



Self-guided walk around The Romantic Garden



LISELUND

En del af Nationalmuseet



natmus-guest

Liselund Garden is open all year round
Admission to the garden is free

Liselund House can be enjoyed as part of a guided tour.
Visit our website for more information.

natmus.dk/liselund

WELCOME TO LISELUND - THE ROMANTIC GARDEN

This self-guided walk includes a map of the garden and an introduction to the ambitious landscaping created here by Antoine and Lisa de Calmette towards the end of the 18th century. Their house, like a small white pearl, nestled at the edge of a garden glade, can be visited on a guided tour. Enjoy!

Liselund is Denmark's best-preserved example of a Romantic garden and has been enchanting its many guests for over 200 years. Every year it attracts thousands of visitors. The garden lies out towards the cliffs of eastern Møn in a highly varied landscape. Here lawns, hills and lakes alternate with deep clefts and waterfalls. Buildings in Danish, Norwegian, Swiss and Chinese style underscore the changing character of nature with a variety of moods: gentle, rugged and exotic.

The clearing in the middle of the garden is like a secure oasis where only a cross on a faraway cliff top reminds you of the world of life and death. Towards the outskirts of the garden the idealized landscape merges with the surrounding forest. After this comes the uncultivated and wild: the slopes down to the great, open sea.

THE HISTORY OF LISELUND

Liselund was laid out by the prefect of Møn, Antoine Bosc de la Calmette, and his wife Elisabeth Iselin, also called Lisa. They owned Marienborg in western Møn, but in 1784 bought the property in eastern Møn that they called after Lisa. They were a far-travelled couple, and their travel diaries reflect their curiosity and feeling for details. Liselund was well thought out.

The creators of Liselund were only granted a few years to enjoy the place. Antoine died in 1803 and Lisa in 1805, and Liselund was inherited by their only child, Charles. He died childless in 1820, and Liselund was sold to his friend Frederik Raben-Huitfeldt-Levetzau.



In 1843 it passed to the nephew of the latter's wife, Gottlob Rosenkrantz.

In 1886-87, during the ownership of the Rosenkrantzes, a new main building, Liselund New Palace, was built. In addition, the gardens suffered two cliff collapses, one in 1905, when 6½ hectares of the grounds subsided into the sea, and one in 1920, when about two more hectares went the same way.

In 1938 the central part of the complex was rented out to an independent museum institution. Liselund became a protected property in 2000 and since 2005 has been part of the National Museum of Denmark.

The idea of the garden

The 18th century was an age of transitions from an old to a new world. People began to believe in their own abilities. They freed themselves from the time-honoured structures – and discovered that they were thus also losing a secure safety net. So they looked back to their origins and to nature.

Many of the aristocrats of the time turned their gardens into a Paradise on earth. Some referred to faraway regions, others emphasized the past of the place with artificial ruins as if to defy fate: if one's history went back along way it would probably not be over in the near future. Antoine and Lisa did both.

GUIDE TO THE BUILDINGS

At Liselund the functions of the aristocratic household were not concentrated in one building, but spread over many small, independent ones. They were all built by the architect Andreas Kirkerup and have decorations and furnishings designed by the court decorator J.C. Lillie.

Liselund House (1), completed in 1792, is centrally positioned to overlook the garden's main features. At first sight the house may seem smaller than it actually is, but hidden away inside are a spacious dining room, a garden room and a number of impressive bedrooms on different floors.

The Swiss House (2), closest to the entrance to the garden, was built around 1795. From the beginning this house has had an apartment for the superintendent and a guest apartment.

The contemporary wooden-walled **Norwegian House (3)**, located in the northernmost part of the clearing in an area made to look like a Norwegian landscape, was also built as a guest house. Special consideration was given here to the tired guest, in the form of a window shutter with a carved-out half-moon.

The pagoda-shaped **Chinese House (4)** in the northwesternmost part of the garden has beechwood furniture painted so it looks as if it is made of bamboo.



The practical buildings include two old **privies (5)** one by the house and one by the Norwegian House. They are clad in wood, so they look like stacks of firewood. A round, thatched building by the Swiss House is an **icehouse (6)**.

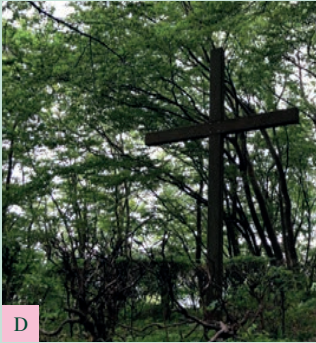
A four-winged home farm north of the Norwegian House is also from Antoine's and Lisa's time, but this part of the grounds is not open to the public. Finally, the original gardens had a bathhouse, a chapel, a fisherman's house, and an artificial fortress ruin. These buildings have disappeared in the course of time. The so-called **Devil's Bridge (C)** over the largest cleft in the place and **the cross (D)** at the top of the cliff have been renewed.

The garden of love

Over 200 years after the death of Antoine and Lisa, their garden still bears the traces of their love for each other. By Lisa's favourite bench Antoine had a memorial column, **Monument to the Graces (A)**, set up with an image of two of the Three Graces, the Greek goddesses of beauty and joy. The third, missing one is Lisa. Lisa had a monument dedicated to Antoine, **Writer's Monument (B)**, showing a woman consecrating an altar to pure friendship.



The enchantment that suffuses Liselund is also due to the way Antoine and Lisa allowed for the spirit of the place. A good example is the water in the area. The original marsh was dammed up and transformed into one of Liselund's most important attractions: life-giving water in a variety of forms – from lakes and brooks to waterfalls and sea, from still, calm surfaces to wild nature.



The White Lady of Liselund

Antoine and Lisa were the main figures in the history of Liselund, but their daughter-in-law Martha has also acquired a special status. Although Liselund was sold after the death of her husband in 1820, she was allowed to live in the house until her death in 1877. She liked to dress in white and surrounded herself with white animals, and became a living legend, a sister of the benevolent spirit the "White Lady", who haunts the Liselund cliff.

During Martha's time Liselund was visited by leading cultural figures like the sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen and the writers Adam Oehlenschläger and Hans Christian Andersen.

