

Press Release

The Christmas Season Begins in Berlin

Opening of the Berlin Christmas markets / Up to one million tourists expected for December / Longest illuminated boulevard in the world

Berlin, 27 November 2013 Berlin began its Christmas season this week with around 60 Christmas markets. In December, up to one million tourists are expected in Berlin, when an increase of five per cent is assumed. The German capital is becoming especially popular with international tourists in the Christmas season: In recent years, growth rates in the double-digits have been recorded here.

Whether traditional handcrafts and exclusive gastronomy or unique designer markets – Berliners and tourists are spoiled for choice at the Christmas markets in the capital city. The mix of diverse cultural items, shopping miles, excellent cuisine and Christmas markets from nostalgic to hip is globally unique.

From romantic to trendy – the 2013 Berlin Christmas Markets

The traditional Christmas markets are especially impressive: An illuminated city of tents full of the magic of Christmas is built on the Gendarmenmarkt between the German and French Cathedrals. In front of Charlottenburg Palace, merchants also sell their goods in a historical setting. The Christmas market in the Spandau Old Town is celebrating a special anniversary this year: It has been spreading the Christmas spirit to its visitors for 40 years.

The Christmas market merchants do not only sell handcrafts and delicacies. Those who are looking for unique Christmas gifts should not miss Holy.Shit.Shopping on 14 and 15 December 2013 at Postbahnhof in Ostbahnhof or the design Christmas market Weihnachtsrodeo 2013. Young designers from all over Germany will gather here and present their latest designs.

A festive setting for Berlin

For the first time ever, the festive bright lights at Berlin's boulevards Kurfürstendamm and Tauentzienstraße are extended to Wittenbergplatz: With a total length of 4.3 kilometres Berlin offers the longest illuminated boulevard in the world. Berliners and visitors alike can enjoy a Christmassy stroll along the festive setting.

The Hanukkah Jewish light festival opens today at Brandenburg Gate. The largest Menorah in Europe will be presented there for eight days.

More information and an overview of all Christmas markets – listed according to districts, including opening hours – can be found at winter.visitBerlin.com.

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"We know Berlin". This is the slogan that Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH, operating under the trade name *visitBerlin*, has been using since 1993 to globally advertise for Berlin as a travel destination. *visitBerlin's* Berlin Convention Office markets the German capital as a congress metropolis. As a tour operator, the company offers a wide range of travel packages and also issues the official tourist ticket, the *Berlin WelcomeCard*. *visitBerlin* operates five Berlin Tourist Infos. The Berlin Service Center (Tel. 030-25 00 25) provides information on the complete spectrum of tourist services in Berlin. Information on the German capital is available in 13 different languages at visitBerlin.com.

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