



ASSISTENS CEMETERY

Map inside

Assistens Cemetery

For more than 250 years, Copenhageners have buried their dead in Assistens Cemetery. All that time, it has been a place full of life. Even 200 years ago, people would visit the cemetery on Sundays and picnic with lunch baskets and brandy. Today, coffee dominates, and an entire urban district now surrounds the cemetery. The number of visitors has grown to over 2 million annually, and there is a prevailing local love for the place. Nevertheless, the cemetery has stayed basically unchanged. It remains a deeply personal place of remembrance for the relatives of the deceased and a huge collective resource for everyone else.

Assistens Cemetery has many qualities: the relative silence in the middle of a bustling city, old trees and bushes, the history of old gravestones and the famous dead people. There is room for the reflection that the presence of the dead and the encounter with our own transience invite us to. It is the premise of the site that grief and mourning have a special place here - not in opposition to the life of the cemetery but defining it. A walk through Assistens Cemetery is not like a walk in the park; there is also an existential dimension. As poet Klaus Høeck puts it in one of the cemetery's artworks, *Megaron*:

what do you seek here / where life has turned into stone / do find your own death.



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There is also an English-language guide. Apps. Search for assistens once you have installed it. the ARTOUR app where you normally download your way around the gravesites on your own. You will find app, read the fascinating stories and easily find your Take a tour whenever it suits you. Download the free Download the app and get a digital tour

terms, times and topics. www.kkdk.dk/kirkegårdsanndring [QR code that goes to the bottom of the page, [QR code that goes to separate tours throughout the year. Scan the code at public tours of Assistens Cemetery. Groups can book every year from April to September, there are free guided tours of Assistens Cemetery



Assistens Cemetery from 1760 to present

1760 The cemetery is put into use in the area that is currently Section A. It is managed by five churches and two poor relief organisations, each of which receives a plot, and for the first several years it functions as a cemetery for the poor.

1785 The first wealthy person - Johan Samuel Augustin - is buried in the cemetery.

1802 The cemetery is expanded in 1802 - 1806 with an area corresponding to Sections B-G. Copenhagen's then longest wall is built towards Nørrebrogade. Catholics as well as French Reformed and German Reformed congregations get their own areas.

1805 Burials inside churches are banned, which results in a high demand for burial plots at Assistens Cemetery from wealthy people who can afford large gravestones.

1808 The grave digger's house at Nørrebros Runddel is built. Today, it is Nørrebro's oldest building.

1811 The cemetery's first and only mausoleum is built - von Scholten's in Section D.

1828 The cemetery is expanded again. The expansions, including the current Hans Tavsens Park, continues until 1864.

1851 Burials within the ramparts of Copenhagen are banned.

1853 Cholera epidemic kills around 5,000 Copenhageners. Many are buried in Assistens Cemetery.

1860 For long periods of the 19th century, Assistens Cemetery is in a chaotic condition. When the City of Copenhagen took over the administration of the cemetery in 1860, it is the first step towards dismantling the power of the gravediggers and creating more orderly conditions.

1867 The chapel is built according to a design by architects J.D. Herholdt and Valdemar Ingemann.

1880 The wall towards Jagtvej is built and the following year the missing wall towards Kapelvej.

1892 Cremation is legalised in Denmark. With this, the dead begin to arrive at the cemetery not only in coffins, but also in urns.

1907 The cemetery donates land for the construction of Hans Tavsens Park.

1938 The first section reserved for urns is built and it is possible to buy 1 m² urn graves instead of the larger and more expensive coffin graves.

1950 The cemetery's first mass ash grave - also known as the "grave of the unknown" - is built. In this type of plot, the urns are placed close together, currently at 9 urns per square metre, and there are no gravestones. Today, the mass ash grave is the preferred form of burial in Copenhagen.

1951 The city council reverses a decision from 1879 to convert Assistens Cemetery into a park in 1980. Now the cemetery is not to be closed until 2020. The decision is changed again in 1989.

1979 The chapel ceases to function as a setting for funerals. Today, the building is home to Turning Tables, an organisation that works to empower children and young people through music, film and photography.

1985 The cemetery's many old gravestones are examined by experts. Almost 1,900 are considered to be of such great cultural and historical value that they must be preserved. A restoration workshop is set up in the chapel.

1989 The city council adopts a plan that extends the life of the cemetery to 2150 and divides it into an active part and a more recreational and cultural-historical part.

1997 Cycling is now allowed in Poppelalléen. From 1999, cycling is also allowed along a route across the cemetery.

2008 In response to a growing and still significant nature romanticism movement, a new form of burial place is introduced with the Malus section, where urns are placed under apple trees.

2009 Construction of a metro station in the corner of Nørrebros Runddel is underway. Archaeologists are excavating more than 2,400 individuals. They are all reburied in Section E.

2013 A special section for "Street People" (the homeless) is established.

2015 Assistens Cemetery is listed in order to preserve the cemetery as a unified whole: historical and active burial ground and recreational area. It is the first time in Danish history that a cemetery in use has been listed. People can still be buried in the cemetery.





Burial plots of interest

Afdøde
A1 Director and poet Peter Faber (1810-77)
A3 Composer Friedrich Kuhlau (1786-1832)
A9 Painter Christen Købke (1810-48)
A17 Philosopher Søren Aabye Kierkegaard (1813-55)
A25 Widow Gertrud Birgitte Bodenhoff (1779-98)
B4 Painter and author Hans Scherfig (1905-79)
B13 Writer Dan Turèll (1946-93)
B16 Pianist and composer Thomas Koppel (1944-2006)
B21 Poet Benny Andersen (1929-2018)
B22 Writer Vita Andersen (1942-2021)
E4 Politician Mathilde Hauschultz (1885-1929)
E7 Writer Anne Marie "madam" Mangor (1781-1865)
E9 Physicist and chemist Hans Christian Ørsted (1777-1851)
H2 Writer Martin Andersen Nexø (1869-1954)
J4 Rapper, singer and songwriter Natasja Saad (1974-2007)
J5 Artist Jørn Larsen (1926-2004)

Gravsted

A-58
A-97
A-315
A-738
A-1026
B-164
B-333b
B-1109
B-917
B-1074
E-325
E-554
E-1009
H-211
J-21
J-220

Afdøde

K2 Sisters of St. Joseph (-1945)
K4 Architect Finn Juhl (1912-89)
M2 Burial site for People of the Street (Gadens Folk)
M3 Megaron
N1 Writer Jakob Ejersbo (1968-2008)
N2 Rainbow burial plot
N3 Entertainer Morten Lindberg (Master Fatman) (1965-2019)
P1 Writer H.C. Andersen (1805-75)
P6 Sculptor Sonja Ferlov Mancoba (1911-84)
Q2 Actor and artist Emilie Sannom (1886-1931)
Q3 Historian Astrid Friis (1893-1966)
Q6 Physicist Niels Bohr (1885-1962)
R1 Pianist, singer and composer Karen Jønsson (1909-42)
R5 Jazz tenor saxophonist Ben Webster (1909-73)
V1 Poet Michael Strunge (1958-86)

Gravsted

K-5-2-51
K-300
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Iris-48
N-625
N-180a
P-513
P-994
Q-977
Q-1070
Q-1233
R-59
R-660
uV-15