

Skoemagerkroen (Between Holbæk and Roskilde, West Zealand)

If you decide to go to Roskilde and see the famous Viking Ship Museum and Roskilde Cathedral with the tombs of Danish Kings and Queens (you can even get a preview of the future tombs being prepared for Queen Margarethe and Prince Henrik), then fitting in a meal at the picturesque and unique old inn Skoemagerkroen is really worth it. It's Denmark's oldest post and stagecoach inn, dating back to 1521, and was recently reopened in the spring of 2015 after extensive refurbishing. It's been renovated with the greatest respect for the original style, but beautifully updated. The scenery is typical of the famous Morten Koch films of the 1960s, which presented all the most picturesque and quaint aspects of Danish country life. The owner and chef, Anders Hermann Jensen, has a history with some of the best restaurants in Denmark, including D'Angleterre, the hotel in Copenhagen where movie stars and VIPs always stay. His dream has been to run an old typical inn. "I can also do all the 'fancy gourmet tricks'," as Anders puts it. "But I would really like it also to be a place where locals meet for a classic Danish meal, or just coffee and cake." He claims to have the best Danish kringle recipe (a Danish pastry), inherited from his grandmother, which only a few have been allowed to learn. At Skoemagerkroen, you can choose between classic Danish meals or a more gourmet experience. He recommends calling and booking a table, certainly if you are planning an excursion. They are open from Wednesday to Sunday. Landevejen 4, 4060 Kirke Såby. Phone: 4649 1930. Email: admin@skoemagerkroen.dk

Jutland/Funen**Sjette Frederiks Kro (Aarhus, Riis Skov)**

Located just three km from Aarhus city centre, Sjette Frederiks Kro, from 1826, was completely renovated in 2014, making one big room out of several smaller ones on the ground floor, allowing for a more airy decor and better views of the magnificent bay of Aarhus. It is part of the Casablanca Family of restaurants, and



Sjette Frederiks Kro

the ambitions for this kro are high. With its proximity to the city centre, as well as being right in the middle of the formidable Riis Skov, the inn attracts locals and visitors alike every day for lunch, dinner or just a drink. It updates the classic Danish cuisine and combines it with affordability and attractiveness for all local Aarhusians, as can be seen in the funny concept of Krogalskab, (Inn madness?). This is a daily evening meal at a fixed price. It changes every day and guests don't know what they are getting until it is served. The concept is inspired by having one's own mother's good cooking, or as mothers would say, "Just eat what I serve. It has all been made with love and the best intensions!" Sjette Frederiks Kro also boasts a stunning view from its terrace, kept open as long as possible and into autumn, overlooking the beach and the bathing club Den Permanente. Salonvejen 1, 8240 Risskov. Phone: 8616 1400. Email: sjettefred-erikskro@casablancaarhus.dk.

Skovmøllen**(Aarhus, Marselisborg Forest)**

Although no longer called an inn, but a restaurant, Skovmøllen still features all the picturesque decor of an old timbered house, with low ceilings and wood panelled walls, and dates back to the 18th century. It lies well hidden in Marselisborg Skov, about one km from the new Moesgaard Museum, and an easy and nice stroll down through the woods. You can, of course, also drive right to the front door and park there. It's a bit like finding the old witch house in Hansel & Gretel, and with the restaurateurs' ambition to serve delicious meals; you just might be fattened up too. They seem to be succeeding quite well, as Skovmøllen came out fifth in a recent survey by dinnerbooking.com

of restaurants in the Aarhus area. The building housing the restaurant and mill (hence the name Skovmøllen) belongs to Moesgaard Museum. Since 2013, restaurateurs Anders Udengaard and Rune Aaby have added Skovmøllen to their business; they also run the Restaurant Unico at Aarhus Golfklub. Open Wednesday to Sunday from 11:30 to 17:00, they serve a traditional Danish lunch with a little extra (coffee and cake), and of course Sunday Brunch. A specialty is the miller's dinner, Møllerens Menu, served only on the one evening they are open, Friday, 18:00-22:00. Here you can choose from a selection or let it be the chef's choice for your evening meal. Located right next to Giber Å, this could also be your vantage point for the yearly Hubertus Hunt in Marselisborg Skov (see our article on the Hubertus Hunt). Skovmøllevej 51, 8270 Højbjerg. Phone: 8627 1214. Email: mail@skovmollen.dk

OTHER IDEAS

Bromølle Kro:
Phone: 5825 0090
website: www.bromoelle-kro.dk

Gilleleje Havns krostue:
Phone: 4830 1620
website: www.gillelejehavn.dk

Søllerød Kro:
Phone: 4580 2505
website: www.soellerod-kro.dk

Skovshoved hotel krostue:
Phone: 3990 5811
website: www.skovshovedkro.dk

Rold Store Kro:
Phone: 9837 5100
website: www.roldstorkro.dk

Norsminde Kro:
Phone: 8693 2444
website: www.norsminde-kro.dk

Hvidsten Kro:
Phone: 8647 7022
website: www.hvidstenkro.dk

Molskroen:
Phone: 8627 1214
website: www.molskroen.dk

Henne Kirkeby Kro:
Phone: 7525 5400
website: hennekirkebykro.dk

Sønder Ho kro:
Phone: 7516 4009
website: www.sonderhokro.dk

Tyrstrup Kro: Phone: 7456 1242
website: www.tyrstrupkro.dk



HUBERTUS HUNT

Every first Sunday in November, the annual last hunt, the Hubertusjagt, attracts a large audience in Dyrehaven, North of Copenhagen, and in Marselisborg Skovene, in Aarhus. BY STINE ROSENGREN PICTURES: DANNY JOHANSEN, BENTE D.KNUDSEN

The riders and horses are a great sight to see as they come charging full gallop towards the jump, red riding coats, shiny harness, all ready to give their best, and intensely competing to become this year's champion. The name Hubertusjagt is derived from the Bishop Hubert, who died on 3 November 728 and became Saint Hubert by order of the Pope. At the time, and for many centuries afterward, hunting on horseback was for kings and noblemen. However, in Denmark, the Hubertus hunt, more or less as we know it today, was first organised at the turn of the 20th century in both Copenhagen and Aarhus by local riding clubs enjoying hunting from horseback.

Today, the hunting sport on horseback takes place several times a year, but only as closed events for members of their clubs. Nevertheless, the two public events offered are a great opportunity for everyone to experience the fascinating and slightly dramatic sight of horses at full speed flying through the air, fighting to keep their balance at the steep landing on the other side of the obstacle.

Copenhagen

The Copenhagen event has taken place since 1905, organised by the riding club Sportsrideklubben in Charlottenlund. It's the autumn event in Dyrehaven, the deer park

The annual event, here in 2014, always attracts huge crowds.



in Klampenborg about 10 km north of Copenhagen. More than 160 riders participate in the hunt.

For many Copenhageners, as many as 40,000 of them, it has become a tradition getting up early on that

November Sunday, dressing warmly, and setting off to get the best place as close as possible to the hunting route. For some, only a front row place at Magasindammen counts. This is where the assembled crowd, having hoped for rain in the weeks before the

hunt so that the small pond is full of water, waits to see which rider will fall in this year and take a dip in the muddy water. If the pond contains a large amount of water, it is even more challenging for riders and horses to pass, and more dramatic and fun for the audience to watch. Others prefer watching riders jump over the difficult obstacles, more than 35 in total, along the route, particularly in Ulvedalene. On this day, the deer seek out the grounds furthest from the hunt to hide from the crowd, or simply ignore all the visitors and proceed in their usual way.

Aarhus

Not as big as the Copenhagen event in terms of riders (about 50) and audience, but still quite worth the visit, the Hubertusjagt in Marselisborg Skovene, next to the Moesgaard Museum, has been organised since 1936 by Jydsk Jagtrideklub and Aarhus Rideklub. The hunt started here long

before the new museum was built. As in Copenhagen, the pond, Giber Å, is the most popular spot to be, as this is where the largest audience gathers waiting to see if anyone takes a dip. During the building of the new Moesgaard Museum, the yearly hunt was cancelled, but according to the chairman of Jydsk Jagtrideklub, Jens Laurson, everything is being done to assure that on Sunday 1 November there will be a Hubertus hunt again. He recommends checking the local Aarhus newspapers or their website for more information. The hunt and route will be announced on their site – only in Danish though. For more information check www.jydskjagtrideklub.dk.

No deer or foxes are hunted

Neither of the two Hubertus hunts taking place are in any way dangerous for deer or fox, as no “real” wild animal is being chased. Instead, normally one or two front riders, bearing a fox’s tail on their red riding coat, lead the way, and pretend to be hunted.

Dyrehaven - CPH Deer Park

A great excursion during the autumn months it to take a walk, bike ride or horse carriage ride in this old, royal deer park. You can even go on horseback if you enjoy riding, and at Fortunen’s Riding School you can rent both ponies and horses by the hour.

Dyrehaven and the Eremitage Hunting Castle belonged to the Royal family, and the deer were fenced in, in 1669, by King Frederik III to enable the King a good and easier deer hunt. Today it is a public park with more than 2,100 deer of various kinds. It is a unique site, where you can get a really close look at Bambi and his parents. Autumn and winter are great seasons to do so, because the deer are fed at several foraging sites where the audience can get quite close (while maintaining a respectful distance). As the deer have no natural enemies in the park, and 700 fawn are born each spring, during the



Skovbaren at Piil and Co. is a nice place to stop and have a snack or lunch.

winter months, more than 700 deer have to be shot to keep the park at its 2,100 limit. The tasty venison is sold to local inhabitants and restaurants. Some deer are caught and exported live to other deer parks.

As the deer in Dyrehaven are considered to be world class, during the rutting season, you will find nature lovers, photographers, and journalists alike flocking to get an up-close look at the male deer, the stags. According to Naturstyrelsen, responsible for the public park, Royal stags can be seen rutting in the southern part of the park from the middle of September to the beginning of October, whereas the rutting fallow deer will usually be on the Eremitage Plain around the end of October and the beginning of November. Keeping a distance and

avoiding disturbing them is highly recommended however.

Take your bike with you

You can easily take your bicycles with you on the S-train to Klampenborg Station and cycle through the park. During the weekend, the old restaurant Piil & Co, a beautiful black timbered cottage from 1923, next to the spring called Kirsten Piils Kilde, offers a quick lunch from 12:00-16:00, outdoors, of course, at their Skovbaren (the forest bar). You can also opt for hot cocoa and pancakes for more warmth and energy. For a warmer and quieter lunch, the indoor restaurant opens on Sundays only. However, Skovbaren is extremely popular and a different experience – suited for the whole family or just with friends.

DEER PARK INFO

In the Deer Park you will find about 300 red deer, kronhjorte in Danish. They are the biggest of all the stags. An adult stag can weigh over 200 kilos. The coat is reddish-brown in the summer and greyish-brown in the winter. The hinds and their fawns stay mostly in the southern part of the Deer Park, whereas the stags remain more to the north. More than 1,700 fallow deer can be seen grouping together in herds as large as several hundred, and can usually be seen on the open plains. Their coats can be three different colours: black, white or a brownish-red. However, the brownish-red coats are the most common. The deer were introduced from the Middle East and are mentioned in written sources as roaming about freely in Denmark as far back as 1231. About 100 sikas complement the other two species. They are a little smaller than fallow deer. Their summer coat is a chestnut colour with whitish-yellow spots, whereas their winter coat is an even dark brown (females) and black (males). This breed, which has been in the Deer Park since 1923, was introduced from Japan.

Sources: Naturstyrelsen



You can get quite close to them during the autumn and winter months as they gather close to their foraging grounds.