

Adam's Guide to Denmark



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Introduction



Hello....or rather, goddag! This handy guide is intended to give you tips on how to get the most out of your trip to the country of my birth. I hope you will find Denmark as charming, beautiful, interesting and delicious as I do, and that your trip is memorable for all the right reasons. There is a wealth of culture, history, natural beauty and food all waiting to be discovered and, because Denmark is so tiny, it is all within easy reach!

I have attempted to give you the most accurate and useful advice on how to get from place to place, and have also added my own selection of notable sights, places to stay and, most importantly, places to eat. I have tried to reach beyond the recent Anglo-American obsession with ‘hygge’ and all things Nordic and present a Dane’s view of what the country has to offer. My recommendations are, of course, subjective so please treat them as an introduction, not the definitive guide. Nevertheless, I hope you find the information below of use and do feel free to email me (adam.h.f.holmes@gmail.com) should you have any questions.

Copenhagen

Let’s start with the place where you will most likely be starting your Danish adventure. Copenhagen is now rightly regarded as one of the best cities to visit in Europe, if not the world. It’s almost the perfect location for a city-break. The food is marvellous, it’s easy to get around whether you are on foot, bicycle or using public transport, it is full of interesting shops, sights and museums, and everyone speaks English! What’s more, Copenhagen is a very pretty city and incredibly safe as well. If the weather is good, there is lots to do outdoors and, if not, there are tons of museums, cafes, shops, restaurants and bars to enjoy.

I am, of course, deeply prejudiced in favour of the town where I was born, but I think you would have to have a heart of granite not to enjoy this gem of a city.

What to See in Copenhagen

There is more to Copenhagen than the Little Mermaid. In fact, you can avoid the famous sculpture sitting on her rock in the harbour, as it’s rather underwhelming and always surrounded by tourists. Instead, why don’t you have a look at some of the recommended points of interest below?

Copenhagen's Parks



Copenhagen boasts some truly beautiful parks that are especially lovely in the summer months. My favourites are Rosenborg Castle Gardens (pictured) and Ørstedsparken. Both of these are located right in the centre of town. Slightly further afield, you will find the lovely Frederiksberg Gardens, Fælledparken and the wilder, more forested Jægersborg Dyrehave.

Waterways and Canals

Travelling by boat through the canals of Copenhagen is a great way to see the city. Not only do the canals offer spectacular views of some of the city's most beautiful buildings, they also are an efficient way to see more of Copenhagen. You can rent boats at several spots, but if you take a guided canal trip you will also get to learn a thing or two about the history and geography of the city. On a sunny day, there is almost no nicer place to be than out on the water, soaking in the nearly 1000-year history of Copenhagen, as well as its more interesting and dynamic modern architecture. Copenhagen's most famous canal, Nyhavn (pictured below) is a great place to embark on a canal tour and several tour companies operate from there.



Rundetårn

Rundetårn, or the Round Tower, completed in 1642, is one of Copenhagen's most distinctive landmarks. It was built as an observatory in the time of Christian IV, who insisted on being able to ride to the top in his carriage. For this reason, you reach the top not via a staircase, but by ascending a wide ramp that spirals up to the top of the building. Once there, the Round Tower offers a lovely 360-degree view of the centre of the city. There are smaller galleries on the way to the top that sometimes have interesting displays as well. <http://www.rundetaarn.dk/en/>

Christiansborg

The former home of the Danish Royal family now houses the Danish Parliament, as seen on *Borgen*. The Danish Prime Minister's office is also located here, as is the Danish Supreme Court. Parts of the palace are still used by the monarchy and you can visit these throughout the year, provided the royals aren't using them. You can also book guided tours of the parliament.

<http://kongeligeslotte.dk/en/palaces-and-gardens/christiansborg-palace.html>



Amalienborg

The Royal Palace of Amalienborg is actually four palaces, built in 1760, surrounding an octagonal courtyard. You can wander through the courtyard, watch the changing of the guards, or go on tours of selected parts of the interiors. Nearby you will also find Frederik's Church and the Danish Museum of Art & Design. The palace is a beautiful stop on any walking or cycling tour of the city and makes a very elegant backdrop for holiday photos! <http://www.kongernessamling.dk/en/amalienborg/>



Copenhagen's Churches

Those seeking the kind of opulent grandeur found in the churches of Italy, Spain and France, might want to look elsewhere, for Denmark has been predominantly Lutheran since the 1520s. This means that the church architecture of the country is somewhat more restrained and certainly less decorous than in Catholic countries, though striking nonetheless. Grundtvig's Church (pictured below), for example, is an expressionist marvel.



More traditional churches include the lovely Church of Our Saviour in Christianshavn, which is worth visiting for two main reasons. Firstly, it is located in a charming area, which is a delight to walk around. Secondly, it has a spire that you can climb and from which you get an incredible view of the city. Unlike most church spires, however, the steps are on the outside, so it is not for the faint-hearted!



The most magnificent church in the city is Frederik's Church (left), popularly known as the Marble Church, which is located just outside the Royal Palace of Amalienborg. Built in the Rococo style in 1894, it is one of the most prominent features of the Copenhagen skyline.

Tivoli

Perhaps the most iconic of Copenhagen's attractions are the Tivoli Gardens. This amusement park lies right in the centre of Copenhagen and is the most charming of its kind anywhere. Tivoli has been drawing in the crowds since 1843 and has a distinctly old-world look and feel, like a fin-de-siècle world's fair but with rollercoasters. When Walt Disney visited in the 1950s, he was inspired to go home and create his own version – Disneyland. Like Disneyland, Tivoli finds lots of ways to separate you from the money in your wallet, but unlike Walt's park, it does so with style! Aside from the rides, there are also a host of carnival attractions, a theatre and live music. Open late, Tivoli is a perfect evening out with or without children.



The Blue Planet (Copenhagen's Aquarium)

Although I have not been there yet, I am told that this newly built aquarium near the airport is a great place to visit, especially if you are travelling with children. It's a vast new structure that boasts a variety of exhibits and a large collection of the weird and wonderful animals that inhabit the ocean.

<https://denblaaplanet.dk/en/>

Copenhagen Museums

There are more museums in Copenhagen than it is possible to see in one visit. There is a wealth of art to enjoy, history to uncover, and other delights to be found in these museums that are, more often than not, housed in stunning buildings. Most of the museums are within easy walking distance of the town centre and lie close to some of the sights listed above.

Below are some of my absolute favourites.

The National Museum of Denmark - Ny Vestergade 10, Prinsens Palæ, København K -



<https://en.natmus.dk/museums-and-palaces/the-national-museum-of-denmark/>. This museum presents a history of Denmark and its people from the Stone Age to the present. I find the older exhibitions - containing ancient Danish artefacts, some of which are thousands of years old – to be particularly fascinating.

The National Gallery of Denmark - Sølvgade 48-50, Copenhagen K - <https://www.smk.dk/en/>. The



National Gallery contains some of the very finest Danish art in the city, especially from the early-mid Nineteenth Century, known as the Golden Age of Danish painting. There is some art on display from the rest of Europe, including works by Dürer, Mantegna, Rembrandt, Matisse and Picasso. The building is lovely to walk around too, and there are pretty parks on either side of the museum.

The Danish Jewish Museum - Proviantpassagen 6, Copenhagen K - <http://jewmus.dk/en/the-danish-jewish-museum/> -

Opened in 2004, this museum explores Jewish life in Denmark throughout history. From the eighteenth century onwards, Denmark made efforts to integrate Jewish citizens into Danish society. In 1933, King Christian X became the first Nordic monarch to visit a synagogue and, during the occupation by the Nazis (1940-45), hundreds of Danes helped their fellow citizens, who were Jews, escape to Sweden. This beautiful museum and its impressive collection of artefacts celebrate these important moments in Danish history, and shed light on many other aspects of the history of Danish Jews.

Danish Museum of Art & Design – Bredgade 69, Copenhagen K - <https://designmuseum.dk/en/> -

Offering a collection that showcases the best of Danish design, the collections include ceramics, furniture, fashion, household objects, glass and much more. The building is as lovely as the objects housed within it and the museum is a pleasure to walk through. If you go, be sure to visit the gift shop!



Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek - Dantes Plads 7, København V -

<https://www.glyptoteket.com/> - The collection of European art, especially French Impressionists, at the Glyptotek is remarkable. Just as remarkable is the architecture of the museum. You will also find a good selection of Danish art, ancient sculpture and a lovely view from the roof terrace. If you only go to one museum, I would make it this one.

The Hirschprung Collection - Stockholmsgade 20, 2100 København Ø - <https://hirschsprung.dk/> -

This small but rich collection of Danish art belonged to the tobacco baron, Heinrich Hirschsprung, and his wife, Pauline. Much of the art comes from the famous artists' colony that sprang up in Skagen, the very Northern tip of Denmark, in the late nineteenth century. It's a charming, little museum and well worth a stop if you are visiting the National Gallery next door.



Thorvaldsen Museum - 2 Bertel Thorvaldsens Plads, Copenhagen K - <https://www.thorvaldsensmuseum.dk/en/> -

Unquestionably the greatest sculptor Denmark ever produced, Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770 – 1884) spent the bulk of his illustrious career in Rome. Upon his return to Denmark, late in life, he was

heralded as a national hero and this museum was dedicated to him. Before his death in 1844, Thorvaldsen also spent time at a studio in Præstø, and you can visit a small museum about him there. In fact, my first ever summer job was selling tickets at that museum.

Copenhagen Restaurants

Nothing has defined Copenhagen's identity more in recent years than its restaurant scene, spearheaded by the iconic NOMA. The best food in Copenhagen reflects the city's own sense of self; it is confident, modern, joyful, and beautifully designed. Copenhagener's are justifiably proud of their restaurant scene and gleefully partake of it. If you get talking to any Danes, make sure to get their recommendations.

As for my restaurant tips...I have decided only to present you with places I have visited and enjoyed. Fear not, this is no small list, and it is as varied as it is delicious. There are also many good guides to the restaurant scene online and elsewhere. Netflix's *Somebody Feed Phil* has an excellent episode on Copenhagen, for example. Beware of the tourist traps though! Copenhagen is as full of underwhelming food as anywhere else and the worst offenders are often in the most touristy parts of town.

Enjoy perusing my list and...*velkommen!*

The Best Spots for Lunch

Restaurant Schønnemann - Hauser Plads 16, København K -

<http://www.restaurantschonemann.dk/?ulang=2> - For a traditional Danish lunch, look no further!

This venerable restaurant is one of the best places to enjoy smørrebrød – Danish open-faced sandwiches – and Akvavit. Their menu wants nothing to do with ground-breaking gastronomy or

foodie fashions and instead provides delicious, perfectly cooked versions of traditional Danish staples. The décor (pictured below) reflects the menu, with cosy wood panelled rooms and white tablecloths. If you go to one place for lunch in Copenhagen, make it this.



Peder Oxe - Gråbrødretorv 11, København K - <https://www.pederaxe.dk/> - Like Schønnemann's, Peder Oxe offers a lunch menu of traditionally prepared, Danish smørrebrød in charming surroundings. It is located on the square, Gråbrødretorv, a quiet haven in the teeming pedestrianised centre of town. It is also the first place I took Lily for lunch in Copenhagen.

Sankt Annæ - Sankt Annæ Plads 12, København K - <https://restaurantsanktannae.dk/en/> - Another option for traditional smørrebrød is this little gem of a restaurant. It is smaller and cosier than the two listed above and the food is excellent. It's only a short distance from Amalienborg and Nyhavn, so a great stop if you are sight-seeing.

Aamann's - Øster Farimagsgade 12, København Ø - <https://aamanns.dk/etablissement/?lang=en> - For the modern take on smørrebrød, head to Aamann's. One of my absolute favourite spots in town, it presents perfect, small, lunchtime plates that are an inventive new take on Danish classics. They make their own Akvavit too and it is delicious. Close to both the National Gallery and the Hirschprung Collection, this is a great pre- or post-gallery visit eatery.



Hija De Sanchez - Torvehallerne, Frederiksborggade 21, København K - <http://www.hijadesanchez.dk/work/about/> - If you are getting bored of open-faced sandwiches and want to explore non-Danish options, then do consider this excellent Taqueria, located in the gorgeous Torvehallerne food hall. The tacos are heavenly and they will also serve you some utterly delectable ice-creams. Also, my brother used to work here!

Bankerått - Ahlefeldtsgade 27-29, København K - <http://www.bankeraat.dk/> - This eccentric cafe has been a real haunt of mine down the years. The food is good and honest, but the real draw is the quirky décor and artsy atmosphere. A wonderful place to stop for coffee or a drink, this place is an underrated spot and great for people-watching!

Sporvejen - Gråbrødretorv 17, København K - <http://sporvejen.dk/> - This tiny place, built to resemble an old streetcar, does some of the best burgers in town. It's open for lunch but will keep serving burgers until midnight so is a solid option at almost any time of day.

DØP - Købmagergade 52, København K - <https://www.visitcopenhagen.com/copenhagen/dop-gdk412735> – Hotdogs are a vital part of life in Copenhagen and can be purchased from any number of vendors at any time of day. You can even buy one in the airport while waiting at baggage reclaim. I like to get mine 'med det hele' (with everything), meaning raw onions, roasted onions, pickles, remoulade, ketchup and mustard. The real pros wash their hotdog down with a chocolate milk. The vendor DØP, right next to the Round Tower, sells organic hotdogs that are amazing. If you intend to stop for a hotdog - and frankly you should stop for several - then go here.

My Favourite Restaurants for Dinner

NB: Many of these will also be open for lunch.

Geist – Kongens Nytorv 8, København K - <http://restaurantgeist.dk/en> - This restaurant, serving a selection of small plates that you pick and choose yourself, is enormously good fun. The food is tremendous, and they have an excellent wine selection too. Geist manages to stay pretty informal, while serving up Michelin-quality dishes.



Fiskebaren - Flæsketorvet 100, København V - <http://fiskebaren.dk/en/fiskebaren/> - Not only do I consider this restaurant (pictured above) among the best places to eat in Copenhagen, I also consider it among my favourite restaurants anywhere. You will not find better seafood in the city. All of the fish

and most of the other ingredients come from Danish waters or farms and are creatively arrayed in dishes that will blow your mind. The oysters are fabulous too, and no stop at Fiskebaren would be complete without sampling the raw bar. They have an extensive wine list and, perhaps surprisingly for a seafood restaurant, the desserts are to die for. If I were visiting Copenhagen and only had time to visit one restaurant, this would be it.

Gorm's Pizza - Nyhavn 14, København K (with numerous other locations) – Gorm's provides some



of the best pizza in Copenhagen in a few different locations. Their most picturesque is on the famous Nyhavn canal, but you can find them on the beautiful Magstræde as well. There's not much more to say other than if you are hankering for a pizza, don't fall into a tourist trap on one of the main thoroughfares, go here!

La Vecchia Signora – Grønnegade 12/14, København K -

<https://www.lavecchiasignora.dk/welcome> - Of course, if you are craving a pizza you could also go here. This old favourite of mine is an uncomplicated, traditional, Italian restaurant that also serves excellent pasta. The seafood linguine is utterly delightful.

Studio -The Standard, 44 Havnegade, København K - <http://thestandardcph.dk/en/studio> - What used



to be a ferry terminal on Copenhagen's main canal has now been turned into a home for a couple of different swanky establishments, one of which is the restaurant, Studio. Inventive and delicious in equal measure, the food here will linger long in the memory as will the views you will be treated to if they are kind enough to give you a window seat.

Gorilla – Flæsketorvet 63, København V - <http://restaurantgorilla.dk/forside/?lang=en> – This boisterous restaurant, located in the meatpacking district, right next to Fiskebaren, serves inventive Mediterranean-inspired dishes that rarely disappoint. The food is confident, the cocktails are delicious, and the whole experience of eating at Gorilla seems designed to put a smile on your face.

MASH - Bredgade 20, København K – <https://www.mashsteak.dk/restaurant/vis/mash-city> - Steak,



glorious steak. Like pizza, it's easy to go wrong with steak and end up spending too much money on disappointing food. MASH will gleefully take your money but it will be worth every last penny. The steaks are utterly wonderful and so are the red wines on offer. MASH has a few different locations to choose from, including one in the airport. So, if you're hungry and have some time before you fly, why not treat yourself to a ribeye and a glass of Malbec? I always do...

Clou - Øster Farimagsgade 8, København K - <http://restaurant-clou.dk/> - If it's Michelin-starred, gastronomic excellence you are after, then you could do a lot worse than this place. Lily and I ate here once and had a truly memorable meal. Going to Clou is a bit of an experience so be prepared for a long dinner with a barrage of dishes and interesting wines.

AMASS - Refshalevej 153, København K - <https://amassrestaurant.com/> - AMASS is another fun,



rambunctious restaurant that serves excellent food. The dishes are the brainchild of American chef, Matt Orlando, who used to work at Noma. Apart from the delicious food and drink, the restaurant also offers a stunning location, with views across the canal to the centre of Copenhagen. It's the most out of the way restaurant on the list and you'll most likely want to get a taxi to take you there, but the journey is absolutely worth it.

Kokkeriet - Kronprinsessegade 64, København K - <https://kokkeriet.dk/en/> - This restaurant describes itself as 'modern and old-fashioned, innovative and traditional, decadent and minimalist, formal as well as down to earth.' This may sound like pretentious nonsense - and it is - but it's not entirely wrong. The restaurant is a little formal, but cosy, and the food, while undoubtedly inventive, sticks close to traditional flavours. Kokkeriet doesn't deliver too many whistles and bells, just some very tasty food. I cannot say that it's the best place to eat in the city but I left a very satisfied man when I ate there and I look forward to going back.

Restaurant Grønnegade - Grønnegade 39, København K - <http://www.groennegade.dk/index.php/about-us> - This is one of the prettiest restaurants in Copenhagen and will serve you a totally delicious meal as well. Restaurant Grønnegade occupies a 17th-century townhouse on a quiet street, right in the middle of Copenhagen. The space is cosily romantic and the food is beautifully put together and reasonably priced. It never seems to make it onto the lists of 'must visit' places, but I adore it.



Brdr. Price - Rosenborggade 15, København K - <http://brdr-price.dk/rosenborggade> - The Price brothers, Adam and James, are a pair of overachieving polymaths, true renaissance men, and unapologetic bon-viveurs. Adam is a journalist and writer, most famous for creating the TV-series *Borgen*, and James is a composer and orchestra director. Both brothers love their food. Together they started a hit cooking show that spawned a series of restaurants. Brdr. Price, on Rosenborggade, is the best of these and a lovely location for either lunch or dinner. The food is mostly French-inspired and

much of the art on the walls is by the brothers' late father John, a famous actor and director in his own time.

Copenhagen's Bars and Pubs

Danes like to drink, smoke cigarettes, flirt, party, and generally have a rollicking good time.

Copenhagen has bars and pubs aplenty of varying quality and character. Whether you are in the mood for a bottle of beer in a smoky dive bar or a tasty cocktail in more refined surroundings, the places below will have you covered.

Mikkeller Bar - Viktoriagade 8B, København V - <http://mikkeller.dk/location/mikkeller-bar-viktoriagade-copenhagen/> - Mikkeller is now synonymous with craft beer worldwide but it all started in this little brewpub on Viktoriagade, near the meatpacking district. I love making my way through the extensive beer menu while nibbling on cured meat at this cosy bar, which spills onto the pavement in the summer months.

The Moose - Sværtegade 5, København K - <http://moosebar.dk/> - This place proudly advertises itself



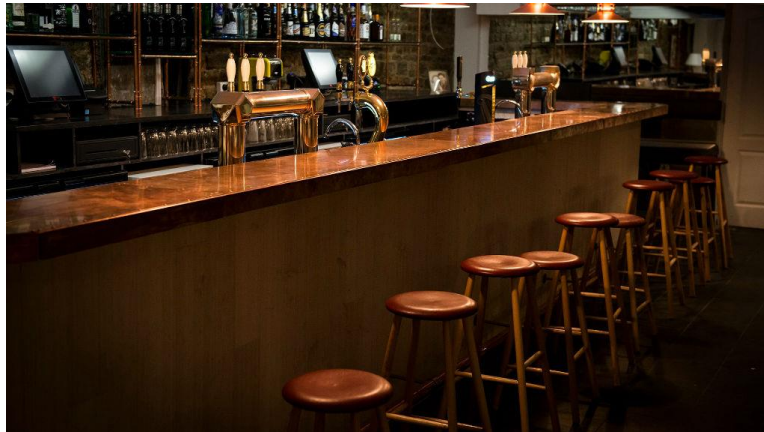
as offering 'Great music, good vibes and bad air' and is not wrong. At the time of writing the Moose still allows its patrons to smoke inside and most do, the others I guess just enjoy the cigarettes passively. I have spent many happy, hazy hours in what is, for my money, the best dive bar in Copenhagen and one of my favourite spots to have a drink or ten anywhere. I don't think it ever shuts, the people are friendly, there's a jukebox and the beer is cheap as chips. If you don't mind stinking of cigarette smoke when you leave, go here.

Den Vandrette - Havnegade 53A, København K – <http://www.denvandrette.dk> - If it's a glass of wine you're after, then you should check out this lovely, little wine bar. The staff are friendly and knowledgeable and they always have really interesting wines on offer. Perfectly located in the centre of town, this is a great place for a pre-dinner drink.

Det Elektriske Hjørne - Store Regnegade 12, København K – Also very central, this bar is a true Copenhagen institution. My mother used to go here in the 1970s! It has the great benefit of being a café too and is a great place to stop for coffee during the day. By night it has a laid back, studenty vibe and serves a decent selection of beers and spirits. If you are shopping in the centre of town and need to rest your feet, you can always count on this place. Whatever you do, don't be fooled into going to the nearby Café Viktor. It's a vapid, awful place and the service is appalling.

The Bird and Churchkey – Gammel Strand 44, København K - <https://thebird.dk/> - Gammel Strand, a cobbled street, half of which opens onto a canal, is a great place for a drink. There are a few good

cocktail bars along the street, many of which have rather silly names. This place, silly name aside, is one of my favourites and makes a damn fine gin and tonic.

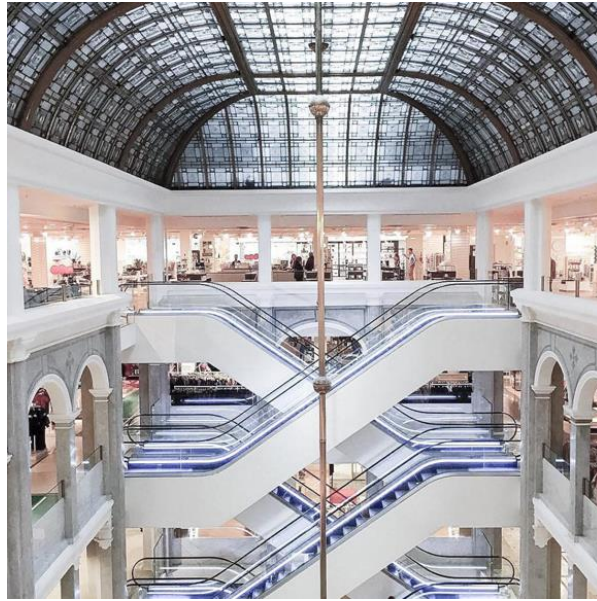


The Jane - Gråbrødretorv 8, København K – If you fancy a cocktail and maybe a dance as well, you can head to this bar, which seems to have used the show *Mad Men* as its main inspiration. It's open late, full of characters and has a number of different, warren-like rooms to get lost in. I've spent many happy hours here!

Shopping in Copenhagen

The city is home to many lovely shops of every type: design, fashion, art, food and much more. The centre of town, especially the pedestrianised shopping street, Strøget, can be overwhelming, so I have suggested a couple of shops below that I think are the most essential to visit.

- A.C. Perch's Thehandel - <https://www.perchs.dk/index.phpdoo=changelang&tolang=2> – This traditional tea shop, which dates from the nineteenth century, sells fine teas in every flavour you could imagine. You can play it safe and go for their peerless Earl Grey, or choose something altogether more funky. The wood-panelled space is pretty, and there is a charming tearoom upstairs where you can sample the tea!
- The Royal Copenhagen Flagship Store - <https://www.royalcopenhagen.com/home> - You will find this cathedral of crockery right in the centre of town, on Amgertorv, and it's a lot of fun. The Royal Copenhagen porcelain designs are absolutely beautiful and make for excellent gifts. The store even has its own café where, of course, everything is served on or in something from the shop: <https://www.royalcopenhagen.com/home>
- Illum - <https://illum.dk/?lang=en> – A lot of people would tell you to head to Magasin du Nord, which is lovely, but for my money the finest department store in Copenhagen is Illum. Nearby you'll also find Illum's homeware store, which is full of things you never thought you needed.



Copenhagen's Transport

Copenhagen has very good public transport but is also one of the most walkable cities anywhere. The centre of town is really not that big and you can get to most of the key sights on foot or by bike. Bicycle lanes run throughout the city and the main thoroughfare, Strøget, is entirely pedestrianised.

Copenhagen has several bus routes and an excellent Metro system, which is currently being expanded. The Metro is the best, quickest, and cheapest way to get from the airport to the centre of town.



The Copenhagen Metro has two lines which run from suburban Vanløse to Vestamager and Copenhagen Airport, both situated on the island of Amager. The Metro runs 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

If you plan to use public transport, then it is a good idea to purchase a City Pass which gives you unlimited access to buses, trains, metro and harbour buses in zones 1 – 4. This includes the centre of Copenhagen as well as the airport. You can buy your City Pass at the ticket machines at all stations and the airport, or online at www.citypass.dk.

Overground trains run to and from the airport and to destinations further afield. From Copenhagen Central Station you can catch a train to Roskilde, Helsingør, towns in Jutland, including Aarhus, and even Sweden and Northern Germany. For train schedules and to plan your journeys, visit the website: https://www.rejseplanen.dk/webapp/index.html?language=en_EN.

Taxis are readily available in Copenhagen and most other Danish cities and towns. Uber runs in Copenhagen but may not be available outside the city. A good taxi company that operates nationally is DanTaxi (<https://dantaxi4x48.dk/english/>), which can be reached by calling + 45 4848 4848.

Near Copenhagen

There are lots of pretty towns and interesting sights within easy reach of Copenhagen. Trains run regularly to all of these, but they can also be easily accessed by car.

Dragør



Close to the airport, although unpolluted by the sound of aeroplanes, is the seaside village of Dragør. The waterfront is charming, with nice places to get a plate of fried fish and chips, or an oversized ice cream. The old town itself is a maze of cobbled streets and colourful, quaint summer houses.

Roskilde

The town of Roskilde is most well known as the home of Scandinavia's most prominent music festival. Alas, this does not coincide with the wedding, but there are still plenty of things to recommend the town. For a start, there is the imposing Domkirke, the cathedral where a great number of Danish monarchs are buried. My favourite attraction in Roskilde, however, is the Viking Ship Museum (<https://www.vikingskibsmuseet.dk/en/>), where original Viking longboats, found in the mud of Roskilde Fjord, are on display.

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art

In the coastal town of Humlebæk, 25 miles north of Copenhagen, is one of the most iconic museums in Denmark. Not only does it have a rich collection of modern and contemporary art, but the museum

itself is yet another beautiful piece of architecture. The landscape around Louisiana is also picturesque, and you can look across the water to Sweden on a clear day. <https://en.louisiana.dk/visit-louisiana>



Helsingør

Known as Elsinore in English – sound familiar? – this port city, overlooking the Øresund strait, was established in the 1420s to help the Danish monarchy impose tolls on the sea traffic that passed through the narrow waters between Denmark and Sweden. The old streets of the city are a pleasure to stroll down, and the harbourfront is home to numerous attractions.



One of these is the castle of Kronborg (above), for centuries a fortress controlling the entrance to the Baltic Sea, but most famously known as the setting for *Hamlet*. Each summer, performances of the play are staged in the castle courtyard, but the castle is much more than a backdrop for Shakespeare. It's one of the finest Renaissance castles in Northern Europe, and is home to great halls, Royal apartments, historical artefacts and paintings, tapestries, a stunning ballroom and spooky underground passages. Kronborg is one of my very favourite places to visit. <http://kongeligeslotte.dk/en/palaces-and-gardens/kronborg-castle/explore-kronborg-castle.html>

Frederiksborg Castle

Another stunning castle north of Copenhagen is the majestic Frederiksborg, also home to the Museum of National History. Like Kronborg, it dates from the seventeenth century, but began its life as a country estate, rather than a fortress. King Christian IV was born there and commissioned Flemish architects to redesign and rebuild the castle. Frederiksborg is now considered one of the best examples of Dutch renaissance architecture.



The inside of the castle is home to the largest collection of portraits in Denmark, as well as numerous other historic objects. The museum encapsulates 500 years of Danish history through paintings, furniture and decorative arts. The baroque garden evokes similar examples in England and Italy, and is perfect to walk around on a pleasant day. <http://www.dnm.dk/uk/forside.htm>

Beyond Copenhagen

Denmark never used to be a *destination* when I was a child. Most people I went to school with probably could not have pointed it out on a map, and I was often asked if, being Danish, I spoke Dutch or even German. In recent years, of course, Denmark has been very much put on the map by a fascination with *hygge*, the flurry of internationally popular television shows about people in jumpers staring moodily into middle distance and, of course, the restaurant scene, which has hipsters from all nations flocking to Denmark to add some Scandi credo to their Instagram feeds. Much of the above attention, however, has been focussed on Copenhagen, and rightly so.

There is much more to Denmark than its capital though. There are beautiful towns, museums, castles, and coastlines scattered all over the country. A few of these can even be found in or very near Præstø, where Lily and I are getting married.

Starting with Præstø, I have listed here a few of my personal favourite places to visit.



Præstø – The Wedding Venue

There are lots of reasons why Lily and I chose to get married in Præstø. It was one of the first trips we made together, and Lily loved it straight away. We had just spent some blissful days in Copenhagen, but perhaps the happiest moments of our first holiday together were in this quiet town. My mother lives in Præstø, as did my grandparents, who had a farm just outside of town. In 1985 my parents were married there, and my father chose to be buried there.

A nearly 1,000-year-old market town, Præstø sits on the banks of a fjord that flows into the Baltic. As I child, I spent nearly every summer holiday there, and could not have been happier. There are forests to walk and cycle in, beautiful views of the fjord, and quiet, cobbled streets to wander along.



Getting to Præstø

Præstø does not have a train station of its own, but you can catch regular trains from Copenhagen to the nearby town of Næstved (25 minutes' drive away). The trains to Næstved run twice an hour under normal conditions. You can get busses on to Præstø from just outside the station. The 620R runs regularly from Næstved to Præstø's bus station. You can also take a taxi. If you are planning on taking a taxi, it is a good idea to call ahead and book, as taxis do not always wait at the station. The best company to call is DanTaxi: + 45 48 48 48 48.

UPDATE: It has recently come to my attention that there are engineering works on the train line between Copenhagen and Næstved. Please double-check rail times before travelling and allow a little extra time in case of delays. The best website to check train times is: www.rejseplanen.dk

If you are driving from Copenhagen, take motorway E20 and E47 South until you reach Exit 39 at Bårse. From here, follow route 265 into Præstø. The drive from Copenhagen takes approximately one hour.

Where to Stay in Præstø

There are several hotels and B&Bs in and near Præstø, should you wish to stay there over the wedding weekend. We have reserved the rooms at several of these for your use. The hotels vary in size, proximity to the wedding venue, and price. Please email me (adam.h.f.holmes@gmail.com) should you wish to stay in Præstø and I will make the necessary arrangements. Please be aware, space is limited!

Things to do in Præstø

Præstø has many charms but cannot be classed as a tourist haven. It is a small, quiet, residential town, and a very pretty one, but does not offer diversions on a par with, say, Copenhagen, or even Northampton, Massachusetts... If the weather is nice then I would certainly recommend a stroll along the harbourfront, where you can purchase an ice cream or a cold beer, or both (my preference). Café Mocca is a fine place to sit and enjoy the sunset with a cold beer. Beware, the large beers here live up to their name so I always opt for a medium!

The harbourfront is a good place to head for lunch in Præstø with Mocca and Siv and Co. offering solid, if unspectacular fare. You can also try the restaurant Tapavino and there is an excellent hotdog stand near the supermarket if you are really interested in having a glamorous experience.

The high street in Præstø has a few charming shops, including one or two antique stores and a café called Sweet & Coffee, which is pleasant, if not ground-breaking. You can also walk around the fjord, take in the local church (where my folks got married!) and walk along an adorably Danish cobblestone street called Torvet.

Præstø's main feature is the quietly beautiful Fjord on which it sits. There are some great walks you can take around the Fjord and you can even rent a canoe if you are feeling adventurous. If you're interested in a nice walk, have a look at the image below where I have tried to point out a couple of my favourite spots. The blue line will take you along the harbour and up towards Nysø. The yellow line to the left starts at the smaller, picturesque harbour on the other side of the fjord and runs up along the waterfront and into the forest, where there are several paths. The second yellow line shows the route I like to take through the woods when I'm walking my mum's Labrador!



There is one hidden treasure in Præstø, and it is one to which I have a special connection. My great grandfather, and his father before him, farmed all the land belonging to the Nysø estate as a tenant of the local baron. At Nysø (pictured below), which, incidentally, is very beautiful, there is a small museum dedicated to Berthel Thorvaldsen, the renowned nineteenth-century sculptor. Late in his life, he spent a great deal of time at Nysø as a guest of the family and maintained a small studio there. The tiny museum displays several beautiful works by Thorvaldsen and, once upon a time, the person selling tickets and programmes was a teenage me, in my first ever paid job! Alas, the house is not open to visitors. However, the walk or drive out to Nysø is very pleasant and affords lovely views of the house and garden.



Things to do Near Præstø

The wonderful thing about Denmark being so tiny is that, when you run out of things to do in whatever place you find yourself, you can simply hop in a car or on to a train or bus and be in a new and exciting location within a short time. From Præstø, it is but a 45-minute drive to one of Denmark's most outstanding areas of natural beauty, Møns Klint. These imposing chalk cliffs facing into the Baltic have attracted tourists and artists (including P.C. Skovgaard, below) for centuries, and with good reason. Denmark does not have much to speak of, scenery-wise. With no mountains or rivers to disrupt the landscape, the interior can sometimes feel a little flat. While I think the peaceful uniformity of the countryside has a certain comforting beauty, it's Denmark's coastlines that really deliver on the spectacle front. Møns Klint is a fine example of this and a grand day out, especially in good weather.



If the weather is particularly good, you may even want to head to the beach. Summer will not really have gotten going yet by May, so I suspect the water will be rather cold. Still, if you are in the mood

for a walk, or are particularly fond of swimming in cold water, Feddet (<http://www.feddetcamping.dk/en/experience/beach/>) is the place to go. It takes 20 minutes to drive out there from Præstø. Parking costs 40DKK and, tiresomely, the machine at the site only accepts cash.

Another good outdoor activity to try is the newly opened Camp Adventure, a short drive from Præstø. Here you will find a climbing park as well as a huge observation tower commanding impressive views of the surrounding countryside: <https://www.campadventure.dk/en/>



Just South of Præstø is the historic town of Vordingborg. Here you can visit the beautiful Fanefjord Church (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fanefjord_Church). It is a very fine example of Danish Protestant church architecture, but the real draw at Fanefjord are the frescos, some dating from as early as 1350. These were covered up for much of the church's life, but were uncovered in the early twentieth century and I find them really quite wonderful.

In Vordingborg, you can also visit the Castle Centre, a museum dedicated to Denmark's medieval history. The Centre features an exhibition space as well as ruins, a historic tower, activities for children, and a restaurant. The tower is well worth visiting as it commands a handsome view of the surrounding countryside and waters.

Beyond Sjælland

The island of Sjælland is home to both Copenhagen and Præstø and, if you are only staying for the wedding weekend, you probably will not venture beyond it. If, however, you plan to make a longer stop in Denmark, there are several excellent places to visit further afield.

Aarhus

Denmark's second largest city was named European Capital of Culture for 2017. It is a worthy destination for any city break that offers a wealth of history and art and several fine restaurants. I do not know Aarhus nearly as well as Copenhagen, but I will attempt to give a good idea of its many delights below.



The so-called Old Town of Aarhus (pictured above) is actually a collection of historic buildings from across Denmark that have been moved to this wonderful, open-air museum. The buildings and artefacts on display cover hundreds of years of Danish history. Visitors can enter nearly all of the buildings and rooms on display, and there are often special exhibits that are worth visiting too. You can order a guided tour, although this must be done 8 days in advance, or just make your own way around. For more information, head to the website: <https://www.dengamleby.dk/en/den-gamle-by/>

Aarhus is home to two other fantastic museums, the ARoS museum of art (<https://en.aros.dk/>), and the Moesgaard Museum (<https://www.moesgaardmuseum.dk/en/>). The former is an impressive collection of modern and contemporary art, housed in an impressive building. The latter, dedicated to archaeology and ethnography, contains a host of historical treasures including the Grauballe Man, a body preserved in a peat bog, that dates from the Iron Age.

Aarhus has a buzzing city centre that is largely pedestrianised. There are shops galore, cosy pubs and cafes, as well as several excellent restaurants to choose from. I am told that Pondus (<https://restaurantpondus.dk/>) is particularly good but, alas, I have not been there yet!



Not far from Aarhus is the charming town of Ebeltoft. The town itself is home to pretty buildings, and narrow streets, as well as a renowned museum of glass (<https://glasmuseet.dk/?lang=en>). The Mols Bjerge National Park lies just outside Ebeltoft, and offers hiking and nature trails with about as rugged a backdrop as the relatively flat Danish countryside can offer!



Skagen

North of Aarhus, in fact, as far North as you can get in Denmark, is the town and area known as Skagen. The top of the Jutland peninsula, the Skagerrak is the point where the North Sea meets the Baltic. You can actually stand at the very tip of the peninsula and watch the two bodies of water crash into one another. The area is outstandingly beautiful and there are excellent beaches, coastal walks, and other seaside delights to enjoy. The main attraction of Skagen, for me at least, is the art.

In the late nineteenth century, Skagen was home to a veritable artists' colony. Painters from Denmark, as well as from Sweden and Norway, descended on this remote part of Denmark to take advantage of the remarkable light and rustic settings. The paintings produced by these artists, such as the beach scene pictured below, rank among the finest examples of Northern European Impressionism and a great many of them are housed in Skagen at the wonderful Art Museum of Skagen (<https://skagenskunstmuuseum.dk/en/>). Several of the artists' homes have also been preserved as museums and are really worth visiting.



Skagen is home to other unique sights, including a church that was swallowed by the coastal dunes and whose tower now pokes, incongruously, out from beneath the sand. You can also visit Råbjerg Mile, an enormous sand dune that wanders a few feet each year across the countryside.

The coasts of Northern Jutland are, on the whole, full of delightful surprises that are definitely worth investigating. Beaches, pretty towns, nature centres, good food and museums abound, and are too numerous to list here. You can even see vestiges of the German occupation of Denmark during the Second World War in the form of concrete bunkers that lie, abandoned, on certain beaches. To learn more about this remote but beautiful part of Denmark, visit this website:

https://www.visitnordjylland.com/en-int/north_jutland.

Bornholm

If you want to really take your Danish adventure to the outer limits, you can visit the island of Bornholm. Lying way out in the Baltic, closer to Poland than the rest of Denmark, Bornholm has been a popular destination for Danes for decades, but remains relatively undiscovered by international tourists. I must confess that, unlike the places I have listed above, I have not been to Bornholm. I am very keen to go, however, as I hear nothing but good things about it.

The scenery on Bornholm is supposed to be wonderful, so too the beaches and rugged coasts. There are pretty towns, such as Gudhjem, as well as castles and historic churches. Furthermore, the island is even home to one of Denmark's finest restaurants, Kadeau (http://www.kadeau.dk/bornholm_english.php). To learn more about what the island has to offer, as well as how best to get there, visit: <https://bornholm.info/en/>.

