

In the footsteps of Hans Christian Andersen

This walk takes you through the old part of Odense where Hans Christian Andersen was born and raised. All over the city centre you will find works of art inspired by Andersen's fairy tales as well as places he used to visit himself - please follow the route marked with a red line on the map.

The first stop is in Jernbanegade at the sculpture 'The flying Trunk' made in bronze and granite by Jens Flemming Sørensen. Immediately after you see the Grey Friars' Convent, which among other things contained a hospital when Hans Christian Andersen lived here. Andersen often visited the hospital with his grandmother and played in the court yard. The statue situated in the court yard illustrates King Christian III.

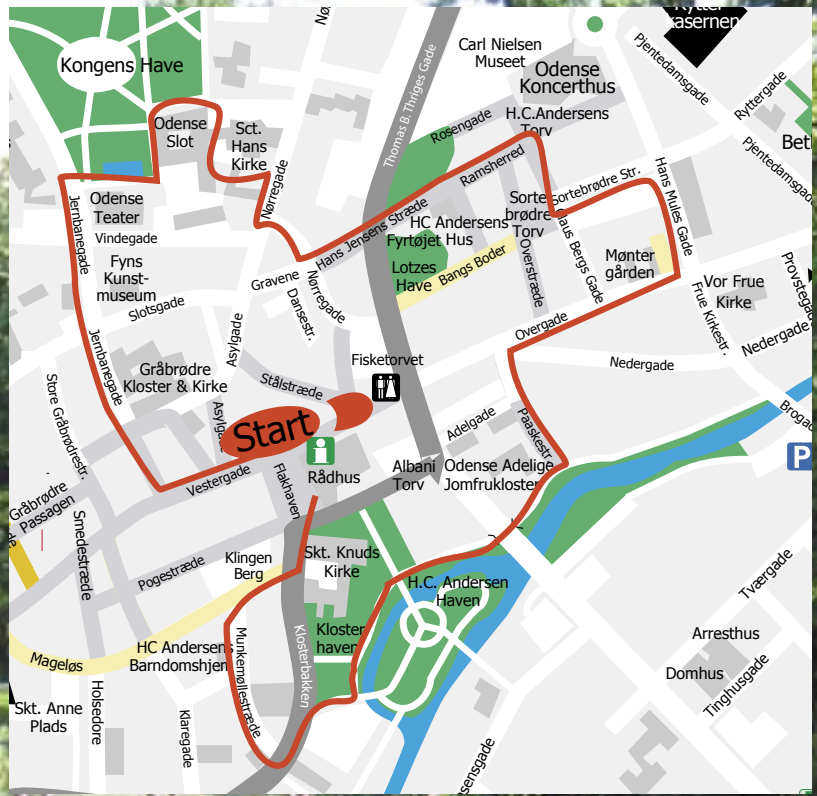
On your way to Kongens Have (King's Garden) you pass Odense Theatre. Andersen was very influenced by the theatre in Odense, which was the only permanent theatre outside Copenhagen in Andersen's childhood. He often watched the plays and even performed in a few plays himself. Unfortunately, the theatre Andersen loved so much, burned down in 1922. This theatre is the current theatre in Odense.

In Kongens Have you pass Odense Slot (Odense Castle) which used to be the presiding king's residence when in Odense. Andersen's mother worked in the castle and we know that Andersen played with the crown prince (the later King Frederik VII) in the court yard. Today, the castle is closed to the public.

Turn right at the end of the castle and continue through the arch way with the main entrance to Sct. Hans Church. This church is known for its beautiful interior and its exterior medieval pulpit, which is still visible today as an open shutter in the church wall.

In 1805 on Easter Monday Hans Christian Andersen's christening was repeated in Sct. Hans Church (he had been christened at home right after his birth, which was quite common then because of the high rate of child death).

Following Nørregade you pass an old merchant's house, Oluf Baggers Gård (1586), a beautiful example of a building you would find in Odense at that time. When you enter the H.C. Andersen Quarter the look of the town





in Andersen's time truly becomes apparent. Here, you find the yellow corner house where the writer is believed to have been born - and which today provides the setting for the completely renovated H.C. Andersen Museum, a natural stop on your tour. If you have children with you don't miss Fyrtøjet (The Tinderbox - a cultural house for children), which is situated right next to the museum. Regardless of nationality children love this place and can spend hours playing in the fairy-tale universe of Hans Christian Andersen. In the summer you can experience the H.C. Andersen Parade Show for free in Lotze's Have (in front of the museum) three times a day.



Follow the route to 'Sortebrødre Torv' where the bronze sculpture 'Thumbelina' made by Lotte Olsen is situated. Continue to Overgade where you pass Odense City Museum 'Møntergården'. Notice the narrow street just before the museum - this illustrates perfectly how closely many of the houses were placed when Andersen lived. In the beginning of 'Paaskestræde' you can see the bronze sculpture 'The Steadfast Tin Soldier' by Eiler Madsen and shortly after you pass 'Fattigskolen' (the Charity School) where Andersen was a pupil. Next to Odense River is one of the places where women used to do their laundry. Continue to the Hans Christian Andersen Garden (Eventyrhaven), where you will find Louis Hasselriis' statue from 1888 of the writer. Here you can also see a sculpture of a paper boat made by Erik Heide. The sculpture is floating on Odense River.



From the garden cross Klosterbakken and proceed to Munkemøllestræde, where Hans Christian Andersen's childhood home is situated. In this house Andersen spent most of his childhood with his mother and father. Nowadays we find that the house is very small but in the two other flats in the house lived 6-8 occupiers in each!



Last stop is Odense Cathedral (Sct. Knuds Kirke) built in Gothic style. In this Cathedral Andersen was confirmed in 1819. You can among other things see the world famous altarpiece from 1521 by Claus Berg and the mortal remains of Saint Knud and his brother Benedikt. After the Cathedral you are back in front of the town hall where the walk started. This is also the location of the old town hall where H. C. Andersen the 6th December 1867 was appointed honorary member of Odense.

