Swedish Christmas Traditions and This Year´s Top 6 Christmas Markets

As autumn slowly comes to an end, the magic of Christmas begins. Christmas markets, Swedish traditions like the Feast of Saint Lucia, a festival honoring light, festive Christmas buffets and other culinary delights typically associated with the holiday season are ushered in. How about visiting Sweden to learn more about the culture, take the opportunity to do your Christmas shopping, and experience Christmas traditions firsthand?

Starting from the end of November when the nights draw in, the air turns crisp, frost and even snow return at these latitudes, the air is filled with the warmth of candle light and spicy scent. Advent candlesticks, adorned with seven branches, and brightly lit stars are placed in windows. Friends and family are invited round to drink glögg, spiced mulled wine with almonds and raisins. Glögg is mostly sold outside at the many Christmas markets that also offer local arts and crafts, jewelry, knitted gloves, culinary specialties, and home decorations. Many restaurants serve the famous Christmas buffet "julbord", including specialties such as marinated herring, salmon, sausages, meatballs - of course, cooked ham marinated in mustard and much more.

Swedes love to sing and attend concerts, especially those organised in cities across the country. The most beloved of all celebrations during the Christmas season is Saint Lucia, Sankta Lucia, celebrated on December 13th. It can be attended at different places, such as the various churches in the cities or in the Skansen open-air museum in Stockholm.

Every school and workplace across the country celebrate too with Saint Lucia appears singing Christmas carols while wearing a long white dress and a crown of candles on her head. A train of young children holding candles follow behind, also wearing white. She brings pepparkakor, ginger biscuits, as well as traditional saffron buns called lussekatter.

From north to south, here is a preview of Sweden´s most popular Christmas markets, located in both big cities and small villages: Click here to see the full list.

Mårbacka, Värmland
For those early birds who can't wait for the Christmas season, mark your calendars from November 2nd to 5th the charming Christmas market at Mårbacka in Värmland takes place! The Christmas market at Mårbacka Minnesgård, Selma Lagerlöfs home, in Östra Ämtervik just outside Sunne is one of Sweden's and Värmland's most popular Christmas markets and annually showcases world-class handicrafts produced in-house. At Mårbacka's Christmas market you also have the opportunity to buy Christmas delicacies directly from the exciting food exhibitors. https://visitvarmland.com/sunne/evenemang/jul-pa-marbacka
Open: 02 – 05 November 2023

Jamtli, Jämtland
This annual Christmas market in Östersund is held at Jamtli Museum widely known as Sweden's Christmas Museum. At the Christmas Market at Jamtli you get a genuine experience while shopping for Christmas gifts and delicacies for the Christmas table. Experience over 200 Unique local craftsmen in handicrafts and food from Jämtland Härjedalen! The super-sized Advent Calendar with new surprises every day is worth a visit. https://www.jamtli.com/aktuellt/events/julmarknad-pa-jamtli/
Open: 8-10 December 2023. Friday 8 December 14-20, Saturday 9 December 11-18, Sunday 10 December 11-17

Skansen, Stockholm
The open-air museum Skansen, located in Stockholm's Royal Djurgården (a national city park), is a major Swedish attraction. Experience a historic Christmas market, dating back to 1903. Here you can buy everything from handicrafts and design to sweets, homemade candles, and secret Christmas gifts. Skansen has something for everyone, from meeting the resident animals to participating in craft activities.
https://skansen.se/en/see-and-do/holidays-and-traditions/christmas/
Open: Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 24 November until 17 December 2023, from 10:00 to 18:00.

Liseberg, Gothenburg
The Liseberg amusement park in the center of Gothenburg hosts the largest Christmas market in Sweden. The park is decorated with millions of twinkling lights and more than a thousand Christmas trees. As part of the Christmas experience, you can take part in the Swedish Christmas dinner "Julbord" - a buffet with many hot and cold dishes. The amusement park offers exciting rides and an ice-skating rink. https://www.liseberg.com/
Open: 18-19, 24-26 November and 1-3, 6-10, 13-23, 26-30 December 2023.

Medieval Christmas, Gotland
In December, the UNESCO World Heritage City of Visby is once again transformed into a medieval town - a wonderful

occasion to visit Gotland. The Christmas atmosphere in a historical ambience, with concerts, shows, theaters, mulled wine and of course: the Christmas market awaits you in a medieval Christmas spectacle. Come expereince Christmas on Gotland.
Visby Christmas Market: 8 – 10 December 2023.

Huseby Bruk, Småland
The largest Christmas fair in the world is held inHuseby. Here you will find a wide variety of exhibitors - skilled craftsmen and exciting farm businesses with their own delicacies. Every evening, 500 marshals and 200 Christmas trees are lit, creating a fantastic and magical atmosphere. Santa Claus is present and there are fun activities for the whole family. https://husebyjul.se/
Open: 11-19 November 2023.

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Lussebullar, Glögg and pepparkakor and goodies
Christmas atmosphere and shopping

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