CPH
2027

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EUROPEAN SERIES
NORTHERN & BALTIC EXPEDITIONS

Greetings from COPENHAGEN

48 hours, solo, at your own pace

POCKET EDITION · 2027

48-HOUR GUIDE · SAFETY GUIDE · PLANNING CALENDAR

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Welcome to Copenhagen

Copenhagen is a city built at human scale: low rooftops, bicycles in every direction, and harbor water that is clean enough to swim in. It is calm, tidy, and quietly confident, and it suits a traveler who likes to set their own pace.

Traveling alone here is easy. Danes are reserved but kind, English is spoken nearly everywhere, and the city is designed around the individual, from the cafés with window counters to the harbor baths that open to anyone with a towel. The Danish idea of hygge, a cozy sense of ease, works as well for one as for a crowd.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read through once before you go. Day One covers Nyhavn, the royal palaces, and Tivoli at night. Day Two covers Christiansborg, Freetown Christiania, the food halls, and a harbor swim. Section 03 is the new-for-2027 guide to swimming in the harbor. Most sights lie within a 20-minute walk or a short bike ride, and the Metro covers the rest.

ESSENTIAL QUICK FACTS

CURRENCY
Danish krone (DKK) · cards accepted nearly everywhere

TRANSIT
Metro, S-train, and buses · Rejsekort or app

TIPPING
Not expected · service is included

EMERGENCY
112 · police 114

CYCLING
Bike lanes everywhere · rent a bike

LANGUAGE
Danish · English widely spoken

01 *Day One*

Nyhavn · Amalienborg · Tivoli

The first day follows the harbor from the old port to the royal palaces and ends in the world's most famous amusement garden.

MORNING · 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

9:00 AM

Nyhavn

The 17th-century canal lined with colorful townhouses and wooden ships. Come early for the best photos and the fewest crowds.

Walk the quieter side of the canal for views of the colored facades.

10:30 AM

Amalienborg Palace

Home of the Danish royal family. The changing of the guard takes place around midday when the royals are in residence.

Check the schedule; the ceremony can vary.

12:30 PM

Lunch — smørrebrød

Open-faced rye bread sandwiches with herring, roast beef, or egg. A classic Danish lunch.

Order two or three small pieces rather than one large plate.

AFTERNOON · 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

2:00 PM

The Little Mermaid & Kastellet

Walk the harbor path to the statue and the star-shaped fortress of Kastellet, beside the park.

The statue is small, so enjoy the walk more than the photo.

4:30 PM

Rosenborg Castle & King's Garden

A Renaissance castle with the crown jewels, surrounded by the oldest royal garden in the city.

The garden is a lovely place for a rest.

EVENING · 7:00 PM

7:00 PM

Tivoli Gardens

The 1843 amusement park in the center of the city. Rides, gardens, and lights, with a calm atmosphere after dark.

Entry is separate from the rides; choose what suits you.

In Copenhagen, the best way to see the city is by bike or on foot.

02 *Day Two*

Christiansborg · Christiania · The Harbor

The second day mixes power and quiet, from Denmark's parliament to a harbor swim.

MORNING · 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

9:00 AM

Christiansborg Palace

The seat of the Danish Parliament. Climb the tower for a free view over the old city.

The tower is free to enter; check the hours.

11:00 AM

Round Tower & Strøget

Walk up the spiral ramp of the 17th-century Round Tower, then stroll Strøget, one of Europe's longest pedestrian streets.

Go early for fewer crowds.

12:30 PM

Lunch — Torvehallerne

A glass-hall market with stalls for coffee, smørrebrød, and fresh produce.

Many stalls have counter seating for one.

AFTERNOON · 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM

2:30 PM

Freetown Christiania

A self-governing neighborhood in a former military area, with its own rules, art, and cafés. Respect the no-photo rule on Pusher Street.

Be a courteous visitor; follow posted rules.

4:30 PM

A Harbor Swim

Pull on your swimsuit and take a dip at a harbor bath, such as Islands Brygge. Check water quality and opening times first.

Bring a towel and a lock for your locker.

EVENING · 7:30 PM

7:30 PM

Dinner — Vesterbro or Nørrebro

Vesterbro's old meatpacking district and Nørrebro's multicultural streets have the city's best casual restaurants.

Book ahead for weekend nights.

03 *The Harbor*

Swimming in the Harbor

NEW FOR 2027

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can swim in Copenhagen's harbor?

Decades ago the water was too polluted for swimming. After major clean-up and sewer investment, the city opened free harbor baths, and on a summer day locals jump in from the quays.

HOW IT WORKS

The harbor baths are public and free, with pools, diving platforms, and ladders. Water quality is monitored, and the city posts the status online and on signs.

HOW TO DO IT RIGHT

Check the current water quality before you go, bring a towel, and follow the posted rules. Swim in the marked areas and away from boat traffic.

BEST TIME TO GO

The swimming season is summer, from roughly June to August. Winter bathers use saunas and the cold plunge instead.

04 *Where to Eat*

Copenhagen's table — smørrebrød, bakeries and markets

Copenhagen's food is simple and excellent: rye bread, pastry, herring, and coffee. Casual spots welcome solo diners, and many have counter seating.

€ under €15 · €€ €15–40 · €€€ over €40 — per person, excluding drinks (prices in DKK are higher)

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Torvehallerne €€

NØRREPORT

A glass-hall market with stalls for lunch and coffee.

Smørrebrød restaurants €€

CITY CENTER

Open-faced rye sandwiches, a Danish classic.

Bakeries €

VARIOUS

Try a wienerbrød, the Danish pastry.

Coffee bars €

VARIOUS

Third-wave coffee shops are everywhere.

DINNER & LATE

Vesterbro restaurants €€

VESTERBRO

Casual spots in the old meatpacking district.

Nørrebro restaurants €€

NØRREBRO

Multicultural food on lively streets.

Reffen street food €€

REFSHALEØEN

A harborside street food market; check its season.

Hot dog stands €

VARIOUS

A cheap, quick Danish favorite, the pølse.

05 Getting Around

Navigating Copenhagen

The city is compact and flat. Walk, rent a bike, or use the Metro, which runs 24 hours.

Metro, S-train & bus	from about 25 DKK	Zone tickets by app or machine. Check current fares.
Copenhagen Airport	Metro · 15 min	The Metro runs from the airport to the center in about 15 minutes.
Bikes	by the day	Rental bikes are widely available; stay in the bike lane and signal turns.
Harbor bus	public transport	Ferries run along the harbor, using the same tickets.
Walking	free	The center is compact and flat.

Walking and cycling cover most of the city. Use the Metro for longer hops.

06 *Backup Plans*

Copenhagen in the rain

Danish weather is changeable, and the city has an excellent supply of cozy indoor options.

National Museum of Denmark
CITY CENTER
Vikings, Danish history, and a children's museum.

Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek
CITY CENTER
Ancient and French art, in a winter garden.

Statens Museum for Kunst
ØSTERBRO
The national gallery of art.

Designmuseum Danmark
CITY CENTER
Danish design, from chairs to teapots.

Torvehallerne
NØRREPORT
A covered food market.

Cozy cafés
CITY CENTER
Hygge at its finest, with candles and coffee.

07 *Neighborhoods*

Know your neighborhoods

Nyhavn
HARBOR
Colorful townhouses and boats.

Vesterbro
HIP
Meatpacking-district bars and restaurants.

Nørrebro
DIVERSE
Multicultural streets and parks.

Christiania
ALTERNATIVE
A self-governing community with its own rules.

Indre By
SHOPS
The old center, with Strøget and cafés.

Frederiksstaden
DESIGN
The royal quarter with Amalienborg.

08 *Good to Know*

What nobody tells you

- Cyclists have the right of way in bike lanes. Stay out of them, and check before crossing.
- Tipping is not expected. Service is included in the price.
- Cards are accepted almost everywhere. Carry little cash.
- Many shops and restaurants close early on Sundays. Check opening hours.
- Prices are high by European standards. Eat smørrebrød for lunch to save money.
- Danish summer evenings stay light until after 10 p.m.

WHEN TO GO

Best overall — **May–Sep**
Long days, harbor swimming, and outdoor dining.

Peak season — **Jun–Aug**
Warm, bright, and busy, with festivals.

Second best — **Apr & Sep**
Thinner crowds and pleasant weather.

Off-season — **Nov–Mar**
Cold and dark, with Christmas markets and plenty of hygge.

09 Solo Traveler Safety

Is Copenhagen safe?

Very safe, with the usual big-city awareness. Copenhagen is one of Europe's safest capitals. The main risks are bike theft and pickpocketing in tourist areas and on the Metro.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

Indre By	◆◆◆◆◆
Nyhavn & harbor	◆◆◆◆◆
Vesterbro	◆◆◆◆◇
Nørrebro	◆◆◆◆◇
Tourist areas (pickpockets)	◆◆◆◇◇
Late-night Vesterbro streets	◆◆◆◇◇

COMMON SCAMS

Be wary of anyone offering help with ticket machines. Lock your bike with two locks. Keep an eye on your bag in Nyhavn and at Tivoli.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

For emergencies call 112. Pharmacies (Apotek) can advise on minor problems. Carry travel insurance, and an EHIC card if you are from the EU.

SOLO TRAVELERS

Share your plan with someone back home and keep your phone charged. The city is calm at night, but stick to busy streets in unfamiliar areas.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Fire & ambulance	112
Police	114
Medical helpline (Copenhagen)	1813
US Embassy	+45 33 41 71 00

10 *Planning Calendar*

Copenhagen, month by month

A year-round look at the events that shape the city. Exact dates shift annually.

FEB *Winter*

- Cold days, warm cafés, and the Copenhagen Light Festival in some years.

APR–MAY *Spring*

- Cherry blossoms in Bispebjerg and a return to outdoor terraces.

JUN *Midsummer*

- Sankt Hans Aften on June 23 brings bonfires and long light.

JUL *Jazz festival*

- Copenhagen Jazz Festival fills the city with concerts.

AUG–SEP *Cooking festivals*

- Food events and harvest menus around the city.

NOV–DEC *Christmas*

- Tivoli's Christmas market and cozy lights.

Every Stop, Mapped

Scan the code to open the free interactive Copenhagen map — every stop in this guide, filterable by day, food, and transport.

goingsolo.life/maps/copenhagen

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