Smiling International School
An Extra Smile

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2025
JANUARY 2026

Trento 21st November – 6th January 2026

Piazza Fiera and Piazza Battisti

Sundays - Thursdays: *10 am to 8 pm & Fridays & Saturdays: 10 am - 9 pm*

Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve: 10 am - 6 pm & Christmas Day 3 pm . 8 pm

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 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 28th November – 6th January 2026

Piazza Walther

Opening ceremony on 27th at 5 pm

Open every day from 10 am – 7 pm

Christmas Eve 10 am - 4 pm & Year's Eve: 10 am - 6 pm

Closed on Christmas Day. *Open on 1st January: 11 am - 7 pm*

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

Merano 28th November – 6th January 2026

27th November Opening Ceremony at 5 pm
Mondays -Thursdays & Sundays: 10 am – 7 pm
Fridays/ Saturdays, 26th December & 1st January 10 am - 8 pm
Closed on Christmas Day
Christmas Eve & New Year's Day 10 am – 3.30 pm
6th January 10 am – 6 pm
N.B. The above times are for the arts & crafts stalls while the food stands generally stay open for longer.

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 continuing up to Merano whilst you are there.

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 on 5th & 6th December, ready to scare children who have misbehaved during Christmas time!

Verona 21st November – 26th December 2025

Piazza Bra

Sundays – Thursdays: 10 am – 9 pm

Fridays, Saturdays, Christmas Eve & Public Holidays: 10 am – 11 pm

Christmas Eve: 10 am – 5 pm

Christmas Day: 4 pm – 11 pm: 26th December: 10 am – 6 pm

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. The Arena, in Piazza Bra, is truly magnificent during this festive period as it is adorned with an impressive shooting star. There is also a special market there from 10th - 13th December to celebrate Santa Lucia(read below).

This romantic city also hosts its own traditional German Christmas market, which will be held in Piazza Bra for the first time this year. There will be more than sixty stands selling 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!

Nativity Exhibition 'Presepi dal Mondo'

16th November – 18th January 2026

Palazzo del Capitanio, Cortile del Tribunale (accessed from Piazza Erbe or Piazza dei Signori)

9 am – 8 pm

www.presepiarenaverona.it

Visit 'Presepi del Mondo' - an amazing exhibition of over 400 nativity scenes from around the world which is being held this year in the beautiful Palazzo del Capitanio. Tickets can be bought directly at the entrance and cost 8 euros. There are reduced prices for people over 60 or between the ages of 6 and 12. Children under 6 are free.

Santa Lucia, Verona 10th - 13th December 2025

Piazza Bra

In the past, children from Verona used to celebrate the arrival of Saint Lucia, not Father Christmas. She 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.

Bussolengo – Flover Christmas Village

2nd November – 6th January 2025
Via Pastrengo, 14
37012 Bussolengo, Verona
Open every day 9 am – 7.30 pm (Entry is free)
Closed on Christmas Day and 1st January 2025
Tuesday 31st December: closes at 6.30 pm
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 pm – 6.30 pm or on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am – 1 pm & 2 pm - 6 pm) and take part in a workshop with his elves. 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 bus 162, 163 or 165 in the direction of 'Bussolegno' and get off at the bus stop 'Via Pontara'.*

Ferrara 16/17th November– 6th January 2026

Piazza Trento Trieste (city centre)

Every day 10 am – 7 pm

Ferrara's own Christmas market will probably arrive on the weekend of 15th / 16th November in Piazza Trento Trieste, although nothing official has been said yet. It sells gifts such as books, jewellery, local crafts, food and knick-knacks. There are also a couple of good 'Piadina' stands plus mulled wine and 'Bomboardino' on offer which will certainly keep you warm and lift spirits!

Whilst every effort has been made to include accurate and up-to-date information, An Extra Smile is not responsible for any inaccuracies or changes in the programme of events, dates or times. We recommend that you always consult the websites provided, email or phone the organisers before a trip.

The car journey times are an approximation and depend on routes, traffic, days and seasons. We always advise using a SatNav or Google maps to plan your trip.