West Zealand's cities and towns [1]

The cathedral city of Roskilde sits at the heart of this region, with a glorious royal and Viking past. The rest of the region is dotted with lovely country towns, each with their own special reasons to visit.

Roskilde

The historic, cathedral city of Roskilde awaits you in West Zealand. Roskilde Cathedral [2] is the last resting place of nearly 40 Danish kings and queens and is on the UNESCO World Heritage List as the first ever gothic brick cathedral in Europe. You can also experience 1000 years of history at the Viking Ship Museum, which features real Viking long boats found at the bottom of Roskilde Fjord.

Nykøbing S

Nykøbing S is a cosy market town on the Odsherred peninsula. There are lots of galleries for you to drop in to there, exhibiting art and handicrafts.

Ringsted

You can feel the strong presence of history in Ringsted, especially at Saint Bendt's Church [3]. The church graveyard is filled with royal graves from as far back as medieval times.

Sorø

Sorø too has a grand history. You can walk amongst the graves of nobles in the town's beautiful abbey church. Copenhagen's founder, Bishop Absalon, is buried here. Sorø Academy [4] sits on Sorø Lake and there are lovely walking paths around the area.

Skælskør

Follow in the footsteps of fairytale writer Hans Christian Andersen [5], who frequently visited the manor house of Holsteinborg [6], situated close to the market town of Skælskør. This picturesque town lies between a fjord and a cove and Borreby, another grand manor house, lies just close by.

Havneby

Visit this little town's unusual treasure - a Smokehouse (Røgeriet) [7] designed by world-famous Danish architect, Arne Jacobsen.

Other historic towns

You can catch the ferry to Hundested across the mouth of Isefjord at Rørvig [8], a popular little holiday town. Both Slagelse and fjord-side Holbæk are busy market towns and the newly redeveloped harbour front at the old ferry town of Korsør, is a great place to head for food and nice walks. Kalundborg is still a working harbour town with ferries to Århus and the island of Samsø. The symbol of the town, an old five towered church, Vor Frue, is well worth a visit.

Further reading

Read more about West Zealand [9].

Read more about Historical Denmark [10].