



The Danish Jewish Museum – information for authorized guides

The Danish Jewish Museum
Proviantpassagen 6
1218 Copenhagen K
3311 2218
www.jewmus.dk

Summer

Tuesday-Sunday 10am – 5pm

Winter

Tuesday-Friday 1 - 4pm

Saturday-Sunday 12am - 5pm



Conducted tours at the Danish Jewish Museum

As an authorized guide you are invited to conduct your own tours at the Danish Jewish Museum. Please show your card from the Tourist Guide Union.

During opening hours

You are welcome to conduct tours in the museum during opening hours, but please take

into account that there may not be room for the entire groups during busy summer season days. The museum accommodates up to 70 visitors.

Outside opening hours

You can book time for group visits outside opening hours. Each participant pays 30 DKK as opposed to the normal fee of 40 DKK. There is an additional fee of 250 + 100 DKK to cover security and administration expenses. The minimum fee is 800 DKK per group, even for small groups. The museum recommends that you split up groups larger than 25 people to allow everyone to have the optimal experience of the very special rooms of the museum.

Contact the museum to book a time for your group: info@jewmus.dk, phone 3311 2218.

Some practical ideas

As an authorized guide you are granted free access to the museum to allow you to prepare for your tours. For background information, you may want to use the materials found at www.jewmus.dk/udstilling or in the exhibition booklets which may be purchased in the museum store. Each of the five booklets covers a theme in the exhibition. Price: 15 DKK each – 60 DKK per set.

Allow some time for the group to leave jackets and bags in the cloakroom.

The best place to gather the group for a longer period of time is in the middle of the museum at the small square in front of the window. Smaller groups can sit down in the museum store.

Facts about the Danish Jewish Museum

The museum is an independent institution governed by a board of directors.

The museum is supported by the municipality of Copenhagen and is in the process of applying for state approval.

Staff: 4 permanent staff members, 14 students, 12 volunteers.

Size: brutto 450 square meter, netto 300 square meter

The museum opened in June 2004

Interior by architect Daniel Libeskind

Slotsholmen has been the powerbase of the Danish kingdom for 800 years. The kings lived here and Folketinget, the Danish parliament, is situated at Slotsholmen.

Slotsholmen is home to the Royal Library, the National Archives, the Danish Defence Museum, Christiansborg Palace, the Theatre Museum and the State Apartments. Read more about Slotsholmen at www.oplevslotsholmen.dk



The architecture and the Royal Boat House

Daniel Libeskind has based his design of the museum on the unique circumstance of Danish-Jewish history that the majority of Danish Jews were saved from Nazi persecution by their Danish compatriots during the Second World War. This human involvement is symbolised in the form, structure and lighting of the museum. The emblem and concept of the museum is the Hebrew word Mitzvah, which can be translated as "obligation", "deeply felt reaction", "involvement" or "good deed". The word Mitzvah represents the generally positive Jewish experience in Denmark and the special experience of being saved, and has become part of the museum's logo.

The museum is built within a space which is already historic, and is thus placed in unique surroundings. The Royal Boat House was built at the beginning of the seventeenth century by Christian IV. When the Royal Library was built in 1906, the Royal Boat House became part of the new building, and at the end of the twentieth century the building was changed again, when the Royal Library was refurbished and the Black Diamond was built.

Now the museum is a new phase in the fascinating development of this building. The space and the change in its functions through almost half a millennium express unusual continuity, and the building's many layers reflect strikingly the many layers of Danish-Jewish history.

The exhibition

Space and Spaciousness

- ***an exhibition about Jews in Denmark*** is made up by five themes and focuses on identity and co-existence.

Arrivals: immigration history

Standpoints: identities

Traditions: passing on traditions

Promised lands: longing to be Danish, longing for distant destinations

Mitzvah: about October 1943

Every part has its own colour code that is shown as a coloured line next to all texts in the exhibition.

The museum has a small square flyer which offers an overview of the exhibition.

The titles "Arrivals" rather than "arrival" and "Standpoints" rather than "standpoint", were chosen to reflect the pluralism of Danish Jewry: a small, but multifarious minority. Danish Jews differ both in terms of family background and religious orientation. It is estimated that approximately 7000 Jews live in Denmark today.

The Danish Jews have arrived in many waves of immigration, first from Portugal through the Hanseatic towns, later from all of the German area, and in the beginning of the 1900th century in large groups from Russia and Poland. Since World War II, Jews have moved to Denmark from across the globe, especially Israel, America, and Poland. The first part of the exhibition focuses on the immigration from Germany and from Eastern Europe.



Paper cutting of a Jewish family from Randers

Since the beginning of the 1800th century, the Danish Jews have been integrated into the Danish society, but have never completely agreed on how to live a Jewish life. There are still many different opinions – and many different Danish-Jewish cultures and identities.

The theme "Standpoints" offers examples of the many ways this Danish-Jewish identity has been expressed. Patriotic Danish Jewish culture and Yiddish culture (based on the Jewish language Yiddish, spoken by the Eastern European Jews) has thrived side by side with still other Jewish cultures.

Most Danish Jews have chosen Denmark as their "Promised land" and final destination, and have strived to be fully accepted in the Danish society. The theme "Promised lands" offers examples of both the longing for success within Danish society and the bond to Israel and other distant countries through family and other connections.



Detail from a Torah binder, 1826

Within the religious sphere, although the Jews are spread all over the globe, they remain connected through the many shared traditions. Danish Jews and other Western European Jews have their own unique customs such as the "Torah binders" which are used to bind the Torah scroll. On these binders are depicted scenes from Jewish life through the 1700th and 1800th century.

Jewish religion emphasises community and remembrance, but the orientations of Danish Jews are varied even in the religious sphere. Only a very small group of the Danish Jews today lives an orthodox life. The majority see themselves as a part of Jewish culture rather than a religious community.

The largest Jewish community in Denmark is *Det Mosaiske Troessamfund* in Copenhagen. A liberal congregation, *Shir ha-Zafon, Progressive Jews in Denmark*, was recently founded. During

the 1800th century, Jewish communities existed in many of the larger towns in the Danish province, and a minority of Jews continues to live spread all over Denmark.

The last theme, Mitzvah, focuses on the fate of the Danish Jews during World War II. Only a small group were captured during the razzia in October 1943 and sent to Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia. 7000 Danish Jews and German Jewish refugees in Denmark were rescued and housed in neutral Sweden until the end of the war. Even most of the captured returned from Theresienstadt, making the holocaust experience of Danish Jewry into an outstanding exception.



The collection of the Museum includes

- paintings, drawings, prints and photos
- silverware and textiles
- books, papers, scrapbooks, post carts, theatre programs, memories and letters
- film, video, sound recordings, records

Online access to the collection will be available in the future.