



Denmark



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Itineraries



2 WEEKS Denmark's Classic Hits

The beauty of Denmark's compact size is that it never takes too long to get from 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, en route to 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). Squeeze in a quick hop north to luminous **Skagen** for art, beaches and fresh seafood. 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.



2-4
WEEKS

Denmark in Detail

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 – 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 Fünen. **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 **Ærø** will recharge your batteries.

Onward west – a ferry can take you from **Ærø** to **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 **Fano**, 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, perfect for kitesurfing in **Hvide Sande**.

From here, wend your way east to leafy, lakeside **Silkeborg**, then on to **Aarhus** for top-notch museum-mooching 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.



Above: Kronborg Slot
(p97)
Right: Silkeborg (p224)





Northern Exposure

Why should Copenhagen get all the attention? For some off-the-beaten-track seaside R&R, the underrated further reaches of northern Jutland beckon, with plenty of quirky treats alongside the expected sun, sea, sand and seafood.

Start from **Aarhus**, with its fine dining, ace festivals and snazzy museums (particularly rainbow-topped ARoS and head-turning new Moesgård), and head north, stopping in **Randers** for a man-made rainforested dome and a left-field dose of Elvis kitsch courtesy of a replica Graceland. With kids in tow, a detour to the safari parks and sandy beaches of Djursland is a must – but there's lots for grown-ups here, too, particularly in the gourmet hotspots at Femmøller outside **Ebeltoft**.

Sleepy **Hobro** offers history in the shape of a 10th-century Viking ring fortress, while **Rold Skov** lets you cut loose on forested mountain-bike trails, and **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 bountiful 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 walkabout sand dunes of **Råbjerg Mile** let you know mother nature is still in charge, while in **Hirtshals** you can admire more of her handiwork at a huge aquarium. Relax in **Løkken** – but not too much. Nearby **Fårup Sommerland** can get your heart pumping with amusement rides and a waterpark.

Heading south, stop to inspect WWII-era bunkers and devour a fab fishy dockside lunch in **Hanstholm** before a visit to quirky 'Cold Hawaii': the small surfing village of **Klitmøller**, where you can get wet and windblown in various ways. Be sure to stop by the new sea baths at nearby **Nørre Vorupør** and take to some walking or cycling trails through the dune heaths of **Thy National Park**. You'll return to Aarhus with the cobwebs well and truly blown away.

1
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 see Viking longships and pay your respects to Denmark's past kings and queens at the country's finest cathedral. North from here is magnificent Frederiksborg Slot, which dominates the town of **Hillerød**. It's hard to decide which is more impressive, the baroque interiors or the regal grounds.

For northern light and sunbathing, head to the 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 catch some sun.

Further along the coast is historic Kronborg Slot in **Helsingør**, more than just the home of Hamlet. Helsingør's newest drawcard is the stunningly designed national maritime museum. Take the coastal road south to **Humlebæk** and the Louisiana Museum – its architecture rivals its contemporary art collection. A short drive along the 'Danish Riviera' leads to **Copenhagen**.

1
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 associated with that label, they offer a fine glimpse of Scandinavian island life: 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 stretch of green connects by road to Funen, and from **Svendborg**'s harbour you can catch a ferry to **Ærø**, an island well worth a visit for its maritime history, bike lanes, farmhouses and picture-perfect bathing huts. 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...



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 Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, 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, Funen, 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 amongst 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 Iceland, Sweden and Estonia – see more at carolynbain.com.au). She also covered Jutland for the previous two editions of this book. As with every Denmark visit, on this trip she was in heaven revisiting favourite haunts such as Skagen and Ribe, discovering new favourites like Ærø, coveting designer chairs, rummaging in flea markets and lingering over brunch plates. Carolyn also wrote the Planning and Survival sections of this book.

Read more about Carolyn Bain at:
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Cristian has been writing passionately about Danish lamps, bikes and bites for almost a decade. Indeed, the Australian-born scribe has contributed to almost 20 Lonely Planet titles, including Scandinavia, Italy, New York City and Singapore. Beyond Lonely Planet, his musings have featured everywhere from Britain's Telegraph and BBC Travel, to Dubai Eye 103.8's *The Travel Show*. Cristian also wrote the History, Danish Lifestyle, Danish Design, Food & Drink, and Literature, Film & TV chapters. Follow him on Twitter @CristianBonetto

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