

The Iconic Dutch Christmas Market in a Cave

As December gives way to the holiday season, many flock to Europe to experience the wonder of the Christmas market. The warm glow of the market's lights, traditional decorations, and lingering scents of festive treats create a cozy and alluring environment. Plus, the unique crafts make excellent gifts!

Cave Christmas Markets: Valkenburg

The Netherland's oldest and largest underground Christmas market can be found in a city in the southern part of the country called Valkenburg. Yes—you read that right. Underground!

Valkenburg hosts two cave markets, a larger one at *Gemeentegrot* ("Municipal Cave," pictured below, credits to the market's [website](#)) and one at *Fluweelengrot* ("Velvet Cave").

At the Velvet Cave, the series of yellow marlstone corridors and rooms were once mined for their stone, and then were part of the now-ruinous Valkenburg Castle. Over the years, these caves were used for hiding places for castle knights, shelter for town residents during World War II, and, now, the annual Christmas market.

At the markets, you can find a host of Christmas decorations for purchase, delicious Dutch food and drink (including cheese!), and plenty of holiday activities to entertain all ages. They are held annually from mid-November until early January.

For those not keen to go underground, a Christmas parade lights up the streets. Both above and below ground in Valkenburg and across the Netherlands, there are many cozy, fun-filled activities to celebrate togetherness this holiday season.

Gift your loved ones a unique, memorable experience with a single or multi-day trip that highlights the joys of the holiday season. Reach out to us at travel@dutch-tours.com!

