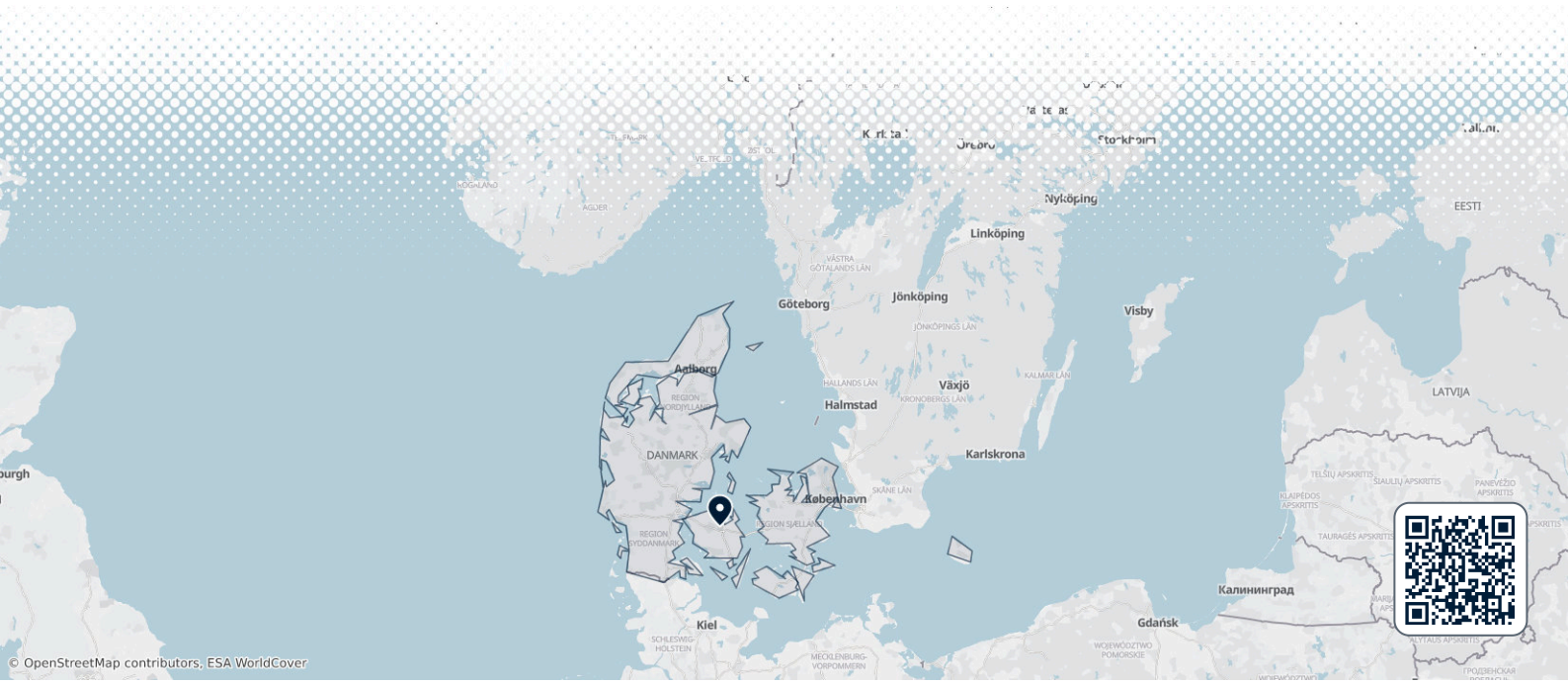


Odense

Funen · Denmark

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Odense is Denmark's third-largest city and the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen, the world-famous author of fairy tales like *The Little Mermaid* and *The Ugly Duckling*. Its compact old town has cobbled lanes, half-timbered courtyards, and a cathedral where a medieval Danish king is buried.

This city suits travelers who want an easy, walkable city break with real history but fewer crowds than Copenhagen. Most sights sit within a 20-minute walk of each other, so two or three nights is enough to see the highlights and still fit in a day trip to the Funen countryside.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are mild and good for walking the old town. Summer (June to August) is the warmest and busiest season, with outdoor cafés and river boat trips running. Winter is cold and often grey, with snow common from December to February.

Plan around the **H.C. Andersen Festivals** in August, when the city stages open-air theater, a costumed parade, and free concerts based on Andersen's fairy tales.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 8° Feels like -4°	0° / -6°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 8° Feels like -4°	0° / -6°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 11° Feels like 0°	1° / -3°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 15° Feels like 5°	4° / 0°	Dry air
May	Good Good for cycling	15° / 20° Feels like 11°	8° / 4°	Dry air
June	Good Good for cycling	18° / 23° Feels like 15°	12° / 8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
July	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 25°	14° / 11°	14 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 25°	15° / 12°	14 rainy days
September	Good Good for cycling	17° / 21° Feels like 14°	12° / 9°	12 rainy days · Dry air
October	Fair Fair for cycling	13° / 17° Feels like 8°	9° / 4°	15 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for cycling	8° / 12° Feels like 2°	5° / 0°	14 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 9° Feels like -2°	1° / -4°	15 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: July, August

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

Start at Ⓐ H. C. Andersens Hus, the striking modern museum that traces the life of Denmark's best-known writer through immersive, story-based exhibits — allow at least two hours.

A short walk away, B H. C. Andersens Barndomshjem is the small house where Andersen actually grew up, from age two to fourteen; visit both to see the contrast between the myth and the modest reality.

C Odense Cathedral dominates the old town skyline. Its crypt holds the remains of King Canute IV, murdered in Odense in 1086 and later made Denmark's patron saint.

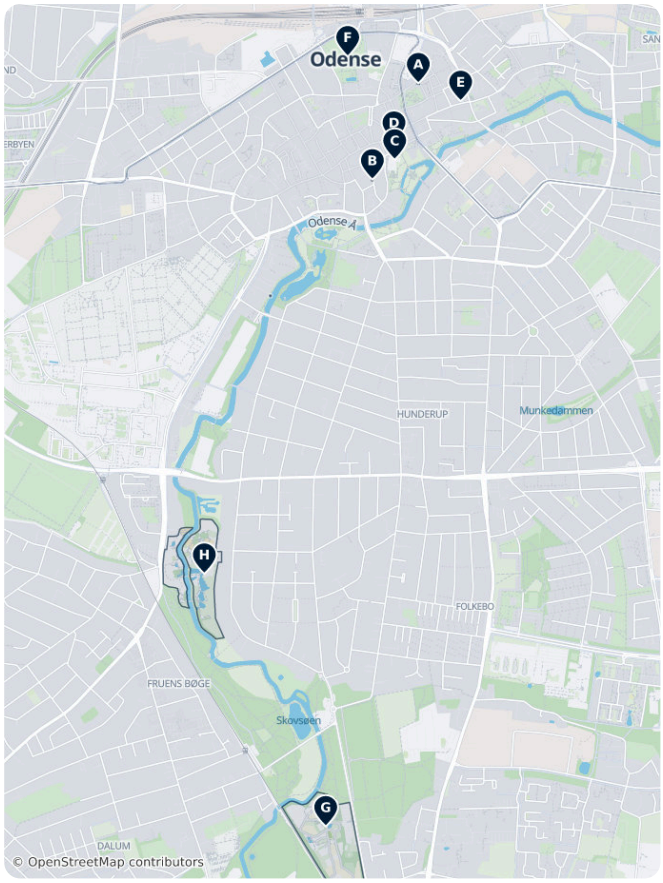
Facing the main square, D Odense Town Hall is a 19th-century building in an Italian Historicist style, worth a look even from outside.

E Møntergården fills a courtyard of Renaissance half-timbered houses with exhibits on the city's history from Viking times onward.

Next to the former royal palace, F Kongens Have is a formal park with century-old trees and a statue of Andersen, laid out in the 1720s.

On the edge of the city, G The Funen Village recreates a 19th-century Funen village with relocated historic buildings — a good half-day trip for families.

H Odense Zoo is one of Denmark's most-visited zoos, known for its large enclosures and an indoor rainforest habitat.



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What to experience

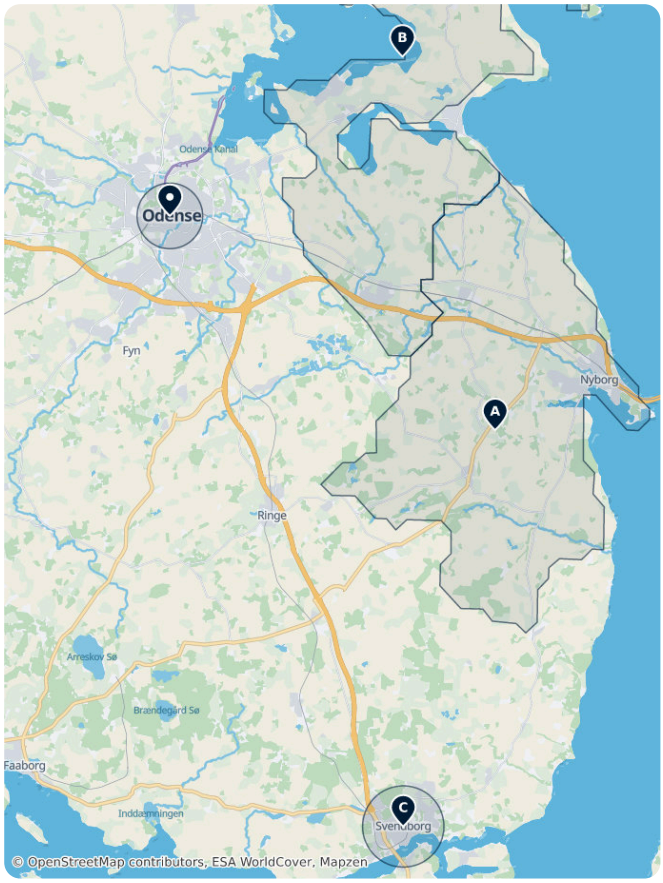
A few things about Odense are worth doing, not just seeing.

- Follow the self-guided H.C. Andersen trail through the old town, tracing the streets and courtyards linked to his life and stories.
- Take a boat trip along the Odense River with Odense Aafart, a family-run service that has run boats between Munke Mose and the Fruens Bøge woods since 1882.
- Cycle or walk the shaded riverside path through Fruens Bøge forest, a route Andersen himself is said to have walked.

Day trips

Funen's countryside and neighboring towns are easy to reach from Odense, most within an hour.

- A Nyborg — about 20 min by train. A former royal seat with a well-preserved medieval castle where Danish kings once held the Danehof, an early national assembly.
- B Kerteminde — about 25 min by train. A small fishing town near the Ladby Viking ship burial site, with an aquarium focused on the local fjord and the Great Belt.
- Egeskov Castle, near Kværndrup — about 40 min by car or bus. One of Europe's best-preserved moated Renaissance castles, with extensive gardens and a large vintage car collection.
- C Svendborg — about 45 min by train. A harbor town on the south coast and the main gateway to the South Funen Archipelago's islands.



Getting there

- **By air**: **Copenhagen Airport (CPH)** is Denmark's main international gateway, roughly 1.5–2 hours from Odense by train or car across the Great Belt Bridge. **Billund Airport**, about an hour's drive west, is a closer option with a smaller range of international and domestic connections.
- **By train**: Odense Station sits on the main line linking Denmark's largest cities with Jutland; direct InterCity trains run roughly every hour from Copenhagen (about 1.5 hours) and from Aarhus (about 1.5 hours).
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches connect Odense with Copenhagen and other Danish cities — usually slower but cheaper than the train.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Buses and the Odense Letbane light rail line run through downtown and out to other parts of the city. Denmark's national travel-card system, Basiskort, and the FynBus and DSB apps cover ticket purchase; FynBus has full route and fare details.
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Metered taxis are easy to find at the station; app-based ride-hailing has a limited presence outside Copenhagen.
- **On foot / cycling**: The old town is flat and easy to explore on foot. Odense is one of Denmark's most bike-friendly cities, with an extensive network of cycle lanes; renting a bike is a practical way to reach the Funen Village or the zoo.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town and most sights are within a 20-minute walk of each other, and the center is flat and easy to navigate on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Odense has an extensive network of cycle lanes and flat terrain, making it one of Denmark's most bike-friendly cities.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not for the city itself — the center is small and walkable. Useful for reaching Egeskov Castle or the smaller Funen towns at your own pace.
- **Parking**: Paid P-zones cover the city center; pay by app or ticket machine. Free park-and-ride lots sit near the light rail line on the edge of town.
- **Restrictions**: Denmark's low-emission zone rules cover older diesel vehicles, including some older diesel passenger cars, in central Odense. A standard rental car meets the requirement; only an older diesel vehicle needs to check.

Food & drink

Odense's food scene centers on traditional Danish cooking, with a growing number of modern bistros mixed in. Smørrebrød and Danish pastries are easy to find in bakeries and cafés across downtown.

For a concentrated choice of cafés and restaurants, head to the pedestrian streets around Vestergade, or to Brandts, the city's converted textile-factory arts complex, which has several cafés inside its courtyard.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Smørrebrød
Open-faced rye bread sandwiches with toppings such as pickled herring, roast beef, shrimp, or liver pâté.

Smoked Herring · Røget sild
Cold-smoked herring, a Bornholm speciality, traditionally served on dark bread with raw onion and chives.

DINNER

Frikadeller
Pan-fried patties of ground pork and veal, seasoned with onion and nutmeg, served with potatoes and gravy.

Roast Pork with Crackling · Flæskesteg
Slow-roasted pork with crisp crackling, typically served with braised red cabbage and potatoes.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Rye Bread · Rugbrød
Dense, dark sourdough rye bread — the cornerstone of Danish everyday eating, used as the base for smørrebrød.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Danish Pastry · Wienerbrød
Buttery, laminated pastry in many shapes — the local name literally means Vienna bread. Found in every bakery.

Cinnamon Roll · Kanelsnegle
A buttery, swirled cinnamon bun popular at bakeries across the country.

DRINKS

Carlsberg / Tuborg · Øl
The two dominant Danish lager brands, both originating in Copenhagen and served on draught throughout the country.

Akvavit · Snaps
A caraway- or dill-flavoured spirit served ice-cold in a shot glass, traditionally accompanying festive meals.

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Safety & health

Odense is a safe city for travelers, with low rates of violent crime. The usual precautions apply around the train station late at night and in busy nightlife areas on weekends, where petty theft and pickpocketing occasionally happen.

History

Odense takes its name from Odin, the chief god of Norse mythology, and was likely a pre-Christian shrine site before becoming a Christian town — it is first mentioned in writing in the late 10th century, making it one of Denmark's oldest cities. In 1086, King Canute IV was killed by rebellious farmers here; he was later canonized as Denmark's patron saint, and his remains rest in the crypt of Odense Cathedral, built in his honor. Nearby, Odense Palace began as a monastery before passing to the Crown after the Reformation, later becoming a royal residence and government building.

The city's best-known son is Hans Christian Andersen, born here in 1805 to a poor shoemaker's family. He left for Copenhagen as a teenager and rarely returned, but Odense has embraced his legacy ever since — from the exhibits at H. C. Andersens Hus to the streets of his childhood, preserved around H. C. Andersens Barndomshjem.

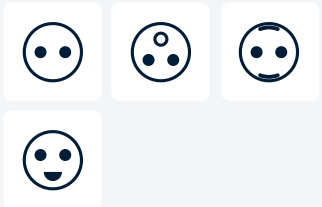
Country facts

Quick practical facts for Denmark at a glance:

CURRENCY
DKK kr

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



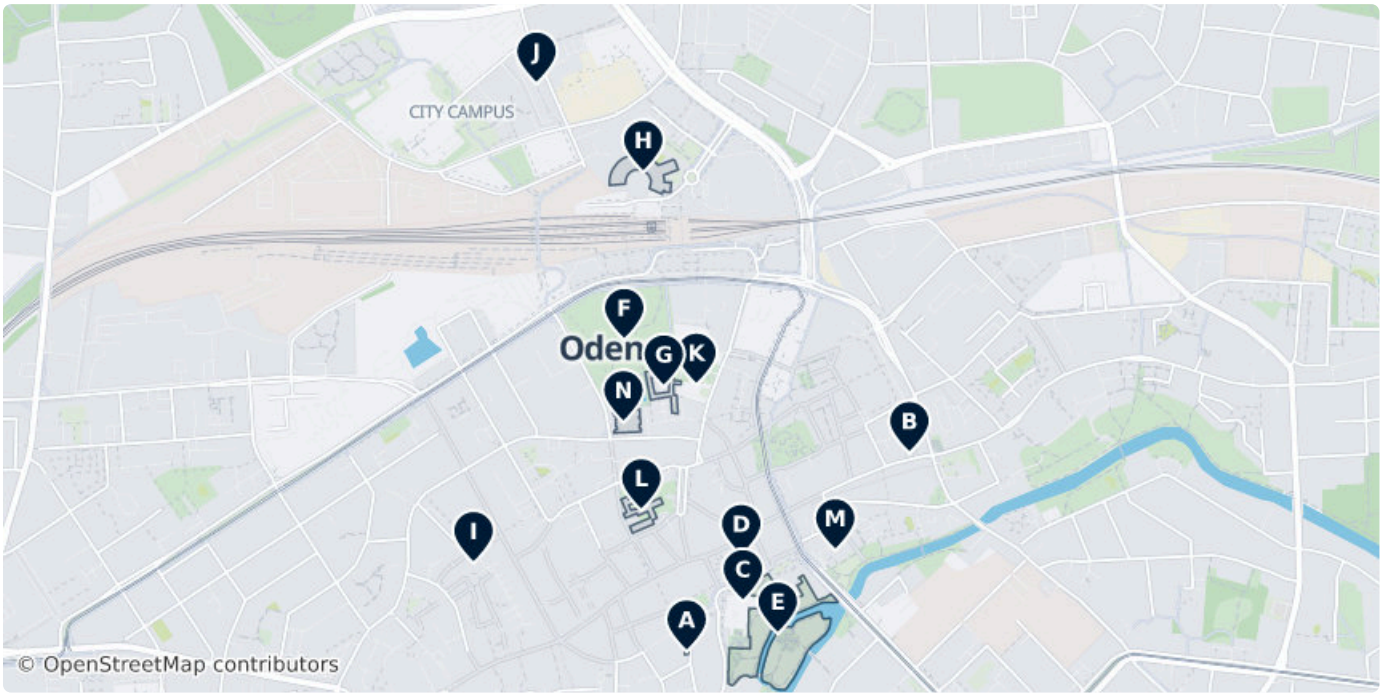
Type C / Type E / Type F / Type K
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Danish

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Odense Essentials

Odense highlights the legacy of Hans Christian Andersen through his childhood home and the surrounding historic district. The city's medieval roots are preserved in the Gothic architecture of St. Canute's Cathedral and the 13th-century Saint Hans Church. Cultural landmarks include the Brandts art center, housed in a former textile factory, and the Danish Railway Museum. Green spaces like the formal King's Garden and Eventyrhaven provide central retreats, while Møntergården offers a look at local life through preserved half-timbered houses.





A Hans Christian Andersen Childhood Home

Small yet charming house - this is where the famous writer spent his childhood from the age of two to fourteen.

Munkemøllestræde 3, 5000 Odense, Denmark (55.39453, 10.38727)

Tu–Su 11:00–16:00

museum.odense.dk/en/museums/hans-c... , +45 6551 4601



B Møntergården

Møntergården is the cultural history museum in Odense, Denmark. It is located at Overgade 48 in a courtyard of half-timbered houses in the...

48 Overgade, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39794, 10.39403)

museum.odense.dk/moentergaarden, +45 65514601



C Saint Canute's Cathedral

St. Canute's Cathedral, also known as Odense Cathedral, is named after the Danish king Canute the Saint, otherwise Canute IV.

19A Klingenberg, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39540, 10.38898)



D Odense Town Hall

Odense City Hall houses the administrative offices of Odense Municipality in the city of Odense on the Danish island of Funen.

Vestergade 2, 5000 Odense, Denmark (55.39617, 10.38893)

+45 66 13 13 72



E Eventyrhaven

A central park located behind Odense Cathedral, featuring sculptures inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales, a rose garden, and views of the Odense River.

(Unnamed Road), Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39483, 10.39004)



F King's Garden

King's Garden is a large, formal palace park in central Odense, Denmark.

(Unnamed Road), Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39989, 10.38538)

G Odense Palace

Odense Palace in the city of Odense on the Danish island of Funen has its origins in a 15th-century monastery which passed to the Crown...

15 Vindegade, Odense 5000, Denmark
(55.39909, 10.38657)



H The Danish Railway Museum

The Danish Railway Museum is the national railway museum of Denmark, located in the city of Odense.

Dannebrogsgade 24, 5000 Odense, Denmark
(55.40278, 10.38595)

Mo–Tu	Open
We	09:00–16:00
Fr	10:00–16:00
Sa–Su	09:00–16:00

jernbanemuseet.dk, +45 66 13 66 30



I Brandts

Vibrant venue and the main hub of cultural life in Odense. It also houses Danish Museum of Media and Museum of Photographic Art.

Brandts Torv 1, 5000 Odense, Denmark
(55.39605, 10.38080)

Tu–We	10:00–17:00
Th	10:00–20:00
Fr	10:00–17:00
Sa	10:00–18:00
Su	10:00–17:00

brandts.dk, +45 65 20 70 00



J Storms Pakhus - Vin og Gin

A wine and gin bar located within the Storms Pakhus street food market, which occupies a converted industrial warehouse near the city's railway station.

29 Lerchesgade, Odense 5000, Denmark
(55.40430, 10.38271)

Mo–Th	10:00–22:00
Fr–Sa	10:00–02:00
Su	10:00–22:00

stormspakhus.dk



K Saint Hans Church

Saint Hans Church is a church in Odense, Denmark. First mentioned in 1295, it was built by the Knights Hospitaller, also known as the Order...

2 Sankt Hans Plads, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39912, 10.38757)



L Gråbrødre Kloster

A former Franciscan friary founded in 1279. The surviving Gothic buildings date primarily from the 16th century and now function as a residential foundation.

9 Jernbanegade, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39696, 10.38590)



M Odense Adelige Jomfrukloster

A 16th-century former monastery located at Albani Torv. It historically served as a convent for noblewomen and currently houses facilities for the University of Southern Denmark.

6 Albani Torv, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39627, 10.39178)

N Odense Teater

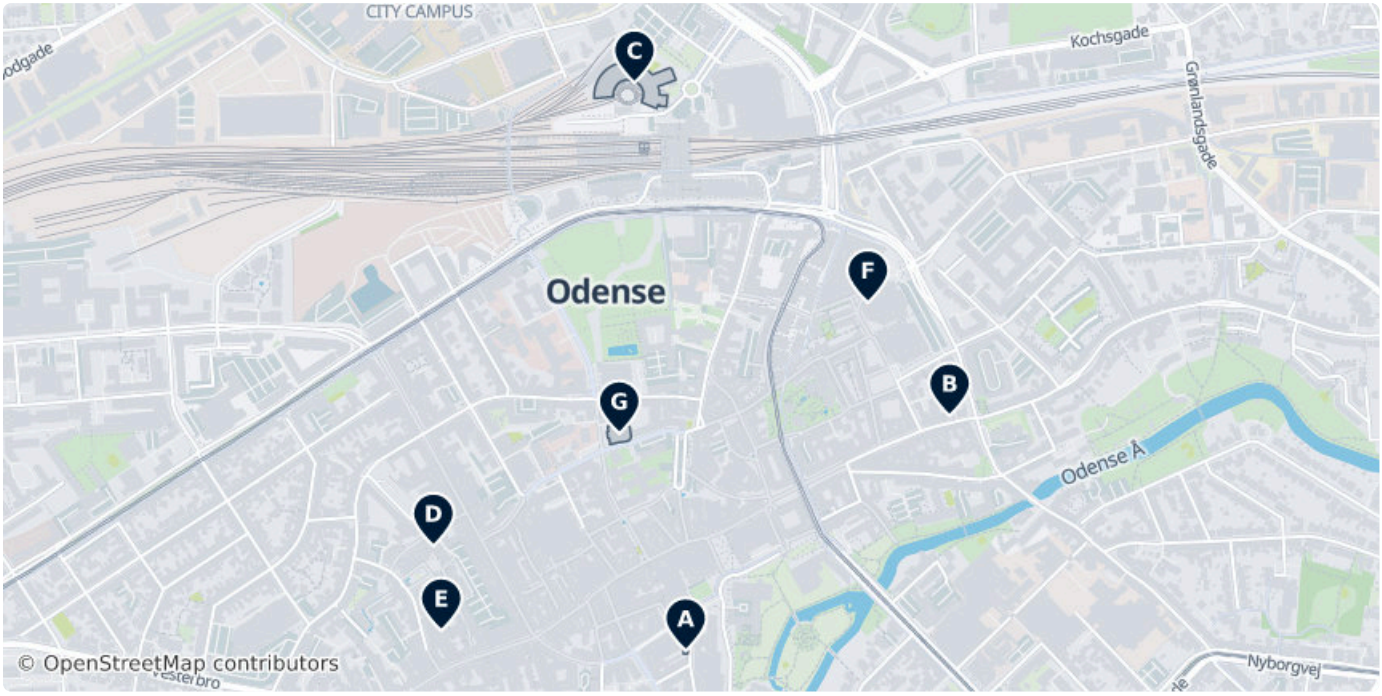
Odense Teater is a theater in the city of Odense in Denmark. It dates back to 1796, which makes it Denmark's second oldest theater.

21 Jernbanegade, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39848, 10.38535)

odenseteater.dk

Odense Museums & Galleries

Odense's cultural landscape features a diverse range of museums, from the modest childhood home of author Hans Christian Andersen to the expansive Danish Railway Museum, which serves as the country's national center for locomotive history. At Møntergården, visitors explore regional history within a complex of traditional half-timbered buildings. The city's art scene is anchored by Brandts, a former textile mill housing media and photography collections, and its experimental branch, Brandts 13. Music enthusiasts can visit the Carl Nielsen Museum, while Tidens Samling offers an immersive look at 20th-century Danish domestic life.





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museum.odense.dk/en/museums/hans-c... , +45 6551 4601



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Sa	10:00–18:00
Su	10:00–17:00

brandts.dk, +45 65 20 70 00

E The Time Collection

This private collection features every day items from the past, allowing you to walk through time in a Danish home. Well worth a visit.

7 Farvergården, Odense 5000, Denmark
(55.39482, 10.38100)

tidenssamling.dk, +45 6591 1942



F The Carl Nielsen Museum

Museum dedicated to the life and work of the classical music composer who was born in Odense. Free entrance.

Claus Bergs Gade 11, 5000 Odense, Denmark
(55.39959, 10.39193)

museum.odense.dk/en/museums/carl-nie..., +45 6551 4601

Brandts 13

A part of Art Gallery Brandts. This venue shows the more experimental exhibitions and often showcases local up and coming artists.

13 Jernbanegade, Odense 5000, Denmark
(55.39769, 10.38556)

brandts.dk/en/, +45 6520 7000

Historic Churches of Odense

This collection explores Odense's ecclesiastical history, spanning from medieval Gothic landmarks to 20th-century parish churches. It features Saint Canute's Cathedral, housing the remains of Denmark's patron saint, and the historic Saint Hans Church, established by the Knights Hospitaller. The selection includes architectural highlights like the Roman Catholic St. Alban's Church and modern structures like Munkebjerg Kirke, reflecting the city's transition from medieval foundations to contemporary worship spaces.





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2 Sankt Hans Plads, Odense 5000, Denmark
(55.39912, 10.38757)

C Vor Frue Kirke

A 13th-century Gothic church and one of the oldest buildings in Odense. Originally part of a Benedictine monastery, it features a distinctive long nave and historic interior elements dating back several centuries.

10 Frue Kirkestræde, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39770, 10.39549)



D St. Alban's Church

St. Alban's Church is the Roman Catholic parish church of Odense, Denmark. It should not be confused with the medieval church of St.

1 Adelgade, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39638, 10.39103)



E Baptistkirken i Odense

Also known as Kristuskirken, this Baptist church serves a diverse international congregation and is a prominent center for the city's Free Church community.

11 Munkemøllestræde, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39364, 10.38756)

F Jacobskirken

A parish church located in the Bolbro district, serving as a local center for worship and community gatherings in western Odense.

14T Odinsgade, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39549, 10.37660)

jacobskirken.dk

G Ansgars Church

Ansgars Church is a church in Odense, Denmark, within the Diocese of Funen.

1B Sdr. Boulevard, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39142, 10.37817)

H Fredens Kirke

Built between 1916 and 1920, this church was designed by Peder Vilhelm Jensen-Klint, the architect of Copenhagen's famous Grundtvig's Church. It is noted for its unique brickwork and neo-baroque influences.

162 Skibhusvej, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.41345, 10.39525)

I Hans Tausens Kirke

Completed in 1924, this church is named after Hans Tausen, the leader of the Danish Reformation. It serves the western part of central Odense with its traditional red brick architecture.

62 Rugårdsvej, Odense 5000, Denmark (55.39853, 10.36337)

J Thomas Kingos Kirke

Completed in 1924 and designed by Edvard Thomsen, this church is named after the renowned Danish bishop and hymn writer Thomas Kingo. It is a central landmark in the southern part of the city.

9 Bülowsvej, Odense 5230, Denmark (55.38550, 10.38746)

K Munkebjerg Kirke

A modern church completed in 1961, designed by architects Erik and Ebbe Lehn Petersen. It is recognized for its mid-century Scandinavian design and distinctive architectural lines.

87 Østerbæksvej, Odense 5230, Denmark (55.38697, 10.40448)

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