

D·O·W·D·L·E

SOLVANG DANISH VILLAGE™

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In the beautiful Santa Ynez Mountains is a town called Solvang, a piece of Denmark that seems to have been plucked out of the old country and placed perfectly in central California. In 1911 a group of Danish immigrants from across the country, purchased 9000 acres from the Mission Santa Ines as a refuge for people of Danish descent. With specific building codes and a love of their shared heritage, they built a city that felt, looked, and tasted like Denmark. Solvang Danish Village is so authentic that it has hosted members of the Danish Royal Family on many several occasions. Today, Solvang is loved by tens of thousands of visitors who come not just for the baking, biking, wine tasting, but the heritage of this marvelous community, whose people are as warm and welcoming as a Danish hearth in winter.

1. Mission Santa Inés was founded on September 17, 1804.
2. Karen Steinwachs runs Buttonwood Farms, one of the oldest vineyards and winery in the area.
3. Rundetaarn or Tower Pizza was designed after the Copenhagen, Denmark building and serves New York Pizza!
4. Solvang has a total of four wooden windmills.
5. Ester J. Bates loves working at the Elverhoj House Museum.
6. Susan and Melissa welcomed Eric with a cake made from their store Solvang Bakery.
7. Santa knows that shopping at Rasmussen's is the best.
8. Danish Mill Bakery first opened on September 17, 1960.
9. Look out for dueling Vikings in the streets.
10. Linda Johansen is a lifetime resident, historian, and owner of the King Frederik Inn. She also recommends trying aebleskivers.
11. One of Solvang's iconic spots to visit is Tivoli Square.
12. Make sure to check out the Shakespeare Festival and its actors!
13. Mortensen's Bakery is still run by the original owner!
14. The Belgian Café is famous for its Belgian waffles!
15. Solvang Toyland is great for both you and the kids. Check out the plus toy section!
16. Make sure to see the town in a Hønen –Hen in Danish—or a horse drawn trolley.
17. Elsemarie and Carol are the owners of Ingeborg's Chocolates! Yum!!
18. The Red Viking Restaurant is one of Solvang's oldest restaurants.
19. Ladies and gentlemen, Elvis Presley, the King!
20. Tracey with Visitors Bureau is a fantastic person in Solvang.
21. Carl "Cookie" Sr. and Charlotte Birkholm founded Birkholm's Bakery in 1951.
22. If you want authentic Danish food, go to Bit O' Denmark. Eric recommends trying the Hakkebof.
23. Crown Prince Frederick and Princess Ingrid's were the first royalty to visit Solvang in 1939.
24. Say hi to The Pope!
25. Head on over to Denmark Square and you can see the Little Mermaid statue replica!
26. Chomp is a fabulous fusion malt shop and is owned by Aaron Petersen.
27. This is the only Hans Christen Anderson Museum in the U.S. and it is so cool!
28. 31 Abraham Lincoln checking his mail and... it's a chicken? Oh Eric.
29. Hans Christen Anderson is considered the most famous Dane.
30. Meet Canute (*or Cnut*) the Great a famous Danish King and fearsome Viking warrior.
31. The Mole Hole is one mainstay gift shop you can't pass up.
32. The first Annual Danish Days Celebration started in 1936.
33. Dean Klitgaard is the manager of the Solvang Visitor Center and loves playing the accordion.
34. Jeff Paaske is The Aebleskiver King at the Solvang Restaurant.
35. You can rent surreys for up to 8 people and pedal around.
36. The bust of Hans Christen Anderson sits in Solvang Park.
37. Gorm the Old, first King of Denmark and current Denmark ruler, Queen Margrethe II.
38. Prince Henrik visited in 2011 for the Solvang Centennial.
39. Bent Olsen makes the best Danish Kringle and brought them here in the 1970's.
40. Try the Kringles—coffee cake— at Olsen's Bakery
41. If you see a stork on your roof, it's a sign of good fortune..