

# ABSOLUTELY Mama

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**“Our first stop was  
the Lego House, an  
epic shrine to the  
humble plastic brick”**

The kids at the Lego House



Family friendly Denmark

# Off to **LEGOLAND**

Why Billund, Europe’s Capital of  
Children, makes the perfect mini-break

Words **ZOEY GOTO**





Legoland, Billund

As the birthplace of Lego, Billund has fun in its DNA. Zoey Goto took her children, aged 3 and 9, to find out why this Danish town is known as Europe's most family friendly destination...

Ask a child to dream up their ideal town and it would probably look a lot like Billund. In fact, that's exactly what happened, when the city planners consulted children on how to create Europe's Capital of Children – the kind of town where learning through play is the mission of the day, everyday.

This child-centric ethos is apparent from the moment you step off the plane at Billund airport, a refreshingly brisk 90-minute flight from London. Most of the town's star attractions – Legoland, the Lego Hotel, Lalandia holiday park

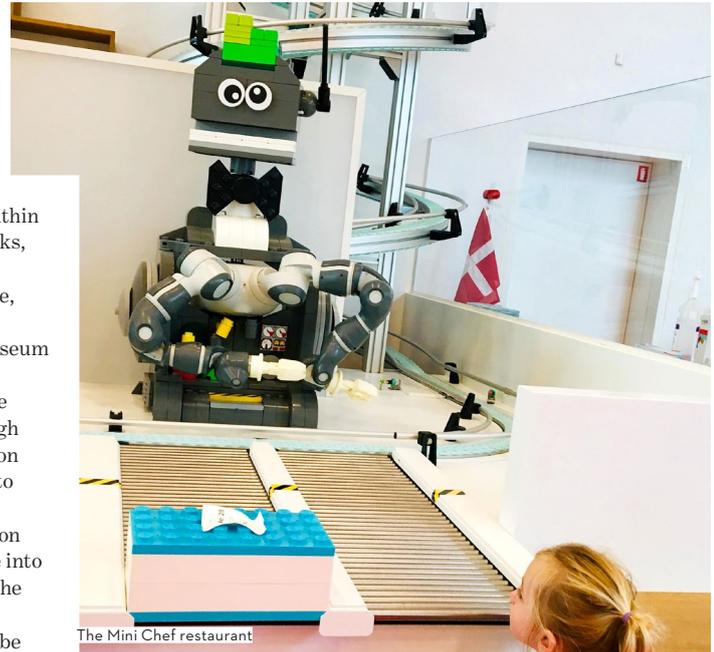
and the Lego House museum are within a condensed area of a couple of blocks, making it super easy to navigate.

Our first stop was the Lego House, an epic shrine to the humble plastic brick. This beautifully designed museum has been structured to look like a stack of Lego bricks, with a 15 metre high Lego tree growing right through the centre. Inside there are 25 million Lego bricks to play with, divided into six colourful interactive zones. We tried our hand at making stop-motion movies, created Lego fish to release into a digital aquarium and ran wild at the Insta-worthy rooftop playgrounds.

Our Lego House highlight has to be the brilliant onsite Mini Chef restaurant, where we were served lunch by Robert and Roberta, the resident Lego robots. The kids found the tech-novelty wildly entertaining, the food was delicious and finishing off our meatballs and mash, we collectively decided that Mini Chef was probably the most fun family meal we had eaten to date! Admittedly, I may have arrived at the Lego House slightly sceptical – having not given Lego much thought beyond trying not to step on it – but I left that afternoon a total card-carrying AFOL (Adult Fan of Lego).

That evening we bedded down at the Lalandia holiday park, in a spacious wooden cabin complete with its own jacuzzi and sauna, surrounded by trees and birdsong. Lalandia's big draw is that it boasts Scandinavia's largest waterpark, a tropical climate aquadome filled with excitable kids whizzing down water slides. Not quite brave enough to attempt the lightning fast Turbo Racer slide, I ducked out and found serenity in Lalandia's field of adorable miniature goats.

Although Billund boasts plenty of child-focused attractions, we decided to factor in a couple of days of local



The Mini Chef restaurant

exploration. A 20 minute drive from Billund's centre, Givskud Zoo is a safari park where you can spot lions, rhinos and giraffes from the comfort of your car, which works particularly well for young children unable to trek long distances. Our Be Happy pass (see over the page) allowed our kids to join a complementary zookeeper session, where they fed the mighty water buffalos their lunch.

An hour from Billund, Ribe is Denmark's oldest town and worth visiting for its picturesque labyrinth of cobbled side streets and historical architecture. Just outside the town you'll find the Ribe VikingCenter, a huge outdoor reenactment village. Viking-wear is wholeheartedly encouraged (we must have missed the memo) and the site is teeming with families brushing up



The Lego House waterfall



Givskud Zoo





Wow Park

on the ancient arts of archery, warrior training and coin making. As luck would have it, our eldest had recently learnt about the Vikings at school, so it was a timely way to bring history to life.

We also headed over to Frederica, a fjord on the East Coast famous for its whale safari expeditions. When I heard that children were allowed to steer the antique boat, I'd assumed it would be a token effort. But in keeping with the Danish philosophy of giving children freedom and responsibility, my eldest was soon learning the difference between port and starboard, whilst navigating the 87-ton fishing boat through the scenic harbour! This section of waters in Lillebælt is home to the world's largest concentration of porpoises, and the keen-eyed



Ribe town

## “It was a gorgeous example of how well Denmark understands the importance of play”

skipper helped us to spot eight whales during our maritime outing.

Back safely on dry land, our final days were spent enjoying Billund's many attractions, including the original Legoland theme park, a more spacious and relaxed alternative to our UK version. In keeping with the Lego theme, we spent a couple of nights at the Lego Hotel. It was absolute kid-utopia and our children adored their adventure themed room, plus the Lego-tastic play areas.

Our farewell adventure was to the newly opened Wow Park on the outskirts of Billund. This huge amusement park doesn't have a ride in sight. Instead, it's all about nature, with aerial tree houses hidden deep in the woodland, streams to splash in and campfires to melt s'mores over as dusk falls. It was a gorgeous example of how well Denmark understands the importance of play, and we left that evening with little doubt as to why the Danes are the happiest nation on earth. 🇩🇰



Legoland, Billund

### BILLUND NEED TO KNOW:

Book into the 4\* Lego Hotel and you'll receive a complimentary Be Happy Pass, giving access to lots of free merch and activities across Billund's top attractions. Rooms from £185 per night based on 4 people sharing a pirate room, me hearties!

### HOW TO GET THERE:

Both British Airways (from £40 per person each way) and Ryanair (from £20 per person each way) have direct daily flights between London and Billund.

For further information on fabulous Danish family holidays see:

📍 [visitdenmark.com](http://visitdenmark.com)