

## PALACE ON PALACE ON PALACE...

**CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE** in central Copenhagen is an impressive, historic jigsaw puzzle with a history stretching back more than 800 years. Beneath the present Christiansborg Palace, you can explore the ruins of the two oldest buildings of this area: Bishop Absalon's castle from 1167 and the Copenhagen Castle, demolished in 1731.

**THE FIRST CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE** was built by Christian VI in the 1730s in the late-baroque style and with 348 halls and chambers. The palace burnt down in 1794, and only the Riding Ground Complex now bears testimony to the grandeur of this palace. The second Christiansborg Palace was built in neo-classical style. It was finished in 1828 but in 1884 this palace also burnt down and only the chapel was spared.

**THE FOUNDATION STONE** to the third (present) Christiansborg Palace was laid in 1907. The palace, which was built in the neo-baroque style with a facade of granite, was finished in 1928. Today, the Palace is home to the Parliament, the Royal Reception Rooms used by the Queen, the Prime Minister's Office as well as the Supreme Court.

### OPENING HOURS

**The Royal Reception Rooms:** daily 10-17 (Oct-Apr closed Monday). **Parliament:** the Parliament can only be visited on guided tours. See the schedule at [www.folketinget.dk](http://www.folketinget.dk). **The Ruins:** daily 10-17 (Oct-Apr closed Monday). **The Royal Stables and Carriages:** Saturday-Sunday 14-16 (October-April also Fri 14-16). **The Theatre Museum in the Court Theatre:** Tuesday-Thursday 11-15, Wednesday 11-17, Saturday-Sunday 13-16 **Christiansborg Palace Chapel:** open 12-16 every Sunday, daily during the Easter holidays, the entire month of July and week 42. **Thorvaldsens Museum:** Tue-Sun 10-17.

Read more at:

[WWW.CHRISTIANSBORGPALACE.DK](http://WWW.CHRISTIANSBORGPALACE.DK)

See also the pamphlet "Discover the Ruins under Christiansborg Palace".

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### THE RIDING GROUND COMPLEX

The Riding Ground Complex in the late-baroque style dates from the time of the first Christiansborg and was spared during the fire of 1794. For more than 250 years royal horses have been trained here. Take a tour through the cloisters and see what remains of the Danish monarchy's largest and most splendid palace.

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### THE ROYAL STABLES AND CARRIAGES

The Royal Stable is located in the buildings surrounding the riding ground. In 1789 it housed 270 horses, today there are 20 horses. The stable is open to the public who can see the horses and the collection of royal state coaches. Read more at [kongehuset.dk](http://kongehuset.dk).

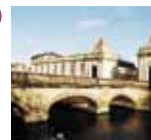
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### THE THEATRE MUSEUM

The Court Theatre was established by Christian VII in 1767. It was previously used for theatre and opera performances for the court during stays at Christiansborg Palace. Since 1922, the Theatre Museum's collections have been housed here, and today there are many different exhibitions and events. Read more at [teatermuseet.dk](http://teatermuseet.dk).

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### THE MARBLE BRIDGE

The rococo-style Marble Bridge is made of sandstone and its pavement is covered with Norwegian marble. From the bridge you can enjoy the view over the Riding Ground Complex and the present Christiansborg Palace.

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### THE RIDING HOUSE

In 1740 the Riding House was opened with a grand riding show. Both the Riding House, the stables and the Riding Ground Complex were significant parts of the impressive Baroque palace. Today, the Riding House is used for training the horses of the royal family.

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### THE SECRET PASSAGE TO THE CHURCH

The secret passage between the palace and the church made it possible in earlier times for the royal family to keep dry when on their way to and from church services. Today, the passage-way is among other things used for offices for the Queen's aides-de-camp.

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### CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE CHAPEL

The chapel from 1826 dates from the time of the second Christiansborg. It was designed by the architect C. F. Hansen, and the style is neo-classical. In 1992 the chapel was set on fire by a carnival rocket and was badly ravaged. The rebuilt palace chapel was inaugurated in 1997.

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### THE BAPTISMAL FONT

The palace chapel is used by the royal family for baptisms, confirmations and weddings, e.g. for Prince Christian's baptism in 2006. Also, it has been a tradition for centuries to use the chapel for the lying in state of deceased kings and queens before the actual burial at Roskilde Cathedral.

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### THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is Denmark's highest court. The court was established by Frederik III in 1661, and it has since then been located at the various palaces on the isle of Slotsholmen. The impressive neo-classical entrance-way was originally the main entrance to the second Christiansborg. Read more at [hojesteret.dk](http://hojesteret.dk).

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### THORVALDENS MUSEUM

From 1839 to 1848, a building that originally housed the royal carriages was completely rebuilt and converted into a museum for the sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen. The museum was designed by the architect Michael Gottlieb Bindesbøll and is Denmark's oldest museum building. It holds nearly all of Thorvaldsen's sculptures. Read more at [thorvaldsensmuseum.dk](http://thorvaldsensmuseum.dk).

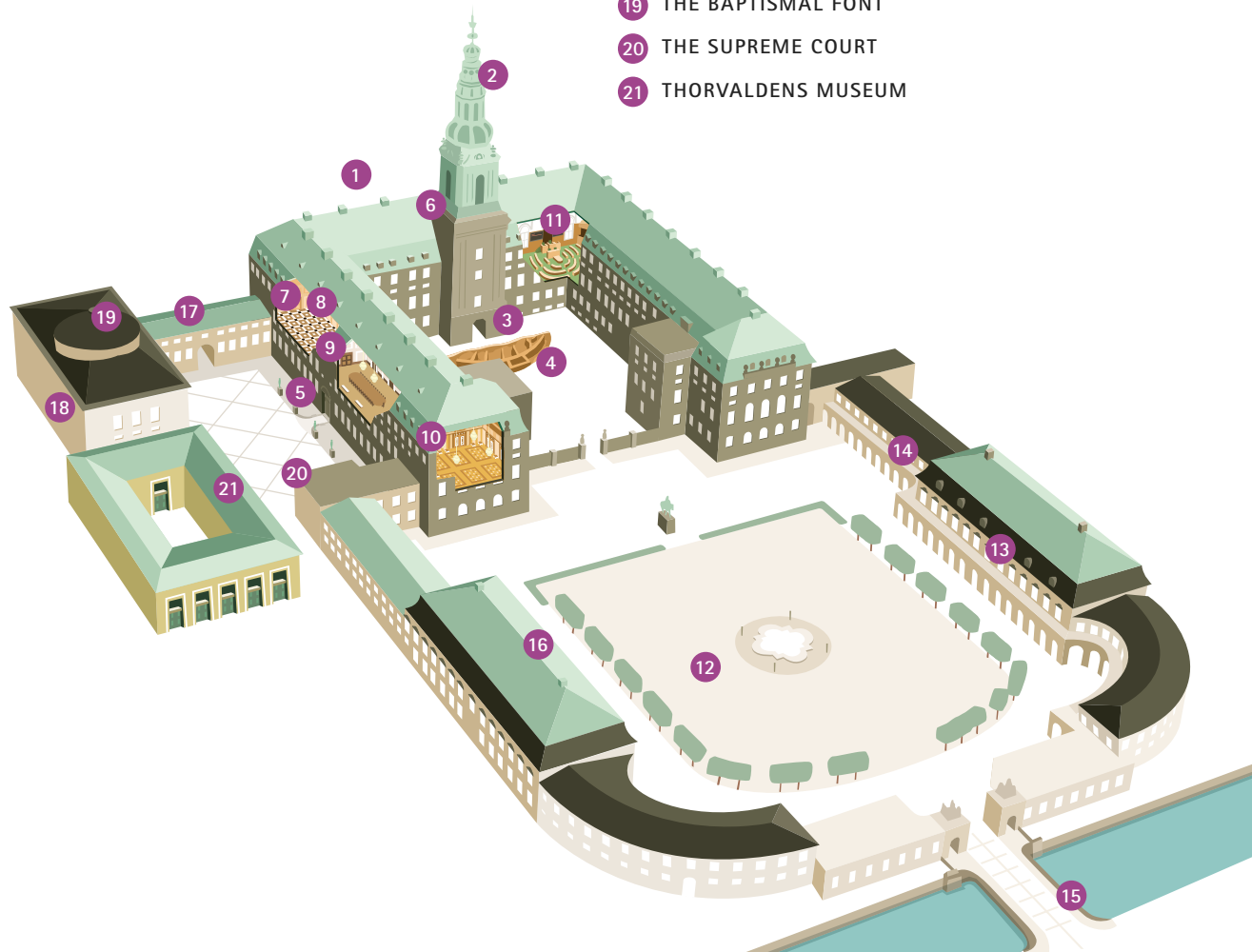
# DISCOVER CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE




PALACE ON PALACE ON PALACE...


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1  **THE THIRD CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE**  
 The present Christiansborg Palace is the third palace with this name to be built on the site. The two previous palaces burnt in 1794 and 1884. The present palace was finished in 1928. The Parliament, the Royal Reception Rooms used by the Queen, the Prime Minister's Office, as well as the Supreme Court, are housed in the current palace.

2  **THE TOWER**  
 At 106 metres high the tower of Christiansborg Palace is the highest in Copenhagen. It is covered with copper and decorated with three crowns, a weather cock and a cross.


3  **THE KING'S GATE**  
 The central section of the King's Gate with its high arched vaults and columns dates from the second Christiansborg. From the balcony, new monarchs are proclaimed by the Prime Minister.


4  **THE RUINS OF BISHOP ABSALON'S CASTLE AND THE COPENHAGEN CASTLE**  
 Beneath the present Christiansborg Palace, you can explore the ruins of the two oldest buildings on the site. The ruins are a witness to the history of the palace as the centre of political events and power struggles for more than 800 years. Read more in the pamphlet "Discover the Ruins under Christiansborg Palace".


5  **THE QUEEN'S GATE**  
 The Queen's Gate leads to the Royal Reception Rooms, which are used by the Queen for official events and ceremonies. When the Queen receives foreign ambassadors, the ambassadors arrive here in a horse-drawn carriage.


6  **THE THRONE ROOM**  
 The oval hall is decorated by architect Thorvald Jørgensen and is used by the Queen for the New Year's levée and to receive ambassadors of foreign states.


The walls are covered in silk. The thrones are designed by the architect C.F. Hansen for the second Christiansborg Palace.

7  **THE GREAT HALL**  
 The Great Hall is the largest room at Christiansborg and is the setting for state dinners and royal banquets held by the Queen. The hall measures 40 x 10 metres and seats 400 guests.

8  **THE QUEEN'S TAPESTRIES**  
 The walls of the Great Hall are decorated with a set of woven tapestries from 2000. The tapestries are made by Danish artist Bjørn Nørgaard as a birthday present to the Queen from the Danish industry. The tapestries depict a thousand years of Danish history in colourful images.

9  **THE DINNING HALL**  
 There are places for 52 guests at the banqueting table which is made of mahogany from a staircase in the second Christiansborg. The chandeliers were originally located in the Royal Palace in Oslo.

10  **THE ALEXANDER HALL**  
 The hall takes its name from the frieze showing Alexander the Great's entry into Babylon in 323BC. The hall is used by the royal family and the Prime Minister for official dinners.

11  **THE PARLIAMENT**  
 In the southern part of the main palace you will find the Danish Parliament. Democracy was introduced in Denmark in 1849, and Denmark's Parliament was installed at the second Christiansborg. After having been displaced for some years after the palace fire of 1884, the Parliament took up residence in the present Christiansborg in 1918. Read more about the Parliament at [folketinget.dk](http://folketinget.dk).