

Travel 42

Copenhagen, the castles and the Vikings

A few words on the history of Denmark.

Denmark was the greatest power of the North-East of Europe. Copenhagen was the political centre of this power. Copenhagen was also geographically at the centre of this power.

In fact, the southern part of Sweden was Danish until 1650. The son of Christian the 4, lost this area because the Swedes got tired of paying the toll at the Danish king to pass on the narrow water of Kattegat, i.e. between Helsingør and Helsingborg.

This toll was introduced by king Cristian 4 (the king with about 100 children in Denmark and about 50 abroad) of Denmark as his personal income. The council of state was against this toll, because it would provoke neighbouring states.
So, it happened.

In the island where Copenhagen is located, kings built beautiful castles.

A visit of these castles is a must.

Begin by car and drive from Copenhagen to Helsingør on the Strandvejen.

It is a beautiful road. With the sea and the Swedish coast on your right. It is perhaps the most beautiful road in Europe. Really!

Half-way between Copenhagen and Helsingør there is a fine museum of modern paintings. It is worth to visit it. It's called Louisiana.



Museum Louisiana in Humlebæk



Museum Louisiana, inside



Museum Louisiana, paintings.

Then continue to Helsingør, a picturesque and wonderful city.

A Helsingør there is Kronborg castle to visit. It is classified Unesco. It is the so-called castle of Hamlet.



Helsingør



Kronborg castle, "Hamlet castle"

After Helsingor, go to Fredensborg, where there is Fredensborg slot to visit.



Fredensborg slot

The castle is not open to the public, but the park is open and it's beautiful.

Then, continue on the same road and direction until you get to Hillerød to see Frederiksborg slot.



Hillerød



Frederiksborg slot

This castle is also the national museum of the history of Denmark.

Check opening times.

Then, take the road from Hillerød to Roskilde. The capital of the Vikings.
There is a museum devoted entirely to the Vikings.



Roskilde Cathedral



Vikings museum in Roskilde



Vikings museum in Roskilde

If you want to see other places, then you could see Lejre, which is a reconstruction of the ancient times's Viching.

It is a place that kids love, because there are a lot of games, etc.

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