

Denmark

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

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- » Stammershalle Badehotel (p80)

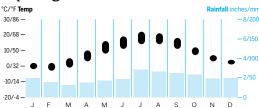
Why Go?

Denmark is the bridge between Scandinavia and northern Europe. To the rest of Scandinavia, the Danes are fun-loving, frivolous party animals, with relatively liberal, progressive attitudes. Their culture, food, architecture and appetite for conspicuous consumption owe as much, if not more, to their German neighbours to the south as to their former colonies – Sweden, Norway and Iceland – to the north.

Packed with intriguing museums, shops, bars, nightlife and award-winning restaurants, Denmark's capital, Copenhagen, is one of the hippest, most accessible cities in Europe. And while Danish cities such as Odense and Aarhus harbour their own cultural gems, Denmark's other chief appeal lies in its photogenic countryside, sweeping coastline and historic sights such as neolithic burial chambers, the bodies of well-preserved Iron Age people exhumed from their slumber in peat bogs, and atmospheric Viking ruins and treasures.

When to Go

Copenhagen



Jun & Jul Long days, buzzing beachside towns, Copenhagen Jazz and A-list rock fest Roskilde. Sep & Oct Fewer crowds, golden landscapes and snug nights by crackling open fires. **Dec** Twinkling Christmas lights, ice-skating rinks and gallons of warming gløgg (mulled wine).

Connections

Denmark's modern, efficient transport network is well connected to the region and the rest of the world. Located in Copenhagen, its main airport, Kastrup, offers excellent and numerous long- and short-haul connections, while Billund and Aarhus in Jutland (regional airports) offer numerous European short-haul options. Good road and rail connections link Sweden and Germany to Denmark. Plentiful ferries link Denmark with all major Baltic destinations and with Atlantic Coast destinations in Norway, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and the UK.

ITINERARIES

One Week

You could comfortably spend four days in Copenhagen exploring the museums, hunting down Danish design and taste-testing its lauded restaurants and bars. A trip north along the coast to the magnificent modern-art museum, Louisiana, and then further north still to Kronborg Slot, before returning south via Frederiksborg Slot and Roskilde, would be a great way to spend the other three days. If the weather is on your side, head for the north coast of Zealand for historic fishing villages and gorgeous sandy beaches.

Two Weeks

After time in Copenhagen, a quick catamaran ride will take you to the Baltic island of Bornholm, reputedly the sunniest slice of Denmark, and famed for cycling, beaches and its cheap, tasty smoke-houses. Alternatively, head west, stopping off on the island of Funen to see Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace in Odense. Continue further west to the Jutland peninsula for the understated hipster cool of Aarhus and further north to magnificent Skagen, where the Baltic and North Seas clash.

Essential Food & Drink

- **» Smørrebrød** Rye bread topped with anything from beef tartar to egg and shrimp, the open sandwich is Denmark's most famous culinary export.
- » Sild Smoked, cured, pickled or fried, herring is a local staple and best washed down with generous serves of akvavit (schnapps).
- » Kanelsnegle A calorific delight, 'cinnamon snails' are sweet, buttery scrolls, sometimes laced with chocolate.
- » Akvavit Denmark's best-loved spirit is caraway-spiced akvavit from Aalborg, drunk straight down as a shot, followed by a chaser of øl (beer).
- **» Lashings of beer** Carlsberg may dominate, but Denmark's expanding battalion of microbreweries includes Rise Bryggeri, Brøckhouse and Grauballe.

AT A GLANCE

- » Capital Copenhagen
- » Area 43,098 sg km
- » Population 5.58 million
- » Country code **2**45
- » Language Danish
- **» Currency** Danish krone (Dkr)

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	Dkr5.98
Canada	C\$1	Dkr5.59
Europe	€1	Dkr7.45
Japan	¥100	Dkr6.03
New	NZ\$1	Dkr4.77
Zealand		. .
UK	UK£1	Dkr8.72
USA	US\$1	Dkr5.72

For current exchange rates see www.xe.com.

Set Your Budget

- » Double room in hostel Dkr300-700
- » Two-course evening meal Dkr300
- » Museum entrance free-Dkr95
- » Beer Dkr45
- » Copenhagen transport pass (72 hours) Dkr190

Resources

- » Visit Denmark (www. visitdenmark.com) Comprehensive tourist information.
- » **AOK** (www.aok.dk) Up-todate reviews and listings for Copenhagen events, restaurants, bars and nightlife.
- » Rejseplanen (www.rejse planen.dk) Great journey planner.
- » Lonely Planet (www. lonelyplanet.com/denmark) Info, hotel bookings, forums and more.