





The Port Briefing Series

Landfall

Copenhagen

Denmark – Hygge, Harbours and Happiness

“ Denmark in a Nutshell

A small, flat, famously content kingdom of six million that cycles everywhere and turned cosiness into a philosophy - it gave the world LEGO, fairy tales and hygge, and keeps being voted the happiest place on earth



Port Dar

Wednesday 29 July 2026

A short orientation before you step ashore

Provisional Timings for the Day



0800
Alongside · Wed

>



0830
Gangway · Wed



one full day



1700
All Aboard · Wed

>



1730
Departure · Wed



05:09
Sunrise

over 16 hours of daylight



21:22
Sunset

long, lingering northern evenings



1.7 km
To the Centre

1 mi - an easy waterfront walk



Walk Off
No Shuttle Needed

Langelinie is right in town



Watch For - On the Approach



The Middelgrunden wind farm curves across the harbour mouth - Denmark, the home of wind power



The Little Mermaid stands just along the quay from your berth at Langelinie



Across the Sound lies Sweden - Malmo and the great Oresund Bridge on the horizon



Time Ashore

A Full Day

early morning to late afternoon in the city
Indicative and approximate - confirm in the Daily Programme



Next Port of Call **Kiel Canal Transit**
Thu 30 Jul · scenic cruising, then home to Rosyth

Where in the World



On the Oresund

the capital sits on the Sound, the narrow strait between the Baltic and the North Sea



Linked to Sweden

Malmo lies just across the water, joined by the great Oresund Bridge



Ship's Clock - Local Time

Central European Summer Time, two hours ahead of UTC

+2h

vs GMT

+1h

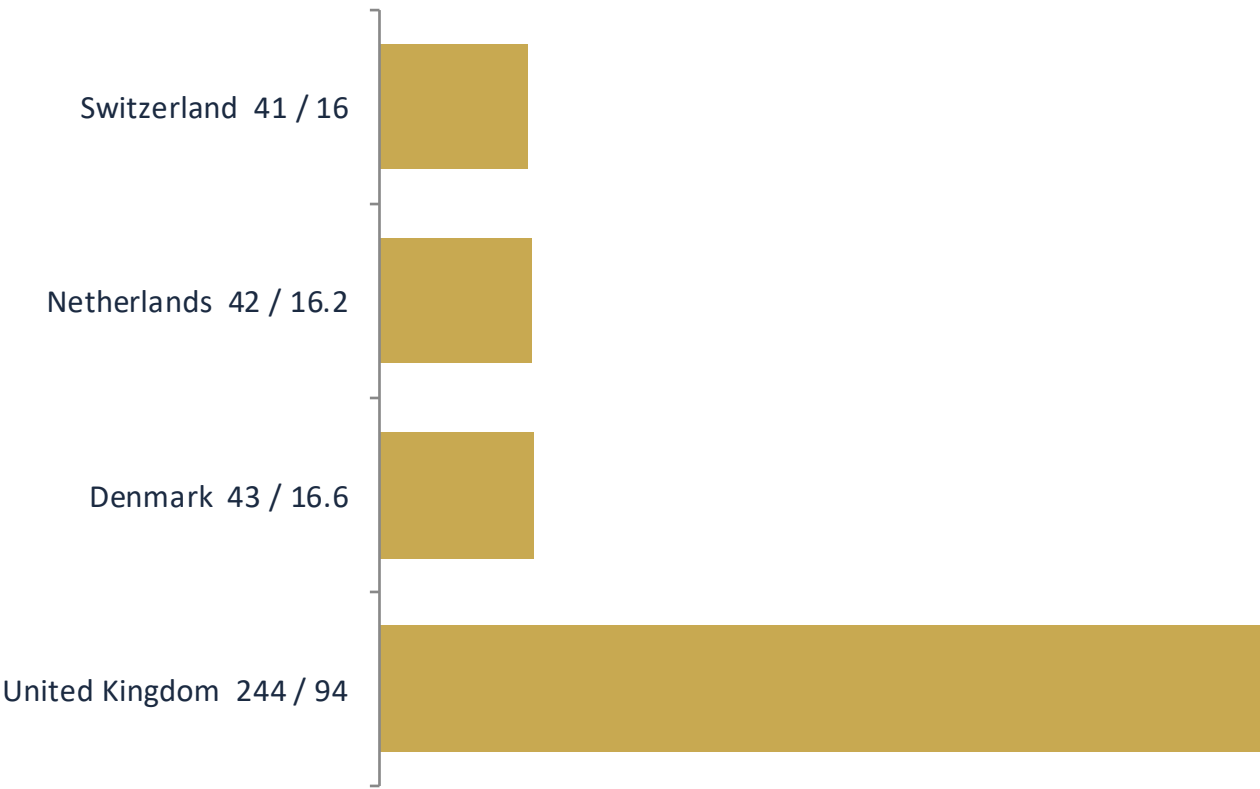
vs UK (BST)

+7h

vs EST

Size and Scale

Land Area - Thousands, square kilometres / square miles



1 / 228 the size of the United States as a whole

One Fifth the size of the United Kingdom

2 × the size of Wales - and that is before Greenland

The Facts at a Glance



6 million

people, in one of Europe's smaller and most content nations



7,314 km coast

4,545 miles, threaded through more than 400 islands



The Krone

Denmark kept its own coin - not the euro, though cards rule



1,000-year crown

Europe's oldest monarchy - King Frederik X since 2024



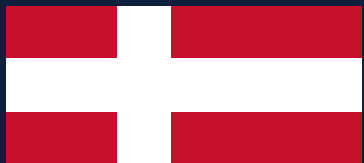
More bikes than people

the cycling capital of the world, by some distance



The Mute Swan

the national bird since 1984, gliding on every lake and moat



The Dannebrog the red flag with its white cross is the oldest continuously used national flag in the world - legend says it fell from the sky in 1219, at Lyndanisse, today's Tallinn

What Denmark Is Known For



The Happiest People

Hygge - the art of cosiness, candlelight and good company - is a national creed



A Nation on Bikes

More bicycles than people, and a capital built around the cycle lane



Fairy Tales

Hans Christian Andersen, whose stories the whole world grew up on



Danish Design

Arne Jacobsen and the clean, functional lines that shaped modern interiors



LEGO

The little plastic brick from Billund, now the world's favourite toy



Maersk and the Sea

The Danish firm that became the world's greatest container-shipping line

What Copenhagen Is Known For



Nyhavn

The colourful canal-side harbour of gabled houses - the city's postcard



The Little Mermaid

Andersen's wistful bronze, perched on a rock on the waterfront



Tivoli Gardens

An 1843 pleasure garden that helped inspire Disneyland - magical after dark



The Royal Palaces

Amalienborg and its noon guard, Christiansborg, and Rosenborg's crown jewels



Christiania

The self-declared freetown - alternative, anarchic and one of a kind



New Nordic Cuisine

Noma and a generation of kitchens that redrew the culinary map

A Famous Son of the City



Niels Bohr

NEELS BOR

1885 - 1962

Father of quantum theory and one of the towering minds of the twentieth century - born, raised and at work in Copenhagen, a Nobel laureate whose Institute still bears his name



The Quantum Pioneer

His model of the atom and the Copenhagen interpretation reshaped physics and won the 1922 Nobel Prize



A Son of the City

Born and raised here, he later lived in the Carlsberg honorary mansion, reserved for Denmark's greatest



A Daring Escape

Smuggled out of Nazi-occupied Denmark in 1943, he carried his ideas to the Allied atomic effort

Three Things They Will Not Tell You

1



Bring a Deep Wallet

Copenhagen out-prices even its Nordic rivals - reckon on ten dollars for a beer and far more for a sit-down meal

2



The Bicycle Is King

Never wander into a cycle lane - it is a fast-moving river of commuters, and the Danes will not stop for you

3



It Is Krone, Not Euro

Denmark kept its own coin, so do not expect euros - though your contactless card barely notices the difference



Don't Mention... buying Greenland - the world's largest island is Danish, emphatically not for sale, and the Danes have grown weary of being asked

Money - What It Buys



The Krone

Denmark kept its own coin - not the euro, but pegged to it and rock-steady

\$1 buys about **6.50 kr**

£1 buys about **8.60 kr**

In reverse, 10 kroner is about 1 dollar 55 or 1 pound 15



One of the world's most cashless societies - tap and go, and you may never see a coin

Indicative mid-market rates, late late July 2026

What You Might Reasonably Pay



Coffee

45 kr

\$6.90 · £5.25



Water

25 kr

\$3.85 · £2.90



Beer

65 kr

\$10 · £7.55



Transit

24 kr

\$3.70 · £2.80



Top Tips to Save



Ride the harbour bus, line 991 or 992 - a canal cruise for the price of a normal ticket



Nyhavn, the Little Mermaid and the noon changing of the guard are all free



Rent a bike and join the flow - the cheapest and most Danish way to see the city



A City Pass Small is 100 kr for 24 hours - buy it on the DOT Tickets app or at the terminal

Why Here? The Founding



1167

The Merchants' Harbour

Bishop Absalon raised a castle on the islet of Slotsholmen to guard a fishing harbour from Baltic pirates - the seed of a city whose name still means merchants' harbour



Absalon's Castle

In 1167 the warrior-bishop fortified the little island where Christiansborg now stands - its ruins still lie beneath it



Herring and the Sound

It sat on the Oresund, holding the sea-road between the Baltic and the North Sea - and the herring shoals that fed Catholic Europe



From Havn to Capital

The harbour grew into Kobmannehavn, the merchants' harbour - and in 1417 the king moved in, making it the capital

The Builder King

Christian IV gives the city its skyline, 1588-1648

No one shaped Copenhagen like Christian IV. In a sixty-year reign he raised Rosenborg Castle, the Round Tower and the dragon-spired Stock Exchange, and built the long terraces of Nyboder and the great naval base at Holmen that made Denmark a sea power. He ringed the city with new ramparts and doubled its size - much of the Copenhagen you will walk today is his



His towers and spires still define the skyline you see today

Two Hundred Years Ago



1826

Bruised, but Reborn

A royal capital recovering from two British attacks and a national bankruptcy, stripped of Norway after backing Napoleon - yet on the cusp of its cultural Golden Age

1801 / 07

The British twice attack Copenhagen - Nelson turns a blind eye at the first, the fleet is seized at the second

1814

Denmark loses Norway to Sweden, the price of siding with Napoleon

1820s

Bankrupt, but the dawn of a Golden Age - Andersen, Kierkegaard and the sculptor Thorvaldsen

A Century to Now



1849

A Constitution

Absolute monarchy gives way to democracy with the June Constitution



1864

The Loss

Schleswig is taken by Prussia - a defeat that scarred the nation



1943

The Rescue

Almost every Danish Jew is spirited across the water to safety in Sweden



1949

Into the West

A founding member of NATO, in the EU since 1973 - now a green kingdom under Frederik X

Where the Ship Will Berth



Ocean Quay (Oceankaj)



Most Ships - Ocean Quay

As a smaller ship, Balmoral is expected to berth at Langelinie, right beside the Little Mermaid and a pleasant 15 to 20 minute waterfront walk from Nyhavn and the centre - no shuttle needed, though one is usually laid on

The Best View - and the Walk



The Best View

Climb a Tower

Copenhagen is flat - the finest views are up its towers and spires



Christiansborg Tower - the city's tallest, and free - a lift to the rooftop panorama



The Round Tower - Christian IV's spiral ramp to an old observatory - about 60 kr



Our Saviour's Spire - the daring external golden staircase in Christianshavn - about 69 kr



Walking the Core

Oceankaj berth to the centre

7 km / 4 mi · shuttle or metro · not walkable

Nyhavn to the Little Mermaid

1.5 km / 0.9 mi · 20 min · flat, easy

Nyhavn to Tivoli and the Town Hall

1.4 km / 0.9 mi · 18 min · flat, easy

Around the old town and Stroget

1.1 km / 0.7 mi · 15 min · flat, easy

Flat and a joy on foot or by bike - but mind the cycle lanes, and remember the berth is 7 km out

The Smart and the Scruffy - Areas to Consider Visiting



The Smart

Frederiksstaden and the Centre

- Frederiksstaden - Amalienborg Palace and the great Marble Church
- Stroget - one of the longest pedestrian shopping streets in Europe
- Indre By - the medieval core, the Round Tower and Rosenborg's gardens
- Osterbro - genteel, leafy and lined with handsome apartment blocks



The Scruffy

Christiania and the Cool Quarters

- Christiania - the self-governing freetown, anarchic and unforgettable
- Vesterbro and the Meatpacking District - bars, street food and nightlife
- Nørrebro - multicultural and hip, with the lively Jægersborggade street
- Refshaleoen - an old shipyard turned food and culture hub, home to Noma

Landfall · Copenhagen

Copenhagen on a Budget



Ride the Harbour Bus

Lines 991 and 992 give a canal cruise for the price of a normal ticket



Free Icons

Nyhavn, the Little Mermaid and the noon changing of the guard cost nothing



Cycle Like a Local

Rent a bike and join the flow - the city is flat and built for it



Parks and Gardens

The King's Garden at Rosenborg and the Lakes are free and lovely



Christiania

Free to wander the alternative freetown and its murals and cafes



A Cheap Day Pass

The City Pass Small is 100 kr for 24 hours - buy on the DOT app



Ashore

Landfall - Copenhagen

For the Cultured



Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek

Antiquities and French Impressionists, a brewer's gift - about 125 kr



Rosenborg Castle

The crown jewels in a Renaissance palace and garden - about 140 kr



The National Museum

Denmark's story from the Vikings to now - about 145 kr, under-18s free



The National Gallery

SMK, the country's largest art museum - permanent collection free



Designmuseum Danmark

The temple of Danish design, from Wegner chairs to modern craft



Christiansborg Palace

Parliament and the royal reception rooms - and a free tower view

See the City from the Water

Nyhavn (NEW-houn) - and a canal cruise

Stroll the colourful quay of Nyhavn, Hans Christian Andersen's old address, then glide out by canal boat past the Opera House, the Black Diamond library, Christianshavn and the Little Mermaid - the finest, and most restful, way to take the measure of this maritime capital. With an overnight in port, save Tivoli for the evening, when it lights up



Canal tours leave from Nyhavn - around 120 kr, buy at the quay

One Drink (Responsibly!) ... and One Dish



If You Drink One Thing

Akvavit

AH-kvah-veet

The caraway-spiced Danish spirit, or snaps - downed ice-cold in a single shot, chased with a beer, alongside herring. The famous Carlsberg and Tuborg are both brewed here too



If You Eat One Thing

Smorrebrod

SMUHR-broth

The Danish open sandwich - a slice of dark rye piled high with herring, prawns or roast beef and trimmings. For something quicker, a rode polser, the red sausage, from a street cart

With Fair Winds

Copenhagen in a Slide



Stroll Nyhavn and cruise the canals - the city from the water



See the palaces and the Mermaid - free, and royal



Tivoli after dark - the rare gift of an overnight



All Aboard - Wednesday

16:30 - sailing at 17:00

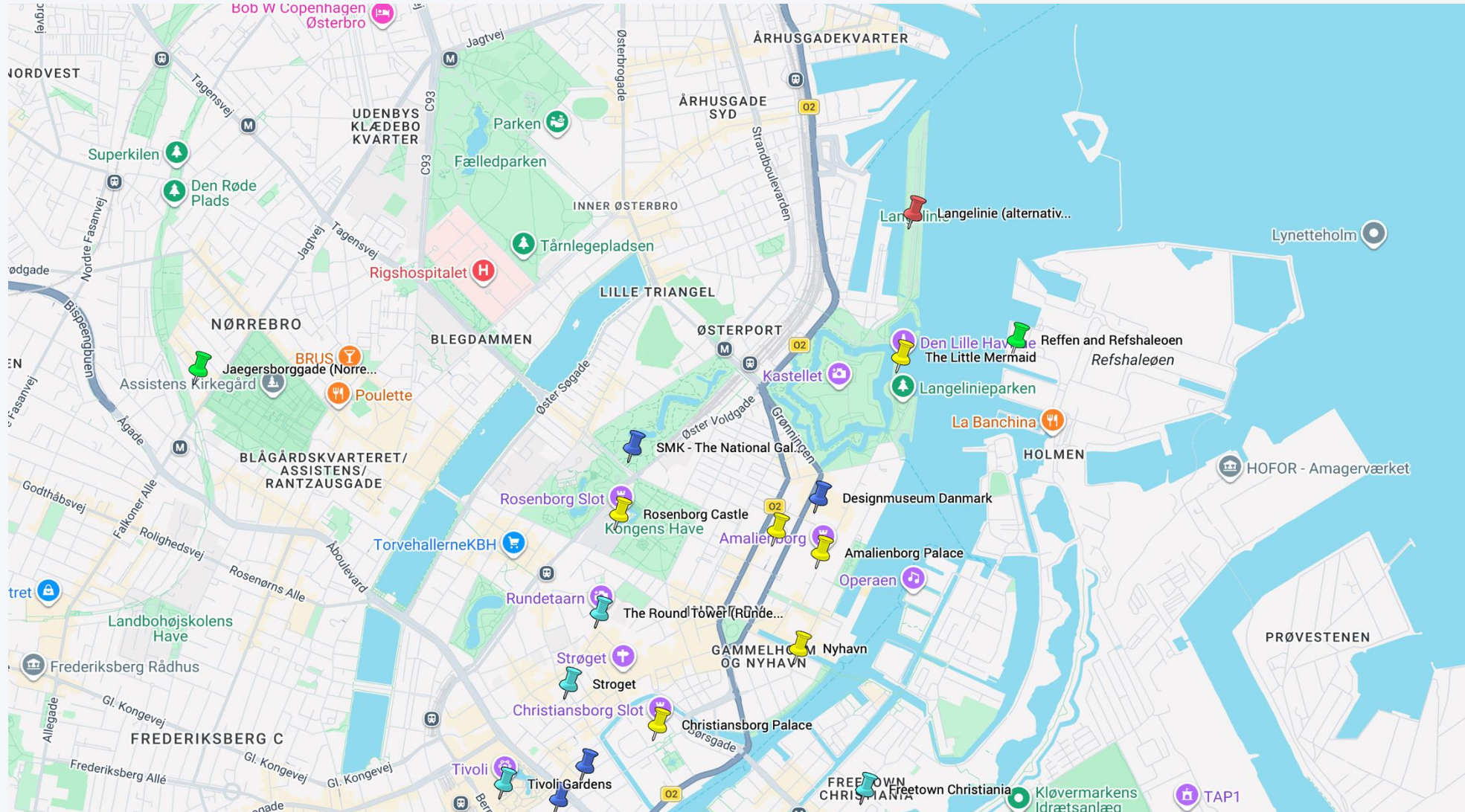
Enjoy your stay in Copenhagen

Copenhagen in Motion



[Expedia's Copenhagen Travel Guide](#)

The Lie of the Land - Copenhagen



Prefer It Organised?

Explore with a Ship's Excursion

If you would rather leave the logistics to others, the ship's excursions bring coach transport, an expert local guide and the reassurance that the ship will not sail without you. They are ideal for the sights beyond the city - Frederiksborg Castle, Roskilde's Viking ships, or Kronborg, Hamlet's Elsinore - or simply for a relaxed, ready-made day ashore



Book at the Shore Excursions Desk

Getting Around - The App to Use



Rejsebillet

Denmark's official public-transport ticket app - it replaced the old DOT app in 2026



Scan to find it



One Ticket, Every Mode

It covers the metro, buses, trains and the scenic yellow harbour buses on a single fare



It Plans Your Route

Tell it where you are going and it works out the zones and the fastest way there



No App? Just Tap

A contactless card or phone works for single rides at the machines - no download needed



From the Berth

Oceankaj is 7 km out - the free shuttle, or the M4 metro from Orientkaj, brings you in

Forecasted Weather

Local time	02 AM	05 AM	08 AM	11 AM	02 PM	05 PM	08 PM	11 PM
Wind direction								
	12	11	13	12	10	11	7	5
Wind speed (kts)								
Wind gusts (max kts)	21	21	20	17	15	15	11	9
Cloud cover								
Precipitation type								
Precipitation (in/3h)								
Air temperature (°F)	59	58	62	67	70	72	69	64

