

## ◆ THE MONARCHY CONTINUES

Since 1972, Queen Margrethe II has been reigning monarch in Denmark with Prince Henry from France by her side who was deceased in 2018. They had two sons, Crown Prince Frederik (born 1968) and Prince Joachim (born 1969). Crown Prince Frederik and his princess Mary will be taking over the throne after Queen Margrethe II.

The Royal family plays an important symbolic role in Denmark. They engage in good causes, invite foreign guests for dinners at their castle and promote Denmark within the Country as well as to the outside world. The Danish Monarch does not have legal power, but whenever there is a new law or after an election, the monarch must approve of these, before these are official.

The Royal Family dates back thousands of years and still to this day 76% of the Danes are in favour of the Monarchy (Voxmeter, 2018).



*76% of Danes are in favour of the Monarchy.*



*The Crown Prince Frederik and his family.*

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DANISH MONARCHY

[www.kongehuset.dk](http://www.kongehuset.dk) – the official website of The Royal House

[www.slke.dk](http://www.slke.dk) – Agency for Palaces and Royal Properties

[www.denmark.dk](http://www.denmark.dk) – the official website of Denmark

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### LEARN MORE ABOUT DENMARK

[www.denmark.dk](http://www.denmark.dk) – The official website of Denmark

[www.visitdenmark.com](http://www.visitdenmark.com) – The official guide to Denmark



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# THE DANISH MONARCHY

## A MODERN FAMILY





## ◆ 1000 YEARS OLD MONARCHY

The Danish monarchy is one of the oldest in the world – beginning with Gorm den Gamle (Gorm the Old) in 958. Its history has always been closely entangled with the history of Europe. 800 years ago, for example, a Czech princess called Markéta Drahomíra married the Danish king Valdemar Sejr (Valdemar the Victorious) and became Queen Dagmar of Denmark. Today the monarchy has only ceremonial power. But the royal family plays a big part in Danish identity and as a public image of Denmark. Among many different tasks they attend openings and jubilees and pay formal visits to foreign countries.

*Painting by Laurits Tuxen of King Christian the 9<sup>th</sup> and the Royal Family.*



## ◆ THE QUEEN

Margrethe has been Queen of Denmark for more than 40 years and is by now the second longest reigning monarch. She lives in Amalienborg Palace in Copenhagen with her son Frederik and his family. She is very creative and well known for her artistic side. She was the first to illustrate J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, and has designed costumes for the ballet performance *The Nut Cracker* in Tivoli, Copenhagen. Queen Margrethe was married to Prince Concord Henrik from France, who died in 2018.

## ◆ AMALIENBORG PALACE

The Amalienborg Palace, where the royal family lives, lies near The Little Mermaid in Copenhagen Harbour. The Palace is built around a court-yard with a statue of Frederik V, founder of the complex. The Royal Life Guard stands watch at Amalienborg and has a change of watch ceremony every day at noon.



## ◆ CROWN PRINCE FREDERIK

Frederik is heir to the throne. He is known for being an active sportsman and has crossed the northern part of Greenland on dog sledge as part of his military service. He is often an official representative of Denmark at sporting events. He met his wife Mary from Tasmania during the Olympic Games in Sydney, 2000. They got married in 2004. She and the Crown Prince have 4 children together: Christian, Isabella, Vincent, and Josephine.



## ◆ TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION: THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY



*Girl greeting the Queen in front of the castle*

On the Queen's birthday 16 April, it's tradition that the royal family step out on the balcony of Amalienborg at noon. By then the courtyard is crowded with people waving the Danish flag Dannebrog and congratulating their Queen

## ◆ PRINCE JOACHIM

Prince Joachim is Crown Prince Frederik's younger brother. He is married to French born Princess Marie. Together they have 2 children and Joachim has 2 boys from an earlier marriage. They live in a castle in Southern Jutland called Shackenborg. The prince operates Shackenborg Manor as both a businessperson and a farmer.

