

Attractions

Molde, the town of jazz and roses!

Molde achieved official town status in 1742. During the 17th - and 18th century, the city's main industries were boat building, factorymade clothing business, trade and tourism. The city fire in 1916 and extensive bombing during World War II caused the destruction of the old, idyllic wooden buildings. That explains the prevalence of simple, clean-cut and functional post-war architecture in some parts of the town. Today, Molde has 25.000 inhabitants, and is the administrative centre and Episcopal residence of the county of Møre og Romsdal, in addition to being an active educational-, trading- and touristic city. The area to the north of Molde, Moldemarka, has several marked hiking trails and skiing tracks, an important source of recreation to the inhabitants and visitors of the city. Less than 10 minutes by car from the city centre, you will find Tusten Alpine Centre and the 9-hole course of Molde Golf Club.

The Romsdal Museum

One of Norway's largest and most comprehensive folk museums, established in 1912. Almost 50 old buildings originating from all over the region have been moved here to form a typical cluster of farm buildings including "open hearth" houses, sheds, outhouses, smokehouses and a small chapel. The "town street" with Mali's Café shows typical Molde town houses from the pre-war period. Folk dancing displays by the children's folk dance society in connection with 40-50 cruise ship visits every summer. During the Molde International Jazz Festival, the Romsdal Museum is used as the open-air stage for the big outdoor concerts. At Holmarka the museum has a stable, which is home to the museum's horses, pigs, hens, sheep and rabbits.

The villa "Chateauet" in Neo-Baroque style, was completed in 1918. It was Oscar Hanssen (1881-1943), consultant and owner of Confectionsfabriken (later Superb), who was the builder. The house was designed by architect Carl Johannesen Moe, while the garden in the



Rosepiken/The Rose Maiden



Romsdalsmuseet/The Romsdal museum

period 1918-1920 was established by Norway's first gardener, Marius Røhme, also city gardener in Oslo. The house is recreated in the style from 1935 when it was restored for a royal visit. The garden is recreated as the original garden, and was originally one of the first gardens in the new formal garden style that was created in England in 1890-century.

2 The Fisheries museum

The Fisheries Museum is in the form of a small fishing village with old houses, fishermen's shacks, cod-liver oil factory, engineering workshop and schoolroom. It portrays local coastal culture, working life and living conditions from around 1850. Large collection of boats and maritime equipment. Hjertøya is a great recreational area where you can hire rowing boats, fish or swim in the sea. In the summer there are regular departures from the quay by the market square in Molde.

3 Varden – the Molde Panorama

From the Varden viewpoint (407 metres above sea level) there is a good view of the town of Molde, the fjord and islands and the famous Molde panorama with its 222 partially snowclad peaks. On clear days you can see as far as the fishing village of Ona and the dreaded waters of Hustadvika. Ten minutes by car or an hour's walk along the nature trail from the centre of Molde. The "Vardestua" restaurant is at the top and marked trails take you into the Moldemarka countryside.

The Rose Maiden - Molde Town Hall

In the Town Hall Square in the "Town of Roses" stands the bronze statue of the "Rose Maiden", surrounded by a dancing fountain. The "Rose Maiden" is young and beautiful and has her arms full of roses. The sculpture was a gift to Molde in 1971 from Gotlib Moe, owner of the former clothing factory Høvding Konfeksjonsfabrikk. It was sculpted by Ragnhild Butenschøn.

Molde Town Hall was completed in 1966 and is the result of an architectural competition won by the architects Cappelen and Rodahl. Built in concrete and stone it features gold-tinted glass. The roof of the town hall boasts one of the town's most beautiful rose gardens.

6 Molde Cathedral

The cathedral, which was consecrated in 1957, is a double-nave long church in the Gothic style. A 50-metre-high freestanding bell tower culminates in a copper-clad pyramid. The interior of the church contains some lovely stained glass and is richly decorated with Christian symbols and signs. It is the third church to be built on the site. The two first ones burned down, but an old wooden cross and Axel Ender's famous "Easter Morning" altarpiece were rescued from the flames.

6 The Jazz Boy

On the lower market place, with the fjord and the mountains as a backdrop, is the bronze statue "Jazzgutten" - a young jazz player with his saxophone. "Jazzgutten", along with the popular "Moldejazz" festival, lends substance to Molde's reputation as Norway's jazz capital. The sculpture by Nina Due, was a gift from the people to commemorate the town's 250th anniversary in 1992.

7 The Royal Birch and the Peace Grove

The place where Kong Haakon and Crown Prince Olav sought shelter from German bombers in April 1940 when they were being hunted by the German occupying forces. The Peace Grove next to the Royal Birch was founded by Knut Ødegård, president of the Bjornson festival in 1997. It symbolises the continuing struggle for freedom, peace and human dignity both today and in the future. Among those who planted trees are presidents, Nobel laureates, writers and Thor Heyerdahl.

8 Aker Stadium

Aker Stadium is one of Norway's most modern football stadiums, seating 11,200. In addition to the sports facilities the stadium has a restaurant, café, 10 kiosks, 52 toilets, a sports clinic, a laundry and business facilities. There are unique media facilities: 2 camera platforms, an editing room, 8 commentary boxes, a press tribune, a workroom and meeting room for press conferences. The stadium, situated on the waterfront to the west of the town centre and designed by Molde architect Kjell Kosberg, has a granite and glass frontage. The stadium was paid for by Kjell Inge Røkke and Bjørn Rune Gjelsten and cost 212 million kroner in 1998.