corner of the Grand'Rue and the rue du Fossé-des-Tanneurs. Taking its inspiration from the gourmet delicacies of the shops in Grand'Rue, this monumental chandelier measures six metres across and 3.5 metres tall and has three tiers.

FAIRYTALE FOREST

In Rue de la Mésange, **22 giant trees** with gold and white lights have been installed, giving the street a magical feel.

This enchanting forest continues on to Place Saint-Pierre-le-Jeune, where the **centuries-old trees** in the square are illuminated.

SCHEDULE

SPIRITUALITY

The Nativity Scene in Notre-Dame Cathedral

This 18-metre-long nativity scene located in the Cathedral dates back to 1907 and is an impressive sight.

From the Annunciation to the Presentation in the Temple, it illuminates the key liturgical season of Advent, much to the delight of visitors.

CHRISTMAS WITH CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Workshops and tours with 5° Lieu, exhibitions in Strasbourg's **museums**, events in the **media libraries**, musical events with the **Conservatoire** at the Auditorium of the Cité de la Musique et de la Danse and with the **Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg** at the Palais de la Musique et de Congrès... there's a whole host of cultural activities on offer in Strasbourg!

Need advice? Le 5° Lieu is a goldmine for all the best cultural events in Strasbourg!

GUIDED TOURS

The Tourist Office of Strasbourg and the surrounding area offers guided tours focussed on Christmas traditions, as well as tours of the old town for children. Keep your eyes and ears open!



Details of tours
can be found at
visitstrasbourg.fr



CHRISTMAS AT THE ALSATIAN MUSEUM

Among other visits and workshops, the Alsatian Museum takes you on a tour of **Alsatian Christmas traditions**. For 6 weeks, come and (re)discover the spirit of Christmas in days gone by, the stories that were told in the evenings in the Stüb and the many delicacies we still make in Alsace at this special time of year.

+ From 24 November 2023
to 8 January 2024

Don't forget
the Advent Village → P. 15
and the OFF market → P. 17



You can find details
of all these events,
and many more, in
the online calendar at:
noel.strasbourg.eu





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

HORAIRES

The Christmas Market is open from **2pm on 24 November until 6pm on 24 December.**

The Grand Sapin music and light show: every day and every hour on the hour between **4pm and 9pm**, then at **10pm and 11pm** without music.

The stalls are open from **11.30am to 9pm every day.**

The illuminations can be seen from **24 November to 7 January, from 4pm to 11pm.**

ADDRESSES AND USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

5° Lieu

Information and cultural advice
5elieu.strasbourg.eu
+ 33 (0)3 68 98 52 15
5 place du Château
Tuesdays to Saturdays from 11am to 6pm,
Sundays from 11am to 5pm.

Tourist office for Strasbourg and the surrounding area

visitstrasbourg.fr
+33 (0)3 88 52 28 28
17 place de la Cathédrale
Open every day from 9am to 7pm.



Strasbourg Transport Company (CTS)

www.cts-strasbourg.eu
+33 (0)3 88 77 70 70
9 place Saint-Pierre-le-Vieux
Station tram Alt Winmàrik
Mondays to Fridays from 8.30am to 6pm, Saturdays from 9am to 5pm.

Solidarity Concierge Service

conciergerie-solidaire.fr/strasbourg
+33 (0)7 85 91 99 83
11 rue Mercière
Tuesdays to Fridays from 9.30am to 1pm and 3pm to 6pm, Mondays from 3pm to 6pm and Saturdays from 9.30am to 2pm.

Edmond Voyage luggage service

edmond-voyage.com

PatchGuard dogsitting service

+33 (0)6 89 67 51 99
4 rue de la Douane
Mondays to Fridays from 7.30am to 7pm

LOST / FOUND

Bank card

+33 (0)2 54 42 12 12

Eurocard

+33 (0)1 45 67 84 84

SOS Visa Eurocard

+33 (0)8 36 69 08 80

Lost and Found Strasbourg

+33 (0)3 68 98 51 51

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency ambulance service **15**

Police assistance **17**

Fire brigade **18**

Central police station

+33 (0)3 90 23 17 17

Gendarmerie

+33 (0)3 88 37 52 99

ASUM medical emergencies

+33 (0)3 88 36 36 36

+33 (0) 800 71 36 36

SOS doctors **67**

+33 (0)3 88 75 75 75

Poison control centre

+33 (0)3 88 37 37 37

Hand emergencies, University Hospitals

+33 (0)3 68 76 52 18


Hand emergencies, Rhéna Clinic

+33 (0)3 90 67 40 30

Hautepierre Hospital – Medical and Surgical Emergencies

+33 (0)3 88 11 67 68

You'll find many little elves wandering around the city to provide you with any information you need.

Just look out for an  symbol and don't hesitate to ask them for help.

GETTING AROUND STRASBOURG

GETTING TO THE CENTRE

From the train station

The city centre is a **ten-minute walk** from the train station

If you want to use public transport, you can choose between:

- ✦ Tram **A** (underground access from the train station), direction Campus d'Illkirch or Graffenstaden
- ✦ Tram **D** (underground access from the train station), direction Port du Rhin or Kehl Rathaus
- ✦ Tram **C** (access on the North Hall side), direction Neuhof Rodolp

The most central tram station is **Homme de Fer**. If you arrive when the market is open (11.30am-9pm), it is the only one serving the city centre.

From the national bus station (Parc de l'Étoile)

The city centre is a **fifteen-minute walk** from the bus station.

If you want to take **public transport**, go to the **Étoile-Bourse** tram station right next to the bus station, and take one of the following two trams:

- ✦ Tram **A**, direction **Parc des Sports**
- ✦ Tram **D**, direction **Poteries**.

Both lines stop at **Homme de Fer**, the central station in Strasbourg's network and the **only station in the city centre in operation when the Christmas Market is open (11.30am to 9pm)**.

From the park-and-ride facilities


Located on the outskirts of the city, the **10 park-and-ride sites are the perfect solution for drivers** coming to Strasbourg for the day who want to park with complete peace of mind. A single low-cost ticket entitles all users to a return trip by tram and/or bus.

Find all the information you need on the Strasbourg transport company (CTS) website: cts-strasbourg.eu



GETTING YOUR BEARINGS

To find your way around the city centre and locate all the stalls and events, grab a copy of the **Strasbourg Capital of Christmas map**, available from information points and many other partner venues.



DOWNLOAD THE STRASBOURG CAPITAL OF CHRISTMAS MAP



BY FOOT

Walking is THE best way to explore the city! Surrounded by the River Ill, **Strasbourg's historic city centre is entirely pedestrianised** for the duration of the event. The 21 bridges leading to it are **accessible to pedestrians 24 hours a day**.

During Market opening hours (11.30am-9pm), **bulky luggage is inspected at the entrances**. If there's ever a bit of a wait, feel free to **use the next entry point** on your right or left - it's not far away!

The Market is spread across a number of squares. There's no set route to follow: **just look out for stalls that catch your eye** and feel free to wander around, letting yourself be swept away by the enchantment of Strasbourg Capital of Christmas!



BY BIKE

Like pedestrians, **cyclists can access the historic city centre via any of the bridges crossing the River Ill**.

However, during Christmas Market opening hours (11.30am-9pm), anyone wishing to cross the market without stopping should **take a detour**. Pedestrians still have priority and bikes must travel at "walking pace".

Would you like to travel to the Christmas Market by bike? Take one of the preferred routes that will lead you to **one of the large dedicated parking areas**. This solution allows you to leave your bike nearby so that you can wander around the city with ease.

If you're just passing through Strasbourg and want to explore all the city has to offer beyond its historic centre, you can use the Strasbourg Eurometropolis bike hire service: **Vélhop**. This is available on a self-service, in-branch or click & collect basis.

- + For more information, visit velhop.strasbourg.eu
- + Consult the cycling map at noel.strasbourg.eu

BY TRAM OR BY BUS

All tram lines in the city centre are in operation. The Langstross Grand'Rue, Broglie and Alt Winmàrik tram stations will not be served when Strasbourg Capital of Christmas is open, i.e. between 11.30am and 9pm. Homme de Fer station will remain open as usual, even during the Christmas Market opening hours. Bus routes that usually run through the city centre are being diverted.

BY CAR

Do you need to **get around the centre by car** while the Christmas Market is on?

- + Find all the practical information you'll need at noel.strasbourg.eu

Parking spaces on the immediate fringes of the city centre are **reserved for people with reduced mobility (PRM), medical staff, Citiz car-sharing vehicles** and taxis for the duration of the event.



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IN 2024

FOR A NEW CHAPTER...

You'll be able to devour the pages
of the new edition at the same time
as Strasbourg is celebrating its status
as World Book Capital!



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