# North Zealand culture and heritage [1]

For centuries, North Zealand has been the playground of Danish kings and queens and you can feel its important role in Danish history at the region’s many castles and royal parklands.

## Kronborg- Hamlet's home

The UNESCO World Heritage Site [2] of Kronborg Castle in Helsingør is the most famous castle in the region. This dramatic building was used by Shakespeare as the setting for Hamlet's home. North Zealand’s other palaces, Frederiksborg Palace [3], Fredensborg Castle, Jægerspris Castle and Selsø Castle, are also must-sees on any holiday to the region.

## The Karen Blixen Museum

Writers and artists have also been attracted by the area’s natural beauty and you have many great museums and art galleries on offer in North Zealand. Stop off at Karen Blixen’s coastal home, where she wrote her world-famous stories, including Out of Africa. The atmospheric house is now a museum [4] dedicated to her.

## Louisiana

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art [5] in Humlebæk is Denmark's most visited museum. It’s set in a stunning location overlooking the sea and shows Danish and international art. Louisiana effortlessly blends art, architecture and nature for a serene atmosphere. While here, visit nearby Nivaagaard painting collection, which houses older works of art.

## Monastic ruins

During medieval times, Esrum Abbey [6] was one of the biggest in Denmark. Today, only one building, the old Estrum Møllegård, is left. Visit the site to see fascinating exhibitions portraying life at the monastery of old and if you’re here in June, you can stroll around a special medieval market.

## Maritime Museum

Autumn 2013 sees the opening of the brand new Maritime Museum [7] right at Kronborg's doorstep. Designed by superstar Danish architect, Bjarke Ingels, the museum is only visible from the ground as a sunken ship-shape. Head down under Helsingør to encounter Denmark's maritime past.

## Further reading

Read more about North Zealand [8].

Read more about Historical Denmark [9].