



Germany Travel Planning Podcast

Ep 13 – A Berlin Christmas Market Adventure with Tracy Collins

Transcript is auto-generated

Cate (00:00)

Thinking about visiting Berlin during Christmas market season? Wondering what it's really like, how to get around, where to stay, and what to eat? We're covering all of that in today's episode.

This is the Germany Travel Planning Podcast, the show that helps you plan a super fun trip to Germany. My name is Cate and I'm your Germany Destination Specialist. And today I'm joined by my friend and fellow travel podcaster, Tracy Collins, who's sharing her trip report from her festive December trip to Berlin. She's here to spill all the details, what she saw, what she ate, including a dessert she is still dreaming about and what she wishes she had done differently. Let's dive in.

Cate (00:39)

Hi Tracy, welcome to the podcast.

Tracy (00:41)

Hi Cate nice to be here.

Cate (00:44)

Why don't you introduce yourself? Just tell us a little bit about who you are and what you do.

Tracy (00:49)



Okay. So I'm Tracy Collins. I run three websites and two podcasts. So I have a UK travel plan, London travel plan and global travel plan websites and a UK travel planning and global travel plan on podcasts. I'm a podcaster writer.

Jack of all trades and basically help people to plan their trip specifically around the UK. That's mine and my husband's specialty. So that's what we do. I'm originally from the UK. I spend a lot of time in Australia, but generally between the UK, Australia and wandering the world. That's what we do.

Cate (01:23)

And your websites and podcasts are excellent. I actually met you because I was planning a trip to the UK and I joined your Facebook group. And then we realized we had been in other Facebook groups before that. so I can totally vouch for all of your information, your products, your services are all excellent. So I am really excited to talk with you today because so many of our clients and community want to visit Germany's Christmas markets.

Cate (01:48)

and Berlin and you were recently in Berlin for a couple of days in December. So I actually think we arrived the day after you left. So we just miss each other. So I thought we would just talk through your stay in Berlin and give listeners an idea of what they could do on a short December trip to Berlin. Why don't you tell us how you arrived in Berlin?

Tracy (02:10)

Okay, well, I'll just kind of put the Berlin part in a bit of a kind of context. So we decided that we were going to do a trip around quite a few different European cities over the winter to go to Christmas markets, specifically to go to Christmas markets. So the obvious place to go to was to Germany to start with. we actually traveled from London on the Eurostar to Amsterdam, changed trains in Amsterdam and then went to Berlin. So it took us the entire day. We had a very early start in London.



But it is doable to get from London to Berlin in one day, which we did, and it went really well. And then we were actually in Berlin for the Tuesday, Wednesday, and then on the Thursday, the day you arrived, we flew to Stockholm.

Cate (02:53)

And how was it arriving by train?

Tracy (02:54)

It's the easiest way, honestly, to travel into Germany and around Germany. That's the way that we've done it in the past. Before we've done that, we've been to Berlin and then gone on to Prague and Budapest from there. This trip, we did fly out of Germany, but it was just so much easier and just a bit more of a pleasurable trip, to be honest, to cross from the UK through Belgium, through Holland and then into Germany. It's just a lot of fun. And you meet people along the way, which is always really cool.

Cate (03:21)

I love traveling by train in Europe. It's so much fun. So when you arrived in Berlin, I assume you arrived to the main train station, the Hauptbahnhof.

And did you take public transit from the train station to your hotel?

Tracy (03:35)

We did. So we arrived at Berlin South Central Station, Hauptbahnhof. Last time we were in Berlin, we actually stayed beside the Hauptbahnhof but actually this time we wanted a slightly cheaper accommodation. And so we decided to stay near Potsdamer Platz, also just to stay in a slightly different area. So we arrived, had not done much planning, but to be honest, it's fairly easy to get around. And we just went on the app. I can't remember the name of that now. We went onto the app and just purchased our tickets.



and we had to change, I think it put summer flats onto another train and then it was maybe two stops to where the hotel was. It was actually really easy to get to. I did check out the May show, it was easy to get to because we didn't arrive until I think it must have been about 10pm or something like that. But we weren't worried. I mean, we're pretty au fait with managing public transport. So we just arrived and went right, OK, let's figure it out. Let's figure out how we're going to get over to the hotel. And we did it fairly easily.

Cate (04:32)

Potsdamer Platz is a great place, it's a great area to stay in. You're so close to a lot of sites you can walk to and there's restaurants around there and then also public transit. it's a great central location.

Tracy (04:45)

Well the hotel we stayed at was called the Aletto Hotel, Potsdamer Platz. So when we actually first arrived at the train station, got off and kind of walked down this street, we were like, this doesn't look great, because there was like a garage and then, you know, lock up and we thought, hmm. But actually when we got to the hotel, it was amazing. It was a really lovely hotel, really nice place to stay. It was easy to get to because it was literally two minutes from the, I think it was S-bahn U-bahn can't remember now, whichever one those it was.

It was literally a two minute walk. So it was very, very easy because I always think at the end of the day when you've been out walking and visiting and looking at things, you don't want a massive, great, big, long walk back to hotel. So that's always something that I do check. So I've recommended it and it was in our budget because I say we were staying in quite a few different places. So I didn't want to blow the budget on the first two nights in Berlin.



Cate (05:34)

Berlin can get kind of pricey, especially if you want to be centrally located. So yeah, it's good to hear you enjoyed the hotel. So you arrived pretty late. So I assume you went to, got a good night's sleep and then you had two full days to do the Christmas markets and sightseeing. So let's talk about the first day. Talk us through what you did on the first day and what you really, really enjoyed and if there's anything that you didn't enjoy.

Tracy (05:56)

Well, the first day, because we've been to Berlin before and have seen quite a lot of the sights, we really wanted to identify what we hadn't seen before or what we did particularly want to go back to. So we actually did head up to the Berlin Wall Memorial to start with. And again, because we were so close to being able to get onto the train, it was very, very quick and easy to get up there. So we did that. don't think we went on the trams. We did look at the trams and consider that as well.

It was just really easy so we had a look around the Berlin Wall Memorial because we hadn't done that last time. And then from there I think we might have walked actually down to the Brandenburg Gate to have some nice photos there and we had that by this point it was kind of late it was maybe early lunch time-ish maybe 12 o'clock and then it was the time for my first co-reverse of the trip.

Cate (06:42)

Berlin is the best place for that.

Tracy (06:44)

Yeah, so that's what we did. had Covers. Now it was very I think it started to snow actually at that point. So I've got some nice pictures of me very, very wrapped up with my gloves and my hat and my scarf and beside the Brandenburg Gate. And then after that, we just really wandered around. We didn't have so much of a kind of



definite plan. Is it just a let's go and find the Christmas market? That was our kind of thing. We knew we needed to go to the Friedrichstrasse.

Bahnhof to get a train out to Alexanderplatz because that was where there was a Christmas market that we wanted to go to and also because we booked to go to the ice bar as well because we wanted to try one of those we'd never been to one so we basically kind of went for this walk came across this office little Christmas market was a small market

Now, probably going to pronounce this wrong because I don't speak, in my defense, I speak French, I don't speak German, so I'm not really good at this. Dorothea Schlegelplatz. We kind of were walking through to Friedrichstrasse, Bahnhof and we came across this little little German market, Christmas market, and it was just so sweet. You just feel like they're everywhere. The longer we were there, the two days, there just seemed to be Christmas markets literally everywhere.

And from there we jumped on, we've just had a little wander around that market, didn't have anything to eat because we thought we'll wait until we get to the bigger market. So then we went to Alexanderplatz to the Christmas market there. my goodness, it was amazing. I have to say, if you are planning to visit Europe and you are considering Christmas markets, you need to go to Germany because honestly, they are so much better than, I mean, the Christmas markets are nice in other places, but in Germany they are a whole different level.

Cate (08:26)

They are. They are the best markets. Seriously, the best markets.

Tracy (08:31)

They are just that, just the atmosphere is amazing. The decorations are amazing. They're just the different stalls with the cute little things they've got. I mean, I had to be really good because this was the beginning of the trip. I was like, I was banned



from buying anything, but I did look at lots of things. think, they're really cute. That's really cute.

Cate (08:48)

What were some of the things that you wanted to buy?

Tracy (08:51)

just like these little figures, like little Christmas decorations. They were cute. at that point I was like, no, better not. So I took loads of photos of just really cute little things. And yeah, just, I don't know. I think it's that just the Christmas decorations are so nice. Now, because I live in Australia where it doesn't feel like Christmas when it's Christmas, it was so nice to be surrounded by the Christmas feeling and all those cute little Christmas things. And, you know, that's what I miss when I'm down in Australia because it's hot and it doesn't feel like Christmas. So it was really cool. And then the food, of course, the food is well. And that was that was what we were kind of we were wondering around going, what do we eat first? So there's so many amazing foods to choose from that it's a bit overwhelming. Actually, we walked around looking at the different foods. Now you should have technically your main course before your dessert. Ha, not in a German market. not. We started off with the cherry and Nutella crepe, which was with Kirsch.

My goodness, that is one of the best things I have ever tasted. So we made the fatal error. And I will say, if you listen to this podcast now and you see a Kirsch cherry Nutella chocolate crepe, do not share it with your partner. Get one just for you, because we got one to share. So we had half each. We then returned maybe an hour later because we were and it sold out of the Kirsch cherries and ours just gutted. So.

That's what we started with. then went on to have Doug had this meat, I can't remember what it was, inside a big, huge, giant tortilla. It's like a big bowl and they put the meat inside it. So he had a bit of that and that and you can eat the bowl if you want as well afterwards. So he did break off a little bit and try that.



Cate (10:48)

I did see those tortilla bowls. I have not seen those anywhere else in Germany except for in Berlin. And I'll just interject this real quick. A lot of times at German Christmas markets, if you eat something, you have to pay a deposit, or if you drink something, you pay a deposit on the dish that it's served in or the cup or the glass, and then you take that back and you get your money back. But for some places, they don't wanna do that, and so they're looking at all different kinds of edible bowls and plates. so that's one of them. But it always kind of makes me laugh that it looks like it's going to be a taco salad or something, but it's not. It's just the bowl.

Tracy (11:24)

It's the bowl and then there's about, I think there's maybe three, four, four or five different types of meat and sauce that you could put inside it. Yeah, and I think potatoes went in it as well and then the meat and I did have a little bit of that, but I was still hankering after more of the cherry crepe because it was so good.

Cate (11:33)

I think I saw that stand, I remember that. Those crepes are so good. Yeah, the Nutella kind is my favorite. I have not tried it with the cherry though. That sounds delicious, but yeah, love, love the Nutella crab. They're so good.

Tracy (11:48)

It was so good. Honestly, it was I still think about that crepe now and I wish I'd had a whole one. I guess didn't. But yeah, it was so good. But there's lots of different. There's just so many different things to choose from. Now, I will say it's not cheap. Really, it's not cheap. So you have to think about I mean, I think the crepe wasn't too expensive. Maybe that was nine euros. It wasn't too bad. But I think Doug's kind of tortilla meat thing was a little bit more pricey. So we were conscious of that.

And also because a lot of the food you get, there seems to be quite a lot of food. So again, not wanting to waste too much. because we've had the currywurst at lunchtime and some chips and then we had the tortilla, we've had the crepe. And then we were heading off to the ice bar. So we kind of wandered around for a little bit longer and then walked over towards the ice bar where we knew I was going to be getting, I think it included maybe two or three alcoholic drinks that came with the entry ticket and because Doug doesn't drink I had his as well so it was I had a little bit to eat before I went but so the ice bar was it was a bit gimmicky it's a bit would I do it again probably not but it was just something that we wanted to do because we hadn't we hadn't done it before so we kind of walked through the Christmas market and then there was another it seemed like a really massive Christmas market. That's a different one, guess, than the one at Alexander Platz because you come straight out of the station and you've got that big one at Alexander Platz and then you walk a little bit further on and you've got that kind of night market as well. It just that's all I'm saying. There just seems to be Christmas markets everywhere. They're amazing.

Cate (13:23)

There are, and they all blend together. mean, I had a list when we got there, I had a long list of markets, because there's something like 30 or 40 or 50, I don't know, there's an amazing amount of markets in Berlin. And I had a list of the ones we wanted to go to, and they all just kind of blend together. So it's really hard to sometimes tell which market you're actually at. So I always kind of think of it as like the market around the TV tower, and there's a bunch of them in that area.

And then there's some more over at the Humboldt Forum area and then they just keep going. You can just walk around and you'll hit so many different markets.

Tracy (14:00)

Oh, for sure. And the thing is what's really interesting as well is because the German Christmas markets are very popular with visitors from overseas. So you'll hear a lot of

Americans, you'll hear a of Australians, you'll hear British people, you'll hear other people from other European countries, but they're also very popular with the German people as well. So German families are out also enjoying the German Christmas markets, which is also really nice. So there's a really nice spirit and nice feeling when you're walking around. There's, I think the one...beside the tower that night one. There was also an ice rink. So there's loads of people ice skating as well. A really great family, family environment, family friendly. As I say, lots of food. So you don't have to, you won't go hungry, that's for sure. And lots of little knickknacks if you want to buy them. Lots of Christmas trees, lovely decorations. So I took loads of photos of that. So we went to the ice bar, had the ice bar experience and then wandered back through the market.

And then I reckon by the time we got back to the hotel it must have been about 10, half past 10. So we've had a kind of full day out. So which is what we want to do. We wanted to see a little one or two of the sites that we haven't seen before and then just experience the kind of Christmas market. Now in the UK there is what they call a German Christmas market in Birmingham but I would not judge that based on the Christmas markets in Germany itself because they are just amazing, absolutely fantastic. I mean, not saying that the one in Birmingham isn't good, it is, it's it's nowhere near as good as being in Germany and experiencing the actual Christmas markets when you're in the country itself. It's just fantastic.

Cate (15:38)

Yeah, I agree. like even in Berlin, each market has a little bit different look and a little bit different feel and a different focus, which is really interesting because you can walk around to several different markets and the stands will look different. some of the like there might be different rides for kids. Some of the food might be a little bit different. Berlin had a lot of international food, especially at certain markets. There was a lot more international food, but you'll still find the staples like the cinnamon.

roasted almonds and the bratwurst and the crips and know, some of the, and the glühwein and all of that.

Tracy (16:13)

Yeah, yeah absolutely. mean you really are, there just is a lot of choice and I think I suppose one tip I'd say is just to have a wander around and see what appeals because if you go for the first thing that you fancy you'll be then kicking yourself when you walk like five minutes down the that round the corner and go I really want to try that or really want to try that. So unless you can eat a lot I would kind of have a look around and see what what really appeals to you to start with or kind of spread it out as the night goes on. I didn't have any bluevine I didn't buy any of the mugs because I was really conscious that I couldn't carry them because I was going to be travelling around so much. So I didn't actually. I actually kicked myself out of thinking I can't have been to a German market and not had any glue van but I didn't. So it's another reason to go back.

Cate (16:57)

Yeah, absolutely. You know, I do exactly what you say. When I get to a market, I kind of like scope out what they have and then I decide what I want because I have made that mistake, right? I'm like, I'm gonna eat that. And then, and then this, and then I walk a little bit further and I'm like, I wish I had seen this other thing that I really want to eat.

Tracy (17:15)

Absolutely and also the thing is if you do see something you think absolutely really want to try it then do get it because honestly they you know some of the places do sell out as the as the night goes on the popular places will sell out of some of the food so that's worth conscious of. Now I paid everything with my card and then I wasn't asked for cash at any of those stalls whatsoever I was they were quite happy to take contact lists actually with my phone I paid with Apple Pay so that was that was good as well.



Cate (17:43)

Yeah, that's great. think Berlin is a little bit better about that. I don't know if that would be for every market, but I know for a lot of the ones we went to, we were able to pay with a credit card.

Tracy (17:53)

Oh, yeah, that's good. No, was good. It's just easier that way. So we don't have to worry about cash.

Cate (17:58)

Yeah, so the main tip here is go hungry and bring a lot of money so you can try everything.

Tracy (18:04)

Yeah, absolutely, absolutely. And then remember where it was. I would say also if it's like your first night and you try something you really want to have again, like remember which Christmas market it was at. Take a photo so you can go back the next night if you want to. Yeah.

Cate (18:17)

That's a great idea. Yeah. So talk us through the second day. What did you do on the second day? What did you eat? What was really fun?

Tracy (18:26)

Okay, so the second day we actually planned to go to the Christmas market and I can't remember the name of it. Is it a palace? You'll know. A palace? Yeah, that's it. And we did plan to go there, but we booked a food tour beforehand, which I think started about 11am. So we figured, well, by the time we finish the food tour, then we'll just hop on a train and go out to the Christmas market.



Cate (18:36)

Charlottenburg.

Tracy (18:52)

But honestly, we had such a fun time on the food tour that by the time we finished, I think it was about half past four. So we were like, we'll head back to hotel, freshen up, and then we'll head back out to the Christmas market. Well, we didn't. Again, I will say we probably wouldn't have done normally, but we were sort of pacing ourselves because at this point, this was the beginning of a trip where we were going to spend a couple of days and a couple of nights in lots of different European cities. So we knew that we were going to have to pace ourselves.

So we did a food tour and we met the tour guide at one of the bridges over onto Museum Island and we just had it, it was just brilliant. He was really good, he knew a lot about the history of the area that we were walking around in, so pointed out lots of interesting things and he did kind of tie in obviously the food but he did tie in also the culture, the history, what was going on in that area and which was really good to know and really interesting. It was quite a nice small group as well so we all got along, all trying all the different foods. So we started off, I wrote down the things that we tried because there was some amazing food. now normally my husband wouldn't have a kebab, which is how in the UK we get lots of kebabs, but he had one when we were over there from a place called Mustafas, I think it's really famous in Berlin.

Tracy (20:12)

My goodness, it was the best ever. was like say my husband normally wouldn't eat but he absolutely he loved it. He couldn't believe how good it was. And we actually got nearly a whole one as well like half of it, but it was really it was really tasty. And then after that, we had currywurst again, which I'm always happy to have because I say I really enjoy that. And then we had a doughnut and then a cherry tart, but I wasn't too keen on that.



Cate (20:40)

Was the donut a Berliner? Because that's a jelly donut. It's a Berliner. It's a jelly donut.

Tracy (20:45)

No, I don't think it was. I mean, I'm not a big doughnut fan, so it didn't make much of an impression, I'll put it that way. But I'm more a savoury than a sweet person anyway, so I would probably go towards the savoury. Though saying that, the crepe really hit the mark. But the cherry tart, it was more like a cherry tart crumble, but it was quite dry. So I wasn't too keen on that. But then we went to sit in this

brewery and people had ordered flights of beers to try. I think it was like 10 beers and then we tried some different foods there. So of course we had the pork knuckle with potatoes and sauerkraut which I absolutely love. That's a dish that I happily took into. love pork anyway. Sauerkraut is amazing. So we spent, we were there for a good probably about an hour trying the different dishes. We actually had a pasta dish as well which may be the one that you mentioned

in a previous podcast we talked about visiting Germany on my global travel planning podcast. So that might have been the cheesy pasta that you talked about previously. Yeah, I think it was that was really good, really, really tasty. And so basically, that was that was our second day, which sounds like we didn't do a lot. But honestly, I think when you're walking around on a food tour and you're popping in and trying lots of different things and learning about the area,

Cate (21:44)

Yeah, the cheese spaetzle, Kesa spaetzle. Yeah, so good.

Tracy (22:05)

And it actually was about, it must have been about four or five hours this tour went on for. So it was brilliant. We honestly had such a great time. But after that, we kind of just thought, we're going to hop back to the hotel, fresh up and go out. And of course



we didn't, we went back to the hotel and then we thought, we've got an early flight tomorrow morning to Stockholm, so we need to get sorted. So we got a taste of Berlin and

You can get a taste of Berlin in a short period of time, but I will say we had been to Berlin in the past and did a lot of kind of the obvious places to visit in Berlin. So we weren't as kind of desperate to do those places. So it was more for us kind of just easing into being back into Europe, enjoying the kind of Christmas festivities, the Christmas market, trying some of the foods. Yeah, and just starting off the trip on the right foot, which it did, it was great, it was a brilliant start to the trip.

Cate (22:59)

Well, you definitely got some of the great Berlin highlights and the Berlin Wall Memorial area, I think that is such a fantastic place to spend time. It's fascinating to go and see all the exhibits and walk around there and see the old Berlin Wall and all that. And Brandenburg Gate and of course the Christmas markets and a food tour. I did a food tour in Berlin when we were there recently and I loved it.

It was really enjoyable. was just exactly like you said. We had different food. We were in a different neighborhood. We had different food, but it was so enjoyable. And I learned so much more about this neighborhood that I am already somewhat familiar with. it was just, we were a small group and it was so fun. And I left full. I don't even think I ate dinner that night. And everything we ate was delicious. And I loved exploring. It was just a different way of getting to know a city. And I think it's so much fun.

Tracy (23:54)

Absolutely, and I always encourage people to do a food tour wherever you visit in the world. I've done food tours in Paris, in Rome, obviously in Berlin, in London. And you will learn about the history as well, which is it's not just about food. You learn about the culture and about the food and about the area that you're walking around in. So it



will give you a completely different perspective than if you went and you just did the main site, which is great if you want to do those. But if you actually want to get underneath the skin of a city, a food tour is absolutely the way to go.

Cate (24:28)

Yeah, I agree. I agree. I will now do free tours wherever we go. So the next morning you flew to Stockholm. So I assume you went out to the Berlin Brandenburg airport.

Tracy (24:41)

We did, yeah, we got the train out. was very easy again because we'd been very strategic where we decided to stay in the hotel, so we knew that it was going to be very easy, which it was. It wasn't that expensive, from what I can remember. Yeah, yeah, it's the first time I've actually flown out because we try to go by train more than fly because obviously living in Australia, you have to do long flights. So when I'm in Europe, if I don't have to fly, I don't. And we actually did look at getting the train from Berlin.

Stockholm which we could have done we just didn't have the time or would have lost a few days in in Helsinki I think we would have lost and I didn't want to do that so we decided to fly but yeah that was actually very easy to do very easy to get to the airport very easy airport to fly out of as well I think we had booked to go through kind of the fast the fast track at the airport through the security and I would recommend that actually because the queues were quite long

So we kind of went through that quite quickly, which was good. And then, of course, there's plenty of shops and things to look at.

Cate (25:42)

Yeah, I have seen that. I think it's free to book it. If you go to the airport website, you can book a specific time to go through security. I thought about doing that when we flew, but I wasn't exactly sure when because we got out there at like 6 a.m. as I wasn't



really sure when we would want to book that. When we got out there, hardly anyone was at the airport. We flew home midweek in January and it was the best time to fly because nobody was at the airport.

And we went right through security. mean, we just were at the front of the line. We didn't wait for anything. It was fantastic. But you said there were lines, like longer lines going through security and same thing for passport control.

Tracy (26:19)

Yeah, it was busy, but I think it's that Christmas market time. So a lot of flights are specific for Christmas markets. So flying in and out to bring people in for the Christmas market so they have a few days. In fact, we met quite a few people who had flown over from the UK on the Friday, were going back on the Tuesday or flown over on the Thursday, going back on the Monday, depending on the flight so that they can have a longer weekend to specifically to just enjoy the Christmas markets. That's what they're there for. So I think that's we were on a budget airline, but I think that was why it was a bit busier and obviously just before Christmas.

Cate (26:53)

Did you arrive two or three hours ahead of your flight?

Tracy (26:55)

I think two hours before is what I can, think, because we were only flying to Stockholm. So I think it was about two, two and a half hours. Look, I'm one of these people that has to be there much earlier than is needed. I just like to be at the airport and sorted. And we did have to check in bags because we knew I just can't. Well, if when you're on a budget airline, if you're going to take two, you know, the suitcase is too heavy, they're just going to charge it anyway. So I just tend to check things in.



Tracy (27:23)

So we had to get in and check in bags anyway. I think we had one check in suitcase at that point and then a couple of backpacks. I can't remember which airline it was that we flew with actually, because we did do a couple of flights on that trip. But it was really straightforward. And yeah, it was easy. It wasn't stressful at all. Arriving in Berlin was really easy by train. Departing by plane was really easy.

Tracy (27:47)

That wouldn't stress me at all. Getting around Berlin is very straightforward. think just once you've got the app and you've got a general idea of where you're going, I mean, I can't, off the top of my head now, I can't remember S-Bahn, U-Bahn, but once you're there, you'll get into it and you'll know it and you'll know where you've got to go and where you've got to get off. And even by day two, you're familiar, obviously, with the train station near where you're staying and you know where you've got to change. So it's just, it's very, very easy.

Cate (28:15)

Do you have any other tips for people who are gonna be visiting Christmas markets for the first time or visiting Berlin in December for the first time?

Tracy (28:24)

Well, I'd say wrap up because it's cold. I know that's an obvious thing to say, but it really is cold. So I would take hand warmers with you. That's a definite must that we take with us these days. And if you go to the Christmas markets, honestly, try and take half an empty suitcase with you because you will want to buy things and bring them home. And you get frustrated when you can't because you have no space in your luggage.

Cate (28:47)

Yes, there are so many fantastic things to buy at the Christmas markets. all of our Christmas tree ornaments at home. A lot of them are from Christmas markets and



things that I've brought home over the years. And it's so hard when we're, when we travel, we just have no space and we don't want to carry everything around for several months. So we just don't buy anything. And it's so hard to like walk by and see this beautiful thing and not buy it. know. But yeah, those are great tips.

Tracy (29:13)

a good tip to consider as well is that it does get dark early. So plan your day if you want to see something specifically that you need the daylight for. Make sure that you do that in the morning because honestly it can get gray and quite dark very early on, which is great when you go to the Christmas markets because the Christmas markets open and they're far more festive to go to Christmas market when it's dark. So I would definitely recommend waiting until it's dark and then experience in that way.

Cate (29:40)

That is an excellent tip. It does get dark by about 430 in December. So yeah, you definitely want to take that into consideration. Well, Tracy, thank you so much for coming on the podcast and telling us about your time in Berlin. Really appreciate it.

Tracy (29:56)

That's right, so happy to talk about our travels at any point.

Cate (30:01)

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