585th Dresden Striezelmarkt
27 November to 24 December 2019
Opening hours

- **Daily**: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Opening day**: 27 November 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Long Friday**: 13 December 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Christmas Eve**: 24 December 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Father Christmas**

Father Christmas and his elves will open a window in the Advent calendar each day at 4.15 p.m. (12.45 p.m. on Christmas Eve). Phone calls are also possible. From 28th November to 23rd December, Father Christmas will be reachable by telephone daily from 5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on (0351) 488 2412. The Father Christmas post box at the Striezelmarkt is emptied daily.

**Gold edition Striezel cups**

To mark the 585th Striezelmarkt, there will be a limited gold edition of 585 Glühwein cups. They cost 20 Euros. The cup from the Kannegießer House bears an individually assigned number in addition to its hand-crafted gold ornamentation.

**Striezlaler**

The limited edition 2019 Striezlaler tokens, worth one Euro, are redeemable at all Striezelmarkt vendors. For ten Euros, you will receive eleven tokens worth a total of eleven Euros.

The tokens and cups are available from the tourist information centre at the Striezelmarkt (see Market map), at the main train station, in the QF passage at the Frauenkirche and online at [www.striezlaler.de](http://www.striezlaler.de)
The first Dresden Striezelmarkt lasted only one day. In 1434, Electoral Prince Friedrich II approved an independent traders’ market on the Altmarkt square. Initially, it was a meat market where local people came after the pre-Christmas fasting period to select their Yuletide roasts. The market proved a success, staying on and being extended to include other goods. Over the next five hundred years, the Striezelmarkt gradually grew into one of Germany’s most popular Christmas markets.

These ‘plum devil’ figures, made of prunes, are modelled on the young sweeps sent up chimneys at the start of the nineteenth century to clean them with their brushes. Many poor families made Pflaumentoffel, often out of pure desperation, for their children to sell in all sorts of weather. From 1850 onwards, there was public disapproval of this use of child sellers, and eventually, in 1910, it was prohibited altogether. The little sweeps are still hugely popular – after all, everyone likes a lucky charm.

The name ‘Striezelmarkt’ goes back to the delicious cake which has today achieved worldwide fame as ‘Dresden Christstollen’. In medieval German, ‘Strutzel’ or ‘Striezel’ was a long, sometimes plaited yeast-risen cake. It was probably meant to bring to mind the Holy Child of the Christmas story, wrapped in swaddling clothes.
Opening

Ecumenical church service and opening ceremony
Dresden's Striezelmarkt is traditionally opened with an ecumenical church service in the Kreuzkirche church. Admission is free. The 585th Dresden Striezelmarkt will be officially opened by the Mayor of Dresden, Dirk Hilbert, at a ceremony on the ‘Dresden Story Stage’ at roughly 4 p.m.

1st weekend of Advent

Dresden Dance Evening
Advent will be ushered in with the premier of the Dresden Dance Evening, a Christmas dance performance, at the Striezelmarkt.

Dresden Advent Calendar Festival
Since the 19th century, the Advent calendar has shown the number of days remaining until Christmas. For the fourth Advent calendar festival, 2 x 585 Striezelmarkt chocolate Advent calendars will be handed out free of charge to children.

Dresden Gingerbread Festival
This festival focuses on the history of our region's gingerbread-making companies, and how this custom and Saxon crafts are being preserved. A highlight is the crowning of what is now the 14th Gingerbread Princess, in the presence of August the Strong and traditional Dresden Striezelmarkt luminaries.

2nd weekend of Advent

Dresden Saint Nicholas Night
In addition to a big St Nicholas charity campaign, Christmas melodies will be heard on the Dresden Story Stage – presented by local trombone choirs.

26th Dresden Stollen Festival
9.30 a.m. start of the parade at the Taschenbergpalais Hotel
The Dresden Stollen Festival begins with a parade through the baroque Old Town. The 'Royal Master Baker' and the Dresden Stollen Girl then cut the first slice of the giant stollen.

Dresden Pflaumentoffel Festival
This festival focuses on the story of how the Dresden Pflaumentoffel came to be, its historical significance and how it became a lucky charm.
3rd weekend of Advent

Dresden Gospel Evening
Under the patronage of August the Strong, gospel choirs sing on the Dresden Story Stage – a must for all gospel lovers.

Dresden Pyramid Festival
Focusing on the world’s biggest Ore Mountain tiered ‘candle pyramid’ and its history, find out all kinds of interesting facts about the tradition of artisans and toy makers at the 22nd Pyramid Festival.

Dresden Schwibbogen Festival
The unmistakable symbol of this traditional market is the Schwibbogen, its carved scenes depicting the daily lives of miners in the Ore Mountains, from where it originates.

4th weekend of Advent

Dresden Christmas Carol Evening
The Striezelmarkt has maintained its Christmas traditions for almost 600 years. This includes traditional Christmas Carol singing for all Striezelmarkt guests.

Dresden Lights Evening
Experience the Striezelmarkt in its special Christmas light splendour.

Dresden Kreuzkirche Day
The Dresden Kreuzkirche (Church of the Holy Cross), which epitomises the Dresden Striezelmarkt with its Christian tidings, will be honoured in the fourth week of Advent with Christmas stories and songs on the Story Stage. At 5 p.m., vespers will be held at the Dresden Kreuzkirche.

Programme subject to changes
Elves' cinema
An Advent exhibition, children's cinema, admiring or making Advent wreaths – this is where all visitors, both young and old, will get into the Christmas atmosphere.

**Advent exhibition**
28 Nov., 4 to 9 p.m.
29 Nov. to 1 Dec., 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Elves' cinema**
From 2 Dec., Mon to Thur 2 to 7 p.m.
Fri 2 to 8 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 24 Dec., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Entry price: children 1.50 Euro / adults 2 Euros

Gingerbread house
Decorate your own gingerbread in the Gingerbread House. 'Hansel and Gretel' will help.
28 Nov. 4 to 7 p.m., otherwise Mon to Thur 1 to 6 p.m.
Fri 1 to 7 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on Christmas Eve

Advent calendar
Every day, Father Christmas will open the next door on the Advent calendar, counting down the days to Christmas. From 1 Dec. daily from 4.15 p.m.
Christmas Eve from 12.45 p.m.

Puppet theatre
The puppet show by the Advent calendar will open from 28 Nov. daily from 3.45 p.m., Christmas Eve from 1 p.m.

Fairy-tale house
**Christmas fairy stories**
The old wood carver will read stories to the children in his fairy-tale house.
28 Nov. to 23 Dec. daily 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Free entry
Registration required, phone (03 51) 4 10 79 55
Families, businesses and clubs can look forward to exciting Christmas stories spanning 585 years of the Striezelmarkt’s history. Each reading lasts 45 minutes and costs 3 Euros for adults and 2 Euros for children under 12.
28 Nov. 4 to 9 p.m. 29 Nov. to 23 Dec. 3 to 9 p.m.
Closed on Christmas Eve
Registration required, phone (03 51) 4 10 79 55

Striezelmarkt visitors both young and old can try their hand at baking with the help of bakers from the Dresdner Stollen e.V. conservation society.
27 Nov. 4 to 6 p.m., otherwise daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on Christmas Eve

In this traditional timber-framed house, children can make their own Christmas gifts under expert supervision and take them home for a small fee.
27 Nov. 4 to 7 p.m., otherwise Mon to Thur 1 to 6 p.m.
Fri 1 to 7 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.,
Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on Christmas Eve

The children's miniature railway puffs right through the fairy-tale forest by the Advent calendar, past characters from German fairy tales.
27 Nov. 4 to 9 p.m.
otherwise Mon to Sun 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
13 Dec. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 24 Dec. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Market-goers will be able to watch live craft demonstrations in the Christmas pavilions. Artisans will carve and turn delicate wooden Christmas decorations and stollen bakers will open their doors to let visitors see them in action as they prepare traditional Dresden Christstollen, also known as Striezel.

The sails of the tiered ‘candle pyramid’ from the Ore Mountains will be revolving 14.62 metres above the Striezelmarkt. The largest of its kind in the world, its six tiers feature traditional wooden figures from the Christmas story, the Ore Mountains and the Striezelmarkt.

The giant walk-in Schwibbogen candle holder is the gateway to the Dresden Striezelmarkt. At 6.63 metres high and 13.03 metres wide, it offers a great view over the hustle and bustle of the market.

The Dresden Story Stage is in the centre of the market square. Most of the 180 events take place here. The full programme can be found online at striezelmarkt.dresden.de.

This year, once again, the association NEUE ART e.V. will be organising its traditional charity event ‘Christmas at Dresden City Hall’. On 17 December, 300 socially deprived or disabled children and young people from our city will get gifts from Father Christmas and be entertained by his helpers.
Christmas markets in Dresden

1. Dresdner Striezelmarkt
2. Dresdner Hüttenzauber Market (Postplatz)
3. Advent at Neumarkt Square
4. Traditional Christmas Market at Frauenkirche Cathedral
5. Medieval Christmas Market in the Stallhof Courtyard
6. Romantic Christmas Market at the Castle
7. Dresdner Winterlichter Market
8. Augustus Market
9. Neustädter Advent Market
10. Elbhangfest Christmas Market
11. Neustädter Gelichter Market
The event is supported by sign language interpreters.