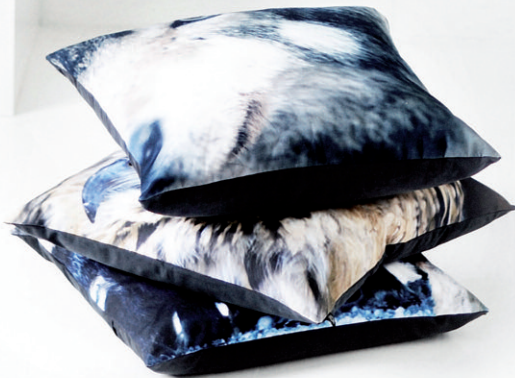


SCAN

MAGAZINE



BY NORD – NORDIC NATURE IN YOUR HOME
OSLO: THE CAPITAL OF CULTURE AND NATURE
VISIT THE SPECTACULAR ÅLAND ISLANDS
CAMPING IN DENMARK IS FOR EVERYONE



THE SCANDINAVIA SHOW 2011



8-9 October 2011

Earls Court, Brompton Hall, London

All the best of brand Scandinavia for you to taste, test and buy!

The Scandinavia Show will be returning on 8-9 October 2011 to the Brompton Hall at Earls Court London. Please reserve the date!

The Scandinavia Show is the only UK show dedicated exclusively to showcase the best of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland. The show incorporates Scandinavian design, travel, lifestyle, fashion, culture and food.

All our exhibitors will have well-stocked stalls. So the best of Scandinavian fashion, food, furniture, design and holidays – everything can be purchased at The Scandinavia Show.

For further information, or to exhibit:

www.scandinaviashow.co.uk

Design If you love the bright and airy Scandinavian design, then The Scandinavia Show will be a can't-miss event.

Travel Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland are some of the greatest travel destinations in the world. And The Scandinavia Show will be the UK's single most important showcase for Nordic tourism this year.

Fashion The Scandinavia Show will be the place to go for those who want to experience the latest fashions in the leading Scandinavian designer clothes.

Food All the most mouth-watering specialities from the Nordic culinary table will be handed out or sold at The Scandinavia Show.



THE INNOVATORS OF COMFORT™



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Dear Reader,



Welcome to our July issue! I hope everyone is either just returning from a relaxing and refreshing summer break or is enjoying one at this very moment. We've even been blessed with a few sunny (even scorching) days here in London as well as around Scandinavia, so the tan lines should be showing right about now.

But no matter how much we fight against the thought, after summer, must come autumn. However, there is something else than just rain and soggy leaves for us to look forward to again: namely The Scandinavia Show 2011. The event showcasing the best of Brand Scandinavia is back for its second year, with a bigger venue and plenty more exciting exhibitors. The show will once again incorporate a great mix of Scandinavian design, travel, lifestyle, fashion, culture and food. And let's not forget about the diverse entertainment programme either. It is a definite must for all Nordic expats as well as lovers of everything Scandinavian. So why not join us on 8-9 October 2011 in Earl's Court, London, for some Scandinavian fun!

Our July issue is also celebrating Scandinavian design in all its forms, including our cover story about Danish designer Hanne Berzant and her nature-inspired brand by nord. You can also turn to our design section to discover more inspiring Scandi designs by multitalented Naja Utzon Popov and the brand HAY.

Our travel themes this month offer useful tips for visiting the Norwegian capital Oslo, Kristiansund and Nordmøre in Fjord Norway, Halland on the western coast of Sweden, and the Åland Islands in the Baltic Sea, or for planning an energizing camping holiday to Denmark.

Remember to check out our monthly columns, including the first one by Rasmus Ankersen, who is a bestselling author, motivational speaker and advisor for world-class athletes and businesses around the world.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue!

Nia Kajastie
Editor

SCAN

M A G A Z I N E

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Regular Contributors



Nia Kajastie (Editor) was born and raised in Helsinki, Finland, and moved to London in 2005 to study writing. With a BA in Journalism & Creative Writing, she now describes herself as a full-time writer and grammar stickler.



Emelie Krugly Hill has worked on a number of Swedish newspapers. After travelling extensively, she has been based in London since 2006. Her particular interests are news and current affairs within Sweden and the export of Scandinavian culture to the UK.



Mette Lisby is Denmark's leading female comedian. She invites you to laugh along with her monthly humour columns. Since her stand-up debut in 1992, Mette has hosted the Danish versions of "Have I Got News For You" and "Room 101".



Julie Guldbrandsen is Scan Magazine's fashion and design expert; she has worked in the fashion industry for more than 10 years, and advised various Scandinavian design and fashion companies. Besides, Julie has a BA in business and philosophy and has lived in Copenhagen, Singapore and Beijing before settling down in London.



Lykke Fabricius Port is a Danish journalist, who lost her heart to London while finishing her degree at City University. Now she is a proud Scandinavian expat working as a freelance journalist, when she's not busy blogging, cooking or experimenting with her camera.



Linnea Dunne has been writing professionally for over 10 years. Having started out on a local paper in Sweden, she is passionate about Scandinavian music and culture, and currently works in London as a full-time writer and translator.



Swedish **Sara Schedin** has lived in London for four years. She is currently studying Journalism in her third year at City University and is covering Scandinavian culture in the UK.



Maria Smedstad moved to the UK from Sweden in 1994. She received a degree in Illustration in 2001, before settling in the capital as a freelance cartoonist, creating the autobiographical cartoon Em. She writes a column on the trials and tribulations of life as a Swede in the UK.



Karl Batterbee is devoted to Scandinavian music and knows exactly what is coming up in the UK. Apart from writing a monthly music update for Scan Magazine Karl has also started the Scandipop Club Night and its corresponding website: www.scandipop.co.uk.



Danish **Yane Christensen** has lived in London half her life. She's a designer, illustrator and mother of twin girls. She also has an on-line shop www.fleamarketfloozy.com and writes to exercise her brain.



Linnéa Mitchell is a freelance journalist who came to London in 2003 as a TV announcer for Swedish TV3. She now contributes to English and Swedish publications, parallel to doing voiceover jobs as well as blogging for a children's/parents' website.



Ulrika Osterlund spent most of her life in London, but recently returned to Stockholm, where she is working as a journalist. She studied international business in Paris and journalism in London. She is also a budding novelist.



Norwegian **Karin Modig** has lived in London since 1998: she arrived with the intention of staying just four months. She currently works as a freelance journalist and PR consultant, and is a keen handball player.



Inna Hakala is a freelance writer, translator and photographer whose passions lie in all things art and design. She moved to the UK from her native Finland in 2001 and has since developed a chronic yearning for sauna.



Having travelled much of the world, **Signe Hansen**, MA graduate in Journalism and previous editor at Scan Magazine, is now back freelancing in London, where she writes on everything Scandinavian and her main passions: culture, travel and health.



Lasse Berg Sørensen is a Danish journalist currently studying for a Masters in Business and Finance Journalism at City University, London. He has previously studied in Aarhus, Missouri and Amsterdam. Apart from journalism, he is very interested in photography, web culture and is a major music geek.



Sven Riis Houston has lived in Edinburgh for six years, having graduated from Edinburgh Napier University with a BA in Journalism in 2009. He currently works as a freelance writer and media researcher, and has an unhealthy interest in football.



Charlotte Kany is back in Copenhagen, Denmark, after living in London for more than a year. She has an MA in Communication & Rhetoric from the University of Copenhagen. She has gained years of experience within the media industry working in PR & communication. She loves to travel all around the world plus keeping updated on all things cultural.



Bianca Wessel is a Norwegian, living in the UK since 2007. She's the blogger behind www.littlescandinavian.com, which promotes all things trendy for children. With a passion for design and fashion conceived with children in mind, she'll be writing monthly about trends and news.

Warning: This News May Shock You...

Owners of Danish Food Direct Caught In Outrageous Sausage Scandal!



Contact the Daring Duo on **01234 888 788** or email **info@DanishFoodDirect.co.uk**. Danish Food Direct are located at The Old Coach House, Turvey, Bedfordshire, MK43 8EN.

THE DARING DUO is breaking all the rules by offering such a delicious deal for an outrageous price!

It appears that, as its summer time, this is the perfect weather for Danes to start indulging in Hotdogpølse, with the trimmings to go with it.

In a brave move, the Danish Food Direct couple are giving you a bag of Hotdogpølse for £15.50 PLUS some remoulade and crispy onions for an extra £1.

When questioned about the amazing savings for this summer feast, and on their sanity, Stephen Briggs said "These sausages are incredible, you would be mad not to try them!"

Get yourself a 1.5kg bag (24 sausages) of Hotdogpølse, remoulade & crispy onions for just £16.50, saving you £3.40!

 **Danish Food Direct**
...your local Danish deli

Take advantage of this crazy deal at www.DanishFoodDirect.co.uk/outrageous

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by nord

– Bring a piece of raw Nordic nature into your home

Nordic design is known for its clean, strong lines as well as its simplicity and functionality. It is often based on forms, colour combinations and patterns found in Scandinavian nature, which is in parts lush and peaceful while at times also wild and rough. Working along the same lines, but bringing their own recognisable organic touch and powerful prints to the table, is Danish design brand by nord. Spearheaded by co-founder and designer Hanne Berzant, the company was established in 2008 and is spreading its presence to continental Europe and the UK, as well as the US. Scan Magazine was able to get to know Berzant and her brand a bit better.

By Nia Kajastie | Cover photo: Morten Jerichau | Interior photos: Heidi Lerkenfeldt

Hanne Berzant and her husband, who is a business development consultant with experience in the fashion industry, wanted to create a distinctive design company for home accessories sharing a close link with Nordic design heritage and nature. They also wanted to establish a strong brand identity, which would give all their products a uniquely “by nord” look and feel.

Berzant, a formally educated graphic designer, had already garnered many years of experience working as an art director for lifestyle magazines. “So you could say, I have always been in design,” she says. “The format then was paper, but my focus on creating strong images and aesthetic products has always been there. That said, it was a very tough decision after ten

years to leave a comfortable position at the publishing house and start my own company with all the insecurity involved.”

by nord is fully inspired by the inexhaustible beauty and rawness of Nordic nature, hence their slogan “where design meets nature”

Danish success

Berzant was, however, able to make the successful jump from securely employed to self-employed and is now on a mission to make by nord into an internationally recognised design brand. Following in the footsteps of another Danish success story, namely the ‘world’s best restaurant’

Noma, by nord is fully inspired by the inexhaustible beauty and rawness of Nordic nature, hence their slogan ‘where design meets nature’.

“We must be able to tell the inspirational stories behind each one of our products,” explains Berzant. “The overall aim is, of course, to create products which are so uniquely by nord that they are instantly recognised as such. I believe our bed linen and cushions with digital prints are good examples of such products.”

In addition to influences found everywhere in nature, from forests to the back garden, Berzant is also inspired by the Scandinavian design heritage, which emphasises strong lines, soft colour combinations and user friendliness in products. It is a large



and useful pool of knowledge and creativity to tap into, as Nordic design classics are plentiful and renowned worldwide. A lot of people already trust and admire the handicraft of many Scandinavians, so a new, strong design force on the field is indeed welcomed gladly.

Organic materials and bold prints

With a strong connection to nature, by nord also believes in sustainable design and accountability in production, combining style, functionality and organic materials. Their collection is not based on trends or seasons either, so all extensions and additions are carefully planned as a part of the organic design process.

“We also work very closely with our customers, agents and end-users, listening to their ideas as to which by nord designs and products we should concentrate on,

as well as how the brand should evolve,” says Berzant. “So it’s very important for us to stay empathetic and in touch with external opinions.”



Their collection started off with their Northern Light candleholders and bed linen with digital prints of Nordic animals, but today it also comprises other home accessories, such as cushions, handmade pottery, bags, and t-shirts with powerful images of Inuit on them.

“The source of inspiration from Nordic nature is vast, so we might be making unique Nordic furniture and lighting one day,” Berzant muses.

The brand is already making waves in the Nordic region among major upscale retailers, as well as garnering interest in continental Europe, the UK and the US. Berzant ultimately wishes for by nord to become a global brand, however, without losing any integral parts of its identity and vision.

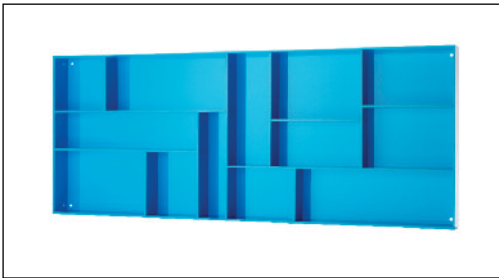
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Nordic Elements

for the design conscious family



Nordic Elements offers a great selection of products for the design conscious family, varying from home furnishings, accessories, gifts, children's products and more.

We represent a number of exclusive Scandinavian brands including RoomMate, Casalinga, Neon Living and By Nord Copenhagen.

For our full collection, please visit our website: www.nordicelements.com



The Scandinavia Show is back

- bigger and better than before

On 8-9 October 2011, the Scandinavia Show is returning to London on a renewed mission to entertain, educate and entice lovers of everything Scandinavian. The show is back for its second year; however, this time around, the venue is bigger and better than before. So come October, why not join Scan Magazine, who are also the organisers of the event, at Brompton Hall at Earl's Court for a show that will exhibit the best bits of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

By Nia Kajastie | Photos: Yiannis Katsaris

Whether you are more interested and intrigued by Scandinavian design, fashion, food, travel, lifestyle or culture, The Scandinavia Show will offer a great mix of all themes. Just like at the very first Scandinavia Show, the event will showcase some amazing brands, offer useful information and generally entertain the socks off you. "We are very excited that the show is growing so much in its second year," says Scan Magazine's executive editor Thomas Winther. "We have around 25 or so more exhibitors than last year as well as a much bigger venue. We have also received a lot of interest from new exhibitors."

This year, the show will offer an increasing amount of tempting shopping opportunities, as all exhibitors will present well-stocked stalls, bursting with great show offers. In the design section, among many other exhibitors, Icons of Denmark will be promoting products by Danish design company HAY; Bang & Olufsen return with a stand; and brand new exhibitors will include ECCO, Hästens and Nordic Style.

The food section turned out to be a real hit last year, and this time around, the show will introduce more food exhibitors, including newcomers FINN CRISP and Almondy tårta (Swedish frozen pies). Totally

Swedish, Madsen Restaurant and Danish Food Direct, which all had very popular stands last year, will be back to keep Scandinavian food lovers satisfied.

The travel stands will once again include the tourist boards for the participating Nordic countries, which will be presenting the greatest travel destinations, hotels, trips and sights in Denmark, Sweden,



Norway, Finland and Iceland. You will get a great overview of the best holiday offers in the region.

You should also make sure to check out the final show guide before the event, as it will be full of diverse and surprising performances and master classes by talented Scandinavians, ranging from a 60-person Danish gospel choir to cooking tips from Norwegian chef Signe Johansen, and back for another year, Denmark's favourite cook, Trina Hahnemann.

"We have been working hard on a great entertainment programme and can present two stages integrated in the hall with cooking, travel presentations, live music and much more on both days," explains Scan Magazine's creative director Mads Petersen.

It will be two great days packed full of wonderful Scandinavian brands and exciting entertainment. Come and join us for an exclusive look at Scandinavia's most successful exports!

For more information and a preliminary list of exhibitors, please visit:
www.scandinaviashow.co.uk

We love this...

By Julie Gulbrandsen. Email: julie@scanmagazine.co.uk

A quintessential Scandinavian summer is light and breezy, and we tend to take maximum advantage of this by moving a great part of our lives outdoors. We have selected a few design treasures for practical, yet very stylish outdoor living.

DAY Birger et Mikkelsen

This stylish little foldable chair by DAY Birger et Mikkelsen is super comfortable to sit in. Bring it to the beach or enjoy on the patio. £229, www.wild-swans.com



House Doctor

Barrel-resembling but nonetheless very chic pots for bigger plants by House Doctor. Suitable for indoor as well as outdoor use. £141, call +44 (0)1747 858300 for stockists.

Pretty picnic

The classic picnic basket will never go out of fashion. Pretty and useful, all in one. Use it for other practicalities when the days get colder. £22, call +44 (0)1747 858300 for stockists.



Eva Solo

A chic little grill by Eva Solo, made of fireproof porcelain. The handle makes it easy to carry around. Available in black and white. Ø 30 cm. £199, www.evasolo.com



Garden bench

A wooden bench is a standard piece of furniture in Scandinavian summer houses. This one will look beautiful in the garden, just as it would make a great style statement in the hallway. £250, oliverfurniture.dk

Nordal

Gorgeous, bright turquoise blanket with a pretty floral and bird print. £175, www.nordal.eu



Fashion Diary... Holiday Ahead

The holiday season is just around the corner, which means now is the time to shop for those last essential summer wardrobe pieces. This is what I would love to pack in my suitcase.

By Julie Guldbrandsen. Email: julie@scanmagazine.co.uk



You can't go wrong with a classic breton striped bikini like this delicious version by By Malene Birger. £89, shop.bymalenebirger.com



A straw bag is a beach and summer holiday essential. This one by Rabens Saloner is a very stylish choice. £102, www.rabenssaloner.com



An ultra feminine and elegant long white summer dress with multicoloured print and big sleeves by Heartmade. £397, www.heartmade.dk



This wide brimmed floppy seventies style hat by Ganni is the perfect companion for the beach. Sun protection and coolness in one. £37, www.gannistore.com



Cute and versatile linen shorts by Custommade. £107, www.custommade.dk



Flat metallic bronze sandals by Barund CPH. £118, barundshop.com

Scandinavian Mum

By Bianca Wessel | Kids' Fashion and Design blogger | www.littlescandinavian.com

Scandinavians are by now recognized as trendsetters for their functional and minimalistic sleek fashion and design, but also for being eco-friendly with regards to sustainability and use of organic materials. For children, in particular, the design is made to suit their needs and to enrich their active day. The design is not only practical and helpful, but also innovative and inspiring.

Seed Pli Mg

Seed Pli Mg is Danish design at its best: a sleek and innovative high-quality pushchair, launched in June, 2011. This is the pushchair for the future. www.seed.dk



Shampoodle Air Jumpsuit

Swedish fashion brand Shampoodle are trendsetters for sustainability with their unisex organic clothes - we adore this lightweight jumpsuit. www.shampoodle.se

Rabbitbox

Designed to suit children's needs by the Swedish designers Lindblom and Lindström for Heirloom, the Rabbit storage box is one of the sweetest things we've seen for a while. www.heirloom.se



Competition: Win matching mother-daughter outfits from myCinnamonGirl!

After five very successful years in the Scandinavian market, the Norwegian children's wear brand *myCinnamonGirl* has recently been launched in the UK.

Designed by Kari Thomassen, the focus of *myCinnamonGirl* is to create something romantic and full of princess fantasies. The label uses only exclusive prints, unique colour combinations and high-quality materials. Along with beautiful details, *myCinnamonGirl* garments are practical and functional, making it a brand loved by mothers and children alike.

Simply answer the question below to enter our prize draw: all entries will receive a 25% Discount Shopping Voucher.

Question: Which Scandinavian country does *myCinnamonGirl* originate from?

Email your answer and contact details to competition@scanmagazine.co.uk, and Scan Magazine will draw one lucky winner.

We must receive your answer by 8 August 2011. The winner will be contacted directly.



Products

- ▶ Rosie Dress girl, sizes 6 months to 12 years, £39
- ▶ Rosie Dress woman, sizes XS - XL, £59
- ▶ The dresses are available in: off-white, cerise pink, antique rose, lavender, lilac, cappuccino and lime green

For more information, please visit: www.mycinnamongirl.co.uk



Bespoke rugs inspired by nature, sculpture and fine art

By Nia Kajastie | Photos: Kraig Carlstrom

Earlier this year, Danish sculptural artist, ceramicist and textile designer Naja Utzon Popov launched her rug designs at the Maison et Objet trade show in Paris, as well as showcasing them at ICFE in New York. Currently her rug ranges are sold at Selfridges and Chaplin's in London; however, they can also be bought directly from Naja, who offers a bespoke design service for her clients.

Daughter of Danish artist Lin Utzon and Australian architect Alex Popov (as well as the granddaughter of Danish architect Jørn Utzon, designer of the Sydney Opera House), Naja Utzon Popov's upbringing was strongly influenced by her parents' creativity. "They taught me and my brother to really see things and to know who people like Alvar Aalto and Picasso were," she says. "I was brought up to have a more visual and sensory way of processing my surroundings."

Naja spent her childhood years in Denmark, eventually moved to Australia, where she studied drawing, painting and etching, and finally made her way to London to finish off her artistic training.

"I didn't know for sure what I wanted to do for a really long time," she says. "In Lon-

don, I signed up for loads of courses, as I enjoyed different things like photography, for example. But there was nothing I felt really attached to. However, the first time that I touched clay I just knew it was the right kind of medium for me."



Photo: Peter Westh

Accordingly, Naja completed a degree in ceramics as well as taking sculptural classes. For her degree show, she made a large sculptural installation that ended up being sold to the Danish design company Rosendahl.

Naja's transition to creating textiles came about as a rug company contacted her re-

garding her designs. Although at first she did not know where to begin, a trip to Japan brought her the right kind of inspiration.

"Sculptures are my passion, but large sculptural installations aren't being bought every day. The rug ranges are a little bit more financially viable," says Naja. "And I enjoy working with different types of media. Just as long as I'm being creative, it doesn't matter what the material is."

Her rug ranges include Botanica, Origin, Ice and Traces. While her work is always influenced by her impressions of nature, in her Traces range, she has set her one-dimensional rug imprints and patterns in the three-dimensional world of sculpture. It is a unique blend of fine and applied art.

The rugs are made from New Zealand wool, silk and viscose and can be made to any size up to 4m x 6m. Naja Utzon Popov provides a bespoke service where clients can have any colour combination and size that they require.

For more information, please visit:
www.najautzonpopov.com



Left: Pop-up shop in Selfridges; Right: Scholten & Baijings for Hay.

Hay – the Danish design brand pops up in London

By Inna Hakala | Photos: Courtesy of Hay

Denmark has long been associated with modern furniture design, and for many it epitomises the Scandinavian style. One of its brightest stars is Hay. Launched in 2003, Hay is described as an exciting, young and innovative company that offers a whole range of furniture options from chairs and sofas to tables and storage units, along with a wide variety of accessories and textiles.

Represented by the UK-based brand agency Icons of Denmark, Hay's ambition is to encourage Danish furniture design's return to the innovative greatness of the 50s and 60s but in a contemporary context. Some examples of these innovations include the recyclable felt chair Nobody, which is the first ever industrially produced chair to be made entirely from textile and without a frame, and the inflatable stool Plopp, made from sheet metal. Both products have won awards for their imaginative and environmentally friendly designs.



Spider Woman by Louise Campbell

The latest products include the The Spider Woman Chair by Louise Campbell and the About A Chair collection by Hee Welling. Award-winning design duo Scholten & Baijings has boosted the accessories range with their colourful bed linen, tea towels and carpets. They have created for themselves an exceptional trademark through mixing soft pastels, bright fluorescent colours and graphic prints, which

are also a valuable addition to Hay's contemporary range.

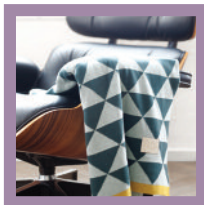
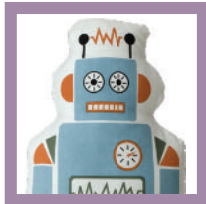
Hay, hay London!

Design-lovers in the UK get a chance to see the Hay products up close and personal in a pop-up shop at London's iconic Selfridge's. Located on the fourth floor of the department store and open from 31 May for two months, the temporary pop-up shop is a fun and creative way of showcasing the company's gems. "This is the first time the entire collection is to be shown in the UK," says Christian Skovhus, director of Icons of Denmark, "and the reception has been absolutely fantastic. Selfridge's has even put Hay designs in their window displays." With products flying off the shelves, it looks like the Hay phenomenon has reached new heights.

For more information, please visit:

www.hay.dk

www.iconsodenmark.dk



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SPECIAL THEME:
OSLO



Engbret Café, Photo: VisitOSLO/Nancy Bundt



Aker Brygge, Photo: VisitOSLO/Rod Costa



The Fountain by the National Theatre Station
Photo: VisitOSLO/Rod Costa

Oslo

– the Capital of Culture and Nature

Oslo surprises many visitors with its intimacy. Although Oslo is the capital of Norway, the surrounding forests and the shores of the Oslo fjord are accessible within minutes from the city centre. Which other capital can give visitors the unique experience of enjoying a brisk forest walk, a relaxing sea breeze and the busy atmosphere of the city, all in one day? It is perhaps this combination of culture and nature which makes Oslo a unique city break destination.

By VisitOslo

Oslo is also a cultural hotspot. Among internationally known museums are the Munch Museum, the Kon-Tiki Museum and the Viking Ship Museum, which houses the best preserved Viking ships ever found. Other attractions not to be missed are the Vigeland sculpture park, the Nobel Peace Center and the new Opera house. Oslo is also the only capital in Europe that can offer great skiing only minutes away from the city centre, making it an all year destination offering something for every taste.

Shoppers also throng to Oslo for tax-free gifts and often visit the cosmopolitan Aker Brygge harbour area for a choice of great shops and restaurants. Food lovers savour the capital's eateries, with Oslo credited with more Michelin-starred restaurants per head than any other capital in the world.

The active and welcoming nightlife is definitely worth trying. Oslo offers countless bars, cafés and nightclubs to choose from, and there is a large number of places that offer live music, especially at weekends. Oslo has a very reputable jazz scene and has something to offer every taste, no matter what your heart desires.

Save time and money

An Oslo Pass is good value as it offers free entry to 33 museums, free travel on public transport and discounts on sight-seeing, restaurants and much more. The

Oslo Package includes hotel accommodation, breakfast and the Oslo Pass for your entire stay.

Welcome to Oslo!



The Vigeland Sculpture Park, Photo: VisitOSLO/Rod Costa



The Opera House, Photo: VisitOSLO/Rod Costa



Engbret Café, Photo: VisitOSLO/Nancy Bundt

For more information and booking,
please visit: www.visitoslo.com



Local cuisine fresh out of the water

By Sven Riis Houston | Photos: Fursetgruppen

For a dining experience comprising exquisite local seafood delicacies and equally impressive surroundings, a visit to Tjuvholmen Sjomagasin is simply essential.

Located in the heart of Oslo, overlooking the Oslo fjord, this unique restaurant also boasts a seafood bar, fish store and a 'Centre of Competence'.

It is the latest venture by Fursetgruppen, which was established in 1997 by owner Bjorn Tore Furset, when he acquired the nearby Lofoten Restaurant. Since then, he has opened a further seven establishments, including Sanguine Brasserie, which forms part of the spectacular Opera house. Whilst his business has expanded, his vision has remained the same throughout: to provide individual and exciting restaurant concepts which cater to individual needs.

Tjuvholmen Sjomagasin does exactly that, offering guests the chance to select their king crabs and lobsters of choice from

the aquarium just inside the main entrance. The restaurant itself is split over two levels, including a mezzanine and 'chambre séparée'. In the summer months, it offers outdoor dining, allowing the fresh sea air to further excite the taste buds. The extensive à la carte menu offers the finest local seafood delicacies, but those looking for a more casual experience will find equal pleasure in the Seafood Bar. Here, you can enjoy a re-



freshing drink, while taking in the wonderful views and sampling a variety of both small and larger dishes.

For those not content with just eating the fresh cuisine, a visit to the 'Centre of Competence' is sure to enlighten and inspire seafood lovers. The centre runs a series of classes which aim to demonstrate the best ways to cook and prepare various seafood dishes. A conference room is also available for hire, making it ideal for corporate meetings.

Once you have gained sufficient insight into the restaurant's methods, why not step into the fish store to purchase fresh ingredients and receive additional expert advice on the catch of the day?

Ina Wille, Fursetgruppen's sales & marketing director, believes Tjuvholmen Sjomagasin encapsulates the vision of the group: "Tjuvholmen offers excellent dining in an elegant environment, making it a truly unique experience for our guests."

For more information, please visit:
www.fursetgruppen.no

Kunstnernes Hus

- where contrasts and artistic control flourish

Next to the park at the Royal Palace, right at the heart of Oslo, lies a Nordic functionalist building bursting at the seams with fascinating history. Now Kunstnernes Hus has got itself a new director, and it is with excitement he looks to the future.

By Linnea Dunne | Photos: Kunstnernes Hus

"As soon as I came here for the interview, any doubt I'd ever had disappeared," says Mats Stjernstedt, the new director of Kunstnernes Hus, who was sought out by the board when the position was advertised. "It's such an amazing building, located in one of the most beautiful parts of Oslo."



Mats Stjernstedt in front of Kunstnernes Hus

Built during the late 1920s and inaugurated in 1930, Kunstnernes Hus was commissioned by a group of artists hoping to promote 'art by artists for artists'. The bylaws are the same now as they were back then, so the artists are still in the driver's seat - something truly unique at a time when more art institutions than ever are run as franchises.

Now it is Stjernstedt's job to reach a wider audience and strengthen the centre's connection to the international art scene. "We've seen an internationalisation in the art world over the past 20 years, where old centres of power are being challenged by new cities worldwide," he says as he ponders Oslo's future as a centre for art. "We've got great resources here, so the potential for Kunstnernes Hus to grow in this climate is huge."

"It's such an amazing building, located in one of the most beautiful parts of Oslo," says Mats Stjernstedt

The first year of Stjernstedt's directorship will play host to a wide range of exhibitions, promoting national as well as international art and everything from new media to traditional paintings. Later this autumn, the Lebanese photographer and video artist Akram Zaatari will take the spectator on a journey through post-war Lebanon, analysing media coverage of the

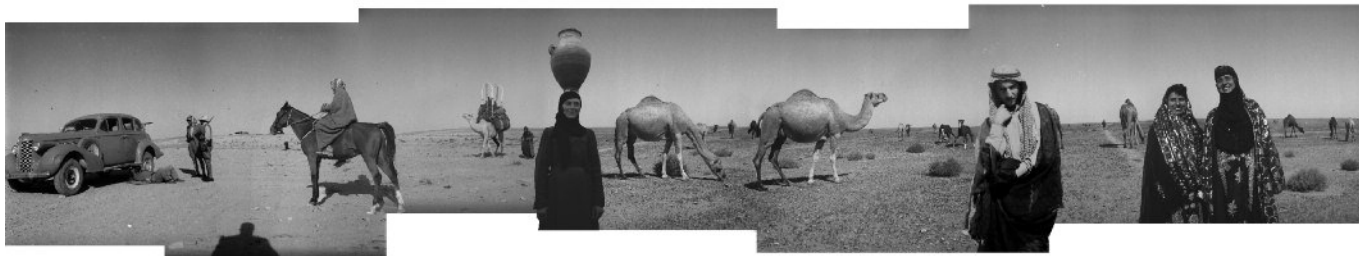
conflict and presenting testimonies.

Next year, the advanced, modern media will be replaced by contrasting naturalism as the painter Sylvia Sleigh posthumously gets her biggest exhibition yet. "Sylvia offers a whole reinterpretation of art history," Stjernstedt enthuses. "She's traditional in that her motives include nude portraits and still-life paintings - yet, she takes an entirely different stance, for instance putting men in contexts in which we would've traditionally seen naked women."

It is all in the contrast, in the juxtaposition between traditional and modern, between historical and timeless. This is where deep-rooted artistic control meets the public, and where a building so characteristic of its time reveals a forward-thinking way of writing art history.

For more information, please visit: www.kunstnerneshus.no

Below: Kunstnernes Hus/Akram Zaatari/ Desert Panorama. Courtesy of Sfeir Semler Gallery and the artist



Norwegian Overland – city safari in Oslo

By Lasse Berg Sørensen | Photos: Norwegian Overland

Usually they take tourists on action-packed treks on steep mountains and spectacular glaciers, but Norwegian Overland, a small, specialised tour agency, also offers city safari tours around the capital city of Oslo.

Hiking is not a wild nature activity only. Norwegian Overland's specialised crew guides travellers through the city jungle of Oslo and shows them all the hidden gems and their favourite spots and attractions.

"You do not just get any guide at Norwegian Overland. We are different, as we know the best places and only think in terms of the best. We give you the best of Oslo seen through Oslo's eyes," says founder and owner Bjarke Juhl, a Dane who ended up in Oslo after travelling the world in his youth. The aim of Norwegian Overland was to create a safari of the north, like the ones he went on in Africa, Bjarke Juhl says. "Although the climate is a bit different," he adds.



Above Right: Founder and owner of Norwegian Overland Bjarke Juhl

All the tours offered by Norwegian Overland are limited to eight people, which means that all travellers get a very personal and individually designed tour.

"This way we can ensure a high quality and offer super flexible tours, where our guests have a say in where we are going," Juhl explains.

"It can be quite a jungle to figure out what to see in Oslo, and Norway is often considered an expensive destination. By letting us do the work, our guests can get the most out of their stay in Norway."

Norwegian Overland facts:

- Offers tours both in Oslo and the scenic nature of Norway.
- The groups consist of a minimum of four and a maximum of eight people.

For more information, please visit:

www.norwegianoverland.com



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SPECIAL THEME:
KRISTIANSUND & NORDMØRE

The Atlantic Road. Photo: Øyvind Lerer



Kristiansund
Photo: Terje Rakkve
Nordic Life AS



The island Grip
Photo: Johan Wildhaugen Paulookaville

Kristiansund & Nordmøre – The Atlantic Road

There lies a landscape full of contrasts in the north-western corner of the Fjord Norway region. Deep fjords, steep mountains, lovely villages, traditional summer pasture farms and vibrant island communities await you. Charming and bustling Kristiansund is one of the most distinctive towns in Norway.

By Destination Kristiansund & Nordmøre

Kristiansund is famous for clipfish and for its opera. For centuries, fresh cod have been salted, dried and processed to make clipfish. Enjoyed as a delicacy in Mediterranean countries and beyond, clipfish has delighted many a palate. Kristiansund received spices and cultural impulses in return for its clipfish, and today, our opera festival, international photography festival and fish are all important elements of our identity.

Are you looking for unspoiled scenery and an active holiday? The coastal skerries are a paradise for kayaking, and an eagle safari is a terrific experience. In the exceptionally beautiful Trollheimen mountains and the wild and steep Sunndalsfjella mountains, walkers will find both challenges and silence. Stay at a traditional summer pasture farm and enjoy a glimpse of an era you thought was long past. On coastal walking trails, you can breathe in fresh sea air – high up in the mountains. Or perhaps you would like to holiday at a lighthouse?

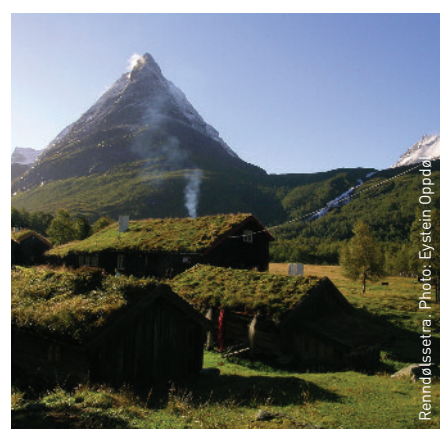
Some of Norway's best fishing rivers are in the Nordmøre region. Fish for trout and salmon in the Driva and Surna rivers – fishing permits are easy to buy. If you prefer cod and saithe, you can stay in traditional fishermen's-style rorbu accommodation with deep-sea fishing available right on your doorstep. Right out at the ocean's edge lies the island of Grip. In summer, boats run daily to this picturesque island with its small stave church, beautiful small houses and incredible history.

The fairy-tale island of Grip is a tiny, tiny island, far out from the coast of Kristiansund. A tiny stave church and an amazingly picturesque little village of colorful wooden houses are an idyllic frame for great history – tiny Grip was formerly one of the most important fishing villages on the Fjord Norway coast. A visit to Grip is a must during the summer.

The Atlantic Road has to be seen to be believed! It winds its way along the coast

between Kristiansund and Bud/Molde. There are stopping places where you can take in the silence and admire the mighty ocean.

Welcome to Nordmøre, the place for fantastic experiences!



Reinhold Issetra, Photo: Eystein Oppdal

For more information, please visit:
www.visitkristiansund.com

Kristiansund International Church Music Festival

– a divine musical experience

By Inna Hakala | Photos: Holm Grafisk

Deep fjords, high mountains, idyllic hamlets and thriving island communities – all this is typical of Nordmøre and its coastal town of Kristiansund. A historic town with beautiful gardens, old cultural monuments and a sea-faring history, Kristiansund is the perfect backdrop for the annual Church Music Festival.



Kristiansund



Opening concert

Now in its 11th year, the highly regarded Kristiansund International Church Music Festival brings together local, national and international performers and offers a vast selection of church music, along with art exhibitions and seminars. The background and chief aim is to present a wide range of the arts created in the Christian church through the centuries, and strengthen the contact between the church, the arts, the community and local industry in Kristiansund and its surrounding areas.

“The festival opens with a major choral

work, and each year a new commissioned work by a Norwegian composer has its first performance,” says artistic director Peder A. Rensvik. This year is no exception: Terje Björklund, who lives and works in Trondheim, has written a Te Deum, an early Christian hymn of praise, which will be performed on two consecutive days. On the last day of the festival, the Norwegian Broadcasting Company will record a special festival service in Nordlandet Church with Mozart’s Coronation Mass as

the main work.

Nordmøre can offer fantastic experiences – both with its spectacular nature and cultural activities

Kristiansund International Church Music Festival 17. - 25.9.2011

For more information, please visit: www.kkkkfestival.com

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Kristiansund Opera

– A world-class Opera on the Norwegian coast

In the 1700s, the small city of Kristiansund on the coast of west-central Norway became an important trading port, notable mainly for its export of clipfish, dried and salted cod. The growing wealth of the city and impulses from the continent were to become the beginning of Kristiansund’s strong opera tradition.

By Karin Modig | Photos: Bjørn Hansen and Ken A. Jensen

Already in the early 1800s, opera had become popular, and Kristiansund citizens started welcoming famous opera singers to their shores.

“Then, in 1914, the opportunity to build a proper opera house arose,” says Line Lønning Andresen, head of Kristiansund Opera. “The building is a fantastic smaller version of the grand European opera houses.” Currently being renovated and modernised, the building is set to re-open late 2011.

Every year, Kristiansund Opera is responsible for around 150 small and large events, traditional opera performances as well as performances aimed at children and young people.

“We run a ballet school for children, and every year they perform the Nutcracker Suite,” says Lønning Andresen. “We also arrange outdoor musicals, such as family

musical Sundbåten Syver, performed in the harbour.”

One of the more spectacular locations Kristiansund Opera uses is a grand outdoor amphitheatre right on the Atlantic Ocean’s coastline, where every September, visitors can explore the history of Kristiansund and its fishing traditions through the opera Donna Bacalao.

Since the beginning of the 1970s, a two-week long celebration of opera, The Kristiansund Opera Festival, has been held in February. “Altogether we have more than 40 different shows on during the festival,” says Lønning Andresen, promising that there will be something for everyone.

During these two weeks, the town lives and breathes opera; there are performances in pubs, cafés, on land and at sea, with everything from big, well-known opera productions to smaller, less recog-

nized pieces. “The highlight of next year’s festival will be the world premiere of the opera The Alchemist, based on Paulo Coelho’s bestselling book.”

“It will be two extraordinary weeks,” says Lønning Andresen, “and we hope to welcome many opera fans to experience the array of modern opera and musical theatre productions the Kristiansund Opera offers.”



Line Lønning Andresen
Photo Charles Williamsen

The Kristiansund Opera Festival runs from February 2 to 18, 2012.

For more information, please visit:
www.oik.no



Halland

– opening up a whole new world of possibilities

By Region Halland | Photos: halland.se

Halland offers remarkable variety in a small space: sea, cliffs and beaches meet forests, hinterland and lakes.

In Halland, it is easy to enjoy the tranquility of the countryside as well as the hustle and bustle of the towns and cities. The area boasts fantastic golf courses, high-class spa experiences, delicious Halland culinary specialties, a varied range of activities and unbeatable shopping. Whether you are looking for a holiday experience or the location for your next business meeting – it is all here.



Photo: Region Halland



You will find more events at:
www.halland.se/en/entertainment-event

Halland offers a mild West Coast climate with an early spring, lovely summer and long warm autumn. The proximity of the coast and hinterland, together with a location between Gothenburg, Malmö and Copenhagen, means that it is easy to get here and easy to get to the next Halland experience.

Start your journey at www.halland.se now! The website has suggestions and offers from Halland's best tourism and events companies.

Events in Halland during 2011:

- Until 31 December: *Varberg celebrates 200 years as a health resort*
- 13–17 July: *Crayfish Festival in Glommen*
- 16 July: *Laholm Town Festival*
- 19–21 July: *Falkenberg Jazz Days*
- 23–24 July: *Swedish Racing League – Sports car contests*
- 28–30 July: *Blues by River Lagan*
- 30 July: *Falkenbergs Town Race*
- 30 July–2 August: *Street Theatre Festival*
- 3–6 August: *European Amateur Golf Championships*
- 5–8 August: *The Tall Ships Races*
- 6 August: *Holiday Halmstad Concrete Cup*
- 12–14 August: *Sjönevad Market*
- 14 August: *Forsasöndagen – Day of the Waterfall*
- 19–21 August: *Kungsbacka Chamber Music Festival*
- 2 September: *Våxtorps Market*
- 3–4 September: *Landeryd Train Festival*
- 11 September: *Salmon day in Laholm, with free fishing on the River Lagan*
- 17–18 September: *Falkenberg Classic Motor*

Gullbrannagården – camping and conferences in comfort

By Linnéa Mitchell | Photos: Gullbrannagården

Did you think comfort and camping could not be combined? Perhaps the time has come to pay a visit to the five-star Gullbrannagården conference and camping site, two hours south of Gothenburg, where comfort is guaranteed. It is also environmentally friendly, affordable, and it has the capacity to host hundreds of guests, without losing its sense of calmness.



With its top-notch location only 13 kilometres from the golf capital of Sweden, Halmstad, it is a popular destination for a relaxing summer break, a conference, a youth camp, or, like last year, an international MC club gathering. There are 300 beds available in apartments, cottages or the hostel, plus a camping area. Everyone has access to two brand new hot tubs, a sauna and relaxation area, and a short stroll away lies a one-kilometre-long sand beach. There are six conference venues on site, welcoming everyone from the small-



est group of four up to a convention of 1,000 people.

An annual summer programme satisfies everyone's appetite with its 400 activity points, including music performances (we are told that one of Elvis Presley's pianists, Per-Erik Hallin, is performing this year), evening prayers, gospel concerts, exercise classes, children's clubs and sand castle competitions, and much more. There is also the essential minigolf course, tennis court and boules court.

The evening atmosphere calls for a quiet barbecue or a cosy cup of coffee rather than late noisy nights. Gullbrannagården has been, and continues to be, a well-respected destination among both holidaymakers and big groups, due to its flexibility and healthy line of thinking: relax, enjoy and join in for as little or as much as you like!

For more information, please visit:
www.gullbrannagarden.se

Tylebäck Hotell & Konferens

– The natural meeting point

By Emelie Krugly Hill | Photo: Tylebäck Hotell & Konferens

Tylebäck Hotell & Konferens lies near white sandy beaches and an array of excellent golf courses. If you are after an extraordinary conference experience or a memorable holiday, this award-winning complex offers something special.



Eight kilometres from Halmstad's city centre and 100 metres from Sweden's most famous west coast beach Tylösand, lies the edge of a pine forest, a great location for these excellent facilities. Owned by The Swedish Federation for Voluntary Defence Education and Training, the original building dates back to the 1930s and underwent a period of transformation in 2001. The modern hotel and conference centre was then further extended later in 2007. The result is a stylish group of buildings

with clever architectural solutions binding together past and modern elements that have since received a prestigious award.

"We offer a creative environment and amazing natural beauty. We call Tylebäck 'the natural meeting point', a place where

one can enjoy the moment," explains Anna Bradford, hotel director.

"If you're after a conference experience in a relaxed environment, you've come to the right place, we aim to give personal service and are quick to find flexible solutions and open to ideas; you might consider teambuilding on the beach or a meeting on the terrace," she adds.

The facilities can accommodate up to 250 guests and offer modern conference equipment; the kitchens specialise in traditional Swedish cuisine.

For more information, please visit:
www.tyleback.com

Laholm – a haven for beach, ski and art lovers

By Emelie Krugly Hill | Photos: Laholm

Laholm is full of surprises: here, you will find pure natural beauty, Sweden's longest sandy beach, as well as ski slopes and world-famous art.

Laholm is one of Sweden's oldest cities, situated in the county of Halland, on the estuary of the river Lagan. In the 13th century, Laholm was Danish territory. Today, the municipality boasts 23,000 inhabitants. Monica Fransson, who moved to the area a few years ago and now works at the local tourist office, fell in love with the region for its flat landscapes, large farms, wide rangelands, beautiful views and affordable beachfront residences.

"We have the longest sand beach in Sweden; in fact, it's 12 kilometres long. You can easily find your very own favourite spot on the stretched beach, as some parts even allow cars. Hallandsåsen, a ridge with plenty of nature trails, turns



into a ski centre in wintertime and is another famous attraction," Fransson says. Laholm is also rich in culture and is home to several ancient monuments. The town also has the Drawing Museum, the only museum in Scandinavia dedicated to the art of drawing. Not far from town, in the village of Hishult, you will find a unique art gallery, in terms of both content and architecture, with a Zen Buddhist Garden and a sculpture park.

Anglers are also catered for as fishing is a popular sport on the riverbanks of Lagan. If you are lucky, you might catch a beautiful salmon as the river is known for being well stocked.

For more information, please visit:
www.laholm.se

Farm atmosphere at Hotel Hovgård

By Sara Lofberg | Photos: Hotel Hovgård

In the countryside, between the city of Halmstad and the much appreciated beach Tylösand, lies Hotel Hovgård, where old and new meet in a unique combination. Once used as a stable in the 19th century, Hovgård has been carefully renovated to modern comfort standards while preserving its timeworn charm. Here, guests come all year around to relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery as well as to try the many outdoor activities on offer.

Hotel Hovgård has 14 rooms with a further four small studios to be developed. All rooms contain a television, broadband, shower and toilet; yet the décor is distinct in each one, and the presence of the old stable is always palpable as the rooms retain the shape of the old horse boxes.



Eva Snygg, who runs Hotel Hovgård with her partner Tore Kjellgren, explains that the clientele varies from professionals seeking a conference facility and re-

treat all in one, to private visitors simply recharging batteries or tourists looking to make use of the entire spectrum of activities on hand: golfing, treks and cycle tours on pleasant paths, including the trail of Prince Bertil, as well as visits to the nearby museums, antique shops and flea markets. Best of all perhaps, Hovgård is situated approximately four kilometres from the city of Halmstad, where there is always something going on for those looking for some urban action, and the beach Tylösand – Sweden's most beautiful beach, according to locals and others – is also only four kilometres away.

For whenever and whoever, Hovgård has something to offer.

For further details about rooms, prices and bookings see: www.hovgard.se



Visit the spectacular Åland Islands

The Åland Islands are an autonomous and demilitarized, Swedish-speaking region of Finland, with its own flag, stamps and license plates. On the 6,500 islands that make up the Åland Islands, you will find an exciting mix of Swedish, Finnish and Russian culture. The Åland Islands' spectacular scenery and strategic location, between Stockholm and Helsinki in the middle of the Scandinavian Islands region, makes it a favourite vacation spot for Scandinavians.

Text and photos by Visit Åland

Here on these tranquil 'Islands of Peace', there are many opportunities to have an active holiday or to simply relax. The Åland archipelago is a playground for outdoor activities like kayaking, sailing, biking, hiking and diving, not to mention sport fishing. You can also go island hopping to some of the more remote islands.

Maritime Mariehamn

Mariehamn, the town that was named after Maria, the consort of Tsar Alexander II, is celebrating 150 eventful years. In the



town of Mariehamn, you can feel the maritime atmosphere. Visit the world famous

Maritime Museum and the adjacent Museum Ship Pommern. Sights, restaurants and shopping - everything is located within convenient walking distance. Remember to bring home a piece of the Åland Islands. Genuine design with high quality characterizes craft and artwork to be found in boutiques and galleries across the islands.

Åland Official Tourist Gateway -
www.visitaland.com

Bastö Hotell & Stugby

– bayside peace in the heart of Åland

Nowhere else in the world are summer cottages as popular as they are in the Scandinavian countries, and now the trend is on the up. But do not fret: you do not need to own one to experience the magic; just make your way to Åland and the picturesque Bastö Hotell & Stugby.

"My parents set up the business 53 years ago, and I grew up here," says Susan Andersson, who took over the establishment 17 years ago. "There's something quite special about our location, in that despite being close to everything, it's always very peaceful and quiet."

It certainly seems like the perfect place for anyone who just needs to get away for a while, be it for business purposes or for a safe, idyllic family holiday. Bang in the middle of Åland, which boasts more hours of sunlight than anywhere else in northern Europe, Bastö Hotell & Stugby is situated



By Linnea Dunne | Photos: Bastö Hotell & Stugby

right beside a bay that offers both sunbathing and fishing opportunities.

In addition to the cottages on offer, there is a small hotel with 20 rooms and conference facilities, as well as a pub and restaurant across the courtyard. Still only 100 metres away from the beach, it promises that even the longest of meetings cannot get in the way of a dip in the sea and a traditional sauna session.

"Even if we're fully booked, even when Åland is full of people from all over the world, like during the Rockoff Festival, you can find peace in Bastö Hotell & Stugby," Susan assures us. Rocky shores, a bay, fishing and your own cottage – if you want to enjoy the simple things this summer, there is no better place than this.

For more information, please visit:
www.basto.ax

WELCOME TO HOTEL GULLVIVAN

– a pearl in the Åland archipelago!



Our hotel and restaurant is situated on a small peninsula in the municipality of Brändö, only a short seaway from the Finnish mainland. Check in either in one of our 17 comfortable rooms or in one of our six cosy cottages, have a tasteful meal in the restaurant and enjoy the tranquility of our beautiful and pure nature.

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Nordic Blues – sushi with a twist

By Ulrika Osterlund | Photos: Nordic Blues

Åland's first sushi restaurant, unveiled only in April, caters to the traditional sushi tastes, but with a focus on fish from the surrounding waters teamed with ethical responsibility.

"We are the local flavour of sushi and fish," says Daniel Nyström, owner of Nordic Blues, "and aim to abide by the WWF's sustainable seafood guide."

In the first instance, the produce used is fished off the Åland coast. When this is not possible, it should at least come from Scandinavia.

The menu varies on a daily basis, and you can just imagine what it is like tasting some perch, pike or even anglerfish sushi. Some recent additions include herring and 'gravad lax'. It is definitely something for the inquisitive and more adventurous. Also on offer are maki, California rolls and tempura as well as conventional salmon and prawn sushi.

The treats are displayed in a buffet



style. Guests themselves choose which pieces they want and pay per piece. Cold drinks, including beer, wine and sake, are on offer to enjoy with the meal.

The restaurant is located 300 metres from the city centre, on the Ålandplan. With 16 covers inside, and for the summer, an additional 20 seats al fresco, although takeaway is very popular as well, it is a great way of getting your sushi fix while taking in the sights and sounds of the island.



For more information, please visit: www.nordicblues.ax

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Camping in Denmark is for everyone

Camping in Denmark can be about family time, water fun, nature and outdoor living. But it can also be about wellness and eco-friendly camping. There is something for everyone among the more than 500 campsites in Denmark.

Text and photos by FDM Camping

A light breeze of fresh warm summer wind will greet you, when you step out of your caravan. You will hear children laughing while playing nearby, and as you walk past the many tents and caravans, you will see couples and families heading towards the beach, preparing for a bike ride or getting ready to go to the wellness centre. Everyone wants different things from their holiday, and when camping in Denmark, you can choose exactly the type of campsite that corresponds with you and your family's wishes for a happy holiday.

One way to locate your kind of campsite is to look at the 16 different themes developed by The Danish Camping Board and among others used by FDM's eleven campsites. The themes range from water activities, biking and golfing to city life near camping and wellness. And not only do the themes label the campsites helping you decide on where to go camping, the themes also ensure the quality of the ac-

tivities since the campsite has to meet certain standards to obtain a particular theme. In addition, more and more Danish campsites are focused on taking care of the environment, and have as a result obtained the EU flower label indicating that the campsite is eco-friendly. So if your requirements for a happy holiday involve concern for the environment, you can go camping in Denmark with a peaceful mind. For example, all of FDM's campsites have been awarded with the EU flower label.

After a day hiking through the forest, swimming in the ocean or strolling in the nearby city, the evening will descend over the campsite and a quiet atmosphere will spread as the children crawl into their comfy sleeping bags. Around the site, couples and friends will be sharing a bottle of wine or a locally brewed beer while deciding on how to spend the following day and enjoying the bright Danish summer night.



For more information, please visit:
www.fdm.dk/camping



Photo: Cees van Roeden/Frigard Camping



A southward escape: Vacation without limits

Fancy a captivating southern holiday? Topcamp Frigård Camping is the perfect destination of choice, located in the scenic countryside of Flensborg Fjord, only three kilometres from the Danish-German border. This family-driven campsite offers a great choice of leisure activities and eventful touring around the verdant area.

By Charlotte Kany | Photos: Rasmus Schønning

A four-star campsite and also one of the biggest in Denmark, Topcamp Frigård Camping provides you with the opportunity to explore or relax, depending on what mood you are in. Due to its excellent location, there are lots of fabulous places to visit from beautiful beaches, historical sights, to great shopping. Enjoy a stroll on the beach with the entire family and then treat them to a trip to Germany, which is only a stone's throw away. The border area is a region full of history and interesting old traditions. Many of the northern German cities reveal great stories from the time they used to be a part of Denmark.

Entertainment for all

The campsite offers a wide choice of leisure activities, such as a heated pool, sauna, traditional Turkish bath, a big playground and ping-pong among many other

things. Throughout the summer season, there are special acts and shows with professional entertainers, performing with falcons and doing stunt events: all yours to enjoy in the heart of southern Denmark. So, whether you are up for an active vaca-



tion in the great outdoors or looking for relaxation and amusing entertainment, this spot sure holds it all. As a bonus Frigård Camping is open all year round.

A place to return to

You can either come with your own caravan or you can rent one supplied with an awning at the front. Cottages are also available for rent all year round. It is well-known that families tend to come year after year. "We are, of course, very happy to see our guests return. We aim to give them a unique experience every time with new facilities and attractions, but one thing we do not change is the level of quality," says owner Mette Friis.

For more information, please visit:
www.fricamp.dk

Albertinelund Campsite

– the outdoor way to experience Djursland

Eleven years ago, Ivan and Grethe Mehlsen decided it was time for a bit of a change and bought Albertinelund Campsite. Since then, they have doubled the campsite's capacity, built a tempting new pool and play area, and not once regretted their decision.

Located on the coastline of east Jutland's beautiful peninsula, Djursland, Albertinelund Campsite has become a very popular summer destination. "During the school holidays, our 400 pitches are usually fully booked; families often come here for a week or two to enjoy the beach and visit all the surrounding attractions such as Randers' Tropical Zoo, the Scandinavian Wildlife Park and Djurs Summerland," says Ivan Mehlsen.

Many attractions are just 20 or 30 minutes from the campsite, and for those who



By Signe Hansen | Photos: Albertinelund Campsite

wish to explore a bit further, the charming Århus and all its attractions are just an hour away.

During the summer there is also a range of activities on the site such as pool parties, country dancing, clown visits and live music. Most importantly the campsite has its own private beach, which, with its shallow waters and fine sand, is perfect for children. Two kilometres down the beach you will find the charming fishing village Bønnerup, where guests can purchase the catch of the day to prepare on the barbecue or in one of the three joint kitchens. If you rent a caravan or cabin, you get your own kitchen; luxury cabins also contain private bathrooms.

For more information, please visit:
www.albertinelund.dk

Close to nature at Camping Møns Klint

Looking for that special place where nature and the sweet life of camping come together? You should book a stay at the campsite Camping Møns Klint. A gem of a place known for the attraction Møns Klint, the highest cliff in Denmark that takes the breath away from every visitor. Camping here ensures experiences beyond expectation, from a stunning sea view to wild nature and spectacular expanses.



You do not always need to travel that far to experience dazzling nature, in fact, this spot in Denmark seems to have it all located just close to the edge of this fascinating cliff. The surrounding area is the centre of the total camping experience. As the camp manager Ole Eskling says: "We can't guarantee inner happiness, but we sure can promise the best conditions for it."

Award-winning camp

The camp has recently received the accolade of 'one of the best campsites for children' from the leading camping organization, Dutch ANWB. The camp has also previously been recognized for being one of the best campsites in Europe, and it is clearly not difficult to understand the wide acclaim. There are vibrant outdoor activities, such as walks, biking, kayaking and hunting for fossils, as well as a range of events during the year, from a circus to a

kite festival, and for the grown-ups a week full of wellness among many other things. As a brand new offer, the campsite has announced a mobile app especially designed for all of their visitors. Find it for free in your mobile app store.



For more information, please visit:
www.campingmoensklint.dk

Marielyst Ny Camping

– traditional camping in the Baltic Sea

By Lasse Berg Sørensen
Photos: Marielyst Ny Camping

Marielyst Ny Camping has all you would expect from a traditional camping area: a great location and brand new facilities.

Located just three kilometres from Marielyst, the local town on the island of Falster in the south-eastern part of Denmark, Marielyst Ny Camping is close to numerous restaurants, bars, a golf course, go-cart track and other attractions. Even closer, you will find the Baltic Sea and 17 kilometres of sandy beaches, some of the finest in Denmark.

“Our guests say that they are happy to be situated close to the town, but in nice and quiet surroundings only a ten minute walk from the sea,” says owner and manager Brian Frigaard.

This year, they have some brand new bathroom facilities on offer, and last year, two new playgrounds were built. The



camping site also has 25 huts for guests who prefer not to live in caravans or tents.

Everybody is welcome at Marielyst Ny Camping, but it is an advantage if you like being close to other people, Brian Frigaard explains.

“It is somewhat of a prerequisite to be a social person, as you live quite close to the other guests. Camping is a great way of being together, and the kids always have tons to play with,” he says.

The season ends on the last week of October, but Brian Frigaard plans to open up winter camping for extreme campers.

Marielyst Ny Camping

- Located on the southern part of Falster, an island in the Baltic Sea
- A lot of their guests are families with children
- Visit Marielyst Ny Camping at www.marielystnycamping.dk

A top camping site by Denmark's best beach

By Yane Christensen | Photos: Blokhus Camping

Blokhus Camping is a three-star camping site, situated in the north of Jutland, less than a kilometre from one of Europe's most stunning beaches.

It is a safe, family-friendly site promising loads of activities for children, including a playground and swimming pool. The site has a peaceful atmosphere and is surrounded by lovely countryside, woods and dunes.



Danish camping sites are generally of a very high standard, and Blokhus Camping particularly so, with its clean and inviting kitchens and bathrooms. It has wireless internet, a cafe and TV room as well as offering facilities for fun activities, including a minigolf course, tennis courts and an indoor play area. If tents and trailers do not offer you enough creature comforts, you can rent one of the site's 15 newly renovated cottages, all with a small kitchen, television and heating.

The nearby towns offer everything you might need, from supermarkets and interesting shops to restaurants and golf courses. There is even a sub-tropical water park, in case the weather does not behave. The best way to explore the local area is by bicycle, which can be hired nearby.

The local beach is possibly Denmark's best, and is part of a 70-kilometre-long

stretch of wide beach with fine, white sand. The beach is probably the biggest draw for visitors, but there are plenty of other things to do in the area as well. In fact, there is an official list called '100 things to do while in Blokhus' which will keep you occupied whether you are seeking culture, shopping or physical activities. So book now, just in time for the summer holidays.



For more information, please visit:
www.blokhuscamping.dk

Return to nature at Brande Camping

By Lasse Berg Sørensen
Photos: Brande Camping

Brande Camping, set in the very middle of Jutland, the peninsula forming mainland Denmark, takes camping back to basics.

Frogs, salamanders, slow worms, otters, various different bird species and occasionally a grass snake: the list of animals which often visit Brande Camping is impressive. According to owner and manager Klaus Rasmussen, the top attraction is a rare kind of dragonfly, only seen in a few places in Europe.

"If you want some great nature experiences, then this is the place to go camping," he says. "It is very peaceful and quiet around here, with bird song and nature everywhere."

At Brande Camping, nature is key, 70-year-old Klaus Rasmussen says. "When I went camping back in the day, campers seemed more interested in nature. Brande Camping is an attempt to make camping a bit more simple."



Klaus Rasmussen stresses, however, that the camping area also affords bathroom facilities, a playground, a pétanque court, a swimming pool, huts and caravans for renting, and a restaurant, as you would expect from a first-rate camping area.

As a part of the nature experience, guests can also fish in the local put-and-take lake or go canoeing down Skjern



stream, which runs close to the camping area.

"It is really a dream come true for people interested in animals and nature," Rasmussen says.

For more information, please visit:
www.brande.dk-camp.dk

Bunken Strand Camping – back to nature

By Nia Kajastie | Photos: Bunken Strand Camping

Bunken Strand Camping is a three-star campsite with a beautiful setting by the beach, on the east coast of the northernmost part of Jutland. It is a great place to get back to nature and enjoy the fresh air by the sea as well as the tranquillity of the surrounding forests.

Current campsite warden Dick Kooij took over the running of government-owned Bunken Strand Camping half a year ago. With 700 places as well as nine small cabins, two yurts and six caravans available for rent, the large campsite has a lot to offer. It also comprises four bathroom facilities, three playgrounds, a minigolf course and a small shop.

For an energetic holiday, you can explore the scenic bike trails from the campsite to Skagen and Ålbæk, or why not set out on a guided nature walk or enjoy the landscape by horseback. All of these ac-



tivities are available in the area, and the child-friendly beach is, of course, perfect for a more relaxed day in the sun.

If the weather is not on your side, then

you can always make your way to Skagen, which is easily accessible by car or bicycle. "It is a big attraction for visitors," explains Kooij, "as it's one of the most beautiful towns in Denmark. It is a very small place, with only around 8,000 inhabitants, but in the summer there will be around 70,000 people there." It is a hub for art, culture and museums, and has a lot of stories to tell.

Other attractions nearby include the sandy dunes of Råbjerg Mile, the North Sea Oceanarium, Fårup Sommerland amusement park as well as an eagle sanctuary.

Bunken Strand Camping is open from
around 1 May until 1 October.

For more information, please visit:
www.bunkenstrandcamping.dk

Bildsø campsite

– Enjoy the silence and beauty of Danish nature

By Signe Hansen | Photos: Bildsø campsite

At Bildsø campsite, the beach is just around the corner, so is Bildsø forest, and the small campsite's peaceful environment and beautiful surroundings attract campers from all over Europe.

Located in central West Zealand, Bildsø campsite is within easy reach from much of Zealand and Funen. Crossing the striking Great Belt Bridge, within 45 minutes, you will be in Hans Christian Andersen's birth town, Odense, and in the other direction, Copenhagen's many attractions can be reached within one hour.

You do not have to go that far either to experience Danish history, as just ten minutes from the campsite is the famous Viking fortress Trelleborg, which is very popular with both Danes and foreigners alike. "A lot of people come here to see Trelleborg, especially the Italians; they



love the Vikings," laughs campsite manager Lis Kjær. Another nearby attraction is

Birkegården's Gardens and its myriad colours and scents.

You might, of course, have had enough of driving and prefer just to unwind a bit; if so, a visit to the beautiful beach, a trek along the many well marked paths, or a game of minigolf or pétanque are great options.

"Many of our guests are mature campers, and they come here mostly to enjoy the calm and quiet atmosphere and the beautiful surroundings," explains Kjær.

The campsite comprises 75 regular pitches and three small cabins, all available at very reasonable prices.

For more information, please visit:
www.bildsoecamping.dk

Child-friendly 'glamping'

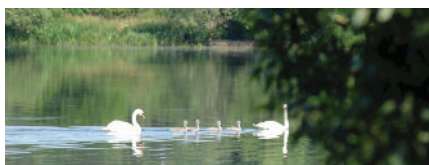
By Yane Christensen | Photos: Elite Camp Vestbirk

Elite Camp Vestbirk is located in the centre of Jutland, amidst beautiful nature. It is bordered by Gudenåen, Denmark's longest river, on three sides. The site includes large open spaces and with two lakes nearby there are plenty of opportunities to explore the surrounding nature.

The philosophy behind this family-friendly site is that as long as the children are happy, the adults can relax. And there is plenty to keep the little ones entertained: a heated swimming pool with slide, several play areas and even a petting zoo with horses, sheep, goats and deer. During the holiday season, there are additional activities available, such as barbecues, foam parties, face-painting, and various arts and craft projects. Due to the site's central location, there is also plenty to see and do outside the camp. Many of Denmark's top tourist attractions are a short drive away.

Camp Vestbirk prides itself on its facilities. Danish camping standards are generally very high, and Vestbirk does not disappoint. The communal kitchens and bathrooms are of a very high standard, and the site has all the facilities needed to ensure your stay is as comfortable as possible, including a spa, cafe, laundry room and large shop.

If you do not have your own tent or trailer, there are several different types of accommodation available to hire on the site, ranging from tents to luxurious cottages. The Danes have been 'glamping' long since the word was invented. Camp Vestbirk is the ideal choice for nature lovers, who enjoy their creature comforts.



Check out www.vestbirk.dk, where you can also find details about the excellent offers available outside the main holiday season.



Bøsøre Strand Feriepark

– a fairytale vacation

By Lasse Berg Sørensen | Photos: Bøsøre Strand Feriepark

Ranked number one out of all camping areas in Scandinavia last year, the five-star holiday resort Bøsøre Strand Feriepark offers its guests a vacation in the fairytale world of H.C. Andersen.

At Bøsøre Strand Feriepark, the camping vacation gets a touch of fairytale, as the whole camping resort is inspired by stories like The Tinderbox and numerous other famous fairytales.

“There are so many lovely camping areas in Denmark, but this one stands out, because it is the one with the fairytales,” says manager Helle Ålkjaer Skifter, who has been running the park for 20 years. Situated on Funen, the island where the famous Danish author H.C. Andersen was born, it was a very natural choice for Helle Ålkjaer Skifter to use the magic world of fairytales as the theme for Bøsøre Strand Feriepark.

“Fairytales are a very Danish thing, which makes it authentic,” she says. “H.C. Andersen lived in many of the Danish manors, including Glorup Castle just a few miles from here, which he visited quite often. In the castle journals, it is stated that he actually went for walks on our beach.”



In line with the theme, Bøsøre Strand Feriepark is very suitable for children, with an indoor water park, playgrounds, circuses, zoos and a very child-friendly beach.

“The most important part is that it needs to be super cosy for the children, but we try to make it cosy for the parents too,” Ålkjaer

Skifter says and adds that grown-ups can enjoy some live music in the 250-year-old barn, which has been turned into a venue.

Although there are lot of different things going on at Bøsøre Strand Feriepark, guests can also just relax and enjoy their vacation, as all the activities are set at one end of the resort.

“Vacation is also about recreation and recharging one’s batteries,” Ålkjaer Skifter points out. “But they don’t have to be bored either. Sometimes people say they will have to come back, because there are so many things to see and do around here.”

- An all-inclusive offer is available all summer.
- The resort rents out huts and caravans, and has 350 spots for camping.
- Visit Bøsøre Strand Feriepark at www.bosore.dk

Løkken Klit Camping and Cottage Village

– Where kids will never get bored

Travel to the very top of Denmark, also known as the 'land of light', and you will find a paradise for children of all ages, at Løkken Klit Camping and Cottage Village. The campsite seeks to provide as much entertainment for the little ones as possible; among other things, they offer daily activities, a large outdoor water park and an indoor game park.

We all know the scenario: the holiday season is upon us, and families finally have some time to be together without any ticking clocks or obligations, but within a day or two the kids are already bored. With this in mind, the Danish campsite Løkken Klit decided to make it all about the children, so that the parents also get a chance to relax and enjoy themselves. In the beautiful surroundings of Løkken Klit, this is particularly effortless, as it is located only a few minutes from one of the best



beaches in northern Europe.

"We want to provide a good holiday ex-

By Lykke Fabricius Port

Photos: Løkken Klit Camping and Cottage Village

perience for the whole family, and here, the kids have every opportunity to be entertained and meet new friends. Whether they prefer to jump on the big bouncy cushions, splash around in our 300-square-metre heated water park, with thrilling waterslides, or take part in a treasure hunt, it's all here," says Kurt Lemward, who has been in charge of the campsite for the last nine years.

You can also take the family on a bicycle trip through the charming landscape and visit some of the local attractions that, in addition to the excellent clean beaches, include a beautiful old lighthouse, a wide variety of shops and restaurants as well as a candy factory.

For more information, please visit:
www.loekkenklit.com

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Hotel of the Month, Sweden:

Moholms Herrgård

– intimate accommodation and culinary delights

While discovering Skaraborg in northern Västergötland, do not miss out on Moholms Herrgård. This stunning and impressive manor is situated on an island in the Tidån River outside of Moholm Village. It has a restaurant, a private jetty and a large surrounding park, and is a wonderful location for special events or simply for a relaxing holiday.

By Emelie Krugly Hill | Photos: Moholms Herrgård

Its history dates back to the 17th century, and in 2000, married couple and entrepreneurs Lena and Micael Hamilton discovered the manor by chance and fell in love with it.

"It's simply a fantastic place in a unique environment and in a great geographical location, about 20 kilometres north of Skövde, 200 kilometres from Gothenburg and 300 kilometres from Stockholm," says Lena Hamilton.

Lena prepares all the meals; she once worked in one of Sweden's finest restaurants, Operakällaren in Stockholm, known for its tradition, quality and innovation.

"We serve Swedish cuisine based on fresh, organic ingredients, and a large portion of the produce comes from our own organic kitchen garden, or we buy from other local, organic producers," Lena adds.

Lena is also a talented interior designer and has tastefully decorated all of the 10 double rooms in a variety of styles. All include a seating area and a private bathroom with shower. Guests can also relax and mingle in the manor's elegant salons. With only 18 guests staying at any one time, Lena and Micael guarantee you a unique experience with great personal service.

In addition, there is plenty to do in the area, such as exploring the famous Göta

Canal, one of Sweden's most popular tourist attractions, located only seven kilometres away. If you are fan of golf, there is a good choice of golf courses, and fishing for crayfish is another must-do.

Lena and Micael Hamilton offer a three-day package, with five different activities that you can combine as you wish. This offer is available between June and August, with Tuesday as your day of arrival and Friday as your day of departure, and costs 6500 SEK (approximately £630).

For more information, please visit:
www.moholmsherrgard.se



Hotel of the Month, Norway:

Holmenkollen Park Rica Hotel: Rest and unwind in the company of skiing legends

Overlooking Oslo, with the famous Holmenkollen ski jump as its closest neighbour, sits the 336-room Holmenkollen Park Rica Hotel, a hotel steeped in tradition with a conference centre to rival most. Originally built in 1894 as a sanatorium for patients with tuberculosis, it became a hotel in 1914.

By Karin Modig | Photos: Peder Austrud

Only 15 minutes from Oslo city centre, the hotel benefits both from the closeness to the city and the fresh air of the surrounding nature. Although a large hotel, it is made up of several buildings, each with their own individual style, and thus manages to retain an intimate feel.

“Our main forte,” says Nina Hilland, sales and marketing director, “is that we have something for everyone. As well as being a hotel suitable for the whole family, we offer conference facilities, a gym and a spa. We can also arrange many outdoor activities in conjunction with Holmenkollen Ski Arena, both in summer and winter.”

The oldest of the buildings is built in the “dragon style” popular in the late 1800s,

and although completely modernized, it stays true to its roots. The interior is kept in a traditional style, and the dedication to keep it that way is such that when changing carpets they are specially made abroad to fit with the interior.

“This building is decorated with old black and white photos, and the rooms here are named after legendary Norwegian skaters and skiers, from Sonja Henie to Fridtjof Nansen,” says Hilland.

The hotel has been refurbished and expanded several times, with the latest 115-room wing finished this January, in time for the Skiing World Championships 2011 that were literally held on the hotel’s doorstep.

Hilland says that, “Keeping in touch with Holmenkollen and embracing the whole circus of the World Cup comes naturally to us, and we are very proud of our ties with the ski arena. Our new wing is decorated with photos of today’s stars of the skiing world.”

Relaxation, exercise and wellbeing

A recently refurbished and extended spa and fitness area is proving popular with visitors. With a fully equipped gym, swimming pool, sauna, Jacuzzi, exercise classes and treatments, every part of your body is looked after.

Access to the spa and gym is free for all guests, and a personal trainer can be booked to put you through your paces as well.



Photo: Rune Folkedal

The main emphasis in the spa is comfort, explains Hilland, "The notion that everyone should feel comfortable in the spa is very important to us." The result of this thinking is a luxurious spa with a relaxed and soothing atmosphere, perfect for unwinding and recharging your batteries. Exercise classes range from yoga to zumba, and treatments on offer include hot stone and mud treatments, manicures, facials and massages.

For a blissful way to get ready for the week ahead, why not take advantage of the Sunday offer *Søndagslykke*? Including a body massage, use of the gym and a three-course dinner, the offer can be translated as *Sunday Happiness*. At a very favourable price, it is guaranteed to make a Monday morning feel a little bit more bearable!

Meetings and conferences

Spread over two of its buildings, the hotel

has 38 meeting and conference rooms and a 1,000-square-metre exhibition hall, catering for anything from small meetings for two people to conferences with up to 750 participants.

"We have arranged all types of events over the years, from annual business meetings for local companies to large scale international conferences for heads of state," says Hilland.

"Whether you are a small association that just wants a meeting room and some coffee, or a large corporation that wants a three-day event with full catering and evening entertainment, we can do it for you."

A dedicated events team creates tailor-made packages to suit each group's needs. Aside from the actual meeting itself, this can include activities as varied as

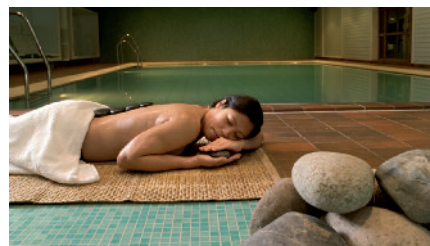
group visits to the spa with exercise classes or treatments, concerts in Holmenkollen Chapel, or abseiling from the Holmenkollen ski jump.

Culinary treats with a view to match

Several dining options are available at Holmenkollen Park. As well as *The Gallery*, which serves up breakfast and informal lunches, two restaurants offer top class dining with a beautiful view of Oslo as an added bonus.

Oscarstuen serves up a simple and delicious à la carte menu, inspired by modern, international cuisine, with a firm focus on traditional Norwegian ingredients. A seven-course menu focusing on culinary creativity and fresh ingredients is on offer at restaurant *De Fem Stuer*. "Our head chef is a true artist, and his creations are always a treat," says Hilland.

There is also a fully licensed bar where guests can unwind, look out onto the Oslo fjord or snuggle up in front of the fireplace on a cold winter evening.



For further information and to book your room online, please visit: www.holmenkollenparkhotel.no



Hotel Tunturi

Hotels of the Month, Finland:

Santa's Hotels create the perfect setting for authentic Lappish experiences

In prime locations at two of Lapland's most popular and magical holiday destination spots, lie three establishments, all sharing a common agenda: to create an authentic Lappish atmosphere for all visitors. Together Hotel Tunturi in Saariselkä, and Hotel Santa Claus and Hostel Rudolf in Rovaniemi form the accommodation unit of Sava-Group as well as the Santa's Hotels chain. From high-quality facilities to nature adventures and meeting Santa Claus at the Arctic Circle, these hotels provide the perfect setting for a fairy-tale getaway.

By Nia Kajastie | Photos: Santa's Hotels

Visiting Lapland is always a wondrous experience; whether in winter or summer, you will be fascinated by an overabundance of natural phenomena and the serene beauty of the surrounding landscapes. The arctic environment is characterised by its snowy winters, the midnight sun, polar night, Nordic Lights and many other unforgettable sights. The three different Santa's Hotels further add to this ambience of exciting discoveries and serenity.

Hotel Santa Claus, situated in the Rovaniemi city centre, was opened 10

years ago and has been run as part of an international chain of hotels marketed towards business travellers. However, last year, an agreement was established between the three establishments to create a Lappish chain of hotels with a more appropriate service concept for the area, as it is primarily a hub for holidaymakers rather than business clients.

"After doing thorough background research, the new branding was launched at the beginning of this year," says director of sales Jussi Perkkiö. "The aim was to find the authentic and unique Lappish

spirit and capture that in the hotels themselves. And with Rovaniemi being 'the official home of Santa Claus', the concept wasn't hard to find."

Main attraction: Lapland

The hotels offer precise, high-quality service, but furthermore, their closeness to Lappish nature, often perceived as exotic and untouched, is what makes them extra special. Hotel Tunturi, which is located in Saariselkä, in the midst of the wilderness, is an excellent base for exploring the nearby environment and Urho Kekkonen National Park. And on clear days, you can



Hotel Santa Claus

even catch a glimpse of Korvatunturi (Ear Mountain), where Santa Claus lives. Hotel Tunturi is also among the oldest holiday resorts in northern Europe, and boasts luxurious superior rooms with their own sauna and balcony as well as standard ones and bigger apartments.

Hotel Santa Claus and Hostel Rudolf are located centrally in Rovaniemi, but from their doorsteps, guests are still only a stone's throw away from relaxing in the tranquillity of Lappish nature. And why



not venture out to Santa Claus Village, Office and Main Post Office, as Santa will definitely always be there to greet you, all year round.

While the winter is the favourite season for most to visit the home of Santa Claus, do not underestimate the draw of the mid-night sun. How about a game of golf that passes over the Arctic Circle? It does not matter when you play, as in the summer, the lights are always on.



Hostel Rudolf

Hotel Santa Claus

Korkalonkatu 29
96200 Rovaniemi, Finland
Tel. +358 16 321 3227
rovaniemi@santashotels.fi

- In Rovaniemi city centre, in connection with a shopping centre; 8 km to the airport and 2 km to the railway station
- 9 km to the Arctic Circle as well as the Santa Claus Village, Santa Claus Office and Santa Claus Main Post Office
- 167 spacious rooms
- 11 conference and banquet rooms with seating for up to 350 people
- 2 guest saunas on the fifth floor with a view over the Ounasjoki river
- Lappish restaurant Gaissa, Bar&Grill ZoomUp, Cafe&Bar Zoomit and Cafe Linna

Hotel Tunturi

Lutontie 3
99830 Saariselkä, Finland
Tel. +358 16 681 501
saariselka@santashotels.fi

- Closest airport Ivalo 20 min by car; flight from the capital of Finland, Helsinki, 1.5 h
- Distance between Saariselkä and the Arctic Circle and Hotel Santa Claus: 3 h by car
- 260 rooms and apartments
- Conference facilities accommodating 500 people
- 5 restaurants: Kaltio, Siula, Pirtti, Lutto and Kota

Hostel Rudolf

Koskikatu 41-43
Rovaniemi, Finland
Tel. +358 16 321 3227
rudolf@santashotels.fi

Postal address and check-in at Hotel Santa Claus

- Hostel located 600 m from the city centre and Hotel Santa Claus
- 41 rooms and 95 beds over three floors
- One meeting room accommodating max. 100 people
- Two rooms come with their own sauna; larger sauna downstairs can be booked for groups

For more information, please visit:
www.santashotels.fi



Hotel of the Month, Denmark:

Copenhagen Admiral Hotel

- from warehouse to hotel

More than 200 years have passed since this warehouse, now one of Copenhagen's most fabulous hotels, was built. Through the years, the building has witnessed momentous historical events in Copenhagen. The flow of time and the maritime associations of the hotel have helped create the unique atmosphere, which today attracts guests from all around the world. Copenhagen Admiral Hotel is truly an attraction in itself.

By Lasse Berg Sørensen | Photos: Copenhagen Admiral Hotel

There is logic behind the name of Copenhagen Admiral Hotel: the hotel is situated in a historical warehouse dating back to the 1780s, and located right on the waterfront in the heart of Copenhagen. In front of the hotel, you will find three beautiful wooden schooners, which can be booked for short cruises along the coast of Zealand. "The hotel is located right at the spot that was once the heart of all outgoing traffic to the rest of Denmark and the world, and today, the picturesque sailing ships add to the maritime setting of the hotel," says director of sales and marketing Susanne Rübner.

"The colours and materials we use are related to the sea and in line with the building's maritime and masculine yet exclusive character. This has been vital to both the interior

architects from Conran & Partners and to us," she says and explains that Copenhagen Admiral Hotel was one of the first hotels in Copenhagen with a distinct theme.





With its unique location on the waterfront and by neighbouring Amalienborg Palace, the four-star hotel offers one of the most beautiful and fashionable addresses in Copenhagen. "The hotel is situated in the historical part of the city centre," Susanne Rübner points out. At port side, you will find the statue of the Little Mermaid and Amalienborg Palace, home to the Danish Royal family, just a few hundred metres from the hotel. Half of the hotel's rooms are facing the harbour side, and when staying in a "room with a view", you will see to starboard the Royal Danish Playhouse and the new Opera House. A few minutes' walk from the hotel, you will find the King's Square leading to the pedestrian shopping street Strøget, and on the other side, the picturesque Nyhavn with

its traditional townhouses and fashionable cafés is just a short walk away.

"Guests staying at the Copenhagen Admiral Hotel are within walking distance of major tourist attractions and the shopping district. Guests may also enjoy the fresh air from the sea while walking along the harbour promenade, stretching all the way to Langelinie where the cruise liners and the Little Mermaid are located," Susanne Rübner explains.

Although Copenhagen Admiral Hotel is a large hotel with more than 360 rooms, it still offers the cosy and intimate atmosphere of a boutique hotel. "We have a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, which you feel as soon as you enter the hotel," she

says. "Being an employee at Copenhagen Admiral Hotel is not just a job. Everybody strives to give a little extra to make our guests and their colleagues happy."

"Apart from being an attraction in itself, perhaps our guests will also remember our friendly staff – it could be the nice and thoughtful receptionist or the friendly waiter," Rübner continues. "Because of its unique history and our focus on service and attention, Copenhagen Admiral Hotel is not 'just another hotel'."

Copenhagen Admiral Hotel facts:

- Opened in 1978 in a warehouse building from the 1780s
- 366 rooms
- Featuring SALT restaurant, SALT bar and an outdoor café on the waterfront
- 11 conference rooms, including a lounge and special suites used for meetings



For more information, please visit:
www.admiralhotel.dk and www.salt.dk



Humpback Whale. Photo: Life of Whales

Attraction of the Month, Iceland:

Travel to Reykjavik for whale watching in luxurious comfort

By Nia Kajastie | Photos: Skúli Örn Sigurðsson

The whale watching company Life of Whales is situated in the old harbour of Reykjavik, only five minutes' walk from the city centre, and boasts the largest whale watching ship in Iceland.

Their goal is to take the whale watching experience to a whole new level, offering passengers high-quality comfort and the best possible opportunities for viewing the spectacular surroundings and wildlife. On two different boats, passengers can take part in whale watching, sea angling or puffin tours, as well as special incentive tours or an evening adventure cruise.

The varied wildlife of the Icelandic waters is one of the most exciting things to experience while visiting Reykjavik. Iceland and Faxaflói Bay are home to a variety of cetaceans, including minke whales, white-beaked dolphins, harbour porpoises and humpback whales, as well as fascinating bird species such as the puffin. For an unforgettable adventure, you can embark on a whale or bird spotting tour from the old harbour in Reykjavik – or perhaps sea angling interests you more? Life of Whales offers all of this on their two well-equipped boats: the ANDREA and CHRISTINA. Originally established in 1996 mainly for sea angling, this small family

company started focusing more on whale watching tours from 2005 onwards and have tailored its boats and equipment accordingly.

Sit down and enjoy the view

The luxurious ship ANDREA is the largest of its kind in Iceland and can accommodate up to 240 passengers in an exceedingly comfortable area with large windows and plenty of space.

"The main difference between us and our competitors is the ship," emphasises sales and marketing manager Skúli Örn Sigurðsson. "We're elevating the whale

watching experience to a whole new level. We want passengers to be able to enjoy the cruise itself, making it a much richer experience. So the boat becomes an important part of the whale watching tour. That's why we've put more focus on the quality of the ship and cruise."

The ANDREA is an ideal vessel for passengers looking for modern luxuries and a totally fulfilling experience. The boat was originally a ferry meant for transporting people; accordingly it is more spacious than normal whale watching vessels. "It's got a different thought behind it," explains Sigurðsson. "It's more comfortable and luxurious, offering rich experiences surrounded by a variety of wildlife."

Inside the warmth and comfort of the ship, you will find big windows through which you can experience the tour just as well as from the large viewing deck. There is space for all passengers on the ship to either sit inside or choose a spot by the railing on the deck. And when the guide points something out, you can hear it everywhere through the loud-speaker system, so you will not miss any whale sightings. The cafe on board offers refreshments during the cruise.



Puffin in flight

The CHRISTINA is a smaller steel boat that offers seating for 50 people; it is perfect for puffin tours during the puffin season (from 15 May to 15 August), or sea angling tours, during which you get to taste the day's catch, when the cook on board grills it on your way back to the harbour.

Adventure cruises

On top of the three-hour whale watching tours, you can also take part in a special evening cruise on the ANDREA. It is a two-and-a-half-hour excursion, during which you will sail to the nearby islands and the coast to enjoy a sumptuous dinner and observe the variety of seabirds all around. You will also stop for some late night fish-

ing. This cruise is available in July and August from Friday to Sunday every week. In addition, the ANDREA is also suitable for chartered trips and events, from birthdays to incentive cruises.

Best time to spot whales

"It's all about the anticipation of what is going to happen. Every tour is unique, as we have no written agreement with the whales," jokes Sigurðsson. "There can be tours with poor whale sightings, but in the summer season this is very rare. We spot whales over 95% of the time, when taking into account the numbers from the last three to four years. And we provide people with free return tickets if it wasn't a good tour for whale watching. The happiness of our passengers is very important to us."

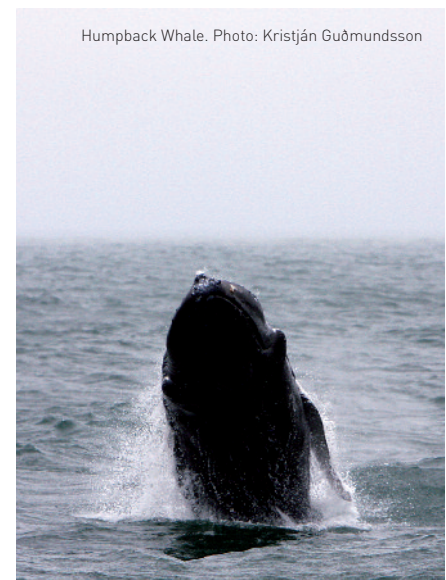
Accordingly, Sigurðsson also recommends that you book your whale watching tour for the beginning of your holiday, so that you can return if you were disappointed the first time. Life of Whales operates all year round, but the summer months from May onwards are the most interesting ones for wildlife and whale watching.



Minke Whale sighting



The ANDREA



Humpback Whale. Photo: Kristján Guðmundsson

For more information, please visit:
www.lifeofwhales.is



Attraction of the Month, Norway:

Bogstad Gård

– Historical estate and working farm

A short drive from Oslo city centre, you will find Bogstad Gård, a historical site with a starring role in the early days of Norway's independence. Today a museum and working farm, the estate consists of 12,000 acres of land and forest, and is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike.

By Karin Modig | Photos: Bogstad Gård

Set within a beautiful countryside landscape of woods and greenery, the estate is home to an impressive manor house and a romantic English-style park, the first of its kind in Norway. With canals, ponds for carp and ducks, and a number of rare trees and plants, it provides a stunning backdrop for a leisurely stroll.

A political past

"From 1649 until 1955, the estate remained under the ownership of the same family," says Bogstad Gård's general manager, Birgitte Espeland. "The most notable owner was Peder Anker, Norway's first prime minister after the 1814 constitution."

As Norway did not have any government buildings, Bogstad Gård played host to

numerous government meetings from 1814 onwards. It was also used as a hotel and theatre, and was later even visited by Norwegian royalty.

With Anker in government was his son-in-law, and his descendants, the Wedel Jarlsberg family, would also be involved in the shaping of this new independent nation.

"Anker was a well-travelled man, and he was very inspired by England and France, both politically and architecturally," says Espeland. "Versailles provided him with inspiration for the style of Bogstad Gård, particularly when it came to the interior."

"The main building itself is very European in style, which is unusual for a building from that era," says Espeland. "It is built

out of wood, like traditional Norwegian houses, but has a layer of stone on the outside, thus creating a more European look."

Finished in 1790, this building is now the museum of Bogstad Gård. Here people can experience what a manor house looked like at the end of the 1700s, with the Versailles-inspired interior remaining largely unchanged.

After around 300 years in the same family, the sisters Mimi Eek, Lucy Høegh and Karen Aall donated Bogstad Gård to charity, and the estate was opened as a museum in 1955. "The sisters had been raised to appreciate that the estate was a national treasure, and when they could not run it themselves any longer they de-



cided to donate it to public use rather than selling it," says Espeland.

Not just a historical landmark

For a long time, Bogstad Gård suffered from a low number of visitors, but since the end of the 1990s much work has been undertaken in an effort to change that.

"The estate underwent large amounts of refurbishment to encourage visitors," explains Espeland. "We opened a café serving up homemade cakes and light bites as well as a museum shop; we improved the facilities and made the place more visitor-friendly."

The hard work has certainly paid off, as Bogstad Gård has gone from having 10,000 visitors a year to 130,000. "Many people come here on a regular basis, and we have all types of people visiting us, from groups of kindergarden children to pensioners."

A working farm, largely run to organic standards, Bogstad Gård has cows, sheep, horses, pigs and hens. Visitors are welcome to visit the barn between October and May, when the animals are inside. During the summer months, pigs, cows and horses are let out to graze, but you can still visit the sheep, lambs, hens and rabbits on the farm.

Throughout the year, the estate plays host to a number of events, from the Day of the Sheep to theatre performances and Christmas celebrations.

The next big event will be the Open Farm Day on August 21. "This promises to be a great family day out," says Espeland. "There will be sampling of organic food, fresh produce for sale at a farmer's market, and visitors will have the opportunity to go on a horse and carriage ride."

Looking further ahead, 2014, the 200-year

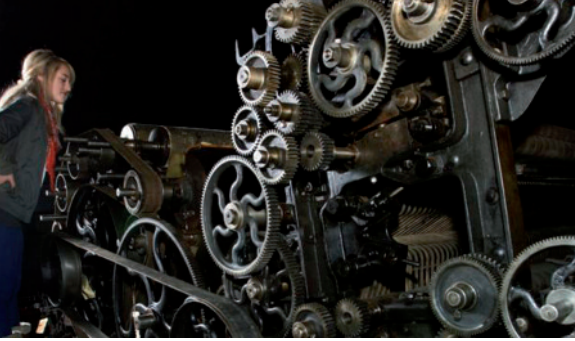
anniversary for Norway's constitution, looks set to be an important year for Bogstad Gård. "Since this place played such an important role in the early days of Norwegian independence, we will be celebrating this anniversary throughout 2014, and we have already started planning events," says Espeland.

The Bogstad Gård estate is open to the public year-round, all days apart from Mondays. Guided tours of the museum are available every day from the middle of May to September, and groups can book tours throughout the year.

Entrance to the estate is free of charge, while the museum charges a small entrance fee of 50NOK.

For more information, please visit:
www.bogstad.no





Top: Machinery at Brede Works (left), situated on the mill stream (right) with the director's dining room in his summerhouse, Brede Manor (middle).



Below: One of the popular outdoor performances at the Open Air museum (left), which also displays many beautiful, historical flowers in its gardens (right).

Attraction of the Month, Denmark:

The Open Air Museum

– stroll through all parts of Denmark in one afternoon

By Signe Hansen | Photos: The Open Air Museum/Brede Works Museum

A visit to the Danish Open Air Museum is a visit to rural Denmark at the time of Hans Christian Andersen. With its impressive collection of old, original houses from all over Denmark, the museum enables you to experience the idyllic countryside of Funen, Zealand, Jutland and even the Faroe Islands in just one afternoon.



Next to the Open Air Museum is Brede Works Museum for Industrial Culture, exhibiting an original 19th century factory community. Entrance is free at both museums, and located just half an hour from Copenhagen Central Station, they make up an ideal destination for tourists and locals, seeking a peaceful and enlightening day out of the capital.

Learn, play and relax

The Open Air Museum is open from April to October, and while strolling around the green Danish summer landscape, you will come across gardens, landscapes and buildings from 1700 to the late 1930s. The houses represent examples of different economic and social status as well as dif-

ferent regions and time periods. With the many farm animals and relaxed atmosphere, it is, says museum curator Anja Jørgensen, an easy way to experience and understand history and therefore very popular with families. "We have theatrical performances and impersonators dressed in reproductions of the original clothes acting out specific roles. They invite people to come inside the houses to try some of the different work processes; you can make butter, bake bread, try on old clothes or listen to old stories."

Two in one

While the Open Air Museum, which was founded in 1897, is one of the world's oldest, its neighbour Brede Works opened

as a museum just three years ago. The unique historic plant gives you an impression of a tightly knit production site with production buildings, workers' homes, a dining house and the director's beautiful summerhouse from 1797, and there are numerous possibilities to actively take part. By taking an ActiveTicket for instance, you will be given a role in which you can interact with the historic people from Brede Works and test your skills at some of their tasks like the work at the assembly line.

For more information, please visit:
www.natmus.dk



Attraction of the Month, Finland:

Enjoy a summer of science in Heureka

By Inna Hakala | Photos: Ville Eerikäinen

Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre, is located in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, in the city of Vantaa. Operating in three languages, Finnish, Swedish and English, Heureka is a unique high-level cultural and educational institution for the whole family and one of Finland's most popular leisure time destinations.

Strengthening knowledge about the natural and other sciences in Finland, Heureka is famous for its interactive and motivational exhibitions. Along with a number of activity points, the main exhibition has over 200 exhibits from many fields of science. Heureka also houses temporary exhibitions and one of the most modern digital planetariums in Europe, the Vattenfall Planetarium.

Meet the dinosaurs

Dinosaurs, Heureka's exciting summer exhibition provides fun for the whole family. In the fifth dinosaur exhibition held at Heureka in its 22-year history, the dinosaurs are displayed for the first time in Heureka's outdoor exhibition area, science park Galilei. Brought to Finland all the way from Mexico, the dinosaurs represent altogether seven different species.

Visitors can admire the nest of a Tyrannosaurus rex and search for fossil replicas in the excavation tent. The exhibition also provides an opportunity to get up close to the large forelimb of a sauropod.

Learn about eating

Another top exhibition this summer is Bon appétit, which focuses on nutrition, eating and culinary cultures. Approaching the current topic from the perspectives of health, enjoyment and community, the exhibition contains five themes: Why do you eat?, Feel-good food, Food survey, No accounting for taste and Responsible eating. "Eating is naturally one of our most important acts," says Heureka's experience director Mikko Myllykoski. "Nutrition is a global issue to which local culinary cultures provide fascinatingly different answers." Produced through a collaboration between four European science centres, the Bon appétit exhibition arrived in Vantaa from Paris, and after its time in Heureka, will move on to Milan and Mechelen respectively.

Heureka also houses a souvenir shop that specialises in all sorts of science merchandise. Restaurant Café Einstein will

keep you energized with its tasty lunches and ample selection of refreshments. Open all year round, except on Midsummer Eve, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Heureka provides the perfect opportunity for topping up your science knowledge and experiencing the joy of discovery.



Dinosaur exhibition
22 April - 2 October 2011

Bon appétit exhibition
5 February - 18 September 2011

Located next to Tikkurila train station and near the Helsinki-Vantaa airport, Heureka is easy to access. The journey by local train from Helsinki City Centre takes about 15 minutes.

For more information, please visit:
www.heureka.fi



Photo: Frantz Maurice Scott Lundby



Restaurant of the Month, Denmark:

Kung Fu Izakaya Bar

– Japanese food with a southern attitude

By Signe Hansen | Photos: Kung Fu Izakaya Bar

Having tasted their way through hundreds of Izakayas, a kind of Japanese tapas bar, two Danes decided that it was about time the concept was introduced in their homeland. In 2007, they opened up Copenhagen's first Izakaya, Kung Fu Izakaya Bar, which, with its fresh dumplings, sizzling yakitori sticks, seaweed salads and colourful cocktails, became such a success that Kung Fu II followed this year.

"We wanted to create something new, but we also wanted to have the relaxed southern atmosphere of a tapas restaurant, so we began looking for a way to combine that with Asian food and cocktails," explains Waheed Allan Folami who, together with Niels Henrik Peterslund, founded Kung Fu Izakaya Bar.

Dining together

Located in Copenhagen's trendy Vesterbro area close to the popular concert house Vega, Kung Fu Izakaya Bar is a cheerful and welcoming place. From the 50 seats in the restaurant, people can watch the experienced cocktail waiters behind the bar shake classic and signature



cocktails created by bar manager Ásgeir Már Björnsson, Denmark's only Tequila Maestro.

"Often people will come after work in groups of six or seven people, and they will chat and have a good time, so the atmosphere is quite lively," explains Folami. The menu, which is created by Peterslund, is typical Japanese home cooking mixed with a bit of Chinese and the rest of the Asian kitchen and served in tapas-like dishes.

Getting it right

With many years of experience in the business, Peterslund as a chef and Folami as a cocktail caterer, the two owners started

contemplating creating their own restaurant when studying Management at CBS. "We took a trip to Japan and visited all sorts of Izakayas, and when we came back, we knew what kind of place we wanted," explains Folami. "We named it Kung Fu because we both love kung fu movies; we knew that people would laugh about the name, and we wanted it to be an informal, fun place." Having defied the recession and refined the concept, this year the two friends opened up Kung Fu II in Copenhagen's multicultural neighbourhood Nørrebro.

For more information, please visit:
www.kungfubar.dk

IS IT JUST ME...

By Mette Lisby



Who recoils at the sheer thought of “wardrobe clear-outs”?

My husband announces them frequently. Where does this madness come from? My husband throws away clothes founded on ludicrous notions, like “I haven’t been wearing this for three years”! Pure lunacy! I have family members in the outskirts of Denmark that I might not see for three years, but that doesn’t make them dispensable.

It is, however, natural that men’s attitude to wardrobe clear-outs is more relaxed. It’s easier for men. First of all, when their waistlines expand, they can simply lower their trousers, so they are comfortably fitted UNDERNEATH the belly, and then cover it all up with a loose hanging t-shirt. I can’t do that. Loose t-shirts don’t sit well with bosoms. Big t-shirts make people with bosoms (commonly referred to as women) look like the tents of a travelling circus, thus causing children end-

less disappointment, when we enter smaller towns.

I haven’t got the heart for that. I have to have clothes for various weight stages. Seriously, should I throw out four pairs of “great ass” jeans, just because I am minus five ice-creams away from fitting into them? I think not!

Also, in summertime, men’s only wardrobe add-on are a pair of shorts. Women have to be ready with a wide selection of skirts, shorts, dresses and tops. For instance, I have a couple of gorgeous, fancy dresses just hanging in my wardrobe waiting for that one summer night when it’s actually warm enough to wear them. Okay, it was never within the past two years, as my special someone officiously points out to me, but should I throw out clothes just because of bad weather? Wouldn’t that mean that the

meteorologists won? That would be wrong! So here I am, writing this while my husband is conducting his wardrobe clear-out... Sorry. He just came down and said: “If you throw something out, there will be space for something new.” Interesting point! I might go up and check if there’s anything I could get rid of after all.

Mette Lisby is Denmark’s leading female comedian. She invites you to laugh along with her monthly humour columns. Since her stand-up debut in 1992, Mette has hosted the Danish versions of “Have I Got News For You” and “Room 101”.

Foreign in the country

By Maria Smedstad



It’s not just foreigners who occasionally feel foreign in the UK.

Since moving out of London, our house has become a popular destination for city friends who fancy a weekend away from it all. On arrival, they marvel at the old, sagging buildings in our street and the fact that flowerpots can be left outside without being stolen, and then – on spotting one of our eccentric neighbours – start quietly

humming the theme tune to Midsomer Murders. After some wine, they declare that they want to leave the city. Around six in the morning the following day, they change their minds, as the cluster of pigeons on their windowsill wakes them up with their maddeningly repetitive COO-COO-COO-COO. Time for a drive in the countryside! The rain won’t stop our guests, and after we lend them some rainproof clothing, they will even get out of the car, enthusiastic at the prospect of an open farm day. They didn’t really think about the fact that this will take place on a farm. The calves are cute, but their mothers smell, and after a curious bovine tongue locks onto their hair, it’s time for a cup of tea and some cake, consisting largely of unrefined butter. Refreshed, they have a go at milking a cardboard cow, but stop short at the artificial insemination model. A mug of hallucinogenic local cider makes the outing seem hilarious. This is until they have been standing by



the farm stream in the driving rain for 15 minutes, only to discover that the ducks of the promisingly exciting duck race are not a herd of flapping, psyched mallards. They are in fact made of plastic. Time to head back to London, where later that evening, they realise just how soothing it is to fall asleep to the noise of constant traffic.

Maria Smedstad moved to the UK from Sweden in 1994. She received a degree in Illustration in 2001, before settling in the capital as a freelance cartoonist, creating the autobiographical cartoon Em. She writes a column on the trials and tribulations of life as a Swede in the UK.



Prioritising HR when operating abroad.

When we started over a decade ago, we had the intention of reducing the strain on management and resources for foreign companies launching into the UK market.

What we have seen since then is that Boards are very good at setting targets for the sales operations they set up in the UK but that the practical issues around sending over or hiring people in the UK many times become secondary issues.

From experience we can say that for those that set their HR strategy higher on the agenda not only get a smoother entry to the UK but also increase staff retention and satisfaction. This in turn usually leads to higher performance from staff generating increased profits for the company as well. To have adapted employment and secondment contracts, staff handbooks and HR policies to the new market will not only save you time but also reduces risks of breaching UK employment laws.

We have a pragmatic and holistic approach to looking after a company’s HR, Corporate Legal, Company Secretarial and Financial Accounting needs, allowing it to keep focused on its core functions and primary objectives.

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Svend Littauer
Head of Corporate Legal & HR



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A.K.A. Relocations opens a “house doctor” concierge service to help companies and private individuals with all their settling-in enquiries

By Kristina Kennedy, A.K.A. Relocations Ltd

Moving to London and creating a new infrastructure is not an easy task. Adapting to a new culture and making sure you create the lifestyle you require takes time. This is why I established A.K.A. Relocations, Management and Concierge, the aim of which is to help companies and private individuals rent or buy property in Greater London. My clients come from all over the world, but are mostly Scandinavian.

Since moving to England with my family at the age of three, I have relocated many times and attended English, International and Swedish Schools. After my BA from Lund University, I have furthered my education in teaching and most recently in Surveying Practise from the College of Estate Management. With my Anglo-Scandinavian background and expatriate experience, I have become a source of information when it comes to living in London. I have experienced England as a small child, adapting to a new language and culture, to growing up, renting and buying property, and having a child myself who now attends a London school. Together with my team at A.K.A., one of whom used to be the manager of a well-

known London Estate Agency, we know exactly how to help with the perfect relocation as well as overall settling-in questions.

We specialise in finding properties with Scandinavian standards. The management and concierge team look after utilities and manage accounts, as well as any other hourly based P.A. assistance required, such as booking removals, cleaning services, emergency callouts and so forth. This service was set up to help companies and busy individuals with time-consuming administration work. The management and concierge service has turned out to be a success. It takes so much stress off our clients' shoulders, and we know how to solve domestic problems fast and effectively, as we do it all the time. A client recently called us 'house doctors' in the sense that what can take several days for someone to do, we can do in a couple of hours. The fact that my team are from Scandinavian backgrounds means that Scandinavians from all over the world can speak their language to us knowing we understand the standards and overall demands they have.



Working with large companies as well as private individuals, A.K.A. can help with any specification – however big or small! I also hold a property blog on londonsvenskar.com, where you can read about various property related matters and post questions, should you have any. For more information please contact me on +44 (0)2077510666 or www.akarelocations.com

STRESS-FREE RELOCATION

By Nia Kajastie | Photo: Dreamstime

Relocating to a new country can be a lot of hard work, especially if you are sorting it all out by yourself. There is so much to take into account that one is almost bound to forget at least one important issue in the process. Accordingly, you should not have to venture out into the world alone, when there are many businesses able to help both individuals and companies sort out their relocation requirements. It need not be stressful or distressing, when professionals are able to guide you through it all step by step.

Whether it is an individual or a company moving from one country to another, or even a company moving only part of their workforce abroad, there is help out there for everyone. Nordic relocation companies operating in Scandinavia and the UK provide exceedingly professional and comprehensive assistance in this field, as the standard of services is always a priority for

successful Scandinavian companies. They, of course, offer expert advice when it comes to moving in or out of the Nordic countries, but they are also increasingly experienced in Europe-wide as well as worldwide relocation.



Sweden-based company Human Entrance, for example, is a real “multitasker” when it comes to relocating personnel, as they offer everything from relocation support for families to immigration and tenancy management (and much more). They have provided assistance on international relocation assignments in over 85 countries worldwide. This time, they are listing their top tips for relocation to Scandinavia.

JSB Flytt & Transport, on other hand, helps with household and office moves throughout Sweden and Europe, lending a hand for everything from packaging to transport and the final cleaning.

Whereas London-based A.K.A. Relocations offers relocation and property management services for private and corporate clients looking to buy or rent property in and around Greater London.

Accordingly, whatever the relocation need, there is always a company to fulfil it.

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Thinking of Relocation, Relocation? Then **JSB Flytt & Transport** is at your service

By Sara Lofberg
Photo: Dreamstime

The relocation company JSB Flytt & Transport is constantly expanding. While its services and products now include the entire kit you may need when moving, such as boxes, packaging service, storage, transport across Europe and final cleaning; the company is also growing geographically, as new offices and storage facilities are opening in London and Rotterdam in addition to the headquarters in Stockholm.

Josef Bounakhla, the owner of JSB Flytt & Transport, is a true entrepreneur. Once an antique dealer, Josef started driving a truck to transport goods to and from auction chambers. Soon the truck also became useful to carry out small-scale removal jobs, and it did not take long until Josef found himself with a growing client base within the relocation industry. Some ten years later, JSB Flytt & Transport now has



15 employees and a complete set of services for anyone or any company in need of relocation assistance on a national or international level. JSB Flytt & Transport also has a regular home cleaning service parallel to the relocation side of the business.

Speaking to Josef about the work ethic

in the company, he explains that teamwork, professionalism and patience are at its heart: "Being in charge of moving all of someone's belongings is a job that carries a lot of responsibility and that demands teamwork and excellent organisational skills. Realising that a big move can be stressful for a client is also important, and we

are very sympathetic to this fact – hence patience is a virtue in our industry."

For more information about JSB Flytt & Transport, please visit:
www.jsb-flytttransport.se

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FÖRETAGSBOSTÄDER
BUSINESS APARTMENTS



Human Entrance offers top tips for relocation to Scandinavia

By Nia Kajastie | Photos: istockphoto

Relocating to any of the Scandinavian countries is generally a fairly straightforward process. With vibrant, well-established economies and a generally good level of service, both in the private and public sector, the odds are good that your relocation will be both a rewarding experience for you and a good investment for your company. There are, however, many aspects to keep in mind to make the transition as quick, smooth and trouble free as possible. Scan Magazine asked Scandinavian relocation company Human Entrance to provide us with some of their top tips when relocating to any of the Scandinavian countries.

Finding a home

First of all, make sure you know the rental levels and the housing rules in the region you are moving to in order to avoid costly mistakes. Most relocation companies can advise on this and provide updated statistics. Furthermore, most parts of Scandinavia do not have a commercial market for “expat houses”, like many other countries and regions. This often means that, in order to find suitable accommodation, you (or your

relocation company) will have to look for available apartments to sublet from private persons in the city where you will be moving.

Make sure you are aware of the inter-cultural differences before you move and prepare accordingly.

Crossing the border

If you plan to relocate to a Scandinavian country, always make sure to check the processing time for immigration matters with the immigration authorities. These vary significantly both between countries and over time, so make sure you keep up to date in order to avoid costly and frustrating delays. Furthermore, the Nordic countries share some rules and regulations governing immigration and visa applications. Norway though, unlike Sweden and Denmark, is not a member of the EU, meaning that some of the joint EU-rules do not apply there. Make sure to double-check with professional immigration consultants before starting up the process.

Cultural awareness

In some respects, Scandinavians share a common cultural and ethnic history; however, the Scandinavian countries have surprisingly many differences, not least in business culture. Make sure you are aware of the inter-cultural differences before you move and prepare accordingly. This way you minimize the risks of costly misunderstandings and reduce the time that it will take for you and your new colleagues to be working efficiently as a team.

Human Entrance is established with a local service organization throughout Scandinavia since 1999.

By supporting some of the world’s largest and most demanding corporations in relocation and immigration matters, Human Entrance has established itself as the leading relocation service provider in Scandinavia.

For more information, please visit:
www.humanentrance.com

New office and hirings for McGuireWoods

By Johanne Sofie Nygaard | Photos: McGuireWoods London LLP

McGuireWoods London LLP recently announced their move to state-of-the-art offices close to St. Paul's. In addition, new partners have been signed as the firm continues to grow internationally.

The new offices are located in the City at 11 Pilgrim Street, where they occupy two floors, doubling the size of the previous site. The move is an essential part of the firm's strategic growth plan in London, and was necessary following the firm's growth since merging with the London legacy firm of Grundberg, Mocatta and Rakison in 2009.



Vivian Robinson

Managing Partner of the London office Anders Grundberg believes the new location will provide more client meeting space, increased technological capabilities, and additional space for the firm's



Hardeep Nahal

growing number of solicitors and international lawyers and staff. "This move enables us to continue with our planned development of the London office and will facilitate our continued growth in the market," Grundberg says.

McGuireWoods deliver quality work, personalized service and exceptional value. Within the last couple of months the firm has announced two significant hirings in London: Vivian Robinson, currently with the Serious Fraud Office, will join the firm later this summer and Hardeep Nahal, formerly partner with Herbert Smith, joined the firm as a partner in early May.

www.mcguirewoods.com

Who wants it most?

Column by
Rasmus Ankersen

Six months ago I went to Kingston, Jamaica, to visit what I would venture to call the world's most successful athletics club, the MVP Track & Field Club. At the latest Olympics the MVP sprinters won nine medals. I still remember the morning I arrived at the MVP training centre. Can it really be here, I wondered? I found myself on what was supposed to be the track of world record holders and Olympic champions, and in front of me was nothing but a diesel-scorched grass field. No high-tech test equipment, no cutting-edge fitness centre, not even an athletics track. Just a pile of cones, a stopwatch and some rusty old weights in a dilapidated gym with no air conditioning. Despite the massive success, head coach Stephen Francis has no intention of changing anything. He uses the spartan facilities as a method for testing how hungry the sprinters are.

"It's a big mistake to believe that a performance environment should be designed for comfort. It should be designed for hard work. By keeping my facilities humble, I maintain the focus on what it's all about, and I automatically separate off athletes who may be good sprinters but who are more driven by fancy facilities, fame and comfort than the will to improve themselves."

At Zappos, a successful online shoe and apparel shop based in Henderson, Nevada, they have built a similar mechanism into their recruitment of employees. During the process they quite simply attempt to buy applicants out. "Here's 500 dollars. Put them in your pocket and we'll call it quits, but you're also out of the running for the job." For Zappos, this is a way of testing the hunger of potential employees. What is it that drives them? Those who ac-



cept a quick pay-out are not hungry enough to get the job done. How do you test the driving force of the people in your business?

Rasmus Ankersen

Bestselling author, motivational speaker and advisor for world-class athletes and businesses around the world. Read more: www.rasmusankersen.com



Conference of the Month, Denmark:

Axelborg – where conferences come with a culinary experience

Axelborg offers exclusive conference facilities right in the heart of Copenhagen. Set within an imposing, historic building, its 6,000 square metres are spread over several floors and 14 beautiful rooms of various sizes, offering a capacity of up to 450 people. During an average week, Axelborg plays host to 2,500 guests. It is run by husband-and-wife-team, Rasmus Bo Bojesen and Pernille Lutzhoelt, who are both involved in the daily running of the company, and their personal touch is evident throughout. Axelborg is one of a few independent conference centres in Denmark, and thanks to the couple's personal involvement, clients can expect a unique and individual experience.

By Yane Christensen | Photos: Axelborg

Where Axelborg really stands out is when it comes to food. Rasmus Bo Bojesen has worked as a chef for several years, both in Michelin-starred French restaurants and later in Japan, before returning to Denmark, where he opened several restaurants. However, Bojesen wanted to combine his culinary capabilities with something bigger. He showed a particular flair for cooking for large parties, and this is how Axelborg came into fruition.

Nothing is left to chance in Bojesen's kitchen. Everything is cooked on the premises and created from scratch. There is even a confectionery and the famous Bojesen chocolate factory. Products are



Rasmus Bo Bojesen

chosen with great care and are mainly organic and seasonal, sourced as locally as possible. It is not about fancy food, but more about great taste. The emphasis is on healthy cooking, using lots of vegetables and lean meat. Inspiration can come from anywhere, for instance a large yearly delivery of locally grown rosehip finds its way into jams, chutneys and baked rolls. Culinary surprises are plentiful.

Axelborg could not be located any more centrally. It is a stone's throw from Copenhagen's main train station, and the airport is 14 kilometres away. Denmark's most popular tourist attraction Tivoli is situated literally opposite Axelborg, and there are

no less than 52 hotels within a five minute walking distance, ranging from budget to five-star accommodation.

Axelborg was built in 1920 and originally used to be a bank. As Rasmus Bo Bojesen says: "Eleven years ago, I made history as the chef who took over the bank." The building has been extensively and tastefully restored. Many of the original features have been preserved, such as the panelled walls, grand stairs and, of course, the high ceiling. The imposing Axelborg Hall still has its majestic double staircase and glass ceiling. The basement, which originally housed the bank boxes (the doors of which have been beautifully restored), is now where lunch is served. The space converts into a bona fide nightclub, complete with dance floor and bar.

The conference centre has all the latest technical facilities and offers a wide selection of conference packages (details can be found on the website below), and it is also perfectly suitable for parties and functions. There is a strong emphasis on personal service, and the centre works in conjunction with several external companies, specialising in anything from flowers and red carpets to renting additional technical equipment. In the past, there have been some truly unique events at Axelborg: the premises have been transformed into a version of Moulin Rouge, an airport lounge and a catwalk. Because of the flexible premises and the many different types of rooms, anything is possible.

Within the premises, there is a shop selling Bojesen Chocolate. Danish chocolate aficionados have long been fans, and you will know why as soon as you taste some. Bojesen has spent the last 30 years perfecting his chocolate treats, even creating his own raw chocolate. The chocolates are included in the conference menus, often accompanying coffee, and they can be bought through the online shop.

These chocolates are indicators of the high level of attention to detail you can expect in anything bearing the Bojesen name. It is obvious that Bojesen enjoys



what he does. He takes great pride in his work and applies the same degree of personal attention to detail in his other projects, such as the Bojesen Restaurant at the iconic Royal Danish Opera with its stunning views over the old city and the queen's castle.

Axelborg offers a little bit more than what the discerning professional has come to expect from a top-of-the-range conference centre, namely a culinary experience – the (chocolate covered) cherry on top.

For more information, please visit:
www.bojesen.dk



Danish-UK Chamber of Commerce

In April 2011, DUCC Member and Treasurer Ulrik Walther was the guest speaker at a conference on the current economic and political situation in the Middle East. Former Secretary of State for Finance and Foreign Affairs (Social Democrats) Mogens Lykketoft also spoke at the conference. His focus was on the current situation in the region.



"It is serious," is how Mr. Walther described political developments in the Middle East. "Unrest across the region is linked and can be boiled down to a conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran over the control of oil," he continued.

In addition, Mr. Walther pointed out that, "Conflict falls along the lines of Shia'a and Sunni Islam" and that the planned withdrawal of American troops from Iraq is

causing a power vacuum, which Iran is looking to fill. "The West is ill-prepared for this conflict, which is an unintended result of military action in Iraq. Most of Iraq's oil is in the Shia'a controlled south, which has de facto come under Iranian control after military operations ceased. Indeed oil reserves are generally in Shia'a controlled areas."

Lastly, Mr. Walther listed five possible courses of action to resolve the conflict,

ranging from sanctions through military action to developing closer ties with Iran, and expressed hope for a peaceful solution.

The conference was arranged by The Association of Danish Venture Capitalists and law firm Lett & Co. The DUCC is planning an event with Mr. Walther on the above topic so please stay up-to-date on www.ducc.co.uk.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2011

- 25 August** Nordic Thursday Drinks
- 15 Sept** Joint Nordic Event at London Stock Exchange

Danish-UK Chamber of Commerce | Phone: +44 (0) 20 7259 6795 | Email: info@ducc.co.uk | www.ducc.co.uk

Norwegian-British Chamber of Commerce

The Norwegian-British Chamber has a lot of interesting and informative business networking events and happenings scheduled for the autumn.

Joint Nordic Thursday Drinks

First coming up are the Joint-Nordic Networking drinks on August 25 at Radisson BLU Portman Hotel. At the Nordic drinks, chamber members, associates and friends of the Norwegian, Danish and Finnish Chambers gather to expand their networks. The drinks are open to anyone with an interest in the Nordic countries. All you have to do is visit our website and sign up.

New website

In August, the Norwegian-British Chamber of Commerce will launch a new logo and website, both designed by chamber member BakerWilcox Ltd. The new web-



site will provide extended promotional opportunities and increased visibility for member companies. The website will also contain a lot of updated information about how the Norwegian-British Chamber can assist companies and individuals who are looking to expand their business network.

Save the date – NBCC Offshore Europe Seminar

On 7 September, there will be a seminar

and reception in relation to the Offshore Europe conference in Aberdeen, so make sure you save the date. For the latest information on upcoming business networking events, visit www.nbccuk.com.

The Norwegian-British Chamber of Commerce would like to wish you all a good summer!

UPCOMING EVENTS 2011

- 25 Aug** Nordic Thursday Drinks, Radisson BLU Portman Hotel
- August** Launch of new NBCC website and logo
- 7 Sept** NBCC at Offshore Europe
- 13 Sept** Joint Nordic Event at London Stock Exchange
- Sept** SuperOffice Event

Norwegian-British Chamber of Commerce | Phone: +44 (0) 20 7930 0181 | Email: info@nbccuk.com | www.nbccuk.com

Swedish Chamber of Commerce for the UK

Why do we network? This question was asked by networking strategist Andy Lopata at a Swedish Chamber event in Gothenburg on 14 June. The event, hosted in partnership with Business Region Göteborg, was aimed at bringing together Swedish and British businesses, either based in the western Swedish region or in the UK, to network. According to Andy Lopata, many networkers make the same initial mistakes. They are out to collect as many business cards as possible and to shake as many hands as they can come across. In doing so, they miss what really matters: getting to know people. How can people recommend your work and refer to your business if they a) do not really know you and b) do not necessarily like you? Also, the person you think would be of least interest to your business might actually be the one closest to the people you actually want to approach. These were some of the reflections in Gothenburg, to



the great interest of the participants. Andy Lopata will be joining us again, in London this autumn in September.

This summer brings plenty of opportunities to network. The Junior Chamber Club, the JCC, is hosting its annual Summer Cruise in July, as well as introducing a new Pub Night in August. In September, both the SCC and the JCC return with their annual Crayfish Parties, a highlight

of the Swedish social calendar. We at the Secretariat are looking forward to seeing you all then.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2011

- 16 July** JCC Summer Cruise
- 11 Aug** JCC Pub Night
- 2 Sept** Annual Crayfish Party
- 14 Sept** The Impact of Demographics on Business
- 22 Sept** Renewables Seminar in Humber
- 28 Sept** The Art of Networking with Andy Lopata

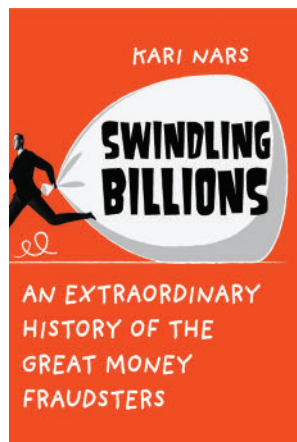
More events will be listed on www.scc.org.uk

Swedish Chamber of Commerce for the UK | Phone: +44 (0) 20 7224 8001 | Email: info@scc.org.uk | www.scc.org.uk

Finnish-British Chamber of Commerce

At the beginning of June, the FBCC was pleased to have Kari Nars, previously a Director at the Finnish Central Bank, give a presentation at the premises of EBRD in the heart of the City of London. Kari Nars's book *Swindling Billions* has recently been translated into English and has in a short period been so popular that it is soon to be reprinted. The stories about the top 10 swindlers, whom Nars describes as 'sociopaths, pathological liars but very charming individuals', start in the 19th century and continue all the way to the present day with the latest examples being the Enron and Madoff cases. Mr. Nars finished his speech with the golden rule: 'If it looks too good to be true, it probably is'. Then it was time for some networking, with wine and canapés.

The summer holidays are about to start. The FBCC is, however, delighted to look forward to an exciting calendar coming up in



Kari Nars - Swindling Billions

the autumn, and we are very pleased to introduce two well-known keynote speakers: CEO of Kone, Matti Alahuhta will be giving a presentation in September, and the CEO of Stora Enso, Jouko Karvinen, will be discussing the future of the forestry industry in

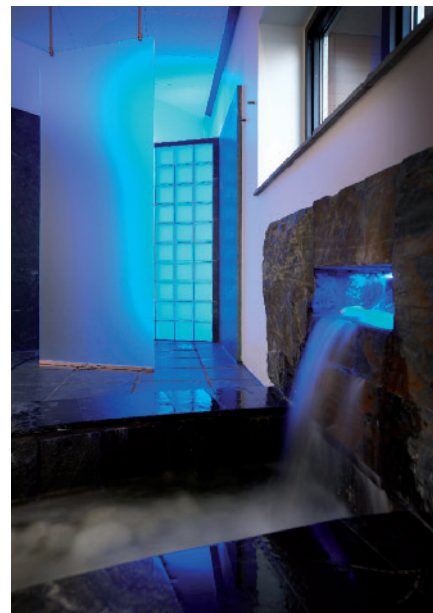
November. In addition to these renowned guests, the FBCC also has Pekka Viljakainen, previously Chairman of TIETO, launching his upcoming leadership book *NO FEAR*, in October. The book talks about leadership in the digital era and is an intriguing read for all those interested in changes in leadership at a time of digital power.

To find out how FBCC can make a difference to your business, please contact us: info@fbcc.co.uk.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2011

- Sept** Networking evening with CEO of Kone, Matti Alahuhta
- Oct** Pekka Viljakainen, *NO FEAR* – Leadership in the Age of Digital Cowboys
- Nov** CEO of Stora Enso, Jouko Karvinen: Future of the Forestry Industry

Finnish-British Chamber of Commerce | Phone: +44 (0) 20 8741 6352 | Email: events@fbcc.co.uk | www.fbcc.co.uk



Blåvand Spa and Wellness – the beauty of relaxation

By Signe Hansen

Photos: Blåvand Spa and Wellness

Lean back, breathe in and relax; with the soothing sound and sight of waves breaking on the nearby shore and the tempting pools, saunas and steam baths of Blåvand Spa and Wellness, it should not be too difficult.

Located in western Jutland, just 45 minutes from Esbjerg, Blåvand Spa and Wellness is, with its 1,400 square metres, one of Denmark's largest and (with its unique setting, concept and design) most attractive spas.

Ocean view

Blåvand Spa and Wellness was opened in 2009 by Steen Slaikjær, whose family owns the adjoining five-star campsite, Hvidbjerg Strand.

"You can float around our warm outdoor saltwater pool while gazing at the North Sea, and we also have a large granite Jacuzzi and a Finnish sauna, where you can enjoy the ocean view and passing ships," explains Slaikjær.

To gain inspiration for a design that would match its stunning surroundings, Slaikjær travelled through much of Europe; still the result was unequivocally Scandinavian. "The spa is quite minimalistic but with a twist; it is a warm, welcoming and calm place," says Slaikjær.

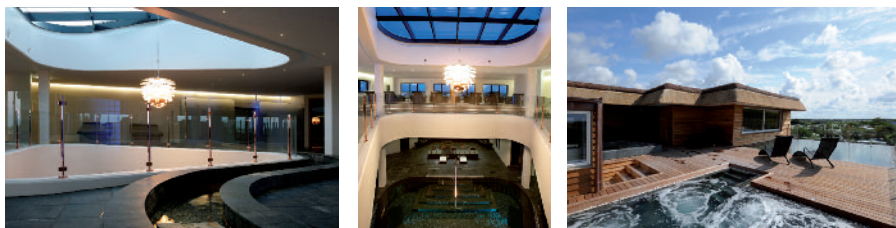
The granite used for the spa originates from the border of Italy and Switzerland, while the thatched roof is typical for the local area.

Green lines

Surrounded by the beautiful nature, you might find extra pleasure in the knowledge that a great part of the spa's heat and energy is generated through huge solar panels and a geothermal heating system. The spa has actually won several environmental prizes, and a visit can thus be considered one of life's rare guiltless pleasures, and with reasonable prices it is open to all.

"We wanted to create a spa for all kinds of people, and if you stay in one of our cabins at the camping site for a weekend, for instance, you get free access to the spa," explains Slaikjær.

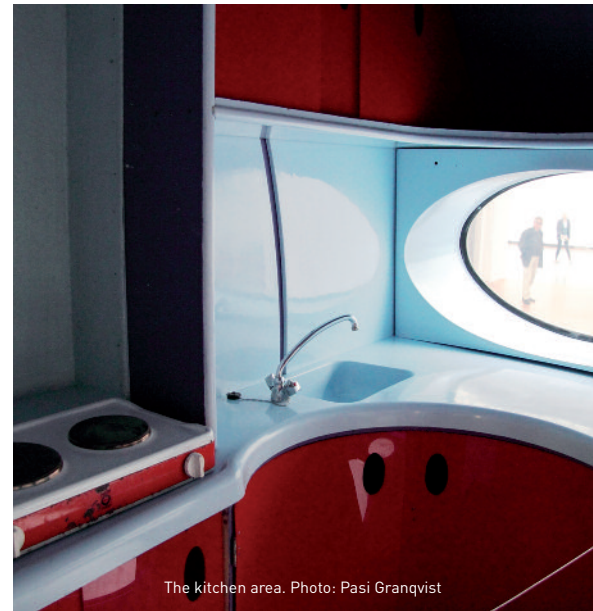
On top of regular spa treatments like facials, manicures and massages, Blåvand Spa and Wellness also offers physiotherapy, sport massages and advice on stretching exercises.



Blåvand Spa and Wellness is open from March to October; for more information visit: www.blaavandwellness.dk



Matti Suuronen in Futuro



The kitchen area. Photo: Pasi Granqvist

Futuristic Futuro has landed in Rotterdam

By Trine Daimi Kalliomäki | Photos: Fred Ernst/www.bojijmans.nl

It is not a UFO, but it looks like one: the FUTURO summer cottage by Finnish architect Matti Suuronen.

Only the biggest room in the very large Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam is big enough for the Futuro house by Finnish architect Matti Suuronen (b. 1933), and then it does not suffice after all; the height of the room does not allow for the chimney to be placed on the rooftop while the Futuro is on display. It would simply go through the glass covered ceiling.

However big and mighty, this light blue creation gives the impression that it might fly away any minute, hovering almost a metre above the floor on its metal ring

foundation. More than 40 years old, it is a monument of the futuristic past, but still holds an air of future space invasion. On display, the Futuro is surrounded by design items from the museum's collection, meticulously chosen by curator Anemartine van Kesteren. Just like the Futuro, they represent the search for the perfectly constructed form, and include Savoy Vase (1936) by Alvar Aalto, relaxer rocking chair (1973) by Verner Panton and more.

To Mr. and Mrs. Suuronen the encounter with Futuro today is not only that of a piece of architecture. While assigned for several projects in Keitele, they used the Futuro as an office and a summer cottage for

the whole family for a period of eight years, starting in 1978.

Although the Futuro does resemble a UFO, the inspiration came from something much more down to earth. It was while sketching a rooftop for a grain silo in Seinäjoki, Finland, that the architect came up with the idea for the Futuro, a mobile holiday home – easy to assemble in just one day and easily placed on any surface. "I didn't have a UFO in mind at all. I was looking for the perfect form for the silo top and came up with the half elliptical dome. And this led to the idea of making a summer cottage in elliptical form. The working title was After Skiing Cabin, but it works just as well as a summer cottage," says Suuronen, while leaning back in one of the relaxing rest beds in the Futuro's living room.

Futuro is on display in Rotterdam at Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen until 9 October, 2011.

For more information, please visit:
www.boijijmans.nl





The Extraordinary Ordinary Life of José González

By: Emelie Krugly Hill | Photo: Tim Mitchell

José González's vocals and lyrics speak to the mind and heart. With his rendition of *Heartbeats*, originally by The Knife and featured in a Sony TV commercial showing thousands of bouncing balls racing down a San Francisco street, the world embraced his unique sound. Since then, José has become one of Sweden's most exciting music exports.

We caught up with the soft-spoken Argentinian Swede before his gig with The

Göteborg String Theory Orchestra at the Barbican Hall in April. The 33-year-old, who is based in Gothenburg on the Swedish west coast, is known as Sweden's most secretive artist, although he is not quite sure exactly how that reputation came about.

González, who had almost finished his degree in biochemistry, had his breakthrough in 2003, having begun making music in his early teens.

Since 2003, his two albums *Veneer* and *In Our Nature* have mesmerised the music industry. Last year, González released an album with his band Junip called *Fields*, which received critical acclaim.

"Life has been very much about touring since 2003, about 700 performances all in all. It's nice to be on tour, but it's difficult for me to write new songs. It's something I can't force, and I need to be isolated during this process."

Last year, José was featured in the documentary titled *The Extraordinary Ordinary Life of José González*, directed by Mikel Cee Karlsson and Fredrik Egerstrand. It was shot over a three-year period, in his studio and at home as well as on tour. He describes the film as warm and intimate with plenty of humorous moments.

"It was challenging at times, and I found it quite embarrassing to watch the final result," José explains with reserved laughter.

José is multilingual and speaks English, Swedish and Spanish, and his Latin American roots play a big part in his guitar playing and creativity.

"I love playing in South America, and they see me as their own son," he says and explains how he would like to explore writing in Spanish. "Swedish doesn't come as naturally for some reason."

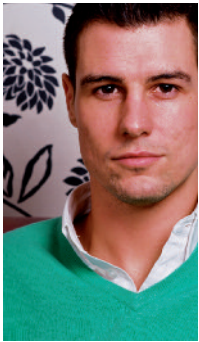
His future plans include carrying on touring, this time with his band Junip, but José is also focusing on writing new songs for a the third album scheduled for release next year.

José González is back in the UK on the 26 July for the Greenwich Summer Sessions, and with his band Junip at Bestival on Isle of Wight, which takes place between the 8 and 11 September.

For more information, please visit:
www.jose-gonzalez.com

Scandinavian Music

By Karl Batterbee



There's a mind-boggling amount of news-worthy new music coming out of Scandinavia right now, so let's not use up this column space on too much description, let's just get on with some names!

This month, both Denmark and Norway are blessed with the return of two of their most beloved music-maker madams. Denmark's Medina has come back with her first Danish language single since all of the international success she's had lately. It's called *For Altid* and is further evidence that she is for electro in Denmark, what Robyn is for electro in Sweden – a young lady legend. Meanwhile Norway's Maria Mena has comeback with a

bright and melodic tune called *This Too Shall Pass*, which is refreshingly positive compared to the tone of her previous signature hits. Needless to say, both homecoming queens have already topped the iTunes charts in their respective countries.

Over in Sweden, two much older pop legends are also staging comebacks of their own. From the 80s come Lili & Susie with a summery new schlager tune, *Bailamor*. And making a surprise return from 90s no-man's-land is Leila K, with the aptly titled *Legendary* – a hard electro club track.

Melody-driven country music isn't something you would normally associate with Scandinavia, but two young Swedish girls have each produced new pop ballads that sound like they could have come from the LPs of Taylor Swift or Carrie Underwood in the US. 15-year-old Hilda Stenmalm has

released the gorgeous *Brief & Beautiful*, while 19-year-old Idol alumnus, Erika Selin, introduces herself with the uplifting *I'm A Dreamer*.

Finally, I don't normally mention pop videos here, but two have come along this month that are genuine must-see viewing fodder. Robyn's spellbinding dance spectacle *Call Your Girlfriend* was admirably shot in just one take. And Swedish House Mafia's *Save The World* is a grim and depressing masterpiece that turns into an unbelievably charming and uplifting feature by the end.

www.scandipop.co.uk
scandipop@googlemail.com

The Art of Survival

By: Emelie Krugly Hill | Photo: Ian Serfontein

Award-winning portrait painter Johan Andersson is a contestant in a new Sky Arts reality TV show *Art of Survival*, beginning on 21 July.

With no mobile phones, money or credit cards, and with only their talent at hand, Johan is one of the four chosen artists whose mission it is to make it home in time for a prestigious appearance at the Edinburgh Festival, having been left at a previously undisclosed location in Europe.

The show documents their journey from Athens to Edinburgh, while the participants trade their artistic talent in exchange for food, accommodation and travel expenses, with the winning team being the pair that has made the most money throughout the trip. This journey spanning several weeks sees the artists cover over 4,000 kilometres; the experi-



ence had a huge impact on Johan.

"It was a fantastic journey and an overwhelming experience that exposed us to extreme stresses, such as not eating or sleeping for several days," he says.

The 24-year-old Swedish-born artist Johan Andersson was the youngest artist to

have been shortlisted for the 2007 BP Portrait Award. Johan often likes to use his work to support charitable causes and frequently donates paintings to such auctions. One recent portrait was auctioned at the Victoria and Albert Museum in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

He is currently working on a major project to celebrate people's differences and challenge our perception of beauty that will culminate in a solo show called *Stolen Faces*.

The *Art of Survival* first airs on Sky Arts 1 on 21 July at 9pm. For more information, please visit: www.skyarts.co.uk

For more information about Johan visit:
www.johanandersson.com

Scandinavian Culture Calendar

– Where to go, what to see? It's all happening here!

By Sara Schedin



Don Giovanni. Photo: Robbie Jack

JULY

Don Giovanni (Until 15 July)

Swedish soprano Miah Persson plays Giovanni's cast-off lover Elvira in this production at Glyndebourne, Lewes, BN8. www.glyndebourne.com

Swedish House Mafia (21 July)

DJs Axwell, Steve Angello and Sebastian Ingrosso are back in London this month and will play their crowd-pleasing house music at the Roundhouse, London, NW1. www.roundhouse.org.uk

Pippa Marias (22 July)

The new East London-based Swedish pop quartet Pippa Marias is playing at the festival Good Weekend in Winchester. www.gdwknd.co.uk

José Gonzalez (26 July)

Enjoy this Swedish nu-folkie's beautiful melodies at an open-air concert at the Greenwich Summer Sessions, where he supports the Irish chamber pop band the Divine Comedy. Old Royal Naval College, London, SE10. www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org

Tsuumi Sound System (30 July)

Finnish eight-piece contemporary world music ensemble Tsuumi Sound System will play at the Speyfest weekend in Fochabers in Scotland. www.speyfest.com

Sweden at the Edinburgh Jazz Festival (Until 31 July)

Every year the Edinburgh Jazz Festival takes a look at what is happening on the

jazz scene around the world. This year it is Sweden's turn. There will be music by, among others, Lina Nyberg and Jacob Karlzon.

www.edinburghjazzfestival.com

Ibsen at the National Theatre (Until 31 July)

Ibsen's play *Emperor and Galilean* about the Roman emperor Julian the Apostate is being staged at the National Theatre by director Jonathan Kent. London, SE1. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

AUGUST

Sakari Oramo conducts the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra (8 Aug)

A Nordic-themed Proms concert featuring music by Grieg, Sibelius and Nielsen. The Royal Albert Hall, London, SW7. www.royalalberthall.com

Rites of Life (Until 6 Sept)

This outdoor exhibition features work by the Swedish photographer Anders Ryman who has travelled the world with his camera documenting different cultures' ceremonies and rituals. More London Riverside, London, SE1. www.ritesoflife.com



Tsuumi Sound System

Forests, Rocks, Torrents (Until 8 Sept)

An exhibition at the National Gallery, featuring paintings of Norwegian and Swiss landscapes from the Lunde Collection. Oil sketches and paintings by 19th century artists such as Johan Christian Dahl and Peder Balke. National Gallery, London, WC2N. www.nationalgallery.org.uk



Emperor and Galilean. Photo: Katherine Ashmore

Experience Rites of Life

– An open-air photography exhibition by Anders Ryman

Across the globe, people celebrate important stages of life with rites of passage, and for more than seven years, Swedish photographer Anders Ryman travelled the world documenting these ceremonies and rituals. First shown in Stockholm, this major open-air exhibition is now coming to London and will feature some of his most compelling images, giving a rare and intimate glimpse of the special moments that mark people's transition through life.

Having recently been granted UNESCO patronage, the highest form of recognition by the organisation, the exhibition will be staged at More London Riverside in front of The Scoop amphitheatre, between City Hall and HMS Belfast. "It's particularly rewarding for me that this exhibition will

be seen by people around the world, easily accessible in an outdoor (and free) venue, and no more so than in London, one of the most multicultural cities in the world," says Anders Ryman.

The rites range from a Xhosa male initiation ceremony in South Africa to a traditional confirmation among the Sami people in northern Norway; from a woman's first childbirth in Palou, Spain, to the 'Poy Sang Long' festival in Thailand, which marks boys' entry into monkhood; and from the Sunrise dance of the Apache, which marks the transition into womanhood, to a Finnish wedding in the Åboland archipelago. All showing that even with cultural differences, what unites people across the world are the Rites of Life.

The exhibition will run from 1 July until 6 September 2011 and will be accom-

panied by the prize-winning book *Rites of Life*, published by TASCHEN.



For more information, please visit:
www.ritesoflife.com

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