

# MAGICAL CHRISTMAS MARKETS

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG  
CHRISTMAS MARKET GUIDE



**THE SUNNY  
SIDE OF  
GERMANY.**

**BADEN-  
WÜRTTEMBERG**

# IMPORTANT TERMS DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



**Dambedei – Dambedei**  
Soft little dough boys with raisin eyes, almond mouths, nut buttons



**Gebrannte Mandeln – Roasted Almonds**  
Almonds roasted with sugar to caramelised perfection



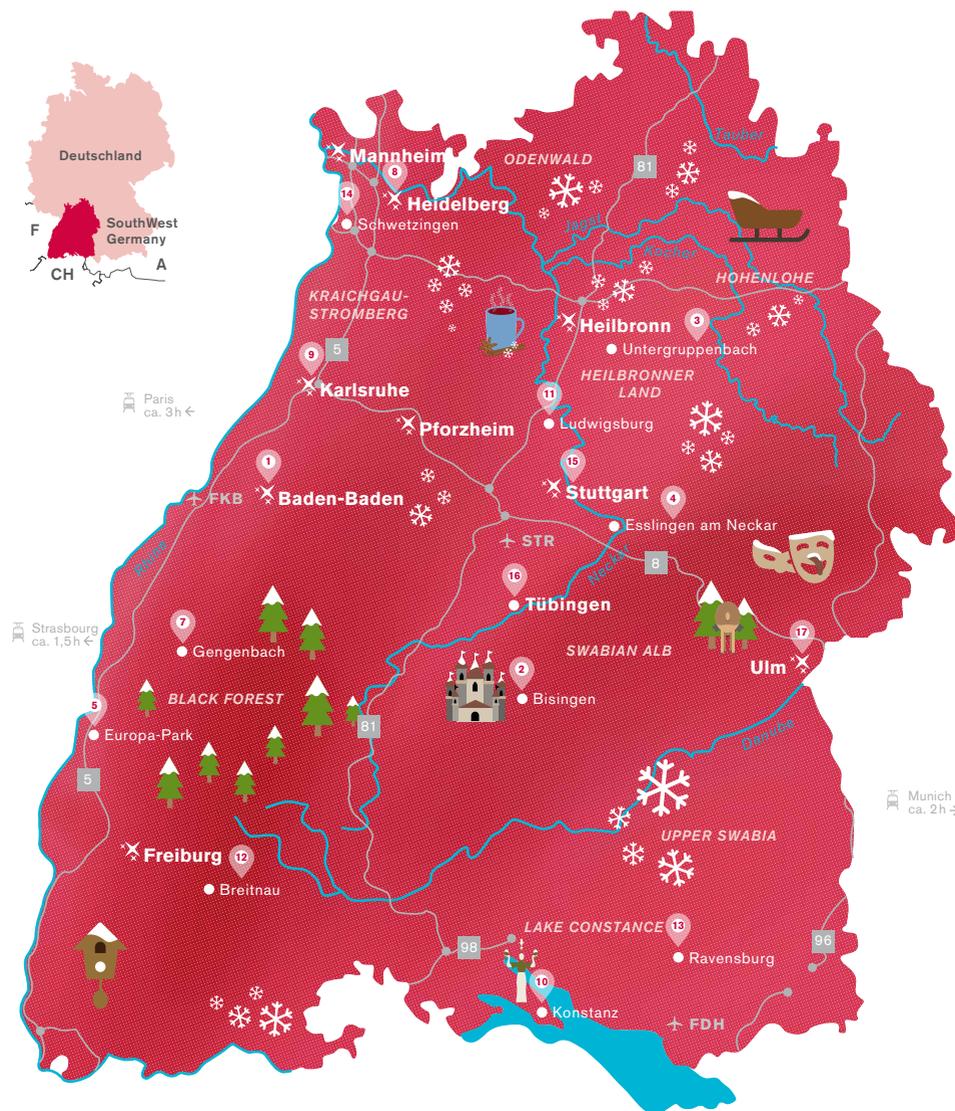
**Lebkuchen – Gingerbread**  
Classic German Christmas gingerbread treat: soft, spicy and sweet



**Springerle**  
Hard aniseed biscuits with design on top; hung on Christmas trees



**Glühwein – Mulled Wine**  
Hot mulled red or white wine, spiced with sugar, cinnamon and cloves



- 

**300**  
Christmas markets are held each year in SouthWest Germany
- 

**6**  
Giant angels above Ludwigsburg's Baroque Christmas Market
- 

**36.5 m / 120 ft**  
Germany's tallest Christmas tree: Rheinfelden-Eichsel
- 

**1692**  
First recorded mention of the Stuttgart Christmas market
- 

**200**  
Stalls in Esslingen's Christmas and Medieval Markets
- 

**50**  
Million litres of Glühwein drunk every year in Germany

# HOLIDAYS IN SOUTHWEST GERMANY

What takes your fancy? Medieval or modern, Baroque or family fun? SouthWest Germany's Christmas Markets cater to all. Find them on historic squares and in monasteries, in castles and stadiums. Sip mulled wine; nibble tasty treats; buy one-of-a-kind crafts and foods that are perfect for gifts!

For in-depth  
travel information on  
SouthWest Germany,  
explore  
[www.tourism-bw.com](http://www.tourism-bw.com)



black dots  
white spots

Want to find those 'in' places', the cool spots that only locals know about? Travel blogger Susi Maier has all the inside information on SouthWest Germany's hidden places, especially the best and most authentic Christmas markets. As a fan of road trips, mountains and even countries with terrible weather, Susi has a hugely popular German-language blog, with great photos. [www.blackdotswhitespots.com](http://www.blackdotswhitespots.com)

## Meine Weihnachtsmarkt-Tipps rund um Stuttgart

Do you like Christmas markets? I love the winter season, so I look forward to the build-up to the Christmas holidays, when sparkling lights and the smell of delicious treats take over from the dreary grey of November. That's when I can wander through some of Europe's most authentic Christmas markets. Last time I was in SouthWest Germany, the federal state of Baden-Württemberg, I concentrated on markets in and around Stuttgart, the pedestrian-friendly state capital. Like medieval? Head for Esslingen. Prefer elegant Baroque? Ludwigsburg is the answer. Traditional with a touch of modern? Stuttgart has it all. Right! It's time to set off on my market tour!

### My Tip:

It is well worth going to Stuttgart for a weekend to get into the Christmas spirit. Why? Because you can visit THREE great Christmas Markets: Stuttgart, Esslingen and Ludwigsburg. Only half an hour apart, they are easy to reach by public transport.



MY HIGHLIGHT  
The backdrop of a real castle is the perfect setting for a medieval Christmas Market

## Burg Stettenfels: Medieval Market in a Castle

On a hill above vineyards, in Untergruppenbach, near Heilbronn, you can see the 1,000-year-old Burg (castle) from afar. Here, 45 minutes north-east of Stuttgart, on the last weekend before Christmas, you can travel back in time. In the atmospheric castle courtyard and old moat, traditional artisans, wearing medieval costumes, display their crafts. Jugglers and minstrels entertain; noblemen and women stroll around in medieval robes. The smell of hot spices and wood smoke fill the air; hot mead keeps

the cold out. Prepared to old recipes, treats include grilled game, suckling pig and pastries. Buy one-of-a-kind clothing, accessories and Christmas gifts. It all adds up to a very special atmosphere!

## Ludwigsburg: Baroque splendour and angels

I love the Christmas market in the Baroque town of Ludwigsburg, 15 minutes north of Stuttgart.

**As well as being both beautiful and atmospheric, this market, set between two Baroque churches, is relaxed and sophisticated. The market sparkles with arches covered with thousands of tiny lights.**



Lovingly decorated, 170 wooden stalls sell Christmas decorations, handmade candles, jewellery and more. And above are giant angels, whose fluttering wings are created by glittering lights.



## Stuttgart: Lavishly decorated stalls, Spätzle and a touch of Finland

Stuttgart's Christmas Market is one of Germany's largest and oldest. Spread out over several squares of the beautifully-illuminated city centre, the market stretches from the Königsbau and the Baroque Neues Schloss (New Palace), on through the Karlsplatz and Schillerplatz (with the medieval Alten Schloss, Old Castle) to the market square. For me, the loveliest and most atmospheric are the markets on the Karlsplatz and Schillerplatz, with the Old Castle and surrounding lanes!

The courtyard of the Old Palace twinkles with lights and every evening, you can enjoy free concerts of Christmas music. Just pop in! Whenever you walk, always look up.

**The Stuttgart Christmas Market is known for its Budendächer, the imaginatively-decorated roofs on each of the 300 stalls.**

Personally, I find this decoration a bit over the top, but it is definitely special! Also special is the facade of Stuttgart's City Hall, transformed into one giant Advent calendar.

**My tip:** At the far end of the Karlsplatz is my favourite spot: the Finnish Christmas village.

**They serve delicious Glögi, Finnish spiced hot punch. In the tepee, you can get warm and eat mouth-watering salmon, cooked over an open fire.**

In the pop-up shop selling Finnish products, I recommend the Finnish gin – if you prefer gin and tonic to mulled wine!



**Insider tip:** In contrast to Stuttgart's historic buildings is the 13-year-old Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (Art Museum). Overlooking the Schlossplatz, this striking glass cube is known for its collection of paintings by Otto Dix. But locals also like the gallery for its trendy restaurant and bar. Sit and have a cocktail; through the floor-to-ceiling glass walls, take great photos of the brightly-lit market below (cube-restaurant.de).

**MY FAVOURITE SPOT**  
The cute  
Finnish Christmas village  
on the Karlsplatz

### Holy Shit Shopping – something different

For individual gifts, visit Holy Shit Shopping. Over the four Advent weekends, hundreds of young designers hit Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne and, lastly, Stuttgart with a gigantic pop-up store. On the last weekend before Christmas, this is perfect for last minute shopping: stylish accessories, jewellery, art, clothing and more from Germany's most talented young designers. With DJs and street food, the vibe is casual and relaxed.



**Stuttgart buzzes with the sounds of funky DJs and street food stalls – that's the vibe at Holy Shit Shopping**



## Esslingen: The perfect backdrop for a Christmas Market and Medieval Market

Just outside Stuttgart, on Esslingen's historic market square, the Christmas Market has 180 booths. But, there are actually two different markets. As well as the bustling Christmas Market, there is a Medieval Market right next to it.

**Surrounded by historic half-timbered houses, this is one of my favourite markets; I feel as if I am back in the Middle Ages.**

I love the real blazing torches and wood fires, instead of electric lights. I love the stalls, displaying traditional handicrafts made by blacksmiths, glassblowers, book binders and leather makers. And I love the hearty traditional foods: hot mead, roast chestnuts, hog roasts. On small stages, jugglers, minstrels and fire eaters

entertain. You can even learn ancient crafts and have a go at archery; you can warm up in a hot tub in a medieval bathhouse or in the oriental tea tent.

**My tip:** In Visit on weekdays, when it is less crowded. Esslingen is a 15-minute S-Bahn train ride from Stuttgart.

**MY FAVOURITE**  
The Medieval Christmas Market in Esslingen with its unique atmosphere



**MY HIGHLIGHT**  
As well as the Christmas Market, Tübingen hosts a market just for chocolate

## Tübingen: Christmas Market and Chocolate Festival

In Tübingen, 30 minutes south of Stuttgart, the Christmas Market is held in mid-December, on the third Advent weekend. Well worth a visit, this historic town boasts one of Germany's oldest universities (1477). The Christmas market's great appeal is that it is so uncommercial, with local citizens, artists and charities selling their home-made gifts and food. Alongside the market, the old town also hosts a wonderful event devoted solely to chocolate:

chocolART. Part of the International Chocolate Festival Association, this has tempting stalls offering chocolate in every shape and form: hand-made chocolate, chocolate tastings, praline courses, even therapeutic chocolate massages.

**My tip:** The best view of the old town is from the Neckarbrücke bridge.

## Burg Hohenzollern: beautiful market; beautiful castle

**When it comes to fairy-tale castles, Hohenzollern is at the top of my list.**

An hour southwest of Stuttgart, near Tübingen, this was the ancestral seat of the imperial House of Hohenzollern and the Prussian royal family. Perched spectacularly on a crag with fantastic views across the Swabian Alb, there has been a castle here since the 11th century. However, today's neo-Gothic fantasy dates from the 19th century and it's a spectacular backdrop for the annual Royal Christmas Market. This takes place on the first two weekends



in December. The stalls are set up in the castle courtyard, out in the grounds and also indoors. This provides a very romantic and special setting. Equally special is the emphasis on high-quality, one-of-a-kind gifts, from jewellery to accessories.



MY HIGHLIGHT  
I loved hiking  
through the  
Ravenna Gorge,  
arriving at the market  
at sunset

## The Black Forest: The Ravenna Gorge's romantic Advent Market

Planning a pre-Christmas winter break in the Black Forest? About 30 minutes east of Freiburg is Hinterzarten. This is just a small village but it's famous for its Christmas market in the nearby Ravenschlucht, the Ravenna Gorge. With the railway viaduct soaring above, there is a genuinely special and romantic atmosphere – especially after dark. The market is open on all four weekends in Advent.

**I recommend that you combine your visit to the Christmas market with an easy hike through the Ravenna Gorge.**

The path leads through a narrow valley along a bubbling stream, over wooden bridges and past mossy trees and old mills. (Alternatively, you can book a guided hike or romantic torchlight hike starting in Hinterzarten and finishing at the market). At the end of the gorge, you come out right at the Christmas market, set beneath the railway viaduct. Explore the market with its locally-made woodcarvings and cuckoo clocks; then warm up in the historic Hofgut Sternen, the traditional family-run hotel next door. This has a guest list straight out of a history book, from Marie Antoinette to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

**And as the sun goes down, the viaduct is illuminated with ghostly coloured lights.**

There is also lots of mulled wine, but luckily there are regular shuttle buses to take you back to Hinterzarten.



The best view of the market is high up on the small hill next to the entrance. That's where I took my best photos.



MY FAVOURITES  
The pulled pork, crepes  
and Black Forest ham.  
Plus mulled wine by the  
fire. Terrific!

*Viel Spaß  
beim Entdecken!*

*Eure Susi! ♥*





## The unique Advent calendar

What makes Gengenbach so special? After all, other Black Forest towns are delightful, with half-timbered houses and cobbled streets. But nowhere else can boast of having the world's largest annual Advent calendar. It is actually the Town Hall, where 24 backlit 'windows' provide the 'days' leading up to Christmas. Each evening at 6pm, everyone gathers in front of the 200-year-old Baroque façade. Suddenly, the darkness is broken by blue, red and silver lights on the stone statues. A spotlight focuses on a single window; up goes the shade to reveal a new 'window' to the oohs and aahs of the crowd below. Over some 20 years, the windows have paid tribute to internationally renowned names. In 2017, the featured artist was Andy Warhol; others have included Marc Chagall, Tomi Ungerer and Otmär Alt, a German artist known for his bold colours. Finally, on December 24, all the win-

dows are open: two rows of 11, plus two windows in the roof. The Town Hall, a 'treasure chest of fantasy', is the world's largest annual Advent calendar. Add in music, mulled wine, food and games, plus the Advent market in the main square, and it all adds up to a wonderful family night out.



## KURPFALZ

### Heidelberg: Feel the holiday spirit

The romantic city of Heidelberg is magical during Advent, the four weeks before Christmas. With the world-famous castle ruins high on a hill and the Baroque Old Town below, the backdrop for Heidelberg Christmas Market is one of the most beautiful in Germany. From late November to December 22, you can soak up the spirit of Christmas. Spread out across six historic squares are 140 wooden stalls and pavilions, each with one-of-a-kind local handicrafts and traditional Christmas foods. Each square has its own individual character. The Kornmarkt, for example, has a mini woodland, complete with fir trees; Universitätsplatz features a merry-go-round. To hear about local Christmas



traditions and to explore the Old Town's secret corners, join a guided Christmas market tour on any Advent Saturday in December. And, you can skate on the special ice rink on the Karlsplatz just below the picturesque castle (open from late November to early January).

## NÖRDLICHER SCHWARZWALD

### Karlsruhe: the Christkindl Market

During the Christmas season, Karlsruhe is great fun for families. As well as live music and horse-drawn sleighs, the Christkindlesmarkt (Christ Child Market; November 27–December 23) transforms the two main squares. One becomes a magical Christmas forest; the other sparkles with thousands of lights. On Friedrichsplatz, the highlight is the Flying Santa Claus in a sleigh, hurtling high above the crowds. As well as clowns, Grimms' fairy tale characters and stilt walkers, the Kinderland St Stephan has a miniature steam engine. Little ones love to ride through the magic forest, past a talking tree. On one of Germany's biggest open air ice rinks, in the unique setting of Karlsruhe's



impressive Baroque Palace, you can skate, try German-style curling and party (open till January 27). Museums and theatres put on special shows. Not forgetting the hilarious Christmas Circus and, in nearby Durlach, the Medieval Christmas Market, with its jugglers, minstrels and crossbow shooting.

## NÖRDLICHER SCHWARZWALD

### Baden-Baden: The elegant Christmas Market

With spas and museums, restaurants and shops, Baden-Baden is a major draw throughout the year. But when decked out in its festive finery, this oh-so elegant resort is truly special. The heart of the Christmas market is the Lichtentaler Allee, the world-famous promenade.

Against the backdrop of the Kurhaus casino, candles flicker and lights sparkle, while more than 100 beautifully decorated wooden huts offer unusual local arts, crafts and gifts. The aroma of mulled wine, roast chestnuts and gingerbread is tantalising. And there is plenty for children. At the 'living crib', youngsters love to pet the sheep, goats and donkeys; they also



love to make Christmas cookies at the children's bakery. Every day on the open air stage, there are live concerts and children's choirs. To round off the day, relax in one of the two spas, with their warm natural mineral spring water: the ornate Friedrichsbad or the modern Caracalla Therme. To complete the Yuletide magic, it often snows!

## LAKE CONSTANCE

### Konstanz: Christmas on the Lake

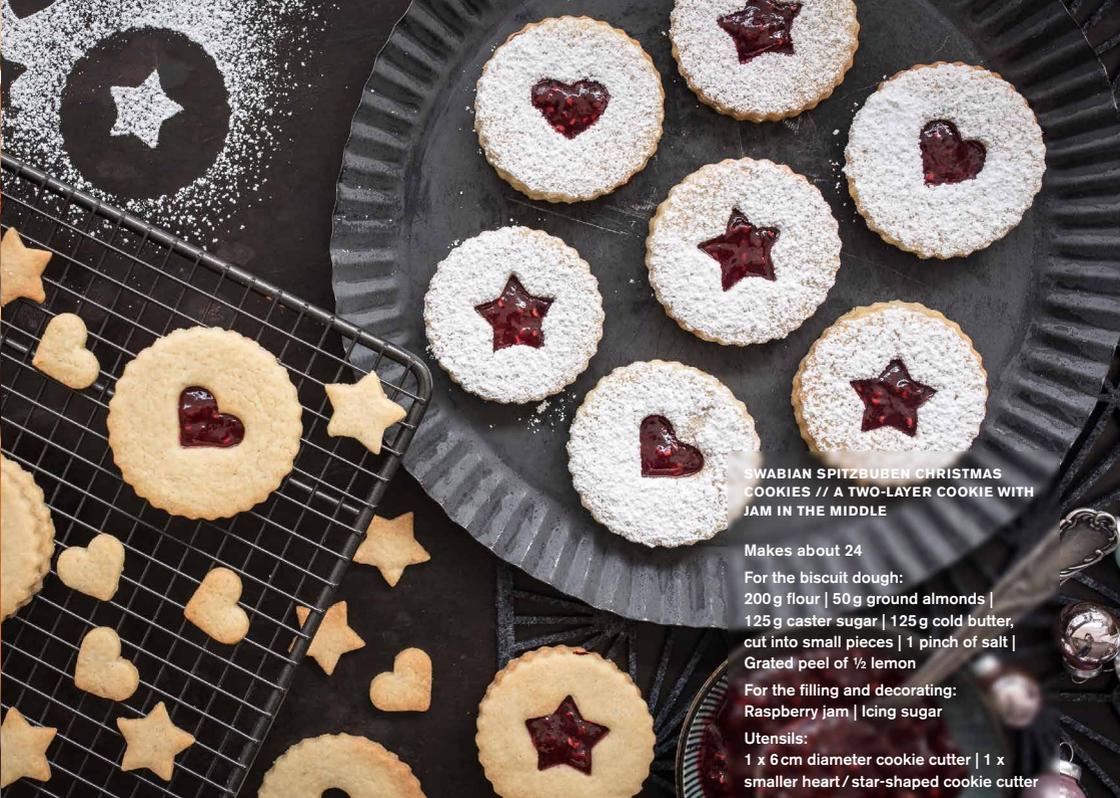
The Christmas Market in Konstanz is unique. Where else would you find a Christmas ship moored at the quayside, with a 360° panoramic bar and views of the lake and snow-tipped Alps? On shore are 100,000 lights, 10,000 gift ideas and 160 tempting stalls. No wonder GEO magazine rated this as one of Germany's top ten Christmas markets. And the Frankfurt Christmas World Fair named Konstanz as 'Best Christmas City'. But there is much more, from top-class classical concerts and cultural events to special exhibitions in the museums. Plus attractive WinterSPEZIAL deals at the fine local hotels. On the water, take an Advent cruise and indulge in coffee and cake aboard



festively-decorated boats of the BSB line. Nearby Mainau Island, known for its flowers, offers the warmth of the spectacular butterfly house and indoor palm garden. Spend time in SEA LIFE Konstanz, an award-winning aquarium. Or explore the back streets of the city, with a guide dressed as a medieval knight!

# ALLE WEIHNACHTSMÄRKTE IM ÜBERBLICK

Christmas Markets	Opening times	Information
1 Christkindelsmarkt Baden-Baden	End of November to early January	<a href="http://www.baden-baden.de/div/christkindelsmarkt-baden-baden">www.baden-baden.de/div/christkindelsmarkt-baden-baden</a>
2 Royal Christmas Market	First and second weekend of Advent	<a href="http://www.burg-hohenzollern.com/startpage.html">www.burg-hohenzollern.com/startpage.html</a>
3 Medieval Christmas Market, Burg Stettenfels	Last weekend before Christmas	<a href="http://www.burg-stettenfels.de/index-en.php">www.burg-stettenfels.de/index-en.php</a>
4 Esslingen Medieval Market & Christmas Market	From Tuesday before Advent for four weeks	<a href="http://www.esslingen-marketing.de/en/the-esslingen-medieval-market-and-christmas-market">www.esslingen-marketing.de/en/the-esslingen-medieval-market-and-christmas-market</a>
5 Christmas Market	End of November to early January (closed Dec 24, 25)	<a href="http://www.europapark.de/en/attractions/christmas-market">www.europapark.de/en/attractions/christmas-market</a>
6 Freiburg Christmas Market	End of November to Christmas Eve	<a href="http://www.weihnachtsmarkt.freiburg.de/pb/Len/464466.html">www.weihnachtsmarkt.freiburg.de/pb/Len/464466.html</a>
7 Gengenbach Advent Calendar	End of November to Christmas Eve	<a href="http://www.gengenbach.info/Entdecken/Der-Gengenbacher-Adventskalender">www.gengenbach.info/Entdecken/Der-Gengenbacher-Adventskalender</a>
8 Heidelberg Christmas Market	End of November to just before Christmas	<a href="http://www.heidelberg-marketing.de/en/events/highlights/christmas-market">www.heidelberg-marketing.de/en/events/highlights/christmas-market</a>
9 Karlsruher Christkindelsmarkt	End of November to Christmas Eve	<a href="http://www.karlsruher-christkindelsmarkt.de">www.karlsruher-christkindelsmarkt.de</a>
10 Konstanz Christmas Market on shores of Lake Constance	End of November to just before Christmas Eve	<a href="http://www.weihnachtsmarkt-am-see.de">www.weihnachtsmarkt-am-see.de</a>
11 Ludwigsburg Baroque Christmas Market	End of November to Christmas Eve	<a href="http://www.ludwigsburg.de/Len/Home/Tourism/Baroque+Christmas+Market.html">www.ludwigsburg.de/Len/Home/Tourism/Baroque+Christmas+Market.html</a>
12 Christmas Market in the Ravensaschlucht Gorge	All four Advent weekends	<a href="http://www.hochschwarzwald.de/weihnachtsmarkt">www.hochschwarzwald.de/weihnachtsmarkt</a>
13 Ravensburg Christmas Market	Late November to just before Christmas Eve	<a href="http://www.bodensee.eu/en/what-to-experience/a-lively-cultural-scene/christmas-markets/christkindelsmarkt-ravensburg_event258">www.bodensee.eu/en/what-to-experience/a-lively-cultural-scene/christmas-markets/christkindelsmarkt-ravensburg_event258</a>
14 Princely Christmas Market	First three weekends in Advent	<a href="http://www.schwetzingen.de/pb/site/Schwetzingen/node/666562/Len/index.html">www.schwetzingen.de/pb/site/Schwetzingen/node/666562/Len/index.html</a>
15 Stuttgart Christmas Market	End of November to Christmas Eve	<a href="http://www.stuttgarter-weihnachtsmarkt.de/en/home/">www.stuttgarter-weihnachtsmarkt.de/en/home/</a>
16 chocoART Chocolate Festival	6 days in the early part of December	<a href="http://www.chocolart.de/english-info/">www.chocolart.de/english-info/</a>
17 Ulm Christmas Market	End of November to just before Christmas	<a href="http://tourismus.ulm.de/web/en/index.php">tourismus.ulm.de/web/en/index.php</a>



SWABIAN SPITZBUBEN CHRISTMAS COOKIES // A TWO-LAYER COOKIE WITH JAM IN THE MIDDLE

Makes about 24

For the biscuit dough:  
200 g flour | 50 g ground almonds |  
125 g caster sugar | 125 g cold butter,  
cut into small pieces | 1 pinch of salt |  
Grated peel of ½ lemon

For the filling and decorating:  
Raspberry jam | Icing sugar

Utensils:  
1 x 6 cm diameter cookie cutter | 1 x  
smaller heart / star-shaped cookie cutter

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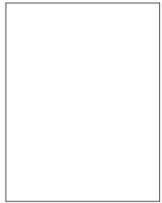
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## SWABIAN SPITZBUBEN CHRISTMAS COOKIES

- Put flour, almonds, butter, sugar, salt, grated lemon in bowl; knead to form a smooth dough. Form into a ball; wrap in film; rest in refrigerator for minimum 30 min. Cover 2 baking trays with baking parchment; preheat oven to 150°C.
- Roll out dough on well-floured board. When thin (about 3mm), cut in half. On one half, cut out 24 circles with 6 cm cookie cutter. These will be the cookie bases.
- Then cut out 24 circles from the other half. These will be the tops. Cut out heart- or star-shapes and put them, along with any other left-over dough, into a ball. Knead and roll out again. Cut out circles and repeat procedure.
- Place cookies on baking sheets; bake in hot oven (150°C) for 8 – 10 minutes. Allow to cool. Brush each round 'bottom' with a teaspoon of jam; do not spread right to edge. Dust 'top' cookies (with star/heart-shaped holes) with icing sugar. Place each top carefully on a bottom to make 'sandwich' biscuits.



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 @wirsindsueden

Design: jungkommunikation.de

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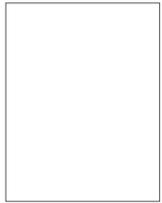
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