

Copenhagen

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Copenhagen: introducing the city



Copenhagen, Denmark

Danes rank among the world's most happy people. In Copenhagen and the beautiful surrounding region, you'll learn why. The buzzing capital mixes royal history, modern architecture and loads of culture with sustainable living and a mouthwatering restaurant scene. Get to know Copenhagen and fuel your wanderlust.

Copenhagen is Denmark's largest city, and over one million people live in its metropolitan area. It's the second-largest city in the Nordic countries, with Swedish capital Stockholm taking the top spot.

This city is a hub for many international companies, as you might expect from a capital city. Some of the world's largest companies, including IBM, Microsoft, and Deloitte, have offices here.

Copenhagen is also home to many of Denmark's most prominent businesses. Logistics giant Mærsk has a huge headquarters in the city, while Danske Bank's main office is also in the capital.

Despite being the largest city in Denmark, Copenhagen isn't too big. If you're in the city center, you can get pretty much anywhere in 30 minutes at most by bike.

Over the past few years, Copenhagen has evolved dramatically. Architects have been busy putting together new districts and housing in former industrial areas to accommodate continued population growth.

In Copenhagen expect to find:


- **Green livability:** Copenhagen is a city that mixes a green mindset with ingenuity and fun. For instance, if you clean up the harbour to make the water super clean, why wouldn't you build a floating swimming pool for locals and visitors to enjoy at all seasons? A green mind provides so many cool opportunities: you probably already know that cycling in Copenhagen is a big thing. Actually, it's the bike capital of the world. How the city is built for cycling, as the harbour has been repurposed for swimming and bathing, how parks, gardens and little green oases are sprinkled all over the city, says a lot about how life plays out here. There are so many fun things to do around the harbour and the canals of Copenhagen. Swimming, sailing, enjoying a glass of wine with your feet dangling from the dock. We have picked three things for you to look into, but that's only the tip of the iceberg.
- **Gastronomy:** Whether you are into bistros or Michelin-starred restaurants, you will find it in Copenhagen. The restaurant scene is among the world's most distinct and innovative, and it caters to all budgets, tastes and situations. On Copenhagen's menu is delicious food from all over the world and a strong focus on making exquisite meals from local ingredients in season. An approach started by the New Nordic cuisine and a way of cooking that still makes Copenhagen's restaurants culinary trailblazers.
- **Architecture and design:** Copenhagen is the world's capital city of architecture. What is the first thing you think of when you hear the term Danish design? Simplicity and functionalism? You're not far off. But there is actually more to the story than that. Some of the quintessential Danish design objects date back to the '40s and '50s like the famous works of Arne Jacobsen and Hans J. Wegner could not have been done without utilising creative thinking and new industrial technologies. This innovative approach still holds true, not only in interior design but also when it comes to architecture, clothing, urban planning and more.

This city is designed for life: simplicity, functionalism, and life. Go skiing every day in a city where snow isn't that common. Dive into the ocean year-round while being

protected from the wind. The focus of modern-day architecture in Copenhagen is dedicated to people, living and human interaction.

Denmark: quick facts about the country

Denmark is a country in northern Europe. It is made up of the Jutland Peninsula and more than 400 islands in the North Sea.

- OFFICIAL NAME: Kingdom of Denmark
- FORM OF GOVERNMENT: [Constitutional monarchy](#)
- CAPITAL: Copenhagen
- POPULATION: 5,809,502
- OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Danish
- MONEY: Krone
- AREA: 16,638 square miles (43,094 square kilometers)
-  Part of the European Union
- ELECTRIC OUTLET: type E and K. The standard voltage is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz.
- PHONE PREFIX: +45
- MAIN PHONE OPERATORS: CBB, Telenor, [Telmore](#), [3.dk](#), [Yousee](#), [Greentel](#), [Ortel](#), [Oister.dk](#).

Denmark is a country in northern Europe. It is made up of the Jutland Peninsula and more than 400 islands in the North Sea. It shares a border with [Germany](#) to the south. The country is almost two times the size of [Massachusetts](#).

Denmark's terrain is mostly flat, with gently rolling hills. During the Ice Age, glaciers moved slowly across the landmass and shaped the country that exists today.

Denmark has a long coastline with many lagoons, gulfs, and inlets. No part of Denmark is more than 32 miles (67 kilometers) from the sea.

Although Denmark is in northern Europe, the warm waters of the Gulf Stream make the climate mild.



The country's economy

Denmark has a mixed economy that is highly developed and prosperous. The country has a high standard of living, low unemployment rate, and a strong welfare system. The best sectors in Denmark are services, manufacturing, and agriculture. The country has a highly skilled workforce and a strong focus on innovation, which has led to a thriving technology industry. Denmark is also a leader in renewable energy and sustainable development. Overall, Denmark has a growing economy that is well-positioned for the future.

The gross domestic product in current prices in Denmark was forecast to continuously increase between 2023 and 2028 by in total 90.1 billion U.S. dollars (+22.21 percent). The GDP is estimated to amount to 495.77 billion U.S. dollars in 2028. The gross domestic product at current prices is defined based upon the GDP in national currency converted to U.S. dollars using market exchange rates (yearly average). The GDP represents the total value of final goods and services produced during a year. (Source [Statista](#))

Denmark: Gross domestic product (GDP) in current prices from 1988 to 2028

(in billion U.S. dollars)



Source [Statista](#)

Culture

One of the happiest countries in the world:

Denmark has been named the world's happiest country on numerous occasions, and remains to be very near top of the [UN World Happiness Report](#), they're currently second.

Denmark has some interesting cultural peculiarities, such as the absence of a direct translation for "please" in Danish. Don't take it personal if someone doesn't use this word, it's just the Danish culture! However, hygge, a term describing a cozy social gathering, is a deeply ingrained aspect of Danish culture. Hygge is a term that goes far in illuminating the Danish soul. In essence, hygge is about creating cosy social gatherings and intimate get-togethers with family and friends. It's the feeling of wellbeing and a warm atmosphere. You can also feel the notion of hygge in the streets of Copenhagen - literally. Walk down some of the old narrow, cobbled streets, dating back several hundred years. These streets invite you to take intimate walks next to colourful houses, small coffee shops and vintage boutiques.

Denmark is also renowned for its bike culture, with over 12,000km of cycle tracks and lanes throughout the country. More than 50% of Copenhageners cycle to and from work every day: Copenhageners cycle an average of 3km every day and this adds up to people cycling 35 times around the world every day in Copenhagen! The bicycle is clearly the preferred mode of transport in Denmark - only 4 out of 10 Danes own a car but a whopping 9 out of 10 Danes own a bike.

Another interesting fact about the Danish culture is that the world-famous LEGO® brick was invented by a Dane. Additionally, Denmark's clean city harbors and tap water (you'll find some of the world's cleanest tap water in Denmark) make it a great destination to visit.

Some of the Danish traditions seem rather weird to the modern eye, as they include batting a black cat in a barrel at the annual carnival "fastelavn" and burning a witch on a bonfire at Sankt Hans (midsummer's eve). But don't worry, they've toned down the craziness a bit, so nowadays the barrels are simply decorated with cut out versions of black cats and the bonfires only burn doll versions of witches.



Children celebrating Fastelavn

Lifestyle

Like elsewhere in the Nordic region, life in Copenhagen is generally laid back. The Danes work some of the fewest hours in Europe, and it's not uncommon for offices to be empty before 4pm on a Friday. It's also not unusual for people to do things on weekdays with their friends, such as go for coffee or a walk.

Danes have one of the highest standards of living in the world. All Danish families receive over \$1,500 each year for each child under 18 years old. About 85 percent of Danish people belong to the National Church of Denmark. The capital city of Copenhagen is home to more than 1 million people.

The Danes themselves are relaxed, informal, and often ironic. The concept of "hygge" – being cosy and making people feel at home – is an essential part of life in Denmark. Hygge promotes the idea of appreciating the small, simple, things in life - such as spending time with friends. There is also a strong focus on having a good work/life balance, and it is very common to have a 'Friday bar' at work to finish off the week. That might explain why the Danes are so happy!

You shouldn't have too many worries living in Copenhagen in terms of safety. Crime does exist — but generally speaking, it's on a much lower level than most other cities in the world.

The [Economist's Safe Cities Index](#) ranked Denmark's capital as the safest city globally in 2021, with Toronto coming second and Singapore finishing third. In terms of personal safety, Copenhagen finished first again; Amsterdam was the runner-up.

If you have children, you'll be pleased to learn Denmark's capital city is an excellent place to raise a family. The city has plenty of green spaces for you to roam around, and most attractions and restaurants cater to the little ones with glee. Moreover, the schools are very good.

According to [InterNations](#):

"A Stable Country with a Green Lifestyle"

Denmark also makes it into the top 10 in the Quality of Life Index (8th) and even places first in the Safety & Security Subcategory. Expats appreciate the political stability (90% happy vs. 64% globally), feel safe (94% vs. 81% globally), and 77% believe they can freely express themselves and their opinions (vs. 64% globally).

There is just one reason why Denmark misses out on another top 10 rank in the Environment & Climate Subcategory (12th): 52% of expats are **unhappy with the climate and weather** (vs. 19% globally). Aside from that, it earns another first place for the availability of green goods and services (85% happy vs. 64% globally). More than four in five (84%) rate the urban environment positively (vs. 67% globally), and 88% agree that the government supports environmentally friendly policies (vs. 61% globally). "Denmark is a political trendsetter in environmental politics," a German expat comments.

"Denmark Offers the Best Working Life but Also Some Unfriendly Residents"

The country's great results for working abroad and the quality of life are canceled out by the high living expenses and the difficulties with settling in.

Expats in Denmark are very **happy with their working hours** (76% vs. 63% globally) and their **work-life balance** (77% vs. 62% globally). "The work-life balance is one of the best things about Denmark," a French respondent even says. Moreover, they rate the local business culture positively when it comes to flat hierarchies (81% happy vs. 45% globally), creativity (69% happy vs. 51% globally), and flexibility (85% happy vs. 60% globally).

However, expats see their own working life in slightly less positive terms. On the one hand, 69% state they get paid fairly (vs. 62% globally), and an impressive 95% rate the local economy favorably (vs. 64% globally). On the other hand, only 54% are satisfied with their career prospects (vs. 58% globally).

Destination Report
Denmark



www.internations.org/expat-insider

"Affordable Healthcare vs. Expensive Transportation"

In the Health & Well-Being Subcategory, Denmark ranks twelfth. This is mostly due to the affordable healthcare (83% happy vs. 61% globally). For other factors, such as the quality of healthcare, the results are about average (73% happy vs. 72% globally).

In the Travel & Transit Subcategory (17th), it seems to be the other way round. Expats are happy with the infrastructure for cars (92% happy vs. 75% globally) and even happier with how easy it is to get around on foot or by bicycle (98% happy vs. 77% globally). However, the affordability of public transportation is an issue (54% happy vs. 70% globally).

"Mixed Opinions on Expat Essentials"

In the Expat Essentials Index, Denmark ranks slightly below average (29th). The country places third in the Digital Life Subcategory, with expats particularly satisfied with the cashless payment options (94% happy vs. 84% globally) and the availability of digital government services (87% happy vs. 61% globally). They also find the local bureaucracy generally easy to deal with (63% happy vs. 40% globally).

Tip: buy a bike

Regardless of how long you plan to live in Copenhagen, you should strongly consider getting a bike.

Cycling is the go-to form of transportation for many locals, and the city has well

maintained bikelanes throughout.

Investing in a good bike is a good idea; if you dip below 3,000 Danish Kroner, you'll experience a notable drop in quality. You can find second-hand bikes for reasonable prices. You'll find bicycle stores on most of Copenhagen's major streets. To get started, you can also rent. Swapfiets is one popular choice, and Donkey Republic is another. Both have monthly membership.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Denmark is known as one of the most LGBTQ-friendly countries in the world. It was the first country to establish a [National Association for Gays and Lesbians](#) in 1948, when homosexuality was still considered a crime in many western countries.

Denmark also broke the heteronormative mold in 1989, when it became the first country ever to officially recognize state-sanctioned same-sex partnerships in 1989. Adoption rights and marriage rights have been available to gay couples in Denmark over the past few years as well.

Denmark's capital city, [Copenhagen](#), is so accepting of LGBTQ folks that it was rated number one on Lonely Planet's list of "The most gay-friendly places on the planet." Every year, Copenhagen hosts a lavish Pride festival and an LGBT film festival called MIX Copenhagen. The city is also hopping with LGBTQ cafés, bars, and nightclubs. Moreover, Denmark has many LGBTQ student organizations such as [BLUS](#) and [ANSO](#) that study abroad students can join.

Nature

Denmark was once covered with trees, but almost all of the original forest has been chopped down. The largest mammal living in Denmark today is the red deer.

There are about 300 species of [birds](#) in Denmark. During the summer, many different butterfly species can be found in Denmark.

Denmark has 444 islands, but only 76 of them are inhabited: This means that there are plenty of opportunities for you to go on an island getaway! Some of the most popular island retreats are the islands of Ærø, Rømø, Bornholm, and Læsø. Bornholm and Samsø were voted as the EU's most sustainable islands back in 2020, so if you like green living, look no further.

You'll never be more than 52km from the ocean in Denmark, if you're looking for a real challenge while you're in Denmark, try not to see the ocean at one point. This is one challenge you'll most likely be unable to complete as you cannot be more than 52km from the ocean in Denmark.

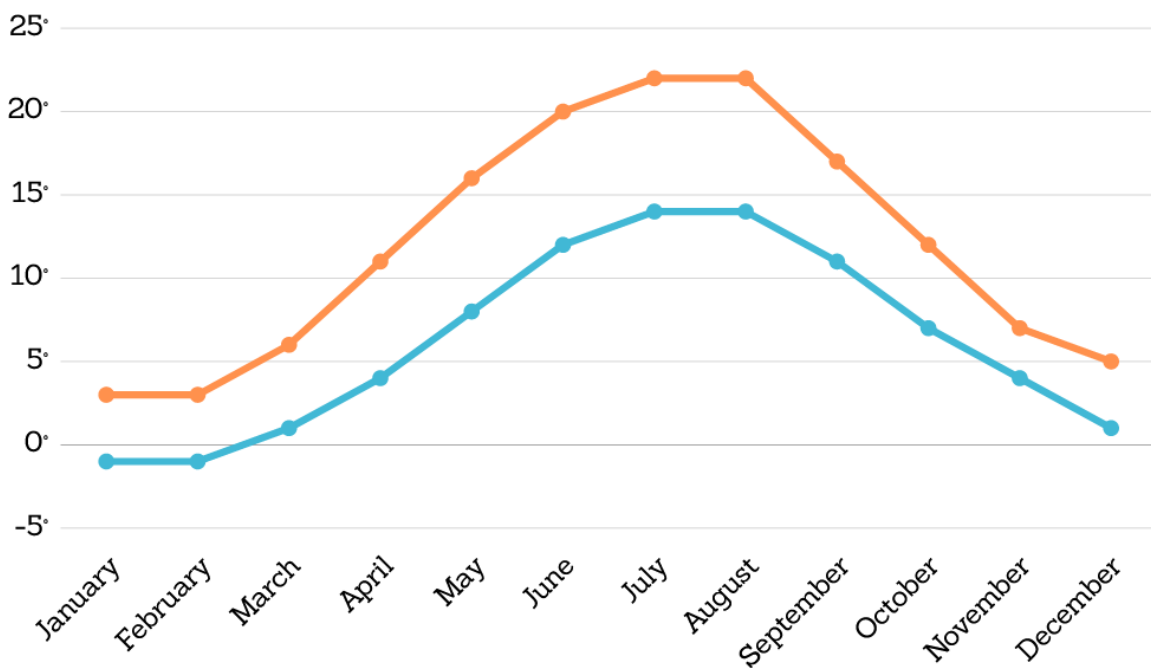


Faroe Islands, Denmark.

Weather

The Danish climate is temperate with precipitation evenly distributed over the year.

In Copenhagen, the summers are comfortable and partly cloudy and the winters are long, very cold, snowy, windy, and mostly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 29°F to 71°F and is rarely below 17°F or above 79°F .



Best time to visit

The best time to visit Copenhagen is from March to May or between June and August – depending on what you're looking for. While the summer brings the warmest weather and a number of popular, large-scale events, those looking for lower rates and fewer crowds can still enjoy the mild weather in the spring. From May through September, the streets come alive as cafes spill to the sidewalks and festivals fill the air with music. Beginning in October, the city goes into hibernation for the winter; the only exception is December, when [hotels](#) fill for holiday celebrations.

June - August (Best time to visit)

Copenhagen summers are comfortable, with high temperatures ranging from the mid- to high 60s. Still, you should pack some warm clothes to protect against cool winds, which sweep across from the Baltic Sea (even the summer sees its share of chilly breezes). You'll also want to bring an umbrella if you visit in July or August, since these are the wettest months of the year. Should you decide to attend one of the city's plethora of summer festivals, be sure to book your hotel and flights at least a few months in advance.

September-November

Copenhagen is beautiful in the autumn, though chilly at times, with lows dipping into the high 30s by November. Bring plenty of sweaters or a thick coat. On the plus side, accommodations are cheaper this time of year than they are during the peak summer season. A few culture-focused events also take place in fall, including the Copenhagen Blues Festival and the MIX Copenhagen LGBTQ Film Festival.

December-February

You'll need plenty of warm clothes in winter – temps are bitter cold, with highs averaging in the mid- to upper-30s. If you do plan to brave the chill, we suggest planning your getaway for Christmas time when the streets are decorated. But remember, Christmas is another popular time to visit, so you may see a spike in room rates in December. Prices are generally low the rest of the season.

March-May (Best time to visit)

While the weather isn't as warm as what you'll find in the summer (spring daytime temps hover in the low 40s to high 50s), March, April and May see fewer crowds,

which translates to cheaper airfare and lower hotel rates. Plus, rain showers are not as prevalent during these months, and [Tivoli Gardens](#)' rides re-open in late March.

History

People have lived in Denmark since the Stone Age, but there is evidence that people lived there around 50,000 B.C. In the 9th to 11th centuries, Viking warriors from Denmark and other Scandinavian countries raided Europe. Most of Denmark's modern cities were founded after the Viking era.

Denmark, Norway, and Sweden were united as the Union of Kalmar by Queen Margrethe in the late 14th century. Although Sweden broke away from the Union in 1523, Norway was ruled by Denmark until 1814.

During World War II, the governments of Germany and Denmark agreed that they would not attack each other, but Germany made a surprise attack on Denmark in 1940. Although the country was able to keep its own government at first, Germany took over in 1943.

Copenhagen is Scandinavia's largest city and its history goes way back. The reigning monarch Queen Margrethe II can trace her ancestry back to the Viking Age and that makes Denmark the world's oldest kingdom. Among cobbled squares, narrow streets and old buildings.

Copenhagen is a royal city, and home to one of the world's oldest monarchies. In and around the city you will find castles, palaces, royal statues and monuments.

An overlook on the city's history:

From a small fishing village that hardly anyone had ever heard of to a position as the dazzling capital of the Danish Empire and to its current position as one of the world's most talked about as well as sung of cities is a colorful history.

There is evidence that Copenhagen existed as a settlement more than 6,000 years ago, but its first written record dates 1043 AC.

Copenhagen, in those days called "Havn", meaning the harbour, was of little strategic or political importance. Most of the people in "Havn" earned their daily bread by fishing for the plentiful herring in the Øresund. In the next two centuries fishing and trading turned the small fishing village into a flourishing town. And in 1343 King Valdemar Atterdag made Copenhagen the capital of Denmark - today the seat of the government and the hometown of the Danish royal family.

Year 1000-1300: A viking area

The Copenhagen region is a Viking area. Over a period of 300 years, from 750 to 1050, the Vikings set sails for the then far-away countries like Greenland, North Africa, the Caspian Sea, and North America. Copenhagen was an important outpost from where the Vikings set out on their voyages in Europe and the rest of the world.

As well as dramatically affecting the course of European history, the Vikings also left behind many indelible traces on the Danish landscape. A 35 minute train ride west of Copenhagen you'll find The Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde. At the boatyard it is possible to follow shipbuilders working on the reconstruction of Viking warships. The ships are exhibited, and their story is told with models, posters and films in the Exhibition Hall.

The bishop's town

If we go back a thousand years, Copenhagen was still a humble town with a small trading centre where salted herring was sold and crossings to Scania were operated.

In 1160 the Arch Bishop Absalon becomes an influential adviser to the king, Valdemar the Great. In the years that follow, the town grows tenfold in size, numerous churches and abbeys are founded. The town's economy blossoms thanks to the income from an enormous herring fishery trade, which provides larger parts of Catholic Europe with salted herring for Lent. Archbishop Absalon is the man who more than anyone can lay claim to be the founding father of Copenhagen. Since pirates had ravage the coast of Denmark for years and years, a fort was built outside Copenhagen to repel them. Absalon and Valdemar the Great used the victory as a launching-pad for the foundation of Denmark's Baltic empire.

Year 1301-1600: The Kalmar union

Queen Margrethe I (1353-1412) was the most powerful woman in Europe during her reign 1387-1412. By marrying the Norwegian king, Hakon Magnusson, she became sovereign not only of Denmark but Sweden and Norway as well. And it was she who set the scene for the founding of the Northern Alliance, formalised as the Kalmar Union in 1397. After her son, the crown prince Olof died, she appointed king Erik of Pomerania to be her heir-at-law. He was crowned 1397, but Margrethe ruled till her death.

The king takes over Copenhagen

The geographic position of Copenhagen with the approach to the Baltic Sea and the wealthy northern German trading towns of the Hanseatic League, was very important. It provided Copenhagen with power and wealth, but it also meant threat

and vulnerability. Over and over again the town was besieged and laid waste by the German traders. For a few years Copenhagen belonged to the Arch Bishop but when King Erik of Pomerania inherits the throne Copenhagen belongs to the Danish Crown.

Copenhagen - nordic trading centre

Despite centuries of power struggles and warring the town grows increasingly rich. The Copenhageners do a brisk trade with friend and enemy alike. Foreign merchants come to the town. Craft guilds are established and a university is founded in 1478. By the time of Christian IV's coronation in 1596 Copenhagen is a wealthy and powerful city. Following the penetration of the Lutheran Church in Germany in 1517, the Danish population began to turn against the Catholic church and 1526 the Danish church split from Rome. Lutheranism became the country's official religion, and remains so to this day.

Year 1601-1939: Kristian IV 1577-1648

Kristian IV became king of Denmark and Norway already at the age of 11. During his reign 1588-1648 he lost parts of his kingdom to the Swedish crown. But despite this, Denmark became a prosperous country during his reign. Kristian IV founded a couple of cities, among them Kristiania, today's Oslo, the capital of Norway. He also established the first trading companies with sole rights to trade overseas.

The plagues of modern times

In the 18th century a series of disasters stroke Copenhagen: first was the plague in 1711, then two fires ravaged the town in 1728 and 1795. The first fire started in a candle maker's shop in Nørreport and destroyed 1,700 houses, the town hall and the university included. The circumstances around the big fire in 1795 were pitiable. The firemen couldn't find the keys to the pump-house and do their job, and as a result the spire of St Nikolaj Church was destroyed. However, the fires gave the city an opportunity to layout a new, grander town plan. In 1740 Kristian VI moved into his new royal palace Christiansborg.

The 19th and 20th century

The 19th century begun with a great Battle of Copenhagen with the British navy in 1801, and the battle of 1807, when the enemy severely bombed the city. The "Kastellet" fortification turned out to be useless, so soon this kind of defence-lines were abandoned and ramparts of the city were open, allowing new housing to be built around the lakes.

After all wars, the bankrupt Denmark ceded Norway to Sweden in 1813. In following years, the city slowly recovered. Copenhagen invested in education - establishing free compulsory primary schools, and in science.

In 1849 Denmark became a democracy and the years to follow were fairly peaceful with a stable economic growth. In 1912, the first ocean-going diesel-powered ship M/S Selandia was built in the city shipyard. In 1932 the airplane traffic on the Kastrup airport (which was inaugurated in 1925) was way over 6,000.

Year 1940-45 the German occupation

On April 9, 1940 Hitler's troops invaded Denmark and Copenhagen. The occupation lasted till the end of the war. Germany moved 200,000 troops into Denmark, as the country was considered as a useful source of agricultural products. The Royal family with King Kristian X, Crown Prince Frederik and his wife crown Princess Ingrid refused to leave Copenhagen. Despite the best efforts of the Danish resistance and the secret evacuation of nearly 7,000 of the country's Jews to Sweden, Denmark resigned itself and was ruled by Berlin.

Denmark was liberated by British troops under the command of Field Marshall Montgomery on May 4, 1945. As of today, if you visit Denmark on this date you'll see candle lights in many windows to commemorate this very day.

The current queen, Margrethe II, was born shortly after the occupation began, on April 16 1940.

Into the 21st century

Copenhagen of today is one of the most dynamic cities in Europe and the second largest city in Scandinavia. With 1.1 million inhabitants in the Greater Copenhagen area (and more than 1,8 million when other close municipalities are counted), the city definitely holds the position as The Glittering Capital of this part of the world.

Copenhagen is one of the world's leading destinations for international conferences and congresses. Since the Øresund Bridge between Malmö and Copenhagen opened in 2000, the two cities offer more than 22.000 hotel beds. Scandinavia's largest conference centre, the Bella Center in the outskirts of the city, is well known for its international fairs and other arrangements.

In the 17th century king Kristian IV's vision was to turn the Øresund region into Northern Europe's leading economical and cultural centre. Today we're quite sure that he's sitting with a smile on his face on some royal cloud, absolutely pleased that his dream is about to come through.

Language

While the official language in Copenhagen is Danish, you don't need to worry about a vast language barrier. Almost everyone here speaks excellent English, and you won't have issues asking for directions and whatnot.

Do I need to learn Danish when living in Copenhagen?

You might find Danish challenging to learn if you don't speak a Germanic language. As such, we understand completely if you're wondering whether it's even worth your efforts.

It's very easy to live in Copenhagen for years and get by with English alone. However, you'll find it challenging to integrate with Danish society and shall also miss out on multiple subtle cultural differences.

If you plan to live in Copenhagen for the long term, you should strongly consider learning Danish. And if you plan to acquire Danish citizenship, it's non-negotiable. When you register as a resident, **you can enjoy free classes**; you'll receive mail in the post with more information about this. You will need to pay a deposit, but you can get this back once you pass the module.

- Fact: The Danish alphabet has 3 additional letters: Æ, Ø, and Å
- Fact: The Danish language is said to be one of the most difficult ones to learn due to a bunch of silent letters and complex pronunciation. But we've added a bit more to the challenge. Let us introduce you to three letters you won't come across in the English alphabet: Æ, Ø and Å.

InterNations: But Denmark performs badly in the Language Subcategory (33rd). While 66% find it easy to live in Denmark without speaking the local language (vs. 51% globally), expats find Danish very hard to learn (70% unhappy vs. 38% globally). "I love learning it, but it is hard to grasp even the basics," a British expat explains. In fact, close to one-quarter of expats (24%) do not speak Danish at all, compared to 10% of expats worldwide who do not speak the local language of their host country.

Best things to do

Best things to do in Copenhagen according to [Trip Advisor](#)

Tip: Consider buying the Copenhagen card:

- Free entrance to 80+ attractions
- Free public transport in the Capital Region of Denmark
- Free to bring two children between the ages of 0 - 11
- Free Airport-transport
- Cost: FROM DKK 439 / EUR 60

A List of the best activities and landmarks in Copenhagen:

- Copenhagen Zoo: With more than 4,000 animals from all over the world, Copenhagen ZOO is one of Denmark's most visited attractions.
- Den Blå Planet, National Aquarium Denmark: Experience the world under the sea as you discover majestic hammerhead sharks, secretive octopi and graceful rays at Northern Europe's largest aquarium, Den Blå Planet (The Blue Planet) in Copenhagen.
- SMK - The National Gallery of Denmark: Denmark's largest art gallery, SMK has an outstanding collection of Danish and international art.
- Amalienborg Palace: Take a peek behind the scenes of the Danish Royal Family.
- Bakken: A unique mini theme park in the woods north of Copenhagen, Bakken is the oldest amusement park in the world.
- The National Museum: Denmark's showstopping national history museum.
- The Round Tower: This 17th Century tower and observatory is one of Copenhagen's most iconic buildings.
- Experimentarium: Forget any school memories you may have of boring science classes and dry textbooks. Denmark's leading science centre has been capturing the imagination of adults and children alike for over thirty years.
- Glyptoteket: Art and sculpture museum in central Copenhagen with a glorious winter garden.

- Rosenborg Castle: A royal hermitage set in the King's Garden in the heart of Copenhagen.
- Christiansborg Palace: Experience 800 years of royal history at the awe-inspiring Christiansborg Palace.
- Kronborg Castle - UNESCO World Heritage: Drama-packed Kronborg is one of Northern Europe's finest Renaissance castles.
- Frilandsmuseet: The Open Air Museum, Frilandsmuseet, is one of the oldest and largest open air museums in the world.
- Tivoli Gardens: Magical Tivoli Gardens is Copenhagen's central theme park. And one of the oldest in the world.
- The Little Mermaid: Arguably one of Copenhagen's most iconic tourist attractions, the sculpture of The Little Mermaid was inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairy tale.
- The Botanical Garden: Ten hectares of gardens with a butterfly house and a tropical palm house dating to 1874.
- Natural History Museum of Denmark: Marvel at meteorites, fossils and a piece of the moon at this natural history museum.
- Planetarium: Discover the secrets of the universe at the Tycho Brahe
- King's Garden: Denmark's oldest royal gardens.
- Strøget: Copenhagen's largest shopping area is centered around Strøget in the heart of the city.
- The Marble Church: The city's most impressive church, with views over the city from the top, the Marble Church is also known as Frederik's Church.

Every day at 12:00 noon you can witness the changing of the Royal Danish Guard. The Guard leaves its barracks at Rosenborg Castle at approximately 11:30 and marches through the city to Amalienborg Palace, residence of the Danish monarch Queen Margrethe 2. But there are many other ways to go royal in and around Copenhagen.

You'll find the two oldest amusement parks in the world in Denmark: Denmark is home to the world's oldest amusement park, Bakken, just a 20 minute train ride from Copenhagen Central Station. The second oldest, Tivoli Gardens, is right next to

the same station smack bang in the centre of our vibrant capital. Both of them are a great starting point for a fun-filled day - and that's just a fact!

The Copenhagen harbour is clean enough to swim in: There are plenty of sandy beaches within 30 minutes of the city centre, but you can also just take a dip in harbour as the water is clean enough to swim in. You'll find a handful of harbour baths along Copenhagen's harbour, such as at Islands Brygge, Kalvebod Brygge, and Nordhavn. Oh and by the way, you'll also find clean harbours in our other big cities - Aarhus, Odense and Aalborg.

8 royal castles and palaces that'll awaken your inner monarch:

- Amalienborg Palace
- Kronborg Castle - UNESCO World Heritage
- Rosenborg Castle
- Christiansborg Palace
- Frederiksborg Castle | Museum of National History
- Frederiksberg Palace
- The Hermitage
- Ruins under Christiansborg Palace

Shopping

[Design](#), fashion and solid craftsmanship runs in the Danish DNA. And especially this stylish part of Copenhagen hits above its weight class when it comes to the long list of cool fashion stores, independent boutiques, [interior design shops](#) and places just worth checking out for a dose of Scandinavian inspiration. There's really something for every budget and style in the [city centre](#) and finding a nice lunch in between your shopping spree is easy-peasy.

Copenhagen offers a variety of shopping options ranging from high-end fashion boutiques to souvenir shops. Some popular shopping areas include Strøget, a pedestrian shopping street with a mix of international and Danish brands, and the trendy neighborhoods of Nørrebro and Vesterbro, which offer unique boutiques and vintage stores. Additionally, there are several department stores, such as Magasin du Nord and Illum, which offer a wide range of products. Visitors can purchase Danish design items, such as furniture and home decor, as well as traditional souvenirs like Danish pastries and porcelain.

Check out the extensive shopping guide provided by the official website of Copenhagen [here](#)

City awards

Copenhagen has won several awards as a city, including:

1. European Green Capital 2014 - awarded by the European Commission for its commitment to sustainable urban development.
2. World's Most Livable City 2019 - awarded by Monocle magazine for its quality of life, infrastructure, and urban design.
3. Best Bike City in the World - awarded by the Copenhagenize Index for its extensive bike infrastructure and culture.

Working in Copenhagen

The working culture in Copenhagen is generally considered to be relaxed and collaborative. There is a focus on work-life balance and a strong emphasis on equality and inclusivity. Many companies prioritize flexible working hours and a healthy work environment.

If you're coming to work in Copenhagen, you're in for an excellent experience compared to many countries. Denmark's working conditions are exceptional, and employees enjoy various benefits.

Generally speaking, salaries in Copenhagen are pretty high. The Danes also work much less than in other parts of the world; the official working week for many is 37 hours, but it's not uncommon to work less than this. If you stay after hours, you're more likely to be questioned for your time management than given a pat on the back.

Annual leave in Danish companies is also generous. You'll get five weeks of paid vacation per year, in addition to a "holiday allowance" that is usually 12.5% of what you earn.

What do the expats think?

Experience of [OregongirlAroundTheWorld](#)

[Instagram](#)

About the blogger: Erin McMillen Gustafson, currently living and documenting life across borders in Copenhagen, Denmark. "With my boisterous family of five, I am enjoying this journey with all its bumps and turns. I believe in continually learning and growing. An aesthete at heart, I have an appreciation for design – as much in the natural world as in architecture or art. I haven't been everywhere yet, but it's on my list. Here on OregonGirl you will find stories, images and thoughts on connecting as humans."

Balancing the Bad Days Abroad | Look for the Stories

" I'm not here to tell you it's easy. It's not. There are going to be terrible, horrible, no good, very bad days. And mama probably told you. There'll be days like that. If she didn't, she should have. Living here in Copenhagen for six and a half years, they can still hit me out of the blue. It could be something as simple as being scowled at for almost stepping into the bike lane without looking. Or getting elbowed and shoved in an unruly bus queue. Seriously, we're all waiting for the same bus. And 99% of the time, we can all make it on to get where we're going. Or how about being told it is past time for me to understand more Danish. These are just a few. On a sliding scale of most triggering to least, the specific affront depends on the day."

...

"In reality, there is no definitive act that you can learn to avoid. It's more the visceral feeling that said event might afford. That I am different. Don't belong. Or this isn't my place. Even though I try to fit in and have created a life here. I try to appreciate "the Danish way." For the most part. Looking like the locals doesn't always make it easier. There is an unspoken expectation placed on the "hidden expat" that you know all the rules and cultural idiosyncrasies. But still, I don't always. On these days, my homesickness swells. Suddenly I can see all the things about this place that I deeply dislike. Heap a worldwide pandemic and closed borders on top and that feeling expands, sometimes thrice-fold. Those days are rough..."

...

"Here in Denmark, the ratio of dog shit days definitely escalates in the dark months of a Danish winter. Copenhagen – you are chock full of charm, but only when you

can see it. Once the twinkly lights of a delightful and delicious Danish Christmas are taken down and packed away, winter can feel heavy and hard. Especially when the country is locked down. Come summer months when the light lingers long and the lilac and elderflower fragrant the air and almost everyone finds ways to enjoy the clean water – there is almost no place better. Still, in the warm and happy months – one of those dreaded dog shit and cigarette butt days can knock you right down. On your proverbial ass.”

Why is Denmark, an Expat Heaven, Hard to Settle In?! - 11 Reports Overview

[Anatolie Cantir](#) Associate Professor, Culturalist, Globetrotter & Speaker

Expats are very happy with the Danish system overall (quality of life, economy, work, family, education, digitization) - they are just not that happy themselves - they cannot settle in and make any local connections in Denmark.

These patterns are presented in the following two very different sets of reports: 8 Expat Insider Reports and 3 Oxford Research Study Reports. I will discuss the results of the two sets of reports separately but also see what they could show together.

Happy with Denmark...

Expats in Denmark say it loud and clear for the eighth year in a row: Denmark is an expat heaven when it comes to e.g. work-life balance, family life, child care, and digitization. The latest Expat Insider Report, 2021 points out:

"Denmark receives its best result in the Working Abroad Index (5th). It places first in the Work & Leisure subcategory for the fourth time in five years. Expats love their work-life balance (80% positive replies vs. 66% globally). A further 87% rate the local economy positively (vs. 62% globally).

Denmark ranks among the top 10 three subcategories of the Quality of Life Index, coming 3rd out of 59 for Digital Life, 4th for Safety & Security, and 8th for Health & Wellbeing. They also describe Denmark as peaceful (95% vs. 80% globally) and safe (95% vs. 84% globally).

I love the security and peace and quiet here says a US American expat. While respondents appreciate the air quality (88% positive replies vs. 66% globally).

Denmark does surprisingly well in the Personal Finance Index (16th). About two in three expats (64%) are satisfied with their financial situation and 59% state that their disposable household income is more than enough to cover expenses (vs. 52% globally)."

Unhappy in Denmark...

The report continues: "It is the Ease of Settling In Index (57th) that drags Denmark's overall ranking down. It ends up in the bottom 10 for Feeling at Home (55th), Friendliness (57th), and Finding Friends (58th). Denmark is the worst-rated destination for making local friends: 66% of expats find it difficult, compared to an average of 36% worldwide. Another 40% consider the Danish unfriendly towards foreign residents (vs. 18% globally) and 38% do not feel at home in the local culture (vs. 20% globally).

Expats also struggle with learning the language (76% vs. 42% globally). In fact, 25% do not speak Danish at all (vs. 13% globally). "I dislike the very closed culture and the very difficult language. Danish society is not open to foreigners at all," says an expat from Spain."

It looks like it does not matter whether the expats are located in Copenhagen or not. The 2019 report based only on Copenhagen shows a similar picture as the rest of the country for all the other years.

In 2021, Denmark's rank has improved (37 of 59) from the last two years. This was most likely pushed up by the Work-Life Balance index (1) and Safety (4) and Digitization (3). It is however not better than 2014 (32).

"Denmark is not a nation in the sense of being a synthesis of various population groups. It is in fact an old-fashioned tribe, in which tribal feeling is crucial to the Danes' view of the world, and where social cohesion is promoted through uniformity. This emphasis on uniformity' helps to explain why no one is accepted in Denmark unless he adapts to the Danish culture and lifestyle and rapidly learns the relatively difficult Danish tribal language. If you wish to join the tribal community you must conform, and also do your bit in the way of paying taxes and duties to the tribal welfare system. A foreigner can at a pinch be a guest of the tribe for a while, but he must not expect to enjoy the rights of a tribe member, particularly in the shape of social benefits, unless he becomes "one of us" and adopts Danish mores."

[Worst horror stories told by exchange students in Copenhagen](#)

Nazi asked for 'heritage'

Sarah got an awful experience at one of the apartments she was visiting while looking for somewhere to live in.

"I got greeted by a Nazi with an SS insignia, a swastika. He was very disappointed that I had black hair and asked me about my family heritage", she says. Sarah admits that, after this experience, she had nightmares for days.

Not a Dane? Pay more

Apparently, there is a store that takes advantage of non-Danish speakers...

"They guy in one shop saw that I am not Danish and he made my pay DKK 40 more than I was supposed to", explains Georgi.

[5 things tourists hate and love about Copenhagen](#), from a travel blog

Hate #1: Copenhagen is Expensive

Hate #2: Service in Copenhagen. It's not that the people are rude, but they just aren't super attentive like you may be used to.

Hate #3: Winter in Copenhagen

Hate #4: Copenhagen Bike Paths (Seemingly everyone is commuting on their bikes and as a tourist, the bike paths can be deadly)

Hate #5: Little Mermaid Hype

Love #1: Outdoor Life in Copenhagen

Love #2: Getting Around Copenhagen (Copenhagen is extremely easy to navigate)

Love #3: Food in Copenhagen

Love #4: Things to Do in Copenhagen → There are so many cool things to do in Copenhagen; from museums, parks, gardens and outdoor activities. Tivoli Gardens is one of the oldest amusement parks in the world, and the architecture in Copenhagen is amazing. There are tons of palaces and scenic views, like the one at Nyhavn.

Love #5: Safety in Copenhagen

[CULTURE SHOCKS](#)

Danish Culture Shock #1: The Silence

Danish Culture Shock #2: Rigid Rule Followers

Danish Culture Shock #3: You Will Almost Be Killed By a Bike

Danish Culture Shock #4: Babies Left Outside Shops & Restaurants (As you walk around Copenhagen, visiting restaurants and shops, you may notice baby carriages lined up outside. With babies inside the carriage! Copenhagen is super safe, so parents often leave their babies outside while they enjoy a meal indoors.)

Danish Culture Shock #5: How Safe Copenhagen Is

Danish Culture Shock #6: Outdoor Enjoyment (Even in the Cold!)

Danish Culture Shock #7: Danish Ambivalence (As you walk down the streets of Copenhagen, you'll notice that there's no eye contact. You won't hear "please, thank you, excuse me" as you might in other countries. You will almost feel invisible sometimes. This applies to service at restaurants, too. Denmark is one of the happiest countries in the world, and the Danes are very content, which also means they aren't going to go out of their way to provide stellar service.)

Danish Culture Shock #8: Food Obsessions (hot dogs, remoulade and Smørrebrød)

Danish Culture Shock #9: Directness of the Danes

Danish Culture Shock #10: Credit Cards are King! (it's a 2019 article)

[Interview with Astrid, a Spanish expat](#)

About Astrid

Q: Where are you originally from?

A: I am originally from Spain.

Q: Where are you living now?

A: I'm living in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Q: When did you move here?

A: I came at the beginning of August in 2015.

Q: Did you move here alone or with a spouse/family?

A: I moved here with my partner.

Q: Why did you move; what do you do?

A: I moved to Denmark in order to do an internship as part of my studies and with the idea of settling down for at least a couple of years.

Living in Denmark

Q: What do you enjoy most about Copenhagen? How would you rate the quality of life compared to your home country?

A: I love the city's vibe. There is an amazing mix of old and modern architecture, plenty of small cosy cafés, bikes everywhere and a unique culture in each neighbourhood. The quality of life in Denmark is higher but it doesn't necessarily mean it's better to live here.

Q: Any negatives? What do you miss most about home?

A: Dining out is quite expensive here, and given the fact I come from Spain it's even harder since we have a strong eating out culture.

Q: What are the biggest adjustments you had to make when settling into expat life here? Did you experience any particular elements of culture shock?

A: Timewise, lunch and dinner take place in unusual times for me.

Q: What's the cost of living compared to home? What is cheap or expensive in particular?

A: The cost of living is higher, much higher. I'm pretty sure everything is more expensive here. Well, I can think of one exception – berries are cheaper here and tastier!

Q: How would you rate the public transport? What are the different options? Do you need to own a car?

A: Who needs public transport? You can get everywhere with your bike! But still, if you want to use the public transport, there is a wide network of buses, metros and trains; so you can get pretty much everywhere in the city and the region.

Q: How would you rate the healthcare in your city? Have you had any particularly good/bad experiences with regards to doctors and hospitals? Are there any hospitals you would recommend?

A: It's a good service but getting an appointment can be tricky. You somehow need to prove that you actually need to go to the doctor, so that they take your request seriously. If they think you are being a hypochondriac you won't be getting the appointment.

Q: What are the biggest safety issues facing expats living in your host city or country? Are there any areas expats should avoid?

A: It is a very safe city.

Q: How do you rate the standard of housing in the city? What different options are available for expats?

Q: How do you rate the standard of housing in the city? What different options are available for expats?

A: Pretty bad. Copenhagen has an unfair rental market. Flats are overpriced and as a tenant you barely have any rights over your deposit. On top of that, finding an apartment is quite hard because of the insanely high demand and low supply.

Q: Any areas/suburbs you'd recommend for expats to live in?

A: I would recommend areas depending on your personality; actually as an expat any area of Copenhagen could be suitable.

Meeting people and making friends in Denmark

Q: How tolerant are the locals of foreigners? Is there any obvious discrimination against particular religions or women etc.?

A: Nothing to worry about, Danes are tolerant and open-minded people.

Q: Was it easy meeting people and making friends? How did you go about meeting new people?

A: It took some time, but eventually you'll end up building up a network. I believe it's important to live close to the city or having good public transport connection, otherwise you'll feel isolated. The key is to be active, don't stay at home waiting for it to come to you.

Q: Have you made friends with locals or do you mix mainly with other expats? What advice would you give to new expats looking to make friends? Any social/expat groups you can recommend?

A: I already had a couple of Danish friends before moving here, which made it easier to meet more. Inevitably I've met more expats than Danes, they are a bit hard to get through but if you try you'll definitely be positively surprised.

A: Work culture is amazing. There are horizontal structures based on trust. Your boss is not going to be all over you making sure you do your work. You'll get flexible schedules and a very friendly environment at the office. On the contrary hospitality has a mediocre reputation but I have heard of people having nice experiences.

And finally...

Q: Is there any other advice you would like to offer new expat arrivals?

A: Try to learn Danish, it will open many doors for you.

– Interviewed April 2016

An expats' guide for expats

Article written by Danny Maiorca: Originally from the UK, Danny is a writer whose love for Scandinavia (and pastries) led to him settling in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Living in Copenhagen: Your essential guide to expat life in Copenhagen

It's impossible to look at a quality of life index without seeing Copenhagen or Denmark near the top. The Danish capital has received significant international recognition for being one of the world's most liveable cities in recent years, and that's well-warranted; living in Copenhagen is glorious.

This ever-evolving Nordic outpost has a significant international community and is a hub for creativity and innovation. For many foreigners, trying their luck in Copenhagen makes complete sense; it's a great place to enjoy a fulfilling career while not needing to work yourself into the ground.

But despite the numerous pros of relocating to Denmark's largest city, expat life in Copenhagen can be rough in the beginning. To reduce the learning curve, it's worth doing significant research beforehand.

How do I make friends in Copenhagen?

One common complaint among expats moving to Copenhagen is that it can be tough to make friends here, especially if you're moving on your own. That reputation has some elements of truth, but at the same time, it's probably easier than you think.

Expat life in Copenhagen doesn't mean having to feel lonely, and if you're proactive, you'll find plenty of like-minded people — both from Denmark and further afield.

One useful starting point is MeetUp, where you'll find plenty of groups dedicated to various interests.

The Expats in Copenhagen group on Facebook has over 50,000 members and is also worth joining.

If you're on Instagram, the Expats in Denmark account is a great place to read the stories of other foreigners living in the country. On Reddit, the r/Copenhagen subreddit also provides a lot of helpful information.

You can also make friends in Copenhagen by focusing on activities and hobbies that interest you — and letting like-minded people naturally gravitate towards you. If you love photography, for example, you can post your pictures on Instagram and connect with people in the local area like that.

If you haven't got any hobbies, picking up a new one will help you find like-minded people in Copenhagen. For example, you can blog about your expat life experiences in Copenhagen. Alternatively, why not try winter bathing? There are plenty of clubs in the city for you to get involved with!

Living in Copenhagen is a huge privilege, but setting yourself up here as an expat can be a significant challenge. Finding a place to live and setting up your bank account are two of many challenges, and building a network of friends can also take a while.

The local people

The people of Denmark are known as Danes. They are Nordic Scandinavians, many of which are blond, blue-eyed, and tall. In the southern part of the country, some people have German ancestry.

There is an unofficial Danish law for "no one is better than the other", It is called "**Janteloven**", and it plays a key part of the Danish culture and mentality where everyone is accepted and equal. Janteloven is also a main reason why Danes tend to say that it goes well for us (Denmark as a whole) when for instance Nikolaj Coster-Waldau plays Jamie Lannister in Game of Thrones or Lukas Graham's album reached No. 3 on the Billboard 200.

Many people assume that Scandinavia is homogeneous, but that's not necessarily true in the major cities. Copenhagen is a prime example of this; over 25% of the population has a foreign background.

73% of people in Copenhagen are of Danish descent. Many foreigners living in the Danish capital come from Western countries, such as Sweden, the UK, and the US. You'll also find plenty of people from elsewhere in the world, though; there's a large Turkish population, along with people from Iraq, Pakistan, and elsewhere.

Are people in Copenhagen friendly to foreigners?

Expat life in Copenhagen is made easier because its inhabitants are a very friendly bunch. The locals can seem a little standoffish to begin with — but if you need help and ask someone, they'll typically be happy to point you in the right direction.

The Danes have a reputation for not talking to strangers; it's rare for them to do so, but it certainly isn't unheard of. Similarly, it's not uncommon to smile at strangers in the street, when entering an elevator, and so on.

Another nice thing about living in Copenhagen is that you can typically trust what someone says to you. The Danes are trustworthy, and they tend not to lie about things.

One thing worth noting is that the Danes can be pretty blunt — especially when it comes to things like customer service. Don't take it personally; everyone gets the same treatment.

Danish Friends Are Priceless

In the Ease of Settling In Index, Denmark ranks 47th out of 52, it ends up among the bottom 10. About one in four expats (23%) describe the local population as generally unfriendly (vs. 17% globally), and 28% perceive it as unfriendly towards foreign residents (vs. 18%).

This might be why 63% find it hard to make local friends, compared to a global average of 37%. About one in three do not have a personal support network (32% vs. 24% globally) and are unhappy with their social life (34% vs. 26% globally). "It is difficult to make local friends and feel integrated," a French respondent points out.

Cost of living

“Is Copenhagen expensive?” and “Why is Copenhagen so expensive?” are two frequently-asked questions on Google.

Living in Copenhagen: Cost of Living and Other Considerations It's no secret that Copenhagen is a costly city to live in, with a higher cost of living than most European cities. On top of that, the tax rate is notably high, ranging from 37% to 53% depending on your income. When it comes to accommodation, prices can vary greatly, with a one-bedroom apartment in central Copenhagen costing around 11,059.61 DKK (\$1,665.35), according to Numbeo. Groceries can also be pricey, with a 25% VAT on consumer items. However, Føtex offers the best value-quality ratio for food shopping, while Netto and REMA 1000 are more affordable options.

According to InterNations, expats in Denmark find it challenging to afford both housing and the general cost of living. In fact, 42% of expats consider housing hard to find, and 59% say it's difficult to afford. Additionally, 59% rate the overall cost of living negatively. Despite these challenges, 72% of expats feel that their disposable household income is enough or more than enough to lead a comfortable life, and 60% are satisfied with their financial situation, which is on par with the global average. Before making the move to Copenhagen, it's important to do your research and consider all factors.

[Summary of cost of living in Copenhagen](#)

Family of four estimated monthly costs: 5431 euro

Single person estimated monthly costs: 3066 euro

Cost of living in Copenhagen is more expensive than in 92% of cities in Western Europe (8 out of 83)

Cost of living in Copenhagen is more expensive than in 87% of cities in the World (32 out of 246)

Cost of rent

Monthly rent for 85 m2 (900 sqft) furnished accommodation in expensive area: kr19,051 (€2,562)

Monthly rent for 85 m2 (900 sqft) furnished accommodation in normal area: kr14,215 (€1,911)

Utilities 1 month (heating, electricity, gas ...) for 2 people in 85m² flat: kr1,710 (€230)

(Source: [Expatistan](#))

These numbers are general estimations to help you get an idea of how much it costs to rent a place in the city centre.

- A room for a single person in a shared flat costs between DKK 4,000 to DKK 6,000.
- Small studios or apartments (1-2 rooms + kitchen and bathroom) are ^{[[1]]}_{[[SEP]]} highly in demand. They can be rented to a single person or a couple without children and cost between DKK 8,000 to DKK 10,000.
- Apartments (2-3 rooms + kitchen and bathroom) cost between DKK 13,000 to DKK 15,000.
- Larger apartments (4-6 rooms + kitchen and bathroom) are great for flatsharing and prices usually start at DKK 16,000.

Deposit and prepaid rent

You are usually required to pay deposit and prepaid rent when you rent a place. Your landlord can demand up to 3 months' deposit (not including utilities) and 3 months' prepaid rent.

Deposit

You pay a deposit so that the property can be restored to the state it was in when you move out. If the property is left in good condition, you may be able to get a fair amount of your deposit back.

Prepaid rent

You pay prepaid rent to cover the rent before your lease ends. For example, if you have paid 3 months' prepaid rent, you do not have to pay rent for the last three months before you move out.

Utility costs

Utilities refer to heating, water, gas, electricity, internet and a media licence fee. You need to check your rental contract to see which utilities are already included in your rent. The amount you pay for utilities depends on how much you and your household consume.

(Source: [City Of Copenhagen](#))

Cost of daily expenses and groceries

Average food expenses in Denmark will amount to **200 – 270 EUR/month**, depending on your spending habits. You can save a lot on food if you do your weekly shopping at discount supermarkets such as Bilka, Lidl, Netto, Fakta or Aldi.

(Source: [Study in Denmark centre](#))

Basic lunchtime menu (including a drink) in the business district: kr139 (€19)

Combo meal in fast food restaurant (big mac meal or similar): kr84 (€11)

500 gr (1 lb.) of boneless chicken breast: kr39 (€5.24)

1 liter (1 qt.) of whole fat milk: kr13 (€1.75)

12 eggs, large: kr37 (€4.95)

(Source: [Expatistan](#))

Cost of transportation

To travel in the city centre you will need a 2 zone ticket. 2 zones adult ticket is DKK 24. Children's tickets are half price. To go to the airport You will need a 3 zones ticket. 3 zones adult ticket is DKK 36. Children's tickets are half price.

[Rejsekortet](#) is a travel card popular with commuters and frequent travellers in Denmark, but also offers a card to foreign visitors; [Rejsekort Anonymous](#) which does not require an address in Denmark or any personal details. You can buy Rejsekort Anonymous at [Copenhagen Central Station's](#) ticket office and several other places. The Rejsekort Anonymous card itself costs DKK 80, and when you buy it at a ticket office or one of the Rejsekort machines, you are expected to add DKK 70 to the balance to cover the cost of travel.

Short journeys							
Number of zones	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rejsekort (travel card)	DKK 18	DKK 23,50	DKK 30	DKK 37	DKK 43,50	DKK 48	DKK 53,50

Cost of co-working spaces

How much do co-working spaces cost in Copenhagen?

The cost of co-working spaces in Copenhagen varies depending on the location and amenities offered. However, on average, you can expect to pay around 2000-4000 DKK per month. Some spaces may offer daily or hourly rates as well.

Cost of data and internet

Internet in Denmark is generally some of the best in the world. There is good internet coverage over most of the country. At the same time, internet is really cheap compared to many other countries.

In Denmark it's possible to internet from anywhere between 150-600 Danish kroner a month.

According to [Insider](#) 1GB of Data in Denmark costs 80¢.

Buying a SIM card

[Traveltomtom](#) recommends a Lycamobile sim card for Denmark. Be aware that the Lycamobile Denmark prepaid sim card limits free EU roaming and therefore it is recommend ONLY for traveling in Denmark, not for onwards travel in Europe.

Bundle	Price (kr)	Duration	Data	Other Features
DKTD500GB	kr 139	30 Days	500GB Data	Unlimited National Mins and SMS, Unlimited Lyca to Lyca Mins and SMS, EU Roaming
DKTD200GB	kr 79	30 Days	200GB Data	Unlimited National Mins and SMS, Unlimited Lyca to Lyca Mins and SMS, EU Roaming
DKTD100GB	kr 69	30 Days	100GB Data	Unlimited National Mins and SMS, Unlimited Lyca to Lyca Mins and SMS, EU Roaming

Source: [Lyca official website](#)

Best e-sim cards for Denmark: Teledanks

The easiest way to get connected when traveling to Denmark in 2023 is an e-sim card. You arrange everything online and there is no need to visit a store anymore or swap a physical sim card. Order one, receive a code, apply the settings and you are all set. Check out the following e-sim card deals for Denmark:

- 1 GB data for 7 days = \$4.5 USD
- 2 GB data for 15 days = \$7 USD
- 3 GB data for 30 days = \$9.5 USD
- 5 GB data for 30 days = \$13 USD
- 10 GB data for 30 days = \$21 USD
- 20 GB data for 30 days = \$32 USD

Accommodation

How to find an accommodation in Copenhagen

Of course, you'll need somewhere to live when you move to Copenhagen. Our advice? Start looking as soon as possible, because finding accommodation in the Danish capital can be a considerable challenge.

When narrowing down your search, try to stick within the Storkøbenhavn region. Amager has a good selection of housing, especially in Ørestad — though it's a little further from the city center.

Finding somewhere to live in the city center is even trickier than other parts of Copenhagen, and you'll typically need to have a large budget. Østerbro and Frederiksberg come with a huge price tag in particular, and Vesterbro and Nørrebro are also becoming more expensive.

If you don't want to be in the city, it's worth looking at neighborhoods like Kongens Lyngby, Hvidovre, and Søborg. Valby also has a good range of affordable accommodation, ranging from modern apartments to houses.

In the southern parts of the city, Sydhavnen's waterfront area has been regenerated into swanky apartments in recent years. It offers the chance to disconnect yourself from the city while not being too far away, but also with prices that are a little lower than Nordhavn.

[Boligportal](#) is one of Denmark's largest online portals for rentals, and you'll find multiple listings in Copenhagen. When looking, make sure that you're allowed to register your CPR number at the address.

Another option for furnished rooms in Copenhagen is [LifeX](#). The rooms are pretty expensive, but deposits are lower than you'll find elsewhere, and their locations are mostly central.

When you move here, it's a good idea to plan for the future. Consider joining a waiting list like KAB; in the long run, you'll find an apartment at a much lower rental price. You should also talk to your Danish colleagues, as you'll have a much better chance of finding something worthwhile.

If you're an EU citizen, you can also try your luck at finding accommodation in Malmö. Both Sweden and Denmark are in the Schengen Area, and many people commute between Copenhagen and Malmö daily.

The cost of living in Malmö is generally lower, but you'll need to account for the price of transportation and travel times.

Best neighborhoods to live in Copenhagen

Here are some of the best neighborhoods in Copenhagen and some of their pros and cons:

1. Østerbro: Located on the eastern side of the city, Østerbro is known for its quiet, residential streets and green spaces. Pros include its proximity to the water, great restaurants, and family-friendly atmosphere. Cons may include higher rent prices.
2. Nørrebro: A diverse and lively neighborhood with a youthful vibe, Nørrebro is home to a mix of students, artists, and immigrants. Pros include its nightlife, street food, and cultural diversity. Cons may include noise and street congestion.
3. Vesterbro: A trendy and hip neighborhood in the heart of the city, Vesterbro is known for its bars, restaurants, and boutique shops. Pros include its central location, lively atmosphere, and great nightlife. Cons may include higher rent prices and noise.
4. Frederiksberg: An upscale and elegant neighborhood located just outside the city center, Frederiksberg is known for its beautiful parks, fine dining, and high-end shopping. Pros include its peaceful atmosphere, beautiful architecture, and proximity to the city center. Cons may include higher rent prices and a more exclusive vibe.
5. Christianshavn: A unique and bohemian neighborhood located on an island in the middle of the city, Christianshavn is known for its canals, houseboats, and alternative culture. Pros include its scenic beauty, eclectic vibe, and cultural offerings. Cons may include higher rent prices and occasional overcrowding.

Best Airbnbs in Copenhagen

[Fredericksberg heart !\[\]\(121c996de73948f037b88126d1f67074_img.jpg\) & center of Copenhagen !\[\]\(e109d51fe0ae4a4d3f26908db9e9c1f6_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(7d68599fe9b3a40074effd9008b9f29c_img.jpg\) 5 stars on Airbnb](#)

"1 private room with double bed, bed sheets, quilt, blanket, pillow, big wardrobe with hangers, study table chair. Your family will be close to everything when you stay at this centrally-located place. Heart of Copenhagen. Airport only 25 min by car or taxi and 35 min by public transport, place near to kb hallen train station and Peter bangs vej train station 3 min walk. 2 bus stop only 3min by walk in front of

apartment. metro only 10min by walk supermarket Netto only 5 min walk which is open 6am till 00."

[Cosy vibes in central Vesterbro 5 stars on Airbnb](#)

"Bright and cosy 12m² room in a large 90m² apartment in the heart of trendy Vesterbro. Enjoy easy access to everything from this perfectly located home base that is within walking distance to the Central Station, metro, Tivoli, museums, restaurants, shops & bars.

You will also have access to a courtyard where you can sit & enjoy a cold beverage while BBQing. Perfect for a single traveler who wants to enjoy a laid-back getaway or explore what Copenhagen has to offer."

[Private room, bathroom & entrance 4.83 stars on Airbnb](#)

"1928 masonry villa. Double house consisting of high basement, ground floor and first floor.

Vanløse is a cozy neighborhood in Copenhagen. Here is peace and quiet while being a short distance to all sorts of activities in Copenhagen. Metro and train station are within 7 minutes' walking distance. Attractive shops, restaurants, etc. We have scenic facilities like Damhus Lake and Meadow, about 900 meters from here."

Best Hostels in Copenhagen

[Woodah Boutique Hostel 9.9 Superb, 926 Total Reviews](#) on Hostel World

"On a Journey to Become One of The Leading Boutique Hostels in The World. We are a small and family owned boutique hostel in the heart of Copenhagen. We are located in the area of Vesterbro, a 5 minutes walk from the Central Station. In the epicenter of Danish gastronomy, art, fashion, design and street culture."

[CityHub Copenhagen 9.9, Superb 60 Total Reviews](#) on Hostel World

"CityHub offers private cabins that we call Hubs. Each Hub has a giant double bed, WiFi, app-controlled lighting and a personal audio streaming system. Comfy indeed!

- Socializing is nice, but even better after a hot shower. Our bathrooms are luxurious, clean and separate for men and women. Be your own bartender: magic wristbands open Hubs and tap beers for you. Our CityHosts will show you the hidden gems. That's a promise. Through our app, they'll be on your side. 24/7."

[Urban House Copenhagen by MEININGER 9.2, Superb, 6650 Total Reviews](#) on Hostel World

"Urban House Copenhagen by MEININGER is a trendy, self-service hostel/hotel hybrid in vibrant Vesterbro, 2 minutes walk from Copenhagen Central Station. Attune to the pulse of the city by making use of the house's features, including a bar and a bicycle shop. Wi-Fi is free."

Best Hotels in Copenhagen

[STAY Nordhavn 9.1, Superb, 749 reviews on Booking.com](#)

"In the Østerbro district of Copenhagen, close to Svanemolle Beach, STAY Nordhavn has a garden and a washing machine. It is set 2.5 km from Parken Stadium and offers a lift. The aparthotel features family rooms.

Featuring a fully equipped kitchen with a dishwasher and an oven, each unit also comes with a cable flat-screen TV, ironing facilities, desk and a seating area with a sofa. Each unit comes with a coffee machine, a private bathroom and free WiFi, while certain rooms will provide you with a balcony and some have sea views. At the aparthotel, units include bed linen and towels."

[STAY Bryggen, 9.1, Superb, 2,107 reviews on Booking.com](#)

"Offering a terrace and city view, STAY Bryggen is located in Copenhagen, 3.2 km from Bella Center and 3.2 km from Danish Royal Library. The property features lake and garden views, and is 3.1 km from The National Museum of Denmark. The accommodation provides a fitness room, free WiFi throughout the property and family rooms.

The apartment provides guests with a balcony, a seating area, cable flat-screen TV, a fully equipped kitchen with a dishwasher and an oven, and a private bathroom with walk-in shower and a hair dryer. A toaster, a fridge and stovetop are also provided, as well as a kettle. At the apartment complex, all units are equipped with bed linen and towels."

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walk-in shower and a hair dryer. A toaster, a fridge and stovetop are also provided, as well as a kettle. At the apartment complex, all units are equipped with bed linen and towels."

Healthcare

Denmark boasts a mixed healthcare system that encompasses both public and private health institutions. Let's delve into the essential aspects of how healthcare works in Denmark.

Key Facts about Danish Healthcare:

1. **Public Satisfaction:** Danes generally express high levels of satisfaction with the public healthcare system.
2. **Short Hospital Stays:** Denmark holds the record among EU countries for the shortest length of hospital stays, averaging four and a half days.
3. **Online Patient Data System:** Denmark has implemented an online system that stores patients' data, allowing authorized medical professionals, including doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, to access it easily.
4. **Telehealth and At-Home Monitoring:** The country employs telehealth services that enable patients to have video consultations with doctors from the comfort of their homes. Additionally, patients can utilize specialized equipment to measure their vital signs remotely.

Is Public Healthcare Available in Denmark?

Yes, Denmark provides free public healthcare to its citizens and residents. Although the central government regulates the healthcare system, the majority of services are delivered by the local governments of the five regions.

Regional management handles hospitals and general practitioners, while municipalities take responsibility for nursing homes, home care, and school health services. However, a few specialized hospitals are managed at the central level.

Understanding the Danish Healthcare System:

What Does Public Healthcare Cover?

Public healthcare in Denmark encompasses a wide range of medical services and hospital stays. The coverage includes:

- **General Practitioner Care:** Primary medical care provided by general practitioners, which includes routine treatments, examinations, and advice.

- Access to Specialist Care: Referrals from your general practitioner grant access to specialized care.
- Emergency Care: Round-the-clock emergency medical assistance.
- Hospital Treatment: Inclusive of surgeries, admissions, and aftercare.
- Home Nursing and Health Visitor Visits: Assistance provided at home.

However, certain services are not subsidized by the state, requiring full or partial payment. Public healthcare in Denmark does not cover:

- Medication: While some medications receive subsidies, patients are typically responsible for paying between 50% and 25% of the cost.
- Dental Care: Free for individuals under 18 years of age, but no longer covered by public health insurance afterward.
- Elective Cosmetic Surgeries.
- Fertility Treatments: Some subsidies may be available.
- Physiotherapy.
- Psychology: Subsidies may be accessible with a referral from a doctor.
- Chiropractic Care: Partial subsidies possible with a doctor's referral.
- Non-medical Care and Alternative Treatments: Examples include psychotherapy or coaching.

How Does Healthcare Work in Denmark?

Here are some key points to understand about public healthcare in Denmark:

1. Immediate Access: Upon registering and obtaining your CPR number (equivalent to a social security number), you gain immediate access to free healthcare.
2. General Practitioners: You can select a general practitioner of your choice. Referrals from your GP are generally required to consult specialists, except for dentists, ENT doctors, or eye specialists.
3. GP Availability: General practitioners usually work on weekdays from 8:00 to 16:00, with limited availability for phone calls (emergency cases) from 8:00 to 9:00.

4. Online Appointments: Some GPs offer the option to book appointments online using a specific access code provided by the GP.
5. Prescriptions: GPs and other doctors provide prescriptions for medications, both subsidized and non-subsidized, which can be obtained from any pharmacy.
6. Hospital Choices: Patients have the freedom to choose the hospital they wish to visit, ensuring it specializes in the required field. Consult your family doctor or check hospital websites for information.
7. Language Considerations: In cases where patients do not speak Danish, doctors may arrange.

Childcare and education

If you plan to become a parent, work life in Copenhagen is very accommodating.

New mothers in Denmark get 14 weeks paid maternity leave, and both parents can split 32 weeks between them. Self-employed people can also get paternity leave if they meet specific conditions.

Moving to a new country can bring about numerous challenges, especially when it comes to childcare arrangements. If you're an expat residing in Denmark, particularly in Copenhagen, and need guidance on childcare options, this comprehensive guide will provide you with the necessary information.

Overview of Danish Childcare System:

Denmark offers a well-developed and comprehensive childcare system designed to support working parents. The system emphasizes early childhood education and care, promoting the holistic development of children. Here are the main types of childcare available:

- a. Daycare (Vuggestue): For children aged 0-2 years.
- b. Kindergarten (Børnehave): For children aged 3-6 years.
- c. After-School Care (SFO): For children aged 6-10 years, outside regular school hours.

Public vs. Private Childcare:

In Denmark, both public and private childcare options are available. Public childcare centers are subsidized by the government and generally follow the Danish curriculum. Private childcare centers often offer additional services and may have different approaches to education. Consider the following factors when choosing between public and private options:

- a. Cost: Public childcare is typically less expensive due to government subsidies.
- b. Availability: Public childcare centers may have waiting lists, while private options often offer more immediate availability.
- c. Curriculum and Approach: Research the curriculum and educational philosophy of both public and private childcare centers to find the best fit for your child's needs.

Finding Childcare in Copenhagen:

Copenhagen offers a wide range of childcare options to cater to the diverse needs of families. Follow these steps to find suitable childcare in the city:

- a. **Research Online:** Utilize online resources such as municipal websites, daycare directories, and expat forums to gather information about available childcare centers.
- b. **Contact Municipal Authorities:** Get in touch with the municipality's childcare department to inquire about available spots, registration procedures, and any specific requirements for expat families.
- c. **Visit Childcare Centers:** Schedule visits to potential childcare centers to assess the facilities, meet the staff, and understand their educational approach.
- d. **Consider Recommendations:** Seek recommendations from other expat families, colleagues, or local parents' networks to gather insights about reputable childcare centers in Copenhagen.

Registration and Enrollment:

To secure a spot in a childcare center in Copenhagen, follow these registration procedures:

- a. **CPR Number:** Ensure you and your child have a CPR number, which is a unique identification number issued to residents in Denmark. You can obtain this number at the local Citizen Service Center (Borgerservice).
- b. **Contact Municipality:** Contact the municipality's childcare department to learn about the specific registration process. Some municipalities have centralized registration systems, while others require direct contact with individual childcare centers.
- c. **Provide Required Documents:** Prepare necessary documents, such as proof of identity, residence, employment, and your child's health records, as per the requirements of the childcare center and municipality.
- d. **Submit Application:** Complete the application form and submit it along with the required documents to the relevant authorities within the designated timeframe.

Financial Considerations:

Childcare costs in Denmark can vary based on factors like the type of childcare, the child's age, and the chosen facility. Keep the following financial aspects in mind:

- a. Subsidies: Public childcare centers receive government subsidies, making them more affordable. Private options may have higher fees.
- b. Parental Contribution: Parents are required to make a monthly financial contribution towards childcare costs, calculated based on their income.
- c. Additional Support: Check if you qualify for additional financial support, such as the Childcare Allowance (Børnecheck), which provides financial.

The public transport system

Do I need a car to live in Copenhagen?

If you live close to central Copenhagen or on one of the metro and S-train lines, having a car in Copenhagen can result in a lot of unnecessary stress. Owning a car in Denmark is expensive, with significant taxes playing a role.^[1] Outside of the city center, having a car is perhaps more convenient. You'll need to analyze your own situation and determine whether it's worth the trade-off.

Copenhagen's public transport is reliable, and the Metro, s-trains and busses (including waterbuses) can all be accessed with the same ticket.

All you need to know is how many zones you will pass on your journey.

Metro

All three metro lines are in service 24/7. There are 2-4 minutes between each train during rush hour, and 3-6 minutes outside rush hour and during the weekends. Friday and Saturday night (after 01:00) trains arrive with a 7-15 minutes interval and a 20 minutes interval after midnight on weekdays (Sunday through Thursday).

Bus

The A-buses are the primary buses in central Copenhagen. They drive every 3-7 minutes during rush hour (which is between 07:00-09:00 in the morning and 15:30-17:30 in the afternoon) and usually about every 10 minutes before and after rush hour. The A-buses serve at all hours.

The S-buses drive every 5-10 minutes during rush hour and every 20 minutes outside of rush hour. The S-buses are faster than the A-busses due to fewer stops. They usually serve between 06:00 in the morning and 01:00 at night.

Night buses are in service between 01:00 and 05:00 in the night. You can recognise the bus stops by the grey colour of the bus stop signs. The night buses are all N buses, for an example 85N.

Trains

The S-trains are a hybrid urban-suburban rail serving the Copenhagen urban area, except Amager.

The S-trains run between 05:00 in the morning and 00:30 at night. Line F runs every 4-5 minutes, line A, B, C and E run every 10 minutes, and line H and Bx run every 20 minutes.

On Friday and Saturday, the trains run once an hour between 01:00 and 05:00. However, line F runs every half hour during these hours.

Other types of trains not part of the S-train network include "[Kystbanen](#)" ("The Coastal Line") - a regional railway line between Copenhagen and Elsinore on the north coast of Zealand.

Tickets & prices

Tickets for Copenhagen's metro, bus and train services are all integrated in [Greater Copenhagen](#), which makes a metro ticket valid for the buses and trains as well.

Where to buy your ticket?

Always buy a ticket before boarding the train or metro. You can buy your ticket in ticket machines, which accept Danish cash and the most common credit cards, or 7 Eleven kiosks at the train and metro stations. In [Copenhagen Airport](#) arrival hall and at [Copenhagen Central Station](#) there is a DSB ticket office as well as ticket machines. Please note that not all ticket types/travelcards are for sale via machines. Onboard the buses in Copenhagen, you also have the possibility to buy your ticket from the driver, if you bring small change.

The same ticket can be used in the metro, bus, train and harbour bus. Always have your ticket with you in case a conductor wants to see it. Travelling without a valid ticket will result in a fine of up to DKK 1000.

Pay with your smartphone or online

Download the app "DOT Billetter" in App Store and Google Play and pay for your tickets on the go. Click "Indstillinger" (settings) followed by "Sprog" (language) to select English version. From there you can select the fare you need and enter your credit card details. You can also [buy your bus, train and metro tickets online](#).

Connection with the airport

In Copenhagen it takes less than 15 minutes to go from [Copenhagen Airport](#) to the [city centre](#) and [the top attractions](#) by train or metro. Both metro and train run from Terminal 3.

From A to B easily:

With only 8 km to the center of Copenhagen, it's easy to get to and from the airport. Depending on which form of transportation you prefer, it will take between 13 and 35 minutes to travel the distance. We recommend for you to look up your further travels from the center of the city, since it will have an impact on which transportation would be the best for you.

When arriving at Terminal 3 you'll have easy access to both trains and metro – you just have to walk straight ahead to get there. The busses too are close by, just outside of Terminal 3.

Train

The trains depart every 10 minutes from the airport to [Copenhagen Central Station](#) during the day. In evening hours, it will be every 20. Minute, and during the night just once an hour. To get to the central station by train will only take 15 minutes. At Copenhagen Central Station you will find connections to the rest of the country by train, S-train or bus.

Copenhagen Central Station is located right in the city center, within walking distance of attractions like [Tivoli Gardens](#), [Glyptoteket](#) and [Strøget](#), and it is surrounded by shops, restaurants and hotels.

Metro

If you want to travel by the Metro, it's an easy ride of only 13 minutes to Kongens Nytorv. Here you can change to metro line M3, which opened in 2019. It's a line with 17 stops around the city, all connected by the metro, forming a circle. One trip around the circle takes 28 minutes, and even if you are "going in the wrong direction" you'll end up at your destination in a short time.

If you are arriving at Copenhagen Airport, heading to the cruise terminals in [Nordhavn](#), you just have to change metro at Kongens Nytorv as well – take the M4 towards Orientkaj. If you are going to Kongens Nytorv, Nørreport or [Frederiksberg](#)/Vanløse, we recommend the metro from Copenhagen Airport. It departs frequently, and tickets can be bought at the station in the airport.

Taxi

Just outside both Terminal 1 and 3 you'll find taxies. It will take around 20-30 minutes to get to the city center by taxi, and cost around 250-350 DKK, depending on the traffic. Many hotels in Copenhagen cooperates with the taxi companies offering fixed prices to the airport. This can be an advantage for you if you are taking a taxi within rush-hours.

Busses

From the airport you can travel to Copenhagen Central Station by bus as well. You'll go by bus 5c and it takes around 35 minutes. The bus stop is just outside of Terminal 3.

Besides the public busses you will also find other bus companies at the airport. Abildskou Bus 888 drives from the airport to the northern part of Jutland. Their bus stop is outside of Terminal 2. Greyhound-bus 999 drives between Malmö (Sweden) and Copenhagen, stopping at Terminal 3 of Copenhagen airport, as well as Sydhavnen and Copenhagen Central Station.

Parking

Finally, there is the option of going by car. Copenhagen airport has a comprehensive parking lot, offering parking from the price of 395 DKK per week. The prices differentiate depending on location of the parking spot, and whether it's an outdoor parking or a closed parking garage. There are 5 types of parking, whereas the cheapest is located the furthest from the terminals. When parking there you can go by the free transfer bus to the terminals.

The same goes for the Car Rental Centre. The airport offers a free transfer bus to get to the pickup spot.

Co-working spaces

Copenhagen has a vibrant co-working scene with plenty of options to choose from. Here are some of the best co-working spaces in the city along with their costs and pros and cons:

1. **The Camp:** Located in the trendy Nørrebro neighborhood, The Camp is a popular co-working space that caters to a variety of freelancers and entrepreneurs. The price for a hot desk starts at around DKK 2,100 per month. Pros: great location, lots of events and networking opportunities. Cons: can be crowded and noisy.
2. **Founders House:** This co-working space is specifically designed for startups and entrepreneurs. The price for a hot desk starts at DKK 1,500 per month. Pros: great community, lots of resources and support for startups. Cons: can be a bit expensive compared to other co-working spaces.
3. **Republikken:** Republikken is a co-working space located in the heart of Copenhagen. The price for a hot desk starts at DKK 1,850 per month. Pros: central location, lots of natural light, great community. Cons: can be a bit crowded during peak hours.
4. **Talent Garden:** Talent Garden is a European co-working chain that recently opened a location in Copenhagen. The price for a hot desk starts at around DKK 2,000 per month. Pros: modern facilities, great community, lots of events and networking opportunities. Cons: can be a bit pricey compared to other co-working spaces.
5. **Matrikel1:** Located in a historic building in the city center, Matrikel1 is a co-working space that caters to creative professionals. The price for a hot desk starts at DKK 2,950 per month. Pros: beautiful space, great community, lots of natural light. Cons: can be a bit expensive compared to other co-working spaces.

Overall, Copenhagen has plenty of great co-working spaces to choose from. The best one for you will depend on your personal preferences, budget, and specific needs as a freelancer or entrepreneur.

Food in Copenhagen

Copenhagen's food scene has gained worldwide recognition, making it a city with an optimistic future and enviable gastronomy. Interestingly, the Danish pastry, often associated with Denmark, actually originated from Vienna. In the 1840s, Austrian bakers settled in Denmark and introduced this beloved pastry, which is known as "wienerbrød" or "Viennese bread" in Denmark.

Whether you have a preference for bistros or Michelin-starred restaurants, Copenhagen offers a homogeneous culinary experience. The restaurant scene is renowned for its distinctiveness and innovation, catering to various budgets, tastes, and occasions. The city's diverse menu features delicious cuisines from around the world, while also emphasizing the use of local, seasonal ingredients to create exquisite meals. This culinary approach was pioneered by noma and the New Nordic cuisine movement, establishing Copenhagen's restaurants as trailblazers in the culinary world.

Indulge in global flavors or savor local delights:

In addition to the traditional open-faced sandwich known as "smørrebrød" and the New Nordic cuisine, Copenhagen is blessed with a wide range of restaurants representing different cultures. Many talented chefs have come to the city to work in prestigious establishments and later opened their own restaurants, showcasing local tastes and flavors in Copenhagen.

Italian cuisine enthusiasts will be delighted to discover that Copenhagen is rapidly establishing itself as Scandinavia's Italian culinary metropolis. Despite the city's reputation for rye bread, smoked fish, and New Nordic hotspots, Italian cuisine is making a remarkable comeback. Over the past decade, Copenhagen's evolving food scene has embraced Italian cuisine, becoming one of the world's beloved culinary destinations for Italian food lovers.

Nice restaurants in Copenhagen

Best smørrebrød and other traditional Danish food

For a truly Danish food experience, you can get at lunch time in Copenhagen with the renowned smørrebrød (open faced sandwich). But at dinner you should treat yourself to some other Danish classic dishes too. They might claim less international fame, but are loved by locals - for good reason

Schønnemann - Schønnemann's is one of Copenhagen's oldest eateries. Since 1877, this old-world establishment has invited patrons to feast on delicious smørrebrød, herring and potent shots of chilled schnapps.

Dark wood panelling, green walls, crisp white table linen and fustian-covered chairs all contribute to the ambience of this delightful old restaurant.

This is a lunch-only destination, but definitely worth making it your main meal of your day. An organic haven of freshly-made smørrebrød, long-term matured herring, smoked eel with scrambled eggs, and freshly-breaded fried plaice fillets.

Aamanns Etablissement - At the Michelin Guide-recommended restaurant in Copenhagen Adam Aamann and his team serves Aamanns signature smørrebrød and classic Danish dishes for lunch with home-made schnapps and local organic beer.

In the evening you can taste dishes from the innovative yet forthcoming menus inspired by traditional Danish cuisine. Aamanns Etablissement is, according to themselves, a Danish bistro where quality products and taste are the main focus.

The menu varies according to the seasonal food provided by local suppliers.

The cosy lunch restaurant and locals favourite is located side by side with Aamanns popular takeaway and eatery; Aamanns Deli & Take Away

Value for money restaurants

Looking for a quality meal that will not blow your budget? No worries, a lot of bistros and value for money restaurants offer high-quality tasting menus and great settings for under 400 Kroner.

Ancestrale - Ancestrale in the heart of Copenhagen's Vesterbro area is first and foremost a winebar. However, you can also expect mouth-watering small-sized dishes and homely "hygge" at this informal spot run by three boys with a passion for wine, food and hospitality.

H15 - A cafeteria made cool in the happening Meatpacking District.

In an old freight hall in the hip Meatpacking District in Vesterbro, you'll find H15. An all-day eatery and event space serving up simple yet utterly delicious dishes at very reasonable prices. The food is mainly organic, sustainable and locally sourced, and the chef always follows the seasons when creating the menu.

H15 is filled with hygge, and most definitely deserves a spot on your agenda for food-related adventures when visiting Copenhagen. Stop by for a snack, coffee, glass

of wine or a full meal. If you like cosy hangouts, great handmade grub and one of the coolest settings in town, that is.

Great budget eats in Copenhagen

Long known as a culinary hotspot boasting Michelin stars, the world's best restaurant, and the New Nordic cuisine movement, Copenhagen is also a foodie-friendly destination for budget travellers. Let us guide you to some of the best places serving up great food for less than DKK 100.

Grød - One of the latest food trends to gain foothold is porridge. And of course it's done nicely and delicate at Grød in Copenhagen.

Grød - or porridge as it translates, has several very popular cafes around Copenhagen. And as the name rightly reveals, only porridge is on the menu.

Hooked - Feast on seafood in Nørrebro's lowkey maritime fastfood haven. After touring Copenhagen's food markets and festivals with their popular food truck, the three guys behind Hooked opened their own restaurant right in the beating heart of Nørrebro in the summer of 2017.

Family friendly restaurants

Many of Copenhagen's cafes and restaurants have special children's menus, and provide a special high chair for toddlers. Some places though, go out of their way to make children welcome.

Absalon: Copenhagen's joyful, fun-packed community house where you can expect anything from social dining to bingo, themed parties and life drawing.

Hang out with the local Vesterbro folks for community dinner (and much more) at Absalon. Ask anyone in Copenhagen and they'll know this riotously-coloured former church-turned welcoming space for all.

Absalon is your living room away from home. Your breakfast café, your afternoon hangout, your evening bar and the place you eat your dinner with 180 other people.

The playful community house right on Vesterbro's Sønder Boulevard is a modern and laid-back place for the local Vesterbro citizens and guests to get together to eat and enjoy activities like bingo, table tennis, and movie and music events in informal surroundings.

DRINKS

Cocktails: Ruby, Brønnum, Lidkoeb

Wine: Pompette, Vinhanen, Bibendum

Beer: Baghaven, Kølsters Tolv Haner, Fermentoren

Coffee: The Coffee collective, Prolog coffee bar, Nordic Roasting Co.

[EAT WITH A LOCAL](#): Dinning at Frederiksberg

You will enjoy 3 or 4 courses of French and Italian fusion with a rustic Nordic twist. You will have the option to request a wine menu of organic Danish wine, from the vineyard Garbolund in the North of Zealand where 4 of the inhabitants grew up.

Culinary we enjoy experimenting and using seasonal produce - therefore the menu is ever changing and can vary from day to day

This will make for a truly unique and personal experience in the most fashionable part of Denmark's largest and most vibrant city

Best Coffee shops in Copenhagen

1. The Coffee Collective - Known for their high-quality, sustainably sourced coffee and their commitment to ethical practices.
2. Atelier September - A trendy spot with a minimalist design, serving up delicious coffee and a variety of breakfast and lunch options.
3. Democratic Coffee - A cozy and welcoming cafe that's perfect for remote work, with plenty of seating and a relaxed atmosphere.
4. Original Coffee - A chain of coffee shops with multiple locations, known for their excellent coffee and friendly service.
5. Prolog Coffee Bar - A popular spot with a great selection of coffee, pastries, and light bites, and a welcoming atmosphere that's great for remote work.
6. Cafe Norden - A stylish cafe with a central location, offering a range of coffee drinks, breakfast, and lunch options, and a great atmosphere for work or relaxation.
7. Coffee Collective Torvehallerne - Another location of The Coffee Collective, this spot is located in a bustling food hall and is great for people-watching while enjoying your coffee.

Nightlife

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, and you'll have plenty of playing time if you live in Copenhagen. If you're into nightlife, Denmark's capital city will not disappoint; the Danes are partial to a beer, but they handle it pretty well.

Copenhagen has several places to drink, ranging from fancy bars to bodegas and everything in between. You'll find many of these dotted through the inner city, while Vesterbro and Nørrebro are also excellent places to grab a drink.

Nightlife in Copenhagen usually starts late and finishes late; some places stay open until 5:30am. You can pick your own adventure, though — going for a pub crawl is a lot of fun, and you can always host pre-drinks at your apartment before hitting the town.

Drinking in Copenhagen will leave less of a hole in your pocket than Stockholm or Oslo. Expect to pay between 45 DKK and 65 DKK for beer in a bar; bodegas are much cheaper.

Some of the best clubs and bars in Copenhagen are:

1. The Jane: This club has a unique mix of electronic and hip-hop music and a spacious dance floor.
2. Bakken Bar: It is the oldest amusement park in the world and has a bar with a great selection of beer and live music.
3. Ruby: This bar has a chic and elegant atmosphere, with a focus on cocktails made with high-quality ingredients.
4. Jolene Bar: It is a popular spot for locals, with a laid-back atmosphere and a great selection of beer.
5. KB18: This club hosts a range of electronic music events and has a relaxed and welcoming vibe.
6. Tivoli Gardens: This amusement park has several bars and restaurants, as well as live music and entertainment.
7. The Union: This bar has a cozy atmosphere and a great selection of craft beers and cocktails.

Each of these establishments has its own unique atmosphere and offerings, making them great options for a night out in Copenhagen.

Visa requirements

Do I need a residence permit to live in Copenhagen?

The answer to this question depends on where you come from. Denmark is a member of the European Union, and as such, it benefits from freedom of movement. If you're from another EU member state, you can work, study, and live in Copenhagen without needing to apply for a Visa — though you'll need to register your residence when you arrive.

Although Switzerland isn't a member of the EU or European Economic Area (EEA), you can also live and work in Denmark on the same grounds as someone from an EU member state.

If you're from another Nordic country (Norway, Sweden, Finland, or Iceland), you can also move to Denmark without applying for a Visa. People from Greenland or the Faroe Islands are Danish citizens, and since both territories are part of the Kingdom of Denmark, they can move to Copenhagen.

For those not from an EU or EEA country, or a Swiss citizen, things are a little more complicated. To live in Denmark, you'll need to acquire a residence permit. This includes US and Canadian citizens, as well as any Brit moving from the beginning of 2021 onwards.

What are the first things you should do when moving to Copenhagen as an expat?

Living in Copenhagen is a lot of fun when you're all settled. Until then, though, it can be a little stressful. Many processes you need to follow are straightforward, but the waiting times can get a little irritating.

What you need to do:

- Register your residence

To register as a residence in Denmark, you'll need to have an address in the country (we'll talk more about that later).

If you're an EU citizen, you'll need to register in person at one of SIRI's offices in the country. The closest to Copenhagen is in Valby, one of the city's main districts. When you go for your appointment, you'll need to bring your passport and/or national ID card, plus other documentation to support your grounds of residence.

As an example to the above, bringing your employment contract and printed documentation of your lease is a good idea if you're coming to work in Denmark. If you're coming to study, you can bring your offer from a Danish university.

If you don't yet have a job in Denmark but are from the EU, you can apply and move on the basis of self-sufficient funds. You'll need to have enough money in your bank account to show that you can support yourself financially during your stay, and this is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Any bank statements you use for documentation must not be more than 30 days old.

Self-employed EU citizens without a business registered in Denmark can gain residence on self-sufficient funds before changing their permit to self-employed later.

For EU citizens, you'll usually receive your residence document during your appointment — unless the authorities need further information from you.

If you are from outside the EU, you'll need to remember to have your biometric features recorded as part of your application. You can do this in several countries; you'll have to receive your permit before traveling in most instances.

- Get a CPR card

Once you've received the right to live in Denmark, it's crucial that you get a yellow CPR health card. You can do this at the International House in Copenhagen, which is close to the town hall and will need to bring your residence certificate — plus the contract for your accommodation.

You'll need to apply online to receive a CPR number; the International House will email you a few weeks later to invite you. The appointment won't take too long, and you'll receive your card in the post. Expect to wait 2-4 weeks for the card in most cases.

- Get your NemID sorted ASAP

Getting your NemID sorted is crucial to living a more complete life in Copenhagen. Without it, you cannot sign up for a Danish bank account — and most of your other services will also be limited.

Annoyingly, you can't get your NemID without the CPR card. So, it's worth ensuring that you've got a digital bank to keep you going in the meantime; using something like N26, Revolut, or Monzo will help avoid foreign exchange fees.

To get your NemID, you'll need to book an appointment; the office is in Valby. You'll get some of the information there, and the rest will be sent in the post. Again, you can expect to wait a few weeks for all of this.

- Open a bank account

Once you've received your NemID, you should strive to open a bank account as soon as possible. Without a Danish bank account, you cannot receive your salary.

In Denmark, you've got a broad selection of banks to choose from. Danske Bank and Nordea have plenty of services in English, as does Handelsbanken — a Swedish bank with offerings throughout the Nordic region.

You can also choose several Danish banks, such as Arbejdernes Landsbank, Sparkassen, and Jyske Bank.

- Get a tax card

When you move to Copenhagen for work, you'll need to get a tax card. You can do this online and in person.

If you're self-employed, you'll pay B-tax and do not need a tax card. However, you will still need to register your company with SKAT.

- Start finding activities you enjoy

Making new friends is crucial to living a more fulfilling life in Copenhagen, and it's wise to start networking as soon as possible. When you begin your job or studies, talk to people in your workplace or on your course.

Many Danes are members of societies and do voluntary work, so it's worth looking around and seeing which ones appeal to you the most.

The digital nomad visa

Unfortunately, Denmark does not have a digital nomad visa. If you are a non-EU citizen and want to live and work in Denmark, you must work for a Danish company. It is *illegal* to work in Denmark without a work permit, even remotely. This also applies if you enter without a visa or with a [Denmark Schengen Visa](#).

On the other hand, EU/EEA and Swiss citizens can live in Denmark and work as digital nomads without restrictions. After three months, you must register your stay at a local registration hall to keep living in Denmark.

The Denmark Startup Visa

If you want to work in Denmark but not as a digital nomad, you can apply for a Denmark start-up visa. Startup Denmark is for self-employed persons and only for non-EU/EEA and non-Swiss citizens.

A non-EU/EEA citizen can submit a business plan together with EU/EEA citizens if they are part of the team behind the start-up. However, they do not need a residence and work permit for Denmark due to the EU rules on the free movement of persons and services.

You must meet the following requirements to apply for a Denmark startup visa:

- The Danish Business Authority must approve your business idea.
- You must have sufficient financial means to support yourself.
- You must play an active part in running the business.

Startup Denmark supports new companies with the potential to expand internationally. Small restaurants, retail stores, and import/export companies will be rejected right away and won't even be presented to the Startup Denmark expert panel.

The Denmark start-up visa is valid for two years, and you can extend it before it expires.

The startup ecosystem

[Source: Startup Blink](#)

The Startup Ecosystem of Copenhagen is ranked at number 53 globally, and shows a positive momentum increasing 8 spots since 2021. Copenhagen also ranks at number 1 in Denmark, and 11 in Western Europe.

Copenhagen is an ideal place to locate for Hardware & IoT, Marketing & Sales and Social & Leisure startups. As the most popular industries in Copenhagen, there is a sample of 139 Hardware & IoT startups in Copenhagen, 39 Marketing & Sales startups in Copenhagen, and 35 Social & Leisure startups in Copenhagen, on the StartupBlink Map.

On the StartupBlink Global Startup Ecosystem Map there is also a sample of 348 startups in Copenhagen, no accelerators in Copenhagen, 2 coworking spaces in Copenhagen, 1 organizations in Copenhagen and 1 leaders in Copenhagen.

GLOBAL STARTUP ECOSYSTEM INDEX:

Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, is finally getting closer to the top 50 after increasing 8 spots to rank **53rd this year**, its highest ranking since we published the Index in 2017.

18 | Denmark



Denmark experienced best momentum in the top 20.



After two years of stability, Denmark has surged in the Index. Now ranked 18th in the world, Denmark had the highest jump among the top 20 countries, getting closer to realizing its full potential. Regionally, the country remains 12th in Europe, 10th in the EU and 3rd in the Nordic region.

Within the country, there is positive news for three ecosystems. Firstly, Copenhagen jumped 8 spots to rank 53rd in the world, making real progress towards the top 50. Good momentum can be seen also in Aarhus, which increased by 15 places to rank 213rd. Hening accomplished a great performance by jumping 317 spots to 564th in the world and 5th in the country.

Some negative momentum can be seen in Odense (3rd nationally and 386th globally) and in Aalborg, which decreased by 10 spots to rank 516th. More unfortunate news, Kolding is no longer in the top 1000.

Denmark is represented at the industry level by Copenhagen, which ranks 24th in Hardware & IoT.

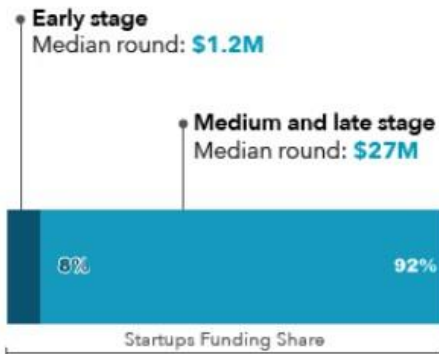
Startup Ecosystem Overview

Denmark is well known as a progressive country with a high quality of life and talented entrepreneurs, backed by lean regulation that provides tax benefits and minimizes red tape. It's no coincidence that global leaders in various fields, like shipping giant Maersk, are based in Denmark; the potential of Danish entrepreneurs to lead global companies is high. Indeed, Danish founders are fully capable of building massive startups with global impact, evidenced by the success of Danish companies like Zendesk and Unity. When reaching maturity, however, such companies tend to move their operations to other countries, mainly the United States.

Denmark's capital, Copenhagen, connects Europe, Scandinavia, and the Baltic nations, creating a link to a market with more than hundred million consumers. Denmark is one of the best countries for doing business thanks to a safe business environment (minimal bureaucracy, great education, and transparent tax laws), world class innovation and technology, a focus on reducing emissions, superior quality of life, good social system, strong economy, and stable political landscape.

According to the European Commission, Denmark is regarded as an innovation leader in Europe, thanks to extensive research and development programs focused on innovation, entrepreneurship, and a pool of intelligent, aspiring people. Denmark is also the most digital country in Europe, and the home of many knowledge-intensive industries such as ICT, Life Science, and Cleantech.

Startups in Denmark have access to a range of both private and public funding opportunities.



Publicly funded initiatives include [Innovation Fund Denmark](#), which invests in new initiatives to create growth and employment, and [The Danish Growth Fund](#), aimed at promoting the creation and growth of new companies through investments, loans, and guarantees. The Danish government has also initiated [Startup Denmark](#) (a startup visa scheme) as the one-point-of-entry for talented non-EU/EEA entrepreneurs to relocate and grow high-impact start-ups in Denmark.

The Danish startup ecosystem, however, has yet to fulfill its true potential. Some of this missed potential can be attributed to increased focus on topics such as gender balance and employee rights, which are critical for established businesses, yet delay the growth of startups working in a chaotic environment. The Danish public sector is over-supportive of its entrepreneurs, even to the point of introducing them to investors and potential partners.

This is admirable, but does not necessarily build the character and spirit needed by great founders.

Outstanding innovation initiatives are happening in Denmark; One of the notable examples is the city of Odense, which has become a key innovation hub for robotics, drones, and automation, and has also caught the attention of international investors. We also recommend visiting Denmark for the growing regional tech event TechBBQ!

Notable Startups and Ecosystem Champions

➔ **Pleo** 

Copenhagen, Denmark

Pleo offers smart payment cards for employees to buy work-related products while keeping the company in control of spending.

➔ **Lunar** 

Aarhus, Denmark

Lunar is a digital bank that offers a mobile-based banking app that helps consumers manage their personal finances.

➔ **Dixa**

Copenhagen, Denmark

Dixa is a conversational customer engagement app that connects brands with customers through real-time communication.

[The 10 Top Accelerators and Incubators from Copenhagen](#)

There's no doubt that the startup scene in Copenhagen is unique.

Dozens of successful startups have been incubated or accelerated there over the years.

So whether you're looking to start your own business, or just interested in learning about accelerators and incubators from Copenhagen, here's an extensive list of 10 investing there.

- 1) Accelerace: Accelerace, a business development organization established in Denmark, helps companies with training, investment, and business development.
- 2) Founders: Founders is a startup studio that creates products and businesses that transform the way people and businesses work.
- 3) Rainmaking: Rainmaking is a startup incubator that helps entrepreneurs establish enterprises, grow them into successful businesses, and then exit them.
- 4) ITU Startup Programme: At the IT University of Copenhagen, we give students with the resources, mentorship, and assistance they need to launch new technology businesses.

- 5) Lundbeckfonden Emerge: Lundbeckfonden Emerge was launched in the spring of 2012 as a strategic project of the Lundbeckfonden.
- 6) Stairways: Incubator that helps and advises early stage start-ups by giving expertise, time, and technical know-how.
- 7) Knowledge Cube: Customers in the public sector can rely on Knowledge Cube for Microsoft-based bespoke IT projects and digital solutions.
- 8) Urbantech: For growth-stage startups, the Urbantech Initiative 2020 is a non-equity, pilot-focused, and innovation program.
- 9) Nordic Scalers: Nordic Scalers is a program that helps Nordic scale-ups grow and enter new markets.
- 10) InnoFounder – Graduate: InnoFounder – Graduate is a design-driven incubator for recent graduates from Danish educational institutions.

Sum it up: pros and cons of living in Copenhagen

Pros

1. High standard of living with a strong welfare system
2. Safe and bike-friendly city with excellent public transportation
3. Culturally rich with museums, art galleries, and historical sites
4. Vibrant and diverse food scene with many international options
5. Opportunities to learn and practice Danish language and culture

Cons

1. High cost of living, especially housing and transportation
2. Long, dark winters with limited daylight
3. Language barrier for non-Danish speakers
4. Limited job opportunities for non-Danish speakers
5. High taxes and strict immigration policies.