

KOLDING

Kolding is an old port city and a royal borough, and with its 60.300 inhabitants (2017), it is the seventh largest town in Denmark. The city was founded late in the 12th century. In the Middle Ages, the city was hit by several wars and the plague, which meant a decline in population and trade. Since late 19th century, the city has grown and evolved into a thriving trade and business city located centrally in the Triangle region.

The landscape itself emerged from, and was formed towards the end of, the last ice age. During this period the area were completely covered by ice several times, and ice, glaciers and melt-water created Kolding's landscape features, such as subglacial stream trenches, fjord and lakes, as well as Kolding Å, which winds through Kolding and the hinterland.

1. Koldinghus

North of Kolding Å lies the castle bank with the city's landmark, the royal castle Koldinghus, built to protect the kingdom's southern border. The royal residence at the castle has been significant for the city as it gave lustre to the city and work to its inhabitants.

The most significant royalty living here was King Christian III and his wife Queen Dorothea in the 16th century, King Christian IV in the early 1600s and King Frederik IV in the early 1700s.

During the Napoleonic Wars Denmark formed an alliance with France and Spain, and part of the Spanish army therefore billeted at Koldinghus.

A fire broke out at night in the chimney of the guardroom's fireplace on March 29th 1808. The fire destroyed such large parts of the castle that reconstruction was dropped at first, and it was not until 1893 the reconstruction was reconsidered.

To begin with, only a few rooms in the north wing was rebuilt, and after a few years, the entire wing. During the First World War, the west wing was rebuilt. In the 1930s restoration of the tall tower began, but due to the Second World War, the entire castle was not finished until the 1990s; the last years under the leadership of Inger and Johannes Exner.

2. Staldgården ("The Stable Yard")

The Stable Yard next to Koldinghus housed the horses belonging to the King and officials at Koldinghus.

It evaded the fire in 1808 and was used for storing military equipment during the wars against England in 1808-1814. Later on, the buildings were used as storage for the merchants in Kolding.

From 1942-1945 the Gestapo had its southern headquarters at the Stable Yard. In one of the cells where the Danish resistance people were held captive, you can still see the names and inscriptions from the prisoners.

3. Slotssøen/Castle lake

From ancient time, the lake by the castle (Slotssøen) belonged to the King. In 1570, King Frederik II gave exclusive right to the brewery Slotsmøllen to use the water from Slotssøen. Slotsmøllen was originally a grain mill. The owner of Slotsmøllen was the King's mother, Queen Dorothea, who received Koldinghus as her dower house after the death of her husband Christian III. She lived there for 40 years. As part of the agreement, Slotsmøllen should at all times make sure a boat was at the King's disposal. Nowadays the Sct. Georg's Guild in Kolding provides for the boat, should the Monarch pay a visit.

The brewery closed in 1999, and in 2006, the new public library was put into service at the site.

4. Memorial for the casualties in the freedom fight 1940-1945

The Memorial is a rectangular relief made by the sculptor Poul Søndergaard. It resembles a man and a woman, bending over a fallen member of the resistance. On the base, these lines by the poet Hans Hartvig Seedorff Petersen are carved:

"Om ædle danske taler Stenen her"
"Husk deres Daad"
"Og vis dig Ofret værd"

(Roughly translated:
"Of noble Danes speaks this stone"
"Remember their deed"
"And prove yourself worth the sacrifice")

5. Slotssøvejen

Slotssøvejen opened in 1970 and is part of the ring of streets surrounding the city centre designed to relieve traffic pressure on the inner city streets. Building the street and the parking lot nearby, took place after landfill of around 10 % of Slotssøen.

6. Uffe Hin Spage ("Uffe the Meek")

The bronze sculpture Uffe hin Spage from 1927 was put up in 1392. The myth says that Uffe, the blunt son of King Vermund, won an important victory against a Saxon prince and a giant by the old border river, The Eider, using his father's sword, and thereby secured Denmark's independence. He is portrayed in a naturalistic and idealized way by the sculptor Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen, born in Sdr. Stenderup, southeast of Kolding.

7. Cain

Cain from 1926 is carved in French limestone by the sculptor Thomas Hansen. The motif is from the Bible "Cain and Abel", and Cain is portrayed in the moment he had killed Abel. Thomas Hansen was born in Kolding.



8. Flagstang/flagpole

In 1945, baker and confectioner Bertram Knudsen, owner of the then nationally known Saxildhus Konditori donated the flagpole with its concrete base. The occasion was the 40th anniversary of the bakery, and the flagpole was given “as a lasting memory of the day in our beautiful city park, from which Dannebrog can wave over our old city Kolding, and over a free and happy Denmark.”

9. Girl Swimmer

The girl swimmer is a young straight-back woman ready to take a dive. The sculpture is made of granite by the sculptor August Keil, who was a self-taught artist.

10. The City Park / Legeparken

In 1999, part of the city park was changed into a play ground for children, open to the public. Near the water in the centre of Legeparken, you will find a memorial plaque for Mayor Knud Hansen(1866-1952), who initiated the city park in the late 1930s.

11. Søgade 10

This elegant villa, designed by architect Th. Gundestrup, was built in 1906 by coffee whole sale trader and consul Christian Eff. A line of very different houses in Søgade has the view of Koldinghus, whereas the houses on the opposite side of the street, mainly apartments, must settle for a position in second row.

12. Sitting Girl

Elise Heide Jørgensen’s sculpture from 1953 was put up in Sct. Jørgen Gård three years later. A young beautiful woman sitting forward bending and picking her toes. She is portrayed in a naturalistic, but also modernistic style. Elise Heide Jørgensen was born in Vonsild south of Kolding, where another one of her sculptures, The Good Shepherd, is placed in front of the church.

13. Slotssøbadet/Public swimming pool

In 1956, Kolding Municipality built an open-air swimming pool with platform and changing rooms. Today, only the blue painted building with the changing rooms remain together with a flat-roofed indoor swimming pool from 1969. The buildings are now part of the new complex designed by architects Nøhr and Sigsgaard, built in 1994.

The swimming pool is like a sculpture by Slotssøen, and at night, the artificial light resembles a flying saucer during landing. The large glass facades lets in the daylight and gives a sense of connectivity between the nature, the lake, the park, Koldinghus and a huge sky.

At Slotssøbadet you also find Dronning Dorotheas Badstue (“Queen Dorotheas Bath”) from 2008, with an indoor spa area of around 300m² and an outdoor spa area of around 100 m². They offer a vast number of facilities and treatments: steam bath, sauna, spa, cold-water basin, salt basin, aroma basin, massages wrap-pings, body scrubs, facials, footbaths, etc.

14. Sct. Jørgens Gård

In 1558, King Christian II signed a deed of foundation to establish a hospital for the poor, disabled and sick people, to provide them with food, shelter and necessary clothing. At first, the church hall was built and it served as a church until 1803. In 1975, the hospital was closed down, and the buildings taken over and renovated by Kolding Municipality. Today, the listed buildings contains rooms designed for lending to the city's cultural associations.

15. Kolding Hotel Apartments

“One short, one long, one triangle, one bar, one clock that says ding dang”, is the beginning of a Danish children’s song. It is also the inspiration of the architects of the wood-sheathed houses in a little green area between the houses in Låsbygade and Slotssøen. The holiday apartments are part of Kolding Byferie, which opened in 1994 as a test of accommodation for people wanting to spend their holiday in the city.

16. Kobberhuset (“The Copper House”)

Hyrdestræde no. 7 next to Koldinghus is part of a small cluster of houses hiding between Låsbybanke and Slotssøen. The house is a cruciform half-timbered house built in 1922 and renovated in 1932. The builder and owner was one of the city’s master carpenters, but the timber frame posed problems, and when he sold the house to a master plumber, several gables were covered in copper.

Length of this walk is approx. 3 km/1,8 miles.

