

10 reasons why you simply must visit Aarhus in 2017

The city of Aarhus in Denmark has been chosen as the European Capital of Culture for 2017, with hundreds of fantastic attractions and performances planned across the Central Denmark Region throughout the year. Here are 10 reasons why you must simply visit Aarhus in 2017.

1. The Garden

The Garden is an art festival like no other. It will consist of outdoor installations stretching for over four kilometres through the city centre and the coastline surrounding the city. As well as being the largest outdoor exhibition during Aarhus 2017, it's also a great way to discover the city in a different light (8 April - 10 September 2017).

2. Watermusic

Set to take place during the full moon, Watermusic is a visually mind-blowing experience featuring incredible lighting, 3D projections and aerial acrobats. At the heart of the event will be a performance by acclaimed Danish singer Oh Land, who will take you, together with a 300-voice choir, through mythical stories of mermaids and dark sea creatures. Not to be missed (2-3 September 2017).

3. The Ballad of Agnete and the Merman

Aarhus is hosting the world premiere of German electronic music composer Cristian Vogel's take on a well-known Danish love story involving a merman and a woman. Inspired by the symbolism and melancholia surrounding the mythic story of impossible love, Vogel transforms it into an unprecedented musical experience that brings together 4D sound technology, abstract choreographies and experimental architecture (14-18 June 2017).

4. Julian Rosefeldt: Manifesto

Australian actress Cate Blanchett will interpret German artist Julian Rosefeldt's ambitious Manifesto, a multi-channel film installation collage inspired by the Futurists, Dadaists, Fluxus artists, Suprematists, Situationists, Dogma 95 and other groups. Blanchett will personify 13 different characters – among them a school teacher, a newsreader, a factory worker and a homeless man – ultimately questioning the artist's role in today's society (1 March - 30 April 2017).

5. Anohni

Nominated as Aarhus 2017 Artist-in-Residence, Oscar-nominated singer Anohni – who also fronts Mercury Prize-winning group Antony and the Johnsons – will help you escape in her

poetic world and present her new album of songs arranged and recorded in Aarhus with the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra (18 November 2017).

6. Jorn + Munch

Two of the greatest Scandinavian artists, Denmark's Asger Jorn and Norway's Edvard Munch, will be celebrated at a major exhibition in nearby Silkeborg, thanks to a unique collaboration between Museum Jorn and the Munch Museum in Oslo. The exhibition highlights a sense of kinship between the artists in how they viewed the great themes of life. The exhibition includes 50 works by Munch and more than 60 by Jorn (11 February - 28 May 2017).

7. Tree of Codes

Tree of Codes is a unique performance in its genre, bringing the oldest ballet company in the world – the Paris Opera Ballet – together with British DJ and producer Jamie xx, and renowned scenographer Olafur Eliasson for a unique performance at the frontier of modern dance and classical ballet. The show played to packed houses in New York (27-29 April 2017).

8. Den Gamle By

The Old Town of Aarhus is an open air museum, where you get to travel back in time to when the streets were covered with cobblestones and the buildings were half-timbered, as in Hans Christian Andersen's day. The Old Town also features neighbourhoods based on the 1920s and 1970s (open all year).

9. Prison Museum, Horsens

On the day before Christmas 1949, a notorious safe-cracker called Carl August Lorentzen managed to escape from his cell by crawling along an 18-metre long tunnel, which had taken him nearly a year to burrow. In May, the prison museum presents an underground reconstruction of the little man's spectacular escape, exemplifying the well-known proverb: "Where there's a will, there's a way" (20 May 2017 onwards).

10. The food!

Along with being European Capital of Culture, Aarhus and Central Denmark Region have been awarded the title of European Region of Gastronomy in 2017. A trio of Michelin-starred restaurants, Bib Gourmands and a host of eateries, gastro-pubs and food markets puts Aarhus on the gastronomic world map. Make your taste buds sing with the New Nordic kitchen or treat yourself to delicious street food in cool surroundings with the locals (all year).



How to get there

It's so easy to get there: Aarhus is accessible by plane, train and ferry. There are direct flights to Aarhus from Berlin and Hamburg. From the North of Germany, you can also find many ferry connections to Nordic countries and Aarhus.

Notes to Editors:

Initiated in 1985, the European Capital of Culture is an international cultural project that ranks among Europe's most ambitious. It embodies the richness and diversity of European culture and contributes to greater mutual understanding between the citizens of Europe.

Cities are selected for the title on the basis of a cultural programme that has a strong European dimension, fosters the involvement of the city's inhabitants and contributes to the long-term development of the area.

The rules and conditions for hosting the title are set out in a decision of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. Aarhus shares the 2017 title with Pafos in Cyprus.

Patron: Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark is Royal Patron of Aarhus 2017, European Capital of Culture.

Official opening: Aarhus, Denmark. Saturday 21 January 2017.

Website and online programme: <http://www.aarhus2017.dk/en/>

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