

A passion for nature

The Øresund region is a must if you are travelling for gardening inspiration. The legacy of world famous botanist, Carl Linnaeus is evident in South Sweden where you will probably find more gardens and parks open to visitors per square metre than anywhere else in the world. This year we celebrate the scientist's 300th birthday throughout region.

You don't have to be a gardening enthusiast to appreciate the tranquillity of a beautiful park or a leisurely stroll along a windy path with scent of rhododendrons, lavender and roses. But if you do happen to be a garden lover, the South of Sweden in the Øresund region really should be on your list of places to go for inspiration. Just like the English and the Japanese, the Swedes are masters in the art of gardening. In Skåne alone, an area of just 3,500 square miles, you can find at least 100 gardens and parks that are open to visitors.

Gardeners and nature lovers will also probably be familiar with Sweden's greatest scientist ever, the botanist Carl von Linné. And this year, Sweden celebrates his 300th birthday, declaring 2007 the official Linné year.

Linné 300 years

Throughout the year the entire Skåne region joins in the festivities with a multitude of Linné focused events, conferences, exhibitions and guided tours.

Visitors to the Øresund region will find many of these Linné events worth travelling for in their own right. But the Linné focus is really a great opportunity to discover what has always been the region's main attraction – great nature and outstanding parks and gardens. Many of these places are attached to a castle or a manor, which are open to visitors with some having shops, a café or a restaurant. If you're lucky they may even offer overnight accommodation.

Who was Carl von Linné?

Carl von Linné was, literally, the man who gave names to plants and animals. His famous work *Systema Naturae*, first published in 1735, introduced a simple, binary naming system, which would come to replace the long and complicated naming method used at the time.

Linné grew up in Småland, South Sweden, and was supposed to have been a vicar like his father, but displayed no great interest in his theology studies. He was far more interested in nature, a passion he shared with his father. He eventually succeeded in impressing an influential doctor with his knowledge of botany to such an extent that he was sent to study at the Universities of Lund and Uppsala where in 1741 he became a professor of medicine.

Linné made a number of commissioned journeys to remote parts of Sweden, during which he would keep journals on his observations of nature and the lives of the local people. Linné was a gifted writer and was held in high

esteem by philosophers such as Rousseau and Goethe. August Strindberg wrote of him: "Linnaeus was in reality a poet who happened to become a naturalist".

Linné celebrations

The Linné year opens with the **Skåne Linnaeus Week**, June 2nd – 10th, officially opened by HRH the Crown Princess Victoria on Sunday, June 3rd, at a ceremony at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in **Alnarp**. The following week sees a number of special Linné related events, such as lectures, guided garden and greenhouse tours, coach trips, exhibitions, food events, music and theatre. The city of **Helsingborg** plays host to one of the highlights of the Linné week - the **Rhododendron Festival at Sofiero Castle**, June 2nd – 3rd. The castle is renowned for its spectacular rhododendron garden, which is 100 years old this year. Right at the time of the festival, the bushes are in full bloom and are more breathtaking than ever! While in Helsingborg you can also visit the **Fredriksdal Museum and Gardens** and enjoy the palette of scent and colour in the rose garden or the botanical garden. Frederiksdal is an open-air museum where you can explore Skåne in miniature and learn about the history of the region – this year, naturally, from a Linnéan perspective.

Apart from being the father of the modern classification system, Linné was also one of the first scientists to take an interest in ecology and general health. This aspect of his work is in focus on June 2nd, when a 5-mile **Linné trail** is inaugurated, inviting you to walk or cycle along a trail that the scientist followed on his Skåne journey in 1749. The track leads through a beautiful Skåne landscape documented and described in Linné's journals and gives you opportunity to see what he saw 250 years ago. The route takes you past seven of Skåne's castles, including Härkeberga, Christinehof and Gärnsås, where you can stop over for refreshments in the castle restaurant or café.

June 6th is **Swedish National Day**, this year celebrated with Linné themed events across the region. One setting for the Linné festivities is the botanical garden of **Lund University** where Linné spent a year studying. The programme for the day is packed with music, lectures, exhibitions and guided tours of the gardens. The highlight of the day must be the **Swedish Floral Championships** awards ceremony.

Throughout the summer, **Ängelholm Tourist** organises a coach tour in the north-western part of the region to six of the castles that Linné visited on his journey through Skåne. At **Drakamöllan**, an estate that dates back to the 17th century, you can spend a weekend hiking in the footsteps of Linné in the Brösarp Hills and enjoy an evening buffet of 18th century food based on original recipes from Linné times. Drakamöllan also features a small renaissance herb garden.

The 100 gardens of Skåne

South Sweden boasts around a hundred public gardens. Why not start a tour at **Råshult** where Linné was born and where years of work have now been

completed to recreate the landscape and gardens as they appeared 300 years ago. The fields are cultivated with primitive tools and horses and crops are harvested with sickle and scythe. The gardens around the original 18th century turf-roofed buildings grow herbs, vegetables and other useful plants, such as tobacco, hops and berries, which were common in the 18th century.

Unless you are a particularly dedicated garden enthusiast with plenty of time on your hands, there is no way you can make it to all of the 100 gardens of Skåne. But you can get a good impression of the variety and the skill of Scanian landscape architecture and horticulture on a **day trip** to four of the region's prime garden sights. The trip goes to **Tirup Örtagård**, a veritable goldmine of everything that tastes and smells good and where you find around 500 species of herbs used for spice and medicine. Next stop is **Mandelmanns Trädgårdar** in Rörum, also called the Tuscany of Skåne where everything is organically grown. From there the trip goes back in time to **Wanås Slottspark**, an historic castle dating back to the 15th century, where hundreds-years old oak and beech trees meet modern art in the surrounding park. Last stop is via a ferry boat trip to the island Hven in Øresund where astronomer Tycho Brahe laid out a typical renaissance garden around his observatory.

Green adventures in the city

Even on a short city break with no spare time to go exploring around the countryside you need not deprive yourself of green delights. **Malmö** alone boasts some of the finest parks and castle gardens of the region.

Kungsparken was established in 1872 by King Oscar II and is filled with rare trees and flowers. **Slottsparken** dates back to 1900 and is a prime example of typical 19th century gardening. **Slottsträdgården** (the Castle Garden) adjacent to **Malmöhus** is a recently established organic garden also featuring a café and shop where you can buy plants and flowers and get some advice on gardening methods.

A city-break in **Copenhagen**, on the Danish side of the Øresund strait, could easily be spent entirely pursuing horticultural pleasures.

The botanical garden surrounding the **Faculty of Life Sciences** was established in 1858 and has been kept pretty much in its original romantic design, typical of the 19th century with winding paths, ponds, lawns, rare trees and wood nymph sculptures peeking out from their hiding places behind bushes and shrubs. Another gem, not just for garden nerds, is **The Botanic Garden of Copenhagen** where more than 13,000 species are growing in the greenhouses, herb gardens and around the beautiful, romantic park setting. The Botanic Garden is renowned for its fine greenhouses with a variety of tropical and subtropical plants and for its large collection of annuals.

A short journey out of the city takes you to the National Museum's **Open Air Museum** in Brede, where 23 historical gardens tell the story of peasant life in Denmark from 1790-1930. **Gl. Holtegård** is an art gallery and a wonderful park, which has recently been recreated in its original, symmetrical baroque style with fruit-tree lined alleys, fountains and trimmed bushes. Further north you find **Frederiksborg Slot** built in the 17th century on three islets in a lake

and surrounded by a garden landscaped in romantic fashion and a baroque garden famous for its historic flowers and four royal monograms carried out in buxom.

Useful addresses and contacts - Linné

The Linné Week

For more information on events in Skåne during the Linné Week, please contact: Christer Hjort at Lund University christer.hjort@upv.lu.se Tel: 046-222 70 15

Swedish National Day at Lund University

www.linneskane2007.lu.se (website in Swedish)

Linné celebrations

For more information on Linné events in Skåne throughout the year, check out Position Skåne's website www.skane.com or contact Lena Birgersson at Position Skåne, Tel: 040-20 96 00. Read more about the Linné celebration at www.linnaeus2007.se

Ängelholm Tourist

www.turist.engelholm.se

Drakamöllan

www.drakamollan.se

Råshult

www.linnesrashult.se

Day trip to Skåne gardens

www.skane.com

Tirup Örtagård

www.tirupsortagard.se

Mandelmanns Trädgårdar

www.mandelmann.se

Wanås Slottspark

www.wanas.se

Malmö city

Find details of the city's parks and gardens on:

www.malmo.com

Sofiero Palace and Gardens

www.sofiero.se

Fredriksdals Museum and Gardens

www.fredriksdal.se

Helsingborg

www.helsingborg.se

Faculty of Life Sciences Botanical Garden

Bülowsvej 17, 1870 Frederiksberg

Botanic Garden of Copenhagen

www.botanic-garden.ku.dk

Brede Open Air Museum

www.natmus.dk/sw30799.asp

Gammel Holtegaard

www.holtegaard.org

Frederiksborg Slot

www.frederiksborgmuseet.dk

For more information about the Øresund region:

Visit: www.visitoresund.info

Facts about Copenhagen / Øresund

The third fase of the Project Copenhagen / Øresund, runs from 2007 – 2009. The budget is over DKK 81m, including DKK 8.3m from the EU's INTERREG IIIA. The markets targeted by the project are Germany/Switzerland, Great Britain/Ireland, USA, China, Italy and Spain. Copenhagen / Øresund partners are SAS, SPANAIR, Copenhagen Airport, the Oresund bridge, Avis, Malmö Tourism, Position Skåne, VisitDenmark and Wonderful Copenhagen. The aim is to place the Øresund region on the world map and make the destination more accessible.

Links to our partners:

www.visitcopenhagen.com

www.visitdenmark.dk

www.malmo.se/turist

www.skane.com

www.flysas.com



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