

Double S Travel

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**Double S Travel Worldchoice - Celebrating Twenty Four Years of service
to the residents and businesses in the South Bedfordshire area 1985 - 2009**

Double S Travel Factsheet, Lorna Milton, BBC Three Counties for 28 July 2009

Today's Exchange Rates

Euro. Our tourist sell rate today: £1 = 1.10141 than last week
US Dollar. Our tourist sell rate today: £1 = 1.55551 better than last week

European Christmas Markets.

What are they like?

Mulled hot wine to warm the bones - cheeses, puddings and stollen to satisfy the stomach. Christmas decorations, local crafts, fairground rides, choirs, bands and more to entertain you. A visit to a Christmas market is always a joy.

Where are they held?

Europe

Germany

Aachen. 1.5million visitors every year. Fresh traditional pastries straight from the oven.

Berlin. Some of the best shops in the country and the market near the Kurfuestendam under the shadow of the Wilhelm Gedachtniskirche.

Cochen. A picture-postcard town of half-timbered houses and a pleasant riverside promenade.

Cologne. A floating market aboard a cruise ship moored on the River Rhine next to the promenade. There are five other market locations making six in one city!

Dresden.

Duesseldorf. Has two Christmas markets. One is in the old-town of 150 stalls, the other is in the Schadowplatz. Wooden huts offer a large collection of festive goods as well as handmade jewellery, tin toys, woodcarving and jams, chutneys etc..

Frankfurt. A 14th Century market set in the cobbled streets and half-timbered buildings of the Romer. It has unique specialities including Brenten (almond cake) and Quetschenmannchen (prune figures). It attracts 3m visitors annually.

Frieburg. On Rathausplatz in the heart of the historic quarter.

Goslar. In the beautiful market square of this historic imperial town 60 stalls sell their wares. The main attraction is the Christmas Forest of 36 fir trees each decorated with lights. Festive music abounds.

Hamelin. 70 festively decorated wooden chalets clustered around the Market Church in the picturesque old quarter which is lined with timber-framed houses. Particular attractions are the nativity scene and the Christmas Pyramid.

Hannover. In the old quarter on the Ballhofplatz. 150 stalls selling everything from Christmas tree decorations to carvings and wooden toys.

Members of ABTA, Association of Cruise Experts, Leading Cruise Agent
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Proprietor: **SJ Pattenden TD, BA (Hons).** VAT Number 449 3040 53.

Finalist Travel Agent of the Year 2009, 2006, 2005.

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Heidelberg. 140 stalls, with views of the castle. The smell of roast chestnuts, sugared almonds, cinnamon, cloves and mulled wine fill the air.

Koblenz. On the Zentralpatx amidst gothic houses and churches, where the Rhine and the Mozelle meet.

Munich. Bavaria's capital, The Christkindlmarkt is almost as old as the city's 14th century breweries. It takes place in Marienplatz In the shadow of the Grand Town Hall.

Nuremberg. Christkindlemarkt, 2m visitors every year with 200 stalls, this market sells everything from decorations, craft items, candles, gifts as well as the ubiquitous gluhwein, gingerbread and Rostbratwurst.

Belgium

Brussels. Local musicians, jugglers, painters, crafts and of course festive food, all round the Stock Exchange and the Fish Market.

Austria

Innsbruck. A Christmas Market selling gifts, decorations etc in cultural Alpine town famous for it's Golden Roof and Imperial Palace.

Salzburg. A truly romantic setting for a Christmas market selling typical Salzburger ornaments and colourful advent wreaths all set around the baroque cathedral.

France

Amiens. One of the largest in northern France sees Amiens transformed into an 'alpine town'.

Lille. This city plays host to one of the best Christmas markets in northern France. Along with a ferris wheel, seasonally decorated wooden chalet-style stalls offer a variety of gifts from local handicraft, pottery and confectionery to jewellery.

Czech Republic

Prague. The festivities are centred on the Old Town Square and feature wooden huts selling food, drink, bohemian glass Christmas decorations, ornaments and jewellery. Carols sung by international choirs.

Holland

Valkenburg. Set in the Gemeentegrot caves that were excavated by the Romans. Theses grottos are truly atmospheric when they are decorated and illuminated for Christmas!

What do they cost?

By coach

Duesseldorf,	4 days 4* hotel from £189, 19,27Nov, 04,11Dec
Cologne	4days 4* hotel from £279, 27Nov, 04,11Dec
Brussels + Bruges	4days, from £199, 27,30Nov, 07,11Dec
Cologne + Bruges	4days, from £199, 27,30Nov, 07,11Dec
Rhine Valley	5days, from £269, 23,30Nov, 07Dec
Amiens	4days, from £219, 27Nov, 04,11Dec
Salzburg,Munich + Innsbruck	7days, from £329, 23,30Nov, 07Dec

By air

Nuremberg 4*	4days, from £329, 27Nov, 04,11Dec
Berlin	4days, from £339, 27Nov, 04,11Dec

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Prague 5days, from £349, 03,10Dec
Cologne 4days, from £299, 04Dec

By Eurostar

Lille 4days, from £249, 20Nov, 04,11Dec
Brussels 4days, from £229, 27Nov, 04,11Dec

Cruise deal.

18days, departing 24 Oct 09, MSC Poesia (their newest ship!), Venice, Bari, La Goulette, Malaga, Funchal, transatlantic crossing, St Thomas, San Juan, fort Lauderdale. Flights included. From £970pp inside cabin, £1089 outside cabin, £1259 balcony cabin. Details at www.doublestravel.co.uk under Escorted Groups, Special Cruise.

Any of these can be booked by calling us on 01582 752 752.

Always:

- Check that your passport does not expire within six months of your return date.
- Ensure you have taken out good travel insurance and if going to Europe, take your EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) with you too. You can apply for a card at www.ehic.org Note: The EHIC does not cover you in the Channel Islands.
- Put the 24hour UK Consular Assistance number - +44 020 7008 1500 into your mobile telephone – just in case you need emergency help.
- If hiring a car, don't forget to take both parts of your photo driving licence (the card and the paper counterpart) and a credit card with you. Some rental companies no longer accept the old-style green paper non-photo driving licences.
- Ensure you have all the visas you need in order to travel.
- If you have booked connecting flights, the baggage allowance may be smaller than your long-haul flights. To avoid extra charges, pack to the lowest baggage allowance.
- Tell your credit card and debit card issuer where you are going and for how long otherwise you may find your cards may be blocked. Take a Cash Passport instead of your debit card – much safer.
- Use public transport to get to the airport. Most travel insurance will only cover you for a missed departure if you used public transport.
- Take a photocopy of your passport with you. If you lose your original it is much simpler to replace if you have a copy available.
- Protect your money and your holiday by booking an ATOL protected holiday through a reputable travel agent. Even short-breaks using no-frills airlines can be covered if booked through and agent.

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- Declare all medical conditions and hospital visits at the time of taking insurance and tell the insurer if you develop a medical condition before you travel otherwise they may not settle if you try to make a claim.
- Travelling to or through the USA? You need a visa (called an ESTA) in order to travel. www.usembassy.org.uk

In brief:

Thinking of going to New Zealand next year? Join my group, we depart 30th January! Places are limited. Call me on 01582 752752 or email me at steve@doublestravel.co.uk for details.

Interested in a cruise? Visit our cruise club website at www.upadeck.co.uk it contains details of over 20,000 cruises, port descriptions and ship details!

Do you Twitter? Follow Double_S_Travel.

If you would like to join my emailing-list to receive offers and news, simply email steve@doublestravel.co.uk and put 'Mailing List' in the subject box.

Remember, travel safely, protect your money by booking through an ATOL holder, but most of all - enjoy your travelling.

All the best, Steve Pattenden. steve@doublestravel.co.uk

Acknowledgements. DG&G Gazetteers for much of the destination information.

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