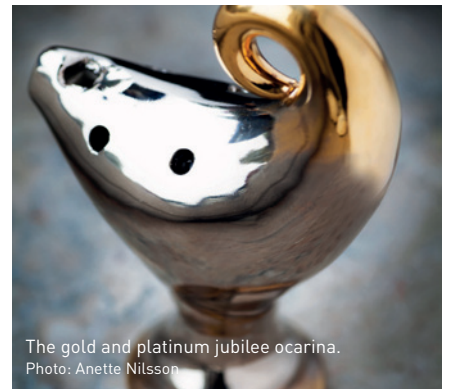




Photo: Ateljé Lena Photography



The gold and platinum jubilee ocarina.
Photo: Anette Nilsson



A jubilee party where two worlds meet

Ängelholm is a quaint but lively town with a seven-kilometre long sandy beach, plenty of cultural and community events, and a proud heritage starting with a charter dated 16 October 1516. Now the town is gearing up for its 500-year celebrations and an activity-packed year-long party, with the clay whistle ocarina orchestra that saw the light of day during the 450th anniversary at the ready.

By Linnea Dunne | Photo: Ängelholm

"In the early 20th century, a lot of people here earned a living as clay artisans, selling their crafts in the town square," says Lisbeth Holmåker, manager at Ängelholm Tourism Office. "But their kids had to be entertained – so the ocarina was born." Ahead of the 500-year celebrations, one local artist decided to create a limited edition jubilee ocarina of gold and platinum, available in 500 signed copies, alongside a handful of other jubilee productions including ceramic bowls, Champagne and beer.

"We'll be celebrating pretty much all year, so there's a lot going on: a new half marathon, a football tournament just for girls..." says Holmåker. "On 29 October we're throwing a big jubilee party, and our usual annual festivals will be extra special this year." The much-loved Light

Fest, for instance, presents a dragon boat festival, a boat parade, live music and dancing, ending the evening with a spectacular fireworks display.

A county of contrasts

Coinciding with the jubilee is Eurorando (10-17 September), a European hiking event with a programme of day hikes and social gatherings. Up to 7,000 European hikers are expected to take part in a week's worth of tours, nature hikes and history walks throughout Skåne. "This is the perfect opportunity for visitors to experience Skåne's rich natural surroundings with lush forests, picturesque villages, the sea and magnificent fields," says Holmåker. "Nature has always been one of our real strengths, but there's much more for the active traveller. Skåne boasts a 370-kilometre cycling trail, Kat-

tegattleden, following the coast along beaches and picturesque fishing spots."

While nature is often the draw, what amazes most visitors is the ease with which you can come and go and enjoy the good life. You are close to Malmö, Copenhagen and Gothenburg, yet just a stone's throw from the Bjäre and Kulla peninsulas and the Hallandsåsen ridge. "You're close to the pulse of the metropolises, yet there's a startling silence – the contrasts are striking," Holmåker explains. "It's where two worlds meet."

Skåne is also known for its impressive amount of farm shops, giving it a reputation as a notable culinary destination. "You can't blame visitors for talking about the easy, good life," Holmåker insists. "Add the party spirit, and it looks like 2016 is going to be a good year."



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