



Photo: Mikkel Lind Juhl



Photo: Kim Hansen



The town of Tranevær is a unique castle town that can only be compared to the royal castle towns in North Zealand or the ducal towns in South Jutland. The name Tranevær dates back to 1231 (Tranækyær). "Trane" meaning crane bird and "vær" meaning pond - 'the pond with the cranes'.

Find inspiration for more experiences and places to eat and stay at [govisitlangeland.com/tranevaer](https://www.govisitlangeland.com/tranevaer)

Text: VisitLangeland, North Langeland Local History Archive and Peter Dragsbo, Langeland Conservation Society





Photo: Geopark Det Sydfynske Øhav

The castle town for all ~ together



Kort: OpenStreetMap



Foto: Colourbox

The great outdoors around Tranevær

The landscape around Tranevær is considered one of the most beautiful on the island. The castle is surrounded by forests, natural hedges and marshland. The castle park contains an important collection of rare trees and the artificial lake Borgsø attracts a rich bird life all year round.

South of the city is Flådet, a 90-hectare meadow grazed by wild horses. The area is a favourite spot for many bird species, including breeding lapwings and ducks, and is also visited by cranes during their spring migration.

The area around Tranevær offers many hiking trails through fields and forests, giving you plenty of opportunities to experience the hilly landscape.



Visit www.govisitlangeland.com/area to discover more of Langeland's villages.

35 Flådet Around 10,000 years ago, the area was inhabited by some of the first people in the area. Flådet was then an islet in a large bog with access to the sea on both sides of the island. During excavations in 1973, Langelands Museum found more than 26,000 pieces of flint and traces of a hut that had been used as a settlement for several summers in an area measuring approx. 15 x 15 metres.

36 The Generals Oak in Ravnebjerg Forest is a beautiful old oak at the top of Skinderløkke Banke, one of Langeland's more than 1,000 hat-shaped hills created during the last Ice Age. At 41 metres, this hat hill is the highest point in North Langeland.

The ice cellar hat hill (Iskælderbanke) is - as the name suggests - a former ice cellar belonging to Tranevær Castle. During winter ice was cut from Borgsø and placed into the stone well. Above the well was a hoist that was used to load goods into the primitive refrigerator built into the hat hill.

38 Tranevær Castle's Mill was built in 1846 and is now a museum, including the history of wind power. Website: [slotsmoelle.dk](https://www.slotsmoelle.dk)



Photo: Jonas Legarth



Photo: Morten Caustad

43 Strandby was once an active fishing village with several fishing families. At the last house on Strandvej there is a memorial stone commemorating two events during the Swedish War (1659). At this time, Langeland had an effective defence to prevent the Swedes from taking the island, including Strandby Redoubt (not preserved).

44 Before the hurricane in 1967, **Stengade forest** was a large uniform beech forest. Now there are several different species of trees and a beautiful beech woodland by the coast. In the forest you can see **Stengade Redoubt** built during the English wars, **Oehlschlæger's Beech** where our national anthem may have been written and the beautiful **Stengade Beach**.

45 The tobacco barn is one of the few remaining drying barns from the Second World War. Many farmers on Langeland started growing tobacco when Danish tobacco prices were favourable. Imports of Virginia tobacco from the USA had been stopped during the war, so tobacco was grown in several places in Denmark instead. Tobacco production continued for some years after the war.



Photo: Jens Loft

46 The **double passage grave in Tvede Forest** (Neolithic period) is one of the few preserved double passage graves in Denmark.

47 Tranevær Lighthouse was built in 1897 and is an important landmark on the coast. Today it is a private residence.

48 Botofte Forest marsh (Skovmose) was originally part of the sailing passage to Tranevær. The area was drained by dikes, drainage and pumping around 1943. In 2010, pumping was stopped and a landfill in the centre of the area was closed. Now a beautiful wetland has been recreated and is home to a variety of bird species.

49 Østrig The beach is at the end of Botofte Strandvej, with a parking lot with toilets. The beach is situated in beautiful natural surroundings with green open landscape north and south of the beach.

Listen to more of Tranevær's exciting stories and find audio walks at www.govisitlangeland.com/audio



Photo: Jeppe Jørgensen

1 Tranevær Castle stands majestically on a 20-metre high bank, where King Valdemar the Great (1131-1182) built a defensive system with a moat and drawbridge. It was possible to sail to the castle from either the east or the west, and it was also necessary to pass the castle when travelling from north to south on Langeland.

During Valdemar Atterdag's attempt to unite Denmark in the 1350s, Tranevær Castle was under siege for two weeks until the second attempt to take the castle from the dukes of Schleswig was successful. Since then, the impressive bulwark was as part of the defence of southern Denmark until the 1650s, when Tranevær Castle was destroyed during the Swedish Wars.

Shortly afterwards, in 1672, the ruined castle was given as a wedding dowry to the young Margrethe Dorothea Rantzau and Frederik Ahlefeldt. The castle later became part of the County of Langeland, which owned most of Langeland and Strynø.

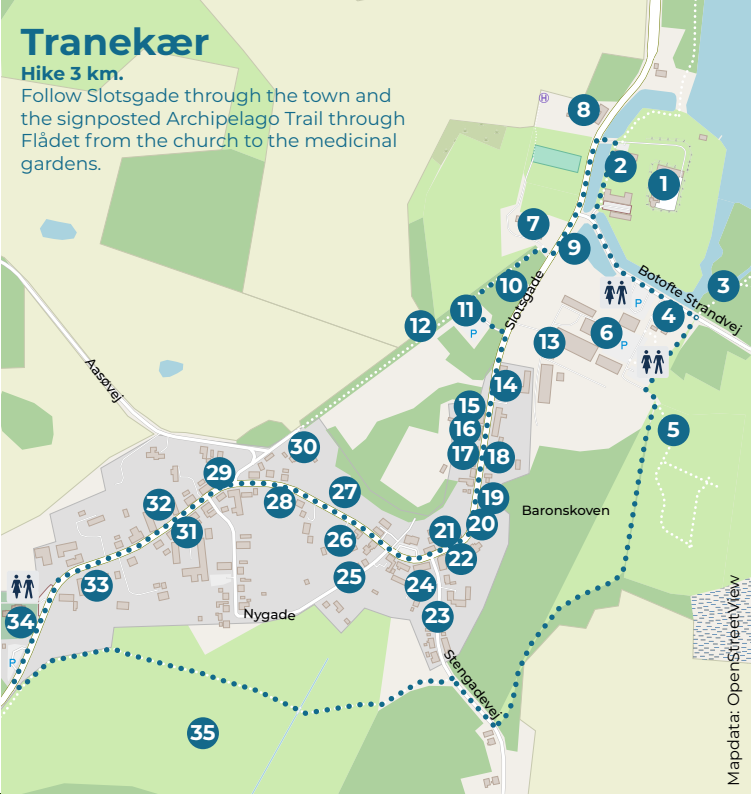
The General Frederik Ahlefeldt-Laurvig (1760-1832) was a man with great ambitions for the entire island. He reformed the school system on Langeland and improved education by introducing health education, which only became compulsory in the 1930s. The General brought more doctors to the island, organised the health service and personally oversaw a major smallpox vaccination programme.

2 The two buildings below the castle are located around a courtyard, formerly a riding arena. The Manor Stable with its magnificent interior to the south was originally built around 1760 and remodelled several times and is now used as a restaurant. At the same time, the so-called 'Theatre Building' was built to the north.

Tranevær

Hike 3 km.

Follow Slotsgade through the town and the signposted Archipelago Trail through Flådet from the church to the medicinal gardens.



8 Apiary Visitor Centre, Slotsgade 95 Originally this was a water mill with the castle's laundry on the lower floor. The half-timbered house was built in 1750 and housed the estate's hunting dogs. The Apiary has an exhibition and a beautiful garden.

9 "Lygten", Slotsgade 80 is a small half-timbered house in Rococo style, built by the General as a guest house for foreign servants. It was later used as a residence for the castle's functionaries.

10 The castle office, Slotsgade 91 was built in 1890 and designed by August Klein. In 2023, the building won the Langeland Municipality Building and Construction Award for its beautiful renovation.

11 Galaksen Artwork, consisting of 28 large stones, created by Langeland artist Jan Axel Starup, was inaugurated by Queen Margrethe II in 1985. The green area to the south of the artwork is the Tranevær School's former sports field.

12 The Lamb Garden The linden avenue from Slotsgade to Aasøvej was laid out by the General's grandfather, Frederik Ahlefeldt. The Count's family wanted a safe route to the church that avoided the smallpox-infested town, and so built the avenue to avoid close contact with the locals. The count also forbade the townspeople to enter the church for the duration of the epidemic, but the count struck up a conversation with a child playing in the alley. It turned out that the child came from a family that had been affected by smallpox, and the next day Count Frederik had smallpox and died shortly afterwards (1773). The avenue is called Lamb Garden because of the sheep from the Castle used to graze here. At each end you can see the stone supports from the sheep gates.



Photo: Mikkel Lind Juhl

13 The Sugar Factory, Slotsgade 79 Behind the original entrance to Ladegården (see 6) is a long red building built in 1804 and 1811. The English wars had led to a shortage of sugar and the General decided, with royal permission, to produce beet sugar. Despite many costly experiments, it was only possible to produce syrup, not crystallised sugar. The sugar production was therefore switched to brewing beer and spirits. The building was later converted into a residence for the estate's inspector and manager. It is now used for accommodation, courses and retreats.

14 The Innkeeper's farm, Slotsgade 74 In the 1700s there was an inn/pub called "Slukefter" on the border between Tranevær and Bøstrup parish. The General closed the place and built the present inn in 1802, which was granted a royal licence as an inn and tavern the following year. During the first half of the 19th century the inn served as a post office until Tranevær got its own post office in the 1870s.

15 The Table Setter's House, Slotsgade 89 was originally located at the city entrance, but was moved here around 1840. At the time, the house consisted of two apartments, with Schultz (responsible for setting the table at the castle) living at the southern end.

16 The potter's house, Slotsgade 87 At the General's request, the Rosenvind family ran a pottery company.

17 Pico, Slotsgade 85 This was the home of the Italian bricklayer family Pico, who were brought to Tranevær to lay terrazzo for the General in the castle. The Pico family still lives on Langeland.

18 Musician's houses, Slotsgade 62-64-66 originally stood in Kerteminde, but was moved here by the General. The General brought a large number of musicians to Tranevær, including Phanty's German band, some of whose musicians were housed here.

19 The baker's stairs and the Baron hills Between Slotsgade 58 and 62, the stone steps lead up to a small forest where a bakery used to be. After the bakery closed, the area was used for open-air theatre, Constitution Day celebrations and lectures.

20 Kruhøffer and the vet's house, Slotsgade 58 was inhabited in the years 1849-54 by the forester Ernst Wilhelm Kruhøffer, son of Wilhelm Kruhøffer, who was brought to Tranevær Castle from Germany in 1804 at the age of 25 to manage the forests. The house was later used as a veterinarian's residence until around 1918.

21 Goltermann house, Slotsgade 73-77 The saddler Maximilian Adam Goltermann was called to Tranevær from Hanover in 1813. After him, his son, grandson and great-grandson worked as saddlers in the same workshop at number 75. Next door lived the Holstein instrument maker Weesch, who supplied instruments to the castle musicians.

22 The corner house Slotsgade 54 was used for shops and was built in 1918 after a design by estate administrator Bang. Slotsgade 56 was a veterinarian's residence, built in 1918 also a design by Bang.

23 The craftsmen's houses on Stengadevej housed a smithy and a rope factory. The castle preferred to buy their goods locally.

3 TICKON in the castle park



Photo: Jeppe Broch

24 The secondary school, Slotsgade 52 was built as the Tranevær Reading Association in 1885-86 by August Klein. From 1896-1921 the estate ran the school, which was extended in 1900 with a gymnasium (now a residence).

25 Nygade (New Street) was built around the turn of the century by 'Old Count Christian' and Countess Hanne Ahlefeldt-Laurvig, whose crowned monograms can be seen on several of the houses.

26 Tranevær post office, Slotsgade 40 was built around 1860 and was a post office until 1955.

27 Slotsgade 65 is a former doctor's house from the 1850s, which later became the home of the poet Frank Jæger from 1954-69.

28 The Hunters Farmhouse, Slotsgade 34 was built for the hunter Peter Nielsen, the personal servant of Count Knot (see 7). Nielsen travelled with the Count to Paris, where the count was to undergo surgery for the knot on his neck that gave him his nickname. The operation was unsuccessful and the count died in Nielsen's arms. The Count's body was brought back to Langeland and he is buried in Tranevær Church.

29 Count Knot house, Slotsgade 57 survived the fire of 1875. After the General's death, Count Knot lived here while he considered whether to accept the inheritance and debts of his indebted uncle.

30 Asylum for children, Åsøvej 2 was designed in Swiss style by garden architect Henry August Flindt and built in 1868. Åsøvej 4 next door is the former hunter's house, built in authentic Swiss style.

31 The old school, Slotsgade 20-22 is a classicist building designed by Anders Kirkerup and built in 1800 by the General as part of his efforts to expand the school system on Langeland. The school was extended in 1952, but was closed 10 years later and converted into a town hall for Tranevær Municipality, which was abolished when the municipalities merged in 2007.

32 The forester's residence, Slotsgade 45 the main house was built in 1909 as a residence for the then forester Holger Hansen, while the two wings were built in 1875 after the fire.

33 Sundgården, Slotsgade 10 was built after the fire in 1875 as a new vicarage. It was later converted into a retirement home.

The great fire of 19 May 1875 destroyed all the thatched houses in the southern part of Tranevær. The fire started in the vicarage at around 2am and within two hours half the town (more than 30 houses) had burned down. Provost Graae was rescued from the burning vicarage, but was so badly injured that he died two days later. His grave can be seen in the cemetery. August Klein designed the new houses in yellow stone with 'Swiss roofs'. They were quickly ready for the homeless families to move into.

34 Tranevær Church, Slotsgade 25 is - although you can't see it - an old medieval church from 1450, which was rebuilt by the General in 1804 in a kind of Roman style (probably designed by the General himself). In 1886 it was rebuilt in the late Gothic style by the castle's favourite architect, August Klein. Inside the church, which belonged to the castle until 1942, you will find the burial chapels, the neo-Romanesque pulpit, the altarpiece from 1847 and the wooden baptismal font. Tranevær cemetery lies high behind the church, surrounded by almost 300-y.o. lime trees. Many members of the Ahlefeldt family are buried here, as well as workers from the castle.



Slotsgade

Photo: Visit Langeland

3 The castle park east of the castle is home to **TICKON** - Tranevær International Centre for Art and Nature. All year round you can take a walk in the beautiful park and experience international artists' organic Land-art, where art and nature co-exist.

4 The Chicken coop, Botofte Strandvej 4 The octagonal house was built in 1869 as the castle's chicken coop. The original chicken statues on the wall corners facing the street are a evidence of the building's former residents, which also included geese and swans.

5 The Medicine Gardens, Botofte Strandvej 2A is Scandinavia's largest botanical-medicinal park with more than 800 different medicinal plants. The gardens are tended by volunteers. Open all year.

6 Tranevær Ladegård was the centre of the estate's large-scale agriculture. The General established his own dairy and the butter produced was considered to be the best in the kingdom. He also conducted many agricultural experiments, such as planting beets or potatoes instead of leaving fields fallow.

7 The Castle's garden centre, Slotsgade 93 was built as a nursery and is the only house built by Christian Johan Frederik Ahlefeldt -Laurvig (1789-1856), also known as **Count Knot** after a knot on the count's neck. The countess spent most of her time at a manor house on Funen, leaving Count Knot to amuse himself with maids and other women at home on Langeland. He claimed to have had more than 90 children. Only 35 were recorded in the church books. Count Knot was known to take good care of the children's mothers and didn't take it too seriously if he was the biological father, as it could have been someone else who got into trouble.



Galaksen

Photo: Jeppe Broch