

## RENAISSANCE CASTLE AND FORTRESS

A VISIT TO KRONBORG is a cultural experience of international calibre. The contrast between the elegant royal castle and the military fortifications is clearly apparent. Discover the area on your own or join a guided tour.

THIS PAMPHLET presents some of the best experiences at Kronborg, in an order which is natural for the visitor.

CHILDREN visiting Kronborg have lots of activities to enjoy, especially during holiday seasons. Exhibitions of art and history are frequently held at Kronborg.

KRONBORG CASTLE'S unique settings can also be hired for i.e. conferences – even outside normal opening hours.

THE REGIONAL THEATRE “Hamletscenen” frequently invites troupes from Denmark and abroad to stage theatrical performances based on their interpretation of a Shakespearean work. Further details at [www.hamletscenen.dk](http://www.hamletscenen.dk).

THE PALACES AND PROPERTIES AGENCY is currently implementing ambitious refurbishment and renovation projects and activities for the public at Kronborg Castle. Together with the foundation “Realdania” and Elsinore Municipality, the Agency has launched a major renovation project, which aims to strengthen the interaction of town and castle.

### OPENING HOURS

The castle: May–September: daily, 10:30–17. October and april: Tuesday–Sunday, 11–16. November–March: Tuesday–Sunday, 11–15. The fortress is always open.

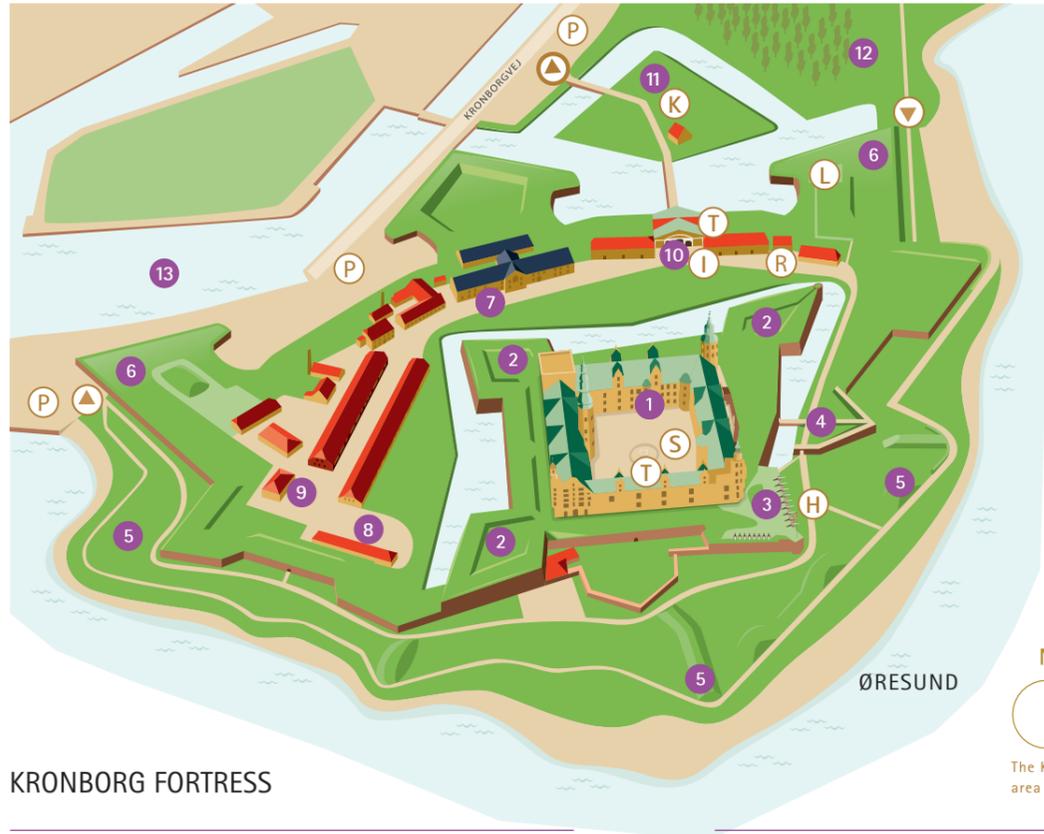
### KRONBORG CASTLE ON THE WEB

Further details about Kronborg Castle – and a number of other Danish castles and gardens – are available on the website of the Danish Palaces and Properties Agency. You can also see an interactive version of this pamphlet at:

[WWW.KRONBORGCASTLE.COM](http://WWW.KRONBORGCASTLE.COM)

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- T TOILETS  
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KRONBORG FORTRESS



The Kronborg Fortifications cover an area of roughly 190,000 square metres.

**1 THE CASTLE**  
The castle building is the oldest and innermost part of the fortifications. The ring wall of the original castle, Krogen, from the 1420s, still exists beneath the sandstone façades to this very day. On the way down to the casemates, you pass through the ring wall, which gives you a sense of its thickness.

**2 MAIN RAMPARTS**  
Walking around the outside of the castle you can see the inner fortifications of earthworks and brick bastions built up against the castle walls in the 1570s. By then cannon had become so powerful that Krogen's old ring wall could no longer repel an attack.

**3 THE FLAG BASTION**  
Kronborg Castle's old cannon fire a salute from the Flag Bastion on the royal family's anniversaries and birthdays and when the royal yacht Dannebrog passes. The bastion is open from May to September, 10:30 - 16:00.

**4 MØRKEPORT'S RAVELIN**  
This three-sided defensive structure provides additional protection between the two bastions beyond the corners of the castle. From the ravelin, you can enjoy the view of Øresund and the coast of Sweden, in the distance.

**5 THE COAST BATTERIES**  
The twelve coast batteries situated along the coast were established around 1800. From here cannon could fire on hostile ships passing through Øresund. The beach at the coast batteries is a popular site for fishing.

**6 THE CROWNWORK**  
This great defensive feature extends in a wide curve around the inner fortifications. It was constructed in 1688–1691, after the Swedish capture of the castle in 1658 made it clear that the previous fortifications were not strong enough. It is called the Crownwork because it resembles a crown when seen from above. It comprises bastions and curtain walls with ravelins situated in front of them.

**7 THE GARRISON BUILDINGS: THE KRONBORG GALLERIES**  
The last soldier left Kronborg Castle in 1991, and the old barracks buildings are currently being refurbished. Today they house artists' demonstration workshops with shops, and more. Further details at [www.kronborggallerierne.dk](http://www.kronborggallerierne.dk).

**8 THE STONE MASONRY WORKSHOP**  
The stone masonry workshop restores and replaces Kronborg Castle's structural details on an ongoing basis. Outside the workshop, you can often see which projects are currently being worked on by the stone masons.

**9 THE POWDER MAGAZINE**  
The Powder Magazine was built c. 1726–1733 and was used for storing gunpowder. The Powder Magazine will be open to the public from late 2008.

**10 THE CROWNWORK GATE**  
The route to the Castle passes through the Crownwork Gate. The rooms which once housed convicts performing forced labour still exist inside the gate building. The outstanding sandstone portal was re-carved in 2007.

**11 WURTTENBERG'S RAVELIN**  
The Crownwork Gate is additionally reinforced by this island with protective ramparts on the outer side. You can enjoy a refreshment here in the summer.

**12 THE GLACIS**  
The “glacis” is an artificial slope, with the purpose of keeping attackers under fire for as long as possible. Six hundred oak, elm and ash trees were planted on the glacis in 1821, and you can still see the trees today.

**13 THE PORT OF ELSINORE**  
Large sections of the Crownwork were demolished in the 1800s to make room for enlargements of Elsinore's harbour. Today, Kronborg Castle's surroundings are once again being cared for through a major project.

## DISCOVER KRONBORG

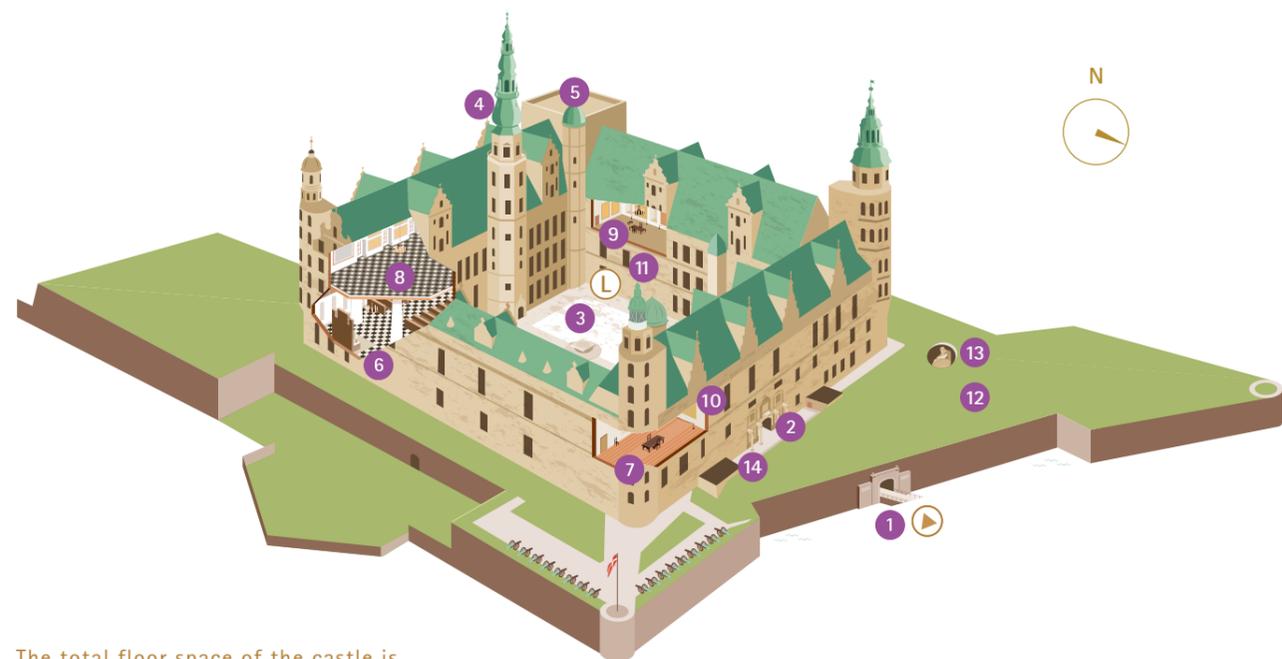


## RENAISSANCE CASTLE AND FORTRESS

- 1 MØRKEPORT (DARK GATE)
- 2 THE FOUR-GATE COURT
- 3 THE CASTLE YARD
- 4 THE TRUMPETER'S TOWER
- 5 THE TELEGRAPH TOWER
- 6 THE CHAPEL
- 7 THE ROYAL CHAMBERS

- ▶ ENTRANCE
- L LUNCHBOX ROOM

- 8 THE BALLROOM
- 9 THE LITTLE HALL
- 10 ALLEGORY OF THE SOUND
- 11 THE DANISH MARITIME MUSEUM
- 12 THE CASEMATES
- 13 HOLGER THE DANE
- 14 PORTRAIT OF SHAKESPEARE



The total floor space of the castle is roughly 16,000 square metres, including attics and basements.

## KRONBORG CASTLE

**1 MØRKEPORT (DARK GATE)**  
 The route into the castle passes through the winding Mørkeport gate. As you walk through the gate, you can see down a long, tunnel-like corridor. This once led from the original entry gate to the Four-Gate Court.

**2 THE FOUR-GATE COURT**  
 As you leave Mørkeport, you enter a small forecourt before entering the Castle Yard proper. From the bay above the portal, the king could keep an eye on arriving visitors. The main gate leading into the castle is decorated with a splendid portal. The portal's recesses hold statues of Neptune and Mercury, gods of the sea and trading respectively. The last two gates of the Four-Gate Court lead up an incline to the ramparts surrounding the castle.

**3 THE CASTLE YARD**  
 The Castle Yard took on its present appearance when Frederik II rebuilt the medieval castle Krogen into Kronborg Castle in 1574–1585. The small Renaissance well in the Castle Yard was erected in 1934. This was once the site of a magnificent fountain from 1583, which was taken away by the Swedes after capturing the Castle in 1658.

**4 THE TRUMPETER'S TOWER**  
 The impressive 62-metre high Trumpeter's Tower is the tallest tower at Kronborg Castle. It is named after the trumpeters who previously sounded fanfares of warning from the tower's gallery. The spire has been destroyed by fire and rebuilt twice.

**5 THE TELEGRAPH TOWER**  
 The immense flat-roofed tower previously functioned as a cannon tower. It was originally Kronborg Castle's tallest tower, boasting dome and spire, but both structural features were destroyed by the Swedish bombardment in 1658. From 1801, the new flat roof was used as an "optical telegraph" for sending signals to Copenhagen - and even to South Jutland. From the roof you have impressive views of Elsinore and Øresund. You can enter the top of the tower through the Danish Maritime Museum from May to September.

**6 THE CHAPEL**  
 The chapel has a beautifully carved and colourful interior for you to admire. The chapel was consecrated in 1582 and, by contrast with the rest of the castle, was not damaged by the fire of 1629. Therefore, you can sense here the brilliantly coloured magnificence that originally characterised all of Kronborg Castle.

**7 THE ROYAL CHAMBERS**  
 The king and queen resided in the royal chambers whenever they were in residence at Kronborg Castle. The royal chambers were originally established during Frederik II's rebuilding of Krogen into Kronborg Castle, but had to be rebuilt by Christian IV after the fire of 1629.

**8 THE BALLROOM**  
 The Ballroom was the largest royal hall in Northern Europe (62 x 12 metres). The series of large paintings on the walls were originally made from 1618 to 1631 for the Great Hall of Copenhagen's Rosenborg Castle.

**9 THE LITTLE HALL**  
 In this hall you will find seven tapestries originally from a series of forty tapestries portraying one hundred Danish kings. The tapestries were commissioned by Frederik II around 1580. Seven more tapestries hang at the National Museum of Denmark, while the rest have been lost.

**10 ALLEGORY OF THE SOUND**  
 Isaac Isaacs's painting (1622) depicts Øresund as a voluptuous woman with a cornucopia. This is because Øresund was one of the king's most important sources of income, as any ship that sailed through the Sound had to pay dues to the king. The Sound Dues were collected until 1857.

**11 THE DANISH MARITIME MUSEUM**  
 The Danish Maritime Museum has been housed at Kronborg Castle since 1915. The many objects, paintings and photographs on display at the museum depict the history of Danish shipping from the Renaissance up

to the present. The Danish Palaces and Properties Agency is planning a new use for this part of the castle when the museum relocates in a few years. Further details about the museum at [www.maritime-museum.dk](http://www.maritime-museum.dk).

**12 THE CASEMATES**  
 The gloomy casemates underneath Kronborg Castle are open to the public. The casemates are an underground network of corridors and rooms on several levels which served as soldier quarters during times of war. These dark, damp rooms could accommodate up to a thousand men and enough provisions to withstand a six-week siege.

**13 HOLGER THE DANE**  
 In the casemates you will also find the statue of Denmark's legendary hero Holger the Dane, who sits slumbering, ready to be stirred into action the instant the Danish kingdom is threatened by an enemy. With electric torch in hand, you can explore the associated exhibition and legend of Holger the Dane on your own.

**14 PORTRAIT OF SHAKESPEARE**  
 William Shakespeare wrote his famous "The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark" c. 1600 and set the play at Kronborg Castle. Although Hamlet is not a historical person, Shakespeare's play made Kronborg Castle famous round the world.



**HIRE FACILITIES AT KRONBORG CASTLE**  
 Frederik II's old wine cellar, Eric of Pomerania's Chamber and the largest ballroom in Northern Europe are superb settings for conferences and other events outside the castle's normal opening hours. Interested? Please contact Kronborg Castle at +45 49 21 30 78 or [kronborg@ses.dk](mailto:kronborg@ses.dk).

## PAST AND FUTURE

**KRONBORG CASTLE, ELSINORE**, at the seaward approach to the Baltic Sea, is one of the most significant Renaissance castles in Northern Europe. It is also the most renowned castle in Denmark, made famous round the world by Shakespeare's "Hamlet".

**THE HISTORY OF KRONBORG** is interesting and dramatic and dates all the way back to the Middle Ages. Strong fortifications have been located here at the narrowest part of Øresund for almost six centuries. From here the king's men could make sure that any ship which passed through the sound had to pay dues to the king.

**ERIC OF POMERANIA** built the castle Krogen in 1425. In 1574–1585, Frederik II rebuilt Krogen into a magnificent Renaissance castle, which he named Kronborg. The Castle was devastated by a great fire in 1629, and Christian IV, son of Frederik II, rebuilt the castle in the same style. Kronborg Castle was bombarded and captured by Swedish troops in 1658, and many of the castle's works of art were taken back to Sweden as spoils of war. From 1785 to 1924, the castle's rooms were used as military barracks. After this, the castle was refurbished and opened to the public in 1938. Kronborg Castle was inscribed on UNESCO's List of World Heritage Sites in 2000.

**IN ADDITION TO SERVING AS A ROYAL CASTLE**, Kronborg has been one of Denmark's most important fortresses over the ages. Krogen's solid medieval ring wall is still concealed beneath Kronborg Castle's sandstone façades. As guns and cannon gradually became more powerful, the fortress was reinforced several times with increasingly larger structural features of ramparts, bastions and moats. The castle lost its military significance in the 1800s, and large parts of the fortifications were demolished to make room for the enlargement of Elsinore's harbour.

**THESE DAYS**, the fortress is being recreated and many of the previous barrack buildings will have new uses. At the same time, the abandoned shipyard area in front of the fortress will be transformed into an interesting cultural area. The foundation "Realdania", Elsinore Municipality and the Palaces and Properties Agency are cooperating on a major project, which aims to create a harmonious connection between the castle, the shipyard area and Elsinore.