Know Before You Go

Highlights & Things to Do on Your Next Visit to Solvang

SOLVANG

The Danish Capital of America

Velkommen!

Welcome to the City of Solvang, the Danish Capital of America.

Stroll down Copenhagen Drive tasting Aebleskiver and other Danish pastries, or sampling wine in the shade of windmills. Solvang is a sun-soaked slice of Danish culture in the Santa Ynez Valley, where California wine cellars mix with European bakeries and shops. It's where you can drink, dine and shop like a Dane without ever leaving the California sunshine. Explore our wineries, boutique shops, or explore Solvang via four-wheeled surrey cycles at Wheel Fun Rentals, or a historic wooden streetcar pulled by a pair of magnificent draft horses on the Solvang Trolley. For a full tour of the town, travel via EVXP, My Electric Vehicle Experience. The newest , most eco-friendly way to tour Solvang.

The village of Solvang offers an array of places to stay. Choose from a luxury guest ranch resort, full-service hotel, or bed & breakfast. Many properties are within easy walking distance to downtown shops, dining, and attractions. A number of Solvang hotels offer travel packages and are pet-friendly.

Visit solvangusa.com/lodging-deals-packages for more lodging deal information.

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Danish Heritage

Immerse yourself in the rich history of Solvang.

On January 12, 1911, a group of Danish-American educators, united by a shared vision, established Solvang on 9,000 acres of land surrounding the historic Old Mission Santa Ines. Purchased for approximately $75,000, this land marked the beginning of a new chapter for the Danish community in California. Named “Solvang” (meaning “sunny field”), the founders advertised the new colony in Danish-language newspapers, attracting early buyers, almost all Danish, from California, the Midwest, and Denmark.

Some Notable Landmarks to Visit:

- Windmills and Bakeries
- Solvang Founders Statue
- Dragon Spire
- Hans Christian Andersen Bust
- Bethania Lutheran Church
- Bit O’Denmark’s Building
- Elverhoj Museum
- Little Mermiad Fountain

Learn more about Solvang history and landmarks here.

Wine Country

Sip the best that Santa Ynez Valley has to offer.

In the Santa Ynez Valley – Wines – grape to glass in Solvang, Buellton, Ballard, Los Alamos, Los Olivos and Santa Ynez.

Solvang Wine tasting and touring is a memorable and definitely not-to-be-missed experience in Santa Barbara County Wine country of Solvang and the Santa Ynez Valley. Local grapes are planted, nurtured and crafted into award-winning wines that are sipped and savored worldwide.

Most of the wineries in the area are boutique and family-owned. Stroll through one of these vibrant vineyards or visit our tastings rooms in downtown Solvang. Area wineries welcome visitors year-round and it's easy and fun to do self-directed wine tours or enjoy guided tours. Oscar-winning 2004 movie Sideways, shot on location here, helped plant Solvang firmly in the wine scene.

Wine tasting events abound throughout the year, so be sure to visit the link at the bottom of this page for complete details.

For a full list of wineries, tasting rooms and events go here.

Fantastic Food

Delight in Danish bakeries and food from around the globe.

Dining in Solvang and enjoy an incredible variety of flavors and international cuisine offered in Solvang's restaurants. Step into Solvang's restaurant scene and sample a range of international and domestic cuisines, including Danish, Italian, Mexican, Asian and traditional American favorites.

One of Solvang's most delightful features is its array of authentic Danish bakeries, each offering a taste of traditional Danish pastries and sweets. These bakeries, steeped in history, bring a slice of Denmark to California.

For a full and up-to-date list of bakeries and restaurants go here.

Unique Boutiques

Shop ‘till you drop in the Danish Capital of America.

Love boutique shopping? Solvang offers one-of-a-kind shops where you can discover trendy styles and impeccable service.

Explore high-end boutiques, European imports and art galleries as you create wonderful memories as you enjoy your shopping experiences in the Danish Village of Solvang, “Little Denmark.”

Browse our shops at the link below or click to download a complete Solvang Directory and Map from the Solvang Chamber of Commerce.

Family Fun

Make lasting memories in Solvang!

Solvang's quaint old-world European fairy tale feel and friendly Danish hospitality offers a relaxing peaceful atmosphere for families away from home.

Solvang is a great destination to find things to do for the whole family. Whether your kids enjoy relaxing on a pontoon boat or hand-feeding an ostrich, we've got something for everyone! A photographer's paradise, everywhere you turn there are delightful family photo opportunities to create lasting memories.

- Explore playgrounds, skate parks, and tennis courts in the three kid-friendly parks.
- Tour Solvang via bicycles and four-wheeled surrey cycles, or travel with the EVXP, My Electric Vehicle Experience, or a historic wooden streetcar pulled by a pair of magnificent draft horses on the Solvang Trolley.
- Try out a fun scavenger hunt at the Elverhoj Museum of History & Art.
- Check out our newest resident Lulu Hyggelig: California's First Permanent Thomas Dambo Troll at California Nature Art Museum.

For more family friendly suggestions go here.

Thomas Dambo's Troll

Meet "Lulu" the Troll by Renowned 'Recycling Artist' Thomas Dambo

The California Nature Art Museum is pleased to present Thomas Dambo's first permanent troll in California. Thomas Dambo is an internationally renowned Danish artist and recycling activist who is celebrated for his imaginative and colossal sculptures made from recycled materials. Specializing in creating enchanting wooden trolls, Thomas Dambo breathes new life into discarded resources, showcasing the boundless potential hidden within our world's trash cans.

Danish recycling artist Thomas Dambo creates large-scale artworks from trash. Believing the world is drowning in waste, he quit his job in 2011 to dedicate his life to showing the beauty of upcycled materials. His projects, including giant Trolls, plastic creations, birdhouses, and "Happy Walls," span 20 countries and five continents. Using tons of recycled materials, he collaborates with local communities, making them co-creators of his art.

Read "Lulu"'s poem and learn more about artist, Thomas Dambo here.

Solvang After Dark

Entertainment and nightlife abound in Solvang.

As Solvang's sun sets, the village becomes a vibrant evening entertainment hub. Find live music, world-class performances, or unique culinary experiences after dark.

Enjoy live bands and solo artists in intimate wine and beer tasting rooms. Catch top acts at Lost Chord Guitars or experience the singer-songwriter scene at Nashville Nights. Winemaker Dinners pair local wines with gourmet meals. Solvang's tasting rooms offer a spirited atmosphere to savor regional varietals.

Beyond the night sky, stars shine at unique venues. The renowned Solvang Festival Theater, a 700-seat open-air venue, is a cultural cornerstone. It hosts diverse performances year-round, from concerts to seasonal events like the Haunted House in October and the Julefest Nativity Pageant in December. From June to September, the PCPA Pacific Conservatory Theatre presents professional live theater—musicals, dramas, comedies—all under the stars.

Get a list of places to go for evening entertainment here.

Outdoor Adventure

Discover Solvang's outdoor activities.

Welcome to Solvang, where the rolling green hills and radiant sunshine beckon you to embrace the outdoors. When the sun is shining, Solvang comes alive with vibrant colors and a sense of renewal, making it the perfect destination for outdoor adventures.

Immerse yourself in the sport of kings amidst Solvang's pristine golf courses, where fairways stretch into the horizon and the scent of freshly cut grass fills the air. Tee off against stunning backdrops, with rolling hills and vineyards providing the perfect backdrop for a leisurely round.

Get ready for the ultimate adventure as you cycle through the Central Coast of California. Pro-cycling, training camps, mountain biking – Solvang has it all. Explore our bike tour itineraries – from relaxed family bike tours to mid-level and strenuous rides.

From weekend trips to mid-week getaways to hiking, cycling or camping – Solvang, the only Danish community and the most unique of California's Central Coast destinations, is the place to relax and enjoy the European ambiance.

Learn more about Solvang's outdoor activities here.

Signature Events

Solvang is the place for world-famous seasonal events.

Solvang Julefest

Solvang Julefest is a month+ of lights, celebratory events, and holiday cheer, which runs Late November – Early January. Join us for lots of family fun, seasonal music, holiday shopping, culinary delights, wine & beer, and more. Skål!

Solvang Danish Days

California's premier Danish heritage festival, Solvang Danish Days, is a three-day event line-up every Fall. Please Note: If you plan to make a weekend of it, research and book your Solvang Danish Days hotel rooms as far in advance as possible.

View the full event calendar for what is happening during your visit here.

Danish tradition holds that the presence of a stork on a rooftop wards off lightning and brings good luck. Good fortune continues to smile on Solvang today. Visitors are drawn into Scandinavian culture as they stroll the flower-lined streets or step into authentic bakeries, restaurants, shops and galleries.

MARK DOLYAK

DOWNTOWN WALKING MAP

^ Wullfe Windmill
Hans Christian Andersen Park
Bethania Lutheran Church
LAUREL AVE
MAPLE AVE
ELM AVE
FIR AVE
ATTERDAG RD
ALISAL RD
PINE ST
ALAMO PINTADO RD.
Sunny Fields Park
Hospital
N
California Nature Art Museum
Danish Inn Windmill "Solvang Brew Co"
MISSION DRIVE
246
< To Highway 101 Buellton
Kronborg Windmill
4TH PL
COPENHAGEN DR
OAK STREET
5TH ST
PARK WAY
Hans Christian Andersen Bust
Solvang Park
Hans Christian Andersen Museum
Chamber of Commerce
The Big Red Clog
Blue Windmill
Solvang Founders Statue
Solvang Viking & Amber Museum
MOLLE WAY
Solvang Festival Theater
City Hall
Fire Dept.
OAK STREET
Little Mermaid Fountain
RV Parking
Public Library
Police
Veteran's Memorial Building
Old Mission Santa Ines
To Santa Ynez & Los Olivos Highway 154
246
Alisal Windmill "Paaske"
Rundetaarn "The Round Tower"
Tour Bus Parking
Post Office
ALISAL RD
3RD ST
2ND ST
1ST ST
ELVERHOY WAY
Elverhoj Museum
Solvang Vintage Motorcycle Museum
< To Nojoqui Park
Golf Course

KEY
- Solvang Visitors Center
- Parking
- Point of Interest
- Public Restrooms
- Gas Station