

# LEGOLAND Billund

## *An essential visit*

*Text and images by lluisgib*

Billund is a town of about 6000 inhabitants in the province of Jutland, the mainland of Denmark. Though you could say that it is in the midst of “nothing”, it has the second largest airport in Denmark. The airport was built by a toy company that has a factory in that town and that 41 years ago built a park focused on the famous brick that this company manufactures. Both the company and the park are world famous. They are The LEGO® Company and LEGOLAND Billund.

At the entrance of the park we can already see that everything we will find inside is made with LEGO bricks, or it will remind us of them. The entrance arch is made of giant bricks and around it, there are many characters made with bricks that perform different tasks such as mowing the lawn or interview other minifigs that “come” to visit the park.

Once you clear the entrance, like in all theme parks, you will find the first stores (clothes, food and many bricks). As the park opens at 10, but the site does at 9:30, you have half an hour you can dedicate to selecting what you will buy later.

The park is divided into different themes: Miniland, LEGOREDO® Town, Pirate Land, KNIGHTS 'KINGDOM™, Adventure Land, Imagination Zone, DUPLO® Land and LEGO® City. Each of these sections has different attractions for children where they can have fun with water games or theatre. The brick is present in all attractions in one form or another. From 1:1 scale figures made of bricks or moving models such as boats, cars or trains that are made with simulations of giant LEGO pieces. We can highlight two attractions that are a bit more for adults, Cinema 4D (3 Dimensions plus special effects), and ATLANTIS SEALIFE, an aquarium with all kinds



of marine species mixed with LEGO models within the pools.

Although the park has its interest as a funfair, for the AFOLS the most interesting part is Miniland. It is a set of dioramas, at 1:20 scale, which represent different parts of Europe, with breathtaking views of buildings and lifestyle of each of these regions. I will not make a detailed description of each, as it would take a whole book, but I will give a brief description of some of them so you may have an idea of what can be found there.

Billund Airport is reproduced and has planes that move along the track and to the fingers, which are then coupled to the aircraft. The planes are very well reproduced and are from different airlines. Note that there is a reproduction of an Airbus





networks of each country) and ships that sail to harbours or channels.

In every diorama there are many small details, some very concrete, that give added value to buildings, and others ones that draw a smile from the children (and the older ones as well).

Miniland is designed to spend hours watching. In my two trips to LEGOLAND Billund, I took about 2000 photos, but I could not capture every detail as it is impossible. There are hundreds of them in each model. If you want to visit the park with children, it is worth spending a day at the attractions and the other at Miniland, because without realizing it, you can easily pass 4 or 5 hours looking at every single detail.

A380 (the largest aircraft in the world) of Singapore Airlines (if I remember correctly, the first company to receive one of these planes) and a reproduction of the retired Concorde, the fastest passenger plane of the world, from British Airways.

Ribe is the oldest town of Denmark, and was for many years, the city where the kings resided in this country. It is about 60km from Billund. LEGOLAND paid tribute to this town, with a reproduction of the streets. It still retains some medieval touch in its design and configuration. During the trip, I made a stop to visit this city and I can say that the reproduction is amazing.



At the end of the visit, I find myself in one of the shops, the famous dream of every fan: buying parts by weight. Although the selection is not great and the price is a bit high, I could not resist filling a bag with parts and accessories for future MOCS. Also, I bought some gadgets from the park to remember the visit and to redeem some sins ... (right Delia?). This is what happens when you go to certain places on your own. Not everyone understands it the same way .... although they accept it with a bit of resignation.

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Another wonderful view is Nyhavn, Copenhagen harbour. All the buildings, bridges and statues of this famous corner of the Danish capital are faithfully reproduced. Among the reproductions of the Danish capital, we also can find the Amalie Gardens or the Fire station of Copenhagen.

Leaving reproductions of items or Danish cities, you may find locations of Germany, Japan, Sweden and Scotland, among many others. There are also more specific models such as the NASA space shuttle, or moving models like a system of locks through which boats go up and down, or trains that complement many dioramas (trains reproducing the various national rail

