

THE DATABASE

Do you want to know more about theatre buildings in Europe? In the free online database www.theatre-architecture.eu you can find information on more than 350 European theatres, including a rich visual documentation. The number will grow continuously, and by 2016 the database will present all historic theatres in Europe.

THE EUROPEAN ROUTE

The European Route expands every year. Watch it grow and try the **Channel Route** to historic theatres in the UK, the Netherlands and Belgium. Discover fascinating theatres mostly from the 18th century on the **German Route**. Enjoy the **Emperor Route** that takes you to unique historic theatres in the Czech Republic and Austria. Go on holiday in the south and visit the oldest theatres in Europe on the **Italian Route**. And look forward to the **Adriatic Route** and the **French Route**, opening in 2014. The **Nordic Route** is organized by Drottningholms Slottsteater, e-mail: dst@dtm.se. More information on the various routes on the Internet: www.europeanroute.info



PERSPECTIV

PERSPECTIV – Association of Historic Theatres in Europe – is the coordinator of the European Route. The non-profit association connects people across Europe who are responsible for historic theatres or who else have a professional or private interest in this topic. Together we support the preservation, restoration, and adequate use of as well as research into this very special common European heritage. More information: PERSPECTIV · PF 31 | 1 26 · 10641 Berlin · Germany or on the Internet, www.perspectiv-online.org

THE EUROPEAN ROUTE PROJECT

Theatre has been a corner stone of European culture for over 2500 years. The buildings created for this art mirror our history. They can be found everywhere in Europe. Together they form a very special part of our common European heritage.

The “European Route of Historic Theatres” was initiated in 2007. It proved to be an excellent idea for travellers and theatres alike, and the European Union agreed to support its extension to all of Europe until 2017. Sixteen partners from twelve countries are joining their forces to achieve the following goals:

- conduct research and present the first ever **online database** of all still existing historic theatres in Europe;
- select the 120 most interesting and best preserved theatre buildings and connect them on one continuous **cultural tourism route** across Europe;
- create a **travelling exhibition** that presents this heritage in context.

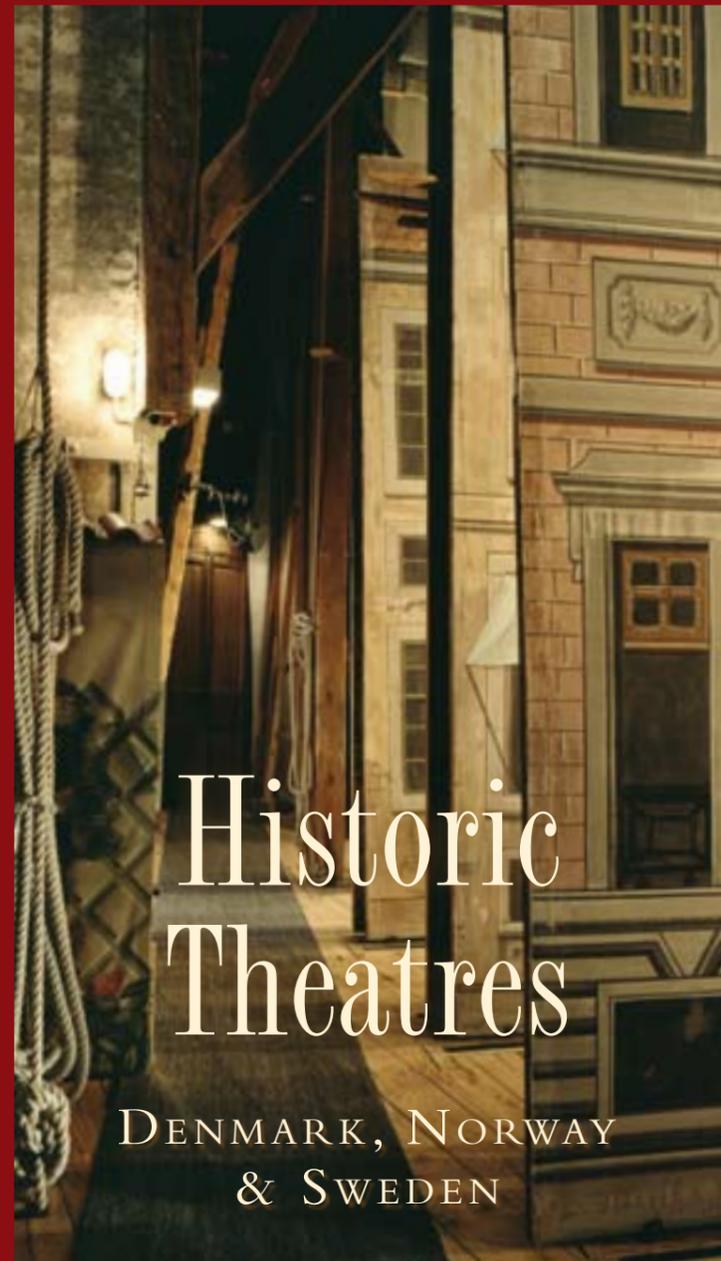
Every six months, a new part of the European Route will open, until the European Route will be complete in 2016. The database is extended continuously, also to be completed in 2016, whereas the travelling exhibition will be on show from 2015. Also part of the project are frequent meetings and an annual international conference.

More information: www.europeanroute.info

Supported by the Culture Programme of the European Union



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



THE JOURNEY

The Nordic Route connects unique historic theatres in Sweden, Norway and Denmark. In the beginning of Nordic theatre history, kings and queens played an important part. Thus our journey starts just outside Stockholm, at **Drottningholm** Court Theatre (1766), built at the request of Queen Lovisa Ulrika and still completely preserved today. Not far away, in **Solna**, we find Ulriksdal Palace and Confidencen, a royal theatre inaugurated already in 1753, also at the request of the queen. Her son, King Gustaf III, founded the National Opera, the National Dramatic Theatre and the Royal Academy of Music in order to foster plays, operas and performances in the Swedish language. His very own private theatre (1785) is part of **Gripsholm** Palace and preserved entirely. When the king was murdered in 1792 at a masked ball in the Stockholm opera house, all three palace theatres were closed and remained so for more than 100 years.



Prima donna's dressing room, Drottningholm Palace Theatre

Travelling west along the lakes and through the forests of Sweden and crossing the border into Norway, we arrive in the city of **Halden**, not far from Oslo. Fredrikshald Theatre (1838) houses Norway's best preserved historic stage, original stage sets and props. Originally built by a local theatre group and the city, it was carefully restored in 1982.

Taking a ferry, we go to Denmark and to **Aarhus**, where we find Elsinore Theatre (1817) which was moved here from Hamlet's hometown in 1961. Financed by the townspeople, it gives us a clear picture of Danish middle class public life in this period.

In **Copenhagen**, the Danish king had his Court Theatre built in 1767. Remodelled by a successor in the mid-19th century, it is today the home of the national Theatre Museum.

From Denmark, the Oresund Bridge takes us into the south of Sweden and to the theatre in **Ystad**, built 1893-94 in neoclassicist style. Ystad Theatre was one of the last theatres in Europe to be equipped with a “baroque” stage machinery; for the 100th anniversary this was restored to working conditions. Ystad Theatre also holds a unique collection of original stage sets made by C.L. Grabow, a famous set designer who worked for many Nordic theatres.

Take a ferry from here via the island of Bornholm to the island of Ruegen and continue on the German Route...

ACROSS THE NORDIC COUNTRIES



Tourist offices

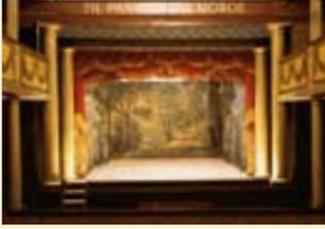
- Aarhus**
Visit Aarhus
Tel.: +45 (0)87 31 50 10
www.visit aarhus.com
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Wonderful Copenhagen
Tel.: +45 (0)7022 2442
touristinfo@woco.dk
www.visitcopenhagen.com
- Halden**
Halden Turist
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www.visithalden.com
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turism@strangnas.se
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info@ekeroturism.se
www.ekeroturism.se
- Stockholm/Solna**
Solna Forum
Tel.: +46 (0)8 734 24 90
solna.forum@solna.se
www.solna.se
- Ystad**
Ystads Turistbyrå
Tel.: +46 (0)411 577681
turistinfo@ystad.se
www.ystad.se

HISTORIC THEATRES IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

AARHUS

Helsingør Theatre

Helsingør Theatre, inaugurated in 1817, was originally built and run by the local dramatic society in Helsingør (Elsinore) north of Copenhagen, and was used as a banqueting hall as well as a theatre. It was unique, because it was financed by the residents of the town themselves, in contrast with the royal theatres and those built by the nobility in the 17th and 18th centuries. Thus it was a symbol of the bourgeois public sphere of the period, where the wealthier middle classes became more prominent as patrons of the arts. In its last years the theatre also served as a cinema, but as the times required more up-to-date facilities for showing films, the theatre was condemned to demolition. However, the building was saved, and in 1961 it was moved to The Old Town (Den Gamle By) in Aarhus, an open-air museum portraying life in the old Danish market towns. The theatre stands today as the oldest in Denmark that is still preserved in its original form, and is still used for numerous opera and theatre performances and concerts during the year.



Helsingør Teater · Viborgvej 2 · 8000 Aarhus · Denmark
Tel.: +45 (0)86 12 31 88 · e-mail: mail@dengambleby.dk · www.dengambleby.dk

Visits: guided tours only · Please contact the museum about the details ·
The Old Town minimum opening times are daily from 10:00 to 17:00 · January till mid-March 11:00 to 15:00

COPENHAGEN

Theatre Museum at the Court Theatre

The Theatre Museum at the Court Theatre is part of the palace area Slotsholmen in the centre of Copenhagen, surrounded by many historic buildings and institutions. Below the Theatre Museum at the Court Theatre there are the Royal Stables and Christiansborg riding ground, where the Royal horses and the Danish military horses are daily taken out for a ride. In 1766, the original arsenal on the first floor was transformed into a neoclassical theatre in pearl grey and gold, with balconies supported by 22 columns. Traces of this neoclassical theatre can still be found in the entrance and the foyer. In the early 1840s the last absolute king, Christian VIII, had the auditorium transformed into the Biedermeier interior of red velvet and boxes that is seen today. Visitors may move freely around the auditorium, the stage, the balconies and the small boxes, enjoying the permanent exhibition on Danish theatre history as well as special exhibitions on various theatre topics. The Theatre Museum at the Court Theatre also presents a broad spectrum of museum activities and cultural events.



Teatermuseet i Hofteatret · Christiansborg Ridebane 18 · 1218 København K · Denmark
Tel.: +45 (0)33 11 51 76 · e-mail: info@teatermuseet.dk · www.teatermuseet.dk

Visits: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:00 to 15:00 · Saturday & Sunday 13:00 to 16:00 ·
Guided tours can be booked in advance

HALDEN

Fredrikshald Theatre

Norway's best preserved historic theatre opened in 1838. Designed by the engineer officer at Fredriksten fortress, B. N. Garben, it was financed by the members of the Music theatre association and the Dramatic arts association in Halden (Fredrikshald) and expanded in 1850 with banqueting rooms and a kitchen. The theatre is an Empire style building with symmetrical façades; the stage, too, has been preserved, featuring a simple mechanism for scene changes. An extensive restoration campaign was completed in 1982 and a new dressing room block added. Fredrikshald Theatre has an extraordinary collection of stage sets from the 19th century which will be shown in a former mission house. The building and the collection are owned by Halden historiske Samlinger (Halden History Museum). The theatre operates as a theatre and event location within the monument and museum requirements.



Fredrikshalds Teater · Teatergata 3 · Halden · Norway
Contact: Østfoldmuseene – Halden historiske Samlinger · Herregårdsveien 10 ·
1771 Halden · Norway · Tel.: +47 (0)91 57 91 31 / +47 (0)47 81 64 66
e-mail: hhs@ostfoldmuseene.no · www.ostfoldmuseene.no

Visits: please see website for dates of guided tours; otherwise on appointment

MARIEFRED

Gripsholm Palace Theatre

Just 70 km from Stockholm lies Gripsholm Castle, the summer palace of King Gustaf III on Lake Mälaren, easily accessible also by boat from the capital. The king's private palace theatre was completed in 1781. It was designed by the Swedish architect Erik Palmstedt who was inspired by his travels in Europe, especially by Palladio's Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, Italy. He used the circle shape of one of the castle's four round towers to create an intimate amphitheatre that offers seats for some sixty guests, whereas the non-gentile audience could watch through the "lorgnettes" in the dome. Gripsholm Palace Theatre has been preserved in its entirety since the last recorded performance in 1785. The stage set displayed on stage today is the one used when the play "Drottning Christina" (Queen Christina) was given before the Court. Being part of the palace museum which also presents the portraits of the National Portrait Collection, the theatre can be visited daily, including a good view of the 18th century stage machinery below the stage.



Gripsholms slott · 647 31 Mariefred · Sweden · Tel.: +46 (0)159 101 94 (weekdays 8:00 to 17:00)
e-mail: info.gripsholms-slott@royalcourt.se · www.kungahuset.se/royalcourt/royalpalaces

Visits: 10:00 to 16:00 (15 May – 30 September) · Guided tours for groups on appointment, also outside the season

STOCKHOLM

King Gustaf III (1746–1792) founded the Royal Theatre in 1773, two years after his ascent to the throne, in order to promote plays and operas in Swedish. When he split the troupe into two in 1788, he gave theatre life in the Swedish capital an impulse that has rolled on until today: the dramatic theatre, the Dramaten, and the opera and ballet theatre were born. Both institutions still exist today, meanwhile based in new buildings: the Royal Opera in a neoclassicist theatre from 1898, the Dramaten in a beautiful art nouveau theatre from 1908. As a side effect, the Södra Theatre (1858) has become the oldest preserved theatre building in the city centre. The Stockholm Circus building opened in 1892 and still operates today as a venue for theatre productions and events. A second interesting art nouveau theatre is Oscar's Theatre (1906). But the most fascinating tour leads to the theatres in the royal palaces in the outskirts of Stockholm: Ulriksdal, Drottningholm and Gripsholm.

STOCKHOLM/EKERÖ

Drottningholm Palace Theatre

Drottningholm Court Theatre, located just outside Stockholm, was built at the request of Queen Lovisa Ulrika by Carl Fredrik Adelcrantz. It was completed in 1766 and has been preserved in its entirety until today. Thus even today, the original stage machinery allows for quick changes of scenery, and in addition there are moving waves, trapdoors, cloud carriages and wind and thunder machines. A unique collection of original 18th century scenery is also being preserved. The heyday of the theatre began in 1777 with Gustaf III who initiated drama and opera in the Swedish language. Following his death in 1792 the theatre was closed. And it stayed closed for 130 years, until it was rediscovered in the 1920's. Every summer the theatre presents a festival of 18th century opera, concerts and family events. This festival started already in 1946, making it one of the longest running festivals in Europe. In 1991 Drottningholm Court Theatre was proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage.



Drottningholms Slottsteater · 178 93 Drottningholm · Stockholm · Sweden
Tel.: +46 (0)8 759 04 06 · e-mail: dst@dtm.se · www.dtm.se

Visits: guided tours daily 11:00 to 16:30 (May – August) · 12:00 to 15:30 (September) ·
Friday to Sunday 12:00 to 15:30 (April & October)

STOCKHOLM/SOLNA

Confidencen – Ulriksdal Palace Theatre

The court theatre at Ulriksdal Palace features the oldest original theatre interior in Sweden, designed 1753 by the theatre architect Carl Fredrik Adelcrantz. The building itself had originally been constructed as riding stables in the 1670's. On Queen Lovisa Ulrika's initiative it was converted into a theatre. Next to the auditorium, elegant salons were furnished for the royal family and their guests. The grand central salon is equipped with a "table à confidence", i.e. a dinner table that can descend, through a trapdoor, to a kitchen in the basement where it can be lain and then hoisted upwards again. In this way the royal family could dine without any eavesdropping servants. The theatre is named after this salon. The rococo-style auditorium holds more than 200 seats. In 2003 a reconstruction of the old stage machinery was realized and a new set of scenery in the style of the 1700's was made especially for Confidencen. Managed by opera singer Kjerstin Dellert, Confidencen offers an extensive summer season of drama, opera, concerts and ballets.



Confidencen – Ulriksdals Slottsteater · 170 79 Solna · Sweden
Tel.: +46 (0)8 85 70 16 · Tickets for performances: +46 (0)8 85 60 10
e-mail: info@confidencen.se · www.confidencen.se

Visits: guided tours on appointment from May to September

YSTAD

Ystad Theatre

Ystad Theatre enjoyed an extensive restoration campaign from 1989 to 1993 that brought back the old splendour to this 1894 theatre. One of the most splendid parts is the collection of original stage sets from the workshop of Sweden's then most prominent theatre painter, Carl Ludvig Grabow. On the technical side, the stage features an ingenious combination of old and new. When the theatre opened in 1894, its new machinery for movable scenery was already considered out of date. The era of Baroque, when this technology had been invented, was definitely over. So it remained unused, and its wooden drums and shafts, chariots and wheels disappeared bit by bit over the years. When Per Simon Edström came looking for it in 1992, he found parts of it all over the theatre. So he started to reassemble the machinery. Today, the theatre combines the old, reconstructed machinery under stage with modern machinery above the stage – thereby allowing for contemporary performances as well as for performances in the old style. Ystad Theatre presents over 200 performances every year and is probably best known for the summer opera that celebrated its 35th year anniversary in 2013 and also for the Ystad Sweden Jazz Festival.



Ystads Teater · Sjömansgatan 13 · 271 43 Ystad · Sweden
Tel.: +46 (0)411 57 77 99 · e-mail: teatern@ystad.se · www.ystadsteater.se

Visits: guided tours on appointment (prebooking)

MORE INFORMATION

To get the most out of the Nordic Route one should travel between May and September, since some of the theatres are only open during this period. Please check opening hours and seasons for each theatre.

Other theatres of interest are for example Vadstena Gamla Teater (1825) on Lake Vättern, Växjö Teater (1849) north of Ystad, and Rønne Teater (1823) on the Danish island of Bornholm, just off the Swedish coast.