

Denmark

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Copenhagen** Exploring a historic city centre that parties 24 hours at weekends (p306)
- **Århus** Drinking in the art and the history, and then drinking in the pubs and clubs (p317)
- **Skagen** Walking to land's end where angry seas collide (p321)
- **Funen** Taking it easy on sleepy Funen, exploring picture-perfect harbour towns and tiny islands (p316)

FAST FACTS

- **Area** 43,075 sq km (the same as Switzerland)
- **ATMs** Widespread
- **Budget** Dkr350 to Dkr500 per day
- **Capital** Copenhagen
- **Country codes** ☎ 45; international access code ☎ 00
- **Famous for** Hans Christian Andersen, the Little Mermaid, marauding Vikings, offensive cartoons
- **Head of State** Queen Margrethe II
- **Language** Danish
- **Money** Danish krona (Dkr); \$A1 = Dkr4.42; CA\$1 = Dkr4.88; €1 = Dkr7.45; ¥100 = Dkr5.73; NZ\$1 = Dkr4.14; UK£1 = Dkr10.82; US\$1 = Dkr5.91
- **Phrases** *Ja/nej* (yes/no), *tak* (thanks), *farvel* (goodbye), *skal* (cheers)



- **Population** 5.4 million
- **Time** GMT/UTC +1
- **Visas** Not needed for citizens of the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

TRAVEL HINTS

Takeaway beer and wine are cheap by Scandinavian standards, but hit the happy hours for the best bar deals. Pastries and *smørrebrød* (open sandwiches) are the ways to eat well cheaply.

ROAMING DENMARK

Three days is enough for a taste of Copenhagen, then head west to Odense for a day and up to Århus before heading north to Aalborg and Skagen.

Welcome to the happiest nation on earth. No really, it's official. According to a global survey by the World Database of Happiness, the Danes are the most contented folk on earth.

It's not hard to see why. Denmark (Danmark) is a vastly wealthy country, it's well ordered and the majority of Danes enjoy a high quality of living. This feeling of wellbeing doesn't take much time to rub off on the visitor (although the high prices may take the edge off things).

Denmark packs within its modest borders a compelling mix of lively modern cities, historic towns, enchanting villages, rolling farmland, graceful beech woods and sleepy islands. The



outwardly sensible Danes like a party and Copenhagen, a compact city with a rich history and a burgeoning bar, café and restaurant scene, is where they do it best.

Beyond the cities lies much of the country's natural and historic wealth: kilometres of white-sand beaches and numerous islands, castles, haunting Neolithic burial chambers, medieval churches and the preserved hulks of Viking longships, reminders of Denmark's mighty Viking past.

HISTORY

Present-day Denmark traces its linguistic and cultural roots to the arrival of the Danes, a tribe thought to have migrated south from Sweden around AD 500. In the late 9th century, the Viking chieftain Hardegon conquered the Jutland Peninsula. The Danish monarchy (Europe's oldest) dates back to Hardegon's son, Gorm the Old, who reigned in the early 10th century. Gorm's son, Harald Bluetooth, completed the conquest of Denmark and converted the Danes to Christianity. Successive Danish kings invaded England and conquered most of the Baltic region.

In 1397 Margrethe I of Denmark established a union between Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Sweden withdrew from the union in 1523, and over the next few hundred years Denmark and Sweden had numerous border skirmishes and wars over control of the Baltic Sea.

Denmark's golden age was under Christian IV (1588–1648), with Renaissance cities, castles and fortresses flourishing throughout his kingdom. In 1625, hoping to neutralise Swedish expansion, he fought and lost the Thirty Years' War to the Swedes, who won large chunks of Danish territory.

Denmark was neutral throughout WWI. In WWII, baulking from a full-scale invasion by German troops in 1940, the Danes agreed to run the country under Nazi supervision. In August 1943 the Germans took outright control. The Danish Resistance movement mushroomed and 7000 Jewish Danes were quickly smuggled into neutral Sweden.

Denmark joined NATO in 1949 and the European Community – now the EU – in 1973. The Danes support an expanding EU only tepidly.

In 2004 the country's most eligible bachelor, Crown Prince Frederick, married Australian Mary Elizabeth Donaldson in a hugely popular and exhaustively covered million-dollar, fairy-tale wedding. In October 2005 Crown Princess Mary gave birth to their first son, Prince Christian.

It has not all been fairy tales though. Critics say Denmark's increasingly tough immigration laws are proof of creeping xenophobia

and even racism, and in 2006 Denmark came under fire from Muslims around the world after a cartoon by a Danish illustrator depicting the prophet Mohammed was published in newspapers all over Europe.

THE CULTURE

Travellers will find Danes to be relaxed, casual, good-humoured and not given to extremes or ostentation. They are tolerant of different lifestyles: in 1989 Denmark became the first European nation to legalise same-sex marriages.

About 70% of Denmark's population lives in urban areas, 1.5 million of them in Copenhagen. Foreign nationals account for 7.8% of people.

ARTS

Hans Christian Andersen has long loomed large over Denmark's literary landscape. His fairy tales are the second-most translated work in the world, surpassed only by the Bible. Religious philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, whose writings were a forerunner of existentialism, and Karen Blixen, who penned *Out of Africa* and *Babette's Feast*, are other notable literary Danes.

In cinema, Danish director and maverick Lars von Trier won the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or in 2000 for his film *Dancer in the Dark*.

Denmark is a leader in industrial design, with a style marked by cool, clean lines applied to everything from architecture to silverware and furniture. Denmark has produced a number of leading 20th-century architects, including Jørn Utzon, who designed Australia's Sydney Opera House.

In painting, the 'Skagen School' evolved from the movement towards outdoor painting of scenes from working life, especially of fishing

READING UP

'Just as Well I'm Leaving' – Around Europe with Hans Christian Andersen, by Michael Booth, is a funny, entertaining travelogue retracing Andersen's footsteps around Denmark and Europe.

communities on the northern coasts of Jutland and Zealand. Leading exponents were PS Krøyer, Michael Ancher and Anna Ancher.

ENVIRONMENT

The eco-conscious Danes are keen recyclers and world leaders in their use and export of alternative energy; almost 20% of Denmark's electricity is now supplied by wind turbines dotted all over the country. Danes are also keen users of their own pedal power and increasingly interested in sourcing sustainable, organic and fairtrade food and goods, so it's an easy country in which to be environmentally responsible.

In the countryside you stand a good chance of seeing wild hare, deer and many species of birds, including magpies, coots, swans and ducks. Restoring the wetlands should help endangered species such as the freshwater otter to make a comeback.

TRANSPORT

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

There's healthy competition among several airlines, making flights into Denmark from elsewhere on the Continent, Ireland and the UK very affordable. If you're coming from European destinations, it can be cheaper to fly into an airport other than **Copenhagen** (code CPH; ☎ 32 31 32 31; www.cph.dk), such as **Århus** (code AAR; ☎ 87 75 70 00; www.aar.dk) or **Billund** (code BLL; ☎ 76 50 50 50; www.bll.dk). These airports afford fast access to some great parts of northern and central Jutland. **Scandinavian Airlines** (code SK; ☎ 70 10 20 00; www.scandinavian.net) is the largest carrier serving Denmark, connecting it with much of Europe and the rest of the world. Other airlines:

easyJet (code UZ; www.easyjet.com) UK to Copenhagen.

Ryanair (code FR; www.ryanair.com) UK to Copenhagen, Århus and Esbjerg.

Sterling Airlines (code NB; ☎ 70 10 84 84; www.sterling.dk) Copenhagen and Billund to Western European destinations and Oslo.

Boat

GERMANY

The frequent Rødbyhavn–Puttgarden ferry takes 45 minutes and is included in train tickets for those travelling by rail; otherwise, the cost per adult is Dkr50; for a car with up to nine passengers it's Dkr420.

NORWAY

DFDS (☎ 33 42 30 00; www.dfds.dk) operates a daily overnight ferry between Copenhagen and Oslo. **Colorline** (☎ 99 56 19 77; www.colorline.dk) sails from Hirtshals to Larvik, Kristiansand, Stavanger and Bergen; and from Frederikshavn to Oslo. See the Getting There & Away sections of those cities for details. **Fjord Line** (☎ 97 96 30 00; www.fjordline.dk) sails from Hanstholm to Bergen at least three times a week via Egersund and Haugesund.

POLAND

Polferries (☎ 33 11 46 45; www.polferries.pl) operates ferries to Uwinoujście from Copenhagen four times a week (from Dkr410, 10½ hours) and Ronne on Saturdays (from Dkr250, 5¼ hours).

SWEDEN

Scandlines (☎ 33 15 15 15; www.scandlines.dk) and **Sundbusseme** (☎ 49 71 02 00; www.sundbusseme.dk) sail frequently throughout the day from Helsingør to Helsingborg, Sweden. Prices vary, but are roughly Dkr21 to Dkr23 per adult or from Dkr200 if you are taking a car with two passengers.

Other ferries go from Frederikshavn to Gothenburg and Oslo, and Ronne to Ystad. See the relevant Getting There & Away sections for details.

UK

DFDS Seaways (☎ UK 08705 333 000, Denmark 33 42 30 00; www.dfdsseaways.co.uk) sails from Esbjerg to Harwich at least three times a week at 6pm year-round. It takes 19 hours.

Bus

Eurolines (☎ 33 88 70 00; Reventlowsgade 8, Copenhagen) has buses from Copenhagen to Berlin (Dkr290, 6½ hours) and Frankfurt via Hamburg (Dkr770, 15 hours) several times a week. There are daily bus services between Oslo and Copenhagen (Dkr320, eight hours) via Gothenburg. Buses to Sweden are frequent, including Eurolines buses to Gothenburg (Dkr230, five hours) and Stockholm (Dkr430, 9½ hours).

Train

Three railway lines link Germany and Denmark; 2nd-class fares from Copenhagen to Frankfurt are Dkr1732. Trains operate between Copenhagen and Oslo via Sweden (2nd-class Dkr945, 7½ hours, one or two daily).

Trains run many times a day to Sweden via a bridge linking Copenhagen with Malmö (Dkr85, 40 minutes), Gothenburg (Dkr365) and Stockholm (Dkr945, five hours). The bridge crossing is included in your train fare, but for cars, there's a Dkr220 toll per vehicle.

GETTING AROUND

Air

Most internal flights cost around Dkr1000 for a standard ticket, but can be much cheaper when booked in advance.

Denmark's domestic air routes are operated by the following airlines:

Timber Air (code QI; ☎ 70 10 12 18; www.timber.dk) Services include Copenhagen to Aalborg (50 minutes, three daily), Ronne (Bornholm, 40 minutes, at least four daily) and Karup (central Jutland, 50 minutes, 12 daily Monday to Friday, at least twice Saturday and Sunday).

SAS (code SK; ☎ 70 10 30 00; www.scandinavian.net) Links Copenhagen with Aalborg, Århus and Billund about a dozen times a day.

Bicycle

Cycling is a practical way to get around Denmark. There are extensive bike paths linking towns throughout the country and bike lanes through most city centres. You can rent bikes in most towns for around Dkr70 a day, plus a deposit of about Dkr250. Bikes can be taken on ferries and most trains for a modest cost.

Boat

A network of ferries links virtually all of Denmark's populated islands. Most ferries take cars.

Bus

All large cities and towns have a local bus system and most places are also served by regional buses, many of which connect with trains. There are also a few long-distance bus routes, including from Copenhagen to Aalborg or Århus. Travelling by bus on long-distance routes costs about 20% less than travel by train, although it's usually a bit slower.

Car & Motorcycle

A home driving licence, rather than an international one, is sufficient to drive and hire cars in Denmark; a passport is also required.

Hire rates for the cheapest cars, including VAT, insurance and unlimited kilometres, begin at about Dkr650 for one day, or Dkr450 a day for multiday rentals.

Train

Danish State Railways (DSB; www.dsb.dk) runs most Danish train services. There are two types of long-distance trains: sleek intercity (IC) trains that usually need reservations (Dkr20) and older, slower inter-regional (IR) trains that make more stops and don't need reservations. Both cost the same as long as you avoid the cushy InterCity-Lyn.

Overall, train travel in Denmark is not expensive, largely because the distances are short. Scanrail, Eurail and other rail passes are valid on DSB ferries and trains, but not on private lines.

COPENHAGEN

pop 1.5 million

Cultured, convivial, cosmopolitan and compact, Denmark's capital Copenhagen (København) is one of the most attractive destinations in Northern Europe.

This 1000-year-old city of cobbled squares and copper spires is home to the oldest monarchy in the world and is fond of its traditions but, equally, Copenhagen is a cutting-edge design capital with funky shops to discover at every turn.

ORIENTATION

Whether they land at the airport (just 13 minutes from the city centre by train) or arrive from elsewhere in Europe or Scandinavia, most people's first view of Copenhagen is of its Central Station (Hovedbanegården). Across the street, to the east of the main entrance, lie Tivoli Gardens and the town hall square (Rådhuspladsen), from where the main shopping street, Strøget (actually several connecting streets and squares), leads to the other main square, Kongens Nytorv. From here the bustling quayside of Nyhavn, with its countless cafés, bars and restaurants, leads to the harbour.

INFORMATION

Internet Access

Hovedbiblioteket (☎ 33 73 60 60; 15 Krystalgade; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat) A public library offering hour-long free internet access on four computers, but you must book a slot or wait.

Use It (☎ 33 73 06 20; Rådhusstræde 13; ☎ 9am-7pm summer, 9am-7pm Mon-Fri winter) Offers free internet access, within reasonable time constraints.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

■ police, fire and ambulance ☎ 112

Left Luggage

Central Station (per 24hr small/large locker Dkr25/35, maximum 72hr; ☎ 5.30-1am Mon-Sat, 6-1am Sun) Lockers are in the lower level near the Reventlowsgade exit.

Medical Services

Frederiksberg Hospital (☎ 38 16 38 16; Nordre Fasanvej 57) West of the city centre; 24-hour emergency ward.

Steno Apotek (Vesterbrogade 6c; ☎ 24hr) Pharmacy opposite Central Station.

Money

You'll find ATMs that exchange major foreign currencies for Danish kroner, minus a hefty Dkr25 to Dkr30 fee, at **Nordea** (Axeltorv).

Post

Central Station post office (☎ 8am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun)

Main post office (Købmagergade 33; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat) Offers poste-restante services.

Tourist Information

Use It (☎ 33 73 06 20; www.useit.dk; Rådhusstræde 13; ☎ 9am-7pm mid-Jun-mid-Sep; 11am-4pm Mon-Wed, 11am-6pm Thu, 11am-2pm Fri mid-Sep-mid-Jun) First-class information centre aimed at young budget travellers, but open to all. It stores luggage for free (by day only), holds mail, and has free internet access. *Playtime* is its free annual guide to the city and around.

Wonderful Copenhagen (☎ 70 22 24 42; www.visitcopenhagen.dk; Vesterbrogade 4a; ☎ 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat Sep-Apr, 9am-6pm Mon-Sat May & Jun, 9am-8pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun Jul & Aug) Distributes the informative *Tourist in Copenhagen* and *Copenhagen This Week*, a free city map and brochures for all regions of Denmark.

Travel Agencies

Kilroy Travels (☎ 33 11 00 44; www.kilroytravels.com; Skindergade 28; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat)

Wasteels (☎ 33 14 46 33; Skoubogade 6; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-noon Sat)

SIGHTS

Tivoli Gardens

Copenhagen's historic **amusement park** (☎ 33 15 10 01; www.tivoli.dk; adult/child Dkr75/35; ☎ 11am-mid-night) has been Denmark's number-one tourist

attraction pretty much since the day it opened more than 160 years ago. It's no Disneyland, but Tivoli has a unique atmosphere and no one can deny its charm, particularly after dark when its illuminations work their magic. The gardens have an innocent, old-fashioned feel. There are food pavilions, amusement rides, carnival games and various stage shows. Adrenalin rides include Himmelskibe, an 80m-high carousel; the Demon, a corkscrewing roller coaster; and the 'dead drop' Golden Tower.

Nationalmuseet

For a whistle-stop tour through the history of Denmark, nothing can beat the **National Museum** (☎ 33 13 44 11; www.natmus.dk; Ny Vestergade 10; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun), with the world's most extensive collection of Danish artefacts from the Palaeolithic period to the 19th century. Naturally, the stars of the show are the Vikings, those much maligned, but actually very sophisticated Scandinavian marauders.

Rosenborg Slot

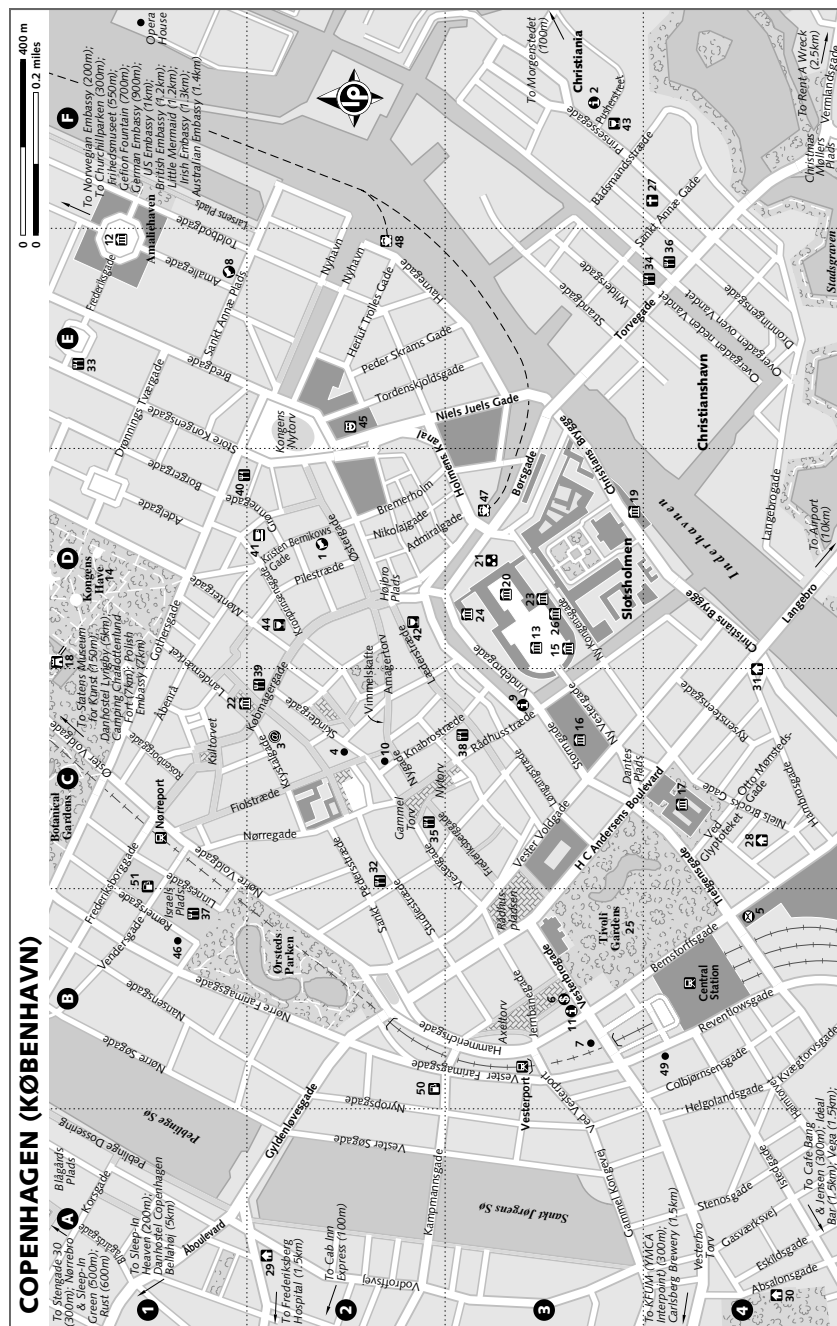
This 17th-century **castle** (☎ 33 15 32 86; www.rosenborgslot.dk; adult/child Dkr65/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Jun-Aug, 10am-4pm May & Sep, 11am-3pm Oct, 11am-2pm Tue-Sun Nov-Apr), built by Christian IV in Dutch Renaissance style, stands at the edge of **Kongens Have** (King's Gardens; admission free). There are glorious marbled and painted ceilings, gilded mirrors, Dutch tapestries, silver lions, and gold- and enamel-ware. The Royal Treasury is the castle basement home to the Danish crown jewels.

Statens Museum for Kunst

Denmark's national **gallery** (☎ 33 74 84 94; www.smk.dk; Sølvgade 48-50; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue & Thu-Sun, 10am-8pm Wed) houses an impressive collection of works by Danish artists, particularly those of the 19th-century Golden Age such as Hammershøj and Eckersburg, in the original building. The dramatic glass extension contains more modern works from international names such as Picasso and Munch as well as more contemporary Danish artists.

Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek

This splendid **museum** (☎ 33 41 81 41; www.glyptoteket.dk; Dantes Plads 7, HC Andersens Blvd; adult/child Dkr50/free, free Wed & Sun; ☎ 10am-4pm Tue-Sun), occupies a grand period building near Tivoli Gardens. The world-class collection features Etruscan art, 18th- and 19th-century paintings from France and Denmark (the Gauguins



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are particularly notable and sculpture spanning five millennia (including more than 30 works by Rodin).

Slotsholmen

An island separated from the city centre by a moatlike canal on three sides and the harbour on the other, Slotsholmen is the site of **Christiansborg Palace** (☎ 33 92 64 92), home to Denmark's parliament. There are many sites on the island, including the **Teatermuseet** (Theatre Museum), the **Museum of Royal Coaches** and the magnificent **Tojhusmuseet** (Royal Arsenal). The grandest is the **Royal Reception Chambers** (☎ 33 92 64 92; www.ses.dk; adult/child Dkr60/25; 🕒 guided tours in English 11am, 1pm & 3pm May-Sep, 3pm Tue-Sun Oct-Apr), the ornate Renaissance hall where the queen entertains heads of state.

The **Ruins of Absalon's Fortress** (adult/child Dkr30/15; 🕒 10am-4pm) are the excavated foundations of Bishop Absalon's original castle of 1167 and its successor, Copenhagen Slot. They can be visited in the basement of the present palace.

GETTING INTO TOWN

Getting into central Copenhagen couldn't be simpler: trains from Sweden, Norway and Germany terminate right in the heart of the city at Central Station. A train also links the airport with Central Station three times an hour (Dkr27, 13 minutes). The airport is 15 minutes and about Dkr180 from the city centre by taxi.

Thorvaldsens Museum (☎ 33 32 15 32; Bertel Thorvaldsens Plads; adult/child Dkr20/free, free Wed; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue-Sun) features grand statues by the famed Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen, who was heavily influenced by Greek and Roman mythology. Enter from the direction of Vindebrogade.

The **Royal Library** (☎ 33 47 47 47; Søren Kierkegaards Plads; 🕒 10am-7pm Mon-Sat) dates from the 17th century, but the focal point these days is its ultramodern walkway-connected extension, dubbed the 'Black Diamond' for its shiny black granite façade. The sleek, seven-storey building houses 21 million books and other literary items such as Hans Christian Andersen's original manuscripts. The building itself is open for **visits and guided tours** (adult/child Dkr25/10; 🕒 10am-6pm) and has a café and restaurant.

Rundetårn

The **Round Tower** (☎ 33 73 03 73; www.rundetarn.dk; Købmagergade 52; adult/child Dkr25/5; 🕒 10am-8pm Mon-Sat, noon-8pm Sun Jun-Aug, 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun Sep-May) provides a fine vantage point for viewing the old city. It was built by Christian IV in 1642 as an astronomical observatory. Halfway up the 209m spiral walkway is a hall with changing exhibits. The tower houses the oldest functioning observatory in Europe.

Christianshavn

Most visitors come to Christianshavn, the historic canal quarter to the east of the city centre, to visit the alternative commune at Christiania, but there is equal pleasure to be

had in wandering beside the canals and visiting the quarter's pleasant cafés.

To get there, walk over the bridge from the northeastern side of Slotsholmen, or take the Metro from Kongens Nytorv or Nørreport direct to Christianshavnstov.

Vor Frelsers Kirke

Close to Christiania is the 17th-century **Vor Frelsers Kirke** (☎ 31 57 27 98; www.vorfrelserkirke.dk; Sankt Annæ Gade 29; admission free, tower adult/child Dkr20/10; ☎ 11am-4.30pm Apr-Aug, 11am-3.30pm Sep-Mar, closed during services, tower closed Nov-Mar), which has an impressive baroque altar and an elaborately carved pipe organ. For a panoramic view of the city and across the sea to Sweden, climb the 400 steps of the church's 95m spiral tower. The last 160 steps run spectacularly and dizzyingly along the outside rim, narrowing until they disappear at the top.

Carlsberg Brewery

At the recently refurbished **Carlsberg Brewery visitor centre** (☎ 33 27 13 14; www.visitcarlsberg.com; Gamle Carlsberg Vej 11; ☎ 10am-4pm Tue-Sun), free self-guided tours provide the low-down on the history of Danish beer, capped off with a sampling of the present-day product. Take bus 6A westbound or the S-Tog to Enghave station.

Waterfront

Amalienborg Palace (adult/child Dkr50/30; ☎ 10am-4pm) has been the home of the royal family since 1794. The palace's four austere mansions surround the central square and are guarded by sentries, who are relieved at noon by a ceremonial changing of the guard.

THE 'FREETOWN' OF CHRISTIANIA

Christiania remains just as much a part of the conventional tourist itinerary of Copenhagen as it has been since a group of hippies and political activists founded this 'New Society' in the early 1970s.

But things are not quite as rosy in the alternative community, housed, ironically, in former army barracks by the old city moat and ramparts. The current government has cracked down on Christiania's permissive drug culture. Gone are the stalls of the world-famous Pusher Street, where soft drugs were sold openly. Despite the crackdown, drugs, both hard and soft, continue to be widely sold in Christiania and so the raids continue.

Although the tide seems to be turning against the dream of an alternative society here, it's still worth a visit for its inexpensive cafés and restaurants, eccentric shops, clubs and galleries, the historic barracks buildings and around the moat, where some of the more elaborate and ingenious makeshift waterside housing has helped create a kind of hippie-trippy mini-Seattle. The **Christiania information office** (☎ 32 95 65 07; www.christiania.org; Nytt Forum, Pusher Street; ☎ noon-6pm Mon-Thu, noon-4pm Fri) organises guided tours most days in summer.

Back on Amalienborg Plads, and 500m north along Amaliegade, is Churchillparken, where you'll find **Frihedsmuseet** (admission free; ☎ 10am-4pm Tue-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun), with moving relics from the history of the Danish Resistance against Nazi occupation.

About 150m north of Frihedsmuseet you pass the spectacular **Gefion Fountain**, featuring the goddess Gefion in the act of ploughing the island of Zealand with her four sons yoked as oxen. Another 400m north along the waterfront is the statue of the unjustly famed **Little Mermaid** (Den Lille Havfrue) – a rather forlorn statue that is actually one of the least interesting of all Copenhagen's many sights.

TOURS Canal Tours

The best way to see Copenhagen is from the water. **DFDS Canal Tours** (www.canaltours.dk; adult/child Dkr60/25) leave from the head of Nyhavn or the Marriott Hotel. Tours take 50 minutes, passing by the Little Mermaid, Christianshavn and Christiansborg Slot, and leave every half hour between 10am and 5pm. **Netto-Boats** (☎ 32 54 41 02; www.netto-baadene.dk; adult/child Dkr30/5) are cheaper, run the same times and depart from Holmens Kirke and Nyhavn.

FESTIVALS

The **Copenhagen Jazz Festival** (☎ 33 93 20 13; www.jazzfestival.dk) is the city's largest music event, invigorating the whole city with 10 days of music staged in more than 500 indoor and outdoor venues in early July.

SLEEPING

Copenhagen's range of budget accommodation is much better now than it was a decade or even five years ago. Camping options remain limited, however, not least by the weather.

Use It (p307) books private rooms (singles/doubles from Dkr220/330) free of booking fees, keeps tabs on which hostel beds are available and is a good source of information for subletting student housing and other long-term accommodation.

Camping

Camping Charlottenlund Fort (☎ 39 62 36 88; www.campingcopenhagen.dk; Strandvejen 144, Charlottenlund; camp sites Dkr25 plus Dkr80 per person) Occupying a great location beside a delightful sandy beach overlooking the Øresund, this camping ground is 6km north of the city centre. Take bus 14.

Hostels

Many of the hostels lie a few kilometres from the city. Those in and near Vesterbro and Nørrebro are good options, not too distant from the centre and close to their own lively little clusters of cafés and bars.

KFUM (YMCA Interpoint) (☎ 33 31 15 74; Valdemarsgade 15; dm Dkr95; ☎ end Jul-mid-Aug, reception 8.30-11.30am, 3.30-5.30pm & 8pm-12.30am) The small 28-bed YMCA is in a quiet part of Vesterbro. Bed sheets (Dkr15), breakfast (Dkr25) and a kitchen are available. It's a 15-minute walk from Central Station (take Vesterbrogade west to Valdemarsgade), or you can take bus 14 from Rådhuspladsen for around 12 minutes.

Sleep-In Green (☎ 35 37 77 77; www.sleep-in-green.dk; Ravnsborggade 18; dm Dkr100; ☎ end May-end Oct; ☎) In the Nørrebro area, close to buzzing cafés and bars, Sleep-In Green has 68 beds in dorms sleeping eight, 20 or 38. Take bus 5A, night bus 81N, or the S-train to Nørreport Station, then walk northwest on Frederiksborggade over the lake to Nørrebrogade.

Danhostel Copenhagen Bellahøj (☎ 38 28 97 15; www.danhostel.dk/bellahoj; Herbergvejen 8, Bellahøj; dm & d Dkr110; ☎ Feb-early Jan, reception 24hr; ☎) Away from the centre in a quiet suburban neighbourhood with 250 dorm beds and a limited number of family rooms (doubles). You can take bus 2A to Brønshøj from Rådhuspladsen or the airport and get off at Fuglsangs Allé. The night bus is 82N.

Danhostel Lyngby (☎ 45 80 30 74; www.lyngbyhostel.dk; Rådval 1, Lyngby; dm/d Dkr115/380; ☎ year-round)

This idyllic hostel is housed in an early-20th-century factory building in leafy Lyngby. Take the S-train to Lyngby and then bus 182 or 183.

City Public Hostel (☎ 33 31 20 70; www.city-public-hostel.dk; Absalonsgade 8; dm Dkr140; ☎ early May-mid-Aug, reception 24hr) Another central, well-run hostel with dorms sleeping six to 23 – both mixed and separate gender. There is wi-fi and an outdoor barbecue area.

Danhostel Copenhagen City (☎ 33 11 85 85; www.danhostel.dk; HC Andersens Blvd 50; dm Dkr150; ☎ year-round) Occupying a modern high rise overlooking the harbour a short walk from Central Station, this is the newest and best of Copenhagen's hostels. With a reception that looks like a boutique hotel, a great café and the facilities at the DGI-Byen swimming pool and sports centre included in the price, it is a good idea to book well in advance.

Sleep-In Heaven (☎ 35 35 46 48; www.sleepinheaven.com; Struenseegade 7, Nørrebro; dm Dkr150; ☎ year-round) A friendly, no-frills kind of place for younger travellers, with two vast (50-person) rooms and a small back yard. Take bus 250S from Central Station, or walk there in around 20 minutes.

Hotels

Cab Inn City (☎ 33 46 16 16; www.cabinn.com; Mitchells-gade 14; s/d/tr/q Dkr510/630/750/870; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) Cab Inns are modern and rather clinical, but boast good facilities (including kettle, TV and free lobby internet access and wi-fi). This is the best located of all Copenhagen's Cab Inns, a short walk south of Tivoli Gardens.

Its sister hotels are **Cab Inn Scandinavia** (☎ 35 36 11 11; www.cabinn.com; Vodroffsvej 57; s/d Dkr510/630) with 201 compact rooms and the smaller **Cab Inn Express** (☎ 33 21 04 00; www.cabinn.com; Danasvej 32-34; s/d Dkr510/630).

EATING Around Strøget

Strøget has an abundance of cheap fast-food joints including hole-in-the-wall kebab places selling falafels and kebabs for less than Dkr30.

Huset Med Det Grønne Træ (☎ 33 12 87 86; Gammel Torv 20; ☎ 11.30am-3.30pm Mon-Fri, also open Sat winter) Excellent, cheap *smørrebrød* (open sandwiches; Dkr39 to Dkr95) and 14 different kinds of schnapps.

Riz Raz (☎ 33 15 05 75; Kompagnistræde 20; day/evening buffet Dkr59/69; ☎ 11.30am-11pm) Regularly

voted one of the city's best cheap eats, Riz Raz offers a great-value southern Mediterranean buffet and plenty of outside seating. There are good meat mains too (Dkr99 to Dkr139).

Wokshop Cantina (☎ 33 91 61 21; Ny Adelgade 6; soups Dkr55-95, curries Dkr95; ☎ noon-2pm & 5.30-10pm Mon-Fri, 6-10pm Sat) This basement canteen in a street just off Kongens Nytorv (beside the grand Hotel d'Angleterre) serves excellent, cheap Thai staples.

Latin Quarter

Atlas Bar/Flyvefiskeren (☎ 33 15 03 52; Larsbjørnstræde 18; mains Dkr50-70; ☎ noon-midnight Mon-Sat) An enduringly popular semisubterranean corner restaurant in the heart of the Latin Quarter. Its globally inspired blackboard menu changes regularly, but there is always a good vegetarian option and the portions are generous.

Studenterhuset (☎ 35 32 38 61; Købmagergade 52; ☎ noon-midnight Mon-Fri) A relaxed student hang-out with drinks and light eats, including vegetarian or meat sandwiches for Dkr30.

Elsewhere in Central Copenhagen

Casabel Madhus (☎ 33 93 77 95; Store Kongensgade 80-82; salads Dkr30-50; ☎ 11am-5pm Mon-Fri) This light, bright lunch place is excellent for vegetarians and lies close to Marmorkirken and Amalienborg in the 'royal' part of town.

Produce market (Israels Plads; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat May-Sep) This is the main city produce market, just a few minutes' walk west of Nørreport Station. On Saturday it doubles as a flea market.

Christianshavn & Christiania

Lagkagehuset (☎ 32 57 36 07; ☎ 6am-7pm) One of the best bakeries in town lies right in the heart of Christianshavn and is highly recommended for sandwiches and salads (both Dkr39). Recently voted best shop in Copenhagen.

Morgenstedet (Langgaden; mains Dkr35; ☎ noon-9pm Tue-Sun) This long-established vegetarian and vegan place has a pretty garden in the heart of Christiania. Its dish of the day – usually a curry – is Dkr52.

Christianshavns Bådudlejning (☎ 32 96 53 53; Øvergaden neden Vandet 29; fish & meat mains Dkr125-140; ☎ 10am-midnight May-Oct) Deservedly popular, this place on a canal-side deck serves tasty sandwiches (Dkr50) and salads (Dkr60 to Dkr70). You can hire rowing boats as well.

DRINKING

Visitors are utterly spoilt for choice as far as cafés and bars go in Copenhagen. Many are jack-of-all-trade places, as good for food as they are for a lively evening spent drinking Pilsner or an afternoon sipping coffee.

Though nights early in the week can be a little quiet, Copenhagen really revs into gear from Thursday through Saturday when it turns into a genuine 24-hour party city. Club admission is usually around Dkr50 to Dkr60, but you can often get in for free before a certain time in the evening. *Copenhagen This Week* lists concerts and entertainment schedules in detail.

Zoo Bar (☎ 33 15 68 69; Kronprinsensgade 7; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Wed, 11-2am Thu-Sat) This small bar and café attracts an artsy, clubby crowd by night, drawn by its regular DJs.

Café Bang & Jensen (130 Istedgade) Small and a fair trek from the centre, this is just one of many hip little bars on this earthy, vibrant street in Vesterbro.

Ideal Bar (☎ 33 25 70 11; Enghavevej 40) A young, hip crowd hangs out here listening to the DJs spinning cutting-edge electronic sounds, often for preclubbing drinks before heading next door to Vega.

Kafe Kys (☎ 33 93 85 99; Læderstræde 7; ☎ 10-2am) Kys is one of the most popular cafés in town; it's always packed with a young clientele taking a break from shopping or on their way out for the night. Serves sandwiches and has an extensive cocktail list.

Studenterhusets (☎ 35 32 38 61; Købmagergade 52; admission Dkr60-80) Another popular student venue that has themed nights (Tuesday is Gay Day, Wednesday is International Evening, Thursday is live jazz, Friday is live rock; Saturday varies). There's a very cheap beer happy hour from noon to 7pm. During the daytime it's a café serving cheap sandwiches.

Joe & the Juice (Ny Østergade 11; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat) One of the few fresh fruit-juice bars in town.

Rust (☎ 35 24 52 00; www.rust.dk; Guldbergsgade 8) Rust is a Copenhagen club-scene stalwart that continues to pack in a college-age crowd from Wednesdays through to the weekend. There are DJs and live music in a multilevel location with two dance floors, lounge and cocktail bars. The music runs the full gamut from disco to hip-hop.

Stengade30 (☎ 35 36 09 38; Stengade 18) A spirited alternative live music and dance venue – Sunday's Rub A Dub night is especially popular.

Vega (☎ 33 25 70 11; Enghavevej 40; admission free before 1am, then Dkr70) Far out at the western end of the Vesterbro district, this place remains one of the city's cooler venues, staging hugely popular Friday- and Saturday-night sessions.

Loppen (☎ 32 57 84 22; Loppebygningen, Christiania; admission Dkr50-70; ☎ nightclub 2-5am Fri & Sat) A celebrated and much-loved veteran of the Copenhagen live-music scene; hosts bands playing everything from soul to punk rock and runs a late disco.

ENTERTAINMENT

Royal Theatre (☎ 33 69 69 69; Kongens Nytorv) Founded in 1874 and occupying a grand, ornate building, the Royal Theatre is the venue for performances by Denmark's Royal Orchestra, and one of Europe's finest ballet companies.

Copenhagen Opera House Dokøen, Holmen (☎ 33 69 69 69; www.kgl-teater.dk) This spectacular, and controversial opera house opposite Amalienborg Palace is the new home of the Royal Opera.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air
Copenhagen's modern international airport is in Kastrup, 10km southeast of the city centre. Flights connect frequently with most major Danish and Scandinavian destinations. Many airline offices are north of Central Station near the intersection of Vester Farimagsgade and Vesterbrogade.

Bus

International buses leave from Central Station; advance reservations on most routes can be made at **Eurolines** (☎ 33 88 70 00; Reventlowsgade 8).

Car

A fair trek from the centre at Amager Strand, **Rent A Wreck** (☎ 70 25 26 70; Amagerstrandvej 100) hires out battered but usually reliable old wagons from as little as Dkr363 per day.

Train

Long-distance trains arrive and depart from Central Station. There are three ways of buying a ticket, and the choice can be important depending on how much time you have before your train leaves. *Billetautomats* are coin-operated machines and are the quickest if you've mastered the zone-system prices. They are best for S-train tickets. **DSB Billetsalg** (☎ 8am-

7pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-4pm Sat) is best for reservations. There's a numbered-ticket queuing system. **DSB Kviksalg** (☎ 5.45am-11.30pm) is for quick ticket buying, although queues can build at busy times. Alternatively you can make reservations at www.dsb.dk.

GETTING AROUND Bicycle

Beneath platform 12 at Central Station, Københavns Cykler rents out bicycles for Dkr75 a day. On the other side of the city centre, **Københavns Cyklebørs** (☎ 33 14 07 17; Gothergsgade 157) rents them for Dkr60 per day.

Public Transport

Copenhagen has an extensive public transport system consisting of a small but excellent new underground and overground driverless Metro system; an extensive metropolitan rail network called S-Tog and a vast bus system, whose main terminus is nearby at Rådhuspladsen.

Buses, Metro and trains use a common fare system. The basic fare of Dkr18 for up to two zones covers most city runs and allows transfers between buses and trains on a single ticket as long as they're made within an hour. Third and subsequent zones cost Dkr9 more, with a maximum fare of Dkr63 for travel throughout North Zealand. Alternatively, a 24-hour pass allows unlimited travel in all zones for Dk105/53 per adult/child.

Taxi

Taxis with signs saying 'fri' can be flagged down or you can phone ☎ 35 35 35 35.

ZEALAND

It is well worth taking some days out from the hectic pleasures of Copenhagen to explore the long sandy beaches, castles and Viking sights on the island of Zealand (Sjælland), which is well served by rail and bus routes.

NORTH ZEALAND Helsingør (Elsinore)

Known the world over as the home of Shakespeare's shilly-shallying hero Hamlet, Helsingør is also a busy, attractive port town, with ferries continuously shuttling across the Øresund Strait to and from Sweden to disgorge thirsty Swedes who stock up on cheaper booze

here. The **tourist office** (☎ 49 21 13 33; www.visithel.singor.dk; Havnepladsen 3; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat Sep-Jun 25, 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat Jun 26-Aug) is opposite the train station.

Helsingør's top sight is **Kronborg Slot** (☎ 49 21 30 78; www.kronborg.dk; adult/child Dkr75/15; ☎ 11am-3pm Tue-Sun Jan-Mar, 11am-4pm Tue-Sun Apr, 10.30am-5pm May-Sep, 11am-4pm Tue-Sun Oct-Dec), made famous as the fictional Elsinore Castle in *Hamlet*. Kronborg's real-life function was not as a royal residence, but as a grandiose tollhouse, wresting taxes (the infamous and lucrative 'Sound Dues') for more than 400 years from ships passing through the narrow Øresund Strait. You can cross the moat and walk around the courtyard and walls for free, but you need to pay to enter the castle and see its various museums.

From the tourist office head up Brostræde and along Sankt Anna Gade. This will take you through the **medieval quarter** and past the old cathedral, **Sankt Olai Kirke** (St Anna Gade 12; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Sat Apr-Oct, 10am-2pm Mon-Sat Nov-Mar); the small **City History Museum** (admission free; ☎ noon-4pm); and **Sct Mariæ Church and Karmeliterklostret** (guided tours adult/child Dkr20/5; ☎ church 9am-noon Mon-Wed & Fri, 4-6pm Thu, tours 2pm Mon-Fri), one of Scandinavia's best-preserved medieval monasteries. From here Sudergade leads to the tree-lined, cobbled central square of **Axeltorv**, where you will find several cafés and takeaways.

SLEEPING & EATING

Danhostel Helsingør (☎ 49 21 16 40; www.helsingor.hostel.dk; Nordre Strandvej 24; dm Dkr150, r Dkr400-800; ☎ Feb-Nov) A family-oriented hostel, this Danhostel occupies the imposing red-brick Villa Moltke 2km northwest of the centre and has its own beach.

Gringo's (☎ 49 26 14 47; Stengade 81A; tortillas Dkr99-138; ☎ 11am-11pm) Good-value Mexican food with plenty of outdoor seating in Færegården, Helsingør's restaurant complex (which also includes Kosten, a more upmarket restaurant; Bamboo, a Chinese restaurant; and the tapas/wine bar Envy, which opens until 6am Thursday to Saturday) close to the station.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Trains from Hillerød (Dkr54, 30 minutes) run at least once hourly. Trains from Copenhagen run a few times hourly (Dkr63, 50 minutes). A couple of ferry companies offer a regular service throughout the day to Helsingborg, Sweden (see p305).

ROSKILDE

pop 44,000

Perhaps more than any other town, Roskilde offers the visitor a strong sense of Denmark's history from its early Viking heritage through centuries of uninterrupted royal lineage (although you wouldn't think so at first glance when walking down its rather bland, modern high street). A thriving trading port throughout the Middle Ages, Roskilde was also the site of Zealand's first Christian church, built by Viking king Harald Bluetooth in AD 980.

The cathedral is on Torvet, 10 minutes northwest of the train station; cut diagonally across the old churchyard and go left along Algade. The Viking Ship Museum is north of the cathedral, a pleasant 15-minute stroll through city parks.

Roskilde has a helpful **tourist office** (☎ 46 31 65 65; www.visitroskilde.com; Gullandsstræde 15; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat Apr-Jun, 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat Jul & Aug, 9am-5pm Mon-Thu, 9am-4pm Fri, 10am-1pm Sat Sep-Mar).

The imposing twin-spired **Roskilde Domkirke** (☎ 46 35 27 00; Domkirkepladsen; adult/child Dkr25/free, tours adult/child Dkr20/10; ☎ 9am-4.45pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat, 12.30-4.45pm Sun Apr-Sep, 10am-3.45pm Tue-Sat, 12.30-3.45pm Sun Oct-Mar, tours 11am & 2pm Mon-Fri, 11am Sat, 2pm Sun) still dominates the city centre. Started by Bishop Absalon in 1170, Roskilde Domkirke has been rebuilt and added to so many times that this mighty brick edifice represents a millennium of Danish church architectural styles. The cathedral's interior is splendid; its **crypts** contain the sarcophagi of 39 Danish kings and queens.

From the northern side of the cathedral, walk across a field where wildflowers blanket the unexcavated remains of Roskilde's original medieval town, and continue through a green belt all the way to the **Viking Ship Museum** (☎ 46 30 02 53; Vindeboder 12; adult/child Dkr80/free; ☎ 10am-5pm), which contains five reconstructed Viking ships (c 1000) excavated from Roskilde Fjord in 1962 and brought to shore in thousands of fragments. The fascinating **waterfront workshops**, a short walk west along the harbour, are a more modern addition to the museum where Viking-ship replicas are built using Viking-era techniques. The smells and sounds here are just as they would have been 1,000 years ago.

Trains from Copenhagen to Roskilde are frequent (Dkr63, 25 minutes).

BORNHOLM

pop 45,000

This self-contained little world stuck in the middle of the Baltic Sea 200km east of Copenhagen makes for a wonderful, peaceful escape from the city's bustle. Lush swathes of wheat fields and extensive forests cover the centre, while the coast is beaded with small fishing villages and stretches of powdery white sand.

The **tourist office** (Bornholms Velkomstercenter; ☎ 56 95 95 00; www.bornholm.info; Nordre Kystvej 3, Rønne; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 10am-3pm Sun mid-Jun-Aug, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat Feb-mid-Jun, Sep & Oct, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri Nov-Jan) is a few minutes' walk from the harbour and has masses of information on all of Bornholm. There's free internet access at the **public library** (Pingels Allé; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon, Tue & Thu, 1-8pm Wed, 10am-3pm Fri, 10am-2pm Sat) for which you must book.

SIGHTS

Unique among Bornholm's attractions are its four 12th-century **round churches**, splendid buildings whose whitewashed walls, 2m thick, are framed by solid buttresses and crowned with black, conical roofs. Each was designed as both a place of worship and a fortress against enemy attacks, with a gun slot-pierced upper storey.

Gudhjem is a compact, attractive seaside village crowned by a squat windmill standing over half-timbered houses and sloping streets that roll down to the pleasant harbour front. The **tourist office** (☎ 56 48 52 10; Åbogade 7; ☎ 10am-4pm Jul & Aug, 1-4pm Mon-Sat Sep & Mar-Jun) is a block inland from the harbour alongside the library.

A bike path leads inland 4km south from Gudhjem to the thick-walled, buttressed **Østerlars Rundkirke**, the most impressive of the island's round churches; bus 3 goes by the church.

Sandvig is tucked away under Bornholm's rocky northwestern tip of Hammeren, and boasts an excellent sandy beach to add to its distinctive appeal. Bornholm's best-known sight, **Hammershus Slot**, is 3km south on the road to Rønne. The impressive, substantial ruins of this 13th-century castle are the largest of their kind in Scandinavia.

Tiny (about 500m long) **Christiansø** is a charmingly preserved, 17th-century fortress-

island just an hour's sail northeast of Bornholm. Its well worth making the time for a day trip. A seasonal fishing hamlet since the Middle Ages, Christiansø fell briefly into Swedish hands in 1658, after which Christian V decided to remake the island into an invincible naval fortress. Bastions and barracks were subsequently built; a church, a school and a prison then followed.

SLEEPING & EATING

Danhostel Gudhjem (☎ 56 48 50 35; www.danhostel.gudhjem.dk; dm/s/d Dkr150/260/385) Just up from the harbour-side bus stop in Gudhjem, on an attractive spot right by the harbour, this hostel has small, cosy, bright white six-bed dorms. The staff can book rooms in private homes for Dkr275/385 for singles/doubles.

Gudhjem Rogeri (☎ 56 48 57 08) Has an all-you-can-eat buffet for Dkr92 and some challenging seating, including on the upper floor, which is reached by rope ladder. It has live folk, country and rock music most nights in summer.

You'll find a bakery and a few reasonably priced cafés along Brøddegade, a little inland from the harbour at Gudhjem.

GETTING THERE & AROUND

The fastest land option between Bornholm and Copenhagen is the train-ferry combination from Copenhagen to Rønne via Ystad, Sweden, with **DSB** (☎ 70 13 14 15; www.dsb.dk). This trip goes a few times a day, takes three hours and costs Dkr263.

Bornholmstrafikken (☎ 33 13 18 66; www.bornholmstrafikken.dk) operates ferries between Køge and Rønne. While not as fast as the train-ferry option, overnight sailing (departing daily at 11.30pm and arriving at 6am) on the car ferry from Køge is worth considering. A peak return (mid-June to August) per person costs Dkr360. A car with up to five people costs Dkr1280. The bunk-style berths (Dkr84 extra one-way) and cabins (from Dkr233 extra one-way) are reasonably inexpensive. Bornholmstrafikken also operates the ferry service several times daily between Rønne and Ystad, Sweden (Dkr162 one-way or same-day return, 1½ or 2½ hours) and on a near-daily basis from April to October.

Bornholms Amts Trafikelskab (BAT) operates a good, inexpensive bus service around the island. Fares cost Dkr10 per zone, with the maximum fare set at 10 zones.

Cycling is a great way to get around the place. Ronne's tourist office sells the 60-page English-language *Bicycle Routes on Bornholm* (Dkr45). Next to the tourist office, **Bornholms Cykeludlejning** (☎ 56 95 13 59; Nordre Kystvej 5; per day/week Dkr70/260) has a large fleet of bikes.

FUNEN

pop 476,000

Funen (Fyn) is Denmark's garden island, largely rural with undulating woodlands, picture-postcard pastures and cornfields peppered with old farmhouses and sleepy villages. The railway line from Copenhagen runs through Odense, Funen's main city, and westward onto Jutland.

ODENSE

pop 185,000

Denmark's third-largest city takes great pride in being the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen (though after a fairly unhappy childhood, Andersen left Odense with little regret). It's a friendly university city with busy, central pedestrianised areas, a fairly lively social scene and the worthwhile Andersen museum.

The **tourist office** (☎ 66 12 75 20; www.visitodense.dk; ☎ 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat & Sun mid-Jun-Aug, 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat & Sun Sep-mid-Jun), at Rådhus, is a 15-minute walk from the train station. **Odense Central Library** (Odense Banegård Center; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Thu, 10am-4pm Fri & Sat) has free internet access.

HC Andersens Hus (☎ 65 51 46 01; Bangs Boder 29; admission Dkr55; ☎ 10am-4pm Tue-Sun 16 Aug-15 Jun, 9am-6pm 16 Jun-15 Aug) tells Andersen's fairy-tale life story with some audiovisual verve and puts his life into interesting historical context.

Odense's 13th-century Gothic cathedral, **Sankt Knuds Kirke** (☎ 66 12 03 92; Flakhaven; admission free; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun), reflects Odense's medieval wealth and stature. The stark white interior has a handsome rococo pulpit, a dazzling 16th-century altarpiece and a magnificent gilded wooden triptych crowded with more than 300 carved figures.

Sleeping & Eating

Kongensgade offers several quick and easy fast-food options.

Danhostel Odense City (☎ 63 11 04 25; www.cityhostel.dk; dm/s/d Dkr150/350/400; ☎ ☑) An excellent, modern 140-bed place alongside the

train and bus stations with four- and six-bed dorms, a kitchen and laundry facilities.

Vestergade 1 (☎ 11am-10pm Mon-Fri, 10am-10pm Sat, 11am-6pm Sun) A lovely corner café at the HC Andersens Hus end of the main shopping street. It serves excellent sandwiches (Dkr69 to Dkr108), a Danish brunch (Dkr79) and more ambitious Franco-Danish food in the evenings (main courses Dkr169 to Dkr189).

Bakers Café (Fisketorvet; ☎ 7am-5pm Mon-Fri, 7am-2pm Sat, 7am-noon Sun) A top-notch bakery and café close to HC Andersens Hus serving elaborate sandwiches (Dkr37 to Dkr50), salads (Dkr40), breads and cakes.

Café Cuckoo's Nest (☎ 65 91 57 87; Vestergade 73; ☎ 9am-midnight Mon-Wed, 9-1am Thu, 9-2am Fri & Sat, 10am-11pm Sun) This large, trendy bar/restaurant is popular with students and serves an eclectic menu of sandwiches, salads, burgers (Dkr55 to Dkr79) and, in the evening, Thai-French-Danish mains (Dkr109 to Dkr129).

Drinking

Australian Bar (☎ 66 11 83 90; Brandts Passage 10) Live music and dancing most nights in the heart of Odense's newly reinvigorated nightlife quarter.

Boogies (Nørregade 21; admission Dkr40; ☎ from midnight) A dance place downstairs from Birdy's Café with bands on weekends. Popular with students.

Den Smagløse Café (Vindegade 47; ☎ 1pm-2am Mon-Sat) A buzzing, atmospheric little place where a hip young crowd relaxes on beaten-up but comfortable old sofas.

Getting There & Around

Odense is on the main railway line between Copenhagen (Dkr214, 1½ hours, every 15 minutes), Århus (Dkr187, 1¼ hours, hourly) and Aalborg (Dkr286, three hours, hourly). In Odense you board city buses at the front and pay the driver (Dkr12) when you get off. Rent bicycles at **City Cykler** (☎ 66 13 97 83; www.citycykler.dk; Vesterbro 27; per day Dkr99; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat), west of the city centre.

JUTLAND

Jutland is about as wild as Denmark's terrain gets, which is to say not very. Its northern tip and its west coast offer endless stretches of windswept sandy beaches, its central lake district has excellent cycling and canoeing

while the main cities, Århus and Aalborg, are student-friendly party zones.

ÅRHUS

pop 285,000

Århus, the second-largest city in Denmark, is one of Scandinavian Europe's most modern and sophisticated regional capitals, with a varied music and entertainment scene. Yet this university city (with more than 20,000 students) retains all the friendliness and ease of a small country town.

Information

INTERNET ACCESS

Boomtown (Åboulevard 21; per hr 35Dkr; ☎ 10-2am Mon-Thu, 10-8am Fri & Sat, 11am-midnight Sun)

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist office (☎ 87 31 50 10; www.visitaarhus.com; Banegårdsplassen; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm Sat, 9.30am-1pm Sun mid-Jun-mid-Sep, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat mid-Sep-Apr, 9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat May-mid-Jun)

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Kilroy Travels (☎ 86 20 11 44; Fredensgade 40) Specialises in discount and student travel, and has friendly, helpful staff.

Sights & Activities

Århus' new showpiece art museum **ARoS** (☎ 87 30 66 00; www.aros.dk; Aros Allé 2; admission Dkr76; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue & Thu-Sun, 10am-10pm Wed), all sweeping curves, soaring spaces and white walls, houses a comprehensive collection of 19th- and 20th-century Danish art and a wide range of arresting and vivid contemporary art, including Ron Mueck's startlingly lifelike giant 'Boy'.

Den Gamle By (The Old Town; ☎ 86 12 31 88; www.dengambleby.dk; Viborgvej 2; admission Dkr80; ☎ 9am-6pm Jun-Aug, 10am-5pm Apr, May, Sep & Oct, 10am-4pm Feb, Mar, Nov & Dec, 11am-3pm Jan) An engaging open-air museum of 75 half-timbered houses brought here from around Denmark and reconstructed as a provincial town, complete with a functioning bakery, silversmith, bookbinder etc. It's a 20-minute walk from the city centre. After hours you can walk the old streets for free. Bus 3, 14, 25 and 55 will take you here.

The impressive **Århus Domkirke** (☎ 86 12 38 45; Bispetorvet; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-4pm Mon-Fri May-Sep, 10am-3pm Mon-Fri Oct-Apr) is Denmark's longest cathedral. Parts of it date from the 12th century, while most of the church is

15th-century Gothic. Many fine frescoes that were covered over after the reformation have now been uncovered and restored. They range from fairy-tale paintings of St George slaying a dragon to scenes of hellfire.

Visit **Moesgård**, 4.5km south of the city centre, for its glorious beech woods and the trails threading through them towards sandy beaches. There are also well-presented exhibits on the Stone Age to the Viking Age at **Moesgård Museum of Prehistory** (admission Dkr45; ☎ 10am-5pm Apr-Sep, 10am-4pm Tue-Sun Oct-May). The museum's most dramatic exhibit is the 2000-year-old Grauballe Man (Grauballemanden), whose well-preserved body was found in 1952, 35km west of Århus in Grauballe. Bus 6 from Århus train station terminates at the museum year-round, while bus 19 terminates at Moesgård Strand from May to September.

Festivals & Events

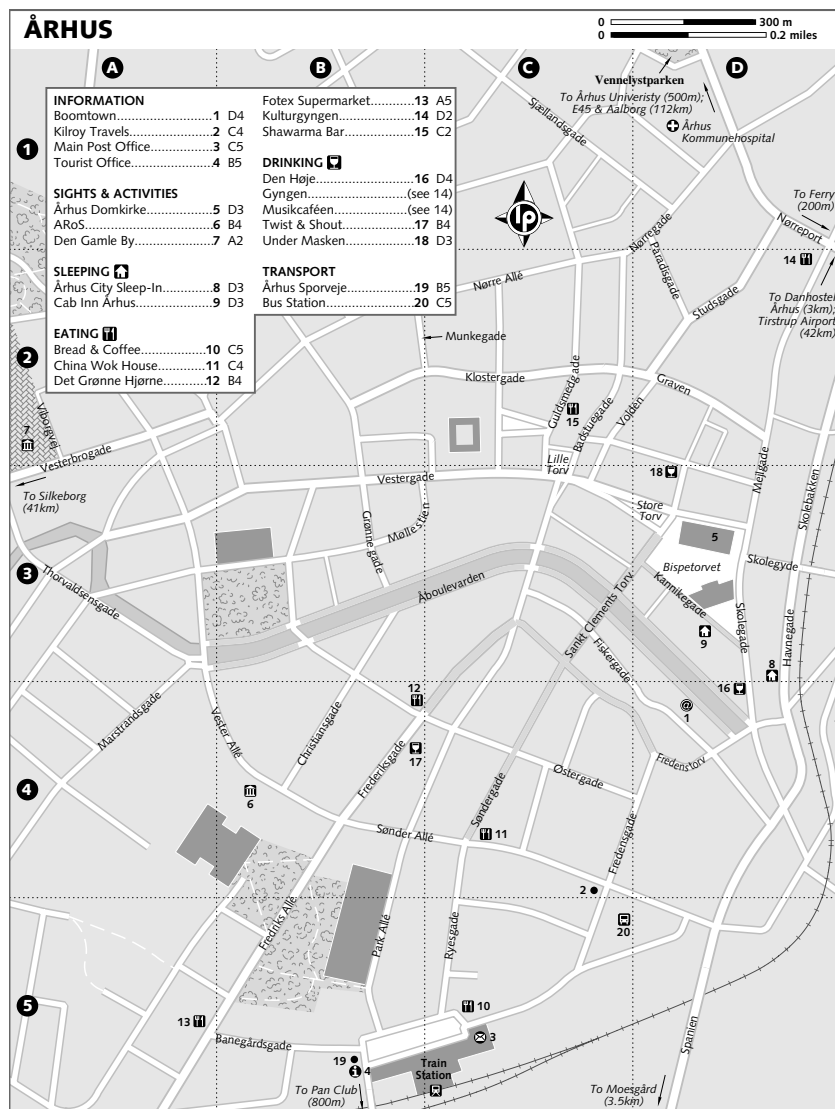
The 10-day **Århus Festival** (www.aarhusfestuge.dk) in early September turns the city into a stage for nonstop revelry with jazz, rock, classical music, theatre and dance. The festival has hosted such varied bill-toppers as the Rolling Stones, Philip Glass, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Ravi Shankar, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, New York City Ballet and Günter Grass.

Sleeping

Århus City Sleep-In (☎ 86 19 20 55; www.citysleep-in.dk; Havnegade 20; dm Dkr115, d with private/shared bathroom Dkr400/360; ☎ reception 24hr; ☎ ☑) Run by a youth organisation, Århus City Sleep-In is in a central former mariners' hotel. It's casual, the rooms are a bit run down, but it's a cheerful place and by far the best budget option in town. Sheet hire costs Dkr45 and safety boxes are Dkr20 plus a Dkr100 deposit. Key deposit is Dkr50. There's a TV and pool table, guest kitchen and laundry facilities. Bike hire costs Dkr50 a day.

Danhostel Århus (☎ 86 16 72 98; www.hostel-aarhus.dk; Marienlundsvej 10; dm Dkr120, r from Dkr488; ☎ late Jan-mid-Dec) This hostel is situated in a renovated 1850s dance hall at the edge of Risikov Woods, 4km north of the city centre, reached by bus 6 or 9.

Cab Inn Århus (☎ 86 75 70 00; www.cabinn.com; Kannikegade 14; s/d Dkr525/645; ☎ ☑) In an ideal central location opposite the Domkirke. The style is standard Cab Inn with small but comfy, spotless rooms. Free internet and wifi access.



Eating

The narrow streets of the old quarter north of the cathedral are thick with cafés serving Danish and ethnic foods.

Kulturbygningen (Mejlgade 53; lunch/dinner Dkr38/75; ☎ 11am-9pm Mon-Sat) The café-restaurant of an alternative cultural and youth complex has a great atmosphere and good, often organic

food including chilli con carne, sandwiches (Dkr28 to Dkr38) and a choice of vegetarian or meat dinners nightly.

Det Grønne Hjørne (☎ 86 13 52 47; Frederiksgade 60; mains Dkr99-149, lunch buffet Dkr69, buffet after 4pm Dkr99) On the corner of Østergade, this place has a superb buffet with hearty fare such as lasagne and chilli con carne, and good veggie options.

Fotex (☎ 86 18 60 00; Frederiksallesgade 22-24; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun) Self caterers can stock up on inexpensive groceries here.

If you want fast, cheap and filling takeaway fare, some good options include **China Wok House** (Søndergade; lunch boxes Dkr22), **Shawarma Bar** (Guldsmædgade; pitta-bread sandwiches Dkr30) and **Bread & Coffee** (Banegårdspladsen; pastries Dkr11-18), which serves tasty pastries opposite the train station.

Drinking & Clubbing

The live-music and clubbing scene in Copenhagen is vibrant and varied. The monthly free publication *What's On in Århus* lists current happenings in detail and is available at the tourist office and other venues around town. There are a number of fun and busy bars in Skolegade.

Under Masken (☎ 86 18 22 66; Bispegade 3) The ethnic masks lining the walls and ceiling may leer and scowl, but the real natives in this convivial little basement place are friendly. A good range of bottled lagers and ales.

Musikcaféen (Mejlgade 53; ☎ 8.30pm-2am Mon-Sat) and the adjacent **Gyngen** (☎ 86 76 03 44; Mejlgade 53; ☎ 8.30pm-2am Mon-Sat) are alternative and often vibrant venues with rock, jazz and world music. They are a showcase for hopefuls and up-and-coming acts.

Twist & Shout (☎ 86 18 08 55; Frederiksgade 29; ☎ 10-5am Mon-Thu, from 5pm Fri & 10pm Sat) This three-floor disco is lively, small and often packed. It's the place to head later in the evening. It's not too precious, there's a mix of music from '60s to house (depending on the floor) and everyone has fun.

Den Høje (Skolegade 28; ☎ closed Sun) With an easygoing young crowd, this is popular not least for its cheap beer. It's open most nights from 7pm to 5am.

The main gay and lesbian social scene is at **Pan Club** (☎ 86 13 43 80; Jaærgærgårdsgade 42). To find it, head south down MP Bruuns Gade on the west side of the train station and then go right down Jaærgærgårdsgade for 300m; it's on the left-hand side of the road.

Getting There & Away

AIR

The airport, in Tirstrup 43km northeast of Århus, has direct flights from Copenhagen and London. Ryanair flies between London Stansted and Århus twice a day Monday and Friday and once on Saturday and Sunday.

BOAT

Ferry operator **Mols-Linien** (☎ 70 10 14 18) runs car ferries from Århus to Odden (Dkr140 to Dkr235, car with five passengers Dkr525, 65 minutes).

BUS

The **bus station** (Fredensgade) has a DSB café, a small supermarket and a photocopier. **Express buses** (☎ 98 90 09 00) run a few times daily between Århus and Copenhagen's Valby Station (adult/child Dkr240/120, student Monday to Thursday only Dkr120, three hours). Buses run regularly to Silkeborg (adult/child Dkr55/38, 48 minutes, twice hourly) and Aalborg (adult/child Dkr135/78, two hours, five daily).

TRAIN

Trains to Århus, via Odense, leave Copenhagen on the hour from early morning to 10pm (Dkr297, 3¼ hours) and there's a night train at 2am. There are regular trains to Aalborg (Dkr145, 1½ hours) and Esbjerg (Dkr199, 2¼ hours). There's a ticket-queuing system at the station (red for Danish destinations, green for international ones). Trains are busy on Fridays, so reserve a seat for long journeys.

Getting Around

The airport bus to Århus train station costs Dkr80 and takes about 45 minutes. Most in-town buses stop in front of the train station or around the corner on Park Allé. City bus tickets are bought from a machine in the back of the bus for Dkr17 and are good for unlimited rides within the time period stamped on the ticket, which is about two hours.

You can buy tickets and passes at **Århus Sporveje** (☎ 89 40 10 10; Banegårdspladsen 20; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat), the city transport service shop across from the train station.

Free city-centre bikes are plentiful (www.arhusbycykel.dk), you just need a 20kr deposit to secure a set of wheels.

AALBORG

pop 155,000

At first glance an unpromising industrial and trading town marred by fjord-side factories and towering concrete silos, Aalborg turns out to be actually worth visiting. There's the impressive Lindholm Høje, Denmark's largest Viking burial ground, a small but pleasing cobbled town centre and a surprisingly

vibrant nightlife. The town centre is a 10-minute walk from the train and bus stations, north on Boulevarden. The **tourist office** (☎ 99 30 60 90; www.visitaalborg.com; Østerågade 8; ☹ 10am-4pm Mon-Sat Jul, 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat mid-Jun-Aug, 9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat Sep-mid-Jun) is friendly and helpful, with masses of information. **Hovedbiblioteket** (City Library; Rendsburggade 2; ☹ 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat) offers free internet access.

Sights

The whitewashed **Buldolfi Domkirke** marks the centre of the old town, and has colourful frescoes in the foyer. About 75m east of the cathedral is the **Aalborg Historiske Museum** (Algade 48; admission Dkr20; ☹ 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat) with interesting artefacts from prehistory to the present and Renaissance furnishings.

On a hill-top pasture overlooking the city and ringed by a wall of beech trees, **Lindholm Høje** (admission free; ☹ dawn-dusk) is the site of nearly 700 graves from the Iron and Viking Ages. Many of the Viking graves are marked by stones placed in the outline of a Viking ship, with two larger stones as stem and stern. There is a compelling atmosphere. A **museum** (☎ 96 31 04 28; admission Dkr30; ☹ 10am-5pm Apr-Oct) depicts the site's history in an imaginative way, while huge murals behind the exhibits speculate on what the people looked like and how they lived; it is adjacent to the field. Lindholm Høje is 15 minutes from Aalborg's centre on bus 2.

Sleeping

The tourist office books rooms in private homes for Dkr200/300 for singles/doubles plus a Dkr25 booking fee.

Danhostel Aalborg (☎ 98 11 60 44; www.danhostel.dk/aalborg; Skydebanevej 50; dm Dkr150, r Dkr480; ☹) At the marina 4km west of the centre; there's an adjacent camping ground with cabins.

Prinsens Hotel (☎ 98 13 37 33; www.prinsen-hotel.dk; Prinsensgade 14; s/d from Dkr545/645; ☹ ☹) An upmarket option, but good value given the free extras available (such as internet, solarium and tea and coffee). There's also a sauna and spa baths.

Eating & Drinking

A good place for drink and diversion is Aalborg's famous Jomfru Ane Gade, a lively pedestrian street jammed solid with restaurants and bars, most with outdoor tables and competitive prices. It is the heart of Aalborg's nightlife and most places are open to the early hours.

Cafe Ministeriet (☎ 98 19 40 50; Mølleplads; mains Dkr46-86) serves generous portions of fresh café/diner food including burgers, veggie lasagne, brunch and club sandwiches.

Algade, a pedestrian shopping street a block south of the tourist office, offers inexpensive options, including **Schak Nielsen** (☎ 98 12 35 92; Algade 23), a good fish shop that has takeaway salmon burgers and a range of tasty fish specialities.

A good budget drinking and entertainment option (and a surprisingly cosy one, lined with books on shelves) is the **Studerhuset** (student union; ☎ 98 11 05 22; Gammelortov 10). There's inexpensive beer and regular live bands and DJ nights.

Getting There & Around

Trains run at least hourly to Århus (Dkr150, 1½ hours) and every two hours to Frederikshavn (Dkr88, one hour). **Express buses** (☎ 70 21 08 88) run daily to Copenhagen (Dkr320, five hours).

City buses leave from the intersection of Østerågade and Nyltorv. The bus fare is Dkr17 to any place in greater Aalborg.

FREDERIKSHAVN

pop 34,000

Frederikshavn is a major ferry town and industrial port with a fairly featureless dockside area; but the town has a pleasant pedestrianised centre with plenty of shops and several attractive bars and restaurants.

An overhead walkway leads from the ferry terminal to the **tourist office** (☎ 98 42 32 66; www.frederikshavn-tourist.dk; Skandiatov 1; ☹ 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9am-2pm Sun Jul-mid-Aug, 9am-6pm last 2 weeks of Jun & Aug, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, 11am-2pm Sat Sep-mid-Jun). The train station and adjacent bus terminal are a 10-minute walk to the north.

Danhostel Frederikshavn (☎ 98 42 14 75; www.danhostel.dk/frederikshavn; Buhlsvej 6; dm/s/d Dkr100/250/300; ☹ Feb-mid-Dec; ☹ ☹) is a quiet, pleasant, neatly-kept place with chalet-style, six-bed dorms 2km north of the ferry terminal.

Damsgaard Supermarked (Havnegade), beside the tourist office, has a cheap cafeteria with a harbour view and a good buffet breakfast (Dkr45). There are pizzerias on nearby Danmarksgade and Søndergade.

Frederikshavn is the northern terminus of the DSB train line. Trains run about hourly south to Aalborg (Dkr88) and on to Copenhagen (Dkr343). **Nordjyllands Trafikelskab**

(NT; ☎ 98 11 11 11; www.nordjyllandstrafikelskab.dk, in Danish) runs a bus service (one hour) north to Skagen (Dkr50).

Stena Line (☎ 96 20 02 00) runs ferries six to 10 times daily (Dkr95 to Dkr215, two to 3½ hours) from Frederikshavn to Gothenburg, Sweden. **Color Line** (☎ 99 56 19 77; www.colorline.com) runs to Oslo once daily (Dkr180 to Dkr460, 8½ hours). Prices vary by season.

SKAGEN

Artists (who came to be known as the 'Skagen School') discovered Skagen's luminous light and its colourful, heath-and-dune landscape in the mid-19th century and fixed eagerly on the romantic imagery of the area's fishing life that had earned the people of Skagen a hard living for centuries.

Today, Skagen is a major tourist resort, packed in high summer but picturesque even so. The peninsula is lined with fine beaches, including a sandy stretch on the eastern end of Østre Strandvej, a 15-minute walk from the town centre.

Sankt Laurentii Vej, Skagen's main street, runs almost the entire length of this long thin town. The **tourist office** (☎ 98 44 13 77; www.skagen-tourist.dk; Sankt Laurentii Vej 22; ☹ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 10am-2pm Sun Jun-early Aug, 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat late Aug-May) is in the train/bus station.

Appropriately for such a neatly kept country, Denmark doesn't end untidily at its most northerly point, but on a neat finger of sand just a few metres wide. The tip is the culmination of a long, curving sweep of sand at Grenen, about 3km northeast of Skagen along route 40. Crowds head along the last stretch of beach for the 30-minute walk to the tip.

Sleeping & Eating

Danhostel Skagen (☎ 98 44 22 00; www.danhostel.dk/skagen; Rolighedsvvej 2; dm Dkr150, s/d from Dkr275/375; ☹) A tidy, quiet, 162-bed hostel that's very popular in summer, so book ahead. It's about 1km west of the centre in a rather sleepy suburban street.

You'll find a couple of pizzerias, a kebab shop, a burger joint and an ice-cream shop clustered near each other on Havnevej. **Super Brugsen** (Sankt Laurentii Vej 28), a grocery store just west of the tourist office, has a bakery. The best spot to eat in town is at the harbour, where you'll find several sawdust-floored restaurants serving large bowls of fresh Atlantic shrimp (for around Dkr79) and fish cakes (Dkr49).

Getting There & Around

Either a bus or a train leaves Skagen Station for Frederikshavn (Dkr50) about once an hour. The seasonal Skagerakkeren bus (No 99) runs half a dozen times daily between Hirtshals and Skagen (Dkr40, 1½ hours) from mid-June to mid-August. The same bus continues on to Hjørring and Løkken.

Cycling is an excellent way of exploring Skagen and the surrounding area. **Skagen Cykeludlejning** (☎ 98 44 10 70; Banegårdsplassen) rents bicycles for Dkr85 a day (Dkr200 deposit) and has a stand on the western side of the train station and at the harbour.

HIRTSHALS

pop 7000

Hirtshals' breezy, friendly character reflects that of its commercial fishing harbour and ferry terminal. The seaward end of Nørregade opens out into a wide, airy space, Den Grønne Plads, the 'Green Square' that overlooks the fishing harbour and its tiers of blue-hulled boats. There is a **tourist office** (☎ 98 94 22 20; www.visithirtshals.com; Nørregade 40; ☹ 9.30am-3.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat mid-Jun-Aug, 10am-3pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat Sep-mid-Jun).

Hirtshals Hostel (☎ 98 94 12 48; www.danhostelnoord.dk/hirtshals; Kystvejen 53; dm/s/d Dkr150/370/420; ☹ Mar-Nov) is a basic place in a great location just over the road from the beach 1km southwest of the centre.

There are cafés and a good bakery at the northern end of Hjørringgade, and a couple of pizza and kebab places on Nørregade.

From May to September a **bus** (☎ 70 13 14 15) from Hirtshals to Hjørring (Dkr24) stops en route at Tornby Strand six times a day.

Hirtshals' main train station is 500m south of the ferry harbour, but there's also a stop near the Color Line terminal. The railway connects Hirtshals with Hjørring (Dkr24), 20 minutes to the south. Trains run at least hourly. From Hjørring you can take a DSB train to Aalborg (Dkr72) or Frederikshavn (Dkr48).

Color Line (☎ 99 56 20 00) runs year-round ferries to the Norwegian ports of Larvik (6½ hours, twice daily) from May to September and Kristiansand (2½ hours, twice daily). Fares on both routes range from Dkr180 midweek in the low season to Dkr420 on summer weekends for passengers.

RIBE

The charming, crooked cobblestone streets of Ribe, in southern Denmark, date from 869, making it one of Scandinavia's oldest towns.

And it shows. It is a delightful confection of half-timbered, 16th-century houses, clear-flowing streams and water meadows. Almost everything, including the hostel and train station, is within 10 minutes' walk of Torvet, the town square, which is dominated by the huge Romanesque cathedral. The **tourist office** (☎ 75 42 15 00; www.ribetourist.dk; Torvet 3; ☹ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat, 10am-2pm Sun Jul & Aug, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Apr-Jun & Sep-Oct, also 10am-1pm Sat Apr-Jun & Sep-Dec), opposite, hands out *Sommer I Ribe*, a good events magazine.

There are trains from Esbjerg to Ribe (Dkr65, 40 minutes, hourly).

Sights

Ribe Domkirke (☎ 75 42 06 19; Torvet; admission Dkr12) The cathedral boasts a variety of styles from Romanesque to Gothic. Its monumental presence is literally sunk into the heart of Ribe. The highlight is the climb up the steeple for breathtaking views over the surrounding country.

Ribes Vikinger (☎ 76 88 11 22; Odins Plads 1; admission Dkr50; ☹ 10am-6pm Jul & Aug, 10am-4pm Apr-Jun, Sep & Oct, 10am-4pm Tue-Sun Nov-Mar), a substantial museum opposite the train station, has archaeological displays of Ribe's Viking history, including a reconstructed marketplace and Viking ship, with lots of hands-on features.

Sleeping

Danhostel Ribe (☎ 75 42 06 20; www.danhostel.dk/ribe; Sankt Pedersgade 16; dm Dkr150, s Dkr315-488, d Dkr355-488; ☹) This modern, 140-bed hostel has friendly staff and a good, uncrowded location. The new rooms at the top are especially appealing and worth splashing out extra for.

Backhaus (☎ 75 42 11 01; fax 75 42 52 87; Grydergade 12; s Dkr250, d with private/shared bathroom Dkr750/500) The friendly Backhaus offers a homely, slightly old-fashioned comfort. The rooms at the top have pleasing rooftop views. The restaurant downstairs serves generous portions of home cooking such as fish platters (Dkr135) and pork schnitzel with béarnaise sauce (Dkr120).

DENMARK DIRECTORY

ACCOMMODATION Camping & Cabins

Denmark's 516 camping grounds typically charge from Dkr50 to Dkr65 per person. Many add about Dkr20 for the tent site. A

camping pass (Dkr80, available at any camping ground) is required and covers a family group with children under 18 for the season. If you do not have a seasonal pass you pay an extra Dkr20 a night for a temporary one.

Camping is restricted to camping grounds, or on private land if you have the owner's permission.

Hostels

Most of Denmark's 100 *vandrerhjem* (hostels) in its Danhostel association have private rooms in addition to dorms, making hostels an affordable and popular alternative to hotels (so book ahead in summer). Dorm beds cost Dkr110 to Dkr150, while private rooms range from Dkr250 to Dkr450 for singles and Dkr300 to Dkr475 for doubles. Blankets and pillows are provided, but not sheets; bring your own or hire them for Dkr50. Sleeping bags are not allowed. Breakfast costs Dkr50 or less and most hostels have self-catering kitchens too.

Travellers can buy international hostel cards in Denmark for Dkr160, or pay Dkr35 extra a night. **Danhostel** (☎ 33 31 36 12; www.danhostel.dk; Vesterbrogade 39, 1620 Copenhagen V) is the national Hostelling International office.

Hotels

Budget hotels start at around Dkr450/600 for singles/doubles. *Kros*, a name that implies 'country inn' but is more often the Danish version of a motel, are generally about a third cheaper than hotels. Both hotels and *kros* usually include an all-you-can-eat breakfast.

Rates listed in this chapter include all taxes and are for rooms with toilet and shower, unless otherwise specified.

ACTIVITIES

Cycling is a popular holiday activity in Denmark and there are thousands of kilometres of established cycling routes. Those around Bornholm, Funen and Møn, as well as the 440km Old Military Rd (Hærvejen) through central Jutland are among the most popular.

Dansk Cyklist Forbund (DCF; ☎ 33 32 31 21; www.dcf.dk; Rømersgade 7, 1362 Copenhagen K) publishes *Cykelferiekort*, a cycling map of the entire country, as well as more detailed regional cycling maps. DCF also publishes *Overnatning i det fri*, which lists hundreds of farmers who provide cyclists with a place to pitch a tent for Dkr15 a night.

Canoeing possibilities on Denmark's inland lakes, such as canoe touring between lakeside camp sites in Jutland's Lake District, are superb.

Denmark's remarkable coastline offers terrific windsurfing and kite-surfing possibilities. Good areas are along the northern coast of Zealand at places such as Smidstrup Strand, and in northwest Jutland.

BUSINESS HOURS

Restaurant hours vary wildly, but cafés operate almost around the clock from breakfast until midnight or beyond at weekends when many turn into lively bars.

Banks ☹ 9.30am-4pm Mon-Fri (to 6pm Thu)

Business hours ☹ 9am-4pm Mon-Fri

Shops ☹ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri & to 2pm Sat

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

Embassies & Consulates in Denmark

Unless otherwise stated, all these are in Copenhagen:

Australia (☎ 70 26 36 76; www.denmark.embassy.gov.au; Dampfægevej 26)

Canada (☎ 33 48 32 00; www.canada.dk; Kristen Bernikows Gade 1)

Germany (☎ 35 45 99 00; www.kopenhagen.diplo.de; Stockholmsgade 57)

Ireland (☎ 35 42 32 33; Østbanegade 21)

Norway (☎ 33 14 01 24; www.norsk.dk; Amaliegade 39)

Poland (☎ 39 46 77 00; www.ambpol.dk; Richelius Allé 12, Hellerup)

Sweden (☎ 33 36 03 70; www.sverigesambassad.dk; Sankt Annæ Plads 15A)

UK (☎ 35 44 52 00; www.britisheembassy.dk; Kastelsvej 36-40)

USA (☎ 33 41 71 00; www.usembassy.dk; Dag Hammarskjølds Allé 24)

Danish Embassies & Consulates Abroad

Australia (☎ 03-9866 1242; Suite 3, 492 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne, VIC 3004)

Canada (☎ 613-562 1811; www.danish-embassy-canada.com; 47 Clarence St, Suite 450, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9K1)

Finland (☎ 09-684 1050; www.ambhelsingfors.um.dk; Centralgatan 1A, 00101 Helsinki)

Germany (☎ 030-5050 20 00; www.daenemark.org; Rauchstrasse 1, 10787 Berlin)

Ireland (☎ 01-475 6404; www.ambdublin.um.dk; 121 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2)

Netherlands (☎ 070-302 59 59; www.danishembassy.nl; Koninginnegracht 30, 2514 Den Haag)

New Zealand (☎ 09-537 3099; 273 Bleakhouse Rd, Howick, PO Box 619, 1015 Auckland)

Norway (☎ 22 54 08 00; www.amboslo.um.dk; Olav Kyrres Gate 7, 0244 Oslo)

Sweden (☎ 0840-67500; www.ambstockholm.um.dk; Jakobs Torg 1, 11186 Stockholm)

UK (☎ 020-7333 0200; www.ambblondon.um.dk/en; 55 Sloane St, London SW1X 9SR)

USA (☎ 202-234-4300; www.denmarkemb.org; 3200 Whitehaven St NW, Washington, DC 20008)

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Midsummer's Eve Begins with bonfires in late June, and Denmark buzzes with outdoor activity throughout the summer. Main attractions are the 180 music festivals that run almost nonstop throughout the country.

Roskilde rock festival (last weekend in June) This internationally acclaimed festival presents big international names; a single admission fee includes tent space and entry to all concerts.

Copenhagen Jazz Festival (early July) This massive 10-day festival holds outdoor concerts and numerous performances in clubs and venues all around the city.

Folk festivals In Skagen near the end of June and in Tønder in late August.

Århus Festival (early September) A 10-day event featuring an array of music and multicultural events.

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

Denmark is a popular destination for gay and lesbian travellers. Copenhagen in particular has an active, open gay community and lots of nightlife options. A good English-language website with links to gay organisations is www.copenhagen-gay-life.dk.

HOLIDAYS

Summer school holidays begin around 20 June and finish around 10 August. Many Danes go on holiday during the first three weeks of July. Public holidays observed in Denmark:

New Year's Day 1 January

Maunder Thursday Thursday before Easter

Easter (Friday to Monday inclusive) March/April

Common Prayer Day Fourth Friday after Easter

Ascension Day Fifth Thursday after Easter

Whit Sunday Fifth Sunday after Easter

Whit Monday Fifth Monday after Easter

Constitution Day 5 June

Christmas Eve 24 December (from noon)

Christmas Day 25 December

LEGAL MATTERS

All forms of cannabis and harder drugs are illegal. If you are arrested for any offence in Denmark, you can be held up to 24 hours before appearing in court. You have a right to

know the charges against you and a right to a lawyer. You are not obliged to answer police questions before speaking to a lawyer.

You can get free legal advice on your rights from the EU legal-aid organisation **EURO-JUS** (☎ 33 14 41 40; 📧 9am-6pm Mon-Thu, 9am-4.30pm Fri). Free legal advice clinics can be found in more than 90 places across Denmark. The service is organised by the Danish bar, **Det Danske Advokatsamfund** (☎ 38 38 36 38, 33 96 97 98).

MONEY

Credit Cards

All major credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout Denmark, although some shops impose a surcharge of up to 5% if you use them, even in the case of debit cards.

The Euro

Although Denmark remains outside the euro zone, euros are widely accepted, except by government institutions and in more remote areas.

Tippling & Bargaining

Restaurant bills and taxi fares include service charges in the quoted prices and further tipping is generally unnecessary. Bargaining is not a common practice in Denmark.

VAT

The Danish sales tax is a steep 25%, although non-EU residents can claim back between 14% and 19% of the price of items they are taking home which cost over Dkr300. For further details go to www.globalrefund.com.

POST

Denmark has an efficient postal system. Most post offices are open 9am or 10am to 5pm or 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am or 10am to noon or 2pm on Saturday.

TELEPHONE

There are no regional country codes. It costs Dkr3 to make a local call at coin phones. You get about twice as much calling time for your money on domestic calls made between 7.30pm and 8am and all day on Sunday. Phonecards (Dkr30 to Dkr100) can be bought at post offices and newspaper kiosks.

VISAS

Citizens of the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand don't need a visa for a stay of less than three months. Denmark is part of the Schengen visa zone. If you wish to apply for a visa make sure to do so at least three months in advance of your planned arrival.