JEWISH COPENHAGEN

The 25th of November 1622 the danish king Christian IV (1588-1648) invited "Jews of the Portuguese Nation" to settle in Denmark. In many ways this became the beginning of 400 years of Jewish history in Denmark. The first congregations arose in the cities of Glückstadt and Altona. From here Fredericia and Copenhagen became the gateway to Denmark. A diverse Jewish life arose across the country from these cities.

In the 1660s Jewish businessmen moved from Altona to Copenhagen. Over time they established the first Jewish cemetery in the country and a synagogue. Later, more synagogues came, and Jewish life was established from the poor street vendors in the slums to the wealthy trading houses in the high end of the city.

In the 1800s the Jews in Denmark became Danish Jews with new laws on freedom of religion. The Jews became an important part of Danish trading industry and cultural life as entrepreneurs, businessmen, artists, writers, scientists, and patrons of the arts. In the 1900s new waves of Jewish immigrants came from Eastern Europe, which added more layers to the Jewish history in Denmark.

Central to the story is the escape and rescue of the Danish Jews in October 1943 during the Nazi occupation of Denmark. The Jewish life in Denmark is thriving and is still an integrated part of the Danish and Copenhagen history.

You see the history in many traces and imprints around the city. This map guides you to the hotspots which represents the different aspects of the Danish Jewish history though 400 years. It's a central but often overlooked chapter of the Danish history, that this map now invites you to explore.

JEWISH COPENHAGEN

Discover 400 years of Danish Jewish history in Copenhagen! This map guides you to the many sometimes hidden – but none the less interesting – stories around the city and takes you to buildings and statues, mansions and monuments, squares, back alleys, and old slums in Copenhagen. All together witness 400 years of Jewish history in Denmark.

JØDISK INFORMATIONS CENTER

DANSK JØDISK MUSEUM
THE DANISH JEWISH MUSEUM

DET JØDISKE SAMFUNDS I DANMARK

KØBENHAVNS KOMMUNE

ARTWORK: YELLOWLIDK

CURRENT CONGREGATIONS

1 THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE / THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN DENMARK, KRYSTALGADE 12
The current main synagogue was inaugurated in 1833. Drawn by the German-born architect G.F. Hetsch in the Late Classicist style. It replaced the former synagogue in Læderstræde, which burned to the ground in the Copenhagen fire of 1795.

2 MACHSIKE HADAS/CHABBAD HOUSE, OLE SUHRS GADE 12
The synagogue of the Orthodox congregation in Copenhagen, which was formed in 1910 due to disagreements with the previous Mosaiske Trossamfund (now The Jewish Community in Denmark), whose interpretation of Judaism had become too reform in the eyes of the Orthodox congregation.

3 SHIR HATZAFON
Shir Hatzafon is a progressive congregation. It was formed in 1998 and became an organization for progressive Jews in 2000 and since 2003 a congregation, and in 2004 an officially recognized religious community.

FORMER SYNAGOGUES

4 THE FIRST SYNAGOGUE IN COPENHAGEN, BADSTUESTRÆDE 20
In 1684, the two Jewish court jewelers Israel David and Meyer Goldschmidt were given permission to open the first synagogue in Denmark, which was set up in Goldschmidt's private home. The service was only allowed to take place in private homes and only on the second floor in rooms facing away from the street so as not to disturb the public. After a fire in 1728 the synagogue moved to Læderstræde.

5 THE MAIN SYNAGOGUE IN COPENHAGEN, LÆDERSTRÆDE 13
This synagogue was inaugurated in 1733 as a replacement for the previous synagogue in Badstuestræde. It ran as the main synagogue until the great synagogue at Krystalgade was built in 1833. Private synagogues were not uncommon in this period and several private synagogues were set up for subgroups within the Jewish minority such as the Sephardic minority. There were as many as 12 synagogues in this period.

6 THE SYNAGOGUE OF MERCHANT MOSES LEVY, LÆDERSTRÆDE 5
This synagogue was established following a conflict in the Jewish Community, in which a minority felt that the new synagogue of 1833 had become too reform in its Jewish orientation. With an eye to retaining a religiously Orthodox stance, Moses Levy established this alternative synagogue, often referred to as "The Protest Synagogue". After the rescue of the Danish Jews in 1945, the synagogue was used as a temporary stand-in for the great synagogue in Krystalgade, until it could be reinstated as the primary synagogue in Copenhagen.

7 THE OLD COMMUNITY HOUSE, NY KONGENSGADE 6
Built in 1754, this house was purchased by The Jewish Community in 1902. The building included administration offices, event spaces, a mikveh (ritual bath), a kindergarten, a library and housed several community associations for more than 100 years. In 2011 the community center moved to Krystalgade, behind the great synagogue.

8 THE REFORM PROJECT OF NATHANSON, GAMMEL STRAND 34
In 1814, the reform-minded merchant M.L. Nathanson, heavily inspired by the work of philosopher Moses Mendelsohn, invited the reform-rabbi Isak Noah Mannheimer to Denmark to lead the service. This was considered a very progressive move. Men and women sat together, the service was held in Danish and featured organ music and community singing. When the chief Rabbi of Denmark, Abraham Gedalia, realized that this setup was intended to be more than a short-term experiment, he did everything in his power to stop it. Mannheimer eventually left the country in 1823.

LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS

9 THE DANISH JEWISH MUSEUM, PROVIANTPASSAGEN 6
The Danish Jewish Museum is a state-subsidized cultural history museum. It opened in 2004 in the old building of the Danish Royal Library build on the foundations of the storage houses in the original royal naval harbor from the beginning of the seventeenth century. The unique architecture of the museum symbolizing the story of the escape of the Danish Jews to Sweden in October 1943 is designed by Daniel Libeskind who has also designed the new entrance to the museum. The museum tells the story of 400 years of Danish Jewish history from the invitation of the first Jews to Denmark by Christian IV in 1622 to the present.

10 THE HIRSCHSPRUNG COLLECTION, STOCKHOLMSGADE 20
In 1902, the Jewish tobacco merchant Heinrich Hirschprung and his wife Pauline donated their large collection of Danish art to the Danish state on the condition that the state provided a building to house and exhibit the collection. The construction of H. B. Storcks classicist building in Østre Anlæg began in 1907 and the museum opened its doors in 1911. The state-owned museum still houses Danish art from the 1800s and early 1900s.

11 THE DAVID COLLECTION, KRONPRINSESSEGADE 30
C. L. David was a Supreme Court Lawyer of Jewish descent. In 1945, David established a publicly accessible Museum exhibiting his large collection of primarily Islamic art pieces. The present-day museum is located in the same building as C. L. David's former home. The collection has significantly expanded since David's passing in 1960.

12 DESIGN MUSEUM DENMARK, BREDGADE 68
The Museum exhibits Danish and International arts and crafts and industrial design from the 20th century. From 1906-1932, the museum was led by art historian Emil Hannover, who was of Jewish descent. The museum's early collections were assembled in part as a result of Hannover's extensive network of Jewish patrons and art collectors.

13 THE ROYAL LIBRARY, SØREN KIRKEGAARDS PLADS 1
The Royal Library was founded by King Frederick III of Denmark in the 1660s. In 1906, the library moved into the building at Slotsholmen, drawn by architect Hans J. Holm. The iconic Black granite façade – colloquially called The Black Diamond – was drawn by Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects and was added in 1999. The Royal Library is the national library of Denmark and houses a large and unique collection of old Jewish books and writings.

14 THE MUSEUM OF DANISH RESISTANCE, CHURCHILLPARKEN 7
The Museum of Danish Resistance is a part of the National Museum of Denmark and tells the story of the Danish resistance to the Nazi occupation of Denmark from 1940-1945. The museum was founded by the resistance movement. The original building burned down in 2013 and a new museum opened in 2020. A significant part of the current exhibition is dedicated to the flight and rescue of the Danish Jews in October of 1943.

CEMETERIES

15 MOSAISK NORDRE CEMETERY, MØLLEGADE 12
The first burial took place in 1693 although the deed on the land was not in place until the following year. The cemetery was gradually expanded till the end of the 1800s, when Copenhagen's massive growth made further expansion impossible.

16 MOSAISK VESTRE CEMETERY, KIRKEGÅRDS ALLÉ 11
Mosaisk Vestre opened in 1895 to replace Mosaisk Nordre. Many great patrons and industrial magnates are buried at Mosaisk Vestre. This cemetery is still in use and plays a large role in Jewish religious life in Denmark today. Here, the Jewish tradition of placing small stones on the graves is observed. There are multiple explanations as to the origins of this custom, a common one being a desire not to differentiate between rich and poor. According to Jewish tradition, all are equal in death.

SCHOOLS

17 PRIVAT SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF THE JEWISH FAITH, SKINDERGADE 14
The school was founded in 1805 by M. L. Nathanson with the purpose of giving boys from less fortunate families access to education and to give them better opportunities to better integrate into Danish society and succeed outside of the narrow Jewish sphere. After World War II, the school was merged with the Jewish girls' school to become the present-day Carolineskole.

18 CAROLINESKOLEN, STRANDVEJEN 93
The school was founded in 1810 as a Jewish girls' school. After World War II, the school was merged with M. L. Nathanson's school for boys of the Mosaic faith. Today, many parents choose to send their kids to Carolineskolen to consolidate their Jewish identity.

19 BING AND KALISCHS INSTITUT FOR THE JEWISH YOUTH, SILKEGADE 10
In 1803, Heimann Jacob Bing and his brother-in-law L. J. Kalisch opened a school for Jewish boys. The school sought to provide Jewish boys with an education comparable to the Danish highschool reserved for Christian children. The founding of the school was one of several steps taken toward the so called "Freedom Letter" of 1814, in which Jews were granted rights equal to Christian Danes. From 1818, the school was led by Kalisch, and it remained open until 1840. Heimann J. Bing would go on to become one of the leading traders of books and paper in Copenhagen.

KOSHER STORES

20 SAMSON KOSHER AND ARNE KOSHER, RØRHOLMSGADE 3
Samson Kosher was founded by I. A. Samson in 1969 and was one of the main suppliers of kosher products for the Jewish community in Denmark. The term kosher refers to Jewish dietary prescriptions, among other things. Another kosher establishment, Arne Cohn's Kosher store, was located on the same street. Arne Cohn's kosher store had a kosher café, which served as a meeting point for the Jewish community.

21 DANISH KOSHER FOOD, VENDERSGADE 16
This Kosher store was one of the targets of the terrorist attacks in Copenhagen on September 22nd, 1985, where several bombs were intended for Jewish establishments. The attack had severe consequences for the store, both on a personal and an economic level.

22 GIL'S DELI, LYNGBYVEJ 85-87
The only remaining Kosher store in Copenhagen.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

23 BRØNNUMS HUS, AUGUST BOURNONVILLES PASSAGE 1
Brønnums Hus, drawn by the architect Ferdinand Wilhelm Jensen, is from 1866. Three wealthy Jewish families lived here: Hirschsprung, Henriques and Heine. The Hirschsprung and Heine families were great patrons and collectors of art. The Henriques family also supported the arts, especially music, and had close relations with the famous fairy-tale writer Hans Christian Andersen, who frequented the Henriques home. H.C. Andersen even considered moving in but declined the offer because the room didn't have with a view. The house is named after Emil Brønnum, who opened a confectionery and a café on the ground floor of the house. The Jewish families moved out in the time leading up to World War 1.

24 RUNDETAARN/TRINITATIS CHURCH, KØBMAGERGADE 52A
On November 25th, 1622, King Christian IV of Denmark invited Jews of "the Portuguese nation" to Denmark. This was the beginning of Danish Jewish history. The Jews were invited to contribute to the development of Danish trade. Rundetaarn was inaugurated in 1642. The building features a rebus developed by Christian IV himself. One of G-d's names is written in Hebrew as part of the rebus. The building has a symbolic significance for Danish Jews. It represents the role Christian IV played in laying the foundation for Danish Jewish history.

25 HOLMENS CHURCH, HOLMENS KANAL 21
Above the entrance to Holmens church, you will see an inscription of one of G-d's name in Hebrew. The church was built in 1563 by King Frederick II as an anchor smithy for the royal fleet. In 1619, King Christian IV rebuilt the smithy into a church and is another building symbolizing the connection between the Danish King and Danish Jewish history.

26 TUBORG, DESSAUS BLVD. 4
Philip W. Heyman was a Danish Jewish businessman. In collaboration with financier C. F. Tietgen, Heyman made a grand plan to develop a port and industrial complex close to Thueborg north of Copenhagen. They eventually founded the brewery Tuborg at this location. Heyman was the head of Tuborg from 1880-1893. The iconic Tuborg-bottle was constructed in 1888 and was displayed at Halmtorvet in Copenhagen. It was later permanently moved to its current location. The two subsequent directors of Tuborg after Heyman were also of Jewish descent.

MEMORIALS

27 MEMORIAL FOR THE RESCUE OF THE DANISH JEWS, ISRAELS PLADS
The monument, carved in red granite from Israel, was raised as a symbol of gratitude to the Danish rescue of the Jews during WWII. The creation of the monument was an Israeli initiative, and it was revealed on October 2nd, 1975. The monument has two inscriptions: "This stone from the Holy Land is a gift to the Danish people from Denmark's friend, Israel, in 1975" and: "And it became night, and it became morning".

28 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL, KRYSTALGADE 12
Carved in basalt from Israel by the sculptor Josef Salamon, the monument was completed in 1989. The artist's desire was to commemorate the six million Jews who were killed by the Nazis and is expressed in the inscription "… Their blood is precious in His eyes"

29 THE ARRIVAL OF THE POLISH JEWS, KALVEBOD BRYGGE
After a considerable anti-Semitic campaign in Poland in 1968, approximately 3000 Polish Jews chose to flee to Denmark in the period from 1969-1973. Denmark chose to receive the refugees, so as not to repeat the mistake of refusing German Jewish refugees in the 1930s. The monument stands in the exact place where the Hotel ship St. Lawrence was moored. St. Lawrence was the Polish Jews' first Danish home.

30 MEMORIALS FOR THE OCCUPATION, TUBORG HAVN
There are two monuments at Tuborg harbor. The first is by architect Tyge Hvass is a commemoration of those who helped rescuing others to Sweden during the Nazi occupation. The other one is the sculpture "The Foot", by Peter Brandes. One interpretation of the piece is that the Hebrew words for "foot" and "flight" are the same, and another is that the sculpture is shaped like a sail to reference the journey of the Danish Jews to Sweden.

31 THE THERESIENSTADT MONUMENT, VESTRE BEGRAVELSESPLADS
The Theresienstadt Monument at Mosaisk Vestre Cemetery is by sculptor Sigfried Wagner and was inaugurated on September 22nd, 1946. A menorah (Jewish lampstand) can be seen at the top of the monument, along with the Hebrew words shalom (peace) and yizkor (may He remember), which references the Jewish commitment to remembering the dead. The names of the Danish Jews who died in the Theresienstadt concentration camp are written on the sides of the monument.

32 MEMORIAL FOR THE POLISH JEWISH HOLOCAUST VICTIMS, VESTRE BEGRAVELSESPLADS
Crafted by the sculptor Josef Salamon in 1991. The inscription on the front reads "never again" in both Polish and Danish. The monument serves as the symbolic burial ground for the 3.5 million Polish Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust. The monument was raised by the Polish Jewish refugees in Denmark.

33 THERESIENSTADT MEMORIAL, LANGELINIE
Raised by the Theresienstadt Association for the Danish Jews who were deported from Langelinie abord the German troop transport ship to Theresienstadt concentration camp. It was inaugurated on the 65th anniversary of the deportation on October 2nd, 2008

ESTABLISHMENTS AND RETIREMENT HOMES

34 I.W. HEYMAN AND WIFE'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ESTABLISHMENT 5TH OF JULY 1871, PEDER HVIDTFELDTS STRÆDE 8
The foundation was created by I. W. Heyman and his wife Johanna in 1871. The foundation had homes for those in need, the elderly, as well as unmarried and single people. The foundation was dissolved in 1975.

35 RETIREMENT HOME MEYERS MINDE, KRYSTALGADE 12
Was founded as rent-free homes for underprivileged Jews, funded by the assets left behind by David Amsel Meyer upon his death in 1813. Was later transformed into a retirement home for the Jewish elderly, where Jewish religious customs were observed. The retirement home closed in 2007, and the residents were moved to the new Deborah Center in Østerbro.

36 OLDINS ESTABLISHMENT, SKINDERGADE 34
The house was originally known as "The House of Consolation". The foundation was formed in 1854 by Hanne Soldin, widower of the book trader Salomon Soldin, and provided housing for underprivileged and elderly widows or unmarried women.

STATUES

37 KING CHRISTIAN IV, BY NYBODER
A full-sized statue of King Christian IV was raised at Nyboder in 1900. The Jewish exchanger Isak Salomon Salomonsen initiated and financed the construction of the statue.

38 LURBLÆSERNE, BY THE CITYHALL
The Bronze statues were made by the Jewish artist Siegfried Wagner and were financed by Carlsbergfondet and Ny Carlsbergfondet. The statue was a gift for the Copenhagen Municipality in honor of the 100-year anniversary of Carlsberg founder J. C. Jacobsen's birth. According to a myth, the blowers blow their horns when a virgin passes by.

HISTORIC PEOPLE

39 THE FAMILY MELCHIOR, HØJBRO PLADS 21
Moses Marcus Melchior came to Denmark in 1760 and established the merchant house "Moses & Søn G. Melchior". The merchant house was one of the premier houses of trade in Denmark. The merchant house was passed on in generations to Moses' grandsons Moritz and Moses in 1845. Both grandsons were distinguished people in Danish politics and the business community. The family had close ties to H. C. Andersen, who often came to the home and to their country estate Rolighedens, where the famous poet spent his final days.

40 THE FAMILY ADLER, GUSTMEYERS GAARD, VED STRANDEN 14
This was the house of David Baruch Adler and his wife Jenny Adler from 1850 till 1902. David Adler was elected to the parliament and was the founder of several prominent Danish banks. One of their daughters, Hanna Adler, was one of the first women to receive the higher academic magister degree in Physics at Copenhagen University. She later founded the first school in Denmark to admit both girls and boys. Another of David and Jenny's daughters, Ellen, was the mother of the world-renowned scientists Harald and Niels Bohr, who were born in this house.

41 JOHANNE LOUISE HEIBERG, SØKVÆSTHUSETS HAVEHUS, OVERGADEN OVEN VANDET 60C
Johanne Louise Heiberg was the leading actress at The Royal Theatre in Copenhagen from the 1820s till the 1860s. She was the daughter of a German father, who had settled in Copenhagen as a wine merchant, and a Jewish mother, Henriette Pægtes. In 1831, Johanne married Johan Ludvig Heiberg, an influential theatre critic, playwright and at one point the head of The Royal Theatre. Johanne Louise Heiberg was not only one of the most celebrated actors of her time, but also an accomplished writer of books and plays, leaving behind a substantial collection of memoirs that were published posthumously. She resided with her husband at this address from 1845-1860.

"GHETTO'S"

42 BORGERGADE -ADELGADE/PILESTRÆDE - VOGNMAGERGADE - LANDEMÆRKET
43 Thousands of Eastern European Jews came to Copenhagen during the 1880s. Most were planning to travel via Denmark to the United States, but some chose to settle in Denmark. The majority of those who stayed lived in this area. In the late 1800s, the area was considered one of the worst slums in Copenhagen. Most of the Eastern European Jews were poor and uneducated, and they took up jobs as tailors, shoemakers, hatmakers, and the like. The area quickly became a parallel society with Yiddish as the main language. Eateries also reflected the new immigrant community; Café Wladivostok opened and Eastern European food was sold on the street. Although the area was never officially labelled a Jewish ghetto, it was referred to as a ghetto at the time, because the Jewish presence was visible and visibly different from the surrounding Danish society.

BUSINESS DISTRICT AND MERCHANT HOUSES

44 HØJBRO PLADS - AMAGERTORV - VED STRANDEN
Several wealthy Jewish families and merchant houses were located in the area around Amagertorv, Højbro Plads and Ved Stranden from the late 1700s until the beginning of the 1900s.

45 S. FRIEDLÆNDER PAPER COMPANY, VED STRANDEN 14
Founded in 1838 by the Jewish tradesman Sally Friedlænder, who was an apprentice at Bing & Søn paper traders. Friedlænders paper company moved between several locations in central Copenhagen, and was located in this iconic building from 1869-1903.

46 MOSES & SØN G. MELCHIOR KOLONIALHANDEL, HØJBRO PLADS 21
The company was founded in 1761 by Moses Marcus Melchior and traded in tobacco, tea, coffee, and spices. The business was successful until World War II, when the company's last owner, Harald Melchior, was forced to flee to Sweden. Moses & Søn G. Melchior closed its doors in 1973. The company was located at this address from 1855-1912.