



CHRISTMAS MARKETS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023

JANUARY 2024

Trento 18th November – 7th January 2024

Piazza Fiera and Piazza Battisti

Open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. excluding Christmas Day

Trento is a big city in the Alto Adige region. Nestled in the Italian Alps, between Lake Garda and the Dolomites, Trento is not too far from Ferrara and makes an exciting day out. It hosts one of the largest Christmas markets in northern Italy with over sixty wooden huts selling beautiful Italian/German Christmas handcrafted decorations. It often has an ordinary market and second hand market on at weekends which can be great fun to visit too. Get your walking shoes on!

By car: 2 hours 20 minutes

By Train: 3 hours approx.

Bolzano 24th November – 6th January 2024

Piazza Walther

Mondays - Thursday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Opening 23rd November at 5 p.m.

Christmast Eve: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Closed on Christmas Day. Open on 1st January: Midday - 7 p.m.

Bolzano is a lovely town in the Alto-Adige region that is situated on the border of Switzerland and Austria. It is slightly further north than Trento but it is still possible to visit in a day.



Its main piazza, Piazza Walther, is truly beautiful at Christmas time. It is filled with traditional Christmas huts selling decorations and gifts as well as hosting a variety of food stands. To find the main piazza, just follow the scent of spiced mulled wine, warm bagels, sausages and delicious apple strudel!

The tourist board recommends that visitors leave their cars in one of the larger car parks outside Bolzano and take one of the provided buses which run every 15 minutes into the town centre.

By car: about 3 hours (Exit from the motorway at 'Bolzano Sud Fair')

By train: 4 hours approx. Ferrara – Bologna – Bolzano (Piazza Walther is only 5 minutes on foot from the train station)

Merano 24th November – 6th January 2024

Mondays – Thursdays: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Fridays/ Saturdays & Public holidays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sundays - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Christmas Day: closed

Merano has a very pretty Christmas market which is set up along the river Passirio. It is perhaps a little smaller than the other markets but it has an intimate and magical atmosphere being situated in such a beautiful fairytale place. It takes a good three and a half hours to get there by car, but if you are visiting Bolzano then it is well-worth visiting Merano whilst you are up north.

On the 5th December between 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. beware because you can find some very scary 'Krampus' (a half-goat, half-demon monster from alpine folklore) wandering around the market with Saint Nicholas, ready to scare children who have misbehaved during Christmastime! (We suggest you check out photos on the internet beforehand if you go on this day, especially if you have young children)

Verona 10th November – 26th December 2023

Piazza dei Signori / Dante

Sundays – Thursdays: 10 a.m. – 9.30 p.m.

Fridays, Saturdays and Eves: 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.

24th December: closes at 5 p.m.

25th December: opens at 4 p.m.

26th December: closes at 6 p.m.

If you do not want to travel as far as Bolzano, Merano or Trento then Verona offers a lovely Christmas experience for all the family.



In collaboration with the Nuremburg Christmas market, this romantic city hosts over 100 stands which sell a variety of gifts and decorations made from wood, ceramics and glass. You can find both traditional Italian and German Christmas cakes, sweets and biscuits, not to mention the wonderful food stands which offer tasty dishes throughout the day. A glass of mulled wine and a slice of Verona's Pandoro cake will certainly lift your Christmas spirits!

Directions for the Christmas market:

From the enormous main Piazza Bra with the Arena, follow signs for the Christmas market that can be found spread out over several tiny piazzas and streets: Piazza dei Signori, Cortile Mercato Vecchio, Cortile del Tribunale, Via della Costa, Loggia Fra. Giocondo, Loggia Vecchia, Piazza Sacco, Ponte Pietra and Ponte Scagliero di Castelvecchio.

Nativity exhibition in the Arena of Verona

'Presepi dal Mondo'

18th November – 14th January 2024

Piazza Bra

9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Verona's main piazza, famous for its impressive Arena, is adorned with an impressive, metal shooting star at Christmas. Visit 'Presepi del Mondo' - an amazing exhibition of over 400 nativity scenes from around the world which is held inside the Arena. Tickets can be bought directly at the entrance and cost 8 euros. There are reduced prices for children, groups and over 65s. For those who are not particularly interested in nativity scenes it is still worth going inside as the Arena is amazing and it has great views from the top steps!

Santa Lucia, Verona 13th December 2023

Piazza Bra

In the past, children from Verona used to celebrate the arrival of Saint Lucia, not Father Christmas, who would arrive on the night between the 12th and 13th December and leave sweets for the children and a piece of black coal to anyone who had been naughty! Today in Verona, children can still enjoy a special market in Piazza Bra filled with sweets and other traditional food. The sweet stalls generally arrive on the 10th and stay until 13th December.



Bussolengo – Flover Christmas Village

4th November – 7th January 2024

Via Pastrengo, 14

37012 Bussolengo, Verona

Mondays to Sundays: 9 a.m. – 7.30 p.m.

Closed on Monday 25th and Monday 1st January 2024

Sunday 31st December: closes at 6.30 p.m.

<https://www.ilvillaggiodinatale.it/>

Visit this magical indoor Christmas village at Flover Garden Centre, which is in the province of Verona. Visitors can find Christmas decorations, ornaments, Christmas trees, nativity scenes and a craft area dedicated to wood, glass engraving and porcelain. There is also an outdoor ice rink, Mother Christmas's food shop, restaurants and cafés. Children can meet Father Christmas in his Post Office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. or on Saturdays and Sundays from 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. & 2.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. and work with the elves to plant trees. It is even possible to book dinner with Father Christmas on the website above!

Please note that Father Christmas will be absent on 24th December (as he will be busy preparing his sleigh) and on 31st December as he needs a good sleep! Ho, Ho, ho!

Admission to the village is free and it is not necessary to book in advance.

By car: Take the motorway A22 in the direction of 'Verona Nord' and come off at 'Verona Nord'

By train and bus: Get off the train at 'Verona Porta Nuova' then take buses 162, 163 or 165 in the direction of 'Bussolegno' and get off at the bus stop 'Via Pontara'.

Ferrara 18th November– 7th January 2024

Piazza Trento Trieste (city centre)

Every day 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Ferrara's own Christmas market will arrive on 18th November in Piazza Trento Trieste. It sells gifts such as books, jewellery, local crafts, food and knick-knacks.