

EUROPE · CITY BREAKS · FOOD · ARCHITECTURE · HISTORY · CULTURE



Denmark

Copenhagen's Nyhavn waterfront is lined with brightly painted townhouses and old wooden ships, Kronborg Castle guards the strait that Hamlet made famous, and Jutland runs out at Skagen, where two seas meet. Denmark is compact, flat and expensive, and a bicycle remains the fastest, most Danish way to get around its cities.

 Before you go, read the UK government's travel advice for Denmark and entry requirements (visas, passport validity). Last updated by FCDO 11 August 2026.

 CAPITAL Copenhagen	 CURRENCY Danish krone (DKK) £1 ≈ DKK 8.90	 LANGUAGE Danish, English	 BEST TIME May–Sep
 DAILY BUDGET £80–£330 £££ Expensive	 PLUGS Type C, E, F, K 230V · adapter needed	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 1h 55m direct ~£60–£200 return	 TIME ZONE UTC+1 standard time

Denmark is small enough to cross by train in an afternoon, yet its islands and peninsula feel varied. Most first trips centre on Copenhagen, with day trips up the Øresund coast to Kronborg and the Louisiana museum, and west to Roskilde's Viking ships. A second week usually heads over the Great Belt Bridge to Odense, Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace, then on to Jutland: Aarhus for ARoS and the Old Town museum, Billund for LEGO, Ribe for the Viking age and Skagen for dunes and luminous light at the northern tip.

Expect high prices: a coffee costs around £5 and a restaurant main £25 or more, though supermarkets, bakeries and hot-dog stands soften the blow. In return, almost everything works. Public transport is efficient, cycle lanes are everywhere, English is nearly universal, and the food scene, from New Nordic tasting menus to Copenhagen's street-food halls, punches well above the country's size. Summer evenings stay light until late; winter is dark but cosy, with Tivoli's Christmas market and candlelit cafés showing hygge at its best. It suits city-breakers, cyclists and families.

Top 5 highlights

1

CITY

Nyhavn

Copenhagen's 17th-century canal, lined with painted gabled houses, wooden ships and packed terraces. Hans Christian Andersen lived at three different addresses here; take a canal tour from the quay for the city's best overview.

2

HISTORY

Kronborg Castle

This Renaissance fortress at Helsingør controlled the Øresund for centuries, collecting tolls from passing ships. It is the Elsinore of Hamlet, and the play is regularly staged in the courtyard in summer.

3

NATURE

Skagen and Grenen

At Denmark's northern tip the Skagerrak and Kattegat meet off the sandbar of Grenen, where you can stand with a foot in each. The town's luminous light drew the Skagen Painters, whose work hangs in the local museum.

4

NATURE

Møns Klint

White chalk cliffs rise more than 100 metres above the Baltic on the island of Møn. Descend the long wooden staircases to hunt for fossils on the beach, then visit the GeoCenter; the area is also a dark-sky park.

5

CULTURE

Legoland and LEGO House, Billund

LEGO's home town has the original Legoland park, open from spring to autumn, and LEGO House, a hands-on experience centre stacked like giant bricks. Billund Airport is only minutes away.

Biggest cities

LARGEST CITY

Copenhagen

≈ 1.4 million people

Allow three or four days for the harbour baths, Tivoli, Christiansborg, the Design Museum and the food halls; cycling between Nørrebro, Vesterbro and Christianshavn is the way to see it.

2ND LARGEST CITY

Aarhus

≈ 290,000 people

Denmark's second city is a lively student town with the rainbow walkway on top of ARoS art museum, the open-air Den Gamle By and Moesgaard's superb prehistory museum.

3RD LARGEST CITY

Odense

≈ 180,000 people

Hans Christian Andersen's home town has a striking museum devoted to him, opened in 2021, plus a cobbled old quarter and easy cycling along the river.

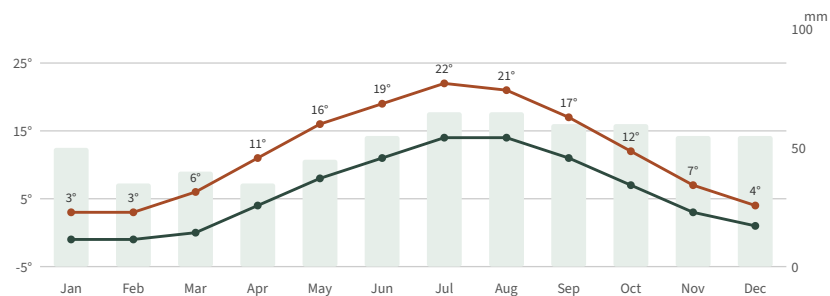
Ranked by urban-area population where available. Figures are rounded estimates, and sources define city limits differently, so rankings of similar-sized cities can vary.

When to go to Denmark

Best time: **May–Sep.**

**Average climate in Copenhagen**

— High °C — Low °C — Rain (mm)



Festivals & events

Jun–Jul	Roskilde Festival One of Europe's biggest music festivals fills the fields outside Roskilde for a week around the turn of June and July, with big-name headliners and a non-profit ethos.
Jun	Sankt Hans Aften On Midsummer Eve, 23 June, Danes gather on beaches and lakeshores around bonfires topped with a straw witch, singing Holger Drachmann's 'Midsommervisen' as the long evening fades.
Jul	Copenhagen Jazz Festival For ten days in early July, hundreds of concerts take over clubs, squares, parks and harbourside stages across the capital, many of them free.

How much does Denmark cost?

SHOESTRING £80 per person / day ≈ DKK 712 hostels, street food, buses	MID-RANGE £170 per person / day ≈ DKK 1,512 3-star hotels, restaurants, some taxis	COMFORTABLE £330 per person / day ≈ DKK 2,936 4-star+, guided trips, private transfers
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Estimates per person per day, excluding flights. Prices vary by season and city.

Food to try

Smørrebrød Open sandwiches on dense rye bread, topped with pickled herring, roast pork, egg and prawns or liver pâté; a lunchtime ritual eaten with a knife and fork.	Stegt flæsk med persillesovs Crisp-fried slices of pork belly with boiled potatoes and creamy parsley sauce, voted Denmark's national dish in a 2014 public poll.	Wienerbrød What the rest of the world calls Danish pastries; try a kanelsnegl (cinnamon swirl) or a custard-filled spandauer warm from a bakery.
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Getting around

DSB trains link Copenhagen with Odense in about 1 hour 15 minutes and Aarhus in roughly three hours; the DSB app handles tickets. Copenhagen's driverless metro runs around the clock, including to the airport. Cities are built for bikes, with hire schemes and dedicated lanes everywhere. Ferries serve the smaller islands, and Bornholm is reached by a 5½-hour ferry from Køge or a fast ferry from Ystad in Sweden. Hire a car for rural Jutland.

Practical information

PLUGS & VOLTAGE

			
C	E	F	K

230V — bring a UK-to-C/E/F/K adapter

DIALLING CODE

+45

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Telephone: **112** (ambulance, fire, police).

Source: FCDO “Getting help”

TIME ZONE

UTC+1 (standard time)

TAP WATER

Generally safe to drink

DRIVING

On the right

TIPPING

Service is included in restaurant bills and tipping is not expected, though rounding up or leaving a little for excellent service is appreciated.

ETIQUETTE

Danes are informal and punctual: use first names, arrive on time and say 'tak' often. Never stand or walk in cycle lanes, and stand on the right on escalators.

MAIN AIRPORTS

Copenhagen Airport (CPH), Copenhagen; Billund Airport (BLL), Billund; Aalborg Airport (AAL), Aalborg

Visas & entry for Denmark

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can travel without a visa to the Schengen area, which includes Denmark, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel: as a tourist; to visit family or friends; to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events; for short-term studies or training.

The requirements for working in Denmark are different.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations



See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Bat Lyssavirus

Tick-borne encephalitis

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Denmark

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Fri 25 Dec 2026

Christmas Day

Sat 26 Dec 2026	Second Day of Christmas
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Thu 25 Mar 2027	Maundy Thursday
Fri 26 Mar 2027	Good Friday
Sun 28 Mar 2027	Easter Sunday
Mon 29 Mar 2027	Easter Monday
Thu 6 May 2027	Ascension Day
Sun 16 May 2027	Pentecost
Mon 17 May 2027	Pentecost Monday

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Useful phrases in Danish

ENGLISH	DANISH	SAY IT
Hello	Hej	hi
Thank you	Tak	tahk
Please	Vær så venlig	vair saw VEN-lee
Excuse me	Undskyld	ON-skool
How much is this?	Hvad koster det?	va KOS-ter deh

Know before you go

- Card and phone payments are accepted almost everywhere, even for a single pastry, so there is little need to draw kroner in cash.
- Tap water is excellent, so carry a refillable bottle. Supermarket bakeries, smørrebrød counters and hot-dog stands (pølsevogne) keep lunch costs down in an expensive country.
- Many museums close on Mondays. In the capital, the Copenhagen Card bundles public transport and admissions and can pay off if you plan several sights a day.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.