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PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions
to help you put together your perfect trip

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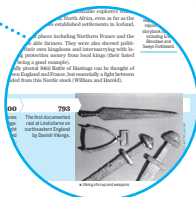
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UNDERSTAND DENMARK

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you
can make sense of what you see

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Carolyn Bain
Cristian Bonetto, Andrew Stone

➤ Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first

➤ Look out for these icons:



Our author's top recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

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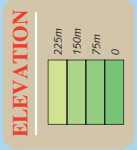




Legoland
Embrace your inner child
(p246)

Roskilde
Investigate Viking ships
and reposing royals (p102)

Ribe
Soak up centuries of
history (p199)





OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Carolyn Bain

Coordinating author, Southern Jutland, Central Jutland, Northern Jutland As a teenager, Melbourne-born Carolyn spent a year living smack in the heart of Jutland, and today speaks (often mangled) Danish with a *jysk* (Jutlandish) accent, according to those who know such things. Since her year among the Danes, Carolyn has frequently returned to dose up on history, hospitality and *hygge*, and she drops in while updating guidebooks to various parts of northern Europe (including Sweden and Estonia). She also covered Jutland for the previous edition of this title. As with every Denmark visit, on this trip she was in heaven revisiting favourite haunts such as Skagen and Ribe, coveting designer chairs, rummaging in flea markets and lingering over brunch plates.

Read more about Carolyn Bain at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/carolynbain



Cristian Bonetto

Copenhagen; Zealand; Møn, Falster & Lolland; Bornholm

As a fan of modernist furniture, locavore menus, and cycle-toned bodies, Cristian's lust for Denmark was fate. Since his first visit in 2003, the reformed soap scribe has developed a chronic obsession with the country's enlightened attitudes and creative edge. His musings on all things Danish have appeared in Lonely Planet's *Copenhagen Encounter* and *Scandinavia* guides, as well as in numerous magazines across the globe. When he's not nibbling on wood sorrel, peddling across Møn, or downloading Alphabeat songs, chances are you'll find Cristian cool-hunting in his other favourite haunts – New York, Naples and his beloved hometown, Melbourne.

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Andrew Stone

Funen, History, Directory Journalist and author Andrew first visited Denmark in the late 1990s to see friends who had settled there and has been back almost every year since for work and pleasure. In his time he has explored most of the country while researching the previous two editions of this title as well as three editions of Lonely Planet's *Scandinavia*.

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lonelyplanet.com/members/andrewstone

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itineraries

Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.



Two Weeks Denmark's Classic Hits

The beauty of Denmark's compact size is that it never takes too long to get from point A to B. To cover the classic sites, start in **Copenhagen** and soak up the riches (cultural, culinary, retail) of the capital. From there, it's a short hop west to **Roskilde** to investigate Denmark's royal and Viking heritage. Further west, **Odense** offers up fairy-tale charm in abundance and plenty of ways to connect with the city's famous native son, Hans Christian Andersen. Stop in **Kolding** for a polished mix of the old and cutting-edge before you reach history-soaked **Ribe**, Denmark's oldest town, oozing chocolate-box appeal. From here, you can pause on the history lessons for a hefty dose of childhood nostalgia at **Legoland**, then some lakeside R&R in **Silkeborg** (go canoeing or do a cruise through the picturesque lakes of the area). Finally, stop by cosmopolitan **Aarhus**, the country's second city. It holds a few surprises – not least its rainbow-topped art museum – and from here, you can take a ferry to northern Zealand for an easy and scenic return to Copenhagen.



Three to Four Weeks Denmark in Detail

Got some time up your sleeve and a desire to delve deep into Denmark? Designate **Copenhagen** some quality time in your itinerary, and make a couple of day trips outside the capital to check out the superb modern art at the Louisiana Museum in **Humlebæk** and magnificent castles such as Kronborg Slot at **Helsingør**. Head south to potter about pretty, historic **Køge**, then catch a ferry out to the Baltic bombshell of **Bornholm** – spend a few days exploring the island’s bike trails, sandy beaches and gastronomic treats. Once you’re back on Zealand, head further south to **Møn**, an enchanting island with some of the country’s most dramatic scenery – for such a flat country that’s not saying much, but the white-chalk cliffs of Møn rise sharply over a jade-green sea and are as pretty as a picture.

Head back across southern Zealand to reach the island of Funen. **Odense** is a must-see for its various tributes to hometown-hero Hans Christian Andersen, but take time to visit the Viking ship grave at **Ladby**, and the marvellous Renaissance treats at **Egeskov Slot**. A day or two on the friendly old seafaring island of **Årø** will recharge your batteries.

Onward west – a ferry can take you from Årø to easygoing **Als**, and on to southern Jutland, where you can reach **Ribe** for history lessons with a decidedly friendly face (mock Viking settlements, a nightwatchman’s tour of the cobbled streets), plus some outstanding bird-watching nearby. Jump on a boat out of Esbjerg for the 12-minute trip to idyllic **Fanø**, and take a pause in Sønderho.

A detour to **Legoland** is essential – this place will blow your mind with its astounding creations made from the humble plastic brick. Then it’s back to the west coast for more mind-blowing activity – this time courtesy of North Sea winds, just perfect for kitesurfing in **Hvide Sande**.

From here, wend your way east to leafy, lakeside **Silkeborg**, then on to **Aarhus** for top-notch museum-mooring and noshing. The rejuvenated northern city of **Aalborg** warrants a stop for its Utzon architecture and a Viking burial ground, but the best comes last at cinematic **Skagen**, hugging Denmark’s northernmost tip. Make time to admire the artwork, indulge in fine seafood, soak in the incredible northern light and dip a toe in the angry seas.



Two Weeks

Northern Exposure

For some seaside R&R, northern Jutland delivers, with some quirky treats alongside the expected sun, sea, sand and seafood. Start from **Aarhus**, which has some fine museums, including the ARoS art museum, and head north, stopping in **Randers** for a man-made rainforest and a left-field dose of Elvis kitsch. Sleepy **Hobro** offers history in the shape of a 10th-century Viking ring fortress, before **Aalborg** puts on her best face to impress you with a rejuvenated waterfront and the final design from revered architect Jørn Utzon. At sweet **Sæby** you can connect with Danish literature and go back for seconds at bounteous seafood buffets.

From **Frederikshavn**, catch a ferry to the island of **Læsø** to take a step back in time (salt baths optional). Next is **Skagen**, a delightful slice of seaside life with a winning art museum, boutique hotels and alfresco dockside dining. Southwest of Skagen, the walk-about sand dunes of **Råbjerg Mile** let you know mother nature is still in charge here, while in **Hirtshals** you can admire more of her handiwork at northern Europe's largest aquarium. Relax in **Løkken** – but not too much. Nearby **Fårup Sommerland** can get your heart pumping with amusement rides and a waterpark. You'll return to Aarhus with the cobwebs well and truly blown away.

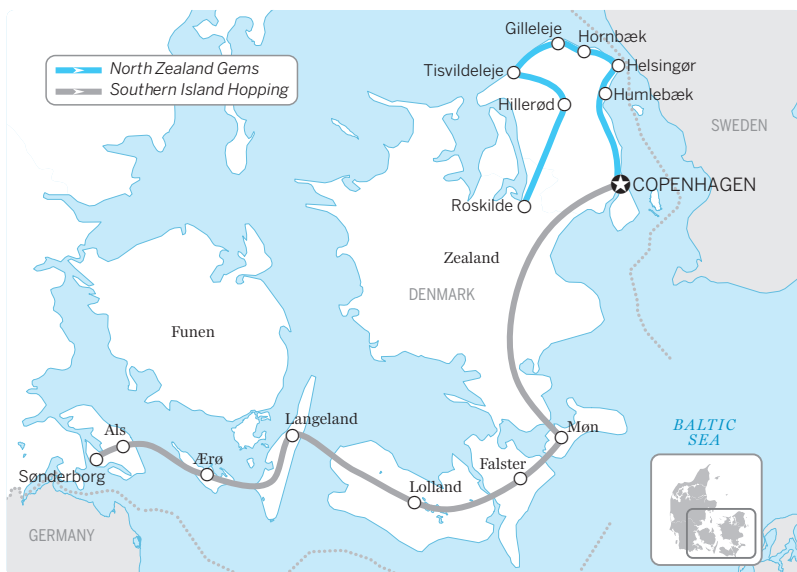


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- » (above) *Slender Ribs* sculpture by Alexander Calder at Louisiana art museum (p81)
- » (left) Denmark's northern tip, near Skagen (p271)



One Week North Zealand Gems

An easy and accessible circuit of north Zealand offers glam beaches, royal remains, fairytale castles, Viking ships and cutting-edge architecture.

Start in fjord-side **Roskilde**, where you can check out Viking longships and pay your respects to a millennia's worth of Danish kings and queens at the country's finest cathedral. North from here is magnificent Frederiksborg Slot, dominating the unassuming town of **Hillerød**. It's hard to decide which is more impressive, the baroque interiors or the regal grounds.

For northern light and sunbathing Scandi-style, head to the northern beaches: the chic bathing hotels of **Tisvildeleje** are worth a stop, as are the sculptures between **Gilleleje** and Hornbæk. **Hornbæk** is where the young and gorgeous go to appreciate both the natural beauty and their own.

Further along the coast stands historic Kronborg Slot in **Helsingør**, much more than simply the home of the existential ditherer Hamlet. Be sure to take the scenic coastal road south to **Humblebæk** and the Louisiana Museum – its splendid architecture rivals its collection of contemporary art. A short but picturesque drive along the 'Danish Riviera' leads to **Copenhagen**.

One Week Southern Island Hopping

Most travellers between Copenhagen and Jutland take the quickest, direct route across Funen, but this meandering option is for those after rural retreats and quiet villages, with small ferries providing island-hopping potential.

From the capital make a beeline south to **Møn**, then across to **Falster** and on to **Lolland**. This trio is known as Denmark's 'South Sea Islands'. While they may lack the coconut palms and hula hoops normally associated with that label, they do offer a fine glimpse of rural Scandinavian island life: rolling fields, sandy beaches and rustic manor houses. Allocate time to Møn's chalky cliffs, Marielyst's glorious beach (on Falster), and Lolland's theme parks.

Western Lolland connects to **Langeland** by ferry – and now you're in the South Funen Archipelago. This sleepy stretch of green in turn connects to **Ærø**, an enchanting island well worth exploring. Villages here drip with maritime history and are home to crooked old houses. When you've had your fill, there's a ferry on to **Als**, connected by road to Jutland proper at the larger town of **Sønderborg**. And now you're in the southeast corner of Jutland, with a whole peninsula to explore...

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