GERMAN AMERICAN EVENTS, LLC

2026 Christkindlmarket Ticketed Special Events – Now on Sale

New anniversary experiences & returning fan favorites in Chicago and Aurora

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, November 5, 2026

Contact: Kate Bleeker| Bleeker@germanamericanevents.com | 312-644-3785

(CHICAGO and AURORA, IL) (November 5, 2026)

The Christkindlmarket is bringing even more holiday magic to Chicago and Aurora this season with an exciting lineup of special events. As the Christkindlmarket Chicago celebrates its milestone 30th anniversary, visitors can look forward to exclusive experiences, beloved traditions, and new ways to create unforgettable holiday memories.

Celebrating 30 Years at the Christkindlmarket Chicago at Daley Plaza

'Twas the Night Before Christkindlmarket

The festivities begin with one of the season's most anticipated events, the **11th Annual 'Twas the Night Before Christkindlmarket**, on Thursday, November 19. This exclusive opening night preview offers guests the chance to experience the market before its official opening, featuring festive entertainment, the traditional opening ceremony with the Christkind, visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and the opportunity to be one of the first to receive the 2026 souvenir mugs. ***General admission tickets can be purchased via Bucket Listers for $95 per person, plus fees.***

Merry Market Experience

New for the 30th anniversary, **the Merry Market Experience** invites guests to explore the market in a whole new way. Available on weekends from November 21 through December 20, this self-guided scavenger hunt takes visitors through Daley Plaza to uncover hidden clues, discover beloved vendors, and celebrate the market's history. Tickets include priority market entry, a Scavenger hunt card, a 2026 souvenir mug, a festive beverage, and a chance to win tickets to next year's opening night preview. Begin the hunt through the Ticketed Event Entrance on the north side of the market near Daley Center. ***Tickets: $35 per person, plus fees on bucketlisters.com***

Culture & Cheer Tours

Back by popular demand, the **Culture & Cheer Tours** offer exclusive early access to the market before opening hours. Led by a German-speaking guide, guests discover the market's history and traditions while enjoying vendor samples and special souvenirs. Tours take place on select mornings throughout the season, with additional dates on December 21–23. ***Tickets: $48 per person, plus fees.***

Haus of Krampus

After selling out in its debut year, **Haus of Krampus at Daley Plaza** returns for one day only on Sunday, December 13. The heated Timber Haus transforms into an immersive Alpine-inspired hideaway, where guests can encounter the legendary Krampus, and capture memorable holiday photos. Festive treats, a beverage from our partner White Claw or non-alcoholic refreshment are also included in the ticket price. ***Tickets can be purchased online for $40 per person, plus fees.***

GERMAN AMERICAN EVENTS, LLC

Holiday Traditions and New Experiences in Aurora at RiverEdge Park

Krampus Fest
The Christkindlmarket Aurora is introducing **Krampus Fest** for the first time on Saturday, December 19. Inside the heated Timber Tent at RiverEdge Park, visitors can experience an exciting celebration of German folklore featuring Krampus encounters, interactive surprises, and keepsake photos. Festive treats, a beverage from our partner White Claw or non-alcoholic refreshment are also included in the ticket price. ***Tickets: $40 per person, plus fees*.**

The Children's Lantern Parade
Families also have two chances to enjoy the return of the beloved **Children's Lantern Parades,** on December 6 and 23. Inspired by the German tradition of St. Martin's Day, children receive their own lanterns and goodie bags before joining the Christkind for a festive lantern-lit stroll around the market, filled with holiday songs and cheer. ***Tickets: $20 per child, plus fees*.**

Christmas Tree-Themed Scavenger Hunt
Adding to the family-friendly fun, a **free Christmas tree-themed scavenger hunt**, inspired by this year's collectible Christmas tree-shaped souvenir mug, invites guests to explore the market and discover festive surprises along the way. Participation is free.

For event details, tickets, and more information, visit **www.christkindlmarket.com/special-events**.

Plan Your Holiday Visit

The Christkindlmarket Chicago at Daley Plaza and the Christkindlmarket Aurora at RiverEdge Park will welcome visitors from November 20 through December 24, 2026. The Christkindlmarket Wrigleyville at Gallagher Way is open for one more week and will run from November 20 through December 31, 2026. Admission to both markets remains free, while select special experiences require tickets. Ticket prices are subject to applicable taxes and fees.

About German American Events, LLC

German American Events LLC, a subsidiary of the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that plans and executes the Christkindlmarket Chicago, Aurora, and Wrigleyville. All locations are modeled after the classic German holiday market in Nuremberg, Germany, with traditional candy cane striped huts.

The free outdoor holiday markets host international and local vendors who display and sell handcrafted ornaments, toys, and special holiday gifts as well as traditional German foods, sweets, and beverages. The markets are rich in cultural tradition and include special events, entertainment and activities that are fun for the whole family.