

# FAIRYTALE DENMARK

## Fairytale Denmark

In Denmark, we look for a touch of magic in the ordinary, and we know that travel is more than ticking sights off a list. It's about finding the wonder in the things you see and the places you go.

One of the wonders that we at VisitDenmark, are particularly proud of is our culture and history.

From ancient castles and palaces inhabited by real princes and princesses, to cobblestone narrow streets, hidden trolls and Hans Christian Andersen-inspired attractions spread around the country, visiting Denmark feels like walking into a modern-day fairy tale.



# Denmark and its regions



## Geography

- The smallest of the Scandinavian countries
- The southernmost of the Scandinavian countries
- Only has a physical border with Germany
- Denmark's regions are: North, Mid, West and South Jutland, Funen, Zealand, and North Zealand and Copenhagen

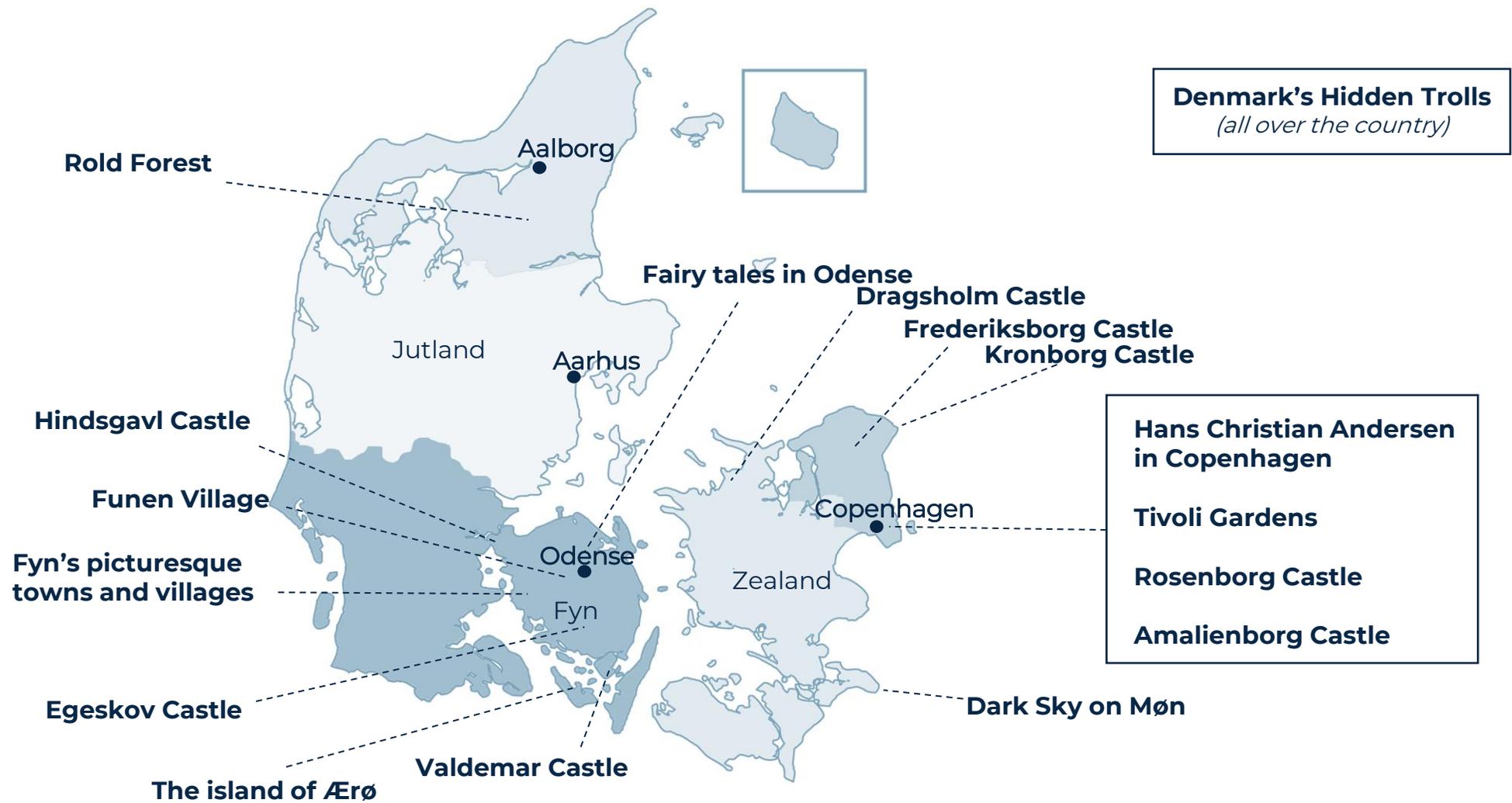
## Travel distances

- Copenhagen to Odense: Under 2 hours by car
- Odense to Aarhus: Under 2 hours by car
- Aarhus to Aalborg: Under 2 hours by car

## Facts

- [Video Introduction](#)
- Denmark's currency is the Danish Kroner
- Tipping is not required
- Most Danes speak fluent English
- Denmark is one of the happiest countries in the world and Copenhagen is one of the world's most liveable cities
- Denmark is home of 'Hygge', New Nordic Cuisine, and LEGO®
- Denmark is easily combined with other Nordic countries
- Denmark is a safe country
- Denmark is perfect for all types of travelers (family, romantic, nature, bicyclist dream, history/Vikings/Royalty)
- Denmark has a population of 5.7 million people

# Map of fairytale experiences



# A taste of Denmark's fairytale wonders

## Kronborg Castle



© Daniel Overbeck - VisitNordsjælland

## Denmark's Hidden Trolls



© Abdellah Ihadian

## H. C. Andersens Hus



© Kengo Kuma & Associates,  
Cornelius Vöge, MASU planning

# Fairytales experiences in Denmark

- 01: Hans Christian Andersen's Copenhagen
- 02: Tivoli Gardens
- 03: Rosenborg Castle
- 04: Amalienborg Palace
- 05: Frederiksborg Castle
- 06: Kronborg Castle
- 07: Dragsholm Castle
- 08: Denmark's Hidden Trolls
- 09: Fairy tales in Odense (incl. H. C. Andersens Hus)
- 10: Funen Village
- 11: Egeskov Castle
- 12: The island of Ærø
- 13: Stay in a castle

# Hans Christian Andersen's Copenhagen

He travelled far and wide but spent most of his life in the Danish capital, Copenhagen. The first fairytale stop on our list is the city of our world-famous Danish fairytale writer Hans Christian Andersen.

At Hans Christian Andersen Fairytale House, you'll see how his childhood unfolded, learn about his move to Copenhagen and see how his many journeys inspired his fairy tales.

Next up, go to Denmark's best-known cemetery, Assistens, to find the final resting place of the writer. In spring this area turns into a magical place when the cherry blossom trees bloom. And no trip to Copenhagen is complete without a walking tour along the waterfront to his most famous creation, The Little Mermaid (more details up next!)



© Malthe Zimakoff  
Assistens Cemetery



© Wonderful Copenhagen  
Hans Christian Andersen Fairytale House



 Hans Christian Andersen Fairytale House: Rådhuspladsen 57, 1550 Copenhagen V  
Assistens Cemetery: Kapelvej 2, 2200 Copenhagen N

 Hans Christian Andersen Fairytale House: [www.ripleys.com/copenhagen/hc-andersen/](http://www.ripleys.com/copenhagen/hc-andersen/)  
Assistens Cemetery: [A guided tour of Assistens Churchyard](#)

 Hans Christian Andersen Fairytale House: +45 33 32 31 31  
Assistens Cemetery: +45 35 37 19 17

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Copenhagen Central Station: 5 mins to the Fairytale House and 9 mins to Assistens Cemetery

 Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport

 Find accommodation in Copenhagen [here](#)

# The Little Mermaid

The sculpture of The Little Mermaid, inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairy tale, is arguably one of Copenhagen's most iconic tourist attractions.

Every morning and evening she swims to the surface from the bottom of the sea and, perched on her rock in the water, she stares longingly towards the shore hoping to catch a glimpse of her beloved prince.

She has done this since 1913, when the sculpture was first unveiled to the public. It's not the biggest statue in the world and you might have to look over a lot of heads to see her. Our tip: go first thing in the morning or just before sunset and you might have her to yourself.



© Rasmus Flindt



Langelinie, 2100 Copenhagen Ø



[www.mermaidsculpture.dk](http://www.mermaidsculpture.dk)



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Copenhagen Central Station: 12 mins



Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport



Find accommodation in Copenhagen [here](#)

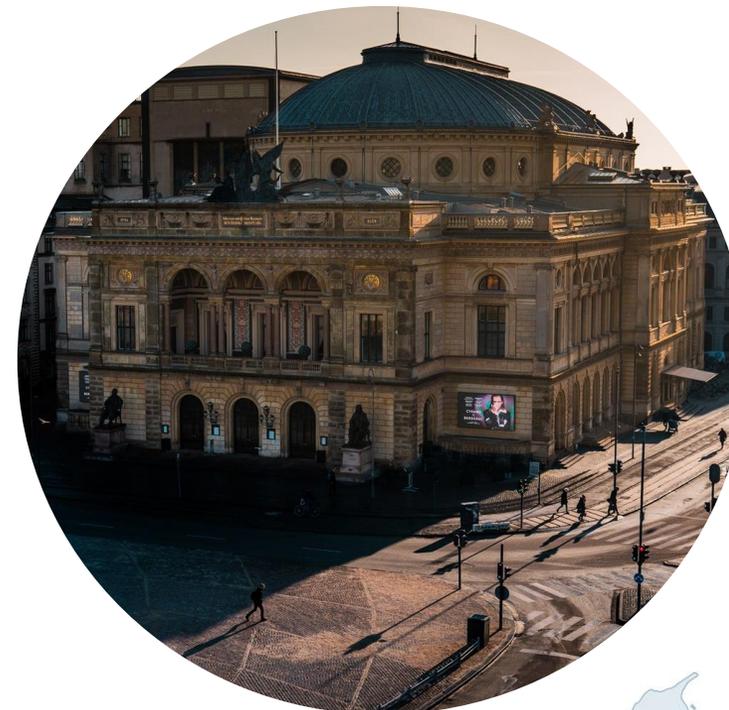
# The Royal Danish Theatre

Home to drama, opera, ballet and concerts, at The Royal Danish Theatre in Copenhagen, fairy tales have come to life since 1748.

Hans Christian Andersen dedicated much of his time to this place, where he both worked as a young man and spent many evenings in his later years.

With the plays being of high cultural significance, the Danish Queen occasionally attends these wonder-filled performances.

The Royal Danish Theatre has three main venues at its disposal: the Opera House, the Playhouse, and the Old Stage, the latter almost exclusively for ballet performances.



© Wonderful Copenhagen



 Kongens Nytorv 9, 1017 Copenhagen K

 [kglteater.dk](http://kglteater.dk)

 +45 33 69 69 69

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Copenhagen Central Station: 10 mins

 Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport

 Find accommodation in Copenhagen [here](#)

# Nyhavn

Originally packed with sailors, ladies of pleasure, pubs and alehouses, today's picturesque harbour Nyhavn was once a busy commercial port.

In this magical and sometimes rowdy place, some of the greatest fairy tales came to life: Hans Christian Andersen wrote the fairy tales 'The Tinderbox', 'Little Claus and Big Claus', and 'The Princess and the Pea' while he lived at Nyhavn no. 20. He also lived for twenty years at no. 67 and two years at no. 18.

Today, Nyhavn is the perfect place to end a long day of exploration. The atmosphere is filled with joy and laughter as people enjoy the canal, jazz music and great food from one of the many beautiful old renovated houses. From here, visitors can embark on a guided tour through the historic canals of Copenhagen.



© Kim Wyon



 Nyhavn 1-71, 1051 Copenhagen K

 [nyhavn.com](https://nyhavn.com)

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Copenhagen Central Station: 9 mins

 Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport

 Find accommodation in Copenhagen [here](#)

# The Round Tower

The oldest functioning observatory in Europe, the Round Tower lets you gaze over Copenhagen's rooftops and out into the suburbs of the city from a height of 36 metres for just a handful of coins.

To get there you need to walk up a wide and beautiful spiral footpath, which also leads to the library hall where Hans Christian Andersen visited and found inspiration for his work. Today the hall serves as the location for exhibitions of art, culture, history and science.



© Visit Copenhagen



© Thomas Høyrup Christensen



 Købmagergade 52A, 1150 Copenhagen K

 [www.rundetaarn.dk](http://www.rundetaarn.dk)

 +45 33 73 03 73

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Copenhagen Central Station: 9 mins

 Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport

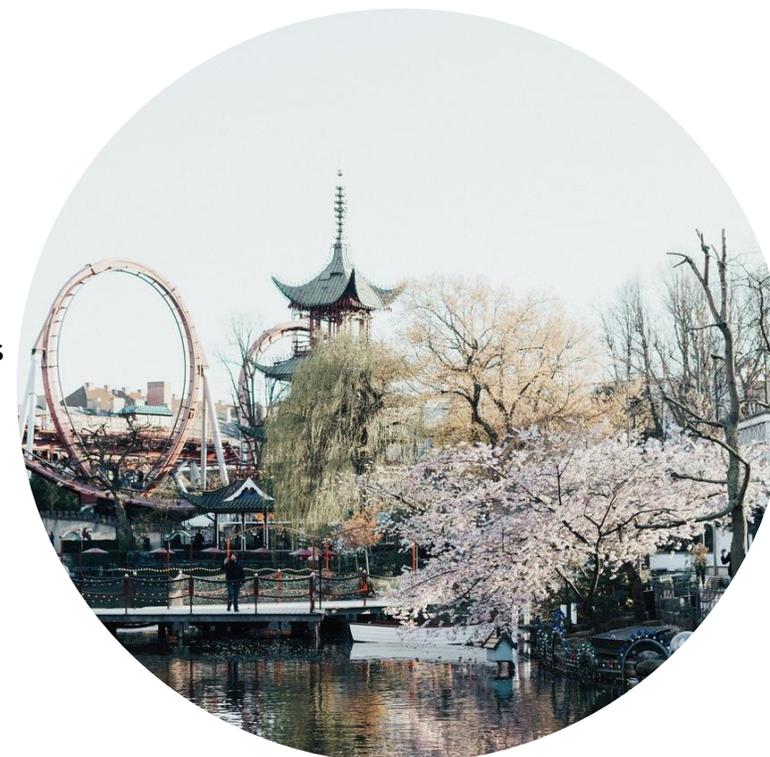
 Find accommodation in Copenhagen [here](#)

# Tivoli Gardens

Founded in 1843, Tivoli Gardens is the second oldest amusement park in the world. Walk in the footsteps of Hans Christian Andersen who visited the park many times and found inspiration to the fairy tale 'The Nightingale'. Walt Disney also found inspiration for his own Disney World on a visit here. So what will it do for you?

It's more than a theme park – alongside nostalgic and thrill-seeking rides, you'll find beautiful gardens, a lake, concert stages and some of Copenhagen's best restaurants. It's one of the city's most iconic attractions and has a little bit of magic for everyone at any age who visits.

Visit the gardens for summer, Halloween or Christmas; each have their own unique themed season.



© Malin Poppy Darcy Mörner



Vesterbrogade 3, 1630 Copenhagen V



[www.tivoligardens.com](http://www.tivoligardens.com)



+45 33 15 10 01



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Copenhagen Central Station: 1 min



Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport



Find accommodation in Copenhagen [here](#)



# Rosenborg Castle

In the heart of Copenhagen, Rosenborg Castle gives you the chance to see both the crown jewels of Danish royalty and a throne made of unicorn horns. Well, that's what people were told; the truth is that it's made of narwhal tusks from Greenland, which still has a strangely exotic feel to it.

The castle features 400 years of splendour, royal art treasures and much more. The crowns of the Danish kings and queens are kept in special vaults and are embellished with table-cut stones, enamel and gold ornamentation.

Among the main attractions is the Knights' Hall with the coronation thrones and three life-size silver lions standing guard. Once you've seen the treasures, take a walk in the rose-filled gardens around it.



Østervoldgade 4A, 1350 Copenhagen K



[www.kongernessamling.dk/en/rosenborg/](http://www.kongernessamling.dk/en/rosenborg/)



+45 33 15 32 86



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Copenhagen Central Station: 6 mins



Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport



Find accommodation in Copenhagen [here](#)



© Martin Heiberg



© Martin Heiberg



# Amalienborg Palace

Did you know that Denmark is home to the oldest monarchy in Europe and one of the oldest monarchies in the world? They reside right in the heart of Copenhagen at Amalienborg Palace. The palace is an integrated part of Copenhagen, and visitors will see locals biking through the royal courtyard on a daily basis.

Amalienborg Palace is a must for anyone with a taste for royal history and the life of Denmark's royal family. You can visit one of the palaces and see what life is like for the royals, and experience the changing of the Royal Guards, as they march from their barracks in 100 Gothersgade by Rosenborg Castle through the streets of Copenhagen.



© Martin Heiberg



© Kim Wyon



 Amalienborg, 1257 Copenhagen K

 [www.kongernessamling.dk/en/amalienborg/](http://www.kongernessamling.dk/en/amalienborg/)

 +45 33 15 32 86

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Copenhagen Central Station: 9 mins.

 Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport

 Find accommodation in Copenhagen [here](#)

# Frederiksborg Castle

Frederiksborg Castle is one of the most famous castles in Denmark and for good reason: situated on three islands surrounded by a lake and beautiful gardens, it's simply breathtaking. Home to the Museum of National History, the grounds are full of rich history, architecture, and gardens.

Frederiksborg Castle was built in the early decades of the 17th century by King Christian IV. It is the largest Renaissance castle in Scandinavia, and it incorporates the very best of Renaissance architecture and craftsmanship. To this day, Danish kings and queens are anointed in the chapel at Frederiksborg Castle.

Next to the castle, the symmetrical castle garden was created by architect J. C. Krieger in 1725 and was designed to follow the main axis of the castle with a long perspective extending into the landscape.



© Mark Gray

-  Frederiksborg Slot 10, 3400 Hillerød
-  [dnm.dk/en/frederiksborg-castle](https://dnm.dk/en/frederiksborg-castle)
-  +45 48 26 04 39
-  Look up local transportation [here](#)
-  Driving distance from Copenhagen Central Station: 40 mins.
-  Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport
-  Find accommodation in Copenhagen [here](#) and North Zealand [here](#)



# Kronborg Castle

World-famous for being Hamlet's and Shakespeare's castle, Kronborg Castle is one of Northern Europe's finest Renaissance castles. The castle is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Kronborg's history is fascinating. Here, you can see Frederik II's sumptuous ballroom, enjoy the magnificent tapestries and say hello to Holger the Dane hidden in the basement deep below the castle.

During the summer months visitors can enjoy Hamlet being performed live at the castle, and enjoy other Shakespeare plays performed in and around at the royal courtyard. It's a spectacular castle under an hour from Copenhagen, ideal for a day trip from the city.



© Daniel Overbeck - VisitNordsjælland

 Kronborg 2C, 3000 Elsinore

 [kongeligeslotte.dk/en/palaces-and-gardens/kronborg-castle](https://kongeligeslotte.dk/en/palaces-and-gardens/kronborg-castle)

 +45 49 21 30 78

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Copenhagen: 44 mins. Distance from Elsinore: 5 mins

 Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport

 Find accommodation in Elsinore [here](#)



# Dragsholm Castle

For more than 800 years, Dragsholm Castle has stood on the beautiful Odsherred peninsula, as wars have raged, prominent prisoners led over the castle courtyard, and noblemen and women have been married in the castle church, making it one of Denmark's oldest castles.

With its long history, the castle is also known as one of the most haunted castles in Europe, where ghosts, including the White Lady who was buried alive in the castle walls around 1550, roam the castle.

Today, Dragsholm Castle is open to the public as a hotel with 41 double rooms, two acclaimed restaurants, as well as events, courses and conference centre and a church for weddings and services. Dragsholm Castle's restaurant was awarded a Michelin star in 2017, which it has held since.



© Kim Wyon

 Dragsholm Allé 1, 4534 Hørve

 [dragsholm-slot.dk](http://dragsholm-slot.dk)

 +45 59 65 33 00

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Copenhagen: 1 h 10 mins. From Holbæk: 30 mins

 Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport

 Find accommodation in on Zealand [here](#) or stay at [Dragsholm Castle](#)



# Denmark's Hidden Trolls

Thanks to the Danish artist Thomas Dambo, trolls have come to life all over Denmark.

Dambo is known for his quirky 'Hidden Giants', trolls made from recycled wood that make for family-friendly treasure hunts. It all started with six wooden giants that were placed in the woods of Copenhagen and its suburbs. Scattered around lush forests, meadows and by calm waters in suburbia Copenhagen, visitors are met by tall, quirky-looking wooden sculptures which are pretty far from your typical tourist attraction.

In 2020, Thomas and a team of volunteers up and down the country created ten new trolls to discover. All you need to do is bring your mobile phone and get ready to follow the GPS clues hidden on metal triangles along the way.

Finding the giants is a fun activity for kids and grown-ups alike - especially if you or your kids like the magic of a treasure-hunt.



© Abdellah Ihadian



© Martin Heiberg

 Use the [troll map](#) to go hunting for their exact location

 [thomasdambo.com](https://thomasdambo.com)

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance depends on the location of the troll

 Nearest airport: Copenhagen, Aarhus and Billund Airport

 Find accommodation in Aarhus [here](#) and Copenhagen [here](#)

# Fairy tales in Odense

Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, and Denmark's third largest city knows how to celebrate him. Tourists can visit his birthplace, a museum, festivals and a fairytale garden all dedicated to his name.

Originally established by a book club for the Odense's wealthy citizens, the Fairytale Garden, *Eventyrhaven*, is located in the city centre. In 1949, a statue of Hans Christian Andersen was erected in the garden, and around it, visitors will find sculptures that remind them of his many fairy tales, including a sculpture of a paper boat inspired by the tale of the Steadfast Tin Soldier.



© Andreas Bastiansen – Destination Fyn



Eventyrhaven, 5000 Odense C



[www.visitodense.com](http://www.visitodense.com)



+45 63 75 75 20



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Odense station: 7 mins.



Nearest airport: Billund Airport



Find accommodation in Odense [here](#)

# H. C. Andersens Hus

In the summer of 2021, a new Hans Christian Andersen museum will open in Odense. Dedicated to Denmark's best loved storyteller's life and work, it is designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma and will take visitors on a journey through his fairy tales in a thoroughly modern way.

Visitors will also be able to experience Andersen's birthplace right next door in a little, yellow corner house. This museum was opened in 1908 - almost precisely 100 years after the birth of Hans Christian Andersen - making it one of the oldest museums dedicated to a writer/poet in the world.



© Kengo Kuma & Associates,  
Cornelius Vöge, MASU planning



 Hans Jensens Stræde 45, 5000 Odense

 [hcandersenshus.dk](http://hcandersenshus.dk)

 +45 65 51 46 01

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Odense station: 2 mins.

 Nearest airport: Billund Airport

 Find accommodation in Odense [here](#)

# Fairytale festivals in Odense

Through summer and autumn, Odense hosts three fairytale festivals: Tinderbox, Hans Christian Andersen Festivals and Magic Days.

Hans Christian Andersen Festivals offer fairy tales, imagination, adventure and wonder. It is a week of cabaret, concerts, parades, artistic experiences and tents around the city's major squares. The festival typically takes place in week 34.

The Hans Christian Andersen-inspired Tinderbox festival has established itself as one of the top festivals in Denmark. Tinderbox is a multi-genre music and entertainment festival presenting eclectic line-ups covering everything from rock to hip hop and EDM. The festival normally takes place at the end of June.

Magic Days is the continuation of what began as the Harry Potter Festival. Around October, the entire town is filled with elves, werewolves, witches, princesses, magical animals and more.



© Peter Kirkegaard  
📍 Tinderbox

📍 5000 Odense  
[www.hcafestivals.com](http://www.hcafestivals.com)  
[tinderbox.dk](http://tinderbox.dk)  
[magiskedageodense.dk](http://magiskedageodense.dk)  
☎️ HCA Festivals: +45 22 96 82 20

🚌 Look up local transportation [here](#)

🚗 Driving distance from Odense station: 0-8 mins.

✈️ Nearest airport: Billund Airport

🛏️ Find accommodation in Odense [here](#)



# Funen Village

Imagine being able to step back in time to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the Funen Village you will be able to do just that.

Explore life in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> -century, when people in the country lived together in small communities and led self-sufficient lives. Stories are told through the living history programme, where volunteers perform the roles as cooks, horse-drawn carriage drivers, field workers, candle makers, goose girls and more.

It's all designed to be a way to step into the life that inspired Hans Christian Andersen's stories, all those years ago.



© VisitOdense

-  Sejerskovvej 20, 5260 Odense S
-  <https://denfynskelandsby.dk/en/>
-  +45 65 51 46 01
-  Look up local transportation [here](#)
-  Driving distance Odense station: 10 mins.
-  Nearest airport: Billund Airport
-  Find accommodation in Odense [here](#)



# Egeskov Castle

Egeskov is one of Europe's finest Renaissance buildings, featuring a real moat, spires, a knight's hall and gargoyles along the roof. A very lucky family lives in this fairytale castle and open it to visitors. You can also visit the park, the big PlayForest with its tree top walkways, and many inspiring exhibitions in the castle's beautiful farm buildings.

To add to the fairytale theme, you can also get up close with the world's biggest and most wonderful dollhouse, created for Titania, queen of the fairies, prince consort Oberon and their seven fairy children.

At the end of May, Egeskov Castle hosts the music, arts, talks and food festival [Heartland](#), which has quickly grown popular with both the national and international audience.



© Kim Wyon



Egeskovgade 18, 5772 Kværndrup



[www.egeskov.dk](http://www.egeskov.dk)



+45 62 27 10 16



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Billund: 1 h 31 mins  
Driving distance from Copenhagen: 1h 47 mins



Nearest airport: Billund Airport



Find accommodation near Odense [here](#) and Svendborg [here](#)

# The island of Ærø

On the island of Ærø, in the south of Fyn, you'll experience a truly idyllic atmosphere. The main town, Ærøskøbing, is often referred to as a fairytale town within Denmark. Ærøskøbing dates back to the 18th century and is Denmark's most well-preserved town from the early Middle Ages.

With its cobbled streets, cosy town square, narrow alleys, small almost doll-sized houses and colourful environments it has a delightful charm and is naturally popular with those wanting to get married in Denmark.

Find out more via [www.visitaeroe.com](http://www.visitaeroe.com)



© Picasa, Visitfyn



© Michael Fiukowski & Sarah Moritz



© Kasper Orthmann Andersen



5970 Ærøskøbing



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Svendborg: 1h 50 mins



Nearest airport: Billund Airport



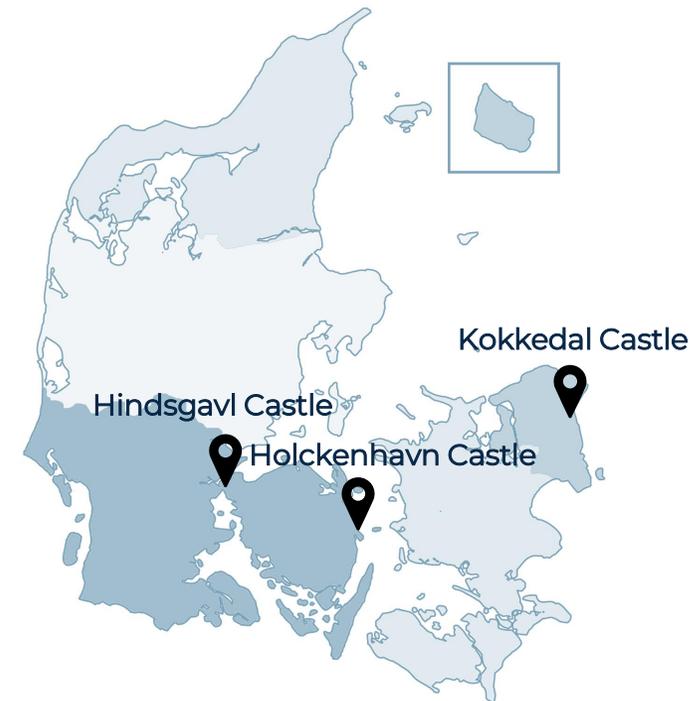
Find accommodation on Ærø [here](#)

# Stay in a castle

As you have seen, Denmark is filled with castles, and in some of them you can even spend the night.

Just a few of them include:

- [Holckenhavn Castle](#) in Nyborg, a magnificent manor houses with history going back to 1590.
- [Kokkedal Castle](#) just north of Copenhagen, a castle with gourmet food and spa facilities that blends a modern Nordic experience with its 18<sup>th</sup> century heritage.
- [Hindsgavl Castle](#) in Middelfart, a castle with a well-tended park and gardens and a magnificent view over Fænø Sound.



© Daniel Villadsen  
📍 Holckenhavn Castle



© Christos Drazos  
📍 Holckenhavn Castle



© Hindsgavl Slot  
📍 Hindsgavl Castle

## Want to learn more?

For more about Denmark's fairytale castles, click [here](#)

For VisitDenmark's Travel Trade website, click [here](#)

You're always welcome to contact us on our Travel Trade email:

[travelagent@visitdenmark.com](mailto:travelagent@visitdenmark.com)



# VDK TT Tools

- [VDK US e-learning](#)
- [VDK UK e-learning](#)
- [VisitDenmark image bank](#)
- [VisitDenmark incoming site](#)
- [VisitDenmark webinar channel](#)



Tak!