

## Highlights

### Crafts demonstration



Experience the art of local craftsmanship in the pavilions of Christmas theme demonstration workshops. Craftsmen carve and turn detailed Christmas decorations and Christmas cake bakers allow visitors to observe as they prepare famous Dresden Christstollen cakes, also known as Striezel, according to local traditions.

### Pyramid

The wheel of the staged pyramid from Germany's Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge) revolves at 14.62 meters above the Striezelmarkt. This is the largest of its kind in the world. Six stages feature turned and glued wooden figures originating from Christian, Ore Mountain, and typical Striezelmarkt scenes.

### Schwibbogen

The life-sized Schwibbogen, or 'candle arch', another tradition from the Ore Mountains, forms the entrance gate to the Dresden Striezelmarkt. At 6.63 meters tall and 13.03 meters wide, it provides a wonderful view of the activities taking place at the Striezelmarkt.

### Stage (Dresdner Geschichtenbühne)

The centre of the market features the stage (Dresdner Geschichtenbühne). This provides a venue for the majority of the 180 events that take place at the market. A complete programme of events is available online at: [www.dresden.de/christmas](http://www.dresden.de/christmas).

## Children's Christmas Adventure

### Pflaumentoffel House

This fairy-tale traditional German house provides a place for kids to work on crafts under professional supervision. For a few coins, the fruits of their labour can also be taken home as a Christmas gift for grandparents, mom, and dad. ★ Mon to Thurs 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Fri 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., Sat and Sun 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Gingerbread House

Kids can indulge in Pulsnitz gingerbread at the 'Knusperhaus' gingerbread house. ★ Mon to Thurs 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Fri 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., Sat and Sun 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Advent Calendar

Starting 1 December, the Striezelmarkt's own Father Christmas will open the most recent window of the Advent calendar to shorten the wait until Christmas Eve. ★ Starting 1 December 2011, daily at 4:15 p.m.

### Puppet Theatre



The puppet players invite market visitors of all ages to drop by the puppet theatre. Get ready for fun and exciting fairy-tales and stories! ★ Daily at 3:45 p.m.

### Fairy-tale House

The old wood carver invites children to visit his house every day to listen to his stories and fairy-tales. ★ Fairy-tales from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Striezelmarkt stories from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Christmas Bakery



Younger visitors can try baking their own Striezelmarkt delicacies at the Christmas bakery. Professional support is provided by bakers from the Dresdner Stollen Baker's Association. ★ Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (closed on Christmas Eve) ★ Baking for adults on Advent weekends starting at 6:30 p.m.

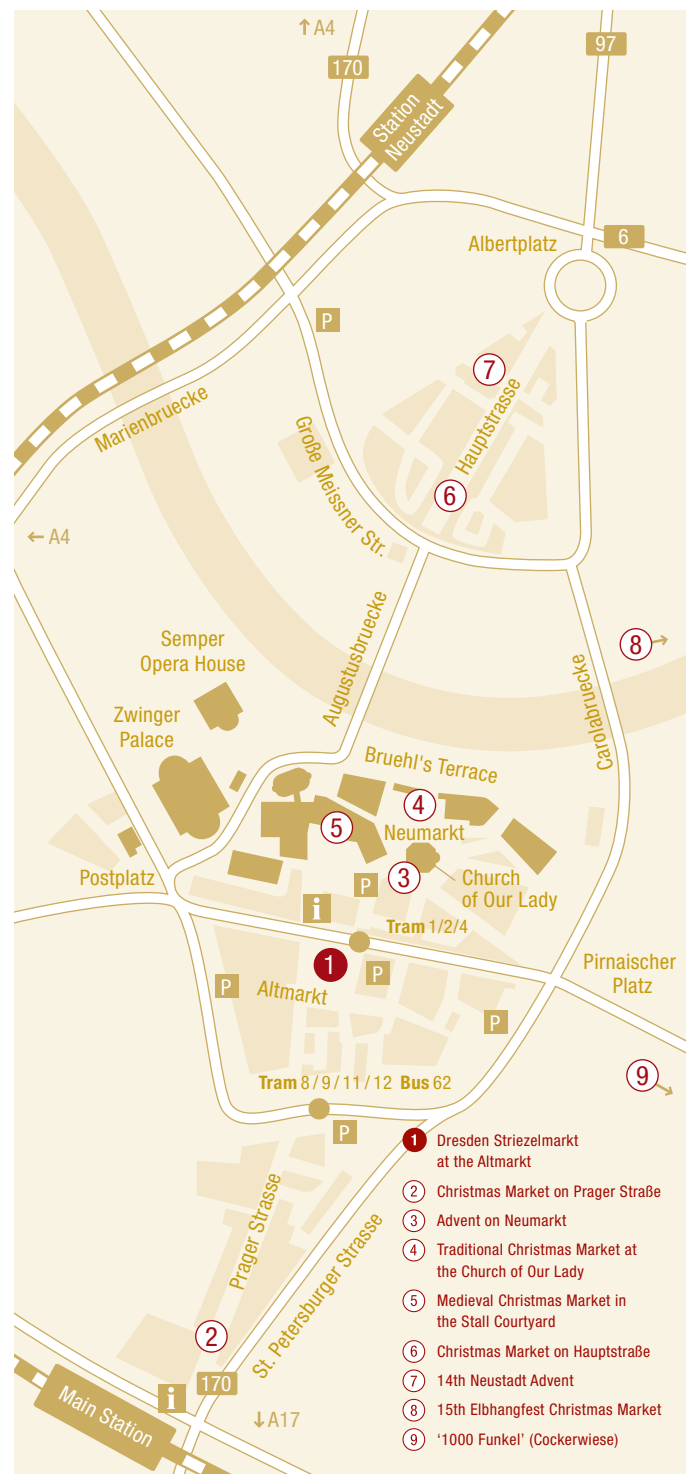
### Children's Railroad and Fairy-tale Forest

The route of the children's railroad passes by the Advent calendar, directly in the centre of the Fairy-tale Forest, the home to a number of famous fairy-tale figures.

### Christmas Elf House

This year, an Advent exhibition and a Christmas elf theatre will be staged here for the first time. Fairy-tales and animated films will transport younger guests into a magical world and get them excited about the coming Christmas celebration. ★ Advent crafts workshop on 24 November 2011 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on 25 November 2011 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. ★ Christmas elf theatre starting 26 November 2011, Mon to Fri 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Sat and Sun 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Additional information at [www.dresden.de/christmas](http://www.dresden.de/christmas) or at the Striezelmarkt tourist information booth (see market map)



[www.dresden.de/christmas](http://www.dresden.de/christmas)



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Printing: Druckhaus Dresden

Design: pingundpong

October 2011

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## Welcome to the 577th Dresden Striezelmarkt!

Germany's oldest Christmas market opens its gates once again this year. The delicious aroma of roasted almonds, the glitter of decorative lights, and numerous programme highlights accompany visitors through a magical Christmas wonderland. In addition to artistic wooden crafts from the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge), festive Christmas ornaments, and a variety of gift ideas, visitors can also look forward to Christmas delicacies and mulled wine. Discover Germany's most beautiful Christmas market and allow yourself to be enchanted by its unique atmosphere and rich programme of events.



### Opening Hours

- ★ **Daily**  
10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- ★ **24/11/2011**  
4 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Opening Day
- ★ **9/12/2011**  
10 a.m. – 11 p.m.  
Evening Highlights
- ★ **24/12/2011**  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Closing Day

### History and Tradition

The 1st Dresden Striezelmarkt only lasted a single day. In the year 1434, Prince Elector Frederick II permitted a free market at Dresden's Altmarkt square. This was a butcher's market initially, and citizens were only allowed to purchase their holiday dinners here after the fasting days prior to Christmas. The market was a success, and it eventually became an institution that was expanded with other products.

Throughout the five centuries that followed, the Striezelmarkt developed into one of Germany's most popular Christmas markets. Every year, more than 240 merchants and exhibitors travel to Dresden to hawk their wares and to promote the reputation of the Dresden Striezelmarkt as a setting for traditional folk art.

### Gift Wrapping

★ From 13 to 23 December 2011 daily from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The tourist information booth beside the demonstration workshops provides Christmas gift wrapping services for a small fee.

## Events

### Ecumenical Church Service and Opening Ceremony

★ 24 November 2011, 3 p.m.



The Dresden Striezelmarkt is traditionally opened with an ecumenical church service in the Kreuzkirche Church. Admission is free. At the opening ceremony that follows, Dresden's First Mayor Dirk Hilbert will cut the 2011 mm long original Dresden Christstollen, which is then shared with visitors at the Striezelmarkt.

### Pflaumentoffel and Gingerbread Festival

★ 26/27 November 2011, 1st Weekend of Advent

The diverse programme recounts the historical role models of the 'Pflaumentoffel' figure, and each year, a gingerbread princess is crowned. This richly traditional gingerbread originates from Saxony's gingerbread city of Pulsnitz.

### 18th Dresden Stollen Festival and Kreuzkirche Day

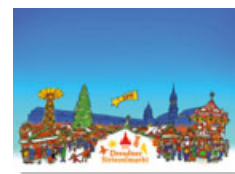
★ 3/4 December 2011, 2nd Weekend of Advent



After a festive parade through Dresden's baroque historical centre, the 'Royal Master Baker' and the Dresden Stollen Maids cut the massive Christmas cake.

The Kreuzkirche Day raises Christmas spirit with church services and an organ concert, and Kreuzkirche tours invite adults and children to discover this magnificent church.

### NEW in 2011: Striezelmarkt Vouchers



Striezelmarkt vouchers in denominations of 5, 10, or 20 euros may be redeemed with all participating merchants at the Striezelmarkt. These may be purchased from the tourist information booth of Dresden Tourismus GmbH in the Kulturpalast, at the main station, and at the Striezelmarkt near the crafts demonstration.

Tel.: +49 (0)3 51 50 160 160, E-mail: [info@dresden.travel](mailto:info@dresden.travel), [www.dresden.de/tourismus](http://www.dresden.de/tourismus)

### Evening Highlights

★ 9 December 2011

The longest nights of the year are during Advent, and thanks to candlelight and mulled wine, they are also the cosiest. For the first time, the Dresden Striezelmarkt invites its guests to visit the market at night until 11 p.m.



### Pyramid and Schwibbogen Festival

★ 10/11 December 2011, 3rd Weekend of Advent



At over 14 meters, this special Christmas towers over the crowd at the Dresden Striezelmarkt, where the Pyramid Festival brings figures and themes to life on six stages. At the Schwibbogen Festival, musicians depict the traditions and customs of craftsmen with songs and dances.

### Mountain Parade and 'Christmas-Greetings from St. Petersburg' – Dresden's Sister City Introduces Itself

★ 17/18 December 2011, 4th Weekend of Advent



Miners and miner's bands parade through the Striezelmarkt in their traditional uniforms. How is Christmas celebrated in Russia? Musicians, dancers, and storytellers explain Christmas customs from the land of 'Father Frost' at Dresden's Striezelmarkt.

