



Funen

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Best Places to Eat

- » Simoncini (p167)
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- » Skovsgaard Café (p185)
- » Restaurant Edith (p189)

Best Places to Stay

- » Pension Vestergade 44 (p187)
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- » First Hotel Grand (p164)

Why Go?

Funen (Fyn) is a microcosm of the best of Denmark. Thatched farmhouses, picture-book coastal towns and Renaissance castles dot the island's patchwork quilt of fields and woods.

Its cultural and commercial centre is Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace, Odense. You can't miss the references to the author – sculptured trolls lounge on street corners, duckling-and-swan mobiles dangle in shop windows, lights at pedestrian crossings feature Andersen in silhouette. Odense offers plenty for families besides fairy tales: old steam engines, a first-rate zoo, imposing churches, art galleries and open-air museums.

The region's castles include the Renaissance masterpiece Egeskov Slot. At Ladby, you'll find Denmark's only Viking ship grave.

It's immensely pleasurable to hop between Funen's 90 islands. The loveliest is Ærø, with historic seafaring towns, although Langeland has its own unusual attractions, including Langelandsfort, a Cold War military installation.

When to Go

As elsewhere in Denmark, Funen really comes alive in the summer months. Odense hosts most of its festivals and cultural events from May to mid-August. Yachties descend on Funen's southern harbours from July onward, giving these towns an especially festive air.

Foodies will eat well year-round, although the local bounty from nearby farms and woods is at its best in early autumn.



Funen Highlights

- 1 Cut loose at **Egeskov Slot** (p172), a splendid moat-encircled Renaissance castle with a garden full of mazes, museums and marvels
- 2 Explore the fairy-tale world of Hans Christian Andersen in **Odense**, at the excellent HC Andersens Hus (p160) museum and the

children's cultural centre Fyrtøjet (p160)

- 3 Visit Denmark's only Viking Age ship grave, **Vikingsmuseet Ladby** (p172), last resting place of a 10th-century chieftain

4 Sail away to one of the country's friendliest islands, gorgeous **Ærø** (p185), with

undulating country lanes perfect for cycling

- 5 Don camouflage and descend into the bunkers and battleships at **Langelandsfort** (p184)
- 6 Be part of the lively nightlife scene in **Odense** (p168)