

Bornholm



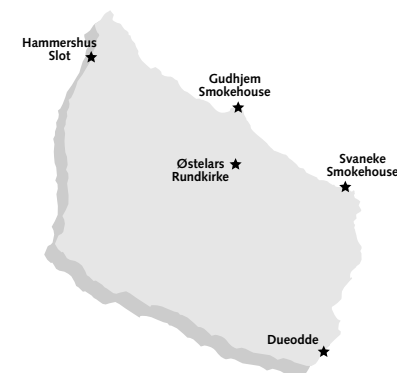
The sunniest part of Denmark – it's official – lies way out in the Baltic Sea, 200km east of Copenhagen. In fact, Bornholm is so far from Copenhagen and the rest of 'mainland' Denmark that it doesn't fit on the weather maps (although perhaps that would be too demoralising for the rest of Denmark). Bornholm is a special place for the Danes, most of whom have spent at least one holiday there (it's popular with school trips) basking on its 30km of glorious sandy beaches, cycling (the classic method for touring the island) through its gently undulating corn fields, or pottering around its idyllic fishing harbours. It is claimed that seven out of 10 visitors to the island return.

The Danes have something of an inferiority complex about their country's lack of natural attractions (hardly surprising when you think about what the rest of Scandinavia has to offer) and so Bornholm is especially treasured for its dramatic cliffs and those beaches, the best of which are to be found at its northern and southern tips. Nature aside, other attractions span almost a millennia, from the stunning cliff-top fortress of Hammershus to the island's four iconic *rundekirke* (round churches) and the strikingly contemporary Bornholms Kunstmuseum (Art Museum).

Holidaymakers from Germany, Norway, Sweden and, more recently, Poland arrive in Bornholm by their hundreds of thousands during July and August (600,000 tourists come each year), drawn by the natural beauty and the island's timeless atmosphere evoked by its thatched, half-timbered villages resplendent with hollyhocks. During summer there is an impressive programme of cultural and festive events; and the island's ceramic and glassware artisans are famed throughout Denmark. Bornholm is quite seasonal and in terms of cultural activities and restaurants, things go rather quiet from October to April (visit www.bornholm.info for more information).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Try a great Danish speciality, traditionally smoked fish, in a Bornholm *røgeri*, or smoke-house, such as the one at **Gudhjem** (p194)
- Wiggle the finest sand between your toes on the long, long beach at **Dueodde** (p188)
- Shop for one-off homeware items at the island's many glass blowers' and potters' studios, such as **Baltic Sea Glass** (p193), one of the leading glass-blowing ateliers
- Enjoy a bicycle ride from Gudhjem to the impressive **Østerlars Rundkirke** (p194)
- Gasp in awe at the stupendous cliff-top ruins of **Hammershus Slot** (p196)



Getting There & Away

Bornholm can be reached by air, boat or a combination that couples the boat with a bus or train via Sweden.

AIR

Kimber Air (☎ 70 10 74 74; www.kimber.dk) operates several flights a day between Copenhagen and Rønne. The usual one-way fare for this route is 1036kr, but return fares as low as 271kr are available if you book online at least seven days in advance.

BOAT

While not as fast as the boat/train option, the overnight sailing with **Bornholmstrafikken** (☎ in Copenhagen 33 13 18 66, in Rønne 56 95 18 66; www.bornholmstrafikken.dk), departing daily at 11.30pm and arriving in Rønne at 6am, on the car ferry from Køge is worth considering. The 244kr one-way fare for adults (cars cost 1245/1360kr in the low/high season) is reasonably inexpensive and it's a good use of time as you travel while you sleep (a cabin with toilet and shower costs an extra 237kr). The downside is the trip out to Køge, about 30 minutes by train south of Copenhagen. There are also a few (sporadic) daytime sailings each week.

For details on boats from Germany, Sweden and Poland, see p330.

BUS & BOAT

Bornholmerbussen (☎ 44 68 44 00; www.bornholmerbussen.dk) runs a bus (866) between Copenhagen's Central Station and Ystad in Sweden, where it connects with a ferry. In summer, buses depart Copenhagen at 7am, 10.30am, 2pm, 5.30pm and 9pm (adult/child 225/110kr). The bus takes around one hour and 10 minutes to Ystad, followed by the standard 1¼-hour catamaran service to Rønne on Bornholm.

TRAIN & BOAT

The national railway system **DSB** (☎ 70 13 14 15; www.dsb.dk) operates a combined train/boat service (adult/child 229/135kr) to Rønne. You catch a train from Copenhagen's Central Station to Ystad in Sweden, then connect with the catamaran to Rønne. The total trip should take no more than three hours.

Getting Around

TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

The island's airport, Bornholms Lufthavn, is 5km southeast of Rønne, on the road to

Dueodde. Bus 7 stops on the main road in front of the airport.

BICYCLE

Cycling is a great way to get around Bornholm, which is crisscrossed by more than 200km of bike trails (for more information visit www.cykel.bornholm.info). Some of the trails go over former train routes, some slice through forests and others run alongside main roads. Together they connect Bornholm's largest towns, cross a wide variety of landscapes and lead to most of the island's sightseeing attractions.

You can start right in Rønne, where bike routes fan out to Allinge, Gudhjem, Nexø, Dueodde and the Almindingen forest.

If you don't feel like pedalling the entire way, you can take your bike on public buses for an additional 20kr.

The tourist office in Rønne sells the handy 60-page English-language *Bicycle Routes on Bornholm* (40kr), which maps out routes and describes sights along the way.

Bicycle hire ranges from about 50kr to 75kr per day for three-speed bicycles; mountain bikes are 70kr to 90kr with costs reducing the longer you rent. Two of the larger Rønne rental shops are **Cykel-Centret** (Map p185; ☎ 56 95 06 04) at Søndergade 7, and **Bornholms Cykeludlejning** (Map p185; ☎ 56 95 13 59), next to the tourist office at Nordre Kystvej 5. On the island most hostels and camping grounds hire out bicycles. **Biking Bornholm** (Map p185; ☎ 56 97 27 40; www.biking.dk; Slugten 5, Rønne) offers package bike tours of the island from 2995kr per person including bus/ferry, cycle hire and luggage transportation.

BUS

Bornholms Amts Trafikselskab (BAT; ☎ 56 95 21 21; www.bat.dk, in Danish) runs a good, inexpensive round-island service. Fares are based on a zone system and cost 10kr per zone, with the maximum fare set at 10 zones. Ask the bus driver about the RaBATkort pass, which is good for 10 rides, can be used by more than one person and saves about 20%. There are also day/week passes for 140/460kr. Children travel for half-price. Buses operate all year, but schedules are less frequent from October to April.

From May to September, bus 7 leaves from the Rønne ferry terminal every two hours between 8am and 4pm and travels anticlock-

wise around the island, stopping at Dueodde beach and all major coastal villages before terminating at Hammershus. The circuit takes two hours and 40 minutes. There are more evening buses in the peak season from late June to the end of August. Other buses make direct runs from Rønne to Nexø, Svaneke, Gudhjem and Sandvig.

Standard fares on the main routes are: 35kr from Rønne to Åkirkeby (bus 5 or 6); 45kr from Rønne to Sandvig (bus 1) or Gudhjem (bus 3); and 55kr from Rønne to Svaneke (bus 4), Nexø (bus 6) or Dueodde (bus 7).

In July and August BAT runs special sightseeing buses that take pass-holding passengers around the island: *Kunsthåndværkerbussen* stops at craft studios on Tuesday and Friday; *Veteranbussen*, an antique bus, visits 20th-century historical sights on Wednesday; and *Havebussen* visits gardens on Thursday. The tours leave from beside Den Røde Pakhus, on Snellmark in Rønne, at 10am and last between five and six hours. You can use either the daily or weekly pass; refreshments and admission fees (if applicable) are extra.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

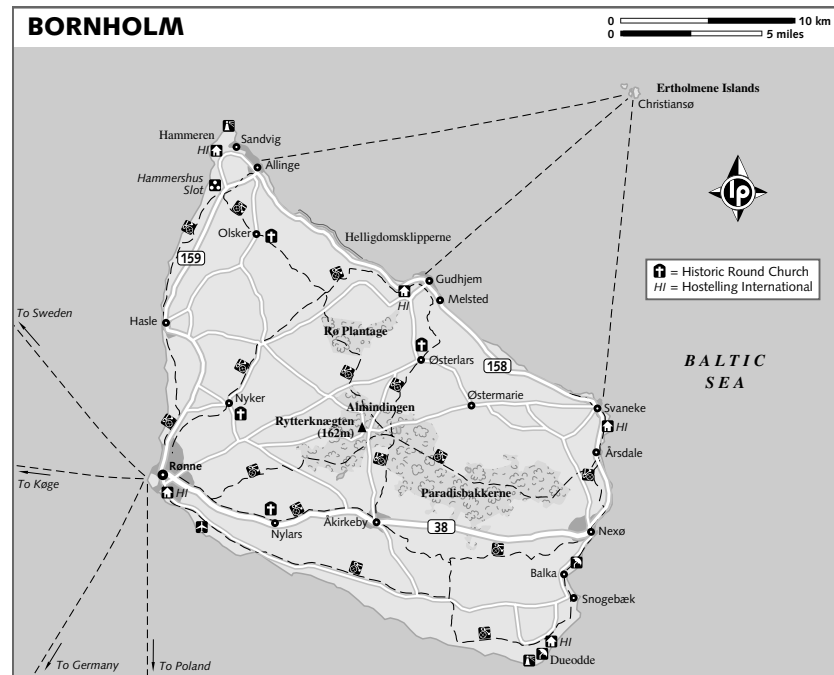
Europcar and Avis have offices within walking distance of the Rønne ferry terminal. **Avis** (☎ 56 95 22 08) is at Rønne Autoudlejning ApS, Snellmark 19. **Europcar** (☎ 56 95 43 00; Nordre Kystvej 1) is at the Q8 petrol station and rents cars from 500kr per day as well as scooters. Both companies also serve the airport.

RØNNE

pop 15,000

Rønne is Bornholm's largest settlement and the main harbour for ferries from Ystad in Sweden and Køge in Denmark. This functional little town has a number of small museums and an old quarter of cobbled streets flanked by pretty, single-storeyed dwellings. Although more of a place for a quick stopover than a compelling sightseeing destination, it is a pleasant enough town with some cultural attractions and nightlife worth investigating.

Spread around a large natural harbour, Rønne has been the island's commercial centre since the Middle Ages. Over the years the town has expanded and taken on a more suburban look, but a few well-preserved



THE BALTIC'S STEPPING STONE

Given the fact that Bornholm is closer to Germany and Sweden than it is to Denmark and that it lies smack in the middle of the Baltic's key commercial and strategic shipping lanes, it's perhaps not surprising that the encircling nations have fought bitterly and repeatedly over ownership of the island for the past few centuries.

Bornholm's rich human history goes back much further than this though, by at least five millennia. Bronze and Iron Age people left behind burial mounds, rock engravings, monoliths and items from around Europe such as numerous Roman coins, suggesting that by the Iron Age, Bornholm was an important trading centre in the region. A rich bounty of finds from archaeological digs around the island are on display at the small but interesting Bornholms Museum in Rønne (below).

In the Middle Ages Bornholm was administered by the archbishop of Lund (now part of southern Sweden, Lund was then Danish territory), who ruled from Hammershus, an expansive fortress on the island's northern coast, now a romantic, weather-beaten ruin (p196).

During the wars between Sweden and Denmark in the mid-17th century, Bornholm fell into Swedish hands, along with Danish territories at the southern end of the Swedish mainland. In 1658, when it looked likely that the island might become a permanent part of Sweden, the Swedish commandant on Bornholm was murdered in an uprising. The rebels, led by Bornholm native Jens Kofoed, went on to expel the Swedish garrison from Bornholm and in 1660 returned the island to Danish rule. As a consequence, Bornholm managed to prevail as Denmark's easternmost province in a period when Swedish conquests were steadily eroding the country's borders.

Peace in the 18th century brought prosperity to the island and to its merchants, who built timber-framed mansions along waterfront villages such as perfectly preserved Svaneke (p190) and Rønne.

Bornholm, like the rest of Denmark, was occupied by the Nazis during WWII. When Germany surrendered to the Allies on 4 May 1945, the German commander on Bornholm refused to step down and the Soviets bombed Rønne and Nexø, causing heavy damage. On 9 May the island was turned over to the Soviets, who occupied it until the spring of the following year.

quarters still provide pleasant strolling, most notably the old neighbourhood west of Store Torv with its handsome period buildings and cobblestone streets. Two very pleasant streets with period buildings are the cobblestone **Laksegade** and **Storegade**.

Information

Bornholms Centralsygehus (☎ 56 95 11 65; Sygehusvej 9) The island's hospital is at the southern end of town.

Møntevask Laundrette (Nørregade 11; ☎ 6am-10pm)

Nordeabank (☎ 56 95 14 20; Store Torv 18)

Post office (☎ 56 94 38 00; Lille Torv 18)

Public library (☎ 56 95 07 04; Pingels Allé; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat) Offers free internet access.

Tourist office (Bornholms Velkomstcenter; ☎ 70 23 20 77; www.bornholm.info; Nordre Kystvej 3; ☎ 9am-4pm Mon-Sat Jun, 9am-6pm Jul, 9am-5.30pm Aug, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat Apr, May, Sep & Oct, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri Nov-Mar) A few minutes' walk from the harbour, this large friendly office has masses of information on all of Bornholm and Christiansø.

Sights & Activities BORNHOLMS MUSEUM

Prehistoric finds including weapons, tools and jewellery are on show at **Bornholms Museum** (☎ 56 95 07 35; www.bornholmsmuseum.dk; Sankt Mortensgade 29; adult/child 40kr/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat May-Sep, 1-4pm Mon-Sat), which has a surprisingly large and varied collection of local history exhibits including some interesting Viking finds. A good maritime section is decked out like the interior of a ship and there's a hotchpotch of nature displays, antique toys, Roman coins, pottery and paintings.

FORSVARSMUSEET

A 17th-century citadel called Kastellet houses the **Forsvarsmuseet** (Defence Museum; ☎ 56 95 65 83; Kastellet; adult/child 30kr/free; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Sat May-Oct), south of the town centre. The museum has extensive displays of guns, blades, bombs and military uniforms, but the historical context they are given is usually scant, although some brief explanatory notes in English are available from the ticket desk. There are es-

pecially large displays on the Nazi occupation of the island and on the bombing of Rønne and Nexø by the Soviets at the end of WWII.

NYLARS RUNDKIRKE

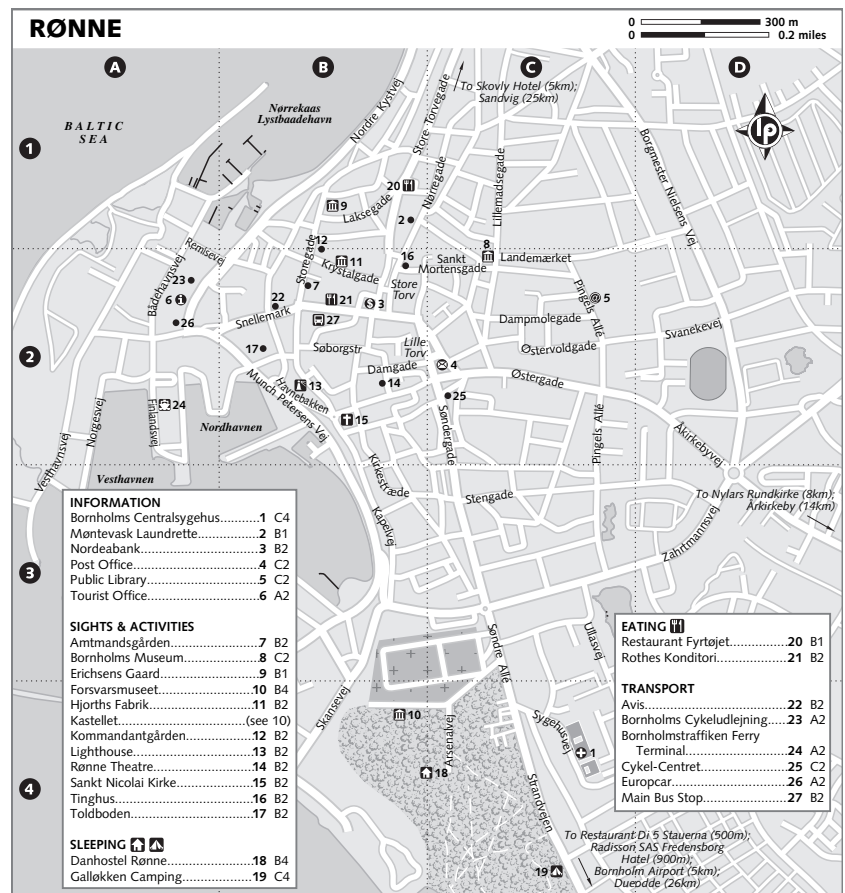
The attractive **Nylars Rundkirke** (☎ 56 97 20 13; Kirkevej 17; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat), built in 1150, is the most well-preserved and easily accessible round church in the Rønne area. Its central pillar is painted with 13th-century frescoes, the oldest in Bornholm, depicting scenes from the Creation myth, including Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden. The cylindrical nave has three storeys, the top one a watchman's gallery that served as a defence lookout in medieval times.

Inside the church, the front door is flanked by two of Bornholm's 40 rune stones (carved memorial stones that date back to the Viking era).

It's about 8km from Rønne, on the road to Åkirkeby, and a 15-minute ride from Rønne on bus 6; alight at the bus stop near the Dagli Brugsen shop and turn north on Kirkevej for the 350m walk to the church. The cycle path between Rønne and Åkirkeby also passes the church.

Walking Tour

A good place to begin a walking tour of Rønne's older quarters is **Store Torv (1)**, formerly the military parade ground. Now the central commercial square, it's the site of a



public market on Wednesday and Saturday mornings year-round. On the eastern side of the square, at Store Torv 1, is **Tinghus (2)**, a neo-classical building from 1834 that once housed Rønne's city hall, courthouse and jail.

Continue up Store Torvegade and turn left on Laksegade, a picturesque cobblestone street lined with early-19th-century houses including **Erichsens Gaard (3)** (☎ 56 95 87 35; www.bornholmsmuseer.dk/erichs; Laksegade 7; adult/child 40kr/free; ☞ 10am-5pm Tue-Sat mid-May–mid-Oct). This 1806 merchant's house has been turned into a museum complete with period furnishings.

At the end of Laksegade turn left onto Storegade; at No 42 you'll find **Kommandantgården (4)**, an imposing building erected in 1846 as a residence for the Bornholm military commander.

Just around the corner on Krystalgade, **Hjorths Fabrik (5)** (☎ 56 95 01 60; www.bornholmsmuseer.dk/hjorths; Krystalgade 5; adult/child 40kr/free; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat Apr-Oct) is a ceramics museum complete with working features. There are also some delicate, locally made wares for sale in the shop in front (which is free to enter), much of it exquisite, all of it fairly pricey.



Some of it is made by the fourth generation of the Hjorth family of Bornholm ceramic artists who used to own the museum.

Return to Storegade and proceed south to **Amtmandsgården (6)**, a half-timbered 18th-century structure at Storegade 36 that is now the Bornholm prefect's residence. Jens Koføed, who liberated Bornholm from the Swedes in 1658, was born in a house that once stood on this site.

At Rådhusstræde, turn right and you'll come to **Toldboden (7)**, at Toldbodgade 1; this was constructed as a storehouse in 1684 and is one of the town's oldest timber-framed buildings. On the wall by the harbour-facing gable you can spot figurines of two menacing Dalmatians flanking a cloaked figure said to represent Satan.

Along Havnebakken you'll pass a quaint octagonal 1880 **lighthouse (8)** before reaching the attractive **Sankt Nicolai Kirke (9)**, built in 1915. South of the church is **Bombehusene (10)**, a neighbourhood that encompasses Kapelvej and Kirkestræde; this is one of the areas that was levelled by Soviet bombers in May 1945.

If you continue east from the church on Østergade, at the corner with Teaterstræde you'll pass the restored **Rønne Theatre (11)**, which was built in 1823 and is one of the oldest functioning theatres in Denmark.

Sleeping

The tourist office can book rooms (s/d 220/310kr) in private homes in Rønne; there's no booking fee.

Gallokken Camping (☎ 56 95 23 20; www.gallokken.dk; Strandvejen 4; adult/child per day 64/32kr; ☞ mid-May–Aug; (P) ☒) Just over 1km south of the town centre, this well equipped, family orientated camping ground also has basic but attractive four-bed wooden cabins (per day 695kr) and bikes for rent (per day 65kr).

Danhostel Rønne (☎ 56 95 13 40; www.danhostel-roenne.dk; Arsenalvej 12; dm 150kr, s/d 300/400kr; (P) ☒) The immaculately kept 140-bed hostel near Gallokken Camping is a secluded, white-washed building with a neatly tended garden. It boasts typically small and tidy, if rather soulless, dorms.

Skovly Hotel (☎ 56 95 07 84; www.hotel-skovly.dk; Nyker Strandvej 40; s/d incl breakfast 520/800kr; (P) ☒) This picture-postcard farmhouse hotel, located in a protected forest, is 5km out of town but close to a wonderful beach. All rooms have their own entrance and terrace.

BORNHOLM'S ROUND CHURCHES

As the windmills are to Mykonos or the stone heads are to Easter Island, so are the four 12th-century round churches to Bornholm. The *rundekirke* (round churches) are the symbols of the island, immediately familiar to every Dane. Each was built with 2m-thick whitewashed walls and a black conical roof at a time when pirating Wends from eastern Germany were ravaging coastal areas throughout the Baltic Sea. They were designed not only as places of worship but also as refuges against enemy attacks – their upper storeys doubling as shooting galleries. They were also used as storehouses to protect valuable possessions and trading goods from being carried off by the pirates.

Each church was built about 2km inland, and all four are sited high enough on knolls to offer a lookout to the sea. These striking and utterly unique churches have a stern, ponderous appearance, more typical of a fortress than of a place of worship. All four churches are still used for Sunday services. You'll find them at Østerlars, Olsker, Nyker and Nylars.

Radisson SAS Fredensborg Hotel (☎ 56 90 44 44; www.bornholmhotels.dk, Strandvejen 116; s/d 1075/1225kr; (P) ☒ ☒ ☒) Plush, comfortable and perched on a pleasant knoll overlooking wave-pounded rocks at the southern end of Rønne, the Fredensborg has 72 well-appointed and stylish rooms – all with sea views, some with rather pokey bathrooms and a few with access for people in wheelchairs. There's also a sauna, pool and tennis court.

Eating

There's a reasonable variety of restaurants and cafés in Rønne, including plenty of cheap fast-food places, but no real standout venues.

Roths Konditori (☎ 56 95 04 39; Snellemark 41; snacks 8-25kr) Opposite the main bus stop, this small bakery serves good pastries, sandwiches and mini-pizzas to eat in or take away.

Restaurant Di 5 Stauerne (☎ 56 95 44 44; www.bornholmhotels.dk; dinner mains 130-220kr; ☞ lunch & dinner) One of the best (and priciest) places on the island for dinner, the influences here are Italian and French. Choices include Bornholm venison with mushrooms, onions, celery and bacon in cognac glaze and a few fish choices, such as oak plate-baked halibut with mashed potatoes and pepper butter. There are light yummy desserts (including apple sorbet with Calvados, or ice cream with local blueberries) and a very reasonable three-course, 75kr her-ring buffet lunch special.

Restaurant Fyrtojet (☎ 56 95 30 12; www.fyrtoejt.dk; Store Torvegade 22; mains 160-180kr; ☞ lunch & dinner Jun-Sep) Chef and owner Gitte Unger's smart welcoming restaurant is close to the main square and serves mid-priced meat and fish dishes, much of it using locally sourced ingredients. Specialities include steak served on a hot oak

board and a lovely rhubarb and almond tart. Alternatively, you can choose from the equally well-priced lunch and dinner buffet (lunch/dinner 89/149kr).

ÅKIRKEBY

pop 2400

Åkirkeby is an inland town with a mix of old half-timbered houses and newer homes with slightly less character.

The tourist office, car park and a couple of simple eateries are at the eastern side of the church on Jernbanegade. The town square, post office and bank are 150m east of the tourist office.

Sights

The town takes its name from its main sight, the 12th-century Romanesque stone church **Aa Kirke** (☎ 56 97 41 03; Nybyvej 2; admission 6kr; ☞ 10am-4pm Mon-Sat Mar-May & Sep-Nov, 9.30am-5pm Jun-Aug) occupying a knoll overlooking the surrounding farmland. The largest church on Bornholm, its crossroads location made it a convenient place of assembly for islanders. The interior houses a number of historic treasures, including a 13th-century baptismal font of carved sandstone depicting scenes of Christ and featuring runic script. The ornate pulpit and altar date from about 1600. For a 360-degree view of the town, climb the 22m-high bell tower, but watch your head on the low ceilings en route.

NaturBornholm (☎ 56 94 04 00; www.naturbornholm.dk; Grønningen 30; adult/child over 5 85/50kr, child under 5 free; ☞ 10am-5pm Apr-Oct) offers a terrific geological and biological narrative of the island beginning from when it was just part of a large lump of cooling magma. This centre, designed

by Henning Larsen (who also designed the Copenhagen Opera House, p85, and Dansk Design Center, p76), is one of the island's main attractions, especially for families. It is packed with interesting facts and lively interactive displays. The dinosaur exhibits featuring life-sized models of dinosaurs that once roamed Bornholm should interest children, who can pretend to become fossilised Jurassic insects by 'sinking' into an eerily glowing bubble of 'amber'.

And, yes, they really do make wine on Bornholm at **Vingården** (☎ 56 97 60 63; www.lillegadegaard.dk in Danish; Søndre Landevej 63, Pedersker). It's a fairly undrinkable red, it has to be said, although that doesn't stop it fetching over 1000kr a bottle among collectors. The fruit brandies are a much better bet. Vingården is 3km southeast of Åkirkeby.

Eating

Kadeau (☎ 56 97 82 50; www.kadeau.dk; Baunevej 18, Åkirkeby; 2-course meals 275kr; P) The newly opened Kadeau has to be one of the most memorable dining experiences on Bornholm. Chef Rasmus Kofoed's (not, we should point out, the same Rasmus Kofoed who is behind Geranium in Copenhagen – see p100) exceptional, light, modern regional food is made all the more memorable by his restaurant's location in a simple, spartanly furnished wooden building, with a panoramic view across the beach (the address may be in Åkirkeby but the restaurant is, in fact, right by the sea). Despite its remote location, dishes such as cream of cauliflower with Norway lobster croquette, or Bornholmer rooster with popcorn and redcurrants have made this one

of Denmark's top destination restaurants. Lunch is simpler sandwiches, herring and smørrebrød. It also sells picnic baskets made to order. Be warned though: the restaurant is only open during the summer season and bookings are essential.

INTERIOR WOODLANDS

A fifth of Bornholm is wooded making it the most forested county in Denmark. Beech, fir, spruce, hemlock and oak are dominant. There are three main areas, each laid out with walking trails (you can pick up free maps at tourist offices). A single bicycle trail connects them all.

Almindingen, the largest forest (2412 hectares), is in the centre of the island and can be reached by heading north from Åkirkeby. It's the site of Bornholm's highest point, the 162m hill **Rytterknægten**, which has a lookout tower called Kongemindet from where you can view the surrounding countryside.

Paradisbakkerne (Paradise Hills) contains wild deer and a trail that passes an ancient monolithic gravestone. It's 2km northwest of Nexø. **Rø Plantage**, about 5km southwest of Gudhjem, has a terrain of heathered hills and woodlands.

DUEODDE

Dueodde, the southernmost point of Bornholm, is a vast stretch of beach backed by pine trees and expansive dunes. Its soft sand is so fine-grained that it was once used in hourglasses and ink blotters.

There's no real village at Dueodde – the bus stops at the end of the road where there's a hotel, a restaurant, a couple of food kiosks

and a 'floating' pontoon footpath across the marsh to the beach. The only 'sight' is a **light-house** on the western side of the dunes; you can climb the 197 steps for a view of endless sand and sea.

The beach at Dueodde is a fantastic place for children: the water is generally calm and is shallow for about 100m out, after which it becomes deep enough for adults to swim. During July and August it can be a crowded trek for a couple of hundred metres along boardwalks to reach the beach, however. Once there, though, head left or right to discover your own wide-open spaces.

Sleeping

Dueodde Vandrerhjem & Campground (☎ 56 48 81 19; info@dueodde.dk; Skrokkegårdsvejen 17; adult/child 54/30kr, tent 25kr; ☎ Apr-Oct; P) This is a modern beachside place a 10-minute walk east of the bus stop, or it can be reached by car from the main road. It also has cabins for rent at 170/300kr for one/two persons, rising to 800kr for eight. There's an indoor swimming pool.

Dueodde Badehotel (☎ 56 48 86 49; www.dueodde-badehotel.dk; Sirenevej 2; s from 550-750kr, d from 850-1050kr, self-catering apt per week 4450-7140kr; P) These smart, modern Ikea-style apartments 150m from the beach have terraces or balconies overlooking the pleasant garden and are an especially good bet for families. The convenient one-bedroom units have a sofa bed in the living room and can sleep up to five people. There's a coin laundry, tennis court and sauna.

Eating

There are a few kiosks selling ice cream, hot dogs and snacks at the end of the road opposite the bus stop.

Dueodde Vandrerhjem & Campground (☎ 56 48 81 19; Skrokkegårdsvejen 17; fast-food mains 35-60kr; ☎ Apr-Oct) The cafeteria here sells hamburgers and other simple fare, while the minimarket sells ice cream, fresh bread and a few basic supplies.

Restaurant Granpavillonen (☎ 56 48 81 75; Fyrvej 5; pizzas 85kr, mains 140kr) This mainstream tourist place serves pizza and German/Danish favourites.

SNOGEBÆK

pop 950

A quaint seaside village of older homes, Snogebæk makes a nice little detour if you are

travelling by car or bike between Nexø and Dueodde. Down by the water, at the southern end of Havnevej and along Hovedgaden, you'll find a good **smokehouse** where you can get smoked fish, deli items and cold beer. There's a cluster of shops nearby aimed at summer visitors, selling clothes and quality, reasonably priced hand-blown glass. Treat your sweet tooth to Bornholm-made organic ice cream at **Boisenøkologisk** (☎ 56 48 80 89; Hovegaden 4) or to scrumptious handmade chocolates at **Kjærstrup Chocolate By Hand** (☎ 56 48 80 89; Hovegaden 4) – try the wonderful flavoured ganaches and Danish speciality *flødebolle* (the Danish version of chocolate snowballs with whipped sugary egg whites inside a crisp chocolate dome). The end of the road beyond the glassworks is a good site for spotting migratory ducks and other water birds. If you want to explore more, there's a coastal footpath leading north along the beach.

NEXØ

pop 3800

Nexø (Neksø) is Bornholm's second-largest town and like Rønne it makes up for its comparative lack of aesthetic charm with a bustling nature. It has a large modern harbour where fishing vessels unload their catch. The town and harbour were reconstructed after being destroyed by Soviet bombing in WWII. Despite taking a back seat to more touristy towns such as Gudhjem and Svaneke, Nexø has its fair share of picturesque buildings.

Information

There are banks on Torvet, the central square, just south of the tourist office.

Nexø-Dueodde Turistbureau (☎ 56 49 70 79; www.bornholm.info; Sdr Hammer 2A; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri year-round, 9am-2pm Sat May-Aug) This office has information on Nexø, Snogebæk and Dueodde.

Sights & Activities

In a picturesque 1796 sandstone building opposite the waterfront, the mildly diverting **Nexø Museum** (☎ 56 49 25 56; Havnen 2; adult/child 40kr/free; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat mid-May-mid-Oct) features intriguing exhibits on Nexø's history with a maritime theme. There are also elaborate reconstructions of fishermen's dwellings. Check out the old-fashioned 150kg diving suit, model ships, old cannons and the lens and clockwork from a nearby lighthouse.

FOODIE ISLAND

Bornholm has a burgeoning food culture that is becoming more and more widely appreciated throughout Denmark. Traditionally, Bornholmer cuisine was centred on its historic *rogerierne* (smokehouses), where fish from the surrounding sea was preserved – the best are said to be on the smaller, nearby island of Christiansø (especially for smoked herring). But these days the cuisine encompasses everything from gourmet caramels (see Karamel Kompagniet, p194) to beer (see Bryghuset, p191), and even some locally produced – though admittedly 'rustic' – wine (see Vingården, above).

A good deal of the produce on Bornholm is organically produced – it is famous for its rapeseed oil, blueberries, beef, lamb and honey, and even has a brand of organic ice cream – an encouraging sign that the locals are committed to preserving the essential charming character of this very special island. And in recent years one or two new restaurants, such as Kadeau (above) and Gastronomen (p195) have shown how this great produce can be turned into innovative gourmet food of the very highest standard.

Martin Andersen Nexø's House (☎ 56 49 45 52; cnr Andersen Nexøvej & Ferskeøstræde; adult/child 20/15kr; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat mid-May-mid-Oct) is the childhood home of the author of *Pelle the Conqueror* (the book that inspired the 1988 Oscar-winning film). The house is in the southern part of town and displays photos of the author, along with some of his letters and other memorabilia.

Just outside of Nexø is **Sommerfugle og Tropeland** (Butterfly Park & Tropical Land; ☎ 56 49 25 75; www.sommerfugleparken.dk; Gammel Rønnevej 14; adult/child 60/50kr), with jungle climates and over 1000 butterflies.

Although Nexø's central waterfront is industrial, 2km south of town there's a popular seaside area called **Balka** with a gently curving, white-sand beach.

Sleeping

Because the beaches on the outskirts are much more appealing, few people stay in Nexø proper.

Hotel Balka Søbad (☎ 56 49 22 25; www.hotel-balka-soebad.dk; Vester Strandvej 25; r incl breakfast per person 435-785kr; P ♿ ☎) Boasting its own bathing beach, this hotel has 106 commodious rooms in modern two-storey buildings. Rooms have at least two twin beds, a sofa bed and a balcony; some have a second bedroom. There's also a tennis court, bar and restaurant.

Hotel Balka Strand (☎ 56 49 49 49; www.bornholm.best.net; Boulevarden 9; r incl breakfast 650-995kr, apt per week 4375-7595kr; P ♿ ☎) Only 200m from Balka's sandy beach, this hotel has double rooms and chery apartments, all with modern décor. There's a sauna, pool, bar and restaurant.

Eating

Both of the beachside hotels have moderately expensive dinner restaurants.

Di Forti Cafe & Lounge (☎ 56 44 50 03; Havnen 6; mains 150kr) This is another of Bornholm's new, chic contemporary places – with its Jacobson Egg chairs, cocktail list and sexy modern Scandinavian wood panelling – that would have been unthinkable a few years ago. Di Forti serves Modern Italian food and a superb brunch, all with soothing views over the harbour to the sea.

Kvikly (☎ 56 49 21 37; Købmagergade 12) If you want to pack a lunch for the beach, head to this supermarket near the bus stop in the town centre, which has a bakery and a deli section.

SVANEKE

pop 3740

Svaneke is an attractive harbour town of red-tiled 19th-century buildings that has won international recognition for maintaining its historic character. Popular with yachters and landlubbing holidaymakers, its pretty harbourfront is lined with mustard-yellow half-timbered former merchants' houses, some of which have been turned into hotels and restaurants. Svaneke is also home to the island's most famous smokehouse and a notable micro-brewery, both highly recommended.

Information

Nordeabank (☎ 56 49 64 20; Nansensgade 5)

Post office (☎ 56 94 38 00; Postgade 2)

Svaneke Turistbureau (☎ 56 49 70 79; Havnebryggen 2D; ☎ noon-4.30pm Mon-Fri)

Sights & Activities

You'll find some interesting period buildings near **Svaneke Kirke**, a few minutes' walk south of Torv, the town square. The church, which has a rune stone, dates from 1350, although it was largely rebuilt during the 1880s.

If you're interested in crafts, there are a number of pottery and handicraft shops dotted around town, and at **Glastorvet** in the town centre there's a workshop where you can watch glass being melted into orange glowing lumps and then blown into clear, elegant glassware.

The easternmost town in Denmark, Svaneke is quite breezy and has a number of windmills. To the northwest of town you'll find an old **post mill** (a type of mill that turns in its entirety to face the wind) and a **Dutch mill**, as well as an unusual three-sided **water tower** designed by architect Jørn Utzon (of Sydney's Opera House fame). On the main road 3km south of Svaneke in the hamlet of **Årsdale**, there's a working windmill where grains are ground and sold.

Sleeping

Hullehavn Camping (☎ 56 49 63 63; www.hullehavn.dk in Danish; Sydskovvej 9; camping per adult/child 64/32kr; ☎ mid-May-mid-Sep) Has the more natural setting of Svaneke's two camping grounds, including its own sandy beach. Three-star rating and just 400m south of Danhostel Svaneke.

Danhostel Svaneke (☎ 56 49 62 42; www.danhostel-svaneke.dk in Danish; Reberbanevej 9; dm 150kr, s/d 410/460kr; ☎ Apr-Oct; P ♿ ☎) A basic but

modern low-roofed hostel, 1km south of the centre of Svaneke.

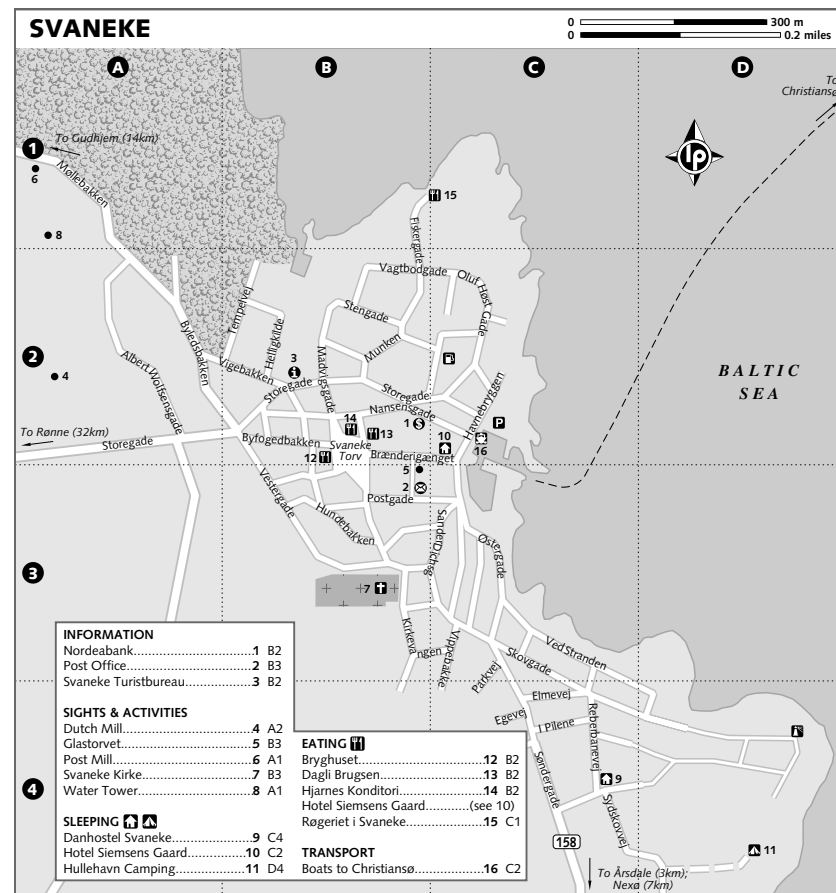
Hotel Siemensens Gaard (☎ 56 49 61 49; www.siemensens.dk; Havnebryggen 9; s/d incl breakfast 510/810kr; P ♿ ☎) This 51-room hotel sitting right on the harbour has comfortable rooms (all with bath and refrigerator). If you like old-world character, ask for a room in the old wing, a beautiful half-timbered building that dates from the mid-17th century.

Eating & Drinking

our pick Røgeriet i Svaneke (☎ 56 49 63 24; www.roegerietsvaneke.dk; Fiskergade 12; counter items 20-60kr, buffet lunch/dinner 115kr) You'll find a huge selection of excellent, smoked fare at the long counter here, including wonderful smørre-

brød, great trout, salmon, herring, shrimp, fried fish cakes and tasty *frikadeller* (Danish meat balls). Accompany it with remoulade and chips then wash it all down with the local ale. Choose to eat inside with a view of the massive, blackened doors of the smoking ovens or at the outdoor picnic tables overlooking the old cannons. It's by the water at the end of Fiskergade, north of the town centre.

Bryghuset (☎ 56 49 73 21; www.bryghuset-svaneke.dk; Torv 5; lunch/dinner mains 55/155kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) This is one of the most popular dining and drinking options on the island, known throughout Denmark for its excellent beers brewed on the premises. If you haven't already eaten, it also serves decent, hearty pub grub.



A sampler of all three of its beers (a pilsner, an ale and a stout) costs 40kr.

Hotel Siemsens Gaard (☎ 56 49 61 49; www.siemsens.dk; Havnebyggen 9; mains 180kr) With patio dining overlooking the harbour, this hotel's restaurant makes an ideal lunch choice on a sunny day. It does good light lunches such as daintily presented smørrebrød, smoked and marinated salmon with crème fraîche, and other more substantial fresh fish dishes.

Hjarnes Konditori (☎ 56 49 61 56; Torv 8) is a handy place serving good pastries and coffee on Torv, where you'll also find the supermarket **Dagli Brugsen** (☎ 56 49 60 41; ☹ Mon-Sat).

GUDHJEM & MELSTED

pop 900

Gudhjem is arguably the most attractive of all Bornholm's harbour towns. Its rambling high street is crowned by a squat windmill standing over half-timbered houses and sloping streets that roll down to the pleasant harbourfront. Gudhjem is a good base for exploring the rest of Bornholm; it has cycle paths, walking trails, convenient bus connections, reasonably priced places to stay, a good range of restaurants and a boat service to Christiansø.

It is also an enjoyable place to just wander about and soak up the harbour-side atmosphere. The harbour was one of the settings for the Oscar-winning film *Pelle the Conqueror*, based on the novel by Bornholm writer Martin Andersen Nexø (see p43).

Gudhjem's shoreline is rocky, though sun-bathers will find a small sandy beach at Melsted, 1km southeast. A 4km bike path leads south from Gudhjem to the thick-walled stoutly-butressed **Østerlars Rundkirke** (p194),

the most impressive of the island's round churches; bus 3 goes by the church.

Information

Gudhjem Turistbureau (☎ 56 48 52 10; mail@ntbook.dk; Åbogade 7; ☹ 10am-4pm Jul & Aug, 1-4pm Mon-Sat Sep & Mar-Jun) is at the library, just a block inland from the harbour. The **post office** (☎ 56 94 38 00) is inside the Favør grocery shop. There are toilets and showers at the harbour and a car park just northwest of it.

Sights & Activities

Watch top-quality Bornholm glass being hand-blown at **Gudhjem Glasrøgeri** (☎ 56 48 54 68; Ejnar Mikkelssensvej 13A; ☹ Jun-Aug) at the dockside.

In the handsome former train station in the southern part of town, **Gudhjem Museum** (☎ 56 48 54 62; Stationsvej 1; adult/child 40kr/free; ☹ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, 2-5pm Sun mid-May-mid-Sep) features local history displays, temporary art exhibits and outdoor sculptures.

Oluf Høst Museum (☎ 56 48 50 38; www.ohmus.dk; Løkkegade 35; adult/child 45/15kr; ☹ 1-5pm Tue-Sun Apr-Oct) contains the workshops and paintings of Oluf Høst (1884-1966), one of Bornholm's best-known artists. The museum occupies the home where Oluf lived from 1929 until his death.

A short five-minute climb up the heather-covered hill, **Bokul** provides a fine view of the town's red-tiled rooftops and out to sea.

From the hill at the southeastern end of Gudhjem harbour you'll be rewarded with a **harbour view**. You can continue along this path that runs above the shoreline 1.5km southeast to Melsted, where there's a little **sandy beach**. It's a delightful nature trail, with swallows, nightingales and wildflowers.

LOCAL VOICES

Christian Hede-Madsen, Musician

What's the best thing about Bornholm?

Its nature; you can still feel a sense of history here, but before that there is the nature.

What one sight should visitors make sure they see?

Hammershus Slot (see p196).

What's Bornholm's best kept secret?

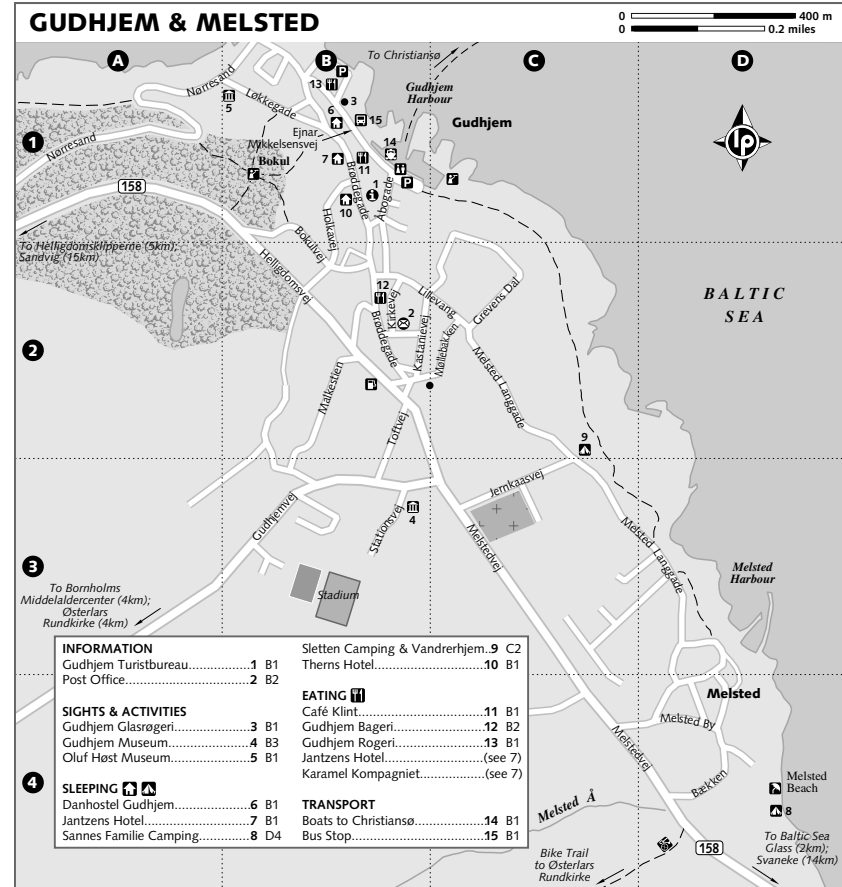
There aren't really any. We sell them all to tourists! Hmmm, maybe the beer. It's really great, especially at Svaneke's Bryghuset (see p191).

What other local delicacy should visitors make sure they try?

The smoked herring from Christiansø.

What's the worst thing about living on Bornholm?

That it's so small. There's lots of gossip. All the young people try to move to Copenhagen, which is where I'm going.



Wherever you travel on Bornholm you will come across small independent ceramicists' and glass-blowers' studios. A couple of kilometres south of Gudhjem is one of the best: **Baltic Sea Glass** (☎ 56 48 56 41; www.balticseaglass.com; Melstedvej 47; ☹ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat). It's a large, modern workshop and showroom showcasing the work of Maibritt Jonsson and Pete Hunner.

Sleeping

Sannes Familie Camping (☎ 56 48 52 11; www.familiecamping.dk; Melstedvej 39; camping per adult/child 60-75/30-45kr; ☹ mid-Mar-mid-Sep; P) This lovely four-star site is right beside the beach but also boasts a heated swimming pool, sauna and solarium for when the weather doesn't deliver.

Sletten Camping & Vandrerhjem (☎ 56 48 50 71; www.slettenscamping.dk; Melsted Langgade 45; camping per person 62kr; ☹ mid-May-mid-Sep; P) This is the nearest camping ground to town, a 15-minute walk south of Gudhjem harbour. In addition to camping, this place has decent cabins for 2395kr to 3495kr per week.

Danhostel Gudhjem (☎ 56 48 50 35; www.danhostelgudhjem.dk; Løkkegade 7; dm 150kr, s/d 310/400kr; ☹ year-round; P) Right by the harbour, this hostel has cosy, bright six-bed dorms. The reception is at a small grocery shop on Løkkegade, about 75m northwest of the hostel. Mountain bikes can be hired for 70kr per day.

Therns Hotel (☎ 56 48 50 99; fax 56 48 56 35; Brøddegade 31; s/d incl breakfast 650/850kr, with shared bathroom 410/650kr) This reasonably priced and very

central hotel (under the same management as the hostel) has 30 pleasant rooms, most with TV, a small refrigerator and an extra sofa bed; some also have kitchenettes.

Jantzens Hotel (☎ 56 48 50 17; www.jantzenshotel.dk; Brøddegade 33; s/d 650/925kr) Offers the most comfortable stylish rooms in town and occupies an attractive old building. There's also an excellent restaurant with a lovely conservatory and gardens in this centrally located hotel.

Eating

Gudhjem Bageri (☎ 56 48 56 03; Brøddegade 16; bakery goods 6-20kr) You can enjoy your pastries and coffee on this bakery's rooftop patio.

Café Klint (☎ 56 48 54 59; Ejnar Mikkelssensvej 20; light meals 50-100kr) On a sunny day the patio here is the spot for a leisurely cappuccino or beer with a view of the harbour. Café Klint is one of the town's most popular meeting places and gets quite lively during summer.

Gudhjem Rogeri (☎ 56 48 57 08; www.smokedfish.dk; Gudhjem harbour; buffet lunch & dinner 125kr) This fine Bornholm smokehouse serves deli-style fish and salads – its speciality is the classic Sol over Gudhjem (Sun over Gudhjem; smoked herring with a raw egg yolk). There's both indoor and outdoor seating, some of it very challenging to get to (the upper floor is reached by a rope ladder!). It has live folk, country and rock music most summer nights.

Jantzens Hotel (☎ 56 48 50 17; www.jantzenshotel.dk; Brøddegade 33; mains 200kr) Recently taken over by the experienced Copenhagen chef Søren Thyboe, this exquisite venue serves quality contemporary Franco-Danish food in a beautiful 1920s conservatory setting. There's also outdoor seating in the landscaped gardens.

Karamel Kompagniet (☎ 56 44 22 55; Holkavej) Looking for all the world like the sweet factory in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* or a Willy Wonka franchise, you can see everything being made in shiny copper basins in this tiny sweet factory that turns out scrumptious caramels and chocolates. Owners Carsten and Anna Niberg-Zehngraff have recently opened Isabella, an Italian ice cream kiosk a few metres up the high street, on the corner of the Jantzens Hotel.

There's a Favør grocery shop on Kirkevej, around the corner from Gudhjem Bageri.

AROUND GUDHJEM & MELSTED

Østerlars Rundkirke

The largest and most impressive of the island's round churches is Østerlars Rundkirke

(☎ 56 49 82 64; Vietsvej 25; adult/child 10kr/free; ☞ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat), which dates from 1150 (possibly even earlier) and is set amid wheat fields and half-timbered farmhouses. Bulky and thick-walled with seven weighty buttresses and an upper-level shooting gallery, this odd striking building is unmistakably a fortress. The roof was originally constructed with a flat top to serve as a battle platform, complete with a brick parapet but, because of the excessive weight this exerted on the church walls, the roof was eventually replaced with its present conical one.

The interior is largely whitewashed, although a swath of medieval frescoes has been uncovered and restored. There's a rune stone dating back to 1070 at the church entrance and a sundial above it.

A 4km cycle path to the church leads inland south from Gudhjem; the church can also be reached on bus 9.

Bornholms Middelaldercenter

The 10.5-hectare **Bornholms Middelaldercenter** (Bornholm's Medieval Centre; ☎ 56 49 83 19; www.bornholmsmiddelaldercenter.dk; Stangevej 1, Gudhjem; adult/child 90/40kr; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri Jul & Aug, to 4pm Mon-Fri Sep-Jun) re-creates a medieval fort and village and gives the Danes another chance to do what they love best: dressing up in period costume and hitting each other with rubber swords. They also operate a smithy, tend fields, grind wheat in a water mill and perform other chores of yore throughout the summer months. In July the activity schedule is beefed up to include falconry presentations, archery demonstrations and hands-on craft activities for children. A market is held here on Saturday in July and August.

The medieval centre is 500m north of Østerlars Rundkirke and can be reached by bus 9 from Gudhjem.

Helligdomsklipperne

Perhaps because Denmark hasn't much in the way of hills or lofty rocks, those it does have are almost revered. Such is the case with Helligdomsklipperne (Sanctuary Cliffs), where moderately high coastal cliffs of sharp granite rock attract sightseers. About 5km north of Gudhjem on the eastern side of the main coastal road, the Helligdomsklipperne area also has **nature trails** and an art museum.

On a great spot overlooking sea, fields and (weather permitting) the distant isle of Chris-

tiansø, 100-year-old **Bornholms Kunstmuseum** (☎ 56 48 43 86; www.bornholms-kunstmuseum.dk; Helligdommen; adult/child 40kr/free; ☞ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun May-Oct, 1-5pm Tue, Thu & Sat Nov-Apr), now housed in a stylish modern building inviting comparison with Louisiana (see p116), exhibits paintings by artists from the Bornholm School, including Olaf Rude, Oluf Høst and Edvard Weie, who painted during the first half of the 20th century. The museum also has works by other Danish artists, most notably paintings of Bornholm by Skagen artist Michael Ancher. There's a café on site. Buses stop in front of the museum (bus 2 from Rønne or Sandvig, bus 7 between Gudhjem and Sandvig).

SANDVIG & ALLINGE

pop 2700

Sandvig is a quiet little seaside hamlet with attractive older homes, many with rose bushes and tidy flower gardens. It's fronted by a gorgeous sandy bay and borders a network of interesting walking trails (see p196).

Allinge, the larger and more developed half of the Allinge-Sandvig municipality, is 2km southeast of Sandvig. Although not as quaint as Sandvig, Allinge has the lion's share of commercial facilities, including banks, grocery shops and the area's tourist office, **Nordbornholms Turistbureau** (☎ 56 48 00 01; www.bornholmsbookingcenter.dk in Danish; Kirkegade 4; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 3pm Sat May-Sep, 11am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat Oct-Apr).

Seven kilometres southeast of Sandvig, in the small village of **Olsker**, is the most slender of the island's four round churches. If you take the inland bus to Rønne, you can stop off en route to visit the church or catch a passing glimpse of it as you ride by.

Sleeping & Eating

Sandvig Familie Camping (☎ 56 48 04 47; www.publiccamp.dk/sandvig; Sandlinien 5; adult/child/tent 50/25/15kr) Occupies a great spot near the beach and is handy for tracks onto Hammeren (p196).

Danhostel Sandvig (☎ 56 48 03 62; www.danhostel.dk/sandvig; Hammershusvej 94; dm 115kr, s/d 275/400kr; ☞ Jun-Oct) Midway between Hammershus Slot and Sandvig, this hostel has a pleasant, rural location just 10 minutes' walk from the ruins and 100m from a bus stop. Accommodation is in cosy four- or six-bed chalets. Breakfast is available.

Hotel Sandvig Havn (☎ 56 48 03 01; www.hotelsandvighavn.dk; Strandpromenaden 5; s/d 290/360kr) A stun-

ning location right on picturesque Sandvig fishing harbour is just one of the reasons to stay at this grand but friendly hotel in this loveliest of seaside towns. The Sandvig Havn's new owners have done much to rejuvenate this grand old lady of a hotel, with rooms and modern self-catering apartments offering delightful views of the harbour and bay (part of the Hammerknuden nature reserve) from their spacious balconies.

Byskrivergaarden (☎ 56 48 18 86; www.byskrivergaarden.dk; Løsebækegade 3; per person per night 365-390kr; ☞ May-Sep ☐) This enchanting, white-walled, black-beamed converted farmhouse right on the water in Allinge is our choice of places to stay in Allinge. The rooms (try to get the sea-facing not the road-facing ones) are smartly and simply decorated in a contemporary style. There's a pleasant garden, a large, cheerful breakfast room and kelp-filled rock pools nearby if you fancy taking a dip.

Ellas Konditori (☎ 56 48 03 29; Strandgade 42, Sandvig; light meals 53-80kr) Offers good homemade food inside the picturesque cottage or out in the pretty garden. The menu includes fish and chips, grilled chicken and salads.

Nord Bornholms Røgeri (☎ 56 48 07 30; www.nordbornholmsroegeri.dk; Kæmpestranden 2, Allinge; buffet 125kr; ☞ lunch & dinner) Another of the island's great smokehouses, Nord Bornholms Røgeri serves a stunning buffet of locally smoked fish, salads and soup in a lovely airy room overlooking the harbour.

Gastronomen (☎ 56 48 07 87; www.gastronomen.dk; Hammershusvej 9, Sandvig; mains 180kr; ☞ May-Sep) One of the best restaurants on the island serves inventive Modern European–Danish food in

TOP FIVE BORNHOLM TREATS

- Homemade caramels from the story-book candy factory, **Karamel Kompagniet** (opposite)
- Traditionally smoked herring from **Gudhjem Rogeri** (opposite) in one of the island's harbours
- Locally brewed beers and ale from **Bryghuset** (p191)
- A gourmet picnic basket from the adorable restaurant, **Kadeau** (p188)
- Knocking back the homemade fruit brandies from **Vingården** (p188) vineyard

a charming 18th-century cottage updated with funky '50s retro details. Chef Lars Aabech is rarely afraid to match improbable ingredients, such as red meat and strawberries, and this intimate historic building has to be one of the most romantic restaurants in Denmark. Reservations recommended.

HAMMERSHUS SLOT

The impressive 13th-century ruins of Hammershus Slot, dramatically perched on top of a sea cliff, are the largest in Scandinavia. Construction probably began around 1250 under the archbishop of Lund, who wanted a fortress to protect his diocese against the Crown, engaged at the time in a power struggle with the Church. In the centuries that followed, the castle was enlarged, with the upper levels of the square tower added on during the mid-16th century.

Eventually, improvements in naval artillery left the fortress walls vulnerable to attack and in 1645 the castle temporarily fell to Swedish troops after a brief bombardment. Hammershus served as both military garrison and prison – King Christian IV's daughter, Leonora Christine, was imprisoned here on treason charges from 1660 to 1661.

In 1743 the Danish military abandoned Hammershus and many of the stones were carried away to be used as building materials elsewhere. Still, there's much to see and you shouldn't miss a stroll through these extensive fortress ruins. The grounds are always open and admission is free.

Getting There & Away

There's an hourly bus (1A, 2 or 7) from Sandvig to Hammershus Slot, but the most enjoy-

able way to get here is via footpaths through the hills of Hammeren – a wonderful hour's hike. The well-trodden trail begins by the Sandvig Familie Camping ground and the route is signposted.

If you're coming from Rønne, bus 1 makes the trip to Hammershus Slot about once an hour.

HAMMEREN

Hammeren, the hammerhead-shaped crag of granite at the northern tip of Bornholm, is crisscrossed by **walking trails** leading through hillsides thick with purple heather. Some of the trails are inland, while others run along the coast. The whole area is a delight for people who enjoy nature walks.

For something a little more challenging, follow the trails between Sandvig and Hammershus Slot. The shortest route travels along the inland side of Hammeren and passes **Hammer Sø**, Bornholm's largest lake, and **Opaløsen**, a deep pond in an old rock quarry. A longer, more windswept route goes along the rocky outer rim of Hammeren, passes a **lighthouse** at Bornholm's northernmost point and continues south along the coast to **Hammer Havn**.

From Hammershus Slot there are trails heading south through another heathered landscape in a nature area called **Slotslyngen**, and east through public woodlands to **Moseløkken granite quarry**. Moseløkken is also the site of a small **museum** (☎ 56 48 04 68; www.bornholm-museum.dk/moseloekken; Moseløkkevej 4; adult/child 30kr/free; ☒ 10am-noon & 1-4pm Mon-Fri Apr-Oct) where you can see demonstrations of traditional rock-cutting techniques.

For a detailed map of the trails and terrain, pick up the free *Hammeren og Hammershus, Slotslyng* forestry brochure at any one of the island's tourist offices.

CHRISTIANSØ

pop 100

If you think Bornholm is as remote as Denmark gets, you'd be wrong. Even further east, way out in the merciless Baltic, is tiny Christiansø, a charming 17th-century island fortress about 500m long and an hour's sail northeast of Bornholm. There is something of the Faroe Islands about Christiansø's landscape, with its rugged, moss-covered rocks, historic stone buildings and even harder people. There is a real sense, too, that you are travelling back in time when you visit here, particularly if you

stay overnight at the charming atmospheric Christiansø Gæstgiveriet (right) and get to experience the island once most of the day-trippers have gone.

A seasonal fishing hamlet since the Middle Ages, Christiansø fell briefly into Swedish hands in 1658, after which Christian V turned it into an invincible naval fortress. Bastions and barracks were built; a church, school and prison followed.

Christiansø became the Danish Navy's forward position in the Baltic, serving to monitor Swedish trade routes and in less congenial days as a base for attacks on Sweden. By the 1850s, though, the island was no longer needed as a forward base against Sweden and the navy withdrew. Those who wanted to stay on as fishermen were allowed to live as free tenants in the old cottages. Their offspring, and a few latter-day fisherfolk and artists, currently make up Christiansø's 100 residents. The entire island is an unspoiled reserve – there are no cats or dogs, no cars and no modern buildings – allowing the rich birdlife, including puffins, to prosper.

If the hectic pace of life on Christiansø is getting to you, try escaping to a smaller island, **Frederiksbø**, by the footbridge.

Græsholm, the island to the northwest of Christiansø, is a wildlife refuge and an important breeding ground for guillemots, razorbills and other sea birds. It has to be one of the most remote places in Denmark and the locals protect its environment fiercely.

Together these three are known as the Ertholmene Islands, and they serve as spring breeding grounds for up to 2000 eider ducks. The ducks nest near coastal paths and all visitors should take care not to scare mothers away from their nests because predator gulls will quickly swoop and attack the unattended eggs. Conservation laws forbid the removal of any plants from this unique ecosystem.

Sights & Activities

A leisurely walk of around an hour is all that's needed to explore both Christiansø and Frederiksbø, making this an ideal day trip.

The main sights are the two stone circular defence towers. Lille Tårn (Little Tower) on Frederiksbø dates from 1685 and is now

the **local history museum** (☎ 56 46 20 71; adult/child 10/5kr; ☒ 11.30am-4pm May-Sep). The ground floor features fishing supplies, hand tools and iron-works; upstairs there are cannons, models and a display of local flora and fauna.

Christiansø's **Store Tårn** (Great Tower), built in 1684, is an impressive structure measuring a full 25m in diameter. The Great Tower's 100-year-old **lighthouse** offers a splendid 360-degree view of the island; for 4kr you can climb to the top.

The main activity on Christiansø is the **walk** along the fortified stone walls and cannon-lined batteries that mark the island's perimeter. There are skerries (rocky islets) with nesting sea birds and a secluded **swimming cove** on Christiansø's eastern side.

Sleeping & Eating

Duchess Battery (☎ 30 34 96 05; camping per person 45kr) Camping is allowed in summer in a small field called the Duchess Battery at the northern end of Christiansø, but limited space means it can be difficult to book a site.

Christiansø Gæstgiveriet (☎ 56 46 20 15; chr.hotel@post.tele.dk; d with breakfast 800kr; ☒ Apr-late Oct) Built in 1730 as the naval commander's residence, this is the island's only inn with six lovely, light simple rooms and a basic traditional Danish restaurant. Most of the rooms have views of the harbour.

There's also a small food store and snack shop nearby.

Getting There & Away

Christiansøfarten (☎ 56 48 51 76; www.christiansoefarten.dk; adult/child return late Jun-late Aug 190/95kr, other times 160/85kr) operates passenger ferries to Christiansø from Gudhjem year-round and from Allinge in the summer.

A boat leaves Gudhjem at 10am daily (weekdays only in winter) and departs from Christiansø for the return trip at 2.15pm. Between mid-June and August there are also boats leaving Gudhjem at 10.15am, Monday to Friday, and 12.30pm daily.

A boat leaves Allinge at 10.45am (Monday to Saturday, May to mid-September) and departs Christiansø at 4.30pm.

Dogs or other pets are forbidden on Christiansø.

THERE BE TROLLS

As you travel around Bornholm you will almost certainly spot drawings and figures of the island's mascot: a disreputable-looking horned troll called Krølle Bølle who originated in stories told by local writer Ludvig Mahler to his son in the early 1940s. Usually depicted with a ready-smoked herring dangling from his fishing rod (a neat trick that, even for a troll), Krølle Bølle is said to live with his parents, Bobbasina and Bobbærkus, beneath Langebjerg Hill, close to Hammershus Slot, appearing on the stroke of midnight when an owl hoots three times.

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