

6



HERCULES AND THE LION

Frederik IV bought Baratta's sculpture of Hercules and the Lion during his sojourn in Italy in 1708-09. Hercules is the Roman name for the Greek mythological hero

Heracles. In a fit of madness he killed his three children. The Oracle at Delphi told him to kill the Nemean lion in order to atone for his atrocity. One version of the myth says that Hercules killed the lion with his bare hands. The Hercules sculpture in King's Gardens portrays this situation. The sculpture in the gardens is a newly carved sculpture from 2006.

7

THE HERBACEOUS BORDER

The herbaceous border is English-inspired and became part of the gardens at the beginning of the 20th century. Since then the border has been enlarged. Today it is said to be the longest herbaceous border in northern Europe at 250 metres. There are around 200 different plants in the border, which changes as the year progresses.

8



THE PLAYGROUND

The playground was built following a competition run by the Palaces and Properties Agency and the Danish Arts Foundation in 1997. Several of the garden's

old elm trees were used as timber for the apparatus. In this popular playground, children can encounter dragons and dragon's eggs or chase around among the hanging bridges and arbours.

9

PUPPET THEATRE

In the summer months you can watch free puppet shows in one of the garden pavilions.

10



THE CROCUS LAWN

In the early spring a carpet of mauve and white crocuses blooms. The characteristic marble balls have adorned the gardens since 1674.

11

KRUMSPRINGET

Old garden plans from the 1600s show a feature comprising lots of narrow pathways in a symmetrical pattern. This came to be known as Krumspringet from the Danish word for "dodge" – visitors could dodge between each other using the various paths. A new and smaller Krumspringet was established in 2001.

FROM ROYAL TO PUBLIC PLEASURE GARDENS

KING'S GARDENS have been open to the public since the 1770s and today they are a popular retreat and attraction for many Copenhageners and tourists. Every year the gardens are visited by about three million people and are the venue for numerous special occasions from private picnics to organised and public events.

The gardens date back to 1606, when the garden-loving Christian IV purchased a plot of land outside Copenhagen's north-eastern ramparts. Here he built what was later to become known as Rosenborg Castle and also established a garden. The garden was intended to provide the Royal Household with fruit and vegetables and serve as a pleasure garden for the king. The garden became the venue for e.g. tilting at the ring performed for the entertainment of the king and his guests.

TODAY green lawns have replaced the orchards and beds of plants. The paths are roughly in the same place that Christian IV placed them, but otherwise there is not much left of the original garden. However, the old garden still serves as a pleasure garden for everyone who visits. Modern interpretations of a number of Renaissance elements have been added to the garden in recent years.

OPENING HOURS

King's Gardens are open every day all year round. The gardens open at 7 a.m. and close between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. depending on the time of year.

KING'S GARDENS ON THE WEB

Further details about King's Gardens – and several other Danish castles and gardens – are available at the website of the Danish Palaces and Properties Agency. The site also has an interactive version of the map in this pamphlet. Go to:

WWW.SES.DK/KINGSGARDENS



Finansministeriet
Slots- og
Ejendomsstyrelsen

Løngangstræde 21
1468 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Tel. +45 33 92 63 00

DISCOVER KING'S GARDENS



PHOTOS: TORBEN ESKEROD AND THOMAS RAHBEK / PRINTER SALOPRINT ORIGINAL DESIGN KONTRAPUNKT © COPYRIGHT PALACES AND PROPERTIES AGENCY 2007

FROM ROYAL TO PUBLIC
PLEASURE GARDENS

- 1 ROSENBORG CASTLE
- 2 THE PLEASURE GARDEN
- 3 THE GREEN BRIDGE
- 4 THE ROSE GARDEN
- 5 THE HERCULES PAVILION
- 6 HERCULES AND THE LION
- 7 THE HERBACEOUS BORDER
- 8 THE PLAYGROUND
- 9 PUPPET THEATRE
- 10 THE CROCUS LAWN
- 11 KRUMSPRINGET

-  ENTRANCE
-  RESTAURANT
-  TOILETS
-  HANDICAP TOILET



1 ROSENBORG CASTLE



Rosenborg Castle was originally built by Christian IV as a country summerhouse, but up to 1624 it was developed into the Dutch Renaissance castle that we know today. The castle houses the Royal Danish Collections of interiors, portraits, handicrafts and not least the crown jewels.

2 THE PLEASURE GARDEN



Christian IV established a small pleasure garden on the island at Rosenborg Castle. This garden was recreated in 2006 around the traces of the original. The term “pleasure garden” suggests that the garden primarily consisted of ornamental plants. Various historical sources give an outline of how it may have looked. Christian IV’s botanist collected exotic plants from all over Europe. In the 1600s these plants were rare and in order to emphasise them they were allowed to stand alone. This policy has been retained in the restoration.

3 THE GREEN BRIDGE



As in Christian IV’s time, the Green Bridge connects the gardens and the island. When the castle is open you can follow in the king’s footsteps across the bridge. In his time the king used the bridge when he wanted to take a walk in the garden either on his own or with guests.

4 THE ROSE GARDEN

The Rose Garden was planted in the 1960s. The beautiful, characteristic star patterns in the beds and in the paving were inspired by popular Renaissance patterns.

5 THE HERCULES PAVILION



As well as establishing the gardens, Christian IV built the Blue Arbour. Later on Christian V fitted out the Blue Arbour as a secluded abode where the table was laid on the storey below and raised up through a hatch in the floor so that the Royal Family could eat without the servants being present. In 1773 the abode was converted into a home for the sculpture of Hercules and the Lion and the Blue Arbour is known today as the Hercules Pavilion. Today the pavilion houses a café with outdoor seating.