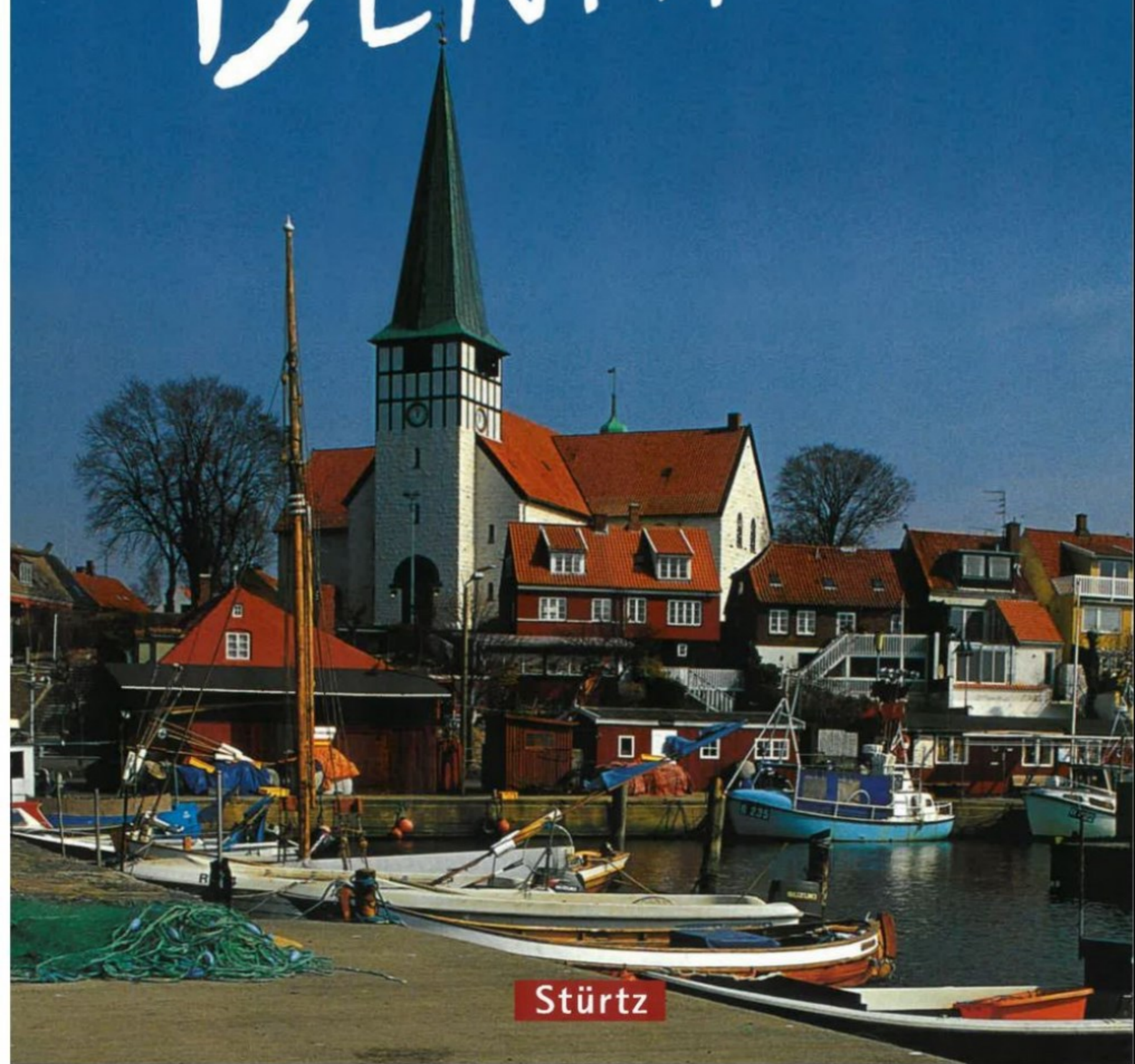


Tina und Horst Herzig & Reinhard Ilg

Journey through

# DENMARK



Stürtz

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*First page:*  
The Little Mermaid is still the landmark of the Danish capital.

*Previous page:*  
Small is beautiful: even in Denmark's larger towns, like here in Koge, many people live and work in centuries-old half-timbered houses

that are cared for with lots of love and just as much money.

*Below:*  
In the nation's countless harbour towns everything revolves around fish

– but the fishers' working conditions are becoming more and more difficult. In the harbour of Gilleleje,

Zealand's largest fishing port, there's more time for chitchat than most would like.

*Pages 10/11:*  
In a country with a 7,430 kilometre (4,630 miles) long coastline it's understandable that bathing culture is a central part of life. During

the summer months a swim in the nearby sea is often a fixed part of the daily routine. Lucky for those who can call a beach hut, like these on Ærøskøbing, their own.



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GREAT COUNTRY BY THE SEA

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HISTORIC DENMARK

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*Wonderful Copenhagen: Anyone who's got the stubborn, false opinion that Europe's north is boring will soon learn the opposite all around the historic harbour mile of Nyhavn. Life in the countless bars, cafés and restaurants is legendary.*

When we think of Denmark we often think only of the Jutland mainland – but the islands of Lolland, Falster, Møn and Sjælland (Zealand), with the capital city of Copenhagen, are just as fascinating: well-kept manor estates, castles and parks testify to centuries of prosperity and to both the attractive and charismatic powers of the Danish metropolis, which was situated in the centre of the nation before the loss of Skåne, Halland and Blekinge to Sweden. Today it still does in another way: since the completion of the bridge over the Great Belt in the west and the Øresund crossing between Copenhagen and Malmö, the eastern Danish islands are suddenly landlocked with the rest of Europe.

The islands are most spectacular in the very east: on a clear day the up to 148 metre (486 feet) high chalk cliffs of Møn allow a view of Sweden and Rügen. Otherwise eastern Denmark's charming beauty lies in the still, harmonious interplay of fjords, islets and bays with the gently rolling land and tree-lined avenues that disappear at the horizon. So it's no wonder that many Copenhageners spend the fresh summer days on their own doorstep as is, and always was, trendy: traditional bathing resorts like Marielyst on Falster or Hornbæk and Gilleleie in the north of Sjælland, scenic Odsherred and enchanted Møn.

Those who wish to follow the footsteps of Danish history will inevitably land at Roskilde: Denmark's rich and varied Viking history, documented by ship finds that can be marvelled at in Roskilde, is just as impressive as the cathedral there in which all of the country's monarchs have been laid to rest since Margrete I (died 1412).

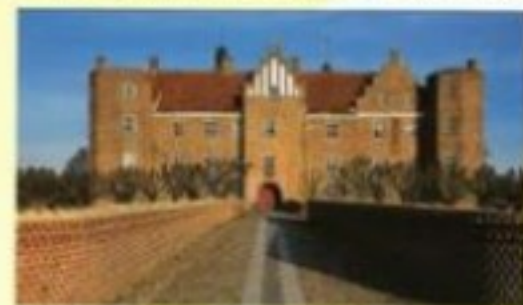


# CASTLES, PARKS

# AND

# MANORS

**D**enmark is a relatively sparsely populated country roughly twice the size of Wales. Yet, here we find hundreds of well-maintained castles, parks and manors; not only a sign of private prosperity and royal splendour, but also an expression of social duty to one's own history. The wealth of olden times is gone: woe to the Danish castle-owner who must satisfy all of the requirements of historic monument



protection, but only receives the meagre public subsidies! But necessity is the mother of invention: the traveller who is wooed by an increasing number of »slot« (castle) and manor owners as hotel guest profits from this. No fear of finery: some of these castles and manors are rather simply furnished.

Denmark's wealth of magnificent buildings is owed, like many other accomplishments, to King Christian IV. During only a few centuries of the Renaissance (c. 1550–1660) approximately 1,500 castles and manors rose across the country. Grand homes were put up during the Baroque (c. 1660–1730), and even Classicist times (c. 1775–1850), Denmark's »time of poverty«.

Most of the former and present royal castles are in and around Copenhagen: Rosenborg Slot (1624), for example, was originally a country seat but today is situated in the middle of the city. The castle park, the oldest royal park of Denmark, was transformed back to its original Renaissance style and since then has served – typically Danish – as a public refuge from the hectic life of the city of millions. Frederiksborg Slot in Hillerød is also acces-

**Right:**  
*It was burned down a number of times and in its present form has been the centre of political power in Denmark since 1928: Christiansborg Slot in Copenhagen's centre. Today the Folketing, the parliament, convenes here and the Supreme Court, ministries and the royal family's reception rooms are also housed in the castle.*

**Left:**  
*The three-winged moated castle of Gammel Estrup on the Djursland peninsula is one of Jutland's loveliest Renaissance castles. Owned by the Skeel family for centuries, one can view magnificent legacies here, also from its other estates.*

**Page 39 top:**  
*Only a few miles south-east of Næstved, Zealand (Sjælland), Gavns Slot and its splendid parks welcome visitors. Inside one can view one of northern Europe's largest private painting collections, and outside the gorgeous flowers and plants of the castle grounds are renowned all over Denmark.*

**Page 39 bottom:**  
*Compared to the magnificent furnishings of Rosenborg Slot, which holds collections of interiors, porcelain, silver and painting, the lifestyle of the family of Queen Margrethe II is quite secularly modest.*



sible as the headquarters of the National Historical Museum. Only a few miles away in Fredensborg Slot, erected between 1720 and 1722 for King Fredrik IV on Esrum Lake, Queen Margrethe and her husband reside during the spring and summer months.

Dronninglund Slot and the estate of Børglumkloster in the north of Jutland and Schackenberg Slot by Tønder near the German border, the home of Prince Joachim and Princess Alexandra, are impressive reminders of the Baroque age.

The traditional Scandinavian openness



## LABYRINTHS AND ROSE GARDENS

Egeskov Slot (1554) on the island of Funen is considered one of Europe's loveliest moated castles: next to the castle itself an extensive hedge labyrinth, the castle park with rose and herb gardens, and an antique car museum draw visitors in droves. Just a bridge-span away across the Svendborgsund lies Valdemars Slot (1644) on the Troense peninsula. The symmetry and sea-side location of the castle, built a bit out of the way by Christian IV for his son Valdemar, are captivating.

The power of the nobility and land-owners during the Renaissance is most markedly seen on Jutland: on the Djursland peninsula alone the four castles of Katholm, Rosenholm, Løvenholm and Gammel Estrup testify to the wealth of individual families. Among the most beautiful noble seats of the Renaissance times is Voergård estate in the east of Vendsyssel, the »hood« of Jutland separated from the mainland by the Limfjord. The walls are adorned with relief sculptures and ornamented cornices; however, the wealth inside the castle, including paintings by Goya, Raphael, Rubens and Frans Hals, is owed to later owners.

between the royal house, politicians and nobility on the one side and the populace on the other side is manifested in generous accessibility to most parks, even when the castle or manor owners are at home. Therefore, local and regional cultural events increasingly include castles and manors in their programmes. One of the biggest events of this kind is the »Kulturhøst«, during which the cultural harvest is brought in every year in late summer on the islands Lolland, Falster, Møn and South Sjælland. Among others Gavns Slot by Næstved, the Rococo grounds of Lise-lund Slot above the chalk cliffs of Møn, Corselitze and Fuglsang Park on Lolland serve as venues for concerts, exhibitions and events.



**Below:**  
A bit away from the busy ferry port, fishing trawlers are moored in the former shipyard basin of Helsingør. From here it's only a few steps to the powerful ramparts of the castle of Kronborg, which today serves as a sea-mark for Øresund (The Sound).

**Above right:**  
Today we can traipse in the footsteps of William Shakespeare through the old lanes of Helsingør. The half-timbered houses, some 450 years old, still give

us an idea of life in the harbour city when every passing ship had to anchor to pay the Øresund duty. Back then not all of the city's nooks and crannies were as fine as they are today...

**Centre right:**  
Shakespeare brought Kronborg Slot world renown as the backdrop of his «Hamlet». Most of the magnificent Renaissance castle, which has had its present appearance since 1585, is accessible to the

public. The extensive casemates are especially impressive: one of their niches holds the remains of Denmark's national hero Holger Danske, who the saga says will awaken again when the country most sorely needs him.

**Below right:**  
The red of the churches and their characteristic stepped gables are typical for the eastern Danish islands, like here in Vester Egesborg. The Lutheran Church is today

the national denomination and 90 percent of the population are members. Until religious freedom was declared in 1849, Danes who converted to Catholicism lost their civil rights.



**Small photos left:**  
Gilleleje on the northern  
point of Zealand is one  
of Denmark's oldest fish-  
ing villages - although  
the hubbub of the har-  
bour is more urban.

Every morning a large,  
public fish auction is  
held here, from which  
Copenhagen's best chefs  
also procure their fresh  
seafood wares. But fish-

ing quotas and growing  
vessel operating costs  
contribute to the over-  
proportionally high  
unemployment rate of  
Denmark's fishers.

**Below:**  
The small fishermen who  
pursue their vocations full  
or part time are very self-  
sufficient. But the quiet  
time with co-workers  
will soon be contrasted  
by bone-wearing daily  
work on the sea.



The old town of Årskøbing, the island capital, is like a living museum of the 17th and 18th centuries: picturesque cottages, winding

cobbled lanes, abundant hollyhocks and people whose pace is two gears slower than today's usual, lend the town fascinating serenity.

**Small photos right:**

Each of Årskøbing's well-maintained, half-timbered, 17th and 18th century houses are a little treasure chest in themselves. With an eye for details, every stroll through town can become a longer hike

through the architectural history of the times when seafarers and merchants ensured the island's great prosperity. Situated at the very edge of Denmark, the picturesque isle is not nearly as economically powerful today.



**Below:**  
Right in the centre of Højer is northern Europe's largest windmill, built in the Dutch style. Today it houses the tourist office as well as the Mill and Marsh Museum.

**Right:**  
The little town of Højer in the very southwest corner of Jutland is situated on a sandy plateau that lies like an island on the marshlands. Its earlier wealth can be seen in the well-preserved reed-thatched Frisian houses with ornate doors.



**Left:**  
Ribe has been able to preserve its late medieval appearance like hardly any other town in Denmark. The city elders very skilfully integrated the architectural legacies of the past in a vital community.

**Below:**  
In the dark hours of the night, visitors to the western Jutland city of Ringkøbing can count on the protection of the night watchmen, who still make their rounds here as in days of yore.









**Above:**  
 Today the Melstedgård, the first farm of Denmark to ever be put under protection as a monument in 1950, is a «living agricultural museum.» The layout of the red-thatched, half-timbered square is that of a typical Bornholm farm down to the tiniest detail.

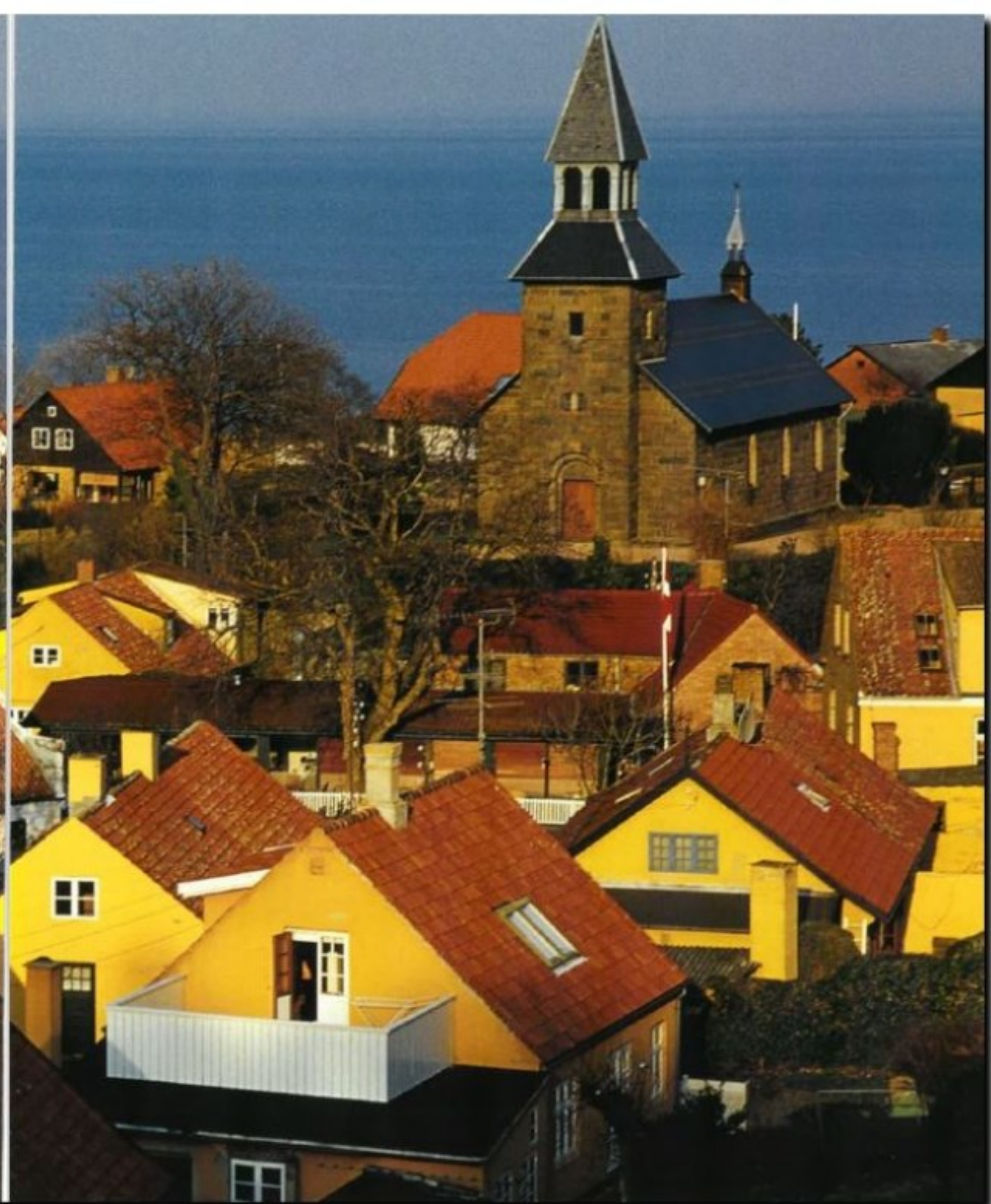
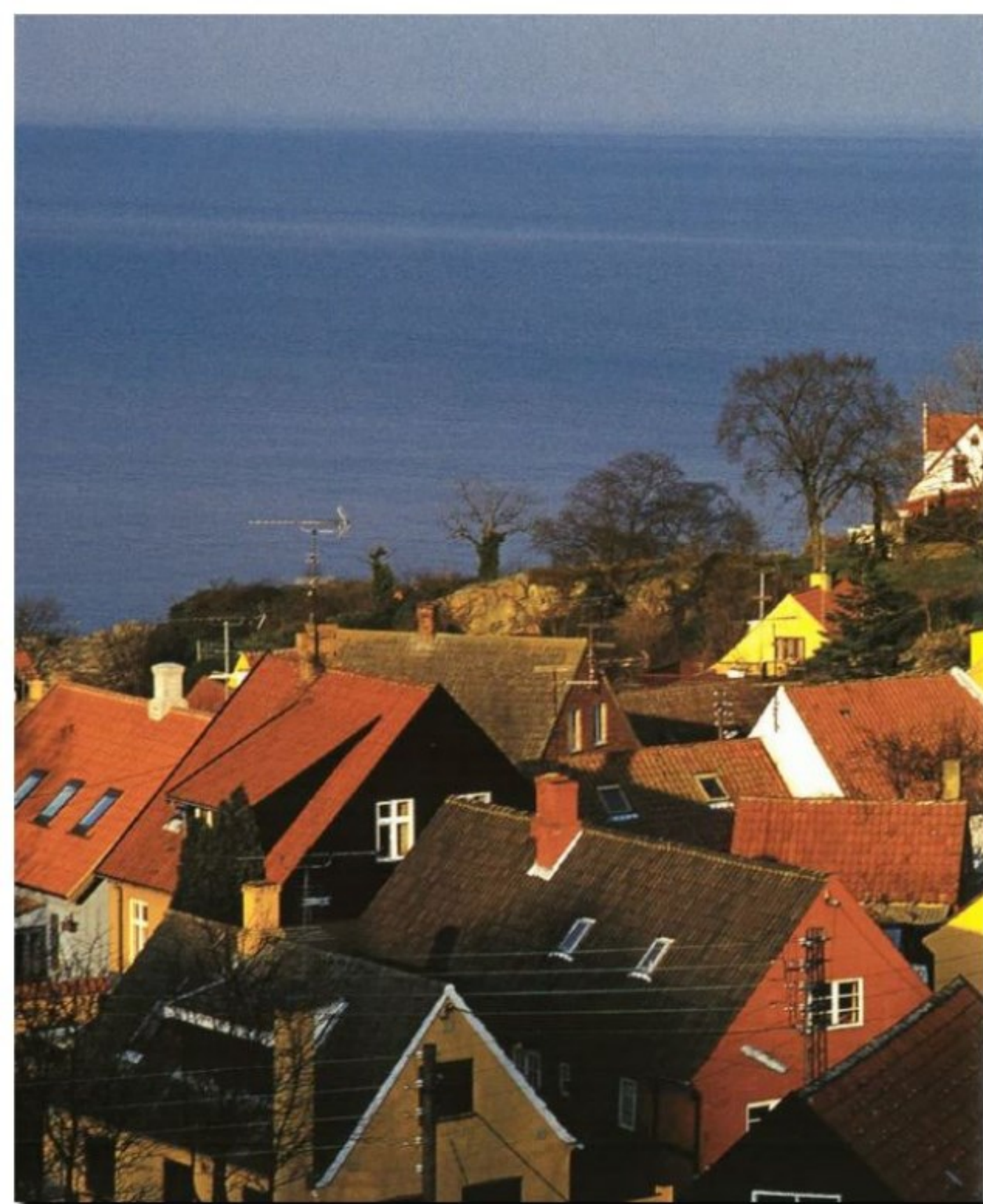
**Right:**  
 They can still be found, the veterans of the roads, which long were part of Denmark's street scene due to the high taxes on new cars. On a relatively small island like Bornholm the life expectancy of a vehicle is naturally much longer.



**Above:**  
 The harbour town of Rønne counts roughly 14,500 inhabitants. Ferry lines leave here for Copenhagen, Ystad, Sassnitz and Swinoujscie. In spite of a bombardment by Russian planes in May 1945 large parts of the old town have been preserved like a living open-air museum.

**Left:**  
 The smokehouse of Gudhjem traditionally offers «all the fish you can eat»: for a reasonable fixed price guests can eat as much smoked and marinated seafood as they can handle.





**Right page:**  
Overfishing of the Baltic Sea also left clear traces on Bornholm: only 170 of the former 280 trawlers remain, many bigger ships were taken out of service. The seafood processing industry is doing far better since mainly fishers from the Baltic and Eastern European countries land their catches in Nexø.



Only a tiny emergency harbour protects the small fishing boats in Helligeder. The little fishing settlement consists of only a few houses and reminds one of a village of dollhouses.



The two big hotels on the harbour, former estates of wealthy merchants, are misleading: the friendly harbour town of Svaneke has only 1200 inhabitants and is thus Denmark's smallest city. Long spared industrialization and fires, the up to 300 year old quaint buildings of Svaneke make a lasting impression on the visitor.



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# DENMARK



»Between the Baltic and the North Sea there lies an old swan's nest, wherein swans are born and have been born that shall never die.« The sentence by Hans Christian Andersen accentuates that Denmark is marked by the sea. At its northern point near Skagen the waves of the Baltic meet those of the North Sea, making it possible to stand with one foot in each sea at the same time. Steep coastal cliffs, wide sandy beaches and high dunes define the picture of the kingdom. Life in the metropolis of Copenhagen is a stark contrast to that of the smallest island communities, which are determined by the rhythms of the ferries.

Over 180 photographs reveal all of the facets of this fascinating country, its capital city of Copenhagen, its island worlds and its rich culture ranging from the Viking runes to countless castles and manors to today's modern architecture.

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