



Funen

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Fiske Restaurant Rudolf Mathis (p169)
- ➔ Skovsgaard MadMarked (p180)
- ➔ Falsled Kro (p172)
- ➔ Café Aroma (p183)
- ➔ Restaurant no.61 (p164)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Pension Vestergade 44 (p182)
- ➔ Falsled Kro (p172)
- ➔ Vesterås Bed & Nature (p182)
- ➔ På Torvet (p182)
- ➔ Odense City B&B (p163)

Why Go?

Funen (Fyn in Danish) is Denmark's proverbial middle child. Lacking Zealand's capital-city pull or Jutland's geographic dominance, it's often overlooked by visitors, who perhaps make a whistle-stop visit to Hans Christian's Andersen's birthplace and museum in the island's capital, Odense.

Sure, the master of fairy tales is a worthy favourite son, and Odense is a lively cultural and commercial centre. But there is much more to Funen: thatched farmhouses, picture-book coastal towns and grand Renaissance castles dot the island's patchwork of fields and woods.

Rolling southern pastures and orchards grow some of the country's best produce (Funen is called 'Denmark's garden'), while handsome harbour towns give access to a yacht-filled archipelago and idyllic seafaring islands like Ærø. It's not hard to understand why many describe this region as a microcosm of the very best of Denmark.

When to Go

As elsewhere in Denmark, Funen really comes alive in the summer months. Yachties descend on Funen's southern harbours from July onward, giving these towns an especially festive air. Odense's excellent museums and quality dining have year-round appeal; festivals peak in August, but the lead-up to Christmas is also sparkly and sweet. Egeskov Slot is open mid-April to mid-October, plus two weekends in November for its fairy tale-worthy Christmas market.

Foodies will eat well year-round (think fresh asparagus, new potatoes, orchards in bloom and plump berries from spring through summer). The local bounty from nearby farms and woods is at its best in early autumn.



Funen Highlights

- ① Explore **Egeskov Slot** (p170), a moat-encircled castle with a garden full of mazes, museums and marvels
- ② Immerse yourself in the fairy-tale world of Hans Christian Andersen in **Odense** (p159)
- ③ Visit Denmark's only Viking Age ship grave,

- Vikingsmuseet Ladby** (p169), the last resting place of a 10th-century chieftain
- ④ Sail away to one of the country's friendliest islands, **Ærø** (p180), with undulating country lanes perfect for cycling
- ⑤ Marvel at Cold War manoeuvring as you visit

bunkers and battleships at **Langelandsfort** (p179)

- ⑥ See wooden ships on the **Svendborg** (p173) waterfront before cruising the South Funen Archipelago
- ⑦ Stop at roadside produce stalls while touring southern Funen before refreshments at **Falsled Kro** (p172)