



Conference & Visitors Bureau

NEWS

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SOLVANG: A SHOPPER'S PARADISE From Danish Imports to Antiques, Apparel & Beyond

Solvang, California, USA - Flowering boxes overflow with vibrant annuals, quaint courtyards with windmills turning in the breeze and Danish-clad shopkeepers blend together to create memorable experiences in 150 one-of-a-kind shops in Solvang—Santa Barbara County's "Danish Capital of America". With year-round temperate weather, this charming pedestrian-friendly Danish village of 2.2 square miles boasts a bevy of shops with elegant antiques and collectibles, beautifully crafted Danish imports, vibrant arts & crafts, and colorful furnishings. Here are some of the unique shopping experiences in Solvang, for more: www.SolvangUSA.com

"A" for Antiques

Topping the "A" list is the museum-like **Solvang Antique Center** on two levels, offering more than 65 specialized galleries with treasures from around the world and hard-to-find collector's items. This antique palace displays a kaleidoscope of unique European carved furniture, estate jewelry, music boxes, grandfather clocks and 19th century American tools, scales and handsome timepieces.

A Bevy of Books and Gallons of Gifts

Boasting the largest selection of Hans Christian Andersen titles anywhere, the **Book Loft** sells the legendary storytellers fairytales, biographies, and books about the author's amazing paper cuttings. Mobiles of Andersen's favorite subjects (harlequins, balloons and ballerinas) are gracefully hung from the ceiling and intricate scenes from prominent fairytales adorn the covers of greeting cards, sticker postcards and T-shirts.

Solvang's 40-year-old **Jule Hus**, an all-year Christmas store on Mission Drive, showcases thousands of glass-blown decorative ornaments from Germany, Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic. It also offers a wide selection of whimsical Annalee felt dolls from New Hampshire, five different types of Austrian and German nutcrackers and artistically-carved wooden nativity sets.

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Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau, 1511-A Mission Drive, Box 70, Solvang, CA 93464
TEL: 805-688-6144 FAX: 805-688-8620 TOLL-FREE: 1-800-468-6765 www.SolvangUSA.com

With more than 5,000 square feet, **Rasmussen's**, Solvang's exceptional gift emporium, is packed with Scandinavian and European imports. Here shoppers find Illardo porcelain figurines from Spain, Danish kitchenware, the ever-popular Aebleskiver pan and Floral Danica, a line of flowers dipped in 24-karat gold.

The **Royal Copenhagen Shop** displays an extensive collection of Royal Copenhagen-patterned dinnerware and Danish Christmas plates. **The Home Collection** houses a handsome array of Polish pottery, Tiffany lamps and Simply Amish furniture.

The award-winning **Mole Hole** on Mission Drive places collectibles on a pedestal, including Christopher Radko hand-blown Christmas ornaments, New England's "We Forest Folk" miniature porcelain mice, Giuseppe Armani's whimsical women, children and animal figurines plus a new "Pamper Me" boutique.

Thumbelina Needlework weaves together a unique selection of Eva Rosenstand landscape and floral cross-stitch kits, imported needlepoint canvases and five counted cross-stitch designs of Hans Christian Andersen fairytales. **Gerda's Iron Art Gift Shop** on uptown Copenhagen Drive carries an exquisite selection of imported lace curtains and tablecloths plus wrought-iron items made in the old-fashioned Danish way.

Apparel Abounds

From fashionable carry-on luggage to cool leather jackets, **First Street Leather** sports an array of items from Brighton wallets, purses and briefcases to Paula Lishman Knitted Furs. If the shoe fits, **Solvang Shoe Store** has been selling it for more than 40 years. The Dansko line, the store's most popular seller, features cork soled clogs in blue and white, the company's popular rubber soled "Sonja," and "Professional" leather clogs. An oversized red clog greets shoppers at the entrance—a traditional photo op for generations. **Elna's of Solvang** creates and ships handmade Danish costumes and hand-knit children's sweaters worldwide.

More One-of-a-Kind Finds

Family Coat of Arms links visitors to their heritage and family name history with 8" x 10" four-color coats of arms print outs and 11" x 14" family name histories, hand-sewn embroideries and hand-painted bronze plaques adorned with the family's coat of arms. Home to thousands of custom knives, **Nordic Knives** has cutlery to fit every profession from hunting to fishing to kitchen and sewing. This unique shop also has collectibles such as Franklin Mints cars, Budweiser Clydesdale figurines and imported beer mugs. **Shope of 1000 Quilts** on Mission Drive houses the largest selection of hand-quilted quilts in California. Their sister store, **Quilts Galore and More** and **Noddington Place** on Copenhagen Drive has quilts... plus place mats, table runners, vests, quilted bears, collectible Victorian dolls and other decorative items, some from antique quilts.

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Galloping Gourmet

Ingeborg Larsen, who opened her tiny chocolate shop in 1961, first brought **Ingeborg's** traditional Danish chocolate recipes to Solvang. Today, more than 70 different sumptuous treats entice even the most discriminating chocolate lovers.

More than 40 kinds of locally-grown stuffed, pitted and gourmet olives and eight different kinds of olive oils line the shelves of the **Olive House** on Mission Drive. Other gourmet items to ship home or overseas include tomato chutney, crushed garlic and spicy wine marinade sauce.

House of Honeywood offers not only handcrafted premium local wines but also feature over thirty different fruit and sweet wines, specialty foods and gifts.

Souvenirs & Toys

More than 400 designs of intricately cut mobiles, Danish dolls and hand-painted ceramic self-watering cachepots can be found at **Gaveaesken** ("Gift Box"). Another favorite shop among visitors is the **Old Mission Gift Shop** at the Old Mission Santa Inés. This Catholic gift store sells a full line of crucifixes, St. Christopher medals and California history books. Rosaries range in price from 39 cents to \$600.

Solvang Toyland is the oldest toy store of five in Solvang and the perfect place to find just the right gifts or souvenirs for kids of any age. Check out Madam Alexander dolls, Matchbox cars, Legos, games, puzzles, die-cast model cars and planes, finger skateboards and much more.

About Solvang

Nestled in the heart of Santa Barbara's wine country with the Santa Ynez Mountains as a backdrop, Solvang is 15 miles north of the Pacific Ocean, 132 miles north of Los Angeles and 297 miles south of San Francisco. Visitors can arrive via scenic US Highway 101 or State Highway 154, Amtrak train to motor coach, shuttle service or via air at Santa Barbara Airport (SBA), Santa Ynez Airport (IZA) or Santa Maria Airport (SMX).

For travel accommodation information or a free copy of the official *Solvang & the Santa Ynez Valley Visitors Guide*, the public can contact the Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau at (800) 468-6765, (805) 688-6144; fax (805)688-8620. Visitor information is also available at the Visitor Information Center located at 1639 Copenhagen in the heart of the city, via www.SolvangUSA.com or by e-mail at: info@SolvangUSA.com

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The Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau promotes the culture, cuisine, shopping, arts and attractions of the village known as the "Danish Capital of America," centrally located in Santa Barbara County, California.

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