



THE BESTS

# 30 Best Places to Spend Christmas: The World's Most Festive Cities

*From Tokyo to Vienna, these cities come alive during the holidays.*

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November 23, 2020

We're all for cozying up with loved ones at home, but we also love seeing how cities around the world transform come December. The best places to spend Christmas, in our book, run the gamut from European classics with storybook **Christmas markets**, to Asian cities with over-the-top light displays, and even merry mainstays right here in the U.S. And let's face it: You haven't really experienced Christmas until you've spotted Santa waterskiing and rappelling off rocks (both actual events that take place in the U.S.).

While the jollity may look a bit different in the midst of a **pandemic** (remember to always check local and regional **restrictions** before venturing anywhere), these global destinations keep the holiday cheer going year after year—and it's never too soon to start planning for holiday seasons to come.



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## Quebec City, Canada

**Why we go:** [Quebec City](#) is one of the oldest cities in North America, and its colonial French architecture gives it an unmistakably European feel. The cobble streets of the Old Town are packed with quaint shops and delicious bistros, all merrily decorated for the holidays.

**The one thing to get you in the spirit:** The [Au 1884 toboggan](#) run by Château Frontenac (open from mid-December to mid-March) is one of the city's oldest traditions—and quite the thrill. Zoom down icy tracks overlooking the city on a wooden sled reaching speeds of up to 45 miles per hour.

**Stay here:** You can't go wrong with [Auberge Saint-Antoine](#) and its lobby fireplace, heated bathroom floors, and a Christmas package that includes a five-course dinner and a personal visit from Santa in your room.