



A NINETEENTH CENTURY AMUSEMENT PARK WITH
ANTIQUE ROLLER COASTER AND A LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tivoli Gardens

One of Copenhagen's top attractions



Opened in 1843 Tivoli has said to have influenced both Hans Christian Anderson and Walt Disney. It has some thing for everyone packed into a relatively small space and its old fashioned mechanical rides give it a Jules Verne vibe as the rides echo his characteristic innovations imagined years before their time .

We bought an extended ticket which allowed more than a single days entrance but for those wanting to enjoy the rides these could be purchased separately. The small aquarium was free.

THE GARDENS

The gardens of Tivoli are the underlying feature which give it cohesion and structure and unite all of its diverse parts. Over the years the perennials have become well established and flower profusely. Its trees have matured and give it height and shelter and from springtime till winter there are always elements to delight visitors whether it be giant planters, hanging gardens, water fountains or atmospheric areas just to sit, relax and enjoy.

The gardens are well established but the brilliance and size of the plants point to some great 'feeding' with triffid fertiliser. Flower bordered walkway sculptures, fountains, small shops, restaurants and eateries melt into the landscape together with passageways of fair-ground stalls and entertainment venues. The fabulous luxury of the Nimb hotel flanks one side of the park but there are many more hotels within easy reach of the main gates. We stayed recently at the Mayfair which proved a great choice

The Orangery is located in the area behind Nimb Terrasse at the bridge over the Tivoli Lake. Its architect, Jesper Anderson said that it



The Nimb Hotel

One of the rides

Hans Christian Anderson

was the orangeries he found abroad, the adjacent Glass Hall and Copenhagen's Botanical Palm house which gave him the inspiration to include it.

THE RIDES

The brightly coloured rides are interspersed amongst every thing else. Their 'antique' appearance often camouflaging their power to create adrenalin rushes to equal any high octane rides. To cater for the whole family there were also rides for smaller children and judging from the speed and dancing pirate boats enough thrill to keep them engaged for hours. Based on an old Danish market town one alley way contained a number of fair ground side shows. We failed to win any prizes so settled for a giant helium balloon instead.

THE SHOPS

There were several small gift shops stocked with many equally small unique items. Limited space making it a necessity. I bought a tiny Christmas decoration fashioned into the Rat King from the Nutcracker ballet which plays out at Christmas time on the Pantomime theatre stage. We also bought some gold George Jensen decorations.

Especially appealing was the facade of the sweet shop which was tiny but inviting and

as we approached the open door the aroma of freshly made liquorice was intoxicating and drew us in. The door opened on to an old fashioned candy store packed with sweets, lollipops and toffee apples in every possible colour and flavour combination. Making a decision on what to buy was no easy task but we were not leaving empty handed!

THE RESTAURANTS

Likewise the restaurants were not large. The oriental pagoda stood out from the rest and the restaurant which overhung the lake with a galleon as a back drop was a good place to watch the illumination show in the evening. The basic offer of simple lights, fountains, smoke and fire no doubt inspiring the Disney Corporation to its spectacular performances on their lake.

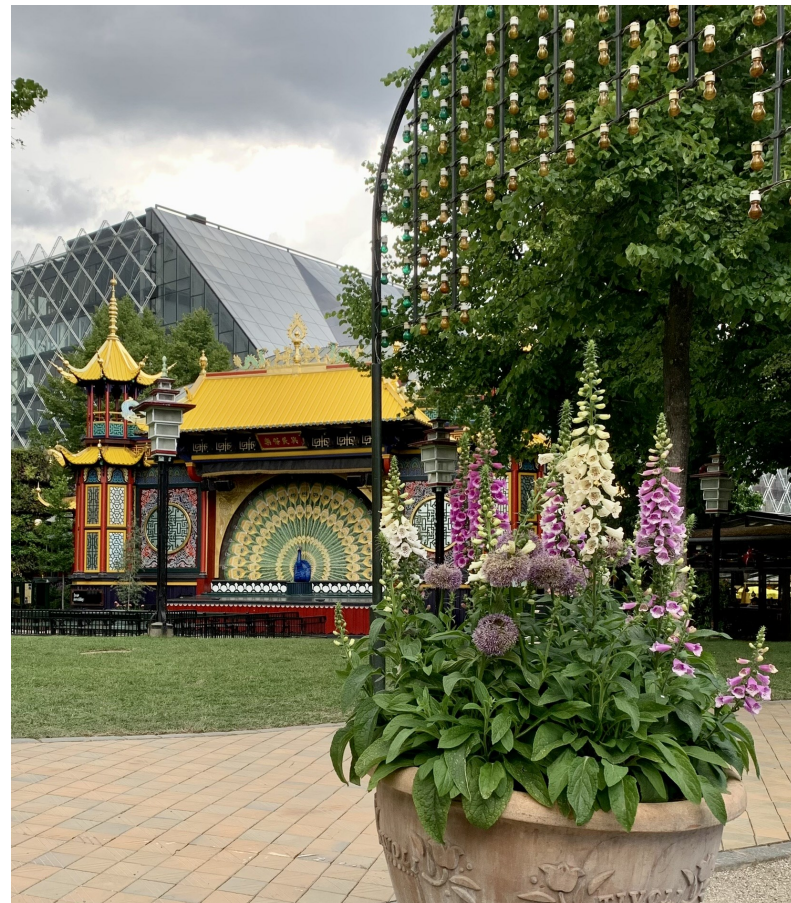
Ice cream, popcorn, candy and doughnuts were popular and Joe's juice a popular choice with locals. The food hall could be entered from the street outside and from within the gardens and contained a selection of excellent meals. As a birthday treat we enjoyed tea and sophisticated fancy cakes in Kaken opposite the Nimble hotel They even came with gold forks.

The Youth Orchestra

One of the drink stands

Cake in the Kaken Restaurant





ENTERTAINMENT

The Open Air Stage is the pivotal point for a wide range of entertainment presented throughout the different seasons. We caught a show by Gospel Choirs and the Youth Orchestra band. Seating is on the grass or in many deck chairs on the lawn

The Chinese-style pantomime theatre dates from 1874. It has been restored over the years but still

retains its original design. The tail of the peacock unfolds on a host of different performances to enthrall children and adults alike. We enjoyed two shows. I can only describe them as a mix between ballet, pantomime, mime and slapstick. They were energetic and full of character but amongst the fun the main characters remained true to their classical ballet persona

The Glass Hall theatre has its own unique architecture and provides a distinguished background for many performances throughout the year. These include everything from jazz and classical musical recitals to comedy and plays

The sweet shop

One of the many restaurants

The pantomime theatre



NIGHT TIME

As darkness falls the 4,000 light bulbs which illuminate the grand Moorish-style front of the Nimb hotel set the scene for a magical world lit by thousands more.

The lights on the carousel burn bright and the other rides shine golden in the night sky. Strings of fairy lights and other set pieces add impact and the restaurants and shop fronts add their own contribution.

At Halloween The Gardens are decked out in warm colours, so you can explore among the friendly ghosts, spiders,

scarecrows and over 20,000 pumpkins that provide the setting for Tivoli's atmospheric autumn season.

At Christmas time 15 Christmas trees glimmer in beautiful colours and the wonderful tunes played by the Tivoli Youth Guard can be heard in every corner of the Gardens. There are snow-clad stalls to explore and enchanting light projections.

Note that the gardens close at the end of September, open from Oct 13 to Nov 6 for Halloween and Christmas 18 Nov to the end of December.

Tivoli rides are purchased separately from the entrance fee so you can opt not to include them. Buying a ticket which allows multiple entries is great if you intend to spend more than a day here