



Christmas Market

TRIP PLANNER





Plan your Perfect Christmas Market Trip

Hello!

Planning a Christmas market trip through Europe is one of my favorite kinds of travel. But with different market dates, transportation options, hotels and cities to choose from, there are a lot of moving pieces to figure out.

I created this planner to make the process a little easier.

Inside, you'll be able to organize your Christmas market wish list, narrow down your route, compare transportation options, plan your itinerary, keep track of reservations and build a packing list for your trip.

You don't need to fill everything out at once. Start with the markets and destinations that excite you most, then work through the planner as your trip starts to come together.

By the end, you'll have everything you need to turn a long list of Christmas markets into a trip that actually works.

Happy planning! And I'll see you at the Christmas markets!

Brenda

Bon Voyage Brenda

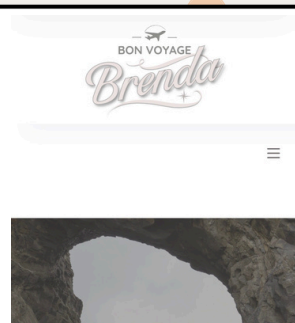


MORE CHRISTMAS MARKET *Resources*

MY WEBSITE

bonvoyagebrenda.com

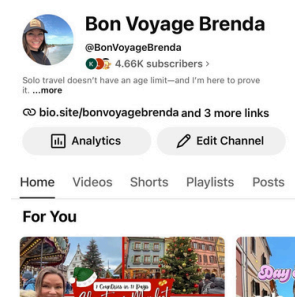
Head to my website for detailed Christmas market guides, itineraries, hotel recommendations, packing tips and more.



MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

[BON VOYAGE BRENDA](https://www.youtube.com/BonVoyageBrenda)

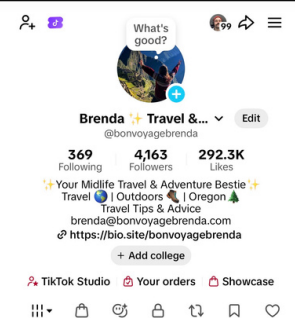
This is where you'll find my most in-depth Christmas market planning videos, including itineraries, destination guides and step-by-step travel planning tips.



MY TIKTOK

[@bonvoyagebrenda](https://www.tiktok.com/@bonvoyagebrenda)

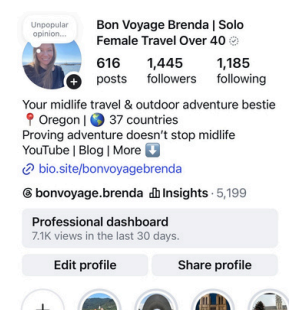
Follow along for quick Christmas market tips, itinerary ideas, travel hacks and inspiration for your trip.



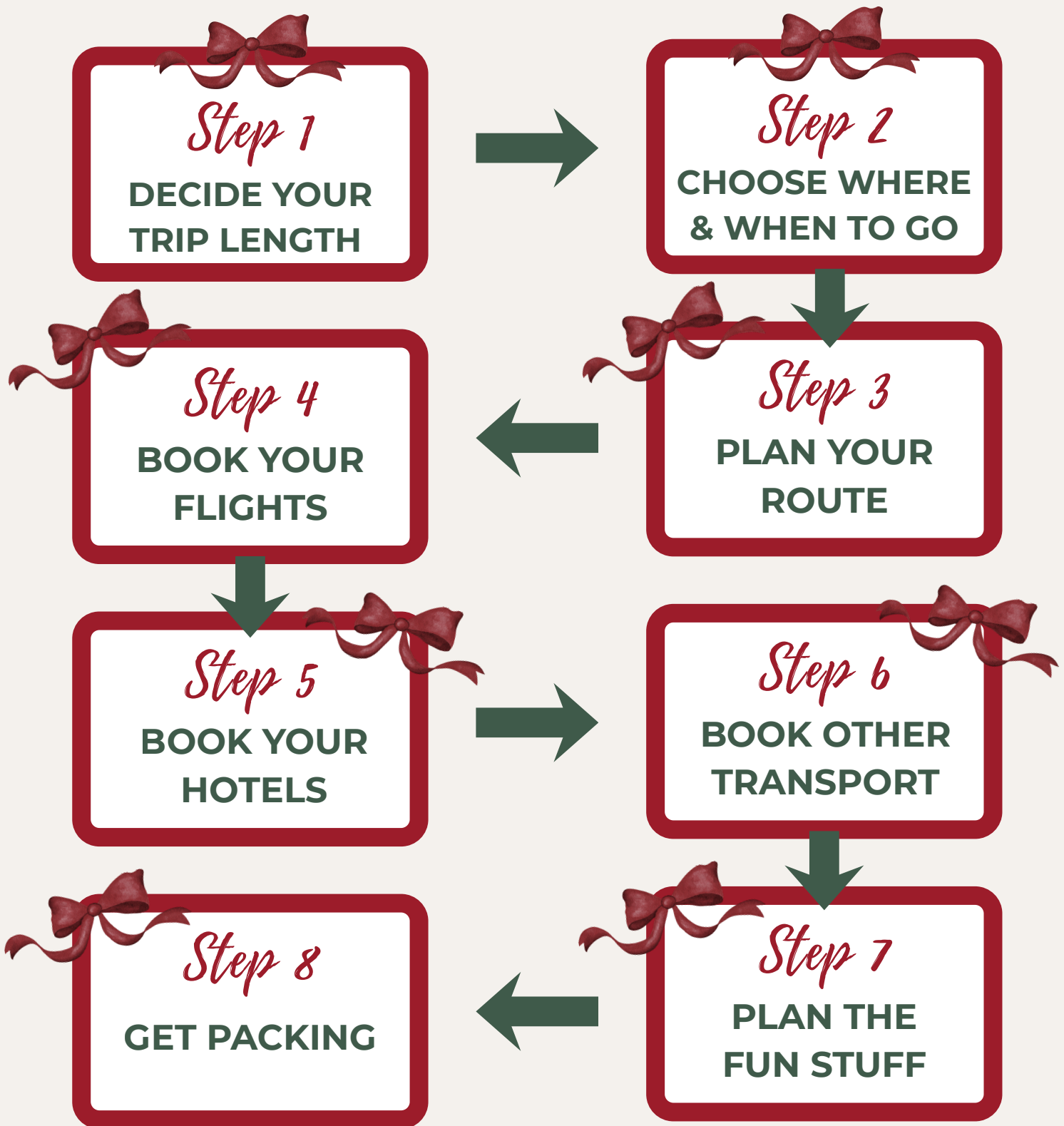
MY INSTAGRAM

[@bonvoyage.brenda](https://www.instagram.com/bonvoyage.brenda)

Come hang out with me on Instagram for Christmas market inspiration, travel tips and behind-the-scenes from my travels.



TRIP PLANNING *Process*





STEP 1



Decide Your **TRIP LENGTH**



HOW LONG SHOULD YOUR CHRISTMAS MARKET TRIP BE?

There's no perfect length for a Christmas market trip, but 7–10 days is a great place to start. That gives you enough time to visit several destinations without spending your entire trip packing, unpacking and sitting on trains.

TRIP LENGTH

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THAT TIME

4–5 days

Pick 1–2 cities that are easy to connect. Great for a quick getaway.

7 days

Visit 2–3 cities or choose one region with easy day trips.

8 - 10 days

3–4 cities is a comfortable pace with time to explore beyond the markets.

10 - 14 days

Build a bigger route with 4–6 destinations, including smaller towns or day stops.

2+ weeks

Perfect for a larger multi-country Christmas market trip.



Choose Your Trip Length



Before you choose the markets you'll visit, you need to figure out how many days you have for your trip!



TOTAL VACATION DAYS AVAILABLE

All the vacation days you have to use for your trip.

days



VACATION DAYS TO SAVE FOR OTHER PLANS

Days you want to keep available for appointments, other trips, holidays or time off throughout the year.

-

days



WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS & NON-WORK DAYS

Days that fall during your trip but don't require you to use vacation time.

+

days



MY TOTAL TRIP LENGTH

The total time you have for your Christmas market trip!

=

 DAYS

DON'T FORGET TRAVEL DAYS

Flights from the US are almost always overnight so you'll land the next day. And depending on your arrival and departure flights you may not have much time. Decide whether those days count in your total above.

- ☐ Yes, my travel days are included
- ☐ No, I need to adjust my trip length





STEP 2



CHOOSE WHEN & WHERE *To Go*



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Wish List

Start by dreaming! Do some Googling and searching YouTube, social media, Pinterest and travel blogs for Christmas markets that look interesting to you. Don't worry about how they fit together yet, just make a list of the places you'd love to visit.

Market

Open & Close Dates





Map Your Markets

Now let's see where everything is! Mark each destination from your wish list on the map above. Then see which area has the most markets!



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Final List

Using your map, market dates and wish list, narrow your choices down to the destinations that make the most sense for this trip. Don't worry about what order you'll visit them yet — we'll figure that out next.

Market

Open & Close Dates





STEP 3



PLAN YOUR *Route*





Where to Fly In & Out



Every great trip starts with a plan! ♥ *



Look at your final list of cities and identify the best airports for your trip. Decide if you think it's best to do a round trip, or fly into one city and home from another.

OPTION 1: ROUND TRIP / LOOP

Fly into:

Fly home from:

What would my route look like?

 → → → →

OPTION 2: ONE-WAY / MULTI-CITY

Fly into:

Fly home from:

What would my route look like?

 → → → → 

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Compare airport options for price, time and convenience.
- Look at your route – will you be backtracking if you fly round trip?
- Multi-city flights (fly in one city, out another) may cost a little more, but can save you time and make for a smoother trip.
- We'll compare prices and book in Step 4!

MY PLAN



The route option that makes the most sense for me is:

☐

Round Trip / Loop

☐

One-Way / Multi-City

MY STARTING CITY:



MY ENDING CITY:



Reminder: You're not booking your flight yet! This is just to decide the best airports and route.





Overnight, Day Trip or Day Stop?



Choose what works best for your trip! ♥

Not every Christmas market needs an overnight stay. Decide which destinations will be your main overnight stops, which make sense as **day trips** from a base city, and which will be **day stops** along the way between cities.

DESTINATION (FROM YOUR SHORT LIST)	OVERNIGHT  Stay 1+ night	DAY TRIP  Return to base city	DAY STOP  Stop while traveling between cities	NOTES
1.	☐	☐	☐	
2.	☐	☐	☐	
3.	☐	☐	☐	
4.	☐	☐	☐	
5.	☐	☐	☐	
6.	☐	☐	☐	
7.	☐	☐	☐	
8.	☐	☐	☐	
9.	☐	☐	☐	
10.	☐	☐	☐	

MY BASE CITY(IES)

(Where I will stay multiple nights)



- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

MY DAY TRIPS

(From my base city)



- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

MY DAY STOPS

(Along the way)



- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Tip: Day trips and day stops are a great way to see more markets without the extra cost and hassle of booking more hotels. Just be sure to plan travel times and luggage storage if needed! ♥

FLEXIBILITY IS KEY



Plans change and that's okay! You can always move a destination to a different category as you fine-tune your route. ♥



How Long Will You Stay?



Now decide how much time you want in each place.
Consider the size of the city, number of markets,
things to see and travel time to your next stop.

DESTINATION	TYPE (Overnight / Day Trip / Day Stop)	DAYS (How many days will you spend there?)	NIGHTS (How many overnight stays?)
TOTAL			

DOES IT FIT?

Days available from Step 1 _____ days

Days needed for this route - _____ days

Days left over (or over budget) = _____ days

0 or more days left
= You're good!

Negative days
= Adjust your plan.
Try turning a destination
into a day trip or
removing a stop.

MY ROUTE AT A GLANCE



Reminder:

This is your plan, not a rulebook! You can make changes as you go.





Itinerary Rough Draft

With your stops and number of days set, create a rough draft of your itinerary.

CITY	# OF DAYS	NOTES





STEP 4



BOOK YOUR *Flights*





Book Your Flights



Google Flights is my favorite tool for finding airfare because it lets you quickly compare airlines, routes, prices and travel dates all in one place. Use it to find the flights that work best for you, then book directly with the airline.

HOW TO USE GOOGLE FLIGHTS

- 1 ENTER YOUR AIRPORTS AND DATES**
Start with the dates and airports you chose earlier in the planner.
- 2 COMPARE YOUR DATES**
If your dates are flexible, use the calendar and date tools to see if leaving a or two earlier or later could save you money.
- 3 COMPARE YOUR OPTIONS.**
Don't automatically choose the cheapest flight. Look at the airline, departure and arrival times, number & length of stops and total travel time.
- 4 CHOOSE YOUR FLIGHT.**
Once you've found the itinerary you want, Google Flights will show you your booking options.

NEED HELP USING GOOGLE FLIGHTS?

Watch my step-by-step tutorial to learn how I use Google Flights to find cheap flights



 **SCAN TO WATCH**

[OR CLICK HERE](#)



BEFORE YOU BOOK



- ☐ Total travel time
- ☐ Number of layovers
- ☐ Length of layovers
- ☐ Departure & arrival times
- ☐ Carry-on included?
- ☐ Checked luggage included?

- ☐ Seat selection included?
- ☐ Basic economy restrictions
- ☐ Change/cancellation rules
- ☐ Total cost after extras 



Tip:

The cheapest flight isn't always the best deal. Compare the total experience — not just the price!





Book Round-Trip Flights



Flying in and out of the same city? Use this worksheet to help choose your flight.

HOME AIRPORT: _____ DESTINATION: _____

IDEAL DEPARTURE DATE: _____ IDEAL RETURN DATE: _____

I CAN BE FLEXIBLE BY: ☐ 1 day ☐ 2 days ☐ 3+ days ☐ My dates are fixed

✦ COMPARE YOUR OPTIONS

Use Google Flights to compare different dates and find the best combination of price, travel time and convenience.

OPTION	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
DEPARTURE DATE			
RETURN DATE			
AIRLINE			
TOTAL PRICE			
TRAVEL TIME			
NUMBER OF LAYOVERS			

MY WINNER: _____ TOTAL PRICE: \$ _____

★ TIP: EARN POINTS ON YOUR PURCHASE



Paying cash? Check your credit cards before you book. Some cards earn bonus points on airfare, so using the right card can help you earn points towards your next trip.

♥ **WHAT I USE:** I book airfare with my Amex Platinum card because I earn 5X Membership Rewards points on eligible flights booked directly with airlines.

Click here!
OR SCAN



Learn more about my Platinum Card! →

This is a referral link. I may receive a commission if you're approved.

★ TIP: BOOK DIRECT



I use Google Flights to find my flight, but I book my tickets directly with the airline.

- ✓ Easier to manage your reservation
- ✓ Better support if plans change or something goes wrong
- ✓ Direct access to airline schedules, changes and customer service



Tip:

The cheapest flight isn't always the best deal. Consider total travel time, layovers, departure/arrival times and what's included before you book.





Book Multi-City Flights



Flying in and out of different cities? Use this worksheet to help choose your flight.

✦ BUILD YOUR MULTI-CITY ITINERARY

FLIGHT 1 ✈️ **HOME → ARRIVAL CITY**

From (Home Airport): _____

To (Arrival City): _____

Date: _____



FLIGHT 2 ✈️ **DEPARTURE CITY → HOME**

From (Departure City): _____

To (Home Airport): _____

Date: _____



Tip:

The flexible date tools aren't as useful with multi-city searches. If your dates are flexible, try searching a few different date combinations to compare prices



✦ COMPARE YOUR OPTIONS

Use Google Flights' Multi-city search to compare different itineraries and find the best option for you.

OPTION	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
✈️ AIRLINE(S)			
📅 DATE(S)			
🏷️ TOTAL PRICE			
🕒 TOTAL TRAVEL TIME			
📍 NUMBER OF LAYOVERS			
🧳 BAGS INCLUDED?			
🪑 SEAT SELECTION INCLUDED?			

MY WINNER: _____

TOTAL PRICE: \$ _____

✦ CASH OR POINTS?

Found the flight you want? Before you book, check if it's a better deal to pay with points or cash.



PAY WITH CASH

Flight price: \$ _____

Taxes & fees: + \$ _____

TOTAL CASH COST: \$ _____

VS.



USE POINTS

Points or miles required: _____

Taxes & fees: + \$ _____

TOTAL: _____ pts + \$ _____

WHICH IS THE BETTER DEAL FOR ME?

☐ Pay cash

☐ Use points / miles

MY CHOICE: _____



Tip:

Points and miles can be a great way to save money on flights, but not always. Compare the total cost (cash vs. points + taxes) and choose the option that makes the most sense for you and your trip





STEP 5



BOOK YOUR *Hotels*





Accommodation Short List



Do some research (Google, blog posts, YouTube, social media) and come up with a few accommodation options you like for each overnight stop along with their pros and cons. Reuse this page as needed.

[FIND MY FAVORITE HOTELS HERE](#)





Accommodation Final List



Once you narrow your short list down to the hotels you want to stay at, list them here. Then add the total cost into your budget worksheet

Hotel Name	City	# Of Nights	Total Cost

TOTAL COST:





STEP 6



BOOK OTHER *Transportation*



Map Your Route

Draw your route on the map below.



My Route

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Notes





Book Your Transportation



Now that you have your route, it's time to book your tickets. I like booking travel in Europe on through Omio because it's an easy way to compare trains, busses and planes. You can book directly in the app (I don't recommend that for planes) and it stores all your tickets together in one place.



From City	To City	Mode	Total Cost

TOTAL COST:





STEP 7



Plan the FUN STUFF





Find the Fun Stuff



Now for the fun part, finding all the things you want to see and do! Below is a checklist of places to search for activities. You make a list, or do what I do, and put them all in a Google Map!



WHERE TO LOOK

- ☐ Google: Search “things to do in __,” “Christmas in __” and “Christmas markets in __”
- ☐ Official tourism websites: Look for seasonal events, holiday activities, tours and attractions
- ☐ YouTube: Watch travel guides and Christmas market videos to see what places actually look like
- ☐ TikTok & Instagram: Search “things to do in __,” “Christmas in __” and “Christmas markets in __”
- ☐ Pinterest: Great for finding travel blogs, itineraries and destination guides
- ☐ GetYourGuide / Viator: Browse tours, day trips, food experiences and activities
- ☐ Google Maps: Save attractions, restaurants, markets and other places you don't want to forget





Pre-Booked Activities



Keep track of what you're spending on activities and experiences throughout your trip. Include anything you book in advance, plus an estimated budget for activities you'll pay for once you arrive. ↑

Activity	Location	Date	Total Cost

TOTAL COST:





Itinerary Planner



Use this page to write down activities and places to visit based on your research. Reuse this page as needed.



Destination:

Christmas markets to visit:

Market foods to try:

Sights to see:

Cafe's & resteraunts:

Tours/ticketed activities:

Holiday festivals:

Notes:





Itinerary Planner



Use this page to write down activities and places to visit based on your research. Reuse this page as needed.



Destination:

Christmas markets to visit:

Market foods to try:

Sights to see:

Cafe's & resteraunts:

Tours/ticketed activities:

Holiday festivals:

Notes:





Final Itinerary

—❤—
Your trip at a glance.



DAY

Destination:

Accommodation name:

Activities/dining:

Transportation info:

DAY

Destination:

Accommodation name:

Activities/dining:

Transportation info:

DAY

Destination:

Accommodation name:

Activities/dining:

Transportation info:





Final Itinerary

—❤—
Your trip at a glance.



DAY

Destination:

Accommodation name:

Activities/dining:

Transportation info:

DAY

Destination:

Accommodation name:

Activities/dining:

Transportation info:

DAY

Destination:

Accommodation name:

Activities/dining:

Transportation info:





Final Itinerary

—❤—
Your trip at a glance.



DAY

Destination:

Accommodation name:

Activities/dining:

Transportation info:

DAY

Destination:

Accommodation name:

Activities/dining:

Transportation info:

DAY

Destination:

Accommodation name:

Activities/dining:

Transportation info:





STEP 8



Get PACKING





Christmas Market Packing List



CLOTHING

- ☐ Warm, waterproof coat
- ☐ Lighter waterproof coat
- ☐ 2 thermal base tops
- ☐ 2 thermal base bottoms
- ☐ 2 pairs of jeans/pants
- ☐ Fleece leggings
- ☐ 3 tops (short/long sleeve)
- ☐ 1 nicer top
- ☐ 1-2 sweaters or cardigans
- ☐ OPTIONAL:
Dress/sweaterdress
- ☐ 7 pairs of underwear
- ☐ 5 pairs of socks (more if
they're not wool)
- ☐ 2 bras
- ☐ 2 sets of pajamas

FOOTWEAR

- ☐ Pair of waterproof boots
- ☐ Pair of tennishoes
- ☐ OPTIONAL: dress shoes

ACCESSORIES

- ☐ 1-2 warm hats
- ☐ 2+ scarves
- ☐ OPTIONAL: earmuffs
- ☐ 1-2 pair of gloves
- ☐ 1 bag (purse/backpack)
- ☐ Swimsuit

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Credit/debit cards
- ☐ Cash (local currency)
- ☐ Travel insurance
- ☐ Itinerary
- ☐ Tickets (train, bus, etc)
- ☐ Maps/guidebook
- ☐ Copies of documents
- ☐ Wallet
- ☐ Driver's license
- ☐ E-sim

ELECTRONICS

- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Computer
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Sim cards
- ☐ Chargers
- ☐ Portable charger
- ☐ Headphones

MISCELLANEOUS

- ☐ Hand warmers
- ☐ Gum/mints
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Travel Journal
- ☐ Pen
- ☐ Hair brush/comb
- ☐ Feminine products

TOILETRIES

- ☐ Toothbrush/toothpaste
- ☐ Shampoo/conditioner
- ☐ Bodywash/soap
- ☐ Skincare
- ☐ Razor
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Hair brush/comb
- ☐ Feminine products
- ☐ Makeup
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Moisturizer
- ☐ Floss
- ☐ Chapstick
- ☐ Dual voltage hair tools
- ☐ Nail clipper/file
- ☐ Hair accessories
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Hand sanitizer

DON'T FORGET

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____





BONUS



Budget **TRACKER**





Christmas Market Budget



Bring it all together! Fill in the totals from your
airfare, accommodations, transportation and
activities budget sheets to see the estimated total
cost of your Christmas market trip.

BUDGET CATEGORY	TOTAL COST
Flights	\$_____
Accommodations	\$_____
Transportation	\$_____
Activities	\$_____
Food (\$50-100/day)	\$_____
FINAL TRIP BUDGET	\$_____

