

Roskilde Domkirke

Sepulchral church of the Danish kings and queens

The impressive red brick cathedral with the slender spires is one of the most remarkable buildings in Denmark. Roskilde Cathedral is inscribed on the World Heritage List of outstanding cultural and natural heritages.

The famous Cathedral in the centre of the town is one of the main tourist attractions in Roskilde visited by about 125,000 tourists every year. For more than 1000 years there has been a church on this site, thus a tour of the Cathedral is a journey through Denmark's history.

The present Cathedral was begun by bishop Absalon, the founder of Copenhagen, in the 1170s. Since then porches and chapels of different architectural styles have been added, and today the Cathedral is a perfect example of 800 years of Danish architecture.

Burial place of the Royal Family

Since the early 15th century the Cathedral has been the favourite burial place of the

Royal Family. Since the Reformation all Danish kings have been interred here. During the Middle Ages the Cathedral was also used as a royal burial place as King Harold Bluetooth, Sweyn Estridsen and Queen Margrete I are buried here.

39 Danish kings and queens have been laid to rest here - many in magnificent sarcophagi. In 1985 a new royal burial place was built by the north west corner of the church. Here lie King Frederik IX and Queen Ingrid, parents of Queen Margrethe II.

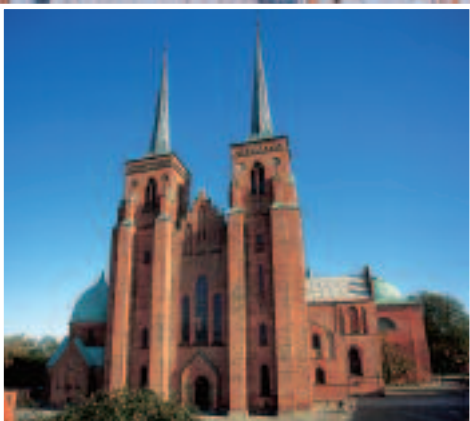
Famous baroque organ

In addition to the chapels there are beautiful wood-carvings, a gilt altarpiece, frescoes and a clock with mechanical figures from the Middle Ages as well as a famous baroque organ. The impressive organ from 1554/1654 is after serious reconstruction work one of Northern Europe's most important historical musical instruments.

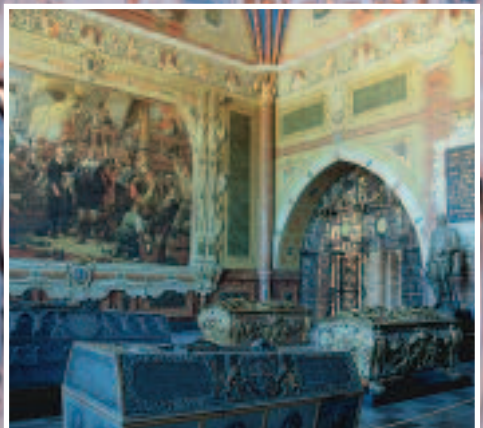


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Porches and chapels of different architectural styles have been added over the years



Chapel of Christian IV - paintings by Marstrand and statue by Thorvaldsen

Organ concerts

Throughout the year many wonderful concerts are held in the Cathedral. In June, July and August concerts are held every Thursday evening at 8 pm, featuring organ soloists of international repute. These concerts are free (see page 25).

Church opening hours & admission

1 April-30 September

Monday-Friday 9.00-16.45

Saturday 9.00-12.00

Sundays & Public Holidays 12.30-16.45

1 October-31 March

Closed on Mondays

Tuesday-Saturday 10.00-15.45

Sundays & Public Holidays 12.30-15.45

Admission: Adults DKK 25, children DKK 15.

Guided tours

Get the most out of a visit to the Cathedral you and take part in a guided tour.

During the summer period (24 June-13 August) tours are in Danish and English Monday-Friday 11.00 and 14.00, Saturday 11.00 and Sunday 14.00.

There is an additional charge for the guided tour: Adults DKK 20, children DKK 10.

Groups all year on application to Roskilde-Egnens Turistbureau, tel. +45 46 31 65 65

The Cathedral Museum

The exhibition is in the Great Hall above the Chapel of the Magi. An account of the history of the church as well as a copy of Queen Margrete I's golden dress.

Access to the museum only when accompanied by a member of church staff at the following fixed times:

1/4-14/6

Monday-Friday 11.00, 13.00 and 14.00

Saturday 10.00

Sundays & Public Holidays 13.00 and 14.00

15/6-31/8

Monday-Friday:

every half hour 11.05...14.35

Saturday every half hour 09.05...11.35

Sundays & Public Holidays every half hour 13.05...15.35

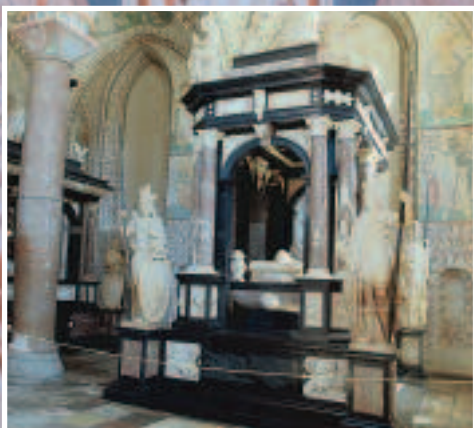
1/9-31/3

Tuesday-Friday 12.00 and 13.00

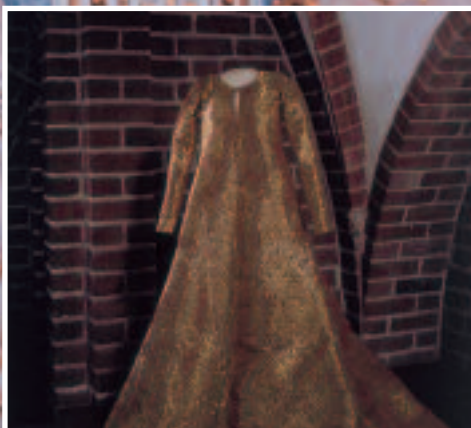
Saturday 12.00

Sundays & Public Holidays 13.00 and 14.00

PLEASE NOTE: The church is closed to visitors during church services. Ask at the Tourist Office, tel. +45 46 31 65 65.



Chapel of Christian I with magnificent sepulchral monuments and frescoes



A copy of the golden dress of Queen Margrete I