

**The cultural promenade
Elsinore Walk**



12

In Kronborg's casemates you will find the Danish legendary hero, Ogier the Dane.

An old legend tells that when Denmark's need is most dire, then Ogier the Dane will awaken from his slumber and come to its aid.



WELCOME TO THE CITY OF ELSINORE

Welcome to Elsinore, and welcome to the cultural promenade, the Elsinore Walk, which is a free offer extended to all. With this guide book, you can now embark on a journey of exploration in a city with a fascinating history stretching across 800 years and discover – or rediscover – the “secret places” which until now, one could only find if one was really familiar with the city.

You will be led through a route of many contrasts, taking you down the small cobblestone alleys with memories of the time when Elsinore was only a small fishing village. You will sense the greatness and the power of kings from a bygone age, where the Sound Dues for 400 years made Elsinore one of Europe's and Denmark's leading cities and inspired William Shakespeare to write his most famous play, Hamlet.

On your way you will hear the rumbling of the surf and understand why shipping has always been so important for Elsinore. You will experience how Elsinore

has transformed from an industrial city to a modern world-class cultural city. You will discover the natural connection between Kronborg Castle and the old quarter of the city. On your way, you will also get the opportunity to dive deeper down in the history, for example in the museums you will come across – and there will of course be places to stop and take a break, satisfy your hunger and slake your thirst. Places to just enjoy being in the moment.

At the end of this guide book, you will find practical information about the route and a map with a suggested trail drawn in blue, along with recommendations for alternative routes drawn with dotted lines if you want more. Along most of the route you can find a trail of blue dots. Every attraction is marked with a sign and a number. You can read more about all the attractions in this book by looking up the relevant number.

Enjoy.

#OPLEVHELSENGOR
 #SECRETPLACES
 #DISCOVER
 #ELSINORE
 #TOBEORNOTTOBE
 #ENJOYTHEVIEW
 #HOMEOFHAMLET

#OplevHelsingor

Don't forget that you can share your pictures from the cultural promenade, the Elsinore Walk, with the municipality's official hashtag.

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ELSINORE STATION



Train station



Bus



Sculpture



Restaurant

It was called “the most beautiful railway station in the country” when it was built in 1891. It is still Elsinore’s main transport hub for both buses, ferries, and trains. Outside of it, Hamlet and Ophelia stand ready to greet you.



📍 The square by Elsinore’s harbour and station have since its earliest days been the city’s most common point of entry.

Originally there was a beach here, which with its white sand and dunes gave its name to the nearby Strandgade, meaning beach street in Danish. Later, a traditional harbour front with a harbour master’s office and warehouses materialised. In the 1890s, however, the harbour front had to give way to what was called “the most beautiful railway station in the country,” designed by Denmark’s leading railway architects at the time, N.P.C. Holsøe and Heinrich Wenck. Today, the station buildings are a protected national heritage site, but the area around the station and the harbour still function as the city’s transport hub.

The area has also played a key role in the city’s history, centred around two eras: The Sound Dues era (1429-1857) and the shipyard era (1882-1983). Today, Elsinore is known abroad as a modern



cultural city with the nickname “Home of Hamlet,” after William Shakespeare’s famous play which is centred around Kronborg Castle in Elsinore. It is only natural therefore that Hamlet and his beloved Ophelia greet visitors to the city, in the form of two statues made by the Danish artist Rudolph Tegner (1873-1950).

THE HARBOUR SQUARE



Sculpture



Restaurant

The Harbour Square is surrounded by Elsinore's Latin Quarter and the toll house with the tourist agency. In the middle of the square the Svea Pillar stands as a memorial of Sweden's help towards Danish refugees during the Second World War.



① From the Station Square one can cross over towards the Harbour Square and Sveasøjlen (the Svea Pillar). The latter is a 11.75-metre high glowing monument, which is built of 11 copper pillars made at the Elsinore shipyard, with a capital (pillar head) of bronze. The pillar was created by the sculptor M.S. Elo in 1947, to commemorate Sweden's help towards Danish refugees during the Second World War.

In one instance, in October 1943, Sweden received over 7,000 Danish Jews. Most of them were smuggled across in fishing boats from the coast around Elsinore, where Øresund is at its narrowest point.

When night falls, the pillar is lit up in memory of those fires which were made as a greeting on both sides of the Øresund coast every Christmas Eve (despite the official blackout policy), during the war-years of 1943-1945.

At the Harbour Square you will find the toll house. The toll house contains a culture house with a stage for music, a children's cultural centre and a café. You are most welcome to enter - it is worth the visit.



The inscription on Sveasøjlen (the Svea Pillar) reads: (Translated into English) Peace and Justice had to give way to Power and Violence on the 9th of April, 1940. But Denmark's King and People stood tall during the occupation. War split Scandinavia, but the heartfelt ties between the Nordic peoples remained, and the light of the Christmas fire's greeting lit up Øresund from coast to coast, and from heart to heart. With the helpful hand of a brother nation and in the spirit of friendship, Sweden gave solace to Denmark's refugees and outfitted the Danish Brigade, which landed in Elsinore on the day of liberation, the 5th of May, 1945. The will to resist spurred a battle for liberation against foreign violence in Denmark, until the armies of the victorious powers liberated our country."

GL. FÆRGESTRÆDE AND SKIBSKLARERER- GAARDEN



Attraction



Museum

Gl. Færgestræde is the way into Elsinore's medieval period. Stop by Skibsklarerergaarden in Strandgade 91 first, however, and get an insight into what life was like in the year 1780, when Elsinore was profiting enormously off the Sound Dues.



➊ Continue walking across the Harbour Square and turn right into Strandgade. The way now goes through Gl. Færgestræde, but first continue a little longer towards the museum Skibsklarerergaarden, located at Strandgade 91. In the well-preserved house with an interior from the year 1780, you get a powerful impression of how it looked when sailors from all over the world would gather their provisions and pay their Sound Dues. You can also get a guided tour around the rest of the house.

The Sound Dues were one of Denmark's most important sources of income, from the day it was instituted by Erik of Pomerania in 1429 to when it ceased in 1857. The dues had to be paid by any ship which passed through the Danish territorial waters.

Now walk back to Gl. Færgestræde, which in 2009 was rebuilt to look like it did in the Middle Ages, with unworked field stones and everything. The passage was originally created to serve as one of the links between the docks at the beach and the main street in the (back then) new city, which with its strategic location at the gates of Øresund ensured progress and growth via international trade links.

Be sure to also note the fine old lamps and the inscription in Low German over one of the doors. It reminds you that in the old



SKIBSKLARERER- GAARDEN

Strandgade 91
DK-3000 Helsingør

Tel: +45 4928 1836
Mail: museerne@helsingor.dk

OPENING HOURS

Visit the museum's website to see the opening hours:
helsingormuseer.dk

days, you could buy wine at the pharmacist.

On the corner of Stengade 66 and Gl. Færgestræde one can find Elsinore's oldest preserved house, called Oxernes Gaard, built in 1459. This house also has a rich history. Among others, the father of the Danish written language, the bible-translator Christiern Pedersen lived here at one time. And look at the beautiful stepped gable on the characteristically Gothic building.



Disabled access info:

Those who are mobility-impaired are recommended to go down Brostræde – see map.

THE SOUND DUES RESIDENCES



Attraction

On Stengade 72-76 there is a row of fabulous stone houses which are a part of the Sound Dues residences. They were built by merchants who took advantage of a 16th-century tax loophole. The houses stand as a reminder of a time when Elsinore was one of Denmark's richest cities.



❶ The beautiful 16th-century stone houses in the Sound Dues residences appear in Stengade from number 64 to 76. They are merchant houses from a time when Elsinore was flush with the profits of international trade. By 1426, Erik of Pomerania had given the city certain special mercantile privileges, and for a time Elsinore was Denmark's second largest city. Erik of Pomerania had pushed for the development of the city by ordering its citizens to "build your city, increase its size and improve it with good merchant houses."

To encourage this, the King tempted the residents with tax cuts: If you built your house out of stone, you would not have to pay taxes for 10 years. (Those who built their houses out of wood only had five years without taxation!)

The houses were built concurrently with King Frederick II's construction of Kronborg. It is obvious that the houses were built with the assistance of the same foreign craftsmen that were building for the King.

The buildings in Stengade 72 and 74 are called "Leyel's Houses." For a number of years, they were owned by the Leyel family, an aristocratic bloodline of Scottish descent who came to be very influential in the city. Notice that in no. 72 the windows are encased in stone, and that no. 74 has a stepped gable. Across the front of the building there is a band of limestone with Gothic writing, and upon it there is written in Latin: "For I

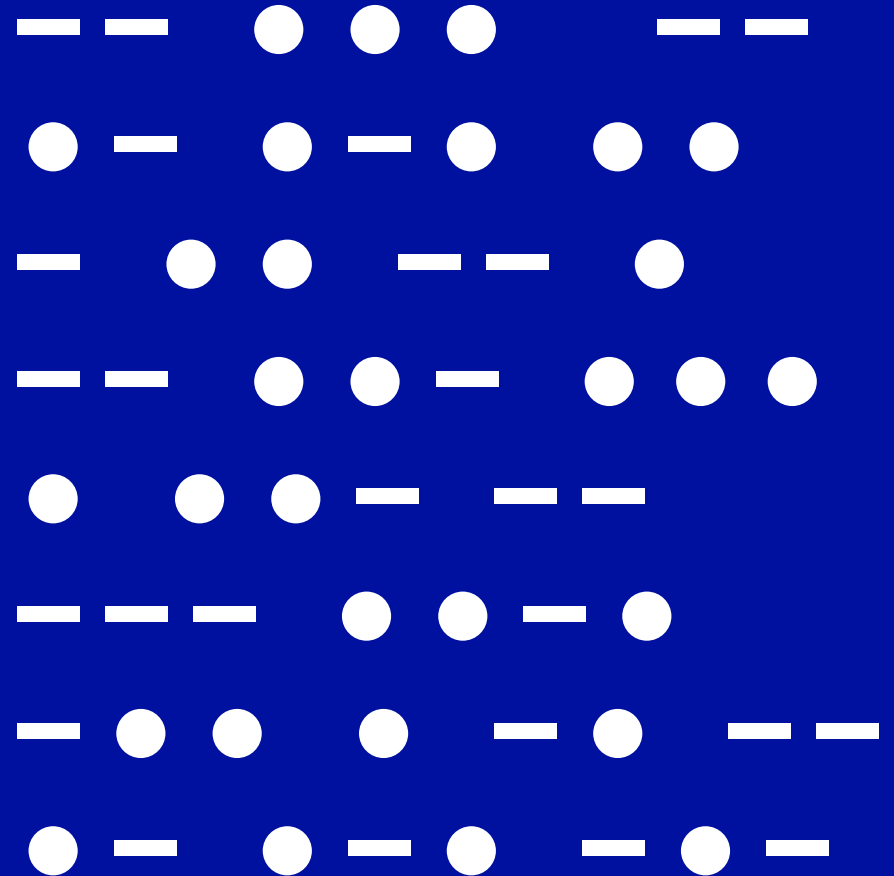
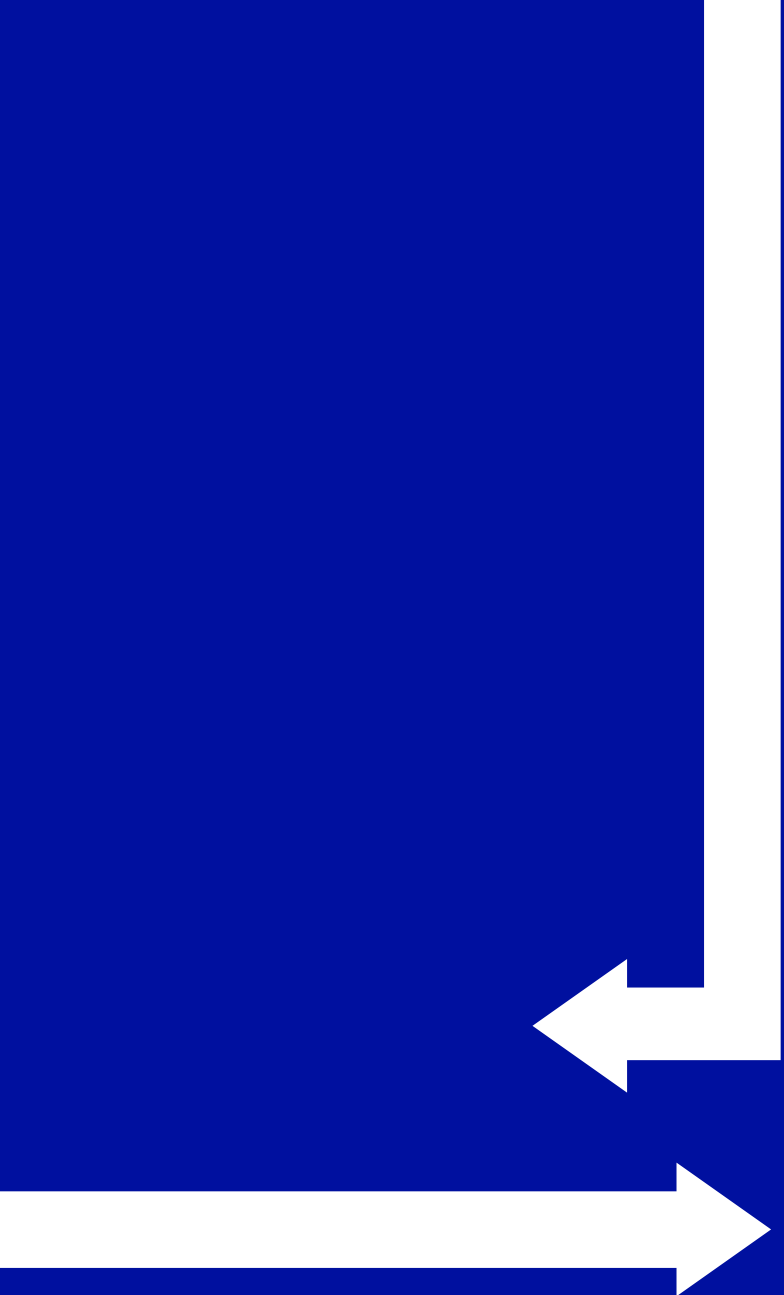


know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." The horizontal bands were made during the Renaissance.

In no. 76 we find the house of customs officer David Hansen. The property is one of the oldest preserved private residences in Elsinore. It was built in 1579. The front of the building features bands of sandstone, and it is richly decorated. Above the windows, one can see a row of small busts. Two of the busts, made as portraits of a man and a woman, wear outfits from the time of Frederick II.



Disabled access info: Turn from Stengade down towards Sct. Anna Gade until you reach the yellow house on Sct. Anna Gade 6 and the wall mural.



11

At the M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark there can be seen 94 granite bollards. Normally, such stone fixtures are used to moor ships, but here they are placed to protect traffic in the harbour area from driving over the edge of the dock. Together, the bollards represent a message written in Morse code. Can you crack the code? If not, you can find the answer somewhere else here on this page.

ELSINORE CATHEDRAL, ST OLAF'S CHURCH



Church

St. Olaf's Church is situated on the same spot where the city's first church was built, over 800 years ago. Feel free to go right in.



📍 **St. Olaf's Church got its present look back in 1559**, and it could therefore celebrate its 450th anniversary in 2009. The oldest parts of the church wall, however, are from the 13th century.

The first church was established here on what was once the beach of the castle at the time, Ørekrog, before Kronborg was built over it. The church takes its name from its guardian saint, the Norwegian Viking king and national saint, Olaf the Holy, who managed to both unify and Christianise Norway.

When Erik of Pomerania began collecting the Sound Dues, St. Olaf's Church underwent a transformation. The church had to keep up with Elsinore's growing importance for the country, and it was therefore expanded several times. Since 1961, St. Olaf's Church has formally become a cathedral, due to the fact that northern Zealand became an independent diocese.

On the east gable of the church one can see a door leading to a burial vault. Above it, there is seen a skull and crossbones, the symbol of death. The French inscription reads: Thus do we all become.

Inside the church, the interior is dominated by an 11.5-metre tall altarpiece from 1664. The altarpiece is constructed of 19 reliefs, depicting the life of Jesus Christ. There is also a treasure



trove of Renaissance and Baroque art, such as the pulpit, from the year 1567.

Proceed from the church towards the yellow house with the large mural towards Sct. Anna Gade. The yellow house, which lies on Sct. Annagade 6, but is also facing the church, was the childhood home of the composer Diderik Buxtehude (1637-1707). In the years 1660-1668 he was the organist at the Church of St. Mary, and he was known as one of the 17th century's most important composers, inspiring names such as Johan Sebastian Bach and Georg Friedrich Händel.

The paintings on the gable across from Buxtehude's house in Sct. Annagade depict the era of the Sound Dues. They show the cosmopolitan, rich, and very vibrant mercantile town which for over 400 years profited greatly off the many ships that had to stop and pay the Sound Dues.

ST. OLAF'S CHURCH

Sct. Annagade 12
DK-3000 Helsingør

The church is open
on weekdays 10am
- 4pm (May-Aug.)

10am - 2pm
(Sep.-April)

You are welcome to
attend church service
on Sundays and
Holy Days.

Visit the church's
website for more
information about
activities and
musical events.

helsingoerdomkirke.dk

THE CARMELITE HOUSE

This building, built in 1516, was originally a house for the sick.



① The Carmelite House in its own right is a large tourist attraction.

Hospital, meeting house, horse mill, home of a governor, latin school, poorhouse, and public library. These are the functions that the present city museum building has been used for since Christian II, in the year 1516, gave permission to the Carmelite Order to build a hospital for sailors. In 1550, the building was bought by the governor at Kronborg, the Scanian nobleman Herluf Trolle and his wife Birgitte Gøye, known also as the founders of the prestigious boarding school Herlufsholm in Næstved. They turned the building into something resembling a manor house in the middle of the Sound Dues city.

The couple ended up moving away from Elsinore, however, and the building was subsequently used as a latin school among other things. In 1630, the city took over management of the property, and the formerly luxurious estate was instead turned into a poorhouse. The building remained a poorhouse until 1902, when the facilities became so rundown that the house – also because of it being a poorhouse – was known as “the house of shame.”

For a while there was talk of tearing the whole thing down, but it was spared due to its important

cultural and historical heritage. Instead, the building was restored, and in 1911 the Elsinore Historical Museum and public library moved in. The library remained in the building until 1973.

Right around the corner, you will find Sct. Mary's Church and Priory of Our Lady.

SCT. MARY'S CHURCH AND THE CARMELITE PRIORY



Church



Attraction

The priory and church are an absolute pearl among Elsinore's attractions, founded in 1430 after the institution of the Sound Dues. It has since been used as a hospital, retirement home, latin school, and yes, even a horse stable for travellers.



➤ **Sct. Mary's Church, together with the Carmelite Priory, is one of Northern Europe's best preserved priories from the Middle Ages.** The doors are open during the day, so feel free to enter.

The priory was founded in 1430, shortly after the introduction of the Sound Dues, when Erik of Pomerania invited the Carmelite monks, the so-called Whitefriars, to Elsinore. The church and priory were completed in their present form around the year 1500. After the Reformation, in 1541 the priory was converted to a hospital and a retirement home. The priory also housed Elsinore's grammar school, and in the 1800s it was a retirement home for those deemed in worthy need.

Enter the priory, and experience how the noise and worries of every-day life are replaced with an inner harmony. When you stand there at the intersection, where

you can choose to go one way or the other around the green priory grounds, it is as if your shoulders relax, and you can take a deep breath.

Since 1991, the priory buildings have served as the administrative building of the Elsinore diocese, and they also serve as meeting rooms for the St. Mary parish.

Inside the church the floor is covered in numerous, partly worn down gravestones, which originate from the time where it was possible for wealthy citizens to buy a burial site in the church. The church's prestigious chalk murals were made from 1440-1500. A large attraction is the church organ which was put there in 1662-63. It was this very same organ that the native son Diderik Buxtehude used while he was the church organist.

Following the Protestant Reformation, the church was at first desolate. Later, it was used as a stable for traveller's horses. It was on the brink of being torn down, but since there were many foreigners in the city, Frederick II gave it to the German and Dutch congregation. From 1576, the sermons were performed exclusively in German. In 1851 the German sermons were halted, however, but the many German inscriptions still bear witness to the long period where it served as a German church.

SCT. MARY'S CHURCH AND PRIORY OF OUR LADY

Sct. Anna Gade 38
DK-3000 Helsingør

Tel: +45 4921 1774

OPENING HOURS

Open year-round.

16th of May to
15th of September,
Tuesday to Sunday
10am - 3pm

16th of September
to 15th of May,
Tuesday to Sunday
10am - 2pm

The church is closed
on Constitution Day,
5th of June

Christmas Eve, 24th
of December and
New Year's Day, 31st
of December

No entrance fee.

sctmariae.dk

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH



Attraction

These three pictures tell the story of the church in Elsinore from the Middle Ages through the Protestant Reformation and the time following it. Look closely, as there are many minute details.



1 The route now goes towards the corner of Kirkestræde and Hestemøllestræde, where a mural depicts three important periods in the history of Elsinore and the church.

The picture on the left symbolises the Middle Ages, where the monks help a sick sailor come ashore. The closed box is for the transportation of sick and infectious people.

The picture in the middle shows how the Priory of Our Lady, following the Protestant Reformation, was used as a hospital. A doctor stands in the centre with the classical mask, stuffed with herbs, to avoid infection. You can also see how St. Mary's Church, following the Reformation, was used as a stable for traveller's horses until it was granted to the German-speaking congregation. The nobleman Herluf Trolle stands in the doorway of the former Carmelite House, which today is home to the Elsinore City Museum. The building has, as mentioned, also been a poorhouse, which is why you see an impoverished man and his child standing by the door, begging.

The picture on the right is about Elsinore after the Protestant Reformation. The city's parish church, St. Olaf, together with its guardian saint, the Norwegian King Olaf the Holy, form the background. A Lutheran priest bids welcome. A child is baptised, and among the people

depicted one can see the reformer, Martin Luther. As a contrast to the new life, the church cemetery with its tombs is also visible. A wealthy woman, Birgitte Gøye, stands with an object as a symbol of the many gifts that the people of the town have donated to their churches.



The murals were created by the two Italian artists, Lara Atzori and Piercarlo Carella.

Continue down Hestemøllestræde towards the next stop, Kulturhavn Kronborg. On the corner of Hestemøllestræde and Sophie Brahes Gade, there was once a house where the sister of the Danish scientist Tycho Brahe and her research assistant, Sophie, used to live. The street is named after them. In 1862, the brewer Carl Wiibroe built the Wiibroe Brewery, which following the removal of the Sound Dues became one of the city's major employers.

KULTURHAVN KRONBORG



Sculpture



Attraction



Restaurant

The ambition for this new urban space has been to create a diverse and unique universe that can attract visitors both locally as well as regionally and internationally.



1 Welcome to Kulturhavn

Kronborg, Elsinore's urban space by the water with a direct view towards Sweden and the ferries that sail back and forth between Elsinore and Helsingborg.

Where once there were ships being built, there is now being delivered knowledge and experiences to the public. The ambition has been for Kulturhavn Kronborg to become a diverse and unique universe that can attract visitors both locally as well as regionally and internationally. A node where culture, architecture, and history are reflected on each other in the shape of the Culture Yard, M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark, Kronborg Castle, and the harbour.

Every year, the harbour is at the centre of a range of events which visitors can participate in. Anything ranging from outdoor concerts to Hamlet theatre, guided tours, treasure hunts and running events. The great square in front of the Culture Yard can also simply be used to relax and enjoy the moment.



On the far end of the pier in front of the Culture Yard you will find the sculpture 'HAN' (meaning "HE" in English). The young male figure in polished steel was created by the world famous artist duo Elmgreen & Dragset, and it has become a landmark for Kulturhavn Kronborg and Elsinore. With his posture and delicate expression, 'HAN' is a clear reference to Edvard Eriksen's sculpture, 'The Little Mermaid' by Langelinie in Copenhagen.

'HAN', which was unveiled in 2012, bears witness to the changes that have happened since 'The Little Mermaid' came into being. And now 'HAN' heralds new, post-industrial times.

THE CULTURE YARD

-  Information
-  Attraction
-  Museum
-  Restaurant

The Culture Yard is an updated version of Elsinore’s old shipyard. In 2010, it re-opened as a modern house of culture which contains lots of history, lots of things to experience, and a great café.



➤ Past and present meet in the architecture of the Culture Yard, designed by the architectural firm AART architects. From the outside, the sail-inspired facade of glass and steel present a modern, sculpted appearance. Inside, the old shipyard buildings are preserved as a historical core of the building. Here you will find raw concrete walls, exposed ceiling beams, magnificent windows, balconies facing the harbour, and a roof terrace with a clear view towards Kronborg and its exquisite surrounds.

The Culture Yard opened on 10.10.10 at 10:10am. The amount of visitors has been steadily rising. In 2018, the total exceeded 900,000 guests. Every year there are around 1,700 events, of which half of them are culture-related.

The large modern library in the heart of the building was in 2015 named as one of Europe’s best, and is an experience in itself with exhibitions, great places to take

in the view, and an entire floor dedicated to children. The modern house of culture also hosts a large variety of local, national, and international culture-related events. In the entrance hall one can find ‘Spisestedet’ (‘The Eating Place’), which is the Culture Yard’s café. Here you can eat your lunch or enjoy a cup of coffee with cake, while taking in the fantastic view towards Kronborg and the sea.

Elsinore Visitor Service
The information desk in the foyer of the Culture Yard also serves as the town’s Visitor Service – or tourist information. This is where you can find inspiration for your visit to the town and the surrounding area, get answers to any questions you may have and receive guidance from the knowledgeable staff.

THE CULTURE YARD

Allégade 2
DK-3000 Helsingør

House of Culture
Library
Museum
Café

OPENING HOURS
Open year-round.

Monday 8-18
with service 10-18

Tuesday and
Wednesday 8-19
with service 10-19

Thursday 8-20
with service 10-20

Friday 8-18
with service 10-18

Saturday 10-16
with service

Sunday 11-16
with service

kuto.dk
helsbib.dk

M/S MARITIME MUSEUM OF DENMARK

 Museum  Restaurant

Having trouble finding the M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark? Then you wouldn't be the first. That is because the award-winning iconic museum, designed by the world famous Danish architect, Bjarke Ingels, is located underground. So look down!



The M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark has, since it opened in 2013, been one of the most discussed museums both nationally and internationally. The museum, designed by the star architect Bjarke Ingels, is located inside the old Elsinore Shipyard's dry-dock, which has thus been preserved as a historical monument to the age of industrialisation. Access to the building is through the bridges that are located over the dock.

Follow the sloping bridges down into a colourful world with loads of exhibitions about Denmark as one of the world's leading maritime nations, both past and present. The splendid maritime exhibits of the museum tell their story through engaging and dramatic exhibitions with films, interactive games, and personal accounts. Here you can see, listen

to, and actively experience the maritime world. You can also take a break in the museum's cosy M/S Café.

The museum is built as an underground room, which has been formed by the use of 3D-modelling and innovative steel and concrete constructs. A total of 461 ground anchors penetrate 40 metres into the earth in order to keep the foundation of the building steady and to prevent the ground water from pressing the building out of its hole.

In the courtyard of the dock, the ground anchors stand as nail-like iron rods, and work as both a technical solution and an architectural statement. These solutions, implemented by the consulting firm Rambøll, have been described as world-class engineering work.

M/S MARITIME MUSEUM OF DENMARK

Ny Kronborgvej 1
DK-3000 Helsingør

Tel: +45 4921 0685
Mail: info@mfs.dk

OPENING HOURS

Open year-round.

From Jan. to June
Tuesday to Sunday
11am - 5pm

From July to Aug.
All days, 11am - 6pm

Sep. to Dec.
Tuesday to Sunday
11am - 5pm

The museum is open on Monday in the winter vacation, week 7, on the Monday of easter and on the Monday of the autumn holiday, week 42.

The museum is always closed every year on the 22nd-26th of December and on the 31st of December in addition to January 1st.

Entrance fee.

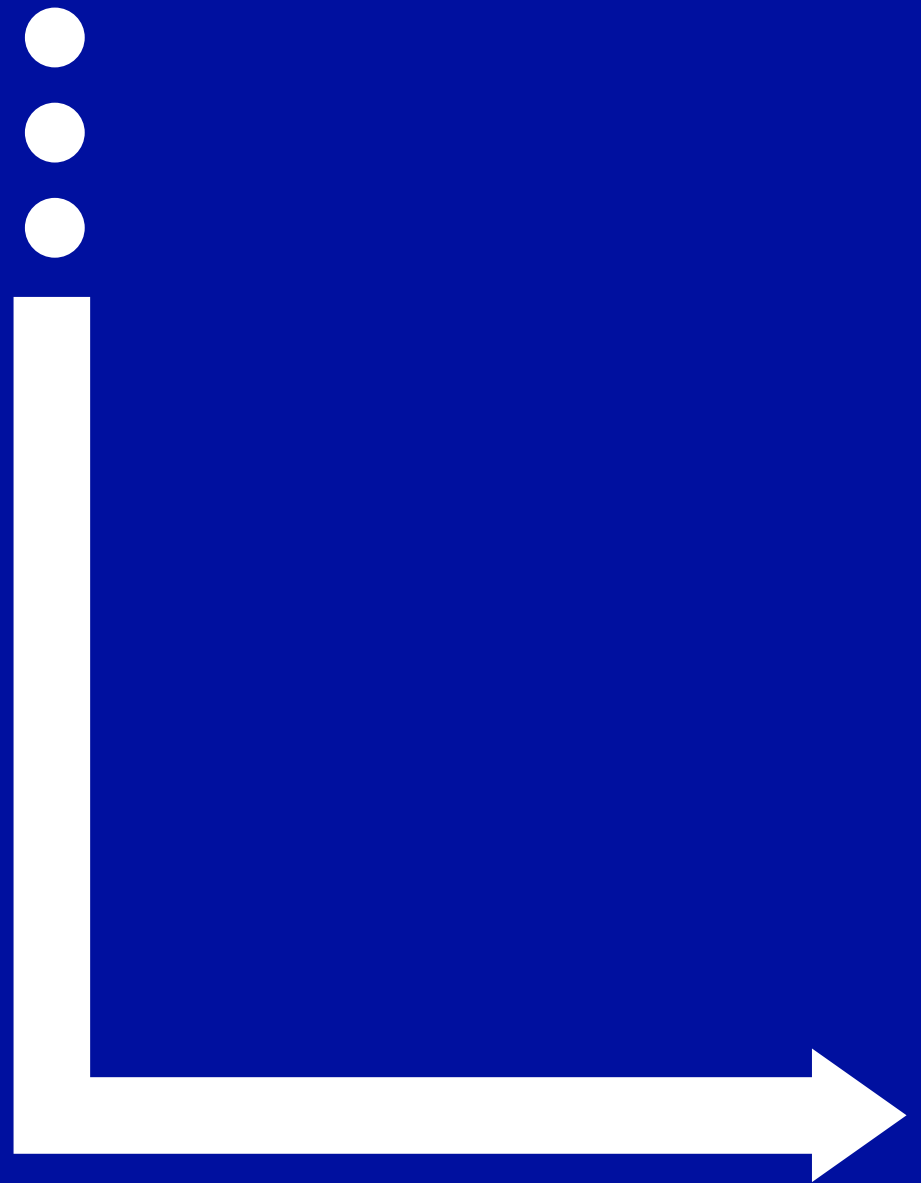
mfs.dk

KRONBORG CASTLE IS IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS THE PYRAMIDS, THE ACROPOLIS, AND THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

12

In the year 2000, Kronborg Castle was placed on UNESCO's World Heritage list

Kronborg made it on to the exclusive list because the castle is a unique example of a Renaissance castle, and also because it has played a pivotal role in the history of Northern Europe.



KRONBORG CASTLE – THE FORTRESS

- Museum

Sculpture

Attraction

Restaurant

Playground

Shopping

Take in the sights of the fortress around Kronborg. Once upon a time, it was one of Northern Europe’s strongest defensive installations. Today, you can enjoy the fortress in a more peaceful capacity and have a great time with the family.



1 Kronborg is surrounded by massive fortifications, which back in their day made it one of Northern Europe’s strongest fortresses. In more recent years, large parts of the fortifications have been re-created, so that they can now be seen in their full extent.



The World Heritage route.
The route goes around the castle (see the dotted line on the map). On the way you can feel the power of the fortress walls and defensive bastions. In the old barrack buildings there are now stores, workshops for artisans, and cafés and restaurants. A mobile phone guide can be followed around the area, and in the old gunpowder store room there is an exhibition on the history of the fortress.

The Queen’s Bastion – play and have a picnic
On the Queen’s Bastion you can let your imagination run free and let your children play on Kronborg’s fortress-playground for small children. There are also tables where you can eat your lunch in a royal setting.

Herakles and the Hydra
On the far side of the northern mole you can find Rudolf Tegner’s statue, Herakles and the Hydra, which was completed in 1932. It requires a detour around the ramparts by Kronborg, or a trip over Scholten’s ravelin, but it is definitely highly recommended to

go and see it. Hercules was the son of Zeus and the greatest of the Greek mythical heroes of old. To ensure his place on Olympus, he had to kill the monstrous Hydra. Hercules attacked with his sword, but for every head he cut off, another three grew back. There was no way this was going to end well. The residents of Elsinore have given the sculpture its own nickname: “The little guy’s fight against the tax authorities.”

The harbour calls
By the harbour, which lies on the alternative route (the dotted line on the map), you will come right up close to the maritime spirit of Elsinore. Here you will find Elsinore’s charming harbour and waterfront promenade, and not least, also the Øresund Aquarium. Come on down below the ocean surface, and experience the fantastic animal and plant life which is to be found in Øresund.

THE ØRESUND AQUARIUM

Strandpromenaden 5
DK-3000 Helsingør

Tel: 3532 1970
Mail: oresundsakvariet@bio.ku.dk

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday,
10am – 4pm

Weekends
10am – 5pm

Entrance fee.

oresundsakvariet.ku.dk

KRONBORG CASTLE – THE CASTLE



Museum

It was the Renaissance-era king Frederick II who built Kronborg in the years 1574–1585. In the year 2000, the castle - famous for being the setting of Hamlet’s Shakespeare - made it on to the UNESCO World Heritage List.



1 Few places in the world have garnered as much drama and history in one place as Kronborg has. Here, the deadly fortress merges with the opulent Renaissance castle, while the spirit of Hamlet floats through the passageways. It is no surprise, then, that precisely this place made it on to UNESCO’s World Heritage List in the year 2000, a list reserved only for the world’s most important cultural heritage sites. Kronborg is therefore in good company, standing shoulder to shoulder on the list with the Pyramids of Giza, the Acropolis, and the Great Wall of China.

It was the Renaissance-king Frederick II who from 1574 to 1585 managed to rebuild the old Middle Age castle Krogen so that in came to resemble a contemporary royal castle with the characteristically rich decorations of Renaissance-era architecture. The purpose was to demonstrate to everyone what a powerful king Denmark had: The master of Øresund. The King’s purpose was achieved. In just a few years, the castle’s fabulous design and copper plated roofs and spires became world-famous, so famous in fact that the English playwright William Shakespeare near the end of the 1500s chose it as the location of his play, Hamlet.

Inside the castle, you can see Frederick II’s and Queen Sophie’s

impressive royal apartments, which formed the basis for court life and parties when the King and Queen were in residence. From the royal apartments, you can move directly towards the fantastic banqueting hall, the “Hall of Dance,” which with its 62 metres in length is Northern Europe’s longest great hall. Under the castle you will find the casemates, a large underground network of halls and tunnels where the soldiers would stay during times of war and siege. It is here that the Danish mythical hero Ogieir the Dane sleeps, but he will arise and perform great deeds once more, should Denmark’s need be dire.

Every summer, Kronborg hosts the “Shakespeare at Hamlet’s Castle” theatre festival, drawing the best Shakespeare acts from all around the world, arranged by HamletScenen.

Find out more about the theatre festival at hamletscenen.dk



KRONBORG CASTLE

OPENING HOURS

From Jan. to April
Tuesday-Sunday
11-16
(Last admission is 30 minutes before closing time)

From May to. Oct:
All days 10-17
(Last admission is 30 minutes before closing time)

Oct.
All days 11am - 4pm
(Last admission is 30 minutes before closing time)

From Nov. to Dec.
Tuesday to Sunday
11am - 4pm
(Last admission is 30 minutes before closing time)

Lukkedage
The castle is closed
1th of January, 24th,
25th and 31th of
December.

Entrance fee.

kronborg.dk

THE SHIPYARD HALLS AND THE RED SQUARE

-  Attraction
-  Playground
-  Restaurant

The old halls from 1882 are still very authentic and raw, just as they were when the men in the blue kettle suits worked here. These days the halls are used for events – keep an eye out for what is happening today.



➊ The route is now back at the Culture Yard and passes through the small passage between the Culture Yard and Building 14, one of the large shipyard halls. To the right of the passage you will find a playground, where the children can among other things take a turn jumping on the trampolines.

In the passage the new Culture Yard reflects the history of the old Elsinore Shipyard. The old building, from 1882, stands as authentically and as raw as if it was abandoned yesterday. You can almost sense the presence of the men in their blue kettle suits who once worked here. That, however, was back in 1983 when the last shipyard worker left.

These days, the large halls are open for new opportunities, with exhibitions, festivals, concerts and events of all types. Among the most memorable events that have taken place is the Click Festival, which explores the intersection between art, science, and technology. The halls have also been used for the presentation of the largest design prize in the world, the INDEX:Award, which celebrates innovative design solutions from around the world. Designs which contribute towards improving human lives and securing the future of the planet.



There is almost always something exciting going on in the shipyard halls. Keep an eye out for the doors being open; maybe something is going on today.

The passage ends in the Red Square, where you can also find the Shipyard Museum. The square got its name because it was here that the trade unions organised the shipyard workers when they were on strike.

THE SHIPYARD MUSEUM

 Museum  Sculpture

Dive down into the history of the city’s shipyard, which once was the focal point of the city’s life and spawned a proud working class.



Now it’s time to dive down deeper into the history of the **Elsinore Shipyard**. We have arrived at the Shipyard Museum.

The museum’s exhibitions detail the events surrounding the 101 years wherein the city’s shipyard built ships and the working class of the city grew strong. The shipyard was founded by M.C. Holm and was one of Denmark’s large shipyards. The shipyard period allowed Elsinore to experience its second economic boom, after the Sound Dues were scrapped. The stories from this bygone era are about toil, noise, dirt, pride, and togetherness - and also about a city where the shipyard whistle determined the pace of life. Both economically, employment-wise, socially, culturally and politically, the

shipyard was Elsinore’s natural focal point until it closed in 1983.

The impetus towards creating the Shipyard Museum came from a group of former shipyard workers, many of them members of the Danish Metalworkers’ Union.

The shipyard workers

When you leave the gate, you will on your left be able to see the sculpture “The shipyard workers,” which should be seen as a monument to the many generations of shipyard workers in Elsinore.

The sculpture was created by the Danish-Faroese sculptor Hans Pauli Olsen. It depicts four workers on their way towards the old shipyard gate.

The sculpture was raised in 2014.

THE SHIPYARD MUSEUM

The Culture Yard
Allégade 2
DK-3000 Helsingør
Tel: +45 4928 1816

OPENING HOURS

Visit the museum's website to see the opening hours:
helsingormuseer.dk

THE SHIPYARD ERA



Attraction



Sculpture

The story of the proud shipyard workers and the large ships is depicted on two great murals



The walls of Elsinore tell their story: The shipyard era

From the Culture Yard, cross over towards Allégade and turn right. Stop and let your gaze rest on the two large murals, depicting the shipyard era.

The painting on the gable to the right appears as a watercolour piece of art with three layers: The gigantic container ships of the present are in the background, an older steamship in the middle, and the sailing ships of the past in the foreground. It was painted by Oriol Caminal Martinez in acrylic paint.

The model for the older steamship is the ship Martha, known from a popular Danish film from 1967 which has somewhat of a cult status these days.

On the gable to the left the American artist Garin Baker has painted a heroic snapshot of the old Elsinore Shipyard. It was based on photographs from the shipyard era. You can almost sense the daily hammering that accompanied the construction of the huge ships.



Danserindebrønden:

Danserindebrønden is one of Elsinore's most well-known sculptures. It is situated at the small facility on the corner of Kronborgvej and Allégade.

The sculpture was made by the artist Rudolph Tegner. Three female dancers from the Royal Danish Ballet were the models for it. It is a great tradition for the city's newly graduated students to gather here each summer and ask the three ladies for a dance.

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ELSINORE LATIN SCHOOL (H.C. ANDERSEN)



Attraction

Denmark's great fairy tale author spent two years in Store Kongensgade, studying here as a young man. He loved the vibrancy of the city, but the school principal made the years he spent here unbearable for the young aspiring writer.



Now proceed down Kongensgade to the white house with no. 12 A-B.

Elsinore Latin School was located on Kongensgade in the years 1807-39. Denmark's great fairy tale writer, H.C. Andersen, among other things known for the story of "The Ugly Duckling," lived here while he was attending the school in the years 1826-27.

The school principal, Simon Meisling, was a classic philologist, but his teaching methods made the years in the latin school unbearable for the young aspiring writer. The conflict between the two was in particular related to Andersen's irrepressible urge to "make up stories," rather than focusing on the more precise scholarly pursuits. At the same time that the young student was tormented by Meisling's mockery, Meisling's wife - who was notorious for her extramarital affairs - tried to seduce him according to the historians.

At his arrival - and before his visit turned decidedly traumatic for him - he gave the following account of the Elsinore of the times:

"As seen from the road, Elsinore did not promise me much - but now that I am in its midst, it seems to me to be a small Copenhagen... what horror! How lively the docks; here one can hear some fat Dutchmen speak their hollow language,



there one hears the harmonious Italian, and further along they are unloading coal from an English brig, so much that I think I can smell London. The waters are strewn with ships, that like seagulls, float past the coasts."

Andersen ended up finishing his secondary school in the capital. After that, he could focus on his literary pursuits, which would make him one of the most beloved authors in the history of the world.

AXEL SQUARE AND THE COMMERCIAL LIFE

-  Sculpture
-  Restaurants
-  Shopping

At Axel Square, you can say hello to Erik of Pomerania, the founder of Elsinore. This is a great place to take a little break before proceeding down the city's lively pedestrian streets with their many charming specialty stores.



1 Axel Square is Elsinore's civic meeting ground. It is full of an almost southern European charm during the summer, when the cafés and restaurants move their tables outdoors and serve refreshing cold draught beers. On other days, you can sit inside in some of the old dives which surround the square. In December, you can really feel the Christmas spirit.

In the middle of the square stands the Memorial Well of Erik of Pomerania. Erik was a handsome man, tall with light blonde hair and a commanding posture. A womaniser who was also a skilled horseman.

The front of the well bears the inscription "Mit haab staar til havet," meaning "My hope lies towards the sea." Around the pillar the text reads (translated into English from Danish here): "On the 2nd of June 1426, King Erik gave Elsinore the privileges of a merchant town. At the same time he instituted the Sound Dues and built Kronborg Castle and the Carmelite Priory.

Near the end of the 1300s Erik inherited the largest Nordic kingdom ever seen. At one time he was King of both Norway, Sweden and Danmark, and his ambition was to build an empire around the Baltic Sea. He did not succeed. Due to wars and social unrest, he ended up losing it all and was deposed.



The history of the square itself goes back to the end of the 17th century. In 1884, Jørgen Holm's estate in the inner city burnt down, and because of the now-open space, there was an opportunity to build a proper city square. It was later expanded to its present size.

From the square, the route now moves in towards the city's pedestrian streets. As the map shows, there are several routes one can take to get to Stengade, which is the next stop.

THE SHOOTING SOCIETY



Attraction

History was made in this building when Napoleon's marshal, Jean Baptiste Bernadotte, swore off his Catholic faith in 1810 in order to first become the Crown Prince of Sweden, and later, its king.



① This impressive property on Stengade 46 on the main street of Elsinore was completed in 1791. It was in this building that Napoleon's marshal, Jean Baptiste Bernadotte, on the 19th of October 1810 swore off his Catholic faith and landed in Helsingborg the next day as the Crown Prince of Sweden. In 1817, he became King of Sweden under the name Charles XIV John. A few years later, the Swedish government took possession of the building, and it served as a house for the Swedish consulate in the city until the end of the 1840s.

The property was built by the Swedish Consul-General, Isaac Glörfeldt. The architect was C.F. Adelcranz, who was also Swedish. The building is an early representative of Classicism in Elsinore. The front of the house is split into three parts, with the central part being prominent. It is capped by a mighty decorative shield bearing the monogram of Gustav III, who was the king of Sweden when the building was constructed.

Since 1901, the property has been host to Elsinore's Royal Privileged Shooting Society, which in 2015 celebrated its 250th anniversary. The original aim of the society was to make better marksmen of its members, in order to contribute to the defense of the fatherland. Today, the society is more of a



social club. Every regent since Christian VII has been a member of the society. Today, Prince Henrik, who is married to Denmark's Queen Margrethe II, is a member.

The route now passes further down Stengade. Make a stop at Stengade 20, one of the best-preserved Renaissance houses still remaining in Elsinore. Turn right, into Fiolgade, and make a left into Munkegade.



Disabled access info: Mobility-impaired travellers are advised to continue down Stengade towards Svingelport, and then down Strandgade towards the end of the route, as there are uneven cobblestones in the upcoming attractions at Munkegade and Anna Queens Stræde.

THE FORMER PRIORY ON MUNKEGADE

 Attraction

In 1441, the Black Friars built a priory and a church here, on grounds granted to them by Erik of Pomerania. Today the friars and the priory are gone, but the street is one of the most charming in Elsinore.



① **When you turn into Munkegade and Sortebrødrestræde it is like entering a little isolated pocket of time.** Here, where today there are residences, there was in the Middle Ages a priory belonging to the Dominican Order, the so-called Black Friars. The name is due to the black cloak that they wore when outdoors.

In 1425, the monks were granted the grounds by King Erik of Pomerania "...for all time," whereupon they could build "... church, priory, brick barns, and other houses that they may deem useful, including room for growing crab apples, hop, cabbages and a garden." At the time of the Protestant Reformation, the King granted the priory and its grounds to the city, and a hospital was built there. From 1567 onwards, it was gradually torn down.

In Sortebrødrestræde, which runs along the right side of the structure, the cobblestones are the same as they were during the time when the monks were there.

At the end of Munkegade, turn left down Klostergade in the direction of the 'Bycenter' mall's main entrance and Simon Spies Square.

Simon Spies Plads

The square was named after Simon Spies (1921-1984). Spies was known as 'Denmark's King of Travel'. A pioneer in the package

tour industry, it was thanks to him that Danes started holidaying abroad. He was born and raised in Elsinore in humble circumstances. The square was named after him in 1992. Its previous name was 'Svingelport' (Turnpike Gate). Historically, the area was the access road to Elsinore from



the landward side. It was the site of a toll booth, where people had to pay a tariff on all goods shipped in from the country.

Now cross Stengade and continue down Gyldenstræde until you reach Anna Queens Stræde on the left side.

ANNA QUEENS STRÆDE



Attraction

Throughout the period of the Sound Dues, this street was the favourite haunt of the ferrymen. It was the original entryway to Strandgade and the beach itself.



1 This fine little cobble stone street is one of the city's oldest and has been here since the 17th century. Back then, it was called "Møllestræde by Svingelen" and "The little Møllestræde."

The street's current name has nothing to do with the royalty. It is rather associated with the merchant family Quie, which in the 1700s owned several properties on the street. Anna Queen was therefore in fact named Quie, and was the widow of the merchant Hans Quie.



Turn right down Skyttenstræde at the end of Anna Queens Stræde and then make a left down Strandgade. On the corner you will find Strandgade 27, the oldest preserved half-timbered house in Elsinore.

Peter in the Anchor's Daughter, Strandgade 27

This very well-preserved property in two storeys has the year 1577 carved into a piece of wood over the windowpane in the door facing Strandgade. The section with the door and the span to the right of it were previously a coach house. The top floor extends beyond the ground floor, and is supported by beautifully carved youths. These end in a spiral - in architectural terminology called volute consoles - and are decorated with carved acanthus leaves. Between the carvings of

the youths, the timber is formed into ogee arches, which are basically the same shape as the cross section of an overturned boat. This style and form of decoration was typical of Elsinore's half-timbered houses at the time of its construction.

The property was among others the residence of several ferrymen. It also houses the tavern "Peter in the Anchor's Daughter," or simply "The Anchor," which was there for many years.



Disabled access info: Mobility-impaired travellers are recommended to go straight to Strandgade. See the alternative route on the map.

STRANDGADE 55



Attraction

Strandgade (Beach Street) was named so because originally, it was right by the beach with a view towards the white dunes. In no. 55 there is a particularly beautiful house.



1 Before we reach Strandgade 55,

it is also worth noting the building in number 46, which is home to the local branch of the Danish Metalworkers' Union. It is not due to its beauty that the property is of interest, but rather because the trade union during the shipyard era was a real powerhouse, due to the many members it had working at the Elsinore Shipyard. It was also from here that many of Denmark's leading trade union representatives were recruited through the years.

Now make a stop at number 55. This is one of Elsinore's foremost community houses. It is a contemporary of Kronborg. The decorations are inspired by Antwerp, and they are presumably carved by the same Flemish stonemasons which helped build the castle.

The house has the Renaissance-era horizontal limestone bands. Note the long pilasters in between the windows. At the bottom, they are decorated with rosette ornaments, and at the top with hermathenas, which on their crown wear Ionian caps and around their shoulders hang cartouche bands with lion masks. Notice between the two maidens, the smallest male hermathena with the handsome moustache.

After this, proceed down to the end of Strandgade. The route is now back at the toll house and the



harbour square, where the cultural promenade started. The circle is completed. On the left, you will find the charming Brostræde, which is one of Elsinore's most famous streets, and where royals, Hollywood stars, and children of all ages throughout the years have bought an ice-cream. Even Gary Grant visited here. He was, however, never able to fulfil his wish of playing Hamlet in Kronborg Castle. On the upside, he did get an ice-cream. You can almost hear him ask the very same existential question that everyone who visits Elsinore ends up asking themselves: To be or not to be.

This is the conclusion of the cultural promenade, the Elsinore Walk.

PRACTICAL INFO AND REFERENCE LIST

The cultural promenade, the Elsinore Walk is disabled-friendly

Representatives from the Disability Council of Elsinore have completed the approximately 4km long route and have found it to be traversable by both mobility-impaired people, those in wheelchairs, and families with prams if they follow the alternative routes marked with the disability icons on the map. The alternative routes ensure that one does not have to pass through sections with uneven cobble stones, but instead can go through or drive through more even terrain. Enjoy!

Easier parking with Elsinore's parking app

You can get an overview of all the city's parking spots with the app "Parkering Helsingør."

Download the app for Android, Apple and Windows in your app store.

Find out anything about Elsinore on www.helsingor.dk

On the Elsinore municipal homepage you can find pretty much anything worth knowing about Elsinore. You will among other things find an interactive map, which shows the cultural promenade, the Elsinore Walk, with descriptions in several languages. On the homepage's calendar, you will also be able to get an overview of many of the city's events and offers for both locals and tourists.

VisitHelsingor.dk

Visit the town's official tourist information service online for a comprehensive, up-to-date and inspiring overview of everything going on in Elsinore - activities, food, drink, accommodation - you name it.

Illustrations:

Helsingør Kommune (omslag, 17, 20, 33, 40)
Kronborg Slot (2, 32, 34, 35)
Maj & Magnussen (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52)
Lars Johannesen (13)
AART (26)
Kulturværftet (27, 37)
M/S Museet for Søfart (28, 29)
Helsingør Kommunes Museer (43)
Torben Sørensen (46)
Lotte Lund (47)
Brostræde Is (53)
Skt. Olai Kirke (16)

Sources:

In the development of this booklet there has been used a number of publications about Elsinore in addition to online research and assistance from the following institutions and organisations:

Helsingør Kommunes Museer - helsingormuseer.dk
Kulturværftet - kuto.dk
Helsingør Kommunes Biblioteker - helsbib.dk
M/S Museet for Søfart - mfs.dk
Helsingør Kommune - helsingor.dk
Kronborg Slot - kongeligeslotte.dk
VisitNordsjælland - visitnordsjaelland.dk
Helsingør Cityforening - helsingorcity.dk
Skt. Olai Kirke - helsingoerdomkirke.dk
Sct. Mariæ Kirke - sctmariae.dk
History Tours - historytours.dk
Maj & Magnussen - majogmagnussen.dk
Brostræde Is
Nordsjællands Park & Vej - nspv.dk
AART architects - aart.dk

All thirteen booklets in the series "Rundt i det gamle Helsingør", published by Nordisk Forlag in cooperation with Helsingør Municipality's museums. The booklets can be bought at the Elsinore City Museum and elsewhere

"En byhistorisk vandring i det gamle Helsingør", by Kenno Pedersen. Published by Nordisk Forlag in cooperation with Helsingør Municipality's museums. (ISBN/EAN 9788788245745 / 9788788245745)

"Helsingør Kulturkanon", published by Helsingør Municipality (2012). (ISBN 978-87-984751-0-1)

The website helsingorleksikon.dk, which is a result of a collaboration between Helsingør Municipality's museums, Helsingør Municipality's libraries and their users.

OVERVIEW AND MAPS

01 Elsinore station



02 The Harbor Square



03 Gl. Færgestræde and Skibsklarerergaarden



04 The Sound Dues residences



05 Elsinore Cathedral, St Olaf's Church



06 The Carmelite House

07 St. Church of St. Mary and the Carmelite Priory



08 The history of the church



09 Kulturhavn Kronborg



10 The Culture Yard



11 M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark



12 Kronborg Castle - the fortress



12 Kronborg Castle - the castle



13 The shipyard halls and the Red Square



14 The Shipyard Museum



14 The shipyard era



15 Elsinore Latin School (H.C. Andersen)



16 Axel Square and the commercial life



17 The Shooting Society



18 The former priory in Munkegade



19 Anna Queens Stræde



20 Strandgade 55

