



As winter sets in and the nights draw close, the UK bursts into colour and sparkle with festive markets that light up towns and cities across the country. The scent of roasted chestnuts, the sounds of carol singers and the sight of twinkling lights transform familiar streets into scenes of Christmas magic.

Whether you're seeking handmade gifts, indulgent festive food, or simply the warm glow of seasonal cheer, the UK's Christmas markets offer a rich mix of tradition, creativity and community spirit. Here are ten of the very best to explore this festive season.

From Bath's Georgian charm to Glasgow's high-energy celebration, the UK's Christmas markets each capture the spirit of the season in their own unique way. Some dazzle with grand scale and spectacle; others charm with intimacy and tradition. But all share one common magic - that unmistakable feeling of warmth, light and joy that makes Christmas truly special.

So, wrap up warm, grab a cup of mulled wine, and let the glow of fairy lights guide you through the country's most enchanting festive destinations this Christmas.

## Bath Christmas Market

Few places capture the festive spirit quite like Bath and that's why it makes our number one spot! Surrounded by the city's elegant Georgian architecture and overlooked by Bath Abbey, the market's wooden chalets create a charming, old-world atmosphere. Local artisans fill the streets with handmade crafts, decorations and seasonal food, making it one of the most picturesque Christmas markets in the country.

**WHY**  
To enjoy a festive setting steeped in history and craftsmanship

**WHEN**  
Late November to mid-December

**TIP**  
Visit midweek or early in the morning to enjoy the stalls before they get busy



## Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market

Birmingham's festive market is one of the largest in Britain and brings an unmistakable German influence to the heart of the city. From bratwurst and pretzels to steaming mugs of glühwein, the air is filled with irresistible aromas and lively chatter. The atmosphere is fun and friendly, making it perfect for both families and groups of friends.

**WHY**  
For a truly European-style market experience full of food and music.

**WHEN**  
Early November to Christmas Eve.

**TIP**  
Go hungry - the food and drink are the highlights.



## 3



## Manchester Christmas Markets

Manchester takes festive celebrations seriously, with markets spreading across multiple squares and streets in the city centre. Each area has its own theme, from international food stalls to traditional crafts and decorations. The huge illuminated Santa watching over St Peter's Square has become a local Christmas icon.

**WHY**  
For the sheer size, variety and festive buzz.

**WHEN**  
Early November to just before Christmas.

**TIP**  
Plan ahead - there's so much to see that it's worth mapping your route.



## Edinburgh Christmas Markets

Set beneath the spectacular backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, the city's Christmas markets offer an unforgettable blend of atmosphere, entertainment and scenery. The main market in Princes Street Gardens features traditional stalls, rides, an ice rink and Scottish street food. As night falls, the lights and skyline create one of the most magical sights in the country.

**WHY**  
For its unbeatable views and vibrant Scottish character.

**WHEN**  
Mid-November to early January.

**TIP**  
Stay until dark to experience the city illuminated in festive colour.

## York St Nicholas Fair

York's St Nicholas Fair brings festive tradition to one of England's most historic cities. Wooden chalets line the medieval streets, offering handmade gifts, local produce and delicious sweet treats. The market's smaller size makes it relaxed and atmospheric, perfect for a leisurely afternoon of browsing and soaking up the Christmas spirit.

**WHY**  
For a cosy, traditional feel in a beautiful historic setting.

**WHEN**  
Late November to just before Christmas.

**TIP**  
Wonder the Shambles after sunset for a storybook winter scene.



6

## Cardiff Christmas Market

Cardiff's Christmas market reflects the city's creative spirit, showcasing Welsh crafts, art and food. Stalls selling glassware, ceramics, textiles and traditional treats like Welsh cakes and bara brith fill the city centre. Its compact layout and proximity to Cardiff Castle make it easy to enjoy alongside the capital's other attractions.

**WHY**  
For a distinctly Welsh celebration of creativity and community.

**WHEN**  
Late November to just before Christmas.

**TIP**  
Don't miss the chance to sample homemade Welsh cakes straight off the griddle.



## Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market

Set in the shadow of one of England's most famous cathedrals, Winchester's Christmas market is as atmospheric as they come.

Wooden chalets surround the historic cathedral, while carol singers and festive lights add to the magic. The market has earned a reputation for its high-quality gifts and local produce, making it a favourite among those seeking something special.

**WHY**  
For a traditional English Christmas experience in a stunning setting.

**WHEN**  
Late November to just before Christmas.

**TIP**  
Visit at sunset to see the cathedral beautifully lit against the winter sky.



5 8

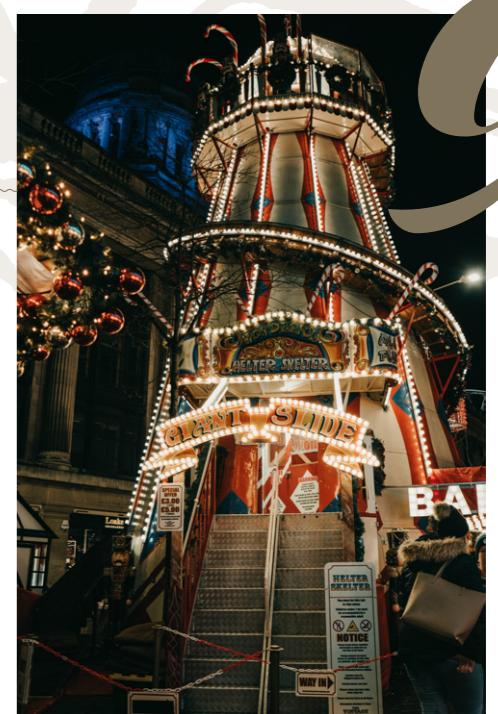
## Glasgow Christmas Market

Glasgow brings a big-hearted energy to its Christmas celebrations. Split between George Square and St Enoch Square, the markets are full of international street food, crafts and festive entertainment. Expect live music, laughter and a lively atmosphere that perfectly reflects the city's warm, friendly spirit.

**WHY**  
For a vibrant, feel-good market full of character.

**WHEN**  
Late November to early January.

**TIP**  
Warm up with a traditional Scottish hot toddy or a whisky-infused cocoa.



6 9

## Nottingham Winter Wonderland

In Nottingham's Old Market Square, the Winter Wonderland transforms the city centre into a festive playground. Alongside the gift stalls and food stands, there's an ice rink, a Ferris wheel and alpine-style bars serving mulled wine. It's a great destination for both families and groups looking for a complete festive day out.

**WHY**  
For a fun mix of skating, shopping and festive entertainment.

**WHEN**  
Mid-November to early January.

**TIP**  
Book skating sessions early - they sell out fast.

7 10

## Southbank Winter Market, London

The Southbank in London transforms each year into a riverside winter wonderland, with wooden huts offering artisan goods, gourmet street food and seasonal drinks. With the Thames, the London Eye and Big Ben as your backdrop, it's a festive experience like no other - urban, lively and full of atmosphere.

**WHY**  
For the iconic setting and diverse mix of food and gifts.

**WHEN**  
Mid-November to early January.

**TIP**  
Visit during the day for relaxed browsing, or after dark when the lights reflect beautifully on the river.