

## BORNHOLMS MUSEUM

Bornholm's Museum of Cultural History with exhibitions, accounts and objects covering more than ten thousand years of history. This state-authorised museum is charged with collecting, recording, preserving, conducting research into and providing information about the island's fascinating history. Sct. Mortensgade 29, Rønne.

## ERICHSENS GÅRD

Town and Garden Museum in a splendid townhouse from 1806, with an old-fashioned garden. Stop by to learn more about how life was lived in the towns and villages of Bornholm more than a century ago! The buildings and garden are listed. Laksegade 7, Rønne.

## HJORTHS FABRIK

Ceramics Museum. Ceramics have been produced on Bornholm and exported since the 1700s. See the exhibitions, visit the workshops (still producing stoneware), and you might be tempted to buy some of the fine craft art in the shop. Krystalgade 5, Rønne.

## DEFENCE MUSEUM

A museum in Rønne which includes the "Citadel", with uniforms, weapons, vehicles and other matériel used on Bornholm over the ages. Exhibitions about World War II, the Liberation of Bornholm in 1658, and more! Note: closed Sunday and Monday. Arsenalvej 8, Rønne.

## THE WOODEN BOAT GUILD OF BORNHOLM

A society that aims to preserve the island's wooden-boat culture. Bornholms Museum's collection of old, clinker-built fishing boats is exhibited on the premises of the Wooden Boat Guild. Free admission when work is being carried out at the shipyard. Guided tours can be arranged for a fee. Bådebyggervej 2, Rønne.



Rønne Post Office, photo 1910

(non-establishment church, 23) at Sct. Mortensgade 33 and 36 respectively. Bidstrup also left his mark by being in charge of the demolition and restoration of Bornholm's rural churches. One of the town's at one time 25 ceramics factories, the **Michael Andersen** factory, is located on the east side of Lille Torv. The factory opened in 1890. Lille Torv's wedge shape and sloping terrain to the north lead visitors in the direction of Store Torv. The three squares - Store Torv, Lille Torv and the square in front of Hovedvagten - form an integrated progression. Their origins relate to a fortification of the town from 1688. Leave Lille Torv by walking to the end of Staalegade and then Stettestræde to:

**22 Bornholms Museum**, founded in 1893, installed in a former hospital building and enlarged in 1923. Bornholm's "historical memory" with archives and collections - as well as exhibitions on the island's history from antiquity up to the present. The highlights are exhibitions on the gold figurines, grandfather clocks and World War II, all relating to Bornholm.

**23** Continue to Lille Madsegade 32-34, an abandoned power plant, designed by architect Anton Rosen in 1911. The plant was in use until 1945 when it was replaced by the Østkraft power plant on the harbour (45). Return to the Technical School (1893) and Valgmenighedskirke (1900)

at Sct. Mortensgade 33 and 36 respectively, designed by Mathias Bidstrup. Continue to:

**24** Rolighedsgade, lined with a well-balanced row of "post-bombing houses" (nos. 1-13), built after the bombings in 1945. Continue south on Nørregade to:

**25 Store Torv** (Big Square), originally used as military drilling grounds. During the course of the 1800s, the square gradually developed as the low half-timbered buildings were replaced by multi-storey brick buildings, especially in the years 1880 to 1900, at the same time that Store Torv became part of the town's business centre. More buildings were added, e.g. after the 1945 bombings. The fountain was dedicated in 1908 at the same time that running water was installed in Rønne. **Soluret** (Sun Dial, 2000) by sculptor Jun-Ichi-Inoue.

The square's oldest building is the listed courthouse (and former town hall and gaol) at Store Torv 1, on the east side of the square. It was built in 1834, according to drawings by Major Henning Pedersen. Danske Bank's building on the west side of the square (Store Torv 12) was built in 1921-23, according to drawings by renowned architect Kay Fisker, who together with Aage Rafn had won an architectural competition in 1916 for the construction of station buildings on the Almindingen Forest - Gudhjem railway line.

**26** Store Torvegade is the town's pedestrian street and one of its most important shopping streets. It leads down to the charming **Laksetorv** square with cafés.

**27** The **pavement** of Laksegade is c. 150 years old. Most of the houses in Laksegade date from the early 1800s or before, and several are listed.

**Erichsens Gård** is the best preserved burgher's house in Rønne, built in 1806 and enlarged in the 1830s. The house is named after a previous owner, counsellor Th. Erichsen, who owned the property from 1838. The house has mementos of painter Kristian Zahrtmann and writer Holger Drachmann, whose first wife, Vilhelmine Erichsen, was the daughter of the house. Henning Pedersen, who designed Rønne's original Rectory (19) and Rønne's old town hall on Store Torv (25), lived here from 1816 to 1837 and left his mark on the building. The street space is closed off on both sides of the house and the garden is enclosed by a half-timbered garden wall.



Erichsens Gård, Laksegade 7

Erichsens Gård includes an exhibition about the property and its history and is also furnished in the style of a burgher's home from the last half of the 1800s. The garden is an old-fashioned, protected town garden of great cultural-historical value.

**28 Kommandantgården**, Storegade 42, listed, was the residence of the chief of staff for Bornholm's Defence Service. The neo-classical main building with the tall gable on Storegade was built in 1846. The property's half-timbered buildings are visible along Rosengade and date from the early 1700s. One of Rønne's large old gardens is still preserved behind the courtyard. The garden wall along Rosengade is composed partly of a high granite

section and partly of a half-timbered section where the western wall sections are built of large bricks known as *munkesten*. Note the brickwork stamps imprinted in these bricks, most of which are from Lübeck, Germany.

**29 Hjorths Fabrik**, Krystalgade 5, ceramics museum. These buildings have housed the production of terracotta, faience and Bornholm pottery since the 1860s. The entire building complex, most of which was built between 1847 and 1934, is listed. You can visit the factory's workshops, buy ceramics still produced at the factory, see the many exhibitions and enjoy the ambience of the charming courtyard.

**30 Amtmandsgård** (former residence and office of Bornholm's chief administrative officer), Storegade 36. Jens Kofoed, the "liberator of Bornholm", was born in a farmhouse that was once located on this site. Kofoed took part in an uprising that led to the execution of Printzensköld, Sweden's then lord lieutenant, in 1658. The present building served as the residence and offices of the island's chief administrative officer from 1840 to 2005. The portal's wooden cornice, borne by two narrow corbels, was added to decorate the long half-timbered façade.

**31** At the end of Kaasegade, you come to a small open space after walking through a neighbourhood typified by modest, charming houses from c. 1850. From the bench, you can observe the comings and goings of **Nørrekås Marina** where many fishermen were once based. Today Nørrekås is for pleasure craft only.

**32** Master builder H. J. Sonne built Rønne's first continuous "residential area" in **Fiskerstræde** in 1853-54. Most of



Nørrekås Marina c. 1960. The railway track and a rail coach are faintly visible in the background

the houses were purchased by fishermen as they were only a stone's throw from their place of work. The houses originally had a continuous window ledge running beneath the windows. Due to the sloping terrain, the houses on the higher east side of the street have a wooden staircase leading up to the front door.

**33** At **Lille Søstræde 8**, directly across from Store Søstræde, is a two-panelled neo-classical door. **Dr Dampe** is believed to have lived in this house from 1841-48. Dampe is an important figure in Danish history as he was sentenced to life imprisonment by the absolute monarchy for his "rebellious" writings about democracy. From 1826, he was kept in solitary confinement in a gaol on the island of Christiansø (north-east of Bornholm), after which he was "pardoned" in 1841, in return for spending the rest of his life on Bornholm. The year before Denmark's first democratic constitution was adopted in 1849, he was declared a free man and moved back to Copenhagen.

**34 "Zahrtmann's Garden"** is situated at Grønnegade 28, named after renowned Bornholm artist Kristian Zahrtmann who was born in this house in 1843. This fine example of an old garden is visible through the wrought-iron gate. **Grønnegade** 15 and 17-19 are three old half-timbered properties in the simple Bornholm style of timber-

framing, which lacks braces and ground sills (as distinct from elsewhere in Denmark), presumably due to an extreme shortage of suitable wood on Bornholm. The large, red, timber-framed house was built around 1761, but was substantially rebuilt in 1822 by commandant P. M. Hoffmann, hence the name "Hoffmanns Gård".

**35** Snellemarkcentret on the corner of Grønnegade and Snellemark is Bornholm's only indoor shopping centre. Until 1989, this was the site of Bornholm's largest ceramics factory, "**Søholm**" in operation since 1835. The factory relocated to Rønne's industrial zone in 1989, but closed definitively in 1996.



Søholm, photo c. 1940. The brick-built facility was destroyed by the bombings in 1945

**36 Shuttle stop in Snellemark.** If you are visiting Rønne on a cruise ship, you can board a shuttle bus here to return to your ship.

**37 Storegade 32**, built in the 1750s. The cornice was added in the 1820s. This was where Sweden's lord lieutenant Printzensköld was captured on 8 December 1658 by Jens Kofoed and fellow rebels. Printzensköld reportedly attempted to escape down the street from here to the gaol, at the time located below Rønne Council Hall at the present Rådhusstræde. As he was fleeing down the street, he was shot and killed by one of the rebels standing guard. The spot where he fell is commemo-

rated by three exposed flat paving stones visible in the pavement of Storegade, directly across from Rådhusstræde, one of which is engraved with the year 1658. According to legend, the smallest stone commemorates his faithful dog. As a result of the uprising, Bornholm remained part of Denmark.

**38 Toldboden**, Toldbodgade 1 (along with the listed "**Lybækkerlænge**", Grønnegade 2) is one of the oldest houses in Rønne. It was built in 1684 to serve as the king's warehouse and served as the Danish Navy's warehouse for provisions in the Baltic Sea. The thick oak timbers in the building's 29 half-timbered bays were squared and trimmed at the Holmen naval base in Copenhagen and shipped to Rønne. The plank doors on Toldbodgade are "believed" to have originated from Hammershus Castle, from where large quantities of building materials were removed in the 1700s. Toldboden served its original purpose up to 1897. An old figurehead taken from a ship and known as "**Satan between two barking hellhounds**" sits atop the wall next to gable of the house facing the harbour. The figurehead is immortalised in the novel *Pelle the Conqueror* (by Danish author Martin Andersen Nexø) for frightening eight-year-old Pelle when he arrives in Rønne.

**39 Havnesmedien** was built in 1735 as an ammunition depot for the local militia. It was turned into a warehouse in 1835, but was subsequently used as a blacksmith's forge by Bornholms Maskinfabrik. Listed.

**40 Amtsförvaltergården**, Rådhusstræde 1 - Munch Petersens Vej 9. The yellow, three-winged property between the harbour and Rådhusstræde is also called Rosengården after its first

owner, Holger Rosenkrantz, the lord lieutenant of Hammershus from 1625-45. The wings were designed by F. Thielemann in 1847-48 and the sandstone portal by Ove Funch-Espersen in 1938.

**41 Johnsens Gård**, Storegade 15, is one of the few large properties left in Rønne and originally belonged to a rich merchant and shipmaster. The side facing the courtyard is particularly impressive with its preserved half-timbered façades with protrusions and its high foundation walls made of fieldstones. The main building's façade, along Storegade, was refurbished in the 1880s. The northern wing facing the harbour has a belvedere or lookout tower. This part of the property housed a navigation school until 1883.

**42** The **Lighthouse** in Havnebakken was built in 1880 by Wichmann, an iron founder in Rønne, and designed by an engineer named Berg. A similar tower is found at Ystad Harbour, Sweden. "**Kongen**", the lighthouse in the middle of the harbour next to Bornholmstrafikkens ferry berth, is built of Bornholm granite in 1930.

**43 Søndre Bådehavn** (South Boat Harbour) is presumably Rønne's oldest harbour. Small fishing vessels have docked here since the 1600s. The wharf itself was originally closer to the shore bluff, where Munch Petersens Vej is now located.

**44 "Slottet"**, the large grey building on the corner of Zahrtmannsvej and the Gallokken footpath, is a nursing home, built in 1920, architect: Ove Funch-Espersen.

**45 Østkraft**, Bornholm's power plant, was built in 1943-45, replacing the previous power plant in Lille Madsegade (23).

# RØNNE



## Historical Guide



Rønne Harbour, photo c. 1880

tourism, as well as various niche enterprises.

A walk through Rønne will reveal a town shaped by the events of the 1800s, primarily in the form of low, one-storey houses, large merchants' and shipmasters' houses for the town's affluent citizenry and tiny three or four-bayed, half-timbered and brick-built houses for the town's numerous artisans, fishermen and labourers. The original business districts are found around Store Torv (Big Square) and Lille Torv (Little Square) and along the streets Torvegade and Store Torvegade.

**1 The Port of Rønne**, Bornholm's largest and oldest harbour, has fine approach conditions and is sheltered from storms. The harbour was greatly enlarged in the 1800s and 1900s and is now the island's most important port. The cruise ship quay was built in 1993 and the two outermost sets of breakwaters are from 2005.

**2** The old listed **life-saving station** was built in 1929. The functions of the old life-saving station were moved to a new one on an outermost jetty in 2005.



Life-saving station, Sydhavnen (South Harbour)

**3 The Wooden Boat Guild** (Træbådelauget) of Rønne aims to preserve the island's old wooden-boat culture. Bornholms Museum presents its collection of old wooden boats, the island's oldest fishing vessels, on the premises. The facility is open when work is



Citadel Tower, Rønne

being carried out at the shipyard; free admission.

**4 The Citadel Battery** in Kanondalen, originally part of Rønne's fortifications, was an enlargement in c. 1700 of older bastions. Armed with cannon. The original seaside location is blurred by the land reclaimed for the South Harbour. Listed.

**5 The Citadel of Rønne** with cannon turret is from 1689 and is part of fortifications from the 1680s that were never completed. The yellow-washed magazine buildings from the mid 1800s house the Bornholm Defence Museum. The entire facility is listed. Some of the old bastions around the buildings are intact.

**6 Rønne's "new" churchyard** from the 1870s. The "Museumsgang" path is lined with many listed gravestones commemorating prominent citizens of Bornholm. Note the two chapels, the older one designed by architect Mathias Bidstrup in 1889, and the more recent by architect Chr. Svane in 1927.

**7 "Jomfrustiftelsen"**, also known as Spietz's or Hansine Hansen's Charitable Residence for Single Women, comprises two wings, one built in 1911 (on Søndergade, designed by architect Harald Bidstrup), and the other in 1918. A total of 12 dwellings and 12 chimneys!

**8** Walk down Stormgade and Myregade to the square **Bager-**

**pladsen**. This is part of Rønne's old district with cobbled streets and half-timbered and brick-built houses, primarily from the 1800s. The detached, yellow-washed building on the square was built in 1870 to house fire pumps and hearses. The houses around Bagerpladsen and in Vimmelskafet feature the characteristic development of local architectural traditions from the 1700s to the early 1900s, i.e. from traditional timber-framed buildings to brick-built houses made in local, marbled bricks. Note the small dormers in the wing of Vimmelskafet 32, a common type of dormer window from before the advent of cast-iron windows in the mid 1800s.

**Vimmelskafet** is one of the best-preserved street settings with its winding, meandering course, clearly marked by the paving stones. The carriageway tracks are carried through in wider, worn paving stones. Also note the fine pavement connections where the side streets meet Vimmelskafet, the most important street.

**9** Continue north along Bagergade towards the square Hovedvagtstorvet. **Hovedvagten**, Søndergade 12, was the town gate from the south along Søndergade, and was built as a guardhouse and gaol in 1743-44, using building materials taken from Hammershus Castle. For many years, the building was the only brick-built house in Rønne. Due to Søndergade's narrow passage at this point, a pavement was established at the east end of the building in 1940.



Hovedvagtstorvet, c. 1869, painted by A. Richter Ibsen. Rønnes Gård is on the left.

**10** Next to Hovedvagten is **Merchant Rønnes Gård**, Søndergade 14, built in 1813. Note the belvedere on the roof, from where the merchant could keep an eye on his ships in the harbour. "**Rector Koefoed's House**", the brick-built building next to and parcelled out from Rønnes Gård, was built in 1894. The **granite sculpture** on the square was made by sculptor Bent Sørensen.



Rønne Theatre, photo 1934

**12 Rønne Theatre**, Teaterstræde 2, is the oldest actively used theatre building outside Copenhagen, and was built by Det dramatiske Selskab (Drama Society) in 1823. The theatre has been refurbished on several occasions, including by architects Inger and Johannes Exner, who designed the store building along the courtyard, built in 1988-89.

**13 Karnaphuset**, Østergade 2, is a listed dwelling from the mid 1700s. This large corner property is one of the town's large shipmaster's and merchant's houses and is 19 bays long. Its noteworthy features include the protruding bay with a view of the harbour and the Dutch tiles in the drawing room. The building presumably dates from c. 1750.



The "tile lounge" of Karnaphuset, 1922

**14 Church of St Nicolas**, Rønne, surrounded by the square Kirkepladsen. This old church from the late Middle Ages was built in the late 1200s. It was radically rebuilt and enlarged in 1915-17: the nave was doubled in width, side sections off the nave were added and the tower was torn down and replaced by a larger but identical-looking tower. Noteworthy features of the church interior include the late Gothic baptismal font from the island of Gotland (now Sweden), from the 1200s, and the "Paxian" pulpit, donated by one Michael Pax, originally of Rønne, who had settled in Northern Germany. Many original furnishings of the old church, including a painted ceiling from the mid 1700s, are on display at Bornholms Museum.

**15 Kirkepladsen** square was originally the centre of the town. The oldest section of the harbour is just below the church and both Østergade (leading east to Aakirkeby) and Storegade (leading north to Hasle) start from the square.

**16 "The Post-Bombing Houses"**. Some of the "new" houses built after the Soviet bombing of Rønne on 7 and 8 May 1945 can be seen along the south side of Kirkepladsen and in Kirkestræde and Kapelvej. Large sections of the town were bombed and 212 houses were reduced to rubble. The town of Nexø was also seriously dam-



Kirkepladsen, photo 1945

aged by the Soviet bombings. The rebuilding project was managed by "Arkitekthjælpen" led by Willy Hansen. The new houses fit in well with the original neighbourhood as the architects succeeded in maintaining a tightly knit urban ambience, yet with a distinct air of 1940s architecture.



Kirkepladsen 14, relief by Lars Thirstlund

Over the door of two of the houses, Kirkepladsen 14 and Kirkestræde 4, is a commemorative tile plaque with motifs from the bombings. The tiles were made at the Søholm ceramics factory.

**17** To the west is **Otto's Bastion**, a vantage point with fine views across the harbour. The bastion was built c. 1920 as a project for the unemployed on the initiative of master builder Otto Bidstrup.

**18** Leave Kirkepladsen by walking back to and down Provstegade. The corner of Provstegade and Damgade is dominated by a three-storey **warehouse**, designed by architect Arboe and built in 1866. The warehouse

has been converted into flats. Ceramist Marie Hjorth designed the decoration on the warehouse's end wall, next to the courtyard entrance in Provstegade.

**19 The Rectory**, Søborgstræde 11. Built in 1831 as one of the first brick-built houses in Rønne, designed by chartered surveyor Henning Pedersen, who also designed the town hall on Store Torv in 1834 and owned Erichsens Gård in Laksegade (27).



The Rectory in Søborgstræde (next to a now-demolished property), photo 1907

**20** Walk back to Damgade and continue towards Lille Torv. On the way, you pass by **Rønne Børneasyl** (day nursery), founded in 1843, on the corner of Nellikegade and Damgade. The original building was so heavily damaged in the 1945 bombings that it was torn down and replaced by a new one, put into use in 1949 (designed by architect Th. Havning). The façade ornamentation is by Czech ceramist Gertrud Kudielka, an employee of Hjorths Fabrik (29).

**21 Lille Torv** (Little Square). The square is dominated by the **post office** at Lille Torv 18, which constitutes the south side of the square. The building was designed by architect Mathias Bidstrup in 1910. Bidstrup also designed the building at Lille Torv 16, on the corner of Damgade, not to mention many other buildings in Rønne, including the old railway station at Rønne Harbour and the former Technical School and Valgmenighedskirke

