



## DISCOVER THE RUINS UNDER CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE




 TICKETS


 TOILETS


- 1 MODEL OF THE RUINS
- 2 ABSALON'S SECRET
- 3 THE WHITE CURTAIN WALL
- 4 THE DOUBLE WALL
- 5 THE CHAPEL STONES


- 6 THE HOUSES INSIDE THE CASTLE
- 7 EXHIBITION ABOUT THE FIRST AND SECOND CHRISTIANSBORG PALACES
- 8 SMALL MODEL OF COPENHAGEN CASTLE
- 9 THE BLUE TOWER


- 10 LARGE MODEL OF COPENHAGEN CASTLE
- 11 THE WOODEN WATER PIPE
- 12 THE FOUNDATION STONE ROOM


**1**  **MODEL OF THE RUINS**  
At the start of the exhibition you will find a model that gives an overview of the ruins and shows the size ratios of Bishop Absalon's Castle, Copenhagen Castle and the present Christiansborg Palace.


**2**  **ABSALON'S SECRET**  
On one side of the castle's watchtower you will find 'Absalon's secret'. The secret is an old-fashioned toilet. It is a drain leading from a house inside the castle out to the other side of the curtain wall. This allowed Absalon's soldiers to wash their 'secrets' out onto the island.


**3**  **THE WHITE CURTAIN WALL**  
The curtain wall is made of white limestone, which Absalon and his men obtained from Stevns Cliffs south of Copenhagen. The wall ensured that enemies could see the castle from a distance. With a few enemy heads on poles in front of the wall, it was designed to discourage potential attackers.


**4**  **THE DOUBLE WALL**  
The curtain wall is a so-called 'double wall'. It consists of two shells of large square stone and the middle of the wall of mortar and fieldstone. This construction made the wall elastic and was especially effective against trebuchets – machines that threw stones.


**5**  **THE CHAPEL STONES**  
Here you see the remains of Absalon's chapel – two precious granite pillars, which have been preserved. They were found in an old well under the excavations for the present palace. They were thrown there during the demolition of the castle in 1369 by the Hanseatic League.

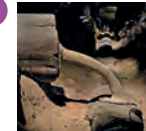
**6**  **THE HOUSES INSIDE THE CASTLE**  
At the inside of the curtain wall there are ruins of houses. The two-storey house was occupied by soldiers, while the single storey houses were used as a smithy and for keeping horses, weapons and tools. The castle was intended to be self-sufficient during a siege.

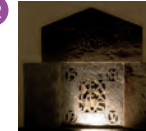
**7**  **EXHIBITION ABOUT THE FIRST AND SECOND CHRISTIANSBORG PALACES**  
The exhibition of the first and second Christiansborg Palaces includes sandstone sculptures from the palaces and models of the two palaces, which burnt down in 1794 and 1884. A film about the fires can be watched in the exhibition.

**8**  **SMALL MODEL OF COPENHAGEN CASTLE**  
Copenhagen Castle was built on top of the remains of Absalon's Castle. As Copenhagen developed into Denmark's main town, the Castle also became the most important royal residence. A large model (no. 10) shows the rest of the castle's history.

**9**  **THE BLUE TOWER**  
The prison chambers of the Blue Tower were used for political prisoners, peasants, soldiers and noblemen alike. The Blue Tower's most famous prisoner was Leonora Christina, daughter of Christian IV. Her husband, Corfitz Ulfeldt, was branded a traitor. Leonora Christina was also accused and was confined to the Blue Tower for nearly 22 years.

**10**  **LARGE MODEL OF COPENHAGEN CASTLE**  
Copenhagen Castle was rebuilt and modernised many times. The model shows the castle in Christian IV's time. When Frederik IV modernised the castle it became so heavy that the foundations began to slip. The castle was torn down in 1731.

**11**  **THE WOODEN WATER PIPE**  
The water pipe dates from the first Christiansborg Palace where the old drinking water wells were not going to be sufficient. The hollowed-out tree trunks should carry the water from Lake Emdrup six kilometres to the north into the palace.

**12**  **THE FOUNDATION STONE**  
In 1907 the foundation stone of the present Christiansborg Palace was laid by Frederik VIII. The stone can still be seen in this exhibition room, which also houses a well from Absalon's Castle.

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**THE RUINS UNDER CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE** tell the story of Copenhagen's founding and the site's development over more than 800 years. In 1167 bishop Absalon built his castle on a small island outside the port of Havn. The castle was a fortress for defending against Wend pirates. In 1369 the castle was demolished by the Hanseatic League after a long siege.

**COPENHAGEN CASTLE** was built on top of the remains of Absalon's Castle. The castle was located here for more than 350 years and became the seat of the royal family in Denmark.

**IN THE RUINS EXHIBITION** you can discover the dark passages and cellars, and read about life in Absalon Castle and Copenhagen Castle. You can also explore the history of the three subsequent palaces named Christiansborg.