

Denmark

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Best Places to Stay

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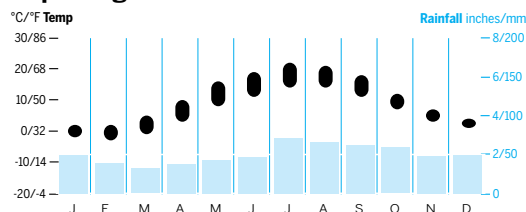
Why Go?

Denmark is the bridge between Scandinavia and northern Europe. To the rest of Scandinavia, the Danes are chilled, 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 than 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 urbane drawcards, Denmark's other chief appeal lies in its photogenic countryside, sweeping coastline and historic sights, from neolithic burial chambers and frozen-in-time peat-bog bodies, to castles.

When to Go

Copenhagen



Jun & Jul Long days, buzzing crowds, golden 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 and Iceland.

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 smokehouses. 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 42,915 sq km

Population 5.6 million

Country code ☑ 45

Language Danish

Currency Danish krone (Dkr)

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	Dkr5.14
Canada	C\$1	Dkr5.18
Euro Zone	€1	Dkr7.44
Japan	¥100	Dkr5.46
New Zealand	NZ\$1	Dkr4.66
UK	UK£1	Dkr9.42
USA	US\$1	Dkr5.83

Set Your Budget

Double room in a budget hotel Dkr500–Dkr650

Museum entrance free–Dkr140

Bike hire per day free–Dkr100

Train ticket Copenhagen–Aarhus Dkr382

Main course in a top-end restaurant Dkr250 and up

Resources

Visit Denmark (www.visitdenmark.com)

AOK (www.aok.dk)

Rejseplanen (www.rejseplanen.dk)

Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com/denmark)