

# Denmark

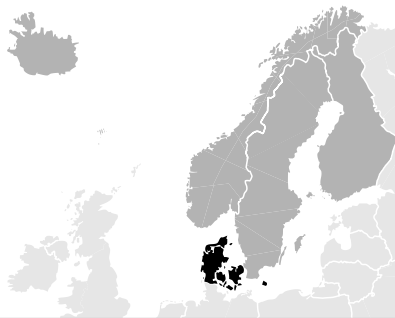
Welcome to the happiest nation on earth. No really, it's official: according to a global survey by something called the World Database of Happiness (we promise we're not making it up), the Danes are the most contented folk on earth.

It's not hard to see why. Denmark (Danmark) is well-ordered, vastly wealthy and its general well-being won't take much time to rub off on the visitor. Although smaller than its neighbours and lacking their wild natural grandeur, its appeal lies in a compelling mix of lively, modern cities, historic towns, neatly ordered farmland, graceful beech woods and sleepy islands. These islands are full of medieval churches, Renaissance castles and pretty harbours.

The biggest drawcard is Copenhagen, Scandinavia's largest and most cosmopolitan capital. It is home to superb museums, a vibrant cultural life and a burgeoning bar, café and restaurant scene. The regional capitals hold their own too: Århus and Odense are sophisticated and friendly university cities, brimming with art, music and lively nightlife. Beyond the cities lie treasures include haunting Neolithic burial chambers; the bodies of well-preserved Iron Age people exhumed from their slumber in peat bogs; and atmospheric Viking ruins that reflect the country's dramatic history and once mighty martial and maritime prowess. The sea remains a central part of Denmark's allure. Coastal attractions are numerous, including kilometres of white-sand beaches and a wealth of archipelagos and islands, including magical Bornholm, stuck out in the middle of the Baltic.

## FAST FACTS

- **Area** 43,075 sq km
- **Capital** Copenhagen
- **Currency** Danish krone; €1 = Dkr7.45; US\$1 = Dkr5.91; UK£1 = Dkr10.82; \$A1 = Dkr4.42; CA\$1 = Dkr4.88; NZ\$1 = Dkr4.14; ¥100 = Dkr5.73
- **Famous for** Hans Christian Andersen, the Little Mermaid, bacon, Carlsberg beer, marauding Vikings
- **Official Language** Danish
- **Phrases** *jah/nie* (yes/no), *tak* (thanks), *farvel* (goodbye), *skål* (cheers)
- **Population** 5.45 million
- **Telephone Codes** country code ☎ 45; international access code ☎ 00
- **Visa** Not required for citizens of the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand (see p111)



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Soak up the cosmopolitan lifestyle of **Copenhagen** (p40), packed with historical interest, cool cafés, cutting edge-design shopping, cosy little bars and lively clubs.
- Sample the cultural, artistic and historical treasures as well as the lively nightlife of fashionable **Århus** (p82).
- Escape to empty beaches and extensive forests, and relax beside some picture-postcard ports on the idyllic island of **Bornholm** (p67).
- Canoe, cycle and generally take it easy in Jutland's low-key but delightful **Lake District** (p90).
- Watch angry seas collide above luminous **Skagen** (p99), on Denmark's slender northern tip.

## ITINERARIES

- **One week** You'll need three days to see the best of the capital, then take a day trip by train to North Zealand's castles or historic Roskilde. Then it's a toss up between the west in Jutland taking in Århus and the north, or east far out to sea on sleepy Bornholm.
- **Two weeks** Follow the one-week route from the capital to Zealand, but go for an extended Jutland option taking in Ribe and the Lake District. Firstly, stop off on Funen, to see Odense and the island's pretty southern towns and the idyllic island of Ærø.

## CLIMATE & WHEN TO GO

Compared to its Scandinavian neighbours Denmark has a relatively mild climate. May and June can be a delightful time to visit: the countryside is a rich green and you'll beat the rush of summer tourists (although rain and chill winds can never be ruled out).

July to August is peak tourist season with many open-air concerts, lots of street activity and beach basking. Other advantages to visiting in midsummer include longer opening hours at sightseeing attractions and potential savings on accommodation, as some business-oriented hotels drop their rates. Autumn is pleasant and can be a visual feast of golden colours in wooded areas. Winter is cold, dark and either wet or freezing.

## HOW MUCH?

- **Danish pastry** Dkr9
- **Loaf of bread** Dkr12
- **Bottle of wine (takeaway)** Dkr55
- **Royal Copenhagen Porcelain souvenir mug** Dkr590
- **Cappuccino** Dkr25

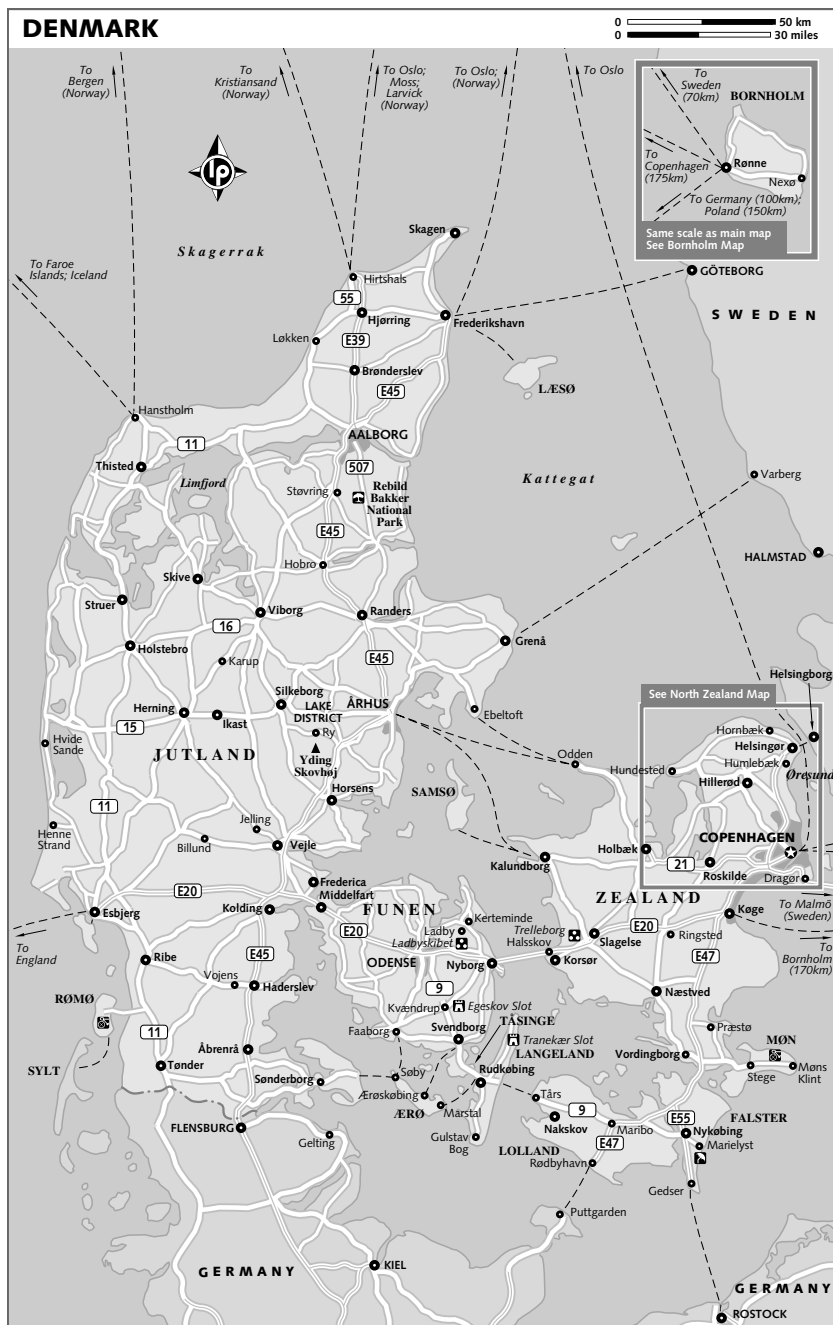
## LONELY PLANET INDEX

- **1L of petrol** Dkr9
- **1L bottle of water** Dkr12
- **Pint of Pilsner beer** Dkr30
- **Souvenir T-shirt** Dkr100
- **Smørrebrød (open sandwich)** Dkr30-70

## HISTORY

Denmark was the ancient heart of Scandinavia: prehistoric hunter-gatherers from central and southern Europe moved north to what are now Jutland and Funen as the ice sheets retreated. Neolithic people settled on this new landscape in 4000 BC and by 500 BC Iron Age farms and trading centres were well established.

Only the haunting remnants of burial chambers and vestigial fortifications survive from prehistory. Some of the best are on the island of Møn (see p65). 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, warriors led by 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. Centuries worth of Danish kings and queens are laid to rest in sarcophagi on dramatic display at Roskilde Cathedral (p62). Gorm's son, Harald Bluetooth, completed the conquest of Denmark and spearheaded the conversion of the Danes to Christianity; his story and his legacy is well showcased in the tiny, historical hamlet of Jelling (p89). Successive Danish kings sent their subjects to row their longboats to England and conquer most of the Baltic region. They



were accomplished fighters, swordsmiths, shipbuilders and sailors, qualities well-illustrated at the excellent Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde (p62).

In 1397 Margrethe I of Denmark established a union between Denmark, Norway and Sweden to counter the influence of the powerful Hanseatic League that had come to dominate the region's trade. Sweden withdrew from the union in 1523 and over the next few hundred years Denmark and Sweden fought numerous border skirmishes and a few fully fledged wars, largely over control of the Baltic Sea. Norway remained under Danish rule until 1814.

In the 16th century the Reformation swept through the country, accompanied by church burnings and civil warfare. The fighting ended in 1536, the Catholic Church was ousted and the Danish Lutheran Church headed by the monarchy established.

Denmark's 'Golden Age' was under Christian IV (1588–1648), with Renaissance cities, castles and fortresses flourishing throughout his kingdom. A superb example is Egeskov (p78) on Funen. In 1625 Christian IV, hoping to neutralise Swedish expansion, entered an ill-advised and protracted struggle known as the Thirty Years' War. The Swedes triumphed and won large chunks of Danish territory.

Literature, the arts, philosophy and populist ideas flourished in the 1830s, and Europe's 'Year of Revolutions' in 1848 helped inspire a democratic movement in Denmark, which overnight and in typically orderly Danish fashion adopted male suffrage and a constitution on 5 June 1849, forcing King Frederik VII to relinquish most of his power and become Denmark's first constitutional monarch. Denmark lost the Schleswig and Holstein regions to Germany in 1864.

Denmark remained neutral throughout WWI and also declared its neutrality at the outbreak of WWII. Nevertheless, on 9 April 1940, an unfortified Denmark faced either a quick surrender or a full-scale invasion by German troops massed along its border. The Danish government settled for the former, in return for an assurance that the Nazis would allow the Danes a degree of autonomy. For three years the Danes managed to walk a thin line, running their own internal affairs under Nazi supervision, until in August 1943 the Germans took outright

control. The Danish Resistance movement mushroomed and 7,000 Jewish Danes were smuggled into neutral Sweden.

Although Soviet forces heavily bombed the island of Bornholm, the rest of Denmark emerged from WWII relatively unscathed. Postwar Social Democrat governments introduced a comprehensive social welfare state in the postwar period, and Denmark provides its citizens with extensive cradle-to-grave social security.

Denmark joined NATO in 1949 and the European Community, now the EU, in 1973. The Danes offer tepid support for an expanding EU. Many fear losing local control to a European bureaucracy dominated by stronger nations. In 1993 they narrowly voted to accept the Maastricht Treaty, which established the terms of a European economic and political union, only after being granted exemptions from common-defence and single-currency provisions. They also voted not to adopt the euro in 2000.

In 2004 the already popular and much-loved royal family gave Danes a reason to celebrate its enduring appeal when the country's most eligible bachelor Crown Prince Frederik married Australian Mary Donaldson in a hugely popular and exhaustively covered fairy-tale wedding.

It has not all been fairytales though. Accustomed to being a blameless paragon of international virtue, Denmark has recently experienced criticism from some unusual quarters. Critics say its increasingly tough immigration laws are proof of creeping xenophobia and racism, earning it a rebuke from the European Council.

In 2006 Danes woke up to find themselves even less popular and widely vilified by Muslims (some of their embassies were the target of fire bombings). The cause? A cartoon by a Danish illustrator depicting the Prophet Mohammed (any image of whom is considered offensive by most Muslims) published in newspapers all over Europe.

## PEOPLE

Danes are refreshingly self-effacing and reserved about themselves and their achievements. It springs from a long-standing belief among Danes that no-one should think of him- or herself as being better than the rest and that you should always keep your feet firmly on the ground.

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

Denmark's population is about 5.3 million, with 70% living in urban areas, 1.5 million of them in Copenhagen. Foreign nationals account for 7.8% of Denmark's population.

## RELIGION

About 90% of Danes belong to the state-supported National Church of Denmark, an Evangelical Lutheran denomination, but less than 5% of the population are regular churchgoers.

## ARTS Literature

Hans Christian Andersen has long loomed large over Denmark's literary landscape, (see the boxed text, p75). Other notable literary Danes include religious philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, whose writings were a forerunner of existentialism, and Karen Blixen, who penned *Out of Africa* and *Babette's Feast*. One of Denmark's foremost contemporary authors is Peter Høeg, who had international success with his suspense mystery, *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow*.

## Architecture & Design

Denmark is a leader in industrial design, with a style marked by cool, clean lines applied to everything from architecture to silverware and furniture (during your stay you'll more than likely park yourself on a chair designed by Arne Jacobsen, the godfather of Danish design). Denmark has produced a number of leading 20th-century architects, including Jørn Utzon who designed Australia's Sydney Opera House as well as the concert hall in Esbjerg (p102). The controversial new Copenhagen Opera House is the latest bold (some say grotesque) Danish design statement.

## Cinema & TV

*Babette's Feast*, a film adaptation of Blixen's novel by Danish film director Gabriel Axel, won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 1988. The following year, director

Bille August won an Academy Award and the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or for *Pelle the Conqueror*, adapted from the novel by Danish author Martin Andersen Nexø. Gudhjem harbour (p70) in Bornholm was used as a location for the film. In 1997 Bille August directed the film *Smilla's Sense of Snow*, an adaptation of Peter Høeg's novel. In 2000 Danish director and maverick Lars von Trier won the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or for his film *Dancer in the Dark*. Nicolas Winding Refn is one of the upcoming Danish directors, who has produced the *Pusher* trilogy about Copenhagen's underworld.

## Visual Arts

Before the 19th century Danish art was mainly formal portraiture, exemplified by the works of Jens Juel (1745–1802). A 'Golden Age' ushered in the 19th century with such fine painters as Wilhelm Eckersberg (1783–1853) and major sculptors such as Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770–1844).

Later in the century the 'Skagen School' evolved from the movement towards outdoor painting of scenes from working life, especially of fishing communities on the northern coasts of Jutland and Zealand. Much of it is exhibited at the Skagens Museum (p99). Leading exponents of the 'Skagen School' were PS Krøyer and Michael and Anna Ancher. In the mid-20th century, a vigorous modernist school of Danish painting emerged, of which Asger Jorn (1914–73) was a leading exponent. Much of his work is on display at the art museum in Silkeborg (p90).

Denmark's towns and cities contain a vibrant selection of home-grown and international contemporary art; even the smallest towns can surprise. Two of the best art museums and galleries outside the capital are the sprawling Brandts Klædefabrik (p73) in Odense and the Aros (p83) gallery in Århus.

## Theatre & Dance

The Royal Danish Ballet, which performs in Copenhagen's **Royal Theatre** (☎ 3369 6969; Kongens Nytorv) from autumn to spring, is regarded as northern Europe's finest. The Royal Theatre is also the venue for the Royal Orchestra, Royal Opera and various theatrical performances.

## ENVIRONMENT

The ecoconscious 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 the wind turbines dotted all over the country and it is the world's largest exporter of these turbines. Keen users of their own pedal power too, Danes are also increasingly interested in sourcing sustainable, organic and fair-trade food and goods, so it's an easy country in which to be environmentally responsible.

## The Land

The Danish landmass has been heavily exploited by agriculture and 70% of its land is farmed mainly for barley and root crops, used to feed livestock. With almost 20% of farmland near sea level, many environmentally sensitive wetlands were made arable by draining. EU quotas now make farming such land less viable, and the Danish government has initiated an ambitious plan to restore the wetlands and re-establish marshes and streams throughout the country.

## Wildlife

Still commonly seen in Denmark are wild hare, deer and many species of birds, including magpies, coots, swans and ducks. Returning the wetlands should help endangered species such as the freshwater otter make a comeback.

## FOOD & DRINK Staples & Specialities

You could live happily and inexpensively for days on the twin Danish delights of smørrebrød and *wienerbrød*. Nothing epitomises Danish food more than smørrebrød (literally 'buttered bread'), an open-faced sandwich that ranges from very basic fare to some elaborate sculptural creations. Typically, it's a slice of rye bread topped by roast beef, tiny shrimps, roast pork or fish fillet and various garnishes.

The butter-rich pastry known worldwide as a 'Danish' is called *wienerbrød* in Denmark, and nearly every second street corner has a bakery with mouth-watering varieties that go exceptionally well with a cup of coffee.

Typical Danish dishes include *frikadeller* (minced pork meatballs), *kogt torsk* (poached

cod in mustard sauce), *flæskesteg* (roast pork with crackling), *hvid labskovs* (beef and potato stew) and *hakkebøf* (beefburger with fried onions). Then there's the *koldt bord*, a buffet-style spread of cold foods, including herring dishes, salads, cold cuts, smoked fish and cheeses. Smoked fish (particularly abundant and tasty on Bornholm), pickled herring and fried beef patties (served with a raw egg yolk, pickles and horseradish) are other common specialities.

## Where to Eat & Drink

To enjoy a day sipping coffee, having a light lunch, devouring a hearty evening meal or indulging in a night of revelry, you may not have to stir from your seat in many of Denmark's excellent bar/café/restaurant hybrids which can buzz all day and night (in the main cities and towns at least).

Gourmets will be happy in Denmark, where there's an increasingly good (albeit pricey) choice of fine dining places. Copenhagen remains the culinary jewel in Denmark's crown though.

If you're on a tighter budget, never fear. The standard of food in many café/restaurants is impressively high and if you want to try the best, consider splashing out at the top-end places for lunch, when menus and courses are markedly cheaper.

The cheapest restaurant food is generally pizza and pasta; you can eat your fill for about Dkr55 at lunch, Dkr75 at dinner. *Dagens ret* (daily special) is usually the best deal on the menu, while the *børn* menu is for children.

Breakfast is usually a light continental buffet with white bread or bagels and a selection of meats or cheeses.

The Danes have increasingly taken to other world cuisines in recent years, including Thai, Japanese and Vietnamese food (most notably in Copenhagen).

## Drinks

Denmark's Carlsberg and Tuborg lagers and Pilsners are ubiquitous. The most popular spirit in Denmark is caraway-spiced Aalborg aquavit; it's drunk straight down as a shot, followed by a chaser of beer. *Øl* (beer), *vin* (wine) and spirits are reasonably cheap compared to those in other Scandinavian countries. There are a few good microbreweries and pubs selling real ale in Denmark.

# 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.

Copenhagen is a 1000-year-old city of cobbled squares and copper spires, home to the oldest monarchy in the world and fond of its traditions but, equally, it is a cutting-edge design capital with funky shops at every turn. Striking, modern glass and granite buildings house world-class museums of art and history such as Nationalmuseet (the National Museum) and Statens Museum for Kunst (the National Gallery), both of which now have free admission.

Once you have sated your culture lust, the city has an enticing array of cafés, restaurants and music venues where the locals retire for their dose of 'hygge', that untranslatable 'cosiness' that the Danes are so good at fostering. Candles burn day and night, winter and summer and you are never too far from an open fire and a glass of wine.

And just when you think you've got to know Copenhagen, you discover there are beautiful sandy beaches, wooded parks and elegant lakes just minutes away.

## HISTORY

For more millennia than anyone can be sure of, Copenhagen was a fisherman's settlement on the shores of what we now call the Øresund Straits, the narrow belt of water between Denmark and Sweden.

Wendish pirates, who marauded the coast in the 12th century, prompted the locals, led by Bishop Absalon, to build a fort

on a small island in the harbour – where the modern day Danish parliament stands on Slotsholmen (see p45); you can still see the foundations of the original fort in the cellar museum.

The city of København ('købe' means 'to buy', 'havn' is 'harbour') gradually grew to the north of Slotsholmen, where the restaurants of Gammel Strand now stand, founded on the wealth that came from the herring caught by the local fishermen; but it wasn't until the 15th century that Copenhagen took over as the capital of Denmark from Roskilde.

Denmark's great Renaissance king, Christian IV (1588–1648), transformed Copenhagen into an impressive capital. From there he controlled much of Scandinavia – with numerous ambitious buildings including Rosenborg Slot (p44) and the Rundetårn (p45). Eventually Christian IV brought the country to its knees with overspending and reckless foreign forays.

By the early 19th century the once mighty Danish empire was greatly diminished. Twice in the early 1800s the British navy bombarded the city but its people bounced back with a cultural 'Golden Age', led by the likes of Hans Christian Andersen and Søren Kierkegaard.

## ORIENTATION

Whether travellers land at Copenhagen airport, just 12 minutes away 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). Just across the street, to the east of the station's main entrance, is Denmark's number one tourist attraction, Tivoli Gardens; beyond that is the town hall square (Rådhuspladsen), from where the

city's main shopping street, Strøget (actually several connecting streets and squares), leads to the city's other main square, Kongens Nytorv. From here the ever-bustling quayside of Nyhavn, with its countless cafés, bars and restaurants, leads to the harbour.

## INFORMATION

### Bookshops

**Nordisk Korthandel** (www.scanmaps.dk; Studiestræde 26-30; ☎ 10.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-3pm Sat) Offers a superb but pricey collection of travel guides and maps. Foreign newspapers are available at the Central Station and a few newsstands on Strøget.

### Discount Cards

**Copenhagen Card** (24hr card adult/child Dkr199/129, 72hr card Dkr429/249, adult card covers 2 children under 10yr) Secures unlimited travel on buses and trains around Copenhagen and North Zealand, and on the city's waterbuses. It also gives free or discounted admission to 60 of the region's museums and attractions. Cards are sold at the Wonderful Copenhagen tourist office, Central Station, major Danske Statsbaner (DSB) stations and at many hotels, camping grounds and hostels. If you want to tick off a lot of sights in a few days this card can be a real bargain but you should be aware that several of the city's attractions are either free or at least free one day of the week. Grab the *Copenhagen Card* guide from the tourist office, which lists the free travel, admission and discounts available or visit [www.visitcopenhagen.dk](http://www.visitcopenhagen.dk) for more information.

### Internet Access

**Boomtown** (☎ 33 32 10 32; www.boomtown.net; Axel-torv 1-3; per hr Dkr30; ☎ 24hr) There's wi-fi access too.  
**Hovedbiblioteket** (☎ 33 73 60 60; 15 Krystalgade; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat) A public library offering free internet access on one of four computers for one hour, but you must book a slot or wait.  
**Use It** (☎ 33 73 06 20; Rådhusstræde 13; ☎ 9am-7pm daily during summer; closed Sat & Sun during winter) Information centre for budget travellers that offers free internet access, within reasonable time constraints. For more on Use It, see Tourist Information.

### Laundry

**Istedgades Møntvask** (Istedgade 45; wash & dry 10kg load Dkr40; ☎ 7am-9pm)

### Left Luggage

**Central Station** (per 24hr small/large locker Dkr25/35, maximum 72hr; ☎ 5.30am-1.00am Mon-Sat, 6am-1am Sun) Lockers are in the lower level near the Reventlows-gade exit.

**Use It** (☎ 33 73 06 20; www.useit.dk; Rådhusstræde 13; ☎ 9am-7pm mid-Jun–mid-Sep; 11am-4pm Mon-Wed, to 6pm Thu, to 2pm Fri mid-Sep–mid-Jun) Available for storing luggage during the day.

### Medical Services

**Frederiksberg Hospital** (☎ 38 16 38 16; Nordre Fasanvej 57) West of the city centre, has a 24-hour emergency ward.  
**Steno Apotek** (Vesterbrogade 6c; ☎ 24hr) Pharmacy opposite Central Station.

### Money

Banks, all of which charge transaction fees, are found throughout the city centre. Banks in the airport arrival and transit halls are open 6am to 10pm daily.

The **Forex exchange booth** (Central Station; ☎ 7am-9pm) has the lowest fees but you will find other exchange shops all along Strøget.

You'll find 24-hour, cash-exchange ATMs that exchange all major foreign currencies for Danish kroner, minus a hefty Dkr25 to Dkr30 fee, at **Den Danske Bank** (Central Station) and **Nordea** (Axeltorv).

### Post

**Central Station Post Office** (☎ 8am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun)  
**Post Office** (Købmagergade 33; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 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, to 6pm Thu, to 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, offers free internet use and provides lots of useful information. *Playtime* is Use It's free annual guide to the city and surroundings.

**Wonderful Copenhagen** (☎ 70 22 24 42; www.wonderfulcopenhagen.dk; Vesterbrogade 4a; ☎ 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat Jan-Apr & Sep-Dec, 9am-6pm Mon-Sat May-Jun, to 8pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun Jul-Aug) This tourist information centre distributes the informative *Tourist in Copenhagen* as well as *Copenhagen This Week*, a free city map, and brochures covering all the regions of Denmark.

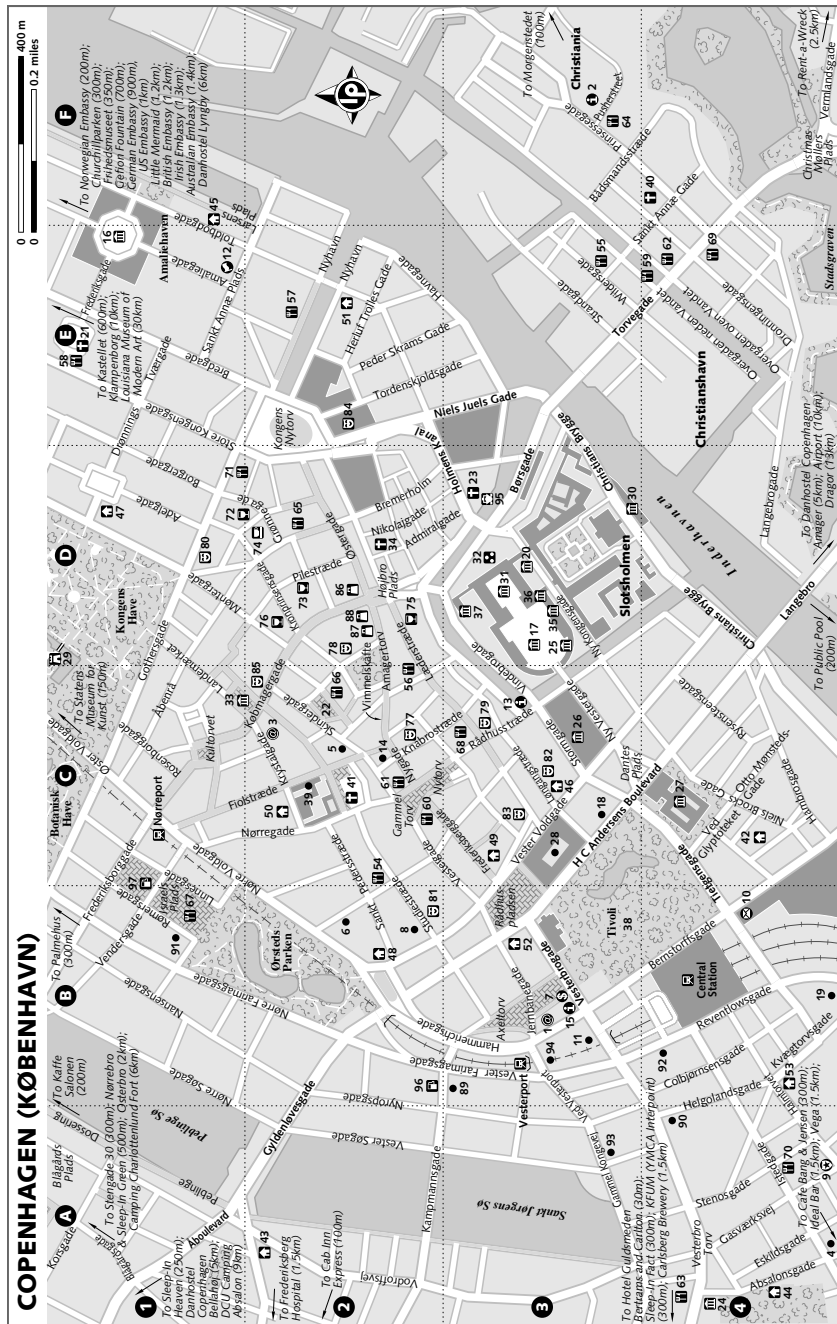
### Travel Agencies

**Kilroy Travels** (☎ 33 11 00 44; www.kilroytravels.com; Skindergade 28; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat)  
**Wasteels** (☎ 33 14 46 33; Skoubogade 6; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-noon Sat)

## COPENHAGEN IN TWO DAYS

Soaking up the cool, casual vibe of the city centre by some easy sightseeing but with ample time for a leisurely smørrebrød lunch and some breaks for drinks in the **city-square cafés** (p50) is a good way to get a feel for Copenhagen's charm. In summer **Tivoli Gardens** (p43) is a good evening destination, especially during the Friday evening concerts.

On the second day choose between the **Nationalmuseet** (p44) and **Statens Museum for Kunst** (p44) and from the many sights around **Slotsholmen** (p45), and then either stroll around the alternative enclave of **Christiania** (p47) or round off the day with a relaxing **canal tour** (p48). In the evening, dine in the centre or strike out for the cafés, restaurants and bars of **Vesterbro** (p51).



COPENHAGEN (KØBENHAVN)

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SIGHTS

Allow at least three days to take in the best of Copenhagen's museums and sights, plus more time if you plan to explore some of its excellent shops. Copenhagen has stunning art, sculpture and history museums as well as myriad specialised, intriguing and just plain weird museums covering everything from erotica to porcelain, and there's probably some erotic porcelain to be found as well. For full details on opening times, addresses and admission fees pick up a copy of *Copenhagen This Week*.

Tivoli

Copenhagen's historic amusement park (📍 33 15 10 01; www.tivoli.dk in Danish; adult/child Dkr75/35; 🕒 11am-11pm Sat-Sun, 11am-1am Fri mid-Apr-mid-Jun & mid-Aug-mid-Sep, 11am-midnight Sun-Thu, 11am Fri & Sat mid-Jun-mid-Aug) has been Denmark's number one tourist attraction pretty much since the day it opened over 160 years ago. At first glance, visitors more used to the

scale and glitz of Disneyland might wonder what the fuss is about, but Tivoli Gardens has a unique atmosphere and no-one can deny its appeal, particularly after dark when its wonderful illuminations work their magic. The gardens have an innocent, old-fashioned charm. There are flower beds, food pavilions, amusement rides, carnival games and various stage shows. The newest ride is Himmelskibe, an 80m-high carousel; the Demon, a corkscrewing roller coaster, and the 'dead drop' Golden Tower are two more high-adrenaline, stomach-lurching experiences. It's well worth checking out the free programme of Friday concerts (included in admission prices), with mostly Danish bands but occasionally more widely known artists such as Jamie Cullum or Sting. Fireworks light up the skies at 11.45pm on Saturday. Tivoli Gardens also opens for a short period in the run up to Christmas but with fewer rides and more schmaltz.

## Nationalmuseet

For a whistle-stop tour through the history of Denmark, nothing can beat the **Nationalmuseet** (National Museum; ☎ 33 13 44 11; www.natmus.dk; Ny Vestergade 10; admission free; ☞ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun): here you will find 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. Highlights include Bronze Age burial remains in oak coffins and various examples of *lur* (musical horns) that were used for ceremony and communication, ancient rune stones, a golden sun chariot, the silver Gundestrup cauldron and Viking weaponry. But the displays don't stop with the Vikings; there are excellent collections covering the Middle Ages and Renaissance period too, plus delightful Egyptian and classical antiquities, as well as frequently changing special exhibitions. There's even a small **Children's Museum**.

## Rosenborg Slot

This 17th-century **castle** (☎ 33 15 32 86; www.rosenborgslot.dk; adult/child Dkr65/free; ☞ 10am-4pm May & Sep, to 5pm Jun-Aug, 11am-3pm Oct, to 2pm Tue-Sun Nov-Apr), built by Christian IV in the 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 in the castle basement, which is home to the Danish crown jewels.

## Statens Museum for Kunst

Denmark's national **gallery** (☎ 33 74 84 94; www.smk.dk; Sølgade 48-50; admission free; ☞ 10am-5pm Tue & Thu-Sun, to 8pm Wed) houses an impressive collection of works from Danish artists, particularly those of the 19th-century 'Golden Age' such as Hammershøj and Eckersberg, in the original building; while the dramatic glass extension contains more modern works from international names like Picasso and Munch as well as more contemporary Danish artists such as Per Kirkeby, Søren Jensen, Michael Ancher, Richard Mortensen and CW Eckersberg.

## Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek

This splendid **museum** (☎ 33 41 81 41; www.glyptoteket.dk; Dantes Plads 7, HC Andersens Blvd; adult/child Dkr50/free, Wed & Sun free; ☞ 10am-4pm Tue-Sun), occupying a grand period building near Tivoli Gardens, has now received a thorough restoration programme. The museum's impressive collection features Etruscan

art, 18th- and 19th-century paintings from France and Denmark (the Gauguins are particularly notable) and sculpture spanning five millennia (including over 30 works by Rodin). At its heart is a beautiful tropical winter garden with a café.

## Danish Design Center

Denmark's **temple to design** (☎ 33 69 33 69; www.ddc.dk; HC Andersens Blvd 27; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Tue & Thu-Fri, to 9pm Wed, 11am-4pm Sat & Sun; adult/child Dkr40/free, admission free Weds after 5pm) has an excellent permanent exhibition of local design through the decades in the basement and a regularly changing temporary exhibition on the ground floor.

## Slotsholmen

An island separated from the city centre by a moat-like canal on three sides and the harbour on the other side, Slotsholmen is the site of **Christiansborg Palace** (☎ 33 92 64 92) home to Denmark's parliament. There are many sites on the island, including a **theatre museum**, a museum housing the **royal coaches**, and a magnificent **Tøjhusmuseet** (armoury museum), but the grandest is the **Slots-og Ejendomstyrelsen** (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, closed on Mondays during the winter) are the excavated foundations of Bishop Absalon's original castle of 1167 and of its successor, Copenhagen Slot. They can be visited in the basement of the present palace.

**Thorvaldsens Museum** (☎ 33 32 15 32; Bertel Thorvaldsens Plads; adult/child Dkr20/free; admission 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 manu-

scripts. 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; Købmagergade 52; www.rundetarn.dk; 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-high spiral walkway is a hall with changing exhibits. The tower houses the oldest functioning observatory in Europe and offers evening **astronomy programmes** (☞ 7-10pm Tue & Wed Sep-Dec, 1-4pm Sun Jun-Aug) and by day you may also be lucky enough to see a dramatic, live projection of the sun too.

## Latin Quarter

Also known as Pisserenden (which should need no translation), the historic university quarter is a grid of narrow streets and half timbered town houses to the north of Strøget.

Climb the stairs of the **University Library** (enter from Fiolstræde) to see one quirky remnant of the 1807 British bombardment of Copenhagen – a cannonball in five fragments and the object that it hit, a book titled *Defensor Pacis* (Defender of Peace).

Opposite the university is **Vor Frue Kirke** (☞ 8am-5pm, closed to viewing during services & concerts), Copenhagen's neoclassical cathedral. The building dates from 1829, but stands on the site of earlier churches. Inside are imposing neoclassical statues of Christ and the 12 apostles, the most acclaimed works of the 'Golden Age' sculptor, Bertel Thorvaldsen. A couple of blocks east of the cathedral is the pretty square of **Gråbrdrer Torv**, which has several medium-priced restaurants with outdoor seating. On the northern side of the Latin Quarter is **Kultorget**, a lively square where you'll almost certainly find impromptu street entertainment on sunny days, as well as beer gardens, flower stalls and produce stands.

## Gardens

The stretch of gardens along Øster Voldgade offers a refuge from the city traffic. **Kongens Have**, the large public park behind Rosenborg Slot, is a popular sunbathing spot.

### MY COPENHAGEN Michael Booth

I honestly can't think of anywhere I'd rather live than Copenhagen. I like the pace of life here; compared to London, things are much more relaxed and not so relentlessly commercial. The city centre is just so beautiful, with all those Dutch-style town houses and some really quite outrageous public buildings. And I don't just mean things like the new Opera House or the Black Diamond (part of the Royal Library): the Danes have been bonkers architects ever since King Christian built the Rundetårn and invited his friend the Czar of Russia to drive up the tower in his horse-drawn carriage. Check out the dragon's-tail spire of the old Børsen, the original stock exchange building, or the spiralling spire of Vor Frelsers Kirke.

Since I moved here the standard of food has really improved. Although traditional Danish food is tasty, it's also quite heavy but a whole wave of young Danish chefs are rediscovering great local ingredients, such as game, fish and berries, and they're doing inventive, exciting things with these ingredients. Unless you want to spend a fortune, I would avoid the high-end restaurants: you can eat really well in cafés in Nørrebro or Vesterbro for a quarter of the price.

My only warning to visitors is that the Danes don't stand on ceremony. They don't apologise if you step on their foot, like the English do, and they can seem a bit brusque. But I promise you, they don't mean it. And they love speaking English. It took me years to learn Danish, because everyone would always speak to me in my own language.

Michael Booth's book about life in Denmark and his journey in the footsteps of Hans Christian Andersen, *Just As Well I'm Leaving* (p108) is published by Vintage.

## FREE COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen is not the cheapest city in the world, so any freebies are most welcome. Following a trial period in early 2006, both the **Nationalmuseet** (p44) and **Statens Museum for Kunst** (p44) now have free admission all the time. And there are plenty of other free museums and sights in the city.

### Always free

- Botanisk Have (p45) – botanical gardens northeast of the city centre
- Carlsberg Brewery Visitor Centre (above) – attraction located west of Vesterbro (and you get a free beer at the end)
- Freetown of Christiania (opposite) – a hippy-era enclave by the water
- Frihedsmuseet (opposite) – a collection based on the Danish resistance during WWII, and it's located on the waterfront

### Free on Wednesdays

- Geologisk Museum – a museum situated in the northeastern corner of the Botanisk Have (p45)
- Post and Tele Museum – a collection of all things pertaining to the Danish post office (located inside the post office on Købmagergade; p41)
- Thorvaldsens Museum (p45) – a repository of the work and tomb of Denmark's greatest sculptor at the befitting location of Slotsholmen
- Orlogsmuseet – a museum on naval history, beside the canal in Christianshavn (above)
- Tøjhusmuseet (p45) – the armoury museum on Slotsholmen
- Danish Design Center (from 5pm to 9pm only; p45)

### Free on other days

- Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek (free on Wednesday and Sunday; p44) – sculpture and painting museum, south of Tivoli Gardens.
- Københavns Bymuseet (free on Friday) – the city museum, on Vesterbrogade

The **Botanisk Have** (Botanical Gardens; main entrance is at Gothersgade 140; ☎ 35 32 22 22; 🕒 8.30am–6pm May–Sep, to 4pm Tue–Sun Oct–Apr) on the western side of Rosenborg Slot has fragrant trails. Its **Palmehus** (🕒 10am–3pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri; 1–3pm Wed, Sat, Sun & public holidays) is a large, walk-through glass-house growing a variety of tropical plants.

## Christianshavn

Most visitors come to the historic canal quarter to the east of the city centre to visit the alternative commune at Freetown of Christiania (opposite), 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 you can take the Metro from Kongens Nytorv or Nørreport direct to Christianshavnstov.

## VOR FRELSESKIRKE

Close to Freetown of Christiania is the 17th-century **Vor Frelse Kirke** (☎ 31 57 27 98; www.vorfrelsekirke.dk; Sankt Annæ Gade 29; admission free, tower adult/child Dkr20/10; 🕒 11am–4.30pm Apr–Aug, to 3.30pm Sep–Mar, closed during services, tower closed Nov–Mar), which has an impressive baroque altar and an elaborately carved pipe organ, propped up by two unhappy looking decorative elephants. For a panoramic view of the city and across to Sweden, climb the 400 steps of the church's 95m-high spiral tower. The last 160 steps run spectacularly and dizzyingly along the outside rim, narrowing to the point where 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),

the free self-guided tours provide the low-down on the history of Danish beer. The experience is capped off with a sampling of the present-day product. Take bus No 6A westbound or the S-Tog (S-Train, whose 10 lines pass through Central Station) to Enghave station.

## Waterfront

The home of the royal family since 1794 **Amalienborg Palace** (adult/child Dkr50/30; 🕒 10am–4pm) comprises four austere mansions surrounding the central square and guarded by sentries, who are relieved at noon by a ceremonial changing of the guard. You can view the interior of the northwestern mansion, with its royal memorabilia and the study rooms of three kings.

Inland along Frederiksgade is the splendid **Frederikskirken** (☎ 33 15 01 44; www.marmorkirken.dk; admission free, guided tour adult/child Dkr25/10; 🕒 10am–5pm Mon–Thu, noon–5pm Fri–Sun, dome tour 1pm & 3pm mid-Jun–Aug, 1pm & 3pm Sat & Sun Sep–May). It's known universally as Mar-

morkirken (Marble Church) and the view from its great dome is spectacular.

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

About 150m north of the Frihedsmuseet you pass the spectacular **Gefion Fountain** that features the goddess Gefion, 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.

The **Copenhagen Opera House** (☎ 33 69 69 69; www.operahus.dk; admission Dkr100) on the island of Holmen facing Amalienborg across the harbour is well worth a visit, even if you can't get a ticket (they sell out months in advance). The foyer is open to the public

## 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 – it's right up there with Tivoli Gardens as one of the 'most-visited' sights in the city and you will see coaches dispersing their tourists daily at the main gate.

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 is not only hard-right on issues of immigration; it has also cracked down on Christiania's more squalid side. Gone is the world-famous Pusher Street, where soft drugs such as hash and cannabis resin were sold openly; that was wiped out in police raids in 2004.

But drugs, both hard and soft, continue to be widely sold in Christiania and so the raids have continued, making daily life for the people of Christiania tougher than ever and creating increasing bitterness and resentment on both sides. Senior police officers admit their heavy handedness has simply pushed the drug trade further underground, causing far greater social problems than when it was out in the open and monitored by Christiania's leaders. There is little doubt Christiania is a more violent place than it was ten years ago too, with drug turf wars leading to fights and even murders.

You can't help feeling that the tide is turning against Christiania. A Danish TV stunt in which undercover cameras filmed a presenter trying to build his own house in the commune without permission revealed its less welcoming side, not to mention the locals' complete lack of irony: they tore down the interloper's wooden hut and demanded that he leave.

Christiania still has the inexpensive cafés and restaurants, eccentric shops, clubs and galleries that make it well worth a visit and you can pass an absorbing afternoon wandering around the quieter 'residential' areas both in 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 **information office** (☎ 32 95 65 07; www.christiania.org; Nyt Forum, Pusher Street; 🕒 noon–6pm Mon–Thu, to 4pm Fri) organises guided tours most days in summer.

(there are two restaurants) and you can take a guided tour of Henning Larsen's controversial glass-fronted masterpiece with its vast roof, attacked by critics as ungainly and out of proportion in its waterfront setting.

## ACTIVITIES

### Swimming & Sunbathing

Weather permitting, there are reasonably good opportunities to swim and sunbathe on stretches of beach around 5km from the city centre at the spectacularly redeveloped **Amager Strand**; take the Metro to Lergravsparken and then walk east for about a kilometre (a new station is scheduled to open at Amagerstrand itself in 2007); or at Bellevue (see p55). But for central swimming you could brave the cold, salty but clean waters of the free public pool at Islands Brygge, right in the heart of the city (open only from June to August), although you might want to grease up, cross channel swimmer style first. Alternatively there's the heated circular indoor pool at the **DGI-byen centre** (☎ 33 29 80 00; www.dgi-byen.dk; Tietgensgade 65, Vesterbro) near the station.

## TOURS

### Quickshaw Tours

Copenhagen's 'quickshaws' (☎ 35 43 01 22; www.rickshaw.dk in Danish; 30-min tour Dkr125) are two-seater, open carriages powered by fit young pedal-pushers. They operate daily and can be found at most main squares. They can also be used as taxis – the price starts at Dkr35 and you pay Dkr3 per minute thereafter. Each quickshaw seats two adults and one child.

### Canal Tours

The best way to see Copenhagen is from the water. There are several ways to take a boat tour around the city's canals and harbour from April to mid-October. Multilingual guides give a lively commentary in English. **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 Palace, 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 from Nyhavn.

Canal boats also make an excellent, traffic-free alternative for getting to some of Copenhagen's waterfront sites. **DFDS Canal Tours** charges Dkr50 for a one-day 'waterbus' pass (Dkr25 for children) or Dkr30 per trip from mid-May to mid-September. The boats leave Nyhavn every 30 minutes between 10.15am and 4.45pm (to 5.45pm mid-June to mid-August) and make a dozen stops, including at the Little Mermaid, Nationalmuseet and Vor Frelsers Kirke (with no commentary), allowing you to get on and off as you like. The **HUR public transport system** (www.hur.dk in Danish) has a boat service linking the Royal Library, Nyhavn and Nordre Toldbod, near the Little Mermaid, every 20 minutes until 7pm.

Bear in mind that the tour boats have no roofs and the weather is ever-changing in Copenhagen harbour, so be sure to pack for all eventualities.

## 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 in early July. The festival presents a wide range of Danish and international jazz (Herbie Hancock and Sergio Mendes are both regulars), blues and fusion music in over 500 indoor and outdoor venues, with music wafting out of practically every public square, park, pub and café from Strøget to Tivoli Gardens.

## SLEEPING

Copenhagen's range of budget accommodation is much better now than it was a decade or even five years ago. The city boasts several modern, high-quality hostels in prime locations, as well as some good, new budget hotels. Camping options remain limited, however, not least by the weather.

The city's hotel quarter is centred on the area behind Central Station, on and around Istedgade. Here you will find numerous bland business hotels and medium-range chains. This also happens to be the city's red-light district, with some fruity shop window displays and the occasional group of rowdy winos and glazed addicts lingering in shop doorways to spice things up.

The tourist office can book rooms in private homes (Dkr300/450 for singles/doubles; there is a Dkr100 booking fee if

you do it via the tourist office when you arrive, otherwise it is free over the phone or internet in advance). It also books unfilled hotel rooms, often at discounted rates. You can also visit the website www.bedan-dbreakfast.dk for B&B accommodation throughout Denmark.

## Budget

**Camping Charlottenlund Fort** (☎ 39 62 36 88; www.campingcopenhagen.dk; Strandvejen 144, Charlottenlund; camp site per adult/tent Dkr80/25) This is 6km north of the city centre beside a delightful sandy beach overlooking the Øresund sea. Take bus No 14 for a half-hour trip.

**Danhostel Copenhagen City** (☎ 33 11 85 85; www.danhostel.dk; HC Andersens Blvd 50; dm Dkr150; ☎ all year) The newest and best of Copenhagen's hostels occupies a modern high-rise overlooking the harbour a short walk from the Central Station. With a reception that resembles a boutique hotel, a great café and a 25% discount on 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.

**City Public Hostel** (☎ 33 31 20 70; www.city-public-hostel.dk; Absalonsgade 8; dm Dkr140; ☎ early May–mid-Aug, 24hr reception) A central, well-run hostel with dorms sleeping six to 23; they are both mixed gender and separate gender. Breakfast costs Dkr25, or Dkr20 if it's included with the bed price. There is wi-fi access and an outdoor barbecue area.

**Danhostel Copenhagen Bellahøj** (☎ 38 28 97 15; www.danhostel.dk/bellahoej; Herbergvejen 8, Bellahøj; dm/d Dkr110; ☎ Feb-early Jan, 24hr reception; ☎) This is based in a quiet suburban neighbourhood with 250 dorm beds and a limited number of family rooms (doubles). You can take bus No 2A to Bronshøj from Rådhuspladsen or direct from the airport and get off at Fuglsangs Allé. The night bus is No 82N.

**Danhostel Copenhagen Amager** (☎ 32 52 29 08; www.danhostel.dk/copenhagen; Vejlands Allé 200, Amager; dm/d Dkr110/340; ☎ early Jan–mid-Dec; ☎) Located in an isolated part of Amager just off the E20 this is one of the largest hostels in Europe, with 528 beds in two-, three-, four- and five-bed rooms. Take bus No 5A from Rådhuspladsen to Sundbyvesterplads and change to bus No 77. Until 5pm Monday to Friday, bus No 46 runs from Central Station directly to the hostel.

**Danhostel Lyngby** (☎ 45 80 30 74; www.lyngbyhostel.dk; Rådvaad 1, Lyngby; ☎ all year; dm Dkr115, d Dkr380) This idyllic hostel occupies an early 20th-century factory building in leafy Lyngby, and it's perfect for families. Take the S-train to Lyngby and then catch bus No 182 or 183.

**Sleep-In Green** (☎ 35 37 77 77; www.sleep-in-green.dk; Ravnsborggade 18; dm Dkr100; ☎ end-May-end-Oct; ☎) Located in Nørrebro, close to its cafés and bars, this hotel has 68 dorm beds sleeping eight, 20 or 38. Take bus No 5A, night bus 81N, or the S-train to Nørrebro Station, then walk north-west on Frederiksborggade over the lake to Nørrebrogade.

**Sleep-In Heaven** (☎ 35 35 46 48; www.sleepinheaven.com; Struenseegade 7, Nørrebro; dm 150Dkr; ☎ all year) This is a friendly, no-frills kind of place for younger travellers, with two 50-bed rooms and a small back yard. Take bus No 250S from Central Station, or walk there in around 20 minutes.

**KFUM (YMCA Interpoint)** (☎ 33 31 15 74; Valdemarsgade 15; dm Dkr95; ☎ late-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 No 14 from Rådhuspladsen for around 12 minutes.

## Midrange

**Hotel Fox** (☎ 33 95 77 55; www.hotelfox.dk; Jarmers Plads 3; minimum rate per adult Dkr475). This is the most exciting and radical hotel to arrive in Copenhagen in recent memory, perhaps ever, featuring one-off rooms, each of which are designed by a group of international artists and designers. The hotel reception transforms into a DJ bar by night and is as funky as they come. Located five minutes from the town hall square and Strøget, it's on the fringe of the Latin Quarter.

**Cab Inn City** (☎ 33 46 16 16; www.cabinn.com; Mitchellsgade 14; s/d/tr/q Dkr510/630/750/870; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) Cab Inns are modern, rather clinical but boast good facilities (including kettle and TV) and reliable levels of comfort (although the ship's cabin (cab-in, geddit?) style means small rooms and rather narrow bunk-style beds). This is the best located of all Copenhagen's Cab Inns, considering it's a short walk south of Tivoli Gardens. There's free foyer internet access.



**Cab Inn Scandinavia** (☎ 35 36 11 11; www.cabinn.com; Vodroffsvej 57; s/d Dkr510/630; P) This Cab Inn has 201 compact rooms in this chain's familiar Spartan style. The rooms are comfortable and have TV and private bathroom.

**Cab Inn Express** (☎ 33 21 04 00; www.cabinn.com; Danasvej 32-34; s/d Dkr510/630; P) A few blocks away from the Scandinavia is the third sister hotel.

**Sømandshjemmet Bethel** (☎ 33 13 03 70; http://hotel-bethel.dk; Nyhavn 22; s/d Dkr595/795) Inside the tall, steeped period building in a great location on Nyhavn are bright, pleasant rooms. Some rooms have views of Nyhavn's quays, although you pay more for these.

**Square** (☎ 33 38 12 00; www.thesquare.dk; Rådhuspladsen 14; s/d Dkr950-2365/1360-2360) This cool new arrival on Copenhagen's town hall square could not be better located nor better equipped with attractive, modern, minimalist rooms and breakfast included. There are cheaper hotels in town, but few offer as much style for the money.

**Hotel Rainbow** (☎ 33 14 10 20; www.copenhagen-rainbow.dk; Frederiksberggade 25; r with/without bathroom Dkr940/750; X) Hotel Rainbow is a small, friendly and exclusively gay hotel in an excellent location right near the Rådhus end of Strøget, so the city's shopping, drinking and clubbing are at your feet. The hotel is on the top floor and has just a few bright and airy rooms. Use the street-level intercom. Book ahead. There is a two-night minimum stay from April to September.

**Hotel Christian IV** (☎ 33 32 10 44; www.hotelchristianiv.dk; Dronnings Tværgade 45; s/d with bathroom Dkr860/995) This simple, contemporary hotel located in the city centre close to Kongens Have makes every effort with its light, comfortable rooms and added extras like free wi-fi access, use of a nearby fitness centre and bikes for rent (Dkr100 per day).

**Tiffany Hotel** (☎ 33 21 80 50; www.hotelitiffany.dk; Halmtorvet 1; s/d Dkr945/1145) This is a better class of Vesterbro hotel with its elegant rooms and upmarket airs for reasonable prices (by Copenhagen standards, that is).

**Hotel 27** (☎ 70 27 56 27; www.hotel27.dk; Løngangstræde 27; s/d Dkr1095/1295) This very centrally located hotel, just 220m from Tivoli Gardens and the town hall square, chucked out all its chintz during a recent renovation and is now the epitome of a contemporary Danish design hotel with many extras including cable TV and wi-fi internet connection.

## Top End

**Hotel Skt Petri** (☎ 33 45 91 00; www.hotelsktpetri.com; Krystalgade 22; s/d from Dkr1295/1495; P X) Copenhagen's coolest luxury hotel, housed in a former department store right in the heart of the shopping district, is a contender for most stylish and best-located hotel in town. The rooms are cossetting, and some have balconies or enchanting city views or both. There's a gym and a magnificent, bright, high foyer just made for sipping cocktails and feeling fabulous in.

**Hotel Guldsmeden Bertrams and Carlton** (☎ 33 25 04 05/33 22 15 00; www.hotelguldsmeden.dk; Vesterbrogade 107 & 66; s/d Dkr945/1145; P X) The excellent Guldsmeden group now has two attractive and welcoming hotels in Copenhagen, both decked out in its characteristic French colonial style and both on Vesterbrogade. The Bertrams is a four star, the Carlton is a three star and thus is a couple of hundred kroner cheaper. Both hotels are a short walk from the city centre but close to the groovy shops, cafés and restaurants of Istedgade and Værndemsvej.

**Copenhagen Admiral Hotel** (☎ 33 74 14 14; www.admiralhotel.dk; Toldbodgade 24-28; s/d Dkr775/1105, with harbour view Dkr1165/1435; P X) This grand place on the waterfront near Nyhavn occupies a renovated 18th-century granary. Its 366 rooms are crisscrossed with thick wooden beams, and blend period charm and modern conveniences. It's reasonably priced when you bear in mind the décor and location. Breakfast is, however, an extra Dkr115.

## EATING

### Around Strøget

**Café Zirup** (☎ 33 13 50 60; Læderstræde 32; mains Dkr80-120, brunch Dkr89; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat, 10am-midnight Sun) Usually packed inside and out, Zirup serves fresh, light fusion food. It's known for its hangover cures.

**Huset Med Det Grønne Træ** (☎ 33 12 87 86; Gammel Torv 20; ☎ 11.30am-3.30pm Mon-Fri, open Sat during Nov-Feb only) This traditional Danish lunch restaurant in a cellar just off Strøget is a great place to come to get an idea of how Danes used to eat before wraps, bagels and sushi arrived in town. Their smørrebrød are excellent and cheap (Dkr39 to Dkr95) and it has 14 different kinds of schnapps.

**LaGlacé** (☎ 33 11 46 46; www.laglace.dk; Skoubougade 3; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Thu, to 6pm Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 11am-5pm Sun, closed Sun Apr-Sep) The best and

oldest cake shop in Copenhagen serves sensational gateaux for Dkr36 a slice and does a wicked hot chocolate.

**Peder Oxé** (☎ 33 11 00 77; Gråbrødre Torv; mains Dkr100-200) An old favourite with visitors and locals alike in a historic building in the cobbled square just north of Strøget, Peder Oxé serves quality fish and organic meat dishes with a fine salad buffet. There's a cosy wine bar downstairs.

**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 in the media, Riz Raz offers a great value southern Mediterranean buffet, and plenty of outside seating. There are good meat mains too (Dkr99 to Dkr139). Riz Raz also has a second branch in the Latin Quarter at Store Kanikkstræde 19.

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

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

### The Latin Quarter

**Atlas Bar/Flyvefiskeren** (☎ 33 15 03 52; Larsbjørnstræde 18; ☎ noon-midnight Mon-Sat) Atlas Bar is an enduringly popular semi-subterranean 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. You can eat very well here for under Dkr100.

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

### Nørrebro

Nørrebro is a great place to eat with countless cool cafés and bars. Head for Elmegade for contemporary takeaways (sushi, bagels, sandwiches, coffee, beer), Blågårdsgade for healthy snacks, or Sankt Hans Torv for stylish cafés and ice-cream parlours, and there is the nightclub Rust around the corner.

**Kaffe Salonen** (☎ 35 35 12 19; Peblinge Døsserig 6; ☎ 8am-midnight Mon-Fri; 10am-midnight Sat & Sun) Salonen's floating deck, located on one of the elegant city lakes between the centre and Nørrebro, is its chief attraction, especially during the summer, but the food (standard Copenhagen café fare) is excellent and reasonably priced, such as vegetarian pasta for Dkr89. It also has wi-fi connection.

**Nørrebro Bryghus** (☎ 35 30 01 30; www.noerrebroyghus.dk; Ryesgade 3; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Wed, 11-2am Thu-Sat, to 10pm Sun; lunch dishes under Dkr100, evening mains around Dkr189) Copenhagen's contemporary beer cathedral brews its own lager, stout, ale and weiss beers in-house and serves good brasserie food to a cool, young clientele. The areas to mingle range over two floors with a beer bar and restaurant; over these tower the giant brewing vats.

### Vesterbro

**Lê Lê** (☎ 33 22 71 35; Vesterbrogade 56; ☎ 4pm-10.30pm Wed-Mon) You can eat fantastic, large bowls of noodles and curry for under Dkr100 in this light, modern Vietnamese/Thai restaurant on busy Vesterbrogade (next to Hotel Guldsmeden and close to the City Public Hostel).

**Spicylicious** (☎ 33 22 85 33; Istedgade 27; www.spicylicious.dk; mains Dkr80-110; ☎ 5pm-midnight) What used to be a fairly traditional Thai place is now a simple, modern Thai-Vietnamese restaurant and takeaway serving delicious rice, noodles, curries and soups for very reasonable prices. It has been voted the best cheap dinner in a recent online poll.

### Elsewhere in Central Copenhagen

**Cap Horn** (☎ 33 12 85 04; Nyhavn 21; mains Dkr110-200; ☎ 9am-11pm) Amid many a middling canal-side restaurant, Cap Horn stands out, serving excellent, fresh Danish seafood including a seafood plate with crab claws, double smoked salmon and crayfish terrine for Dkr165.

**Cascabel 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, to 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

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

**Café Wilder** (☎ 32 54 71 83; Wildersgade 56; mains Dkr115; ☎ 9am-midnight) This bohemian corner café serves good salads and pastas by day and French brasserie food by night to a groovy local crowd.

**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.

**Spiselloppen** (☎ 32 57 95 58; Loppebygningen; fish & meat mains Dkr155-215) The food at this Christiania legend is reliably good. Roast lamb with tzaziki and chips and baked aubergine, or braised turbot with duchesse potatoes are two examples from the ever-changing global menu.

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

**Spicy Kitchen** (☎ 32 95 20 29; Torvegade 56; ☎ 2pm-midnight; main Dkr45-70) There are few Indian restaurants in Copenhagen where you can eat as cheaply and as satisfyingly as this and, with its canteen atmosphere, you are sure to strike up a conversation with neighbouring diners.

## DRINKING

Visitors are utterly spoilt for choice as far as cafés and bars go in Copenhagen. Many are jack-of-all trade places, they are as good for food as they are for a lively evening spent drinking Pilsner or an afternoon sipping coffee. Nørrebro and Vesterbro (especially along Istedgade, east of the red-light district, and Halmtorvet, closer to the station) are well worth exploring.

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

**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. We choose this bar-cum-café for its reliably relaxed but buzzing atmosphere.

**Charlie's Bar** (☎ 33 32 22 89; Pilestræde 33) Charlie's is tiny, cosy, scruffy and hugely popular with Pilsner-sated Danes who worship enthusiastically at this temple to the gods of real British cask ale. There's a small but very well-chosen selection of bitters and stouts and some wonderful and pricey rare single-malt whiskies.

**Ideal Bar** (☎ 33 25 70 11; Enghavevej 40) A young, hip crowd hangs out here, often for pre-clubbing drinks before heading next door to Vega Nightclub (opposite). The music at Ideal is pumping, danceable and mostly excellent, ranging from hip-hop to more raga-based and African-style sounds.

**Kafe Kys** (☎ 33 93 85 99; Læderstræde 7; ☎ 10am-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. It also serves sandwiches and has an extensive cocktail list.

**Café Zeze** (☎ 33 14 23 90; Ny Østergade 20; ☎ 8am-midnight Mon-Thu, 8am-2am Fri, 9-2am Sat) During the day this is a great value lunch place for the advertising and fashion people who work in the area. It serves excellent sandwiches for Dkr79. By night Zeze transforms into one of the city's most popular preclub destinations and it throngs at weekends with the city's chic and sexy in their 20s and 30s.

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

## ENTERTAINMENT

Though weekday nights can be a little quiet, Copenhagen really revs into gear from Thursday to 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. Alternatively, you will often find that the café where you had lunch transforms into a DJ bar in the evening – check out Bodega Zeze and Zoo Bar.

Major international rock acts often play the national stadium, Parken in Østerbro, at Forum in Frederiksberg or Valbyhallen

in Valby, a little further out of town, although you can just as easily catch the likes of Prince or Jamie Cullum playing at Vega. Visit [www.aok.dk](http://www.aok.dk) for full listings. *Copenhagen This Week* also lists concerts and entertainment schedules in detail.

## Live Music

**Rust** (☎ 35 24 52 00; www.rust.dk; Guldbergsgade 8; admission varies) Rust is a Copenhagen club scene stalwart and continues to pack a university-age crowd in from Wednesdays through to the weekend with DJs and live music in a multilevel location with two dance floors, a lounge bar and cocktail bar. It is located in the heart of groovy Nørrebro, just around the corner from the café square Sankt Hans Torv. The music runs the full gamut from disco to hip-hop, although the club was an electronic pioneer in its infancy. Expect to wait in line at weekends.

**Studenterhuset** (☎ 35 32 38 61; Købmagergade 52; admission varies) The students' house welcomes all with themed nights (Tuesday is Gay Day; Wednesday is International Evening; Thursday is live jazz, Friday is live rock, and Saturday varies). There's a very cheap beer happy hour from noon to 7pm. During the daytime it's a café serving cheap sandwiches.

**Vega** (☎ 33 25 70 11; www.vega.dk; Enghavevej 40) 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. Big-name rock bands and underground acts play the 'Big Vega' 1500-capacity venue. Admission is free to the Vega Natklub (11pm to 5am Friday and Saturday) if you arrive before 1am, Dkr70 thereafter.

**Copenhagen Jazz House** (☎ 33 15 26 00; Niels Hemmingsensgade 10) This is the city's leading jazz spot with a terrific ambience. Danish musicians and occasional international names feature, and after concerts on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, the place becomes a lively disco from 1am to 5am (admission Dkr65).

**Mojo** (☎ 33 11 64 53; Longangstræde 21; Dkr50; ☎ 8pm-3am) Small, scruffy and friendly, this is a prime spot for blues. Bands play most nights of the week.

**Huset** (☎ 33 15 20 02; Rådhusstræde 13) Placed in the same courtyard as Use It, you'll find

the Huset complex with a cinema, theatre, café and restaurant. There's often music, including good-quality jazz. Many music events are free, but it costs about Dkr50 for special events.

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

## Gay & Lesbian Venues

Copenhagen has a few gay and lesbian bars and clubs, and there's a great ease and confidence about gay life in this most civilised and tolerant of cities. For more information and listings check *Out and About*, a guide to Copenhagen gay life, or the annual *Gay and Lesbian Guide to Copenhagen*, both available in gay cafés and clubs.

**Boiz** (☎ 33 14 52 70; www.boiz.dk; Magstræde 12-14; ☎ 4pm-3am Mon-Thu, 4pm-5am Fri & Sat) Copenhagen's latest gay venue is on the first floor of Huset and has a lively bar, restaurant and dance floor, with open-air dining in summer.

**Club PAN** (☎ 33 11 37 84; Knabrostræde 3; Dkr60; ☎ 11pm-6am Thu-Sat) The largest gay club in Denmark with five levels, two dance floors, seven bars and entertaining cross-dressing and karaoke nights.

**Oscar** (☎ 33 12 09 99; www.oscarbarcafe.dk; Rådhuspladsen 77; ☎ noon-2am, kitchen noon-10pm) A popular corner café meeting place for gays and lesbians near the Rådhuspladsen. It's a good place to get up to speed with what is happening on the gay scene in Copenhagen.

**Kvindehuset** (The Women's House; Gothersgade 37) Kvindehuset stages various dance nights for lesbians and has a café and bar.

**Masken** (Stuadiestræde 33; ☎ 4pm-2am Mon-Thu, to 5am Fri & Sat, 3pm-2am Sun) Small, smoky and popular with students at weekends, not least because of its special drinks prices, Masken is friendly and puts on no airs or claims to being hip.

## Cinemas

There are numerous cinemas showing first-release movies, and most of them lie within 200m of Rådhuspladsen. It is customary in Denmark to show foreign-language films in the original language with subtitles.

## SHOPPING

Shoppers are lured to Copenhagen above all by its local designers – whether they are working with textiles, clothing, household objects or art. Wherever you go in the city you will find small, independent designers but even on Copenhagen's main shopping street, **Strøget**, you will find plenty of unique retailers selling glassware, silverware, porcelain, clothing and jewellery. Your one-stop designer shop should be **Illums Bolighus** on Amagerstorv, Strøget. Nearby are the **Illum department store** and the **Royal Copenhagen** silver and porcelain stores, which are great for gifts, albeit costly. For cheaper, 'street' clothes and contemporary designs **Istedgade** in Vesterbro is a fertile hunting ground as is the **Latin Quarter** – the latter is also home to many of the city's record shops. Copenhagen's high fashion street is **Kronprinsensgade**, but you will find the cheaper clothing chains on nearby **Købmagergade**.

For an excellent array of stores catering to outdoor pursuits, head to Frederiksborggade north of Nørreport Station. Meanwhile, for high-end antiques Bregade is good, but for a more bric-a-brac feel **Ravnsborggade** in Nørrebro is hard to beat, with over a dozen fascinating junk-antique stores. If the weather drives you indoors, you could head for the city's two malls, Fisketorvet, in Sydhavn and Fields on Amager. Both have a large range of middling clothing and household stores as well as cafés and restaurants.

Nearly everything closes on Sunday, although some grocers and supermarkets remain open in residential areas, such as Istedgade and Nørrebrogade.

## 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.

### Boat

The ferry to Oslo, operated by **DFDS Seaways** (☎ 33 42 30 00; www.dfdsseaways.co.uk; Dampfærgevej 30), departs from the Nordhavn area north of the city (past Kastellet).

### Bus

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

### Car & Motorcycle

The main highways into Copenhagen are the E20, which goes west to Funen and east to Malmö, Sweden; and the E47, which connects to Helsingør. If you're coming into Copenhagen from the north on the E47, exit onto Lyngbyvej (Rte 19) and continue south to get into the heart of the city.

As well as airport booths, the following rental agencies have city branches:

**Avis** (☎ 33 15 22 99; Kampmannsgade 1)

**Budget** (☎ 33 55 05 00; Helgolandsgade 2)

**Europcar** (☎ 33 55 99 00; Gammel Kongevej 13)

**Hertz** (☎ 33 17 90 20; Ved Vesterport 3)

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. Rates are even more competitive on longer hires. The downside is having to drive around with the company name emblazoned on the doors.

### Train

Long-distance trains arrive and depart from Central Station (Hovedbanegården), a huge complex with numerous eateries and all sorts of services. There are even public showers (Dkr15; towel hire Dkr6) located at the underground toilets opposite the police office.

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, but only if you've mastered the zone-system prices. They are best for S-train tickets. If you're not rushed, then **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 up quite a bit at busy times (ie rush hour). Alternatively you can make reservations at www.dsb.dk, which has an English language option.

## GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

A train links the airport with Central Station (Dkr27, 12 minutes, three times hourly). The airport is 15 minutes and about Dkr180 from the city centre by taxi.

### Bicycle

At Central Station beneath platform 12, **Københavns Cykler** rents out bicycles for Dkr75 a day.

If you just want to ride in the city centre, look for a free-use City Bike; they've got solid spokeless wheels painted with sponsors' logos. There are approximately 125 City Bike racks scattered throughout central Copenhagen, although available bikes are often few and far between. If you're lucky enough to find a bike rack with an actual bike in it, all you have to do is deposit a Dkr20 coin in the stand to release the bike. You can return the bicycle into any rack to get your money back. Except during weekday rush hours, you can carry bikes on S-trains for Dkr10.

### Bus & Train

Copenhagen has a large public-transport system consisting of a small but excellent new underground and overground driverless Metro system (trains run a minimum of every three minutes); an extensive metropolitan rail network called S-Tog (S-Train), whose 10 lines pass through Central Station (København H); and a vast bus system, whose main terminus is nearby at Rådhuspladsen.

Buses, Metro and trains use a common fare system based on the number of zones you pass through. 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 get a 24-hour pass allowing unlimited travel in all zones for Dk105/53 per adult/child. Two children under 12 travel free when accompanied by an adult.

On buses, fares are paid to the driver when you board, while on S-trains tickets are purchased at the station and then punched in the yellow time clock on the

platform (it is not necessary to punch tickets bought from *billetautomats*).

Trains and buses run from about 5am to 12.30am, though buses continue to run through the night (charging double fare) on a few main routes. For schedule information about buses, call ☎ 36 13 14 15; for trains call ☎ 33 14 17 01.

### Car & Motorcycle

With the exception of the weekday-morning rush hour, when traffic can bottleneck coming into the city (and going out around 5pm), traffic is usually manageable. Getting around by car is not problematic other than the usual challenges of finding parking spaces. Still, it's far better to explore sights within the city centre on foot or by using public transport.

For kerbside parking, buy a ticket from a streetside *parkomat* and place it inside the windscreen. Parking costs from Dkr10 to Dkr25 depending on how close you are to the city centre. Overnight kerbside parking is generally free and finding a space is not usually too much of a problem.

### Taxi

Taxis with signs saying 'fri' (meaning 'free') can be flagged down or you can phone ☎ 35 35 35 35. The basic fare is Dkr19 plus Dkr11 per kilometre between 7am and 4pm, Dkr11 between 4pm and 6am, and Dkr14 from 11pm to 7am Friday to Saturday. Fares include a service charge, so tipping is not expected. All taxis accept credit cards.

## AROUND COPENHAGEN Klampenborg

Klampenborg is a favourite spot for family outings from Copenhagen. It is only 20 minutes from Central Station on the S-train's line C (Dkr34). **Bellevue Beach**, 400m east of Klampenborg Station, is a sandy strand that gets packed with sunbathers in summer. A large grassy area behind the beach absorbs some of the overflow. A 10-minute walk west from the station is **Bakken** (☎ 39 63 73 00; Dyrehavevej 62; ☎ noon-midnight Apr-late-Aug), the world's oldest amusement park. A blue-collar version of Tivoli Gardens, it's a pleasantly old-fashioned carnival of bumper cars, slot machines and beer halls.



## SIGHTS

Helsingør's top sight is **Kronborg Slot** (☎ 49 21 30 78; www.kronborg.dk; adult/child Dkr75/15; 🕒 11am-3pm Tue-Sun Jan-Mar, to 4pm Tue-Sun Apr, 10.30am-5pm May-Sep, 11am-4pm Tue-Sun), made famous as the Elsinore Castle of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (it has been and remains the venue for summer performances of the play in recent decades during the annual Hamlet festival). Kronborg's primary function was not as a royal residence, but rather as a grandiose tollhouse, wresting taxes (the infamous and lucrative 'Sound Dues') for more than 400 years from ships passing through the narrow Øresund. Stand by the cannons facing Sweden and you immediately see what a key strategic military and naval choke

point this was. You can cross the moat and walk around the courtyard and walls for free but you will need to pay to enter the castle and see its various museums. These include the Danish Maritime Museum, the Royal Apartments and the Casement (the price quoted above covers all, although you can pick and choose for a lower entrance fee). The castle is on the northern side of the harbour within easy walking distance of the station.

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, to 2pm Mon-Sat Nov-Mar); the small **City History**

**Museum** (admission free; 🕒 noon-4pm); and **Sct Mariæ Kirke and Karmeliterklostret** (guided tours 2pm Mon-Fri adult/child Dkr20/5; church 🕒 9am-noon Mon-Wed & Fri 4-6pm Thu), 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. Further out of town are **Danmarks Tekniske Museum** (☎ 49 22 26 11; www.tekniskmuseum.dk in Danish; Fabriksvej 25; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue-Sun) with historic aeroplanes and motor cars among other exhibits, and **Øresundsakvariet** (☎ 35 32 19 70; www.oresundsakvariet.ku.dk in Danish; Strandpromenaden 5; 🕒 10am-5pm), an aquarium with local sea life.

## SLEEPING

**Helsingør Camping Grønnehavn** (☎ 49 28 12 12; www.helsingorcamping.dk; Strandalleen 2; camp site per adult/child/tent Dkr60/30/40) A well-spaced beachside camping ground that is east of the hostel and close to one of the area's best beaches.

**Danhostel Helsingør** (☎ 49 21 16 40; www.helsingorhostel.dk; Nordre Strandvej 24; dm/r Dkr150/400-800; 🕒 Feb-Nov; (P)). The hostel, housed in the imposing red-brick Villa Moltke, is 2km northwest of the centre, by the water with its own beach. It's more welcoming to families than lone travellers.

The tourist office books rooms in private homes for Dkr450 to Dkr800. Singles cost the same as doubles.

**Hotel Sleep2Night** (☎ 49 27 01 00; www.sleep2night.com; Industrivej 19; s/d Dkr570/595) This new, wooden chalet-style accommodation is Denmark's beautifully designed take on the US motel with simple but well-equipped rooms and free internet connections throughout. It's good value but it's a 20-minute journey from the centre of town, to the south of Helsingør. Take bus 805 or 803.

**Hotel Hamlet** (☎ 49 21 05 91; fax 49 26 01 30; Bramstræde 5; s/d Dkr725/995) Hamlet has charming, cosy, old-fashioned rooms with lots of stripped pine panelling and green leather upholstery. It's located right by the harbour and station.

## EATING AND DRINKING

**Gringo's** (☎ 49 26 14 47; www.gringos-helsingor.dk in Danish; Stengade 81A; tortillas Dkr99-138; 🕒 11am-11pm) Good-value Mexican food is on offer 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 and wine bar **Envy** which opens until 6am Thursday to Saturday) and it's close to the station.

**Gæstgivergaarden** (☎ 49 21 19 78; www.gæstgivergaarden.dk in Danish; Kampergade 11) This traditional Danish pub offers a good-value lunch menu. Dishes include half a chicken and chips for Dkr80.

**Lemongrass** (☎ 49 25 15 11; Torvegade 5; mains Dkr89-99; 🕒 noon-9.30pm) Helsingør's main square has several restaurants and takeaways (there are more of the latter on the high street, Stengade). This Thai place has an extensive menu of authentic dishes for reasonable prices including several vegetarian options.

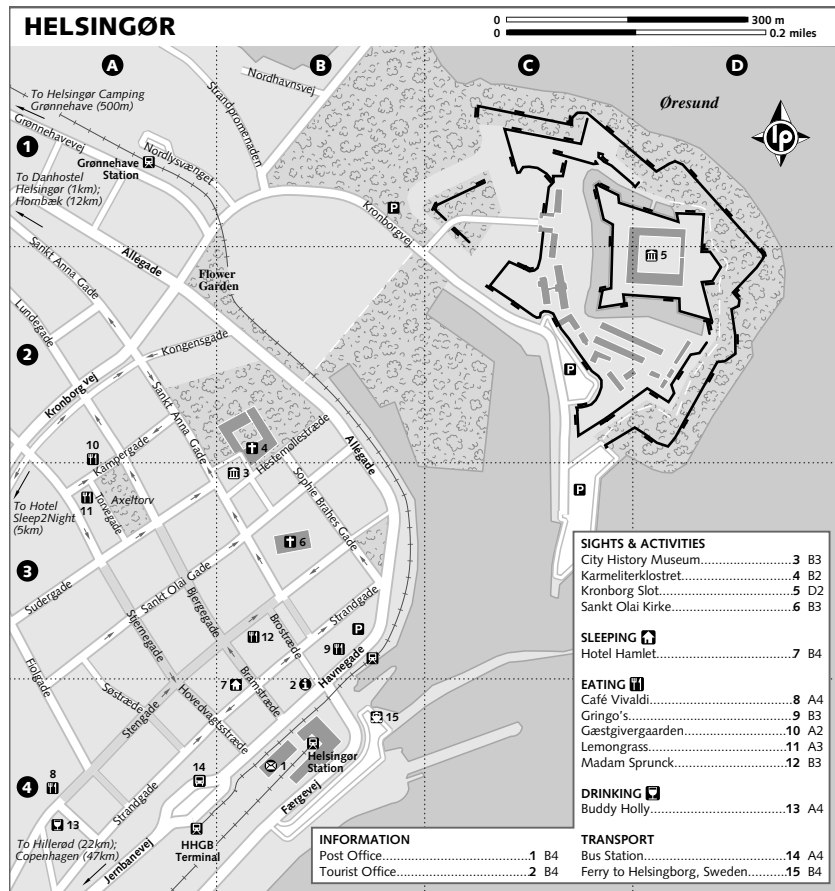
**Madam Sprunck** (☎ 49 26 48 49 www.madamsprunck.dk; Stengade 48 🕒 11.30am-midnight) This Helsingør institution is situated in a charming courtyard. As well as serving great evening meals in its restaurant, it also does a lavish brunch (Dkr120) and a two-course lunch menu for Dkr159. The food is fresh and homemade.

**Café Vivaldi** (☎ 49 26 00 38; Stengade 9; 🕒 10am-11pm Mon-Sat, noon-10pm Sun) A part of a small chain, this pleasant French-Italian café at the end of the high street serves salads, sandwiches and omelettes (lunches are Dkr57 to Dkr75 during the day and main courses, such as tortellini, are Dkr99 and chicken curry is Dkr119).

**Buddy Holly** (☎ 26 14 94 64; Svingleport 1, 🕒 11pm-5am Fri & Sat). Think wedding night DJs. You'll hear back-to-back mainstream pop and disco designed to get the majority up to dance. Well, you're not in Copenhagen now. There is a dress code.

## GETTING THERE &amp; AWAY

Trains departing from Hillerød (Dkr54, 30 minutes) run at least once hourly. Trains from Copenhagen run a few times hourly (Dkr63, 50 minutes). **Scandlines** (☎ 33 15 15 15; www.scandlines.dk) and **Sundbusserne** (☎ 49 71 02 00; www.sundbusserne.dk) sail frequently throughout the day from Helsingør to Helsingborg, in Sweden. Prices vary, but are roughly Dkr21 to Dkr23 per adult or from Dkr200 if you are taking a car with two passengers.



## Zealand's North Coast

There is an innocence and a simplicity to the north coast of Zealand that evokes childhood seaside holidays from decades past with its pretty half-timbered fishing villages, wooded camp sites and miles and miles of excellent sandy beaches. Come July, half of Copenhagen decamps to the north coast for their monthly holiday, however in June and August there is a much smaller crowd.

**Hornbæk**, the next main town west of Helsingør, has the best and most easily accessible beach on the north coast. The beach is a vast expanse of silky white sand and grassy dunes that run the entire length of the town. From the train station, it's just a five-minute walk directly down Havnevej to the harbour where you'll find a great seafood kiosk and the yacht marina. Simply climb the dunes to the left and you're on the beach. The library doubles as the **tourist office** (☎ 49 70 47 47; www.hornbaek.dk; Vestre Stejlebakke 2A; ☎ 2-5pm Mon, Tue & Thu, 10am-5pm Wed & Fri, to 2pm Sat).

Zealand's northernmost town, **Gilleleje**, has the island's largest fishing port. Visitors usually head straight for the harbour and adjacent sandy beach. The harbour has several wonderful seafood kiosks, selling fresh caught crayfish platters, fish and chips and even sushi. The picnic benches are packed when the sun shines. There is a fish smoking house here too. In the town itself are a smattering of shops and restaurants, but the chief pleasure is simply walking around taking in the characterful thatched houses. The **tourist office** (☎ 48 30 01 74; www.gilleleje.dk; Hovedgade 6; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat mid-Jun-Aug, to 4pm Mon-Fri & to 3pm Sat Aug-mid-Jun) is in the centre. There are excellent **beaches** either side of the town and others along the coast to the west, especially at Rågeleje, Dronningmølle and at Smidstrup Strand, where conditions are often good for **windsurfing**.

**Tisvildeleje** is a pleasant seaside village with a long, straggling main street that leads to an even longer beach. The **tourist office** (☎ 48 70 74 51; www.helsingor.com; Banevej 8; ☎ noon-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat mid-Jun-Aug) is in the train station. Behind the beach is **Tisvilde Hegn**, a windswept forest of twisted trees and heather-covered hills laced with good paths.

## SLEEPING & EATING

**Rågeleje Camping** (☎ 48 71 56 40; Hostrupvej 2, Rågeleje; www.camping-raageleje.dk) This is a remote but excellent camping ground that is 10km southwest of Gilleleje. There is a great beach and good facilities.

**Camping Hornbæk** (☎ 49 70 02 23; www.camping-hornbaek.dk in Danish; Planetvej 4; camp site per adult/child/tent Dkr62/31/20) This very presentable camping ground is in a pleasant-enough spot behind a small plantation, although it's set a fair way back from the beach.

**Hotel Villa Strand** (☎ 49 70 00 88; www.villastrand.dk in Danish; Kystvej 2; s/d from Dkr500/750; d with balcony Dkr1250) Villa Strand is a pleasant, quiet place to the west of Hornbæk centre and close to the beach. There are cheaper doubles in garden bungalows and plusher rooms with balconies in the main building.

**Hotel Bretagne** (☎ 49 70 16 66; Sauntevej 18, Hornbæk; s/d Dkr995/1195) Here is an imposing white-washed former clinic that is located close to the sea. It has lovely, modern, comfy rooms, and good facilities including wi-fi.

**Gilleleje Badehotel** (☎ 48 30 13 47; www.gillelejebadehotel.dk; Hulsøvej 15, Gilleleje; d Dkr1390) The grandest of the north coast's bathing hotels is this recently renovated Scandinavian take on a Cape Cod-style place on Gilleleje beach. All rooms have a sea view.

**Restaurant Søstrene Olsen** (☎ 49 70 05 50; www.sostreneolsen.dk; Øresundsvej 10, Hornbæk; mains Dkr225; ☎ noon-4pm & 5.30pm-11pm Mon-Wed). The best – and most expensive – restaurant in town is in this quaint thatched cottage right by the beach. It's Franco-Danish menu features dishes such as pike perch with fennel and tomato ragout with lobster cappuccino.

**Café Ventura** (☎ 49 70 13 70; www.cafe-ventura.dk; AR Friisvej 17, Hornbæk ☎ opening times vary during the year) There are good burgers, chicken and chilli at this lively Tex-Mex place with open-air seating, on the main road to the beach.

**Restaurant Hansens Café** (☎ 49 70 04 79; www.hansenscafe.dk; Havnevej 19, Hornbæk; ☎ 4pm to 11pm Mon-Sat; noon-10pm Sun) This half-timbered, thatched cottage restaurant serves traditional Danish food and French inspired dishes such as roast beef with horseradish and pickles for Dkr68, or fried flat fish with mayonnaise and shrimp for Dkr68. Seating is available in the garden in summer.

**Adamsen's Fish** (Gilleleje Harbour; ☎ 9am-6.30pm Jun-Aug) Adamsen's is the reason why Gilleleje

harbour is such a great place to hang out in the summer. Its seafood takeaways – fish cakes Dkr50, sushi Dkr99, shellfish platter Dkr125 – draw the crowds who while away sunny afternoons on the picnic benches here. You can buy fresh fish here too year-round.

**Helenekilde Badehotel** (☎ 48 70 70 01; www.helenekilde.com; Strandvejen 25, Tisvildeleje; s/d Dkr1295). A beautiful, recently renovated bathing hotel that is built on the cliffs overlooking the beaches at Tisvildeleje; it's about a 10-minute walk from the main street.

**Sankt Helene** (☎ 48 70 98 50; www.helenekilde.dk; dm/s/d Dkr150/450/470; ☎ ☎) This modern holiday centre with hostel accommodation, cabins, camping and family rooms is a 10-minute walk from the beach. The most appealing rooms are in the small huts, which are well spaced out on the grounds.

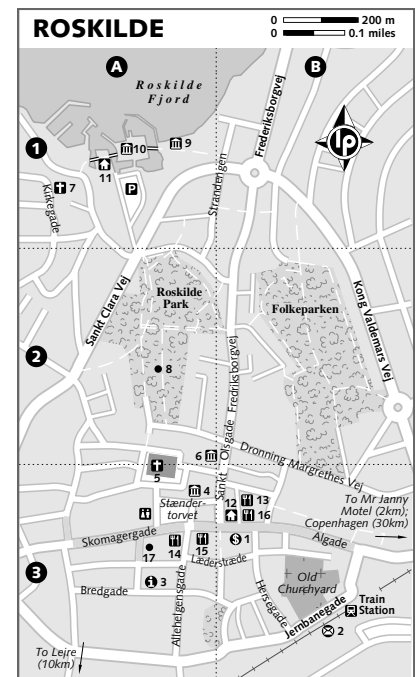
## GETTING THERE & AWAY

The train from Helsingør to Hornbæk takes 25 minutes and costs Dkr27; to Gilleleje, it takes 42 minutes and costs Dkr54. To get to Tisvilde by train you must go via Hillerød. From Helsingør this takes just over an hour and costs Dkr63. The Hillerød train runs to Gilleleje and to Tisvildeleje (Dkr42.50), but there's no rail link between the two. Trains run twice an hour during the week and once an hour at weekends. There are also buses, which cost the same but take a little longer; from Helsingør Station, bus No 340 runs to Hornbæk and Gilleleje. Bus No 363 runs between Gilleleje and Tisvildeleje (Dkr27, one hour, every two hours).

## ROSKILDE

### pop 44,000

Roskilde was a thriving trading port throughout the Middle Ages. It was also the site of Zealand's first Christian church, built by Viking king Harald Bluetooth in AD 980. Today, you could say it is rather stuck in the past. Visitors come here to soak up the atmosphere in the cathedral, which houses the tombs of Danish monarchs from centuries past; and to learn about Viking life in the Viking Ship Museum. Aside from a picturesque location on Roskilde Fjord and a lacklustre high street, you could be forgiven for thinking that was all this former capital of Denmark had to offer.



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Except that once a year some fields just outside the city centre play host to the greatest names in contemporary music during the Roskilde Festival – one of the best open-air festivals in Europe.

## Information

**Nordea Bank** (☎ 46 32 32 33; Algade 4)

**Post Office** (☎ 70 12 40 00; Jernbanegade 3)

**Tourist Office** (☎ 46 31 65 65; www.visitroskilde.com; Gullandsstræde 15; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat)

## Sights

### ROSKILDE DOMKIRKE

Though most of Roskilde's medieval buildings have vanished in fires over the centuries, the imposing twin-spired **cathedral** (☎ 46 35 27 00; Domkirkepladsen; adult/child Dkr25/free; ☎ 9am-4.45pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat, 12.30pm-4.45pm Sun Apr-Sep, 10am-3.45pm Tue-Sat, 12.30pm-3.45pm Sun Oct-Mar; guided tours 11am & 2pm Mon-Fri, 11am Sat, 2pm Sun adult/child Dkr20/10) 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. It's protected under Unesco's World Heritage List.

The cathedral has tall spiky **spires**, eye-catching in their disproportionate slenderness compared with the solidity of the rest of the building. The cathedral interior is splendid; its **crypts** contain the sarcophagi of 39 Danish kings and queens. Some are lavishly embellished and guarded by marble statues of knights and women in mourning. Others are simple and unadorned. There's something quite affecting about being able to stand so close to the remains of so many of Scandinavia's powerful historical figures. For light relief, take a look at the 15th-century **clock** above the entrance, where a tiny St George on horseback marks the hour by slaying a yelping dragon (a pair of bellows and three out-of-tune organ pipes create its yelp).

### OTHER ATTRACTIONS

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, low season Dkr50; ☎ 10am-5pm).

This well-presented museum 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 1000 years ago.

From May to September, you can take a **trip** (adult/child excl museum admission Dkr50/40; ☎ daily from 24 Jun-25 Aug, check with the museum for other times) on the waters of Roskilde Fjord in a replica Viking ship. As well as this, the MS *Svendborg* is a veteran cruiser that offers sailing tours of the fjord from June to August.

Further west is the **Sankt Jørgensbjerg quarter**, where the cobbled Kirkegade walkway leads through a neighbourhood of old straw-roofed houses into the courtyard of the 11th-century **Sankt Jørgensbjerg Kirke**.

**Roskilde Museum** (☎ 46 36 60 44; Sankt Olsgade 18; adult/child Dkr25/free; ☎ 11am-4pm) has displays on Roskilde's rich history. **Museum for Samtidskunst** (☎ 46 31 65 70; Stændertorvet 3D; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Fri, noon-4pm Sat & Sun; adult/child Dkr30/free), housed in Roskilde Palace, is a surprisingly cutting-edge contemporary art space, fond of perplexing installations by Danish and international artists.

## Sleeping & Eating

The tourist office books rooms in private homes for Dkr450 for doubles only, plus a Dkr25 booking fee.

**Danhostel Roskilde** (☎ 46 35 21 84; www.rova.dk in Danish; Vindeboder 7; dm/r Dkr150/420; (P)) This harbourside hostel is especially smart and modern, even by Danish hostel standards, with small three- four- five- or six-bed dorms. It's adjacent to the Viking Ship Museum.

**Mr Janny Motel** (☎ 46 35 43 85; Motelvej 28; d with/without bathroom Dkr500/400) is a basic 15-room motel and is the closest accommodation to the Roskilde Festival.

**Scandic Roskilde** (☎ 46 32 46 32; www.scandic-hotels.com; Sdr Ringevej 33; d Dkr813-1305) A large chain hotel on the outskirts of town. All rooms have private bathroom and free wi-fi access.

**Restaurant Bryggergården** (☎ 46 35 01 03; Algade 15; set menu Dkr88-208) This restaurant offers a good selection of smørrebrød from Dkr40 to Dkr68 with outdoor seating during summer.

**Café Satchmo** (☎ 46 35 03 15; Rosenhavestræde 2; ☎ 11am-8pm Mon-Fri, 11am-6pm Sat) This groovy – or as groovy as things get in Roskilde – jazz

café serves filled pittas (Dkr56 to Dkr63), and salads. It's a few metres off the high street, behind Bryggergården.

**Ce Ci** (☎ 46 38 48 78; Stændertorvet 8; mains Dkr89-178; ☎ 11am-11pm) Right on the main square is this airy, contemporary Mediterranean café serving bagels (Dkr65) and pasta dishes (Dkr98), as well as evening main courses.

**Den Gamle Bagergaarde** (Algade 6, ☎ 6am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 7am-3pm Sat & Sun) is a bakery with good pastries and sandwiches (Dkr29).

## Getting There & Around

Trains from Copenhagen to Roskilde are frequent (Dkr63, 25 minutes). From Copenhagen by car, Rte 21 leads to Roskilde; upon approaching the city, exit onto Rte 156, which leads into the centre.

Parking discs are required in Roskilde. There are car parks off Læderstræde, just south of Aldgade, Roskilde Museum and near the Viking Ship Museum.

A bicycle rental shop **Jas Cykler** (☎ 46 35 04 20; Gullandsstræde 3; per day Dkr60), just off Skomagergade, rents out distinctive yellow bikes.

## KØGE

pop 33,500

Køge is a pretty town which, if not worth a special visit, offers a pleasant diversion if you happen to be passing through on your way by ferry to Bornholm. The one-time medieval trading centre, 42km south of Copenhagen, retains an engaging core of historic buildings that line the narrow streets leading off the broad and busy main square, Torvet.

The **tourist office** (☎ 56 67 60 01; www.koeturist.dk/uk; Vestergade 1; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat) is just off the square.

You can park in Torvet, but for one hour only during the day, and there are longer-term car parks near the train station. Time discs are required.

A short stroll through the central part of Køge takes you to Denmark's oldest **half-timbered building** (c 1527) at Kirkestræde 20, a marvellous survivor with a fine raked roof. Køge's **historical museum** (☎ 56 63 42 42; Nørregade 4; admission Dkr20; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Sun Jun-Aug, 1-5pm Mon-Fri, 11am-3pm Sat, 1-5pm Sun Sep-May) is in a splendid building that dates from

## ROSKILDE FESTIVAL

Once a year, over four days, some of the world's greatest rock and pop acts come to play in a handful of – often quite muddy – fields on the outskirts of a sleepy Danish town 35 minutes west of Copenhagen. It sounds quite improbable unless you've seen it for yourself, but the **Roskilde Festival** (www.roskilde-festival.dk), held each year in early July is Northern Europe's largest music festival.

Everyone from the Beastie Boys to Bowie to Bob Dylan has played the nonprofit-making festival. U2, the Clash, Metallica, Coldplay and Suede have all played famous sets here over the years and the festival continues to draw the highest calibre acts to its six stages. Dylan came again in 2006, along with Guns 'n' Roses, Morrissey and Arctic Monkeys – and around 160 other acts. But you won't just find pop and rock here, there's jazz, hip-hop, folk and even classical music too, plus, of course, all the other accoutrements of open-air festivals – theatre groups, acrobats, beer and burgers.

Many of the acts stay at Mr Janny Motel (opposite), the closest hotel to the festival site, but that gets booked up way in advance. Most visitors, however, choose to camp. There is a vast, free campsite with the usual festival facilities/holes in the ground. Regulars will advise that you turn up a couple of days in advance to pitch your tent, if possible. Don't worry, there is plenty happening thanks to the four day 'warm up' session before the festival proper begins. Ticket prices rise yearly, but at the time of writing they cost Dkr1350 for the full four days – there are no single day tickets.

There is a festival centre set up in Copenhagen's Central Station a week before the festival starts to help people find their way. Trains run direct from the station, and there are festival shuttle buses from Roskilde station to the festival site for Dkr15 one way.

Roskilde Festival 2007 will run from 5 July to 8 July. In 2008 it will run from 3 July to 6 July. You can buy tickets from the festival website, or if they are not sold out, you can buy them at the gate for a couple of hundred kroner extra on the day.



1619. Another gem is **Brogade 23**, decorated with cherubs carved by the famed 17th-century artist Abel Schröder. Elsewhere best efforts have been made to improve a not very attractive industrial harbour with open air cafés and restaurants

## Sleeping

The tourist office can book double rooms in private homes from Dkr450 plus a Dkr25 booking fee.

**Hotel Niels Juel** (☎ 56 63 18 00; [www.hotelnielsjuel.dk](http://www.hotelnielsjuel.dk); Toldbodvej 20; s/d Dkr825/1077) This harbour-front hotel has modern, light rooms and sea views.

**Danhostel Køge** (☎ 56 67 66 50; [www.danhostel.dk/koege](http://www.danhostel.dk/koege); Vamdrupvej 1; dm/r Dkr140/425; ☹ Mar-Nov; 📍) The hostel is 2km northwest of the centre.

**Hotel Hvide Hus** (☎ 56 65 36 90; [www.hotelhvidhus.dk](http://www.hotelhvidhus.dk); Strandvejen 111; s/d Dkr825/1275) Well located if a little characterless, this 126 room modern hotel is on the beach with a café and restaurant.

## Eating & Drinking

**StigAnn** (☎ 56 63 03 30; [www.stigann.dk](http://www.stigann.dk); Sankt Gertruds Stræde 2; dinner Dkr175-230, 3-course menu Dkr315) StigAnn serves up superb lunch courses of locally caught seafood (Dkr50-90) and mains, including guinea fowl (Dkr190).

**Hugos Vinkjelder** (☎ 56 65 58 50; Brogade 19; [www.hugos.dk](http://www.hugos.dk)) Køge has a number of pleasant bars, but one of the best is this atmospheric place tucked away off Brogade in the little courtyard of Hugos Gård. It has an eclectic selection of over 70 bottled beers including brews from Eastern Europe to Scotland.

## Entertainment

**Ritz Rock Cafe** (Torvet 22; ☹ café 11am-9.30pm Mon-Sat, 1-9.30pm Sun, club 11pm-6am Fri & Sat) For late night-early morning action, Ritz Rock caters for all tastes in three different dance venues.

## Getting There & Away

Køge's train and bus stations are at Jernbanegade 12 on the east side of town. The train station is at the southernmost point of greater Copenhagen's S-train network, at the end of the E line. Trains to Copenhagen run at least three times an hour (Dkr63, 35 minutes). The bus to Copenhagen (Dkr63, one hour) leaves from outside the train station.

**Bornholmstrafikken** (☎ 56 95 18 66; [www.bornholmstrafikken.dk](http://www.bornholmstrafikken.dk)) operates the service from Køge, just south of Copenhagen, to Bornholm. The overnight ferry departs daily at 11.30pm and arrives at 6.30am. There are a couple of daytime sailings during the week as well, but these are far more sporadic.

## TRELLEBORG

In the countryside of southern Zealand **Trelleborg** (☎ 58 54 95 06; Trelleborg Allé; adult/child Dkr50/free; ☹ 10am-4pm Sat-Thu) is the best preserved of Denmark's four Viking ring fortresses.

The earthen-walled fortress, dating from 980, is divided into four symmetrical quadrants. In Viking times, each quadrant contained four long elliptical buildings of wood that surrounded a courtyard. Each of the 16 buildings, which served as barracks, was exactly 100 Roman feet long (29.5m). You can walk up onto the grassy circular rampart and readily grasp the geometric design of the fortress. Concrete blocks have been placed to show the outlines of the house foundations. Plaques point out burial mounds and other features. It is a fascinating place, but the understandable absence of even vestigial wooden ruins creates a sense of anticlimax overall.

There is a museum, and a separate area is given over to more reconstructions of typical Viking-period buildings. A few costumed interpreters demonstrate old trades and, for a small fee, you can try your hand at baking bread or archery. Spear throwing is free. The museum and office building closes at 4pm, but you can still wander about the grounds in the evening.

Trelleborg is 7km west of Slagelse. To get there, take the train to Slagelse (Dkr63, 33 minutes from Roskilde) and then either catch the hourly bus No 312 to Trelleborg (Dkr18, 12 minutes), take a taxi, or rent a bicycle from a shop near the Slagelse tourist office.

## SOUTH ISLANDS

The three islands of Møn, Falster and Lolland mark the southernmost part of Denmark. Though they are just a 1½-hour drive from Copenhagen, these three rural oases can seem centuries removed. Though all three islands are connected to Zealand and each other by bridges, they often appear dis-

connected from the modern world, which of course is part of their appeal. Cycling holidays are popular here, as is fishing, sailing, bird-watching and hiking, plus there are several good golf courses. There is also a thriving arts scene on Møn although the island is most celebrated for its spectacular chalk sea cliffs, Falster has fine sandy beaches, and Lolland, the largest and least interesting island, has a handful of scattered sights including a drive-through safari park.

## Møn pop 12,000

You don't come to Møn, the easternmost island of the three, for nightlife and museums, but pleasant beaches lie at the end of narrow lanes, the island's medieval churches have remarkable frescoes, and there are numerous prehistoric remains, including a couple of impressive passage graves. The main attractions are the white cliffs and the woods of Møns Klint on the east coast.

One downside is that the island's bus service is sketchy, and to get the best out of Møn, having your own transport is a help.

Stege, the main settlement on Møn, is an everyday place, but it is enlivened by its role as the island's gateway town and main commercial centre. **Møn tourist office** (☎ 55 86 04 00; [www.moen-touristbureau.dk](http://www.moen-touristbureau.dk); Storegade 2; ☹ 9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat mid-Jun-Aug, 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat Sep-mid-Jun) is at the entrance to Stege and has good information on the entire island.

**Stege Kirke** (Provstestredet; admission free; ☹ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun Apr-Sep, to 1pm Oct-Mar) has unique medieval frescoes and a pulpit carved with entertaining visual interpretations of biblical scenes.

## MØNS KLINT

The chalk cliffs of Møns Klint, at the eastern tip of the island, were created during the last Ice Age when the calcareous deposits from aeons of compressed seashells were lifted from the ocean floor. The gleaming white cliffs rise sharply for 128m above an azure sea, presenting one of the most striking landscapes in Denmark. The chalk subsoil of the land above the cliffs supports a terrific variety of wildflowers including vivid orchids. There is a strict embargo on picking wildflowers.

Møns Klint is a very popular tourist destination and the wooded arrival point above the cliffs has a busy cafeteria, souvenir shops and picnic grounds. But none of this detracts from the natural appeal of the cliffs themselves or the lovely woodland above them.

The woods of Klinteskov, behind the cliffs, have a network of paths and tracks. From near the cafeteria you can descend the cliffs by a series of wooden stairways. It's quite a long descent and a strenuous return up the 500-odd stairs. From the base of the steps, turn south along the narrow beach which leads in about 1km to another stairway at Gråryg Fald. These take you steeply to the top of the cliff, from where a path leads back to the car park. If you turn north at the base of the descent stairway, in just over 1km you'll reach another stairway at Sandskredsfald that again takes you back to the top. In winter, and after heavy rain, unstable lumps of chalk may break off and fall to the beach and you should keep this in mind. Warning notices and barriers should be heeded.

During the summer **boat tours** of the coast around the cliffs run with the MS *Discovery* from Klintholm harbour every two hours from 10am to 4pm (☎ 21 40 41 81; [www.sejlkut-teren-discovery.dk](http://www.sejlkut-teren-discovery.dk) in Danish).

## LISELUND CASTLE

This small, thatched **country manor** (☎ 55 81 20 81; Langebjergvej 6; [www.liselundslot.dk](http://www.liselundslot.dk); s/d Dkr900/1250) to the north of Møns Klint was built in the late 1800s in the romantic style. The sumptuous parkland surrounding the house is great for picnicking and has various lakes and follies, such as the Chinese Tea Pavilion and Norwegian log cabin. Liselund Ny Slot (the New Liselund Castle) houses a hotel and restaurant. The museum, located in the old house, is open from May to September with guided tours only at 10.30am, 11am, 1.30pm and 2pm.

## PASSAGE GRAVES

Møn has a wealth of prehistoric remains, although many are vestigial burial mounds. The best preserved sites are the late-Stone Age passage graves of **Kong Asgers Høj** and **Klek-kende Høj**. Both are on the west side of the island within a 2km radius of the village of Røddinge, from where they are



signposted. Kong Asgers Høj is close to the narrow road and parking space is limited. The site is extremely well preserved and comprises a grassy mound pierced by a low passageway that leads to a splendid stonelined chamber. Take a torch and mind your head. **Klekkende Høj** is on a hilltop amid fields. From a car park, follow a signposted track to reach the site. The grave has a double chamber and again you need a torch and some agility to creep inside.

### CHURCHES OF MØN

Most of the churches on Møn are medieval and many are graced with the best-preserved primitive frescoes in Denmark. The frescoes depict biblical scenes, often interpreted through light-hearted rustic imagery. These frescoes were obliterated with whitewash by post-Reformation Lutherans fearful of what they saw as too much Roman exuberance. Ironically, the whitewash dealt a blow to bigotry by preserving the frescoes, and 20th-century restoration has revealed them in all their glory. The style of Møn fresco painting owes much to the Emelundemesteren (the Emelunde Master), an accomplished stylist whose name is unknown. Some of his finest work can be seen at **Emelunde Kirke** (Kirkebakken 41; admission free; ☎ 8am-4pm Oct-May) on the road to Møns Klint.

### CYCLING

Although testing at times, cycling on Møn is rewarding given the island's uncharacteristic hilliness. The tourist office has a route map and an excellent printout guide in English to themed bike tours on the island.

### SLEEPING & EATING

**Camping Møns Klint** (☎ 55 81 20 25; www.campingmoensklint.dk; camp site per adult/child/tent Dkr70/45/20; ☎ Apr-Nov) Located about 3km from the cliffs, the camping ground is in a pleasant woodland setting with swimming pool and tennis courts.

**Danhostel Møns Klint** (☎ 55 81 20 30; www.danhostel.dk/moen; Langebjergvej 1, Borre; dm/d/tr/q Dkr150/300/390/420; ☎ May-mid-Sep; P ☒) This two-star hostel occupies an enchanting lakeside spot opposite the camping ground.

**Præstekilde Klintevej** (☎ 55 86 87 88; www.praestekilde.dk; Klintevej, 116, Keldby; s/d Dkr725-925) This modern hotel is convenient for most

of Møn's sights and has an indoor pool and restaurant.

**Klintholm Bed and Breakfast** (☎ 55 81 24 50; www.klintholm-bb.dk; Klintholm Havnevej 4, Magleby; s/d Dkr425-525) Sofie and Finn Juul run this homely guesthouse 6km from Møns Klint.

In Stege, there are bakeries and supermarkets and a handful of cafés.

**Bryguset Møn** (☎ 55 81 20 00; www.brygusetmoen.dk in Danish; Storegade 18, Stege; ☎ noon-9pm Tue & Wed, to 10pm Thu & Fri, 10am-10pm Sat, to 9pm Sun; burgers, sandwiches & lunch plate Dkr55-125) This new micro brewery is the latest place to eat and drink in the island's capital. It has outdoor seating in summer.

**David's** (☎ 33 13 80 57; Storegade 11a, Stege; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, alternate Fri & Sat evenings during summer; 2-course menu Dkr225) Ambitious modern French-Danish food is on offer here, using locally sourced ingredients for very reasonable prices. Dishes include duck breast with a port wine sauce and Danish summer vegetables.

### GETTING THERE & AROUND

From Copenhagen take the train to Vordingborg (Dkr106, 1¼ hours); from there it's a 45-minute ride to Stege on bus No 62 (Dkr39). From late June to mid-August, bus 632 makes the 45-minute run (Dkr18) from Stege to Møns Klint a few times a day. The bus stops at the hostel and camping ground en route. During the rest of the year the bus stops within about 3km of Møns Klint.

### Falster

The east coast of Falster is lined with white sandy beaches that attract huge numbers of German and Danish holiday-makers, many of whom own tree-shrouded cabins along the wooded coastline.

The most glorious stretch of beach is at **Marielyst**, which is 12km from the island's main settlement of Nykøbing Falster. The beach draws crowds in summer, but it's so long that you can always achieve some sense of escape. You reach the sea down various lanes that slice through the tree line. Parking is not always easy. The most convenient access and parking is straight on from the junction of the resort's main street, Marielyst Strandvej, with the north-south road, Bøtøvej. There is parking down seaward access lanes at roughly every kilometre as you head south along Bøtøvej from the cross-

roads. Gedser Odde is the southern most point of Denmark.

The **tourist office** (☎ 54 13 62 98; www.marielyst.org; Marielyst Strandpark 3; ☎ 9am-4pm Mon-Sat, 10am-2pm Sun mid-Jun-Aug, to 2pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat Sep-mid-Jun) is in a modern complex on the western entrance to the resort as you come in from the E55. Go left at the big roundabout. You can rent bicycles from the tourist office for Dkr40 per day.

### SLEEPING

**Marielyst Camping** (☎ 54 13 53 07; www.marielyst-camping.dk in Danish; Marielyst Strandvej 36; camp site per adult/child/tent Dkr67/35/15) This central camping ground has a long season and is popular with families. It's 400m from the beach.

**Danhostel Nykøbing F** (☎ 54 85 66 99; www.danhostel.dk/nykoebingfalster in Danish; Østre Allé 110; dm/r Dkr150/360-520) This is the nearest hostel to Marielyst, being just 1km east of Nykøbing, Falster's train station.

**Hotel Nørrevang** (☎ 54 13 62 82; www.norrevang.dk; Marielyst Strandvej 32; s/d Dkr795/995). This thatched, half-timbered house 500m from the beach in Marielyst has 26 rooms, a pool, tennis court and restaurant.

### GETTING THERE & AROUND

Trains leave Copenhagen several times each hour for Nykøbing F (Dkr133, two hours) on the western side of the island, from where it's a Dkr26 bus ride to Marielyst on the east (25 minutes), or Gedser (35 minutes) further south. From Gedser there are frequent **Scandlines ferries** (☎ 33 15 15 15; www.scandlines.dk) to Rostock, Germany. The trip takes two hours and costs Dkr35 per person. It's Dkr550 for a car with up to five people weekdays and a rather steep Dkr750 at weekends.

### Lolland

Perhaps conscious of its comparative lack of natural attractions, Lolland offers instead a couple of diverting attractions.

The main town of **Maribo** has an engaging charm, not least because of its lakeside setting. Maribo's **tourist office** (☎ 54 78 04 96; www.turistlolland.dk in Danish; Torvet; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) is on the attractive main square and has masses of information. The town stands amid a scattering of lakes, and its handsome, 15th-century, redbrick **Domkirken** overlooks the gleaming waters of the Sønder sø. There

are pleasant lakeside **walks** and Maribo has a number of interesting **museums**.

The biggest draw, at least as far as Danes are concerned, is **Knuthenborg Safari Park** (☎ 54 78 80 89; www.knuthenborg.dk; Birketvej 1, Bandholm; adult/child Dkr115/60; ☎ 10am-5pm).

**Danhostel Maribo** (☎ 54 78 33 14; www.danhostel.dk/maribo; Søndre Boulevard 82; dm/r Dkr100/270; ☎ May-late-Dec; P) Rather a barracklike hostel but well located close to the beach.

The pleasant **Ebsens Hotel** (☎ 54 78 10 44; www.ebsens-hotel.dk in Danish; Vestergade 32, Maribo; s/d without bathroom Dkr350/550, s/d with bathroom Dkr550/750; P) has some strikingly decorated larger rooms.

Vestergade, the main street running west from Torvet in Maribo, has several cafés and restaurant. **Skaanings Gaard Restaurant** (☎ 54 78 22 25; Vesterbrogade 55, Maribo; ☎ noon-midnight) serves a lunch buffet (Dkr99) and has plenty of outdoor seating during summer.

Trains run between Nykøbing F to Maribo (Dkr58, 25 minutes) and on to Nakskov (Dkr65, 47 minutes) every hour Monday to Friday, and less at weekends.

## BORNHOLM

### pop 45,000

This self-contained little world stuck in the middle of the Baltic 200km east of Copenhagen makes for a wonderful, peaceful escape from Copenhagen'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.

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 gunslot-pierced upper storey. All four churches are still used for Sunday services, but are otherwise open to visitors.

### HISTORY

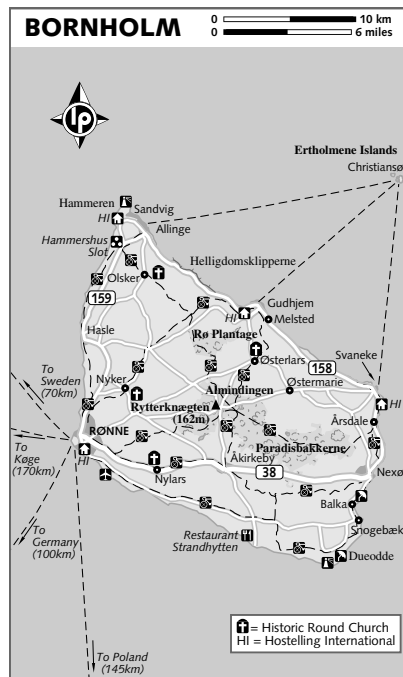
Bornholm's history reflects its position at the heart of the Baltic and, in its time, Sweden, Germany and Soviet Russia have occupied it. A Danish possession since the Middle Ages, the island fell into Swedish

hands in the 17th century, but was won back for Denmark by a fierce local rebellion.

The island suffered cruelly in the chaos at the end of WWII. It was occupied by the Nazis, but when Germany surrendered in May 1945 the commander on Bornholm resisted and Rønne and Nexø suffered heavy damage from Soviet air raids. On 9 May the island was handed over to the Soviets who remained *in situ* until the following year, when Bornholm was returned to Denmark.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

**Bornholmstrafikken** (☎ 33 13 18 66; www.bornholmstrafikken.dk; cabins one-way Dkr233, car plus 5 adults Dkr1280) operates ferries between Køge and Rønne. While not as fast as the boat/train option, the overnight sailing (departing daily at midnight and arriving at 6.30am) on the car ferry from Køge is worth considering. Cabins are reasonably inexpensive and it's a good use of time as you travel while you sleep. The downside is the trek out to Køge, about 30 minutes by train south of Copenhagen. A peak (mid-June to August) return ticket per person costs Dkr360.



Bornholmstrafikken also operates the ferry service that runs several times daily between Rønne and Ystad, Sweden (Dkr162 one way or same-day return, 1½ or 2½ hours) and at least once daily between Rønne and Sassnitz, Germany (Dkr150 one way, 3½ hours).

A quicker option 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 Dkr224. It's also possible to drive to Ystad and cross with a car from there.

The quickest option of all is the 35-minute flight with **Cimber Air** (☎ 74 42 22 77; www.cimber.dk; one-way Dkr1034), with several flights a day between Copenhagen and Bornholm. Book ahead to benefit from cheaper prices.

## GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

The island's airport, Bornholms Lufthavn, is 5km southeast of Rønne, on the road to Dueodde. Bus No 7 stops on the main road in front of the airport.

## Bicycle

Cycling is a great way to get around. Bornholm is crisscrossed by more than 200km of bike trails, many built over former rail routes. You can start right in Rønne, from where bike routes fan out to Allinge, Gudhjem, Nexø, Dueodde and the central forest. Rønne tourist office sells the 60-page English-language **Bicycle Routes on Bornholm** (Dkr45), which maps out routes and describes sights along the way.

In Rønne, **Bornholms Cykeludlejning** (☎ 56 95 13 59; Nordre Kystvej 5; per day/week Dkr70/260), next to the tourist office, has a large fleet of bikes for hire. Bicycles can usually be rented from hostels and camping grounds around the island for about Dkr65 a day.

## Bus

A good, inexpensive bus service around the island is operated by **Bornholms Amts Trafikselskab** (BAT; www.bat.dk; day/weekly passes Dkr130/440). Fares are based on a zone system and cost Dkr10 per zone; the maximum fare is for 10 zones. Ask the bus driver about a 'RaBATkort' (10 rides), which can be used by more than one person and saves about 20%. Buses operate all year,

but schedules are less frequent from October to April. From May to September, bus No 7 leaves from the Rønne ferry terminal every two hours between 8am and 4pm and goes anticlockwise around the island, stopping at Dueodde beach and major coastal villages before terminating at Hammershus. There are more evening buses in the peak season from late June to the end of August. Other buses make direct runs from Rønne to Nexø, Svaneke, Gudhjem and Sandvig.

## Car & Scooter

Motor scooters (per day Dkr245), open-topped mini scooter cars (per day Dkr385) or cars (per day Dkr620) can be rented at **Eurocar** (☎ 56 95 43 00; Nordre Kystvej 1, Rønne). The office is in the petrol station just along the road from the ferry terminal. **Avis** (☎ 56 95 22 08), further into town, offers similar rates.

## RØNNE

pop 15,000

Rønne is a charming little town with a number of engaging museums and an old quarter of cobbled streets flanked by pretty single-storey dwellings. It is the island's largest settlement and is a popular shopping destination for Swedes on day trips.

The **tourist office** (Bornholms Velkomstcenter; ☎ 56 95 95 00; www.bornholm.info; Nordre Kystvej 3; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 10am-3pm Sun mid-Jun-Aug, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat Feb-May, Sep & Oct, to 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, to 3pm Fri, 1-8pm Wed, 10am-2pm Sat) for which you must book a slot first.

Two very pleasant streets with period buildings are the cobblestoned **Laksegade** and **Storegade**.

**Bornholms Museum** (☎ 56 95 07 35; Sankt Mortensgade 29; adult/child Dkr35/10; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat) has a surprisingly large collection of local history exhibits, some interesting displays about Christiansø along with many prehistoric finds and a good maritime section decked out like the interior of a ship. **Hjorths Fabrik** (☎ 56 95 01 60; Krystalgade 5; adult/child Dkr35/10; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat) is a ceramics museum complete with working features.

The handsome round church, **Nylars Rundkirke**, built in 1150 and decorated with 13th-

century frescoes, is surrounded by Viking rune stones. It's only a 15-minute ride from Rønne on bus No 6.

The tourist office books rooms in private homes for singles (Dkr200) and doubles (Dkr290).

**Galløkken Camping** (☎ 56 95 23 20; www.gallokken.dk; Strandvejen 4; adult/child Dkr60/30; ☎ mid-May-Aug) is just over 1km south of the town centre. It rents out bikes for Dkr55 to Dkr65 per day. The immaculately kept 140-bed **Danhostel Rønne** (☎ 56 95 13 40; www.danhostel-roenne.dk; Arsenalvej 12; dm/s/d Dkr150/300/400; ☎ ☒) is nearby.

**Sverre's Small Hotel** (☎ 56 95 03 03; www.sverre-hotel.dk; Snellemark 2; s/d Dkr410/550) offers pleasant, basic, central accommodation near the ferry terminal.

The **Kvickly** supermarket, which is opposite the tourist office, has a good bakery that opens at 6.30am, and a handy bistro that offers sandwiches (Dkr40 to Dkr55) and hearty hot meals (Dkr65 to Dkr80). You'll find numerous fast-food places on Store Torv. **Strøget's Spisehus** (☎ 56 95 81 69; Store Torvegade 39; lunch mains Dkr80-95, dinner mains Dkr122-160) specialises in excellent Danish meat including a decent steak and chips. Locals vote **Casa Mia** (☎ 56 95 95 73; Antoniustræde 3; pizza Dkr66-72, pasta mains Dkr58-86) the best place for pizza and pasta in town. Rønne isn't much of a party town. Towards the weekend and in summer, there may be some life in **O'Malley's** (☎ 56 95 00 16; Store Torvegade 2), which caters for an older crowd and has an over-21 age limit for its Friday and Saturday late-night discos.

## DUEODDE

Dueodde has a vast stretch of white-sand beach backed by woodlands and dunes. The only 'sight' is the slender lighthouse, which you can climb for views of sea and strand that stretch to the horizon. There's no village, just a bus stop with a single hotel, a restaurant, a cluster of kiosks selling ice cream and hot dogs, and necessary public toilets to cope with the rush from tour coaches in summer. It can be a crowded trek for a couple of hundred metres along boardwalks to reach the superb beach. Once there, head left or right for wide-open spaces.

The beachside **Dueodde Vandrerhjem & Campground** (☎ 56 48 81 19; info@dueodde.dk; camp

site per adult/child/tent Dkr54/30/25; (☎) Apr-Oct) is a modern place a 10-minute walk east of the bus stop, or it can be reached by car from the main road. It also has cabins for rent at Dkr170/300 for one/two persons, rising to Dkr800 for eight. There's an indoor swimming pool.

**Restaurant Strandhytten** (☎ 56 97 82 50, Baunvej 18; lunch mains Dkr150-170, dinner mains Dkr170-290; (☎) daily lunch & dinner) A short drive north of Duodde. Restaurant Strandhytten occupies a terrific location on the southern coast. Overlooking lapping waves, sand dunes and little else, the Strandhytten offers superior food with a mainly German influence. Big seasonal menus (ten asparagus dishes when we visited), good fish selection, lamb with ratatouille, sirloin steaks, lobster and reasonably priced prosecco make this restaurant a serious contender for best restaurant on Bornholm. There is all-day coffee and cake too.

## BORNHOLM'S EAST COAST

Bornholm's east coast tends to be fairly built-up and is punctuated by several settlements, all with some interest as stopping-off places.

**Snogebæk** is a small shore side fishing village that hangs on to its authenticity because of its small fleet of working boats and its scattering of fishing huts and cabins.

Just north of Snogebæk is the fine beach of **Balka Strand**.

Nexø is Bornholm's second-largest town. It took a hammering from Soviet bombers in WWII and today much of what you see from the harbour outwards is a fairly functional reconstruction. **Nexø-Dueodde Turistinformation** (☎ 56 49 32 00; Åsen 4) is in the centre of town, two blocks inland from the harbour. **Nexø Museum** (☎ 56 49 25 56; Havnen 2; adult/child Dkr25/5; (☎) 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat mid-May-mid-Oct) is at the harbour and is packed with maritime flotsam and jetsam including an old-fashioned diving suit, cannons, WWII mines and the inner workings of a lighthouse.

The harbour town of **Svaneke** has award-winning historic buildings, especially those near the village church, a few minutes' walk south of the centre. The **tourist office** (☎ 56 49 70 79; Storegade 24; (☎) noon-4.30pm Mon-Fri) is in the post office building, two blocks north of the central square.

## Sleeping & Eating

**Danhostel Svaneke** (☎ 56 49 62 42; www.danhostel-svaneke.dk in Danish; Reberbanevej 9; dm/s/d Dkr150/400/460; (☎) Apr-Oct) This quiet complex of bungalow-style chalet dorms and rooms is 1km south of the centre of Svaneke and close to the water.

**Hotel Balka Strand** (☎ 56 49 49 49; www.hotelbalkastrand.dk; Boulevarden 9; s/d from Dkr625/795; (P) ☎ (☎)) A good base in the Snogebæk-Nexø area is this friendly, smart hotel about 200m from Balka Strand beach.

Down by Snogebæk's seafont along Hovedgade, you'll find a cluster of shops selling glassware, organic ice cream, smoked fish and handmade chocolate.

A contender for best smokehouse on the island is **Rogeriet i Svaneke** (☎ 56 49 63 24; Fiskergade 12; counter meals Dkr25-54, lunch/evening buffet meals Dkr84/98). There's excellent, moist, smoked fare including wonderful smørrebrød and tasty fish cakes (Dkr24) to consume inside while you enjoy the view of the massive blackened doors of the smoking ovens or at the outdoor picnic tables. It's by the water at the end of Fiskergade, north of the town centre.

**Bryghuset** (☎ 56 49 73 21; Torv 5) This friendly place brews three excellent beers, ideal for washing down all that smoked fish. If you haven't already eaten, it also serves decent pub grub.

## GUDHJEM

pop 1000

Worth considering as a base on the island, 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. It's a popular eating-out place with good accommodation options and good transport links (including to Christiansø). The harbour was one of the settings for the Oscar-winning film *Pelle the Conqueror*, based on the novel of Bornholm writer Martin Andersen Nexø. 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. Gudhjem has narrow streets and parking can be difficult. There's a public car park northwest of the harbour.

Stroll the **footpath** running southeast from the harbour for a pleasant coastal

view. Gudhjem's shoreline is rocky, though sunbathers will find a small sandy beach at Melsted, 1km east. 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 No 3 goes by the church.

## Sleeping & Eating

**Danhostel Gudhjem** (☎ 56 48 50 35; www.danhostel-gudhjem.dk; dm/s/d Dkr150/260/385) Just up from the harbourside bus stop, this hostel is in an attractive spot right by the harbour with small cosy, bright white six-bed dorms. The management also handles the pleasant **Therns Hotel** (☎ 56 48 50 35; www.therns-hotel.dk; Brøddegade 31; s/d Dkr350/550, s/d with bathroom from Dkr500/700).

**Jantzens Hotel** (☎ 56 48 50 17; jantzenshotel@mail.dk; Brøddegade 33; s/d Dkr525/925) The central Jantzens Hotel is a fine old building that has been refurbished and has stylish rooms and a restaurant.

**Restaurant Toldkammeret** (☎ 56 48 48 49; Havnegade 19; mains Dkr120-210) Great smørrebrød (four for Dkr120 including tender, pink roast beef with home-made pickles and local salted herring), good seafood and light flavoursome seasonal starters are served on the cosy little harbour-facing terrace.

**Gudhjem Rogeri** (☎ 56 48 57 08; buffet Dkr871) Further along is this waterfront smokehouse with an all-you-can-eat buffet 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.

## SANDVIG & ALLINGE

Sandvig is tucked away under Bornholm's rocky northwestern tip 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. They are perched dramatically over the sea, flanked by cliffs and a deep valley. One of the best ways of reaching the castle is by following footpaths from Sandvig through the heather-covered hills of Hammeren – a

wonderful hour-long hike. The trail begins by the camping ground. Sandvig has a mix of attractive old houses and several good eating places. Nearby Allinge has a couple of great historic hotels.

## Sleeping & Eating

**Danhostel Sandvig** (☎ 56 48 03 62; www.danhostel.dk/sandvig; Hammershusvej 94; dm/s/d Dkr150/275/400) This is midway between Hammershus Slot and Sandvig.

**Hotel-Pension Langebjerg** (☎ 56 48 02 98; Langebjergvej 7; s/d Dkr365/680) This is a good bet out of the several pensions in the village.

**Byskrieviergarten** (☎ 56 48 08 86; www.byskrieviergaarden.dk in Danish & German; Løsebækgade 3; s/d Dkr595/710; (P)) An enchanting, white-walled, black-beamed converted farmhouse right on the water in Allinge. The rooms are smartly, if sparsely decorated in contemporary style. Try to get the sea-facing ones. There's a pleasant garden and swimmable, kelp-filled rock pools around the corner if you fancy proving the water.

**Café Værftet** (☎ 56 48 04 34; Jernbanegade 3; mains Dkr90-140) An unmissable place for good company, delicious Christiansø herring dishes (Dkr38) and meat mains (around Dkr100). It's in an old boathouse whose entire front wall, complete with windows and coverings, can be raised open at the touch of a button from behind the bar; an entertaining event, especially if you've had a few schnapps too many.

## CHRISTIANSØ

pop 100

Charmingly preserved, tiny Christiansø (it's about 500m long) is a 17th-century fortress-island an hour's sail northeast of Bornholm. It's well worth making time for a day trip. It has been a seasonal fishing hamlet since the Middle Ages. Christiansø fell briefly into Swedish hands in 1658, after which Christian V decided to turn the island into an invincible naval fortress. Bastions and barracks were built; church, school and prison followed.

By the 1850s the island was no longer needed as a forward base against Sweden and the navy withdrew. Soldiers who wanted to stay on as fishermen were allowed to live as free tenants in the old cottages. Their offspring, and a few latter-day fisherfolk and artists, currently comprise

Christiansø's 100 residents. The entire island is an unspoiled reserve – there are no cats or dogs, no cars and no modern buildings intrude – allowing the rich birdlife, including puffins, to prosper.

If the hectic pace of life on Christiansø is getting to you, try escaping to a smaller island, **Frederickson**, by the footbridge.

There's a small **local history museum** in Frederickson's tower and a great 360° view from Christiansø **lighthouse**. Otherwise the main activity is **walking** the footpaths along the fortified walls and batteries that skirt the island. There are skerries with nesting **sea birds** and a secluded **swimming cove** on Christiansø's eastern side.

In summer, **camping** is allowed in a small field at the Duchess Battery. **Christiansø Gæstgiveriet** (☎ 56 46 20 15; r ind breakfast Dkr800), the island's only inn, has a few rooms with shared bathroom and a restaurant. Booking ahead for a room is advised. There's a small food store and a snack shop.

**Christiansøfarten** (☎ 56 48 51 76) sails daily to Christiansø from Gudhjem and Monday to Saturday from Allinge between mid-May and mid-September. The mailboat from Svaneke sails Monday to Friday year-round. All boats charge Dkr170 per adult and Dkr85 per child for a return journey. Dogs or other pets are forbidden on Christiansø.

## FUNEN

pop 476,000

It is a shame that in the rush from Copenhagen to Jutland many visitors miss the quiet pleasures of the mostly rural island of Funen (Fyn) with its sandy bays, sleepy villages, picturesque fjords and rolling fields.

As well as Funen itself, there are several smaller islands further south still where you really get a sense of escaping from the modern world – chief among them are Lange-land and Æro, which are reached via the town of Svendborg.

The island lies between Zealand and the Jutland Peninsula and is connected to the former by the Storebælts Forbindelsen (Great Belt's Bridge) and the latter by the Lillebælts Bro (Little Belt's Bridge).

Store Bælt (Great Belt), the channel that separates Zealand and Funen, is spanned by Europe's longest combined road and

rail bridge, the magnificent Storebælts-forbindelsen (Great Belt Fixed Link). It consists of a four-lane highway that is supported on two sleek suspension bridges connected via the uninhabited island of Sprogø, and an 8km train tunnel, second in length only to the huge UK–France Channel Tunnel. In all, the impressive span, which runs between the industrial towns of Korsør and Nyborg, covers 18km. If you're taking a train, the cost of crossing is included in your train fare; however, if you're driving, there's a costly bridge toll each way (under-6m/over-6m vehicles Dkr200/305) and Dkr105 for a motorbike.

## ODENSE

pop 185,000

If overseas visitors stop in Funen, it is usually to visit the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen in Odense. Denmark's third-largest city takes great pride in being the birthplace of Scandinavia's most famous writer, though after a fairly unhappy childhood, Andersen left Odense with little regret. These days it's a bustling university city with busy, central pedestrianised areas, a fairly lively social scene, a good network of bike lanes, an interesting cathedral and a number of worthwhile museums, including the excellent Andersen museum. Funen's largest produce market is held beside the Koncerthus every Wednesday and Saturday morning.

### Information

#### DISCOUNT CARDS

Odense has a handy 'adventure pass' that allows reduced entry into museums and free local bus transport. You can buy it at the train station or tourist office for adults Dkr120/160, children Dkr65/85 for 24/48 hours.

#### INTERNET ACCESS

**Boomtown Netcafé** (☎ 63 11 15 05; Pantheonsgade 4) A plush gamers place with fast internet connection.

**Odense Central Library** (Odense Banegård Center; ☎ 10am–7pm Mon–Thu, to 4pm Fri, to 2pm Sat) Offers free use of the internet.

#### LEFT LUGGAGE

At the train station, left-luggage lockers cost Dkr10 to Dkr20 for 24 hours. Also at the eastern end of Vestergade, close to HC Andersen Hus, is another left luggage place which charges Dkr3 to Dkr6 per hour.

## MONEY

**Nordea Bank** (Vestergade 64)

## POST

**Post Office** (Brandts Passage; ☎ 10am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, to 1pm Sat)

## TOURIST INFORMATION

**Tourist Office** (☎ 66 12 75 20; www.visitodense.com; ☎ 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, a 15-minute walk from the train station.

## Sights

### HC ANDERSEN MUSEUMS

The **HC Andersens Hus** (☎ 65 51 46 01; Bangs Boder 29; adult/child Dkr55/free; 10am–4pm Tue–Sun 16 Aug–15 Jun, 9am–6pm 16 Jun–15 Aug) lies amid the picturesque little houses of the old poor quarter of Odense. It was expanded to mark Andersen's 200th anniversary in 2005 and contains a thorough and lively telling of the amazing life Andersen lived (see the boxed text, p75), put into an interesting historical context and leavened by some good audiovisual material. Andersen was supposedly born on the corner room of the building although the author himself denied this in later life and there is no concrete evidence to support this view. There are often live theatre shows in the small garden to the rear of the museum during June to August.

Next door to the museum is the charming **Fyrtøjet – Et Kulturhus For Børn** (Tinderbox – A Cultural Centre for Children; ☎ 66 14 44 11; Hans Jensens Stræde 21; admission Dkr75; ☎ 10am–5pm mid-Jun–Aug, 11am–4pm Tue–Sun Sep–mid-Jun), where youngsters can explore the magical world of Hans Christian Andersen through storytelling and music (in English as well as Danish during the summer), and by dressing up and pretending to be some of Andersen's most famous characters. There is a good café/restaurant here (sandwiches Dkr65 to Dkr85; two-course menu Dkr135).

**HC Andersens Barndomshjem** (Munkemøllestræde 3; adult/child Dkr25/free; ☎ 11am–3pm Tue–Sun 16 Aug–15 Jun, 10am–4pm Mon–Sun 16 Jun–15 Aug) has a couple of rooms of exhibits in the small house where Hans Christian grew up. This is the house he describes in his autobiographies and which features in a couple of his fairy stories.

## SANKT KNUDS KIRKE

Odense's 13th-century, Gothic **cathedral** (☎ 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 gilded wooden triptych crowded with over 300 carved figures and said to be one of the finest pieces of religious art in Northern Europe.

## BRANDTS KLÆDEFABRIK

The former textile mill has been converted into an impressive **cultural centre** (☎ 65 20 70 00; Brandts Passage; www.brandts.dk in Danish; combined ticket adult/child Dkr50/free; ☎ 10am–5pm) with a photography museum (Dkr25), a modern art gallery (Dkr30) and a museum of graphics and printing (Dkr25). The superb exhibition spaces often present excellent temporary exhibitions from artists from all over the world. There's also an appealing roof terrace overlooking town and an excellent artbook/gift shop on the ground floor.

Nearby, in a large loft, is the charming **Tidens Samling** (Times Collection; ☎ 65 91 19 42; Brandt's Passage 29; adult/child Dkr30/20; ☎ 10am–5pm), featuring a series of domestic interiors from various periods between 1900 and the 1980s, and displays on the way Danes dressed, lived and thought in years gone by.

## DEN FYNISKE LANDSBY

This is a delightful **open-air museum** (☎ 65 51 46 01; Sejerskovvej 20; adult/child Dkr40/free; ☎ 10am–7pm mid-Jun–mid-Aug, 10am–5pm Tue–Sun Apr–mid-Jun & mid-Aug–Oct, 11am–3pm Nov–Mar), furnished with period buildings authentically laid out like a small country village, complete with barnyard animals, a duck pond, apple trees and flower gardens.

The museum is in a green zone 4km south of the city centre via bus No 42. From May to September you can take a boat (adult/child Dkr35/25) from Munke Mose down the river to Erik Boghs Sti, from where it's a 15-minute woodland walk along the river to Den Fynske Landsby.

## FYNS KUNSTMUSEUM

In a stately, neoclassical building, this **museum** (☎ 65 51 46 01; Jernbanegade 13; adult/child Dkr30/free; ☎ 10am–4pm Tue–Sun) has a serene atmosphere and contains a quality collection of Danish art from the 18th century to the present.

There are small collections of fine sculptures and contemporary art; changing exhibitions are also staged.

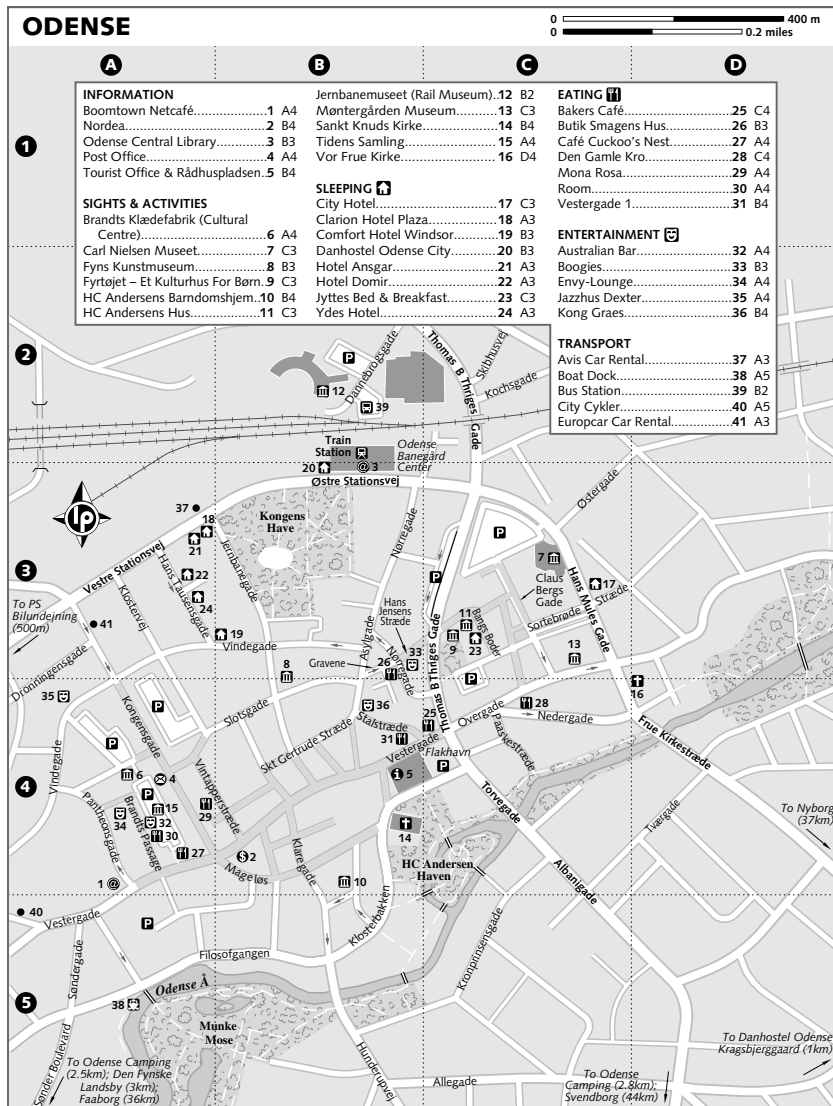
### CARL NIELSEN MUSEET

This **museum** (☎ 65 51 46 01; Claus Bergs Gade 11; adult/child Dkr25/free; 🕒 2-6pm Thu & Fri 16 Jun-31 Aug, 4-8pm Thu & Fri 1 Sep-31 May) in Odense's concert

hall details the career of the city's native son Carl Nielsen, Denmark's best-known composer.

### JERNBANEMUSEET

Railway buffs should not miss the collection of 19th-century locomotives at the **rail museum** (☎ 66 13 66 30; Dannebrogsgade 24; adult/child



Dkr40/16; 🕒 10am-4pm) just behind the train station. There are also mini railways for children of all ages to ride on.

### OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Strolling is a pleasure along the busy pedestrianised main street Vestergade and down side streets such as Lille Gråbrødstræde. The central square **Flakhavn**, framed by Odense Rådhuspladsen and Sankt Knuds Kirke, features Svend Wiig Hansen's giant bronze, the reclining *Oceania*. The east side of the city centre has some of Odense's oldest buildings. You can follow a rewarding **walking route** from the centre by crossing the busy Torvegade and strolling down Nødergade, a cobblestoned street lined with leaning, half-timbered houses and antique shops, and then returning via Overgade. En route you'll pass the 13th-century **Vor**

**Frue Kirke** (🕒 10am-noon Mon-Sat). One of the nicest walks to be had is alongside the river Å (pronounced 'Oh') that runs to the south of the city centre to Munke Mose park. Alternatively you can take the trip with a pleasure boat.

Around the corner, **Montergård** (☎ 66 14 88 14; Overgade 48-50; 🕒 10am-4pm Tue-Sun), the modest city museum, has various displays on Odense's history from the Viking Age and a couple of 16th- and 17th-century half-timbered houses.

### Sleeping

A Cab Inn is due to open in Odense on Østre Stationsvej, close to the station, in October 2007. The tourist office books rooms in private homes for Dkr250/350 for singles/doubles, plus a Dkr35 booking fee.

### A FAIRY-TALE LIFE? Michael Booth

Hans Christian Andersen is probably the biggest selling children's writer of all time. Admittedly he had a head start on JK Rowling, but stories such as *The Little Mermaid*, *The Emperor's New Clothes* and *The Ugly Duckling*, have been translated into over 170 languages (Chairman Mao was a fan, and put Andersen on the Chinese school curriculum), and are embedded in the global literary consciousness like few others. Even today, over 200 years after his birth, their themes are as relevant and universal as ever.

For the Danes, Hans Christian Andersen is Shakespeare, Goethe and Dickens rolled into one. That may sound a little excessive for a fairy-tale writer, but Andersen was far more than that. As well as single-handedly revolutionising children's literature (*Alice in Wonderland*, the works of Roald Dahl and, yes, even Harry Potter owe him a debt), he wrote novels, plays and several fascinating travel books.

Andersen was born in Odense on 2 April 1805. In three autobiographies he mythologised his childhood as poor but idyllic (his mother was a washerwoman, his father a cobbler) and filled with portents of his fame and success. The truth was his parents were not married when he was conceived and his father died when Andersen was 11.

Soon after the death of his father Andersen left for Copenhagen, an uneducated, gauche 14-year-old following a fairy-tale path. Despite numerous class and educational barriers, he tried and failed to become, variously, a ballet dancer, singer, actor, playwright and novelist, until he eventually found international success with his first volume of short stories.

That success and accompanying wealth were some compensation for what was an otherwise deeply troubled, largely unhappy life. Andersen was a neurotic, sexually ambivalent, highly-strung hypochondriac (he famously carried a length of rope with him wherever he travelled, in case he got trapped by fire in an upstairs room).

It all perhaps goes some way to explaining why he was such a restless nomad to the last. He travelled further than any of his compatriots; most notably in 1840-41 when he journeyed as far as Istanbul, writing about his experiences in the highly accomplished travelogue *A Poet's Bazaar*.

In modern-day Odense, Andersen is a mini industry. Everywhere you walk you will find his life evoked with statues, museums, shop names and souvenirs. It's probably best not to remind locals that the man himself couldn't wait to get away and fled the city for the gas lights of Copenhagen as soon as he had saved enough money for the coach fare.

**Odense Camping** (☎ 66 11 47 02; www.camping-odense.dk in Danish; Odensevej 102; camp site per adult/child/tent Dkr66/33/20) This camping ground is 3.5km south of the city centre (take bus No 21 or 22).

**Comfort Hotel Windsor** (☎ 66 12 06 52; www.hotel-windsor.dk; Vindegade 45; s/d Dkr895/995) This reasonably priced hotel is located right in the city centre. Being more business-orientated, it has good summer deals (s/d Dkr595/650)

**Danhostel Odense City** (☎ 63 11 04 25; www.cityhostel.dk; dm/s/d Dkr150/350/400; ☒ ☒) An excellent, modern 140-bed place with four- and six-bed dorms, a kitchen and laundry facilities located alongside the train and bus stations.

**Danhostel Odense Kragshjerggaard** (☎ 66 13 04 25; Kragshjergvej 121; dm/s/d Dkr105/295/420) Occupying a former manor house around a grassy central square, this 160-bed place is 2km southeast of the centre via bus No 61 or 62.

**Jyttes Bed & Breakfast** (☎ 66 13 89 36; www.jyttes-bb.dk; Ramsherred 17; d Dkr350) A cosy B&B located just along from the HC Andersen birthplace museum on a cute, cobbled medieval street. All rooms have TV.

**Hotel Ansgar** (☎ 66 11 96 93; www.hotel-ansgar.dk; Østre Stationsvej 32; s/d Dkr595-895/695-995) Another of Odense's more business orientated venues, also centrally located just down the road from the station with homely rooms, each with their own shower.

**Hotel Domir** (☎ 66 12 14 27; www.domir.dk; Hans Tausensgade 19; s/d Dkr495/595-795; ☒) This hotel is one of the better midrange options in town with pleasant, good-value rooms, though some singles are a bit cramped.

**Ydes Hotel** (☎ 66 12 11 31; Hans Tausensgade 11; s/d Dkr450/550-745) Near the Hotel Domir is its sister hotel, which has 26 smaller, but similarly appointed, rooms.

**Clarion Hotel Plaza** (☎ 66 11 77 45; www.choicehotels.dk; Østre Stationsvej 24; s/d Dkr1125/1325; ☒ ☒ ☒) Overlooking the green spaces of Kongens, this comfortable hotel has friendly service. Its 68 rooms are decorated in a slightly pastoral Old English style and are fairly luxurious. There's also wi-fi access and a gym.

**City Hotel** (☎ 66 12 12 58; www.city-hotel-odense.dk; Hans Mulesgade 5; s/d Dkr695/895) A comfortable modern hotel located near the Carl Nielsen Museet.

## Eating & Drinking

There are numerous, mainly fast-food, places along Kongensgade and an excellent bakers at Vestergade 26, the main shopping street.

**Room** (Brandts Passage 6-8; ☎ 10am-10pm Sun-Wed, to 3am Thu-Sat) Odense's newest trendy venue is this light, bright modern Mediterranean styled café/nightclub in the newly rejuvenated Brandt's Passage area. Serves a mix-and match tapas menu – three plates Dkr70, brunch Dkr78 – with outdoor seating in summer.

**Vestergade 1** (☎ 11am-10pm Mon-Fri, 10am-10pm Sat, 11am-6pm Sun) This is a lovely corner café at the HC Andersen Museum end of the main shopping street. It serves excellent sandwiches (Dkr69-108, 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, to 2pm Sat, to noon Sun) A top-notch bakery and café close to the HC Andersen Museum 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, to 1am Thu, to 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).

**Mona Rosa** (Vintapperstræde 4; ☎ noon-10pm) An Odense institution, this Mexican restaurant has outdoor seating in summer. The two-course menu costs Dkr129 to Dkr169.

**Den Gamle Kro** (☎ 66 12 14 33; Overgade 23; two-course meal Dkr298) One of Odense's most atmospheric restaurants is spread throughout several rooms of a half-timbered, 17th-century house serving heavy, traditional Danish or French food. It's mostly meat-based fare, but tasty.

**Butik Smagens Hus** (☎ 66 12 22 72; Nørregade 32; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Tue & Wed, to 6pm Thu, to 6.30pm Fri, to 2pm Sat) Gourmet delibar/bakery which prides itself on sourcing top-quality local produce (sausages, smoked fish) and is part of the Danish Slow Food society.

Odense Banegård Center, which incorporates the train and bus stations, has low-priced options including a **DSB Café** (☎ 5am-10pm Mon-Fri, 8am-10pm Sat & Sun), a supermarket and a pub.

## Entertainment

**Envy-Lounge** (Brandts Passage 31; ☎ 9.30am-midnight Mon-Wed, to 2am Thu-Sat, 10.30am-11pm Sun) Odense's most glamorous nightlife venue, the Envy lounge-bar is, by day, a cool, light café – the epitome of Scandinavian chic. DJs play in the evenings every Saturday from 10pm.

**Australian Bar** (☎ 66 11 83 90; Brandts Passage 10) With either live music or dancing happening most nights; it's in the heart of Odense's newly reinvigorated nightlife quarter.

**Boogies** (☎ 66 14 00 39; Nørregade 21) Popular with students, this dance place is downstairs from a café and opens at midnight, and stays open until 5am on Friday and Saturday. Admission is Dkr40 on Friday and Saturday when there are bands. Upstairs is the Café Birdy serving Mexican and Indian food (mains Dkr48 to Dkr144).

**Brandts Klædefabrik** (☎ 66 13 78 97; Brandts Passage) has an outdoor amphitheatre that's a venue for free summer weekend concerts, and the **Café Biografen** (☎ 66 13 16 16; Brandts Klædefabrik; tickets Dkr60-70) shows first-run movies on three screens. **Biocity** (Odense Banegård Center) is a cinema.

**Kong Graes** (☎ 66 11 63 02; Asylgade 7-9) is a dressy late-night dance club for over 20s.

**Jazzhus Dexter** (☎ 66 11 27 28; Vindegade 65) has good live music (mostly jazz) groups virtually every night of the week from around 8pm.

## Getting There & Away

Odense is on the main railway line between Copenhagen (Dkr214, 1½ hours, every 15 minutes), Århus (Dkr187, 1¼ hours, hourly), Aalborg (Dkr286, three hours, hourly) and Esbjerg (Dkr169, two hours, every 30 minutes). The ticket office is open from about 6am to 8.15pm most days, but closes at 4.35pm on Saturday. Buses leave from the rear of the train station.

Odense is just north of the E20; access from the highway is clearly marked. Rte 43 connects Odense with Faaborg; Rte 9 connects Odense with Svendborg. There are several car-rental companies in town:

**Avis** (☎ 66 14 39 99; Østre Stationsvej 37)

**Europcar** (☎ 66 14 15 44; Kongensgade 69)

**PS Bilundejning** (☎ 66 14 00 00; Middlefartvej 1) A competitive local option (from Dkr340 per day) if you don't need to drop the car in another town or city.

## Getting Around

In Odense you board city buses at the front and pay the driver (Dkr12) when you get off. You're strongly advised to have the correct change.

Driving in Odense is not difficult outside rush hour, though many of the central sights are on pedestrian streets, so it's best to park your car and explore on foot. You can find substantial parking lots around Brandts Klædefabrik and the Carl Nielsen Museet. Parking costs around Dkr10 for one hour.

Bicycles can be rented at **City Cykler** (☎ 66 13 97 83; www.citycykler.dk; Vesterbro 27; per day Dkr99; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat), west of the city centre.

## LADBYSKIBET (LADY SHIP)

This **historical site** (☎ 65 32 16 67; Vikingevej 123; adult/child Dkr25/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Jun-Aug, to 4pm Tue-Sun Sep-Oct & Mar-May, closed Nov-Feb) comprises the remains of a 22m-long Viking ship that has been skilfully preserved at the place where it was originally excavated in 1935. The ship, which once formed the tomb of a Viking chieftain, was buried in the 10th century. It is the only Viking Age ship burial site uncovered in Denmark to date.

All the wooden planks from the Lady ship decayed long ago, leaving the imprint of the hull moulded into the earth, along with iron nails, an anchor and the partial remains of the dogs and horses that were buried with their master.

There's a separate visitor centre at the arrival car park with a 1:10-scale model of the ship and background information about the site.

## Getting There & Away

In the little village of Ladby, 4km southwest of Kerteminde via Odensevej, turn north onto Vikingevej, a one-lane road through fields that ends after 1.2km at the Ladbyskibet car park. You enter through the little museum from where it's a few minutes' walk along a field path to the mound.

Local bus No 890 (Dkr16, 30 minutes, eight daily Monday to Friday) makes the trip from Kerteminde to the village of Ladby. Check the schedule with the bus driver, as the last return bus is typically around 4pm. Also, you'll have to walk the Vikingevej section to the museum about 20 minutes away.

## EGESKOV SLOT

This magnificent **castle** (☎ 62 27 10 16; www.egeskov.com; combined ticket for all sights except castle adult/child Dkr95/52, plus castle interior Dkr150/77; ☎ 10am-6pm May, Jun, Aug & Sep, to 8pm Jul), complete with moat and drawbridge, is an outstanding example of the lavish efforts that sprang up during Denmark's Golden Age, the Renaissance. There are enough sights and activities here to keep anyone happily occupied for a day. The castle exteriors are the best features. The interior is heavily Victorian in its furnishings and hunting trophies of now rare beasts. The grounds include century-old privet hedges, free-roaming peacocks, topiary, aerial woodland walkways, English gardens and a bamboo grass labyrinth.

The castle grounds usually stay open an hour longer than the castle. Admission to the grounds includes entry to a large antique **car museum**, which also features some vintage aircraft swooping from the rafters.

Egeskov Slot is 2km west of Kvænderup on Rte 8. From Odense take the Svendborg-bound train to Kvænderup Station (Dkr50) and continue on foot or by taxi.

## FAABORG & AROUND

pop 7,300

Faaborg is a south-facing sun trap and has a relaxing air even at the height of its tourist summer season. In the 17th century it was a bustling harbour town sustained by one of Denmark's largest commercial fleets. Today, Faaborg retains many vestiges of that earlier era in its picturesque, cobblestone streets and leaning, half-timbered houses. In recent years Faaborg harbour has been rejuvenated with smart housing and restaurants and it's well worth stopping for a drink or lunch before moving on to other towns on Funen or via the ferry to the southern islands.

Faaborg's **tourist office** (☎ 62 61 07 07; www.visitfaaborg.dk; Banegårdspladsen 2A; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat Jun-Sep, to 4.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat Oct-May) is adjacent to the bus station and car park on the harbour front. You can hire bikes here for Dkr50 a day.

## Sights & Activities

The main square, **Torvet**, is a pleasant spot to linger. It features the Svendborg sculptor Kai Nielsen's striking bronze fountain group *Ymerbrønd*; depicting a naked giant

sucking at the udders of a cow (depicting a Norse fertility myth) – it caused a stir on its unveiling.

Running east from Torvet is the tree-lined main shopping street Østergade. Torvegade runs west from Torvet to join the cobbled Holkegade at a cluster of attractive buildings. They include a neoclassical, one-time chemist's shop with Tuscan pilasters, and the handsome, 18th-century merchant's house that is now the town museum, **Den Gamle Gaard** (Holkegade 1; adult/child Dkr40/free; ☎ 10.30am-4.30pm mid-May-Oct, 11am-3pm Sat & Sun Apr-mid-May), complete with period furnishings.

The small **Faaborg Museum for Fynsk Malerkunst** (Grønnegade 75; adult/child Dkr40/free; ☎ 10am-4pm Apr-Oct) is a former winery which contains a fine collection of Funen art, including works by artists such as Peter Hansen, Jens Birkholm, and Anna Syberg. Kai Nielsen's original granite sculpture of the *Ymerbrønd* is also here. The town landmark is the nearby belltower of **St Nikolai**.

There are numerous daily ferries to the nearby islands of Avernakø and Lyø (Dkr85 return, bicycle Dkr25, car Dkr145) and a passenger boat to Bjørnø (Dkr40 return).

There's a small watersports centre at the **Quality Hotel Faaborg Fjord** (☎ 62 61 10 10; Svendborgvej 175; activities Dkr60-100), 2km out of town, offering fast water-based fun such as kneeboarding, high-speed jumping and being towed along behind a weaving speedboat astride a big banana.

## Sleeping & Eating

The tourist office books rooms in private homes for Dkr250 for single travellers and Dkr400 for doubles plus a Dkr25 booking fee. There are a couple of unremarkable cafés and fast-food places in the town square and more upmarket restaurants on the harbour front.

**Danhostel Faaborg** (☎ 62 61 12 03; www.danhostel.dk/faaborg; Grønnegade 71-72; dm/d Dkr150/300; ☎ Apr-late Oct) This 69-bed, three-star hostel occupies two handsome historic buildings, close to the Faaborg Museum and the town's indoor swimming baths.

**Hotel Faaborg** (☎ 62 61 02 45; www.hotelfaaborg.dk; Torvet; s/d Dkr750/850; ☎ P) This very central hotel has good, welcoming rooms. Its restaurant does tasty herring dishes for Dkr85 and Mediterranean brasserie food.

**Hotel Færgegaarden** (☎ 62 61 11 15; Christian IX Vej 31; www.hotelfg.dk; s/d with shower Dkr700/850) Faaborg's oldest hotel was refurbished recently and is located close to the harbour and town centre. Its restaurant is orientated to the German tourists who flock here in the summer, featuring dishes such as veal schnitzel and prawn cocktail (two courses Dkr325).

**Rødkilde Herregaard** (☎ 30 24 10 05; www.roedkilde.dk; Rødkildevej 15, Ulbølle, Vester Skerninge; s/d Dkr700-1000) At the end of a very long, winding private drive, off the road from Faaborg to Svendborg, this delightful B&B takes up a wing of a beautiful historic manor house amid farm land and half-timbered barns. Rooms are pretty and light, with original wooden floors and elegant furnishings. Keenly priced, so be sure to book ahead.

**Faaborg Røgeri** (☎ 62 61 42 32; Vestkaj; fish dishes Dkr22-59) Situated at the harbour, this place serves cheap, tasty, home-smoked fish.

## Getting There & Away

Faaborg has no train service. Bus Nos 961 and 962 from Odense (Dkr58, 1¼ hours) run at least hourly to 11pm. Bus Nos 930 and 962 from Svendborg (Dkr45, 40 minutes, at least hourly) are also frequent throughout the day. Getting to Faaborg by car is straightforward; from the north, simply follow Rte 43, which is called Odensevej as it enters town.

For more information on ferry services to Ærø, see p82.

## SVENDBORG

pop 27,000

Svendborg is South Funen's largest municipality and a transit point for travel between Odense and Langeland and Ærø. It can be surprisingly lively in the summer, particularly on the waterfront where yachties and land-bound visitors flock in numbers. It is a major sailing and kayaking centre. You can rent kayaks from the **Sea Kayak Centre** (Skarregaardsvej 9, Skovballe, Tåsinge; ☎ 63 54 19 20; www.havkajakcenter.dk).

The train and bus stations are two blocks northwest of the dock. The **tourist office** (☎ 62 21 09 80; www.visitsydfyn.dk; Centrumpladsen 4; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 3pm Sat mid-Jun-Aug, to 5pm Mon-Fri, to 12.30pm Sat Sep-mid-Jun) has lots of information on South Funen as a whole.

A splendid natural harbour made Svendborg a major port and shipbuilding centre

from medieval times onwards and today there is still enough marine heritage to counter-balance the fairly soulless modern docks that dominate the waterfront. The town has a number of maritime training schools to add to its salty ambience.

## Sights

At the southern end of Havnepladsen's cobbled quayside, opposite where the Ærø ferry docks, is **Sejlskibsbroen**, a jetty lined with splendidly preserved sailing ships and smaller vessels and with an adjoining marina catering for the great number of yachts that sail local waters. Ask at the tourist centre about the various trips that can be arranged on the old sailing ships.

The town's newest attraction is Naturama (☎ 62 21 06 50; Dronningmaen 30; www.naturama.dk; ☎ 10am-5pm; adult/child Dkr90/free), a large, modern zoological museum.

Just over the bridge from Svendborg is the island of **Tåsinge**, with its pretty harbourside village of Troense and the nearby 17th-century castle **Valdemars Slot** (☎ 62 22 61 06; Slotsalléen 100; www.valdemarslot.dk; adult/child Dkr65/30; ☎ 10am-5pm May-Sep). The castle was built in the early 1600s by Denmark's great Renaissance king, Christian IV, for his son, but later awarded to the naval hero Admiral Niels Juel; it remains in his family to this day. Its lavish interior is crammed with paintings and eccentric objects. In the grounds are the **Danish Yachting Museum** and **Denmark's Toy Museum**, packed with vintage playthings. The grounds of the castle and the nearby white-sand beach have free access. You can get to Valdemars Slot by bus but a better way is by the *MS Helge*, an old-style ferry that carries passengers from Svendborg to Troense and Valdemars Slot every few hours (Dkr80) from May to September. The castle also has a good Franco-Danish **restaurant** (☎ Weds-Sat; mains from Dkr200) which sells picnic baskets for Dkr118-165.

## Sleeping & Eating

The nearest camping grounds are located on Tåsinge.

**Danhostel Svendborg** (☎ 62 21 66 99; www.danhostel-svendborg.dk; Vestergade 45; dm/r Dkr150/390; ☎ ☒ ☑) Danhostel is in a renovated 19th-century iron foundry in the town centre. Bike hire costs Dkr60.

**Hotel Garni** (☎ 62 21 17 00; Toldbodvej 5; s/d Dkr550/685) An excellent, basic, cheap hotel located right in the centre of town – part of the more expensive Hotel Svendborg.

**Hotel Ærø** (☎ 62 21 07 60; www.hotel-aeroe.dk in Danish; Brogade 1; s/d Dkr650/775; (P)) Right by the water, the Ærø has large, modern chalet-style rooms. There's a good restaurant serving traditional fare, including a range of light lunches and smørrebrød (Dkr32 to Dkr82).

**Strandbo B&B** (☎ 62 23 10 40; www.strandbostudio.dk; Skårupore Strandvej 52, Skårup; s/d Dkr250/600) A little way out of town, this lovely B&B is right on the water with pleasant gardens and an adjacent art gallery.

**Restaurant Pakhuset** (☎ 62 21 66 97; Havenplads 3a; mains Dkr168-88; ☎ 11.30am-3pm, 5.30-10pm Mon-Sat) This high-end restaurant is housed in a converted 19th-century warehouse right on the harbour front by the historic ships. It serves ambitious French food with the odd Italian influence for what are, actually, quite reasonable prices.

**Restaurant 13** (☎ 62 22 07 95; Brogade 13; mains Dkr150; ☎ 6pm-midnight Mon-Sat) Highly recommended by locals, this family-run restaurant serves superb Franco-Danish food at bargain prices.

## Getting There & Away

There are trains from Odense to Svendborg (Dkr60, 45 minutes, hourly). Ferries to Ærøskøbing depart five times a day, the last one goes at 10.30pm in summer.

## LANGELAND

pop 13,800

The long, narrow island of Langeland, connected by bridge to Funen via Tåsinge, has a satisfying sense of isolation. It has some wonderful sandy beaches, enjoyable cycling and rewarding bird-watching. You can pick up information about the entire island from Langeland's **tourist office** (☎ 62 51 35 05; www.langeland.dk in Danish; Torvet 5, Rudkøbing; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 3pm Sat mid-Jun-Aug, 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, to 12.30pm Sat Sep-mid-Jun).

## Sights & Activities

Langeland's top sight is the red stucco **Tranekær Slot**, a handsome medieval castle that has been in the hands of the one family since 1672. The castle is not open to the public, but its grounds are home to the **Tickon** (Tranekær International Centre for Art & Nature; admission

to grounds Dkr25), a collection of intriguing art installations created by international artists and sited around the wooded grounds and lake. **Tranekær Slot Museum** and the **Souvenir Museum** are in the castle's old water mill and old theatre respectively. About 1km north of the castle is the **Castle Mill** (☎ 63 51 10 10; Lejbollevej; adult/child Dkr20/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri & 1-5pm Sat & Sun Jun-mid-Sep, 10am-4pm Mon-Fri & 1-4pm Sat & Sun mid-Sep-May), a 19th-century windmill, with its remarkable wooden mechanics still intact.

Langeland's main town of **Rudkøbing** has a fairly desolate harbour area, but the town centre is attractive and there are some fine old buildings around Rudkøbing Kirke, to the north of Brogade, the street leading inland from the harbour to the main square of Torvet. For beaches, head for **Ristinge** about 15km south of Rudkøbing; for **bird-watching** you'll find a sighting tower at **Tryggelev Nor**, 5km south of Ristinge, and a sanctuary at **Gulstav Bog**, the island's southern tip.

**Cycling** is a good way to explore Langeland. The tourist office has an excellent English-language edition of a brochure and map (Dkr15) that describes six bike routes on the island. Bikes can be hired at **Lapletten** (☎ 62 51 10 98; Engdraget 1; per day Dkr50).

## Sleeping & Eating

The tourist office maintains a list of rooms for rent in private homes with doubles costing about Dkr350 to Dkr400.

**Skrøbelevgaard** (☎ 62 51 45 31; www.skrøbelevgaard.dk; Skrøbelev Hedevej 4; s Dkr450-500, d Dkr675-850) This cosy inn, 4km east of Rudkøbing in the village of Ny Skrøbelev, is a fine option if you enjoy historic settings and the quiet of the countryside. Occupying a 17th-century manor house, Skrøbelevgaard has 10 cosy rooms. The free city bus stops nearby on weekdays.

**Danhostel Rudkøbing** (☎ 62 51 18 30; www.danhostel.dk/rudkobing; Engdraget 11; dm/r Dkr140/300; camp sites per adult Dkr60; ☎ Apr-end Oct) A pretty basic hostel, which is less than ideally located a way back from the centre or the water. There's also space for tents.

**Damgården** (☎ 62 59 16 45; www.damgaarden.dk; Emmerbøllevej 5, Emmerbølle, Tranekær; Dkr235 per person) Denmark's first organic B&B offers bright, spacious rooms in a pretty farm house with a large garden and serves great home-made breakfasts. The owners can organise tours and outings.

## Getting There & Away

Buses make the 25-minute run from Svendborg to Rudkøbing (Dkr30) at least hourly; most connect onwards to Tranekær. There are daily ferries from Rudkøbing to Marstal in Ærø (one-way per person/car Dkr81/179) and from Spodsbjerg to Tårs in Lolland.

## ÆRØ

pop 6800

Ærø is one of the most enchanting of all the islands of the south Fyn archipelago with a gentle coastline and an interior of rolling green hills, patchworked with fields and farmsteads. The winding country roads are punctuated with thatched houses, old windmills, ancient passage graves and dolmens. Most of the villages are to be found on the coast. There are some good, small beaches, one of the best being **Risemark Strand** on the southern tip of the 30km long island; it's a great place to tour by bicycle.

Ærøhas' three main towns are Ærøskøbing, Marstal and Søby. **Ærøskøbing tourist office** (☎ 62 52 13 00; Vestergade 1; ☎ 10am-3.30pm Mon-Sat, to 1pm Sun) is near the waterfront. **Marstal tourist office** (☎ 62 53 19 60; Havnegade 5; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-1.30pm Sat, 9.30am-12.30pm Sun) is a few minutes' walk south of the harbour. The island's tourist website is www.arre.dk.

## Ærøskøbing

pop 750

The words 'higgledy' and 'piggedly' could have been invented to describe the idyllic town of Ærøskøbing. A prosperous merchants' town in the late 1600s, its narrow, winding cobblestone streets are lined with 17th- and 18th-century houses, many of them gently subsiding, crooked, half-timbered affairs with traditional hand-blown glass windows and decorative doorways beautified by hollyhocks. The tourist office has an illustrated leaflet, with a separate insert in English, describing the finest buildings in the town, many of them very well preserved.

Apart from Ærøskøbing's overall charm, the main tourist attraction is **Flaske Peters Samling** (☎ 62 52 29 51; Smedegade 22; adult/child Dkr25/10; ☎ 10am-5pm), a museum in the former poorhouse with displays of local

folk art. There are also examples of the work of ship's cook, Peter Jacobsen, 'Bottle Peter', who crafted 1700 ships-in-a-bottle during his long life. **Æro Museum** (☎ 62 52 29 50; Brogade 3-5; ; adults Dkr25 ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 11am-3pm Sat & Sun) charts the local cultural history.

## Søby

This quiet little port has a shipyard, which is the island's biggest employer, a sizable fishing fleet and a busy yacht marina. Five kilometres beyond Søby, at Ærø's northern tip, there's a pebble beach with clear water and a stone **lighthouse** with a view.

## Marstal

On the southeastern end of the island, Marstal is Ærø's most modern-looking town and has a web of busy shopping streets at its centre. Marstal has an emphatically maritime history; even its street names echo the names of ships and famous sailors. Its **Søfartsmuseum** (☎ 62 53 23 60; Prinsensgade 1; adult/child Dkr40/free; ☎ 9am-8pm Jul, to 5pm Jun & Aug, 10am-4pm Mar & Sep) has an absorbing collection of nautical artefacts including 250 ships' models and full-size boats. There is a reasonably good **beach** on the southern side of town.

## Ancient Ærø

Ærø once had more than 100 prehistoric sites and, although many have been lost, the island still has some atmospheric Neolithic remains, especially in its southeast district, to the west of Marstal. At the small village of Store Rise is the site of **Tingstedet**, the remains of a passage grave in a field behind an attractive **12th-century church**.

At **Lindsbjerg** is the superb hilltop site of a long barrow and two passage graves, one of which has a nicely poised capstone. Just over 1km south of here, following signs and right on the coast, is the fascinating medieval relic of **Sankt Albert's Kirke**. It's within a Viking defensive wall from about the 8th century.

Another striking site is at **Kragnaes**, about 4km west of Marstal. Head through the village of Græsvene and follow signs for 'Jættestue' along narrow lanes to reach a small car park, from where it's about 600m along field tracks to the restored grave site.



## Sleeping

The island's tourist offices have a list of countryside B&Bs around the island for around Dkr230/350 for singles/doubles. There are camping grounds at **Søby** (☎ 62 58 14 70; [www.soeby-camping.dk](http://www.soeby-camping.dk)), **Ærøskøbing** (☎ 62 52 18 54; [www.arrecamping.dk](http://www.arrecamping.dk)) and **Marstal** (☎ 63 52 63 69; [www.marstalcamping.dk](http://www.marstalcamping.dk)).

**Danhostel Ærøskøbing** (☎ 62 52 10 44; [www.danhostel.dk](http://www.danhostel.dk); dm/r Dkr120/300; ☎ Apr-Sep; P ☒) A solid, modern red-tiled building, this hostel is 1km from town on the road to Marstal.

**Danhostel Marstal** (☎ 51 35 77 54; [www.danhostel.dk](http://www.danhostel.dk); Færgestræde 29; dm/s/d Dkr100/210/250; ☎ May-Sep) South of the harbour, this modest but neatly kept hostel is right by the sea.

**Hotel Ærøhus** (☎ 62 52 10 03; [www.aeroehus.dk](http://www.aeroehus.dk); Vestergade 38; s/d Dkr890/1190) In Ærøskøbing, Hotel Ærøhus occupies a large period building close to the harbour. It has comfortable, modern rooms, a smart garden annexe and two tennis courts.

**Pension Vestergade 44** (☎ 62 52 22 98; [www.pension-vestergade44.dk](http://www.pension-vestergade44.dk); Vestergade 44; s/d Dkr450/680; P ☒) Next door to the Ærøhus is this delightful 18th-century house with very stylish, yet homely interiors.

**Toldbodhus** (☎ 62 52 18 11; Brogade 8, Ærøskøbing; d Dkr690) This quiet, friendly B&B has wonderfully decorated (if small) rooms, many with local antiques (two have four-poster beds).

## Eating & Drinking

All three towns have bakeries, restaurants and food stores.

**Hos Grethe** (☎ 62 52 21 43; Vertergade 39; mains Dkr45-95; ☎ noon-3pm winter, to 6pm Jun-Aug) Favoured by locals for its home-cooking style and good fish dishes.

**Ærøskøbing Rogeri** (☎ 62 52 40 07; Havnen 15, Ærøskøbing; ☎ 11am-6pm or until 8pm Jun-Aug) This traditional fish smokehouse in Ærøskøbing harbour serves excellent value plates of fresh-smoked salmon, herring and other fish dishes for Dkr22 to Dkr59 – you eat outside on picnic benches.

**Foleys Irish Pub** (☎ 62 53 13 23; Strandstræde 39B) Just along the road from Hotel Marstal is Foleys, brimming with Irish beers and a strong, live folk-music programme.

## Getting There & Away

There are year-round **car ferries** (☎ 62 52 40 00; [www.aeroe-ferry.dk](http://www.aeroe-ferry.dk); adult/child/bike/car Dkr 145/78/33/326) to Søby from Faaborg, to

Ærøskøbing from Svendborg and to Marstal from Rudkøbing. All run about five times a day and take about an hour. If you have a car it's a good idea to make reservations, particularly at weekends and in midsummer. There's also a **ferry** between Søby and Mommark that runs a few times daily from spring to autumn at comparable prices.

## Getting Around

Bus No 990 runs from Søby to Marstal via Ærøskøbing hourly from Monday to Friday, and half as frequently at weekends.

You can rent bikes for Dkr250 a week at the hostel and camping ground in Ærøskøbing and at **Pilebækkens Cykel og Servicestation** (☎ 62 52 11 10; Pilebækken 11) opposite the car park on the outskirts of town.

**Søby Cykelforretning** (☎ 62 58 18 42; Langebro 4; per day Dkr50) rents out bikes in Søby. The tourist office in Marstal sells a Dkr20 cycling map of a round-island route.

# JUTLAND

The Jutland (Jylland) Peninsula is where mainland Europe meets Scandinavia although with little drama; the area where the borders meet is a rather monotonous procession of moor and marsh.

Further north things improve as you hit the pretty, forested Lake District and further north still the windswept western and northern coasts (a windsurfer's dream) lined with vast sandy beaches.

The region was settled originally by the Jutes, a Germanic tribe whose forays included invading England in the 5th century. Not surprisingly Jutland's southern boundary has been a fluid one, last drawn in 1920 when Germany relinquished its holdings in Sønderjylland.

Most of the main cities, including Århus and Aalborg, are along the more sheltered east coast.

## ÅRHUS & AROUND

pop 285,000

The cultural and commercial heart of Jutland, Århus has one of Denmark's best music and entertainment scenes, a well-preserved historic quarter and plenty to see and do, ranging from fantastic museums (don't miss Moesgård, p85) and

period churches in the centre, to picturesque woodland trails and beaches along the city's outskirts.

The second-largest city in Denmark, it lies midway along Jutland's eastern coastline and has been an important trading centre and seaport since Viking times when it was known as Aros, the 'place at the river's mouth'.

During the medieval period Århus saw between prosperity and devastation as rival Vikings and warring kings entangled the city in their campaigns. Today it is home to a thriving university with more than 20,000 students yet retains all the friendliness and ease of a small country town.

## Orientation

Århus is fairly compact and easy to get around. The train station is on the southern side of the city centre. The pedestrian shopping streets of Ryesgade, Søndergade and Sankt Clements Torv extend around 1km from the station to the cathedral at the heart of the old city.

## Information

### BOOKSHOPS

**KFM** (Store Torv 5) A bookshop with a good range of books including travel guides.

**Newspaper Shop** (Store Torv 7) Sells international papers and magazines. International newspapers are also sold at the train station.

### EMERGENCY

**Århus Kommunehospital** (☎ 87 31 50 50; Nørrebrogade) has a 24-hour emergency ward.

**Emergency** (☎ 112) Ambulance and police

### INTERNET ACCESS

**Boomtown** (Åboulevarden 21; per hr Dkr30; ☎ 10-2am Mon-Thu, to 8am Fri & Sat, 11am-midnight Sun)

### LAUNDRY

**Mønt Vask** (St Paul's Gade 64) A coin launderette. An average wash and dry costs Dkr45.

### LEFT LUGGAGE

Lockers are available at the bus and train stations. Both charge Dkr10 for 24 hours.

### POST

**Post Office** (Banegårdspladsen; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat) Beside the train station.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

**Tourist Office** (☎ 87 31 50 10; [www.visitaarhus.com](http://www.visitaarhus.com); Banegårdspladsen; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat, to 1pm Sun mid-Jun-mid-Sep, to 5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat May-mid-Jun, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat mid-Sep-Apr) Well stocked with brochures and leaflets on the city and its surroundings, and on the rest of Jutland and Denmark. You can also buy the Århus Passport here, a two-day or weekly pass that include public-transport usage and admissions to various attractions.

## TRAVEL AGENCIES

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

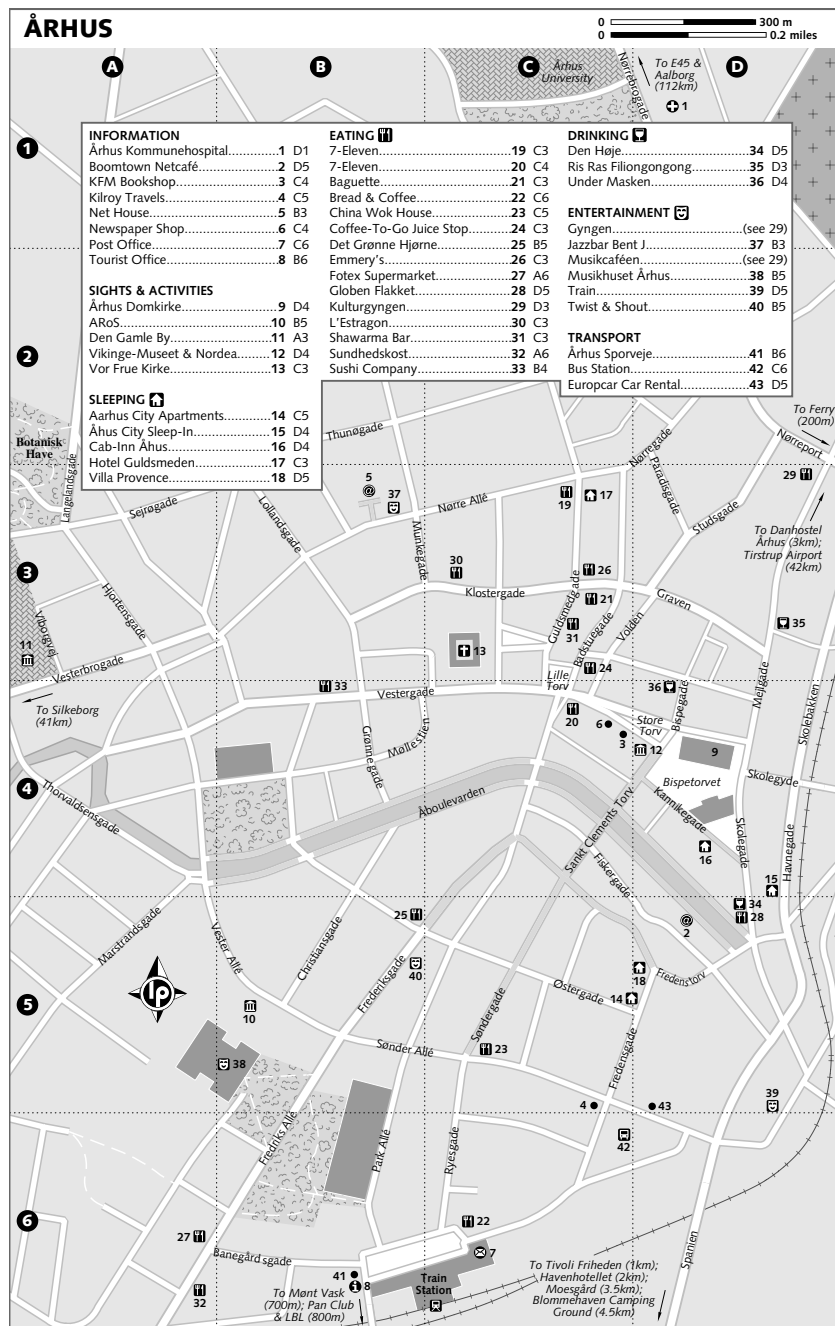
## Sights & Activities

### AROS

The towering brick walls of Århus's new showpiece **art museum** (☎ 87 30 66 00; [www.aros.dk](http://www.aros.dk); adult/child Dkr76/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Thu-Sun & Tue, to 10pm Wed) look rather mundane from the outside but inside it's all sweeping curves, soaring spaces and white walls. One of the top three art galleries in Denmark, it is home to a comprehensive collection of 19th- and 20th-century Danish art and a wide range of arresting and vivid contemporary art. There are pieces here from Warhol and Lichtenstein and, in colourfully-lit pickling jars, a work by Danish artist Bjørn Nørgaard consisting of parts of a horse he sacrificed in protest at the Vietnam War (long before British artist Damien Hirst started chopping up animals in the name of art). Perhaps the most compelling exhibit is Ron Mueck's startlingly lifelike giant *Boy*. There are pleasing views over town from the terrace and a good café and restaurant (see p87).

### DEN GAMLE BY

The Danes' seemingly limitless enthusiasm for dressing up and recreating history reaches its zenith at Den Gamle By (The Old Town; ☎ 86 12 31 88; [www.dengambleby.dk](http://www.dengambleby.dk); Viborgvej 2; adult/child Dkr80/free; ☎ 9am-6pm Jul-Aug, 10am-5pm Apr-Jun & Sep-Nov, to 4pm Feb & Mar 10am-5pm, Dec, 11am-3pm Jan). It's 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 and bookbinder. It's on Viborgvej, a 20-minute walk from the city centre. After hours you



can walk through the old streets for free. It's an interesting time to visit as the crowds are gone and the light is ideal for photography, though you won't be able to enter individual buildings. Bus Nos 3, 14, 25 and 55 will take you there.

The **Botanisk Have** (Botanical Gardens), with its thousands of plants and recreated Jutland environments, occupies the high ground above Den Gamle By and can be reached through an exit from the old town or directly from Vesterbrogade.

### ÅRHUS DOMKIRKE

This impressive **cathedral** (☎ 86 20 54 00; Bispetorv; admission free; ☞ 9.30am-4pm Mon-Sat May-Sep, 10am-3pm Mon-Sat Oct-Apr) is Denmark's longest, with a lofty nave that spans nearly 100m. The original Romanesque chapel at the eastern-end dates from the 12th century, while most of the rest of the church is 15th-century Gothic.

Like other Danish churches, the cathedral was once richly decorated with **frescoes** that served to convey biblical parables to un-schooled peasants. After the Reformation, church authorities who felt the frescoes smacked too much of Roman Catholicism, had them all whitewashed, but many have now been uncovered and restored. They range from fairy-tale paintings of St George slaying a dragon, to scenes of hellfire.

The cathedral's splendid, five-panel, gilt **altarpiece** is a highlight. It was made in Lübeck by the renowned woodcarver Bernt Notke in the 15th century. In its centre panel, to the left of the Madonna and child, is a gaunt-faced St Clement, to whom Århus Domkirke was dedicated. The ill-fated Clement drowned at sea with an anchor around his neck and became the patron saint of sailors for his pains.

The cathedral's other items worth noting include the bronze baptismal font dating from 1481, the finely carved Renaissance pulpit created in 1588, the magnificent baroque pipe organ made in 1730, the large 18th-century votive ship and the baroque sepulchre in the Marselis family chapel.

### VOR FRUE KIRKE

This **church** (☎ 86 12 12 43; Frue Kirkeplads; admission free; ☞ 10am-2pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat), off Vesterbrogade, has a carved wooden **altarpiece** dating from the 1530s. But far more interesting is

what's in its basement: the **crypt** of the city's original cathedral, dating from about 1060. Enter via the stairway beneath the altar. To enter a third chapel, this one with 16th-century frescoes, go through the courtyard and take the left door.

### VIKINGE-MUSEET

There's more than the expected vaults in the bank basement of **Nordea** (☎ 89 42 11 00; Sankt Clements Torv 6; admission free; ☞ 10am-4pm Mon-Wed & Fri, to 5.30pm Thu) where there's a small exhibition of artefacts from the Viking Age town that were excavated at this site in 1964 during the bank's construction. The display includes a skeleton, a reconstructed house, 1000-year-old carpentry tools and pottery, and photos of the excavation.

### MOESGÅRD

Visit **Moesgård**, 5km south of the city centre, for its glorious beech woods and the trails threading through them towards sandy beaches. Visit for the well-presented history exhibits from the Stone Age to the Viking Age at **Moesgård Museum of Prehistory** (adult/child Dkr45/free; ☞ 10am-5pm Apr-Sep, to 4pm Tue-Sun Oct-May). But above all else, visit Moesgård for the museum's most dramatic exhibit: the 2000-year-old **Grauballe Man**, or Grauballemanden, whose astonishingly well-preserved body was found in 1952 at the village of Grauballe, 35km west of Århus.

The superb new display on the Grauballe Man is part history lesson, part forensic science. Was he a sacrifice to Iron Age fertility gods, an executed prisoner perhaps, or simply a victim of murder? Either way, the broken leg and the gaping neck wound suggests his death, sometime in the last century BC, was a horribly violent one. His body and skin, tanned and preserved by the unique chemical and biological qualities of the peat bogs, are remarkably intact, right down to hair and fingernails.

Away from all this death and violence, there's an enjoyable **trail** dubbed the 'prehistoric trackway' or Oldtidsstien leading from behind the museum across fields of wildflowers, past grazing sheep and through beech woods down to **Moesgård Strand**, Århus' best sandy beach. The trail, marked by red-dotted stones, passes reconstructed historic sights including a dolmen, burial

cists and an Iron-Age house. The museum has a brochure with details. You can walk one way and catch a bus back to the city centre, or follow the trail both ways as a 5km round-trip. It's all well worth a half-day or full-day visit, with a picnic perhaps if the weather behaves itself.

Bus No 6 from Århus train station terminates at the museum year-round, while bus No 19 terminates at Moesgård Strand from May to September; both buses run about twice an hour.

### SWIMMING

There are sandy beaches on the outskirts of Århus. The most popular one to the north is **Bellevue**, about 4km from the city centre (bus No 6 or 16), while the favourite to the south is Moesgård Strand.

### Tours

A guided 2½-hour bus tour leaves from the **tourist office** (☎ 89 40 67 00 for bookings) at 10am daily from mid-June to early September, giving a glimpse of the main city sights. The Dkr50 tour is a good deal as it includes entry into Den Gamle By and also leaves you with a 24-hour public bus pass.

### Festival & 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, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, New York City Ballet, Günter Grass and many more. Each year the festival has a special theme. Events take place all over the city and there is a fringe element also.

### Sleeping BUDGET

The tourist office books rooms in private homes for around Dkr200/300 per single/double, plus a Dkr25 booking fee. **Århus City Sleep-In** (☎ 86 19 20 55; www.citysleep-in.dk; Havnegade 20; dm Dkr115, d with/without bathroom Dkr400/360; ☎ 24hr reception; ☑ ☒) Run by a youth organisation, the Århus City Sleep-In is in a central former mariners' hotel. It's casual, the rooms are a bit rundown but it's a cheerful place and by far the best budget option in the centre. Sheet hire costs Dkr45 and safety boxes are Dkr20, with 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/r Dkr108/472; ☎ late Jan-mid-Dec) It may be 4km north of the city centre but it's well worth considering for the lovely parkland setting in a renovated 1850s dance hall. It's at the edge of the Risskov

Woods and a few minutes from the beach. Bus No 6 or 9 pass nearby.

**Blommehaven** (☎ 86 27 02 07; www.camping-blommehaven.dk in Danish; camp site per adult/child/tent Dkr62/31/20; ☎ mid-Mar-mid-Sep) The nearest camping ground is right by beaches in the Marselisborg Woods, 6km south of Århus and reached by bus No 19 or 6.

### MIDRANGE

**Cab Inn Århus** (☎ 86 75 70 00; www.cabinn.com; Kan-nikegade 14; s/d Dkr525/645; ☑ ☒ ☑) In an ideal central location opposite the Domkirke. The style is standard Cab Inn with small, but comfy and spotless rooms. Parking costs Dkr60. Free internet and wi-fi access.

**Hotel Guldsmeden** (☎ 86 13 45 50; www.hotelguldsmeden.dk in Danish; Guldsmedgade 40; s/d Dkr595/845, s/d with bathroom from Dkr895/1095; ☑) On the northern side of the city centre, this is our midrange choice in town for friendly staff, delightfully bright French colonial-style rooms with polished wood floors, large four-poster beds with soft white linen, a small garden terrace and a generally relaxed, stylish ambience. Good (mainly organic) breakfasts. There's wi-fi access.

**Aarhus City Apartments** (☎ 86 27 51 30; www.hotelalaca.dk; Fredensgade 18; d from Dkr580; ☑) A good midrange option especially for self caterers, these smart, modern one- and two-bedroom apartments right in the city centre have their own kitchen, cable TV and free internet access. There's no reception so you must book ahead.

**Havnehotellet** (www.havnehotellet.dk; Marselisborg Havnevej 20; d from Dkr495; ☑) A bike or bus ride from the city centre, Havnehotellet offers bright, clean, modern comfort overlooking yachts and the sea. A good midrange bet although the single beds are very narrow. Reception hours are short and most guests check in via an electronic reception in the small foyer.

### TOP END

**Villa Provence** (☎ 86 18 24 00; www.villaprovence.dk; Fredens Torv 12; d/ste from Dkr995/1790; ☑ ☒ ☑) Very central and with beautifully decorated rooms in a lavish Provençal country-house style, this is the place to indulge, with attentive personal service, a predinner sniffer in the wine bar, or perhaps its excellent breakfast with French cheese and Spanish charcuterie in the courtyard beneath the linden trees.

### Eating

The narrow streets of the old quarter north of the cathedral are thick with cafés serving Danish and ethnic foods. There is a string of slightly more upmarket riverside restaurants and bars with outside seating along the north of Åboulevarden to the west of Sankt Clements Torv bridge.

**Globen Flakket** (☎ 87 31 03 33; www.globen-flakket.dk; Åboulevarden 18; mains Dkr65-230; ☎ 10am-10pm daily) The best of the riverside café cum restaurants, covering all the bases really well. Upstairs you'll find the cosy bar serving very decent wraps, tapas, burgers, brunch and an evening buffet (Dkr79). Downstairs the rather more formal restaurant turns out finer fare such as guinea fowl with smoked white beans and beetroot salsa or beef tournedos with truffled Madeira sauce.

**AroS** (☎ 87 30 66 00; mains Dkr140-60; ☎ same as gallery) A good bet for a snack, the art museums downstairs café serves tasty focaccia sandwiches and lovely sweet treats or upstairs for good, simple brasserie food (such as lamb with pearl barley salad and rosemary honey sauce).

**Coffee-To-Go Juice Stop** (☎ 86 13 69 65; Badstuegade 4; juices small/large Dkr25/30, bagels/sandwiches Dkr34/40; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat) A good juice, fruit salad and sandwich pit stop. It's mainly takeaway, but there are a few seats to rest those cobblestone-weary feet.

**Emmerly's** (☎ 86 13 04 00; Guldsmedgade 24-26; brunch Dkr95, breakfast Dkr23; ☎ 7.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm Sat & Sun) A stylish and friendly café-cum-delicatessen that serves its own delicious bread, tapas (Dkr95) and sandwiches (Dkr45 to Dkr58), some with vegetarian fillings.

**Kulturbyggen** (Mejlsgade 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.

**Sushi Company** (☎ 86 13 73 83; Vestergade 48; set menu Dkr85-220; ☎ dinner Tue-Sun) A small, unlicensed sushi joint that also serves vegetarian options.

**Det Grønne Hjørne** (☎ 86 13 52 47; Frederiksgade 60; lunch buffet Dkr69, buffet after 4pm Dkr109) On the corner with Østergade, this restaurant has a superb buffet spread with hearty, warming fare such as lasagne and chilli con carne and several good vegetarian options.

### DENMARK'S BOG PEOPLE

In the last couple of centuries, hundreds of often amazingly well-preserved bodies of men, women and children have been unearthed by peat cutters in the bogs of Denmark and Northern Europe, mostly from the Iron Age (the early centuries BC and AD).

Each is a compelling historical who- and why-dunnit. The manner of their death is intriguing because these people had not been merely buried after death (cremation was the common funerary ritual at the time). It seems many of them were ritually killed, perhaps as part of religious ceremonies or acts of propitiation linked to the supernatural power the Iron Age people attributed to the bogs.

If it were ritual killing, were these people victims or willing participants? Was it perhaps an honour to be sacrificed? The Windeby Girl, for example, found in 1950 in Germany, aged about 14, had been blindfolded and had her hair carefully cropped, suggesting some kind of ritual.

Others, like the Grauballe Man (see p85) clearly died a nasty, violent death that suggests execution. Others may have simply been waylaid, murdered and dumped. Classical authors at the time such as Tacitus wrote that this was the kind of end met by 'cowards, deserters and homosexuals'.

The most famous, and best preserved, body is that of the Tollund Man in Silkeborg (p90). He died, aged in his 30s, naked but for the beautifully plaited leather noose that strangled him and the leather cap he has worn for 2000 years. It frames an utterly serene face.

**L'Estragon** (☎ 86 12 40 66; Klostergade 6; mains Dkr195, 3-course menu Dkr315) The best central fine dining spot in Århus offers very posh French classics accompanied by carefully chosen wines.

If you want fast, cheap and filling take-away fare, some good options include the following: **China Wok House** (Søndergade; lunch box Dkr20); **Shawarma Bar** (Guldsmedgade; pitta-bread sandwiches Dkr25); **Baguette** (Klostergade 17; baguettes Dkr21), close to Emmery's, which does great well-filled baguettes; and **Bread and Coffee** (Banegårdspladsen; pastries Dkr9-20), which serves tasty pastries and is just opposite the train station.

The train station has a DSB café, a snack bar and a small **supermarket** (☺ to midnight). Two blocks west is **Føtex supermarket** (Frederiks Allé), with a cheap bakery and deli, and **Sundhedskost** (Frederiks Allé), the city's largest health-food store. There are a couple of useful branches of **7-Eleven** (nr Lille Torv & Immervad, Guldsmedgade 33; ☎ 24hr).

## Drinking

**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.

**Ris Ras Filiationgong** (☎ 86 18 5006; Mejlgade 24) More of a sitting room than a bar, Ris Ras is intimate, friendly, very small and very popular, so get here early to nab a seat and a hook.

**Den Høje** (Skolegade 28) There are a number of busy bars in Skolegade, where Den Høje is popular with an easygoing young crowd, not least for its cheap beer. It's open most nights from 7pm to 5am, but is closed on Sunday.

## Entertainment

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.

Århus has a vibrant music scene with something for all ages and tastes.

**Train** (☎ 86 13 47 22; Toldbodgade 6; ☎ until 5am Thu-Sat) One of the biggest venues in Denmark stages concerts by international rock, pop and country stars and there's a late-night disco.

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

**Jazzbar Bent J** (☎ 86 12 04 92; Nørre Allé 66; ☎ from 3.30pm Mon-Fri) This is a jazz only, very long-established bar with an impressive guest list. Entry is Dkr80 on guest nights.

**Twist & Shout** (☎ 86 18 08 55; Frederiksgade 29; ☎ 10am-5am Mon-Thu, from 5pm Fri & 10pm Sat) Lively, small, often packed and friendly, this three-floor disco is the place to head for 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.

**Musikhuset Århus** (☎ 89 40 40 40; Thomas Jensens Allé 2) The city concert hall presents dance, opera and concerts by international performers.

The main gay and lesbian social scene is at **Pan Club** (☎ 86 13 43 80; Jægergårdsgade 42). To find it, head south down MP Bruuns Gade on the west side of the train station and then go right down Jægergårdsgade for 300m and 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. Budget carrier Ryanair flies twice daily between London Stansted and Århus on weekdays and once on Saturday and Sunday. See p111 for details.

### BOAT

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

### BUS

The bus station (Fredensgade) has a DSB café and a small supermarket. Express buses (☎ 98 90 09 00) run a few times daily between Århus and Copenhagen's Valby Station (adult/child Dkr240/120, students Dkr120 Monday to Thursday only, 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).

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

The main highways to Århus are the E45 from the north and south and Rte 15 from the west. The E45 curves around the western edge of the city as a ring road. There are a number of turn-offs from the ring road into the city, including Åohavevej from the south and Randersvej from the north.

Cars can be rented from **Europcar** (☎ 89 33 11 11; Sønder Allé 35).

## TRAIN

Trains to Århus, via Odense, leave Copenhagen on the hour from early morning to 10pm (Dkr287, 3¼ hours) and there's a night train at 2am. There are regular trains to Århus (Dkr60, 49 minutes), Aalborg (Dkr150, 1½ hours), and Esbjerg (Dkr206, 2¼ hours). There's a ticket-queuing system at the station: red for internal; green for international. For local journeys, unless you have mastered use of the quicker ticket machines, be prepared for quite long waits at busy times. Friday trains are always very busy and it's advised to reserve a seat for long journeys.

## Getting Around

### TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

The airport bus to Århus train station costs Dkr80 and takes approximately 45 minutes. Check times to the airport at the stands outside the train station; some services start only in August. The taxi fare to the airport is about Dkr650.

### BUS

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 also buy a 24-hour pass for bus travel in Århus county (adult/child Dkr97/48) or in Århus municipality alone (Dkr55). Or get a one-/two-/seven-day Århus Passet (Dkr97/121/171) that includes both bus travel and entry into Århus museums. You can buy tickets and passes at **Århus Sporveje** (☎ 89 40 10 10; Banegårdspladsen 20; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat), the city transport service shop across from the train station.

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

A car is convenient for getting to sights such as Moesgård on the city outskirts, though the city centre is best explored on foot. There's paid parking along many streets and in municipal car parks, including one on the southern side of Musikhuset Århus. Fees start at Dkr1 for six minutes and Dkr12 for one hour. Overnight (7pm to 8am) is free.

## BICYCLE

Look out for free Århusbycykel (www.aarhusbycykel.dk) city bikes in the city centre. One is yours for a Dkr20 deposit.

## TAXI

Taxis wait outside the station and at Store Torv. Expect to pay around Dkr60 for destinations within the city.

## JELLING

Despite its low-key rural character, the tiny hamlet of Jelling is the location of one of Denmark's most important historic sites, the **Jelling Kirke**. Inside the small whitewashed church are frescoes dating from the 12th century, and outside the door are two impressive and historically significant rune stones.

The smaller stone was erected in the early 900s by King Gorm the Old, Denmark's first king, in honour of his wife, Queen Thyra. The larger one, raised by Harald Bluetooth and dubbed 'Denmark's baptismal certificate', is adorned with the oldest representation of Christ found in Scandinavia and reads: 'Harald king bade this be ordained for Gorm his father and Thyra his mother, the Harald who won for himself all Denmark and Norway and made the Danes Christians.'

Two huge **burial mounds** flank the church; the one on the northern side is said to be that of King Gorm and the other of Queen Thyra, although excavators in the 19th century found no human remains and few artefacts. This could suggest much earlier grave robbing.

During the 1970s archaeologists excavated below Jelling Kirke and found the remains of three wooden churches. The oldest of these was thought to have been erected by Harald Bluetooth. A burial chamber within this site was also uncovered and revealed human bones and gold jewellery that shared characteristics with artefacts previously discovered

within the large northern burial mound. One suggestion is that the bones found beneath the church ruins are those of King Gorm and they were moved there from the old pagan burial mound by Harald Bluetooth out of respect for his recently acquired Christian faith. Queen Thyra remains ephemeral. The Jelling mounds, church and rune stones are designated as a Unesco World Heritage Listed Site.

**Kongernes Jelling** (☎ 75 87 23 50; Gormsgade 23; adult/child Dkr40/15; ☎ 10am–5pm daily Jun–Aug, 10am–5pm Tue–Sun May & Sep, 1–4pm Tue–Sun Nov–Apr) the information and exhibition centre just across the road from the church, offers a good insight into the history of the Jelling monuments and of early Denmark.

Jelling makes a good two-hour side trip off the Odense–Århus run. Change trains at Vejle for the ride to Jelling (Dkr28, 15 minutes). The church is 100m straight up Stationsvej from the Jelling train station.

## THE LAKE DISTRICT

The Danish Lake District, the closest thing to hill country in Denmark (so don't imagine anything like England's dramatic Lake District), is a popular outdoor-activity area for Danes, and there is certainly excellent canoeing, biking and hiking to be had amid the woods and on the water. The scenery is placid and pastoral rather than stunning, but the area is delightful all the same and has a distinctive Danish character. The Lake District contains the Gudenå, Denmark's longest river; Mossø, Jutland's largest lake; and Yding Skovhøj, Denmark's highest point. None of these are terribly long, large or high by international standards.

### Silkeborg

pop 54,000

Silkeborg overcomes its rather bland modern character with a friendly openness. It is the Lake District's biggest town and is an ideal base for exploring the surrounding forests and waterways. The town has some good restaurants and lively bars and cafés. If you're even slightly interested in Denmark's ancient history, a compelling reason to visit is to see the Tollund Man, the body of a preserved Iron Age 'bog man' (see the boxed text, right), who looks for all the world as if he's merely asleep.

The helpful **tourist office** (☎ 86 82 19 11; www.silkeborg.com; Åhavevej 2A; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Fri, 10am–2pm Sat, mid-Jun–Aug, 9am–4pm Mon–Fri, 10am–1pm Sat Sep–Oct & Apr–Mar, 10am–3pm Mon–Fri Nov–Mar) is near the harbour and has lots of leaflets including detailed route descriptions of walks and cycle routes. There's a **Jyske Bank** (☎ 89 22 22 22; Vestergade 16) branch with ATM. The **Library** (☎ 86 82 02 33; Hostrupsgade 41) is central & well provided with free internet terminals.

## SIGHTS

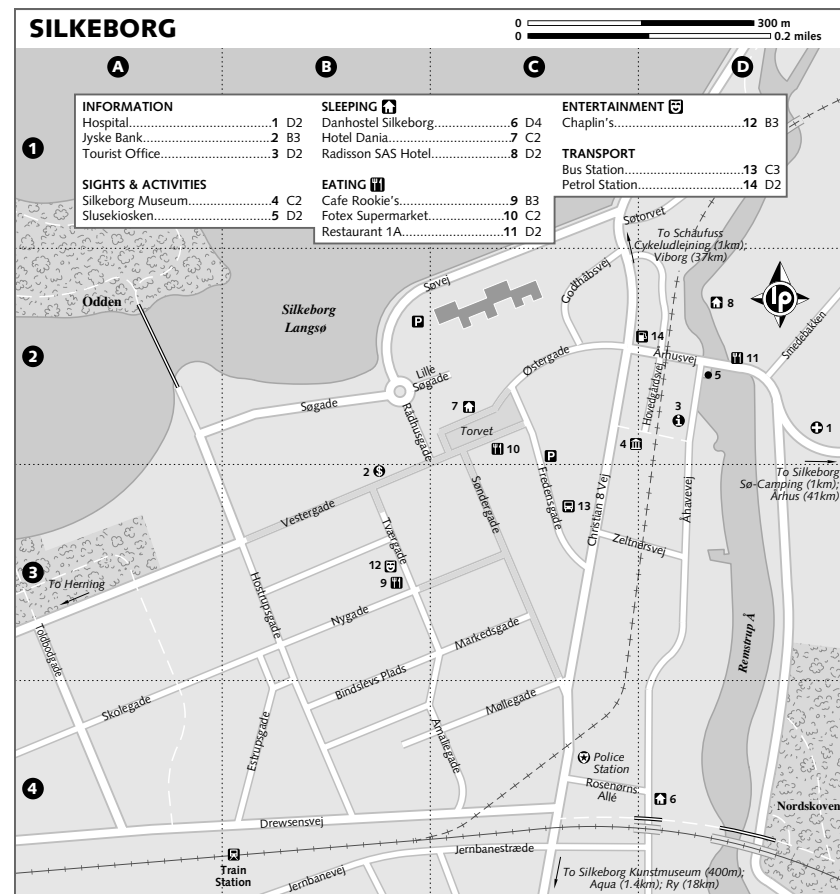
The main attraction at the **Silkeborg Museum** (☎ 86 82 14 99; Hovedgården; adult/child Dkr45/10; ☎ 10am–5pm mid-May–Oct; noon–4pm Sat & Sun Nov–mid-May) is the Tollund Man. He is believed to have been executed in 300 BC and his leathery body, complete with the rope still around the neck, was discovered in a bog in 1950. The well-preserved face of the Tollund Man is hypnotic in its detail, right down to the stubble on his chin. Other attractions include displays on local trades and of fine Danish glasswork.

The **Silkeborg Kunstmuseum** (Silkeborg Art Museum; ☎ 86 82 53 88; Gudenåvej 7–9; adult/child Dkr45/free; ☎ 10am–5pm Tue–Sun Apr–Oct, noon–4pm Tue–Fri Nov–Mar) contains some striking work, such as the large ceramic walls by Jean Dubuffet and Pierre Alechinsky that greet visitors at the entrance. It displays many of the works of native son Asger Jorn and other modern artists, including Max Ernst, Le Corbusier and Danish artists from the influential COBRA group. It's 1km south of the town centre.

Situated 2km south of central Silkeborg, **Aqua** (☎ 89 21 21 89; www.aqua-feriskvandsakvarium.dk; Vejsøvej 55; adult/child Dkr85/50; ☎ 10am–6pm Jun–Aug, to 4pm Mon–Fri, to 5pm Sat & Sun Sep–May) is an entertaining aquarium and exhibition centre exploring the ecosystems of the lakes and surrounding area with lots of fishy creatures, otters and fishing birds among imaginative displays.

## ACTIVITIES

Outdoor activities are at the heart of the Lake District's appeal. The track of the old railway from Silkeborg to Horsens is now an excellent **walking** and **cycling** trail of about 50km or so. It passes through the beech forest of **Nordskoven**, itself crisscrossed with hiking and bike trails. To reach Nordskoven simply head south down Åhavevej from the



tourist office, then go left over the old railway bridge down by the hostel. The tourist office has useful leaflets on Nordskoven and on the Silkeborg–Horsens trail.

**Canoeing** is a marvellous way to explore the Lake District and you can plan trips for several days staying at lakeside camping grounds along the way. The canoe-hire places can help plan an itinerary. You can rent canoes for Dkr75/250 per hour/day at **Slusekiosken** (☎ 86 80 08 93) at the harbour.

Bike hire costs Dkr75 per day at **Schauffuss Cykeludlejning** (☎ 86 81 39 38; Nørreskov Bakke 93), which is about 1.5km from Torvet across Silkeborg Langsø and is reached by bus No 5. **Silkeborg Sø-camping** rents out bikes and canoes from Dkr60 per day.

## SLEEPING

Budget and midrange options in town are limited, making B&B accommodation an especially good option. The tourist office publishes a B&B booklet, with singles/doubles costing around Dkr150/300.

**Silkeborg Sø-Camping** (☎ 86 82 28 24; Århusvej 51; camp site per adult/child/tent Dkr63/31/28) In a lakeside setting 1.5km east of the town centre.

**Danhostel Silkeborg** (☎ 86 82 36 42; silkeborg@danhostel.dk; Åhavevej 55; dm Dkr150; ☎ Mar–end Nov; P ☎ ☎) The riverbank location, modern facilities and lack of decent alternatives make this hostel very popular, so book ahead. It's east of the train station. There are only dorms, no private rooms.

**Hotel Dania** (☎ 86 82 01 11; info@hoteldania.dk; Torvet 5; s/d Dkr1090/1265, s/d discount summer Dkr925/1100; (P)) Silkeborg's prime-site hotel offers plush, old-style comfort in the heart of town.

**Radisson SAS Hotel** (☎ 88 82 22 22; info.silkeborg@radissonsas.com; Papirfabrikken 12; s/d Dkr940/1425, d discount mid-Jun–Aug from Dkr1205; (P) (X) (Q)) A comfortable, business-class hotel in a converted mill, the Radisson is simply the best place to stay in town. The huge rooms in a simple, appealing modern Scandinavian style have large beds and all mod cons. There's a bar and restaurant, plus wi-fi and discounted use of a nearby fitness centre.

### EATING

Nygade, lined with grill bars and pizza places, is the street to head to for quick inexpensive fast food.

**Restaurant 1A** (☎ 88 82 22 22; Papirfabrikken 12; mains from Dkr160; (X) lunch & dinner Tue–Sun) Great views overlooking the weir from plate-glass windows and a small dining terrace, this restaurant serves French and Italian influenced fare.

**Café Rookie's** (☎ 86 81 33 44; Nygade 18; sandwiches Dkr25–48; (X) 11am–11pm) A relaxed place, close to Chaplins, that does good ciabatta sandwiches, salads, smoothies and shakes and has a vegetarian menu for Dkr28 to Dkr49. It stays open until the early hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

There are a number of cheap food outlets on Søndergade, the pedestrianised main street. The **Fotex supermarket** (Torvet) has a bakery and an inexpensive café.

### ENTERTAINMENT

Nygade is well stocked with music bars and discos including **Chaplin's** (Nygade (X) Thu–Sat) behind Café Rookie's.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Hourly or half-hourly trains connect Silkeborg with Skanderborg (Dkr40, 30 minutes) and Århus (Dkr60, 49 minutes) via Ry. There are regular daily buses to Århus (Dkr50, 48 minutes).

### Ry

Ry is a smaller town in a more rural setting than Silkeborg and is a good place from which to base your exploration of the Lake

District. The helpful **tourist office** (☎ 86 89 34 22; www.visitry.com; Klostervej 3; (X) 7am–4pm Mon–Fri, 9am–2pm Sat mid-Jun–Aug, to 4pm Mon–Fri, to noon Sat Sep–mid-Jun) is in the train station.

### SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

The Lake District's most visited spot is the whimsically named **Himmelbjerget** (Sky Mountain), which, at just 147m, is one of Denmark's highest hills. It was formed by water erosion during the final Ice Age as a 'false hill' or *kol*, the sides of which are quite steep. Himmelbjerget holds great significance for Danes. There are a number of interesting memorials surrounding the hill-top's crowning glory, the **25m-tower** (admission Dkr5), which has superlative views. It was built in 1875 to commemorate King Frederick VII, who introduced constitutional government to Denmark in 1849. Open-air meetings, both political and cultural have been held on the summit of Himmelbjerget. The summit can be reached via a marked 6km footpath from Ry, or by bus or boat.

Another good, half-day outing is to cycle from Ry to **Boes**, a tiny hamlet with picturesque, thatch-roofed houses and vivid flower gardens. From Boes continue cross-country to **Øm Kloster** (☎ 86 89 81 94; adult/child Dkr35/10; (X) 10am–6pm Tue–Sun Jul–Aug, to 5pm May–Jun & Sep, to 4pm Apr & Oct), the ruins of a medieval monastery, where glass-topped tombs reveal the 750-year-old bones of Bishop Elafsen of Århus and many of his abbots. The return trip from Ry is 18km.

If you want to explore the lakes in the district, **Ry Kanofart** (☎ 86 89 11 67; Kyhnsvej 20) rents out canoes for Dkr75/300 per hour/day. For walking and cycling routes ask at the tourist centre for cycling and walking leaflets (Dkr20). **Cykeludlejning** (☎ 86 89 14 91; Skanderborgvej 19) rents out bikes for Dkr75 a day.

### SLEEPING & EATING

The tourist office books rooms in homes from Dkr200/275 for singles/doubles.

**Knudhule** (☎ 86 89 14 07; www.knudhule.dk in Danish; Randersvej 88; cabins s & d Dkr325, tr & q Dkr350, bungalows Dkr460) Knudhule is an appealing budget holiday camp on a picturesque lake. There are cabins without bathrooms and bungalows (sleeping up to four) with bathrooms. There's also a small restaurant, minigolf, boat hire and swimming/diving platforms

on the lake. To get there from the train station, cross the tracks, turn left and go 2.5km; or take the infrequent bus No 311.

The **butcher's shop** opposite the train station has fried fish and a few other takeaway selections. There's a bakery next door.

**Pizzeria Italia** (☎ 86 89 31 33; Skanderbrøvej 3; fish & meat mains Dkr109–47) There are several restaurants and fast-food places on Skanderborgvej including Pizzeria Italia, which offers tasty pastas (Dkr69) and a three-course menu (Dkr179).

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Hourly trains connect Ry with Silkeborg (Dkr26, 20 minutes) and Århus (Dkr36, 30 minutes).

### Viborg

pop 12,700

Quieter and sleepier than Silkeborg, Viborg has a pretty, compact town centre, an important historic and religious heritage and makes a good base for exploring the nearby lakes and surrounding woodland. In 1060 Viborg became one of Denmark's eight bishoprics and grew into a major religious centre. Prior to the Reformation the town had 25 churches and abbeys, though ecclesiastical remnants from that period are few.

### ORIENTATION & INFORMATION

The old part of town consists of the streets around Viborg Domkirke. The train station is about 1km southwest of the tourist office.

The **tourist office** (☎ 87 25 30 75; www.visitviborg.dk; Nytorv 9; (X) 9am–5pm Mon–Fri, to 2pm Sat Jun–Aug, to 5pm Mon–Fri, 9.30am–2.30pm Sat mid-May–mid-Jun, 9am–4pm Mon–Fri, 9.30am–12.30pm Sat Sep–Apr) is in the centre of town.

There is ample and convenient free parking behind the Sankt Mathias Gade Shopping Centre on the south side of town, but you must use a time disc.

The post office and several banks with ATMs line Sct Mathias Gade, just south of the main square.

### SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

The tourist office has excellent printouts, including English-language versions, which describe walks around the town with historical and cultural themes.

The multitowered **Viborg Domkirke** (☎ 87 25 52 50; Sankt Mogens Gade 4; admission free; (X) 10am–5pm Mon–Sat, noon–5pm Sun Jun–Aug, 11am–4pm Mon–Sat, noon–4pm Sun Apr–May & Sep; 11am–3pm Mon–Sat, noon–3pm Sun Jan–Mar) is one of Denmark's largest granite churches and dominates the town. The first church on the site dated from the Viking period. The interior is awash with frescoes painted over five years (1901–06) by artist Joakim Skovgaard and featuring scenes from the Old Testament and the life of Christ.

**Skovgaard Museet** (☎ 86 62 39 75; Domkirkestræde 2–4; adult/child Dkr20/free; (X) 10am–12.30pm & 1.30–5pm May–Sep, 1.30–5pm Oct–Apr) lies to the south of Viborg Domkirke. It also features work by Joakim Skovgaard, but here the scenes are more down to earth and include portraits, landscapes and nudes.

**Viborg Stiftsmuseum** (☎ 87 25 26 20; Hjultorvet 9; adult/child Dkr25/free; (X) 11am–5pm mid-Jun–Aug, 1–4pm Tue–Fri, 11am–5pm Sat & Sun Sep–mid-Jun) is a local history museum that tells the story of Viborg's rich past.

**Sankt Mogens Gade**, between the cathedral and the tourist office, has some handsome old houses, including Hauchs Gård at No 7 and the Willekens House at No 9, both dating back to around 1520.

### SLEEPING & EATING

Staff at the tourist office can book rooms in private homes with singles/doubles starting at Dkr250/300 plus a Dkr25 booking fee.

**Viborg So Camping** (☎ 86 67 13 11; www.camping-viborg.dk in Danish; Vinkelvej 36b; camp site per adult/child/tent Dkr64/32/20; (X) late-Mar–late-Sep) Viborg is a well-ordered, three-star camping ground at a pleasant, leafy location on the east side of Lake Sønderø.

**Danhostel Viborg** (☎ 86 67 17 81; viborg@danhostel.dk; Vinkelvej 36; (P) (X)) Adjacent to Viborg So Camping and also handy for lakeside activities (and very quiet) 1km walk from town. Bike hire is available.

**Palads Hotel** (☎ 86 62 37 00; www.hotelpalads.dk; Sankt Mathias Gade; s/d Dkr895/1095; (P) (X)) Straddling four sites, this long-established hotel is part of the Best Western chain and has bright, pleasant rooms (some with kitchenettes). It's just a short walk north of the train station.

The huge Sankt Mathias Gade Centre has cafés, a supermarket, fruit shop, a butcher and a baker.

**Kafé Arthur** (☎ 86 62 21 26; Vestergade 4; mains Dkr165-190) The bare-brick, stripped floors and candlelight make for a smart, cosy setting in which to enjoy the likes of tuna with asparagus and chervil vinaigrette or crab tureen with grilled scallops; it also does a good lunch menu for about Dkr75.

**Ristorante Pizzeria Italia** (☎ 86 62 42 43; Sankt Mathias Gade 74; buffet lunch Dkr49) This restaurant does tasty pasta and pizza (Dkr45 to Dkr60).

**Café Morville** (☎ 86 60 22 11; Hjultorvet; brunch Dkr79, mains Dkr158-68) A bustling place on the main square with sleek, modern decor and some good bistro-style dishes such as young grouse breast with herb stuffing and grape sauce (Dkr158).

### GETTING THERE & AROUND

Viborg is 66km northwest of Århus on Rte 26 and 41km west of Randers on Rte 16. Trains from Århus (Dkr94, 70 minutes) run hourly Monday to Friday, and less frequently at weekends.

The tourist office has a few bikes for hire for Dkr100 a day.

## AALBORG

pop 155,000

Don't be put off by the rather dreary industrial hinterland as you approach Aalborg, it's the surprise destination of Jutland with a vibrant nightlife and some worthwhile sites, not least the remarkable Lindholm Høje, Denmark's largest Viking burial ground. Jutland's second largest city has lost chunks of its historical quaintness to industrial and commercial development, although the centre contains enough ancient half-timbered buildings to give you an idea of the kind of affluence its Renaissance merchants enjoyed. By the time you read this, the redeveloped waterfront should afford the city centre some great new public spaces. A new architecture and design museum is also scheduled to open in 2008.

### Orientation

Linked by bridge and tunnel, the city spreads across both sides of the Limfjord, the long body of water that cuts Jutland in two. Most of the sights, eating, drinking and sleeping options lie south of the Limfjord. The town centre is a 10-minute walk north on Boulevarden from the train and bus stations.

## Information

**Boomtown** (Nytorv 18-20; per hr Dkr30) Internet access.

**Danish Emigration Archives** (☎ 99 31 42 20; Arkivstræde 1) Behind Vor Frue Kirke, helps foreigners of Danish descent trace their roots.

**Hovedbiblioteket** (City library; Rendsburggade 2; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat) Offers free internet access.

**Jyske Bank** (Nytorv 1)

**Laundrette** (cnr Rantzaugade & Christiansgade; ☎ 8am-8pm)

**Post Office** (Algade 42)

**Tourist Office** (☎ 99 30 60 90; www.visitaalborg.com; Østerågade 8; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat mid-Jun-Aug, to 4.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat Sep-mid-Jun) Friendly and helpful, with masses of information, including a diary of events, *What's on in Aalborg*.

## Sights

### OLD TOWN

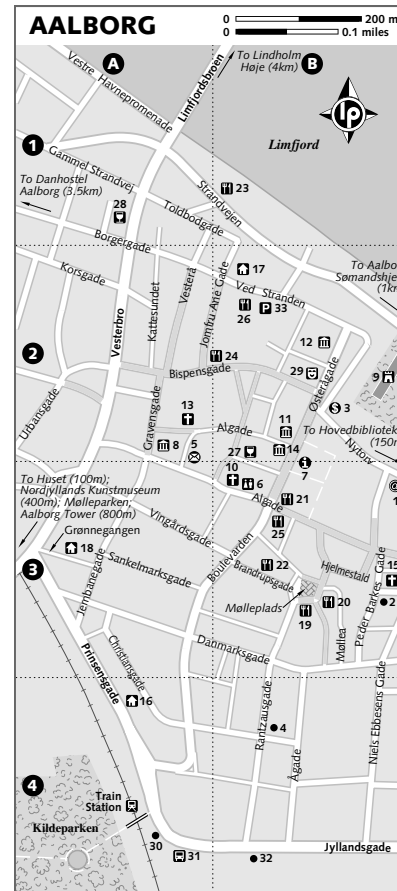
The whitewashed **Buldolfi Domkirke** marks the centre of the old town, and has colourful frescoes in the foyer. About 75m east of the cathedral is the **Aalborg Historiske Museum** (Algade 48; adult/child Dkr20/free; ☎ 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat), with artefacts from prehistory to the present and furnishings and interiors that hint at the wealth Aalborg's merchants enjoyed during the Renaissance.

The alley between the museum and church leads to the rambling **Monastery of the Holy Ghost**, which dates from 1431; the tourist office arranges guided tours in summer (Dkr40). Northeast of the cathedral on Østerågade are three noteworthy historic buildings: the **old town hall** (c 1762), the five-storey **Jens Bangs Stenhus** (built c 1624 by wealthy merchant Jens Bangs) and **Jørgen Olufsens House** (c 1616).

In addition, the half-timbered neighbourhoods around **Vor Frue Kirke** are worth a stroll, particularly the cobbled Hjelmerstald. **Aalborghus Slot**, near the waterfront, is more administrative office than castle, but there's a small dungeon you can enter for free.

### NORDJYLLANDS KUNSTMUSEUM

This **regional art museum** (☎ 98 13 80 88; Kong Christian Allé 50; adult/child Dkr40/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun), in a stark, modular building designed by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto, has a fine collection of Danish modern art, including work by Asger Jorn and JF Wilumsen.



To get to the museum, take the tunnel beneath the train station; it leads to Kildeparken, a green space with statues and water fountains. Go directly through the park, cross Vesterbro and then continue through a wooded area to the museum, a 10-minute walk in all. Alternatively take bus No 5, 8, 10 or 11 from the centre of town.

### AALBORG TOWER

The hill behind the art museum has a 105m **tower** (☎ 98 77 05 11; Søndre Skovvej; adult/child Dkr25/15; ☎ 11am-5pm Apr, Jun, Aug & Sep, 10am-7pm Jul) with panoramic views of the city's steeples and smokestacks. It sits on the edge of an expansive wooded area, **Mølleparken**, which has walking trails and a zoo.

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## LINDHOLM HØJE

The Limfjorden (chalk fjord) was a kind of Viking motorway providing easy and speedy access to the Atlantic for longboat raiding parties. It's perhaps not surprising then that by far the most important piece of Aalborg's historical heritage is a predominantly Viking one. The hugely atmospheric **Lindholm Høje** (admission free; ☎ dawn-dusk) is a Viking burial ground where nearly 700 graves from the Iron Age and Viking Age are strewn around a hilltop pasture ringed by a wall of tall beech trees. Many of the Viking graves are marked by stones placed in the outline of a Viking ship, with two larger end stones as stem and stern. The **museum** (☎ 96 31 04 28; adult/child Dkr30/free; ☎ 10am-5pm

Apr-Oct), adjacent to the field, depicts the site's history while huge murals behind the exhibits speculate on what the people of Lindholm looked like and how they lived. Lindholm Høje is 15 minutes from Aalborg centre on bus No 2.

## Sleeping

Accommodation options are pretty good in town, inexpensive compared to other Danish destinations and not generally in massive demand.

**Prinsens Hotel** (☎ 98 13 37 33; www.prinsen-hotel.dk; Prinsensgade 14; s/d from Dkr545/645; (P) (X) (Q)) Modern, simple rooms (although some are rather small), a good, central location and free extras (such as free internet, wi-fi, solarium and tea and coffee). There's also a sauna and Jacuzzi. Good value

**Villa Rosa** (☎ 98 12 13 38; www.villarosa.dk; Grønnegangen; r Dkr400-800; (P) (X) (Q)) An elegant B&B inside a pink-walled former Bishop's residence with bright, light rooms, wooden floors, period features and solid bedsteads. Lots of character, very central.

**Danhostel Aalborg** (☎ 98 11 60 44; www.danhostel.dk/aalborg; Skydebanevej 50; dm/s/d Dkr150/480/500; (P) (Q)) Handy for boating activities on the fjord but hardly central, the hostel is at the marina 4km west of the centre. It also runs an adjacent camping ground with cabins. Otherwise the facilities are rather basic.

**Radisson SAS Limfjord** (☎ 98 16 43 33; http://radissonsas.com; Ved Stranden 14-16; s/d Dkr990/1395, s/d discount mid-Jun-Aug Dkr945/1045; (P) (X) (Q)) The top-end place in town occupying a grandstand position overlooking the fjord. Well-furnished, well-equipped, modern rooms with free wi-fi plus a solarium and gym.

## Eating

Eating out in Aalborg has never been better. A clutch of new places dotted around the town centre cater well to all budgets and tastes. If it's just ballast you want with your alcohol, then Jomfru Ane Gade, a lively, pedestrian street jammed solid with fast-food style restaurants and bars, is the place to go.

**Pingvin** (☎ 98 11 11 66; Brandstrupsgade 11; 4-tapas menu Dkr108, light mains Dkr60-80; ☎ noon-late Mon-Sat) The locals have quickly embraced this cosy little contemporary wine and tapas bar, serving flavoursome little dishes that are perfect for a light meal.

**Cafe Ministeriet** (☎ 98 19 40 50; Mølleplads; mains Dkr46-86) Generous portions of fresh café/diner food including burgers, veggie lasagne, brunch and club sandwiches, and there is a good little summer terrace.

**Sushi & Ko** (☎ 98 10 98 40; Ved Stranden 11b; menus Dkr70-200; ☎ 11am-10pm Mon-Fri, noon-10pm Sat, 3-9pm Sun) Sit and enjoy, or pay and take away terrific, fresh sushi from this small place around the corner from Jomfru Ane Gade. Tackle the fierce wasabi-roasted peas if you dare.

**Rosdahls** (☎ 98 12 05 80; Strandvej 6; lunch Dkr58-188, 3-/4-course evening menu Dkr375/415; ☎ 11.30am-3pm & 5.30-10pm Mon-Fri, 10am-10pm Sat) Occupying an impressive waterside warehouse right by the waters the speciality of this romantic place is heavenly, delicate wedges of home-smoked salmon (Dkr75). Good wine is available in the restaurant or to buy in the adjoining shop and staff are knowledgeable. On Saturday there's also a great food market outside.

**Mortens Kro** (☎ 98 12 48 60; Mølle 4-6; mains Dkr150-95) Hands down both the best and priciest place to eat in town, Mortens Kro serves lavish, inventive fare such as lobster with a cauliflower crème brûlée or beef with foie gras and truffled croutons.

**Penny Lane** (Boulevarden 10; 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9.30-2pm Sun) A great little deli offering its own freshly baked bread and local cheese, cured meat and cured sausage for gourmet picnics as well as cakes to eat in or takeaway.

**Schak Nielsen** (☎ 98 12 35 92; Algade 23) This fishmonger makes cheap takeaway salmon burgers and a range of other tasty fishy snacks.

## Drinking

**Wharf** (☎ 98 11 70 10; The Wharf, Borgergade 16) This surprising slice of the UK in deepest Jutland is dedicated to cask ale and serving up to 44 different British, Belgian, Irish and German beers the length of its capacious bar. There's also a good selection of rare single-malt whiskies.

**Studenterhuset** (Student Union; ☎ 98 11 05 22; Gammeltorv 10) A convivial budget drinking and entertainment option. Lined with bookshelves, it's surprisingly upmarket and, well, studious for a students union. There's inexpensive beer, regular live bands and DJ nights.

## Entertainment

If it's a flirt, a drink or loud repetitive beats in the form of banging techno, Euro-rock or house music you're after, trawl Jomfru Ane Gade, Aalborg's take-no-prisoners party street. The venues themselves are pretty homogenous, so it's best to explore until you hear your kind of music.

**The Irish House** (☎ 98 14 18 17; Østerågade 25) A lively Irish pub with live music most nights and a convivial atmosphere.

**Huset** (☎ 98 16 76 66; Hassersgade 10) Aalborg's music and cultural centre stages a series of jazz, folk and world music events.

## Getting There & Away

### CAR & MOTORCYCLE

The E45 bypasses the city centre, tunnelling under the Limfjord, whereas the connecting Rte 180 leads to the centre. To get to Lindholm Høje or points north from Aalborg centre, take Rte 180 (Vesterbro), which bridges the Limfjord.

**Avis** (☎ 98 13 30 99) is at the train station. **Europcar** (☎ 98 13 23 55; Jyllandsgade 4) is a short distance to the west.

## TRAIN

Trains run to Århus (Dkr150, 1½ hours, at least hourly) and Frederikshavn (Dkr88, one hour, every two hours). **Express buses** (☎ 70 21 08 88) run to Copenhagen (Dkr230, five hours, daily).

## Getting Around

City buses leave from the intersection of Østerågade and Nytorv. The bus fare is Dkr13 to any place in greater Aalborg.

Despite a few one-way streets and the often-confusing outer roads that may have you driving in circles, central Aalborg is a fairly easy place to get around by car. There's metered parking in the city centre (Dkr10/76, one/24 hours) and time-limited, free parking along many side streets, but you need to use a parking disc. If you're unable to find a parking space, there's a large parking garage, **Palads Parking** (Ved Stranden 11).

## REBILD BAKKER NATIONAL PARK

Rebild Bakker National Park is a great place to unwind if the urban experience starts to get to you. Relax by hiking through its lovely rolling hills and heathland. Rebild

Bakker National Park was founded in 1912 by Danish Americans and is best known for its US-style 4th of July celebration, the largest held outside the USA.

A 4km **trail** begins in a sheep meadow opposite the Lincoln cabin, and numerous other trails crisscross the park and the adjacent Rold Skov, Denmark's largest forest. The Ministry of the Environment publishes a useful leaflet *Rebild Bakker Himmerland* that gives basic directions for a number of rewarding walks. One of the best is the 3km Ravnkilde-Nordre Dybdal trail, which takes in some good views and passes interesting old buildings and ruins.

The **Rebild Festival** is an annual event held on 4 July, celebrating Danish American connections. It commemorates over 300,000 Danish immigrants to the USA during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the strong familial bonds that survive between the USA and Denmark. There are concerts performed by both military and civilian orchestras and bands, receptions, picnics, dancing as well as rock- and country-music shows.

**Safari Camping** (☎ 98 39 11 10; Rebildvej 17; adult/child Dkr68/34) is nearby. You can get meals at the park cafeterias. The tiny, quaint, thatched-roofed **Danhostel Rebild** (☎ 98 39 13 40; www.vandrerhjem.net; dm/r Dkr150/375; (P)) is next to the park entrance.

From Aalborg, Århus-bound trains stop in Skørping (Dkr48, 16 minutes), from where it's 3km to Rebild. Bus No 104 runs between Aalborg and Rebild (Dkr42, 45 minutes, 10 times daily Monday to Friday, six times daily Saturday and Sunday), via Skørping.

## FREDERIKSHAVN

pop 34,000

A transport hub rather than a compelling destination, the bustling port town of Frederikshavn nevertheless has a certain appeal, a couple of interesting sights and a pleasant enough pedestrianised centre.

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, to 2pm Sun end-Jun-mid-Aug, 9am-6pm last 2 weeks Jun & Aug, to 4pm Mon-Fri, 11am-2pm Sat Sep-mid-Jun). The train station and adjacent bus terminal are a 10-minute walk to the north.



## Sights

### BANGSBO

It's well worth exploring this area, about 3km from the centre on the southern edge of town. The main drawcard is **Bangsbo Museum** (☎ 98 42 31 11; Margrethesvej 6; adult/child Dkr40/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Jun-Aug, 10.30am-5pm Sep-May, closed Mon Nov-May) an old country estate with an interesting mix of exhibits. The manor house displays antique furnishings and collectibles, while the old farm buildings hold ship figureheads, military paraphernalia and exhibits on Danish resistance to the German occupation. The most intriguing exhibit is the Ellingå ship, reconstructed remains of a 12th-century Viking-style merchant ship that was dug up from a nearby stream bed. Bus No 3 from central Frederikshavn stops near the entrance to the estate, from where it's an enjoyable 500m walk through the woods to the museum. The adjoining **Bangsbo Botanisk Have** (Botanical Gardens) have a deer park and make a pleasant place to stroll or enjoy a picnic.

**Bangsbo Fort** (☎ 98 42 31 11; Understedvej 21; adult/child Dkr30/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Jun-Aug) about half a mile over the wooded ridge from the gardens is an atmospheric WWII bunker complex housing some big guns and commanding wonderful views across to Frederikshavn and out to sea.

### KRUDTTÅRNET

The whitewashed **Krudttårnet** (☎ 98 42 31 11; Kragholmen 1; adult/child Dkr15/5; ☎ 10.30am-5pm Jun-Sep) is a striking old gun tower and powder magazine, that once formed part of the 17th-century citadel that once protected the port. Various pieces of artillery are on display at the top.

### Sleeping & Eating

Unsurprisingly, given the captive custom of those awaiting onward connections, good-value sleeping options are limited, prices higher and standards lower compared to other towns in the region. The tourist office books rooms in private homes from Dkr175/200 for singles/doubles, plus a Dkr25 booking fee.

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

**Hotel Herman Bang** (☎ 98 42 21 66; www.hermanbang.dk in Danish; Tordenskjoldsgade 3; s/d Dkr495, s/d with private bathroom from Dkr695/795; P) The mid-priced rooms here are bright and comfortable, the most expensive are huge, new and luxurious. Avoid the cheapest which are bland, need new carpets and generally offer poor value. There's an up-market spa next door for beauty and relaxation treatments.

**Frank's** (☎ 98 42 22 88; www.franks.dk in Danish; Silovej 8; mains Dkr160-90; ☎ lunch & dinner only) Towering nine stories above the port's gritty industrial heart in a former grain silo, Frank's offers a thrilling bird's-eye view of the dockside loading, unloading and maritime comings and goings. The fine-dining menu doesn't always live up to the views but is strong on fish. Book ahead to bag a window seat.

**Møllehuset** (☎ 98 43 44 00; Skovalleen 45; mains Dkr70-130; ☎ 11am-9.30pm Tue-Sat, to 6pm Sun & Mon) An appealing café and restaurant in a leafy setting across the roundabout from the botanic gardens serving simple fresh lunches – such as bagels with smoked salmon and asparagus, and good cheese platters – along with more polished dinners.

**Damsgaard Supermarked** (Havnegade) Next to the tourist office, Damsgaard has a cheap cafeteria with a harbour view and a good buffet breakfast (Dkr48).

**Havne Super** (Sydhavnvej 8) If you're catching a ferry, Havne Super is a supermarket at the harbour with a cafeteria and long hours. Consider picking up provisions if you're going out to expensive Norway.

## Getting There & Away

### BOAT

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

### BUS & TRAIN

Frederikshavn is the northern terminus of the DSB train line. Trains run about hourly south to Aalborg (Dkr88) and then onto Copenhagen (Dkr343). **Nordjyske Jernbaner** (☎ 98 45 45 10; www.njba.dk) runs smart new trains every two hours (Dkr48) to Skagen.

## SKAGEN

pop 10,500

A busy working harbour, fresh seafood, long, sandy beaches, dramatic seascapes and a buzzing holiday atmosphere make Skagen an understandably popular spot at the northern tip of Jutland.

Artists discovered Skagen's luminous light and its colourful, wind-blasted, 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. Painters such as Michael and Anna Ancher and Oscar Björck followed the contemporary fashion of painting *en plein air* (out of doors), often regardless of the weather. Their work established a vivid figurative style of painting that became known internationally as the 'Skagen School'.

Today, Skagen is a very popular tourist resort, packed in high summer. But the sense of a more picturesque Skagen survives and the town's older neighbourhoods are filled with distinctive yellow-walled, red-tiled houses.

Skagen gets by on a mix of arts, crafts and conspicuous tourism these days, with plenty of souvenir shops, art galleries and ice-cream parlours. The **Skagen music festival** (www.skagenfestival.dk in Danish) packs the town out with official performers, buskers and appreciative visitors during the last week-end of June. 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.

### Orientation & Information

Sankt Laurentii Vej, Skagen's main street, runs almost the entire length of this long thin town, and is never more than five minutes from the waterfront. The **tourist office** (☎ 98 44 13 77; www.skagen-tourist.dk; Sankt Laurentii Vej 22; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm Sun late-Jun-early Aug, to 5pm early Jun & late Aug, 9am-4pm Mon-Sat, 10am-1pm Sun May & Sep, earlier closing Oct-May) is in the train/bus station.

### Sights

#### GRENEN

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. You can actually paddle at its tip where the waters of the Kattegat and Skagerrak clash and you can put one foot in each sea; but not too far. Bathing is strictly forbidden here because of the ferocious tidal currents and often angry seas that collide to create mane-tossing white horses.

The tip is the culmination of a long, curving sweep of sand at Grenen, about 3km northeast of Skagen along Rte 40. Where the road ends there's a car park, café and souvenir shops, plus, in high summer, what seems like the entire population of Denmark. Crowds head along the last stretch of beach for the 30-minute walk to the tip. A special tractor-drawn bus, the *Sandormen*, leaves from the car park every half-hour, waits for 15 minutes at the beach end, then returns (adult/child return-trip Dkr20/10). From May to September, buses run from Skagen station to Grenen hourly (Dkr15) until 5pm. Taxis, available at the train station, charge about Dkr75 to Grenen.

### SKAGENS MUSEUM

This fine museum (☎ 98 44 64 44; Brøndumsvej 4; admission Dkr60; ☎ 10am-5pm or 6pm May-Aug, 11am-4pm Tue-Sun Apr, 1-5pm Wed-Fri, 11am-4pm Sat, to 3pm Sun Nov-Mar) showcases the paintings of Michael and Anna Ancher, PS Krøyer, and of other artists who flocked to Skagen between 1830 and 1930, many of them kitchen-sink portraits of the lives and deaths of the fishing community.

### MICHAEL & ANNA ANCHER'S HUS

This poignant domestic museum (☎ 98 44 30 09; Markvej 2-4; adult/child Dkr50/free; ☎ 10am-6pm mid-Jun-mid-Aug, 10am-5pm May-mid-Jun, 11am-3pm Sep-Apr) occupies the house that the Anchers bought in 1884 and in which their daughter Helga lived until 1960.

### SKAGEN BY-OG EGNSMUSEUM

This well-presented, **open-air museum** (☎ 98 44 47 60; Pk Nielsonvej 8-10; adult/child Dkr30/5; ☎ 10am-5pm May-Sep, to 6pm Jul, to 4pm Mon-Fri Mar-Apr & Oct-Nov) depicts Skagen's maritime history, showcasing maritime arts and recreating the period homes of fisherfolk. It's a 15-minute walk from the train station, west down Sankt Laurentii Vej, then south on Vesterled.

**TILSANDEDE KIRKE**

This whitewashed medieval **church tower** (☎ 98 44 43 71; adult/child Dkr10/5; ☎ 11am-5pm Jun-Sep) still rises above the sand dunes that buried the church and surrounding farms in the late 1700s. The tower, in a nature reserve, is 5km south of Skagen and well signposted from Rte 40. By bike, take Gammel Landevej from Skagen.

**RÅBJERG MILE**

These undulating 40m-high hills comprise Denmark's largest expanse of shifting dunes and are great fun to explore. Råbjerg Mile is 16km south of Skagen, off Rte 40 on the road to Kandestederne. From May to September, bus No 99 runs six times a day from Skagen Station (Dkr16, 25 minutes).

**Sleeping**

Hotel accommodation can be scarce at summer weekends and during the Skagen Festival at the end of June. The tourist office books singles/doubles in private homes for around Dkr200/350, plus a Dkr50 booking fee.

**Grenen Camping** (☎ 98 44 25 46; adult/child Dkr75/43) A fine seaside location, semi-private tent sites and pleasant four-bunk huts, 1.5km northeast of Skagen centre. The only downside is the rather tightly bunched sites.

**Danhostel Skagen** (☎ 98 44 22 00; www.danhostel.dk/skagen; Rolighedsvej 2; dm Dkr150, s/d from Dkr500/600; ☎ mid-Feb-late Nov; [P]) Well kept, very popular and 1km from the centre, book ahead in the summer. Rates drop sharply in low season.

**Marienlund Badepension** (☎ 98 44 13 20; www.marienlund.dk; Fabriciusvej 8; s/d with bathroom Dkr460/800) A modern, comfortable, immaculately kept place that is situated on the quieter western side of town near the open-air museum.

**Skagen Sømandshjem** (☎ 98 44 25 88; Østre Strandvej 2; s/d with bathroom Dkr620/860, without bathroom Dkr460/700) A harbour-side hotel that has bright, pleasant rooms.

**Brøndums Hotel** (☎ 98 44 15 55; www.brondums-hotel.dk in Danish; Anchersvej 3; s/d Dkr575/875, s/d with bathroom Dkr795/1095) This charming hotel in the heart of the old town right across from the Skagens Museum had close associations with Skagen's artists in its day

and retains an old-world sense of decor (slightly chintzy, flowery furnishings), good service and civility. However, it has similarly old-world facilities and plumbing: there's only one TV in the living room and few of the rooms have bathrooms. It's a great, cosy place to relax though, especially in front of a roaring fire and there's a good restaurant (see below).

**Eating & Drinking**

Perhaps a dozen seafood shacks line the harbour selling good seafood to eat inside, outside or takeaway. Freshly caught prawns are the favourite fare, costing around Dkr75 for a generous helping.

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.

**Restaurant Pakhuset** (☎ 98 44 20 00; Rødspættevej 6; light lunches Dkr65-77, mains Dkr150-200) Perhaps the pick of the town in terms of offerings. There's a mix of great fresh fish mains and cheaper light lunches (like fish cakes with remoulade and salad for Dkr72), it has long hours and a superb ambience both outdoors (right among the bustle of the harbour) and indoors (a lovely wooden-beamed interior sprinkled with jovial ship masts). Its downstairs café offers the cheaper dishes.

**Brøndum's Hotel** (☎ 98 44 15 55; Anchersvej 3; mains Dkr120-230) French cuisine is the main influence on the otherwise classic Danish dishes, with lots of fresh seafood such as lobster and turbot as well as tenderloin and chateaubriand. Meals are served in the old-world ambience of the cosy dining room.

**Jakobs** (☎ 98 44 16 90; Havnevej 4; mains Dkr138-188) Jakobs is a popular restaurant on Skagen's busy main street. It does good home-made brunches (Dkr70), salads and pastas (Dkr45 to Dkr75). By night it's a popular bar staging live music at the weekends (usually cover bands).

**Buddy Holly's** (Havnevej 16) There's nothing cutting edge or elegant about Buddy Holly's, but the predictable sonic menu of dance and disco classics from the '70s, '80s and '90s gets a 30- and 40-something crowd up and dancing.

**Getting There & Away**

**Nordjyske Jernbaner** (☎ 98 45 45 10; www.njba.dk in Danish) runs smart new trains every two hours (Dkr48) to Frederikshavn. A seasonal Skagerakkeren bus (No 99) runs between Hirtshals and Skagen (Dkr37, 1½ hours, six daily mid-June to mid-August). The same bus continues on to Hjørring and Løkken.

**Getting Around**

Cycling is an excellent way of exploring Skagen and the surrounding area. **Skagen Cykeludlejning** (☎ 98 44 10 70; Banegårdspladsen; per day Dkr75, deposit Dkr200) rents out bicycles and has a stand on the western side of the train station and at the harbour.

Skagen is very busy with traffic in high season. There is free parking for short periods and convenient metered parking (Dkr10 per hour) just by the train station.

**HIRTSHALS**

pop 7000

A busy, modern little town thanks to a large commercial fishing harbour and ferry terminal, Hirtshals has an easy, friendly character, an excellent aquarium and some fine stretches of beach, although its looks aren't likely to take your breath away. The main street, pedestrianised Nørregade, is lined with a mix of cafés and shops, and with supermarkets that cater to Norwegian shoppers piling off the ferries to load up with relatively cheap Danish meats and groceries. The seaward end of Nørregade opens out into a wide, airy space, Den Grønne Plads (Green Square), which 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-2pm Sat mid-Jul-Aug, 10am-3pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat Aug-Jun).

Hirtshals' big draw is the **Nordsømuseum** (☎ 98 94 44 44; Willemoesvej 2; adult/child Dkr110/55; ☎ 10am-6pm mid-Jun-mid-Aug, to 5pm mid-Aug-mid-Jun), an impressive aquarium that recreates a slice of the North Sea in a massive four-storey tank, containing elegantly balletic schools of thousands of fish. Divers feed the fish at 1pm and the seals at 11am and 3pm.

In the surrounding area there are coastal cliffs and a **lighthouse** on the town's western side. If you want beaches and dunes, there's a lovely unspoiled stretch at **Tornby Strand**, 5km to the south.

**Sleeping & Eating**

Staff at the tourist office can book rooms in private homes starting at Dkr150 plus a Dkr25 booking fee.

**Hirtshals Hostel** (☎ 98 94 12 48; www.danhostel.nord.dk/hirtshals; Kystvejen 53; dm/s/d Dkr150/370/420; ☎ Mar-Nov) Occupying a bland building and offering basic facilities about 1km from the centre, the saving grace of this hostel is its location a bucket and spade's throw from the beach.

**Hotel Hirtshals** (☎ 98 94 20 77; info@hotelhirtshals.dk; Havnegade 2; s/d Dkr695/795) On the main square above the fishing harbour, the Hirtshals has bright, comfortable rooms with high, steepled ceilings and good sea views at the front.

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

**Hirtshals Kro** (☎ 98 94 26 77; Havnegade; mains Dkr149-89) A delightful restaurant in a very old *kro* that has retained its character. Not surprisingly the menu offers several tasty seafood dishes including a mixed fish plate for Dkr179.

**Getting There & Away****BOAT**

The ferry company **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, twice daily). Fares on both routes range from Dkr180 midweek in the low season to Dkr420 on summer weekends for passengers.

**BUS**

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

**TRAIN**

Hirtshals' main train station is 500m south of the ferry harbour but there's also a stop near the Color Line terminal. The railway, which is operated by a private company, 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).

**LØKKEN**

pop 1400

Vast lengths of beach and dune lined by neat rows of white beach huts and stout little fishing vessels lure visitors in throngs to Løkken every summer, all but swamping this pretty little town with an intriguing sea trading and fishing heritage. Løkken has something of a reputation as a summer party place attracting teenage party animals from Norway in particular to its campsite and beaches.

The **tourist office** (☎ 98 99 10 09; www.loekken.dk; Harald Fiskers Vej 8; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat Jun-Aug, 10am-1pm Sun mid-Jul-Aug, to 4pm Mon-Fri & to 1pm Sat Sep-May) is a few blocks east of Torvet, the central square.

Løkken's **beach** is broad and long and has excellent sand. The town itself has an older neighbourhood to the north of the centre.

The charming little **Løkken Museum** (Nørregade 12; adult/child Dkr15/free; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 2-5pm Sun Jun-Aug) and the **Coastal Fishing Museum** (☎ 20 66 13 07; Ndr Strandvej; adult/child Dkr10/free; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 2-5pm Sun Jun-Aug), perched above the beach, tell the story of Løkken seagoing.

A string of camping grounds line Søndergade, the street that runs south from Torvet. Most of them charge in the region of Dk75/35 per adult/child in high season.

Hotels and apartment complexes in Løkken are geared to holidaymakers planning longer stays and offer their best prices for weekly bookings, although you might catch an overnight stay for about Dkr600 in the low season. The tourist office can provide a booklet with a brief description of each place and a detailed price list. In the low season it's worth checking out any 'room to let' signs for good deals.

Several places offer cheap fast food on Torvet and along Nørregade and Strandgade, which radiate out from Torvet.

**Løkken Fiske-Restaurant** (☎ 98 99 02 00; Nørregade 9; mains Dkr135-225) Løkken Fiske has good fish dishes, including a tasty fish soup. It also does fish lunches for Dkr55 and a buffet for Dkr129.

There's also a **Spar** (Kjølgaards Plads; ☎ 7am-10pm) supermarket.

Løkken is on Rte 55, 18km southwest of Hjørring. Buses run every couple of hours between Løkken and Hjørring (Dkr30, 30 minutes) and between Løkken and Aalborg (Dkr58, one hour).

**ESBJERG**

pop 83,000

You won't miss too much if you pass straight through Esbjerg from your ferry or flight, although it's an attractive enough place if you do need or want to stay. A newcomer to Denmark, having been established as a port in 1868 following the loss of the Schleswig and Holstein regions to Germany, Esbjerg is now the country's fifth-largest city. It is the centre of Denmark's extensive North Sea oil activities and the country's largest fishing harbour. Although Esbjerg has its fair share of early-20th-century buildings, if period charm is what you're after then head straight to nearby Ribe.

**Information**

**Central Library** (☎ 76 16 20 00; Nørregade 19; internet access free; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Thu, to 5pm Fri, to 2pm Sat)

**Danske Bank** (☎ 79 15 72 00; Torvet 18)

**Post Office** (☎ 79 12 12 12; Torvet 20)

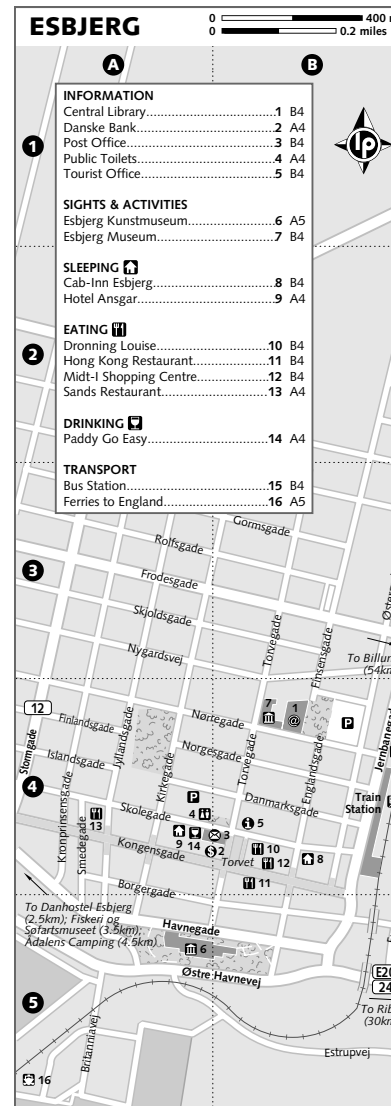
**Tourist Office** (☎ 75 12 55 99; www.visitesbjerg.com in Danish; Skolegade 33; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri & 9.30am-2.30pm Sat mid-Jun-Aug, 10am-5pm Mon-Fri & 10am-1pm Sat Sep-mid-Jun).

**Sights & Activities**

The single most worthwhile place to visit in town is the **Esbjerg Kunstmuseum** (☎ 75 13 02 11; Havnegade 20; adult/child Dkr54/free; ☎ 10am-4pm), an impressive gallery with an important collection of Danish modern art including work by Asger Jorn.

Also in the town centre, is the small **Esbjerg Museum** (☎ 75 12 78 11; Torvegade 45; adult/child Dkr40/free; ☎ 10am-4pm) containing a few historical artefacts from the area and an amber display. It will offer a short diversion if it's raining.

Outshone somewhat by the aquarium in Hirtshals (see p101), and based a little way out of the town centre at Tarpbagevej, the **Fiskeri og Sjøfartsmuseet** (☎ 76 12 20 00; Tarpbagevej 2; adult/child Dkr75/35, outside holiday times Dkr115/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Jul & Aug, to 5pm Jan-Jun & Sep-Dec), an aquarium and maritime centre has an outdoor seal pool as well as a number of fisheries exhibits including a huge whale skeleton. Take bus No 1 or 6. It's right by a long sweep of bay and beach, overlooked by the towering white sentinels of the sculpture *Man Meets Sea*.

**Sleeping**

There's a good range of reasonably-priced accommodation in town. The tourist office books rooms in private homes at around Dkr175/300 for singles/doubles.

**Ådalens Camping** (☎ 75 15 88 22; www.adal.dk; Gudenåvej 20; adult/child Dkr77/37; ☎) The nearest camping to Esbjerg (5km north of the city

via bus No 1 or 7) this place has great facilities including a pool, solarium and Jacuzzi.

**Cab Inn Esbjerg** (☎ 75 18 16 00; www.cabinn.com; Skolegade14; s/d Dkr525/645; (P) ☎ ☎) This has clean, functional but good-value, cabin-style rooms (so small dimensions and rather narrow bunk beds) right in the centre. The superior rooms are larger and less clinical. There's free internet access and wifi in the foyer.

**Hotel Ansgar** (☎ 75 12 82 44; www.hotelansgar.dk; Skolegade 36; s/d Dkr590/750) Ansgar is a friendly place with large, comfortable rooms decorated in simple classic Scandinavian style.

**Danhostel Esbjerg** (☎ 75 12 42 58; www.danhostel.dk/esbjerg; Gammel Vardevej 80; dm/s/d Dkr150/320/400; ☎ Feb-mid-Dec) Occupying a handsome former high school 3km northwest of the city centre, this hostel is close to sports facilities including a pool. Take bus Nos 4 and 12.

**Eating & Drinking**

Most restaurants and grocery stores are east of Torvet on Kongensgade.

**Sand's Restaurant** (☎ 75 12 02 07; Skolegade 60; lunch Dkr33-75, mains Dkr80-120) You'll find superb, authentic Danish staples such as smørrebrød, Danish hash, meatballs, smoked eel and *pariserbof* (a fried beef patty on bread with a raw egg yolk, pickles and fresh horse-radish) in this cosy, old-fashioned dining room.

**Dronning Louise** (☎ 75 13 13 44; Torvet 19; mains Dkr90-168; ☎ 10am-late Mon-Sat, to 11.30pm Sun; mains Dkr65-120) This jack-of-all-trades place turns out decent sandwiches, burgers and lunch fish plates for Dkr38 to Dkr58, as well as slightly more ambitious brasserie fare and pastries from the café counter.

**Midt-I shopping centre** (Kongensgade, near Torvet) This has a bakery and cafeteria.

**Hong Kong Restaurant** (Kongensgade 34; 3-course meals Dkr110-195) It has both restaurant meals and prepares box takeaways for Dkr40 to Dkr55.

**Paddy Go Easy** (☎ 75 18 07 72; Skolegade 42) A friendly Irish pub just off the main square that is actually run by Irish proprietors.

**Getting There & Away**

Trains to Copenhagen (Dkr206, 2½ hours, hourly) run until 10pm.

If you're driving into Esbjerg from the east, the E20 leads into the city centre. If you're coming from the south, Rte 24

merges with the E20 on the city outskirts. From the north, Rte 12 makes a beeline into the city, ending at the harbour.

**Ryanair** (www.ryanair.com) offers daily flights to Stansted.

**DFDS Seaways** (☎ 08705 333 000 in UK; ☎ 33 42 30 00 in Denmark; www.dfdsseaways.co.uk) sails from Esbjerg to Harwich (UK) at least three times a week. For full details see p113.

## Getting Around

Most city-bound buses (Dkr17) call at the train station. Parking is free in Esbjerg. There's also a convenient car park on Danmarksvej, but it has a two-hour limit; some unlimited parking is available in the car park on Nørregade, east of the library.

## LEGOLAND

Children under 12 will love **Legoland** (☎ 75 33 13 33; www.lego.dk; adult/child 3-13 years Dkr210/190; ☎ 10am-8pm Apr-late Oct, 10am-9pm early-Jul-early-Aug), a theme park dedicated to the little plastic blocks from which many of the miniature cities, interactive play areas, safari animals, pirates, princesses, astronauts, Vikings and other displays and attractions are built here (numbering forty-five million blocks in total if you believe the blurb). There are some excellent younger children's amusement rides but for wilder rides suited to older children and adults, Legoland compares unfavourably to Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens. It's easy to spend an entire day here but since much of the food in the park also tastes as if it's made of reconstituted Lego blocks you may want to bring your own lunch. The rides close two hours before the park does.

There's a frequent bus from Vejle to Legoland (Dkr50, 25 minutes), as well as bus-tour packages from numerous cities, including Esbjerg. Inquire at Esbjerg tourist office.

## RIBE

pop 8000

The charming crooked, cobblestone streets of Ribe date from 869, making it one of Scandinavia's oldest and Denmark's most attractive towns. It is a delightful chocolate-box 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.

## Information

**Danske Bank** (☎ 76 88 68 20; Overdammen 4)

**Post Office** (Sct Nicolaj Gade)

**Tourist Office** (☎ 75 42 15 00; www.ribetourist.dk; Torvet 3; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat, to 2pm Sun Jul & Aug, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Apr-Jun & Sep-Oct, 10am-1pm Sat Apr-Jun & Sep-Dec)

## Sights & Activities

For a pleasant stroll that takes in some of Ribe's handsome half-timbered buildings and winding cobbled lanes, head along any of the streets radiating out from Torvet, in particular Puggårdsgade or Grønnegade from where narrow alleys lead down and across Fiskegade to Skibbroen and the picturesque old harbour. Boats still tie up alongside the quay, where you'll find a replica of the 19th-century cargo vessel, called the **Johannes Dan**.

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

**Ribes Vikinger** (☎ 76 88 11 22; Odins Plads 1; adult/child Dkr60/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Jul & Aug, to 4pm Apr-Jun, Sep & Oct, to 4pm Tue-Sun Nov-Mar) is a substantial museum opposite the train station; it has archaeological displays of Ribe's Viking past, including a reconstructed marketplace and Viking ship, with lots of hands-on features.

Located 3km south of the centre, is a recreated Viking village called **Ribe Vikingecenter** (☎ 75 41 16 11; Lustrupvej 4; adult/child Dkr70/35; ☎ 11am-5pm Jul & Aug, 10am-3.30pm May-Jun & Sep), complete with working artisans and interpreters decked out in period costumes. There are hands-on activities to take part in during May and August, such as woodwork and archery, and there are plenty of ponies to pet. Bus No 51 (Dkr15) will take you there from Ribe.

**Ribe Kunstmuseum** (☎ 75 42 03 62; www.ribe-kunstmuseum.dk; Sankt Nicolajgade 10; adult/child Dkr40/free; ☎ 11am-5pm Thu-Sun Jul-Sep, to 4pm Thu-Sun Oct-Jun) has a fine collection of 19th-century 'Golden Age' and 'Silver Age' Danish art, including Ludvig Abelin Schou's dramatic *Death of Chione*.

The town also has a couple of interesting local-history museums, including one

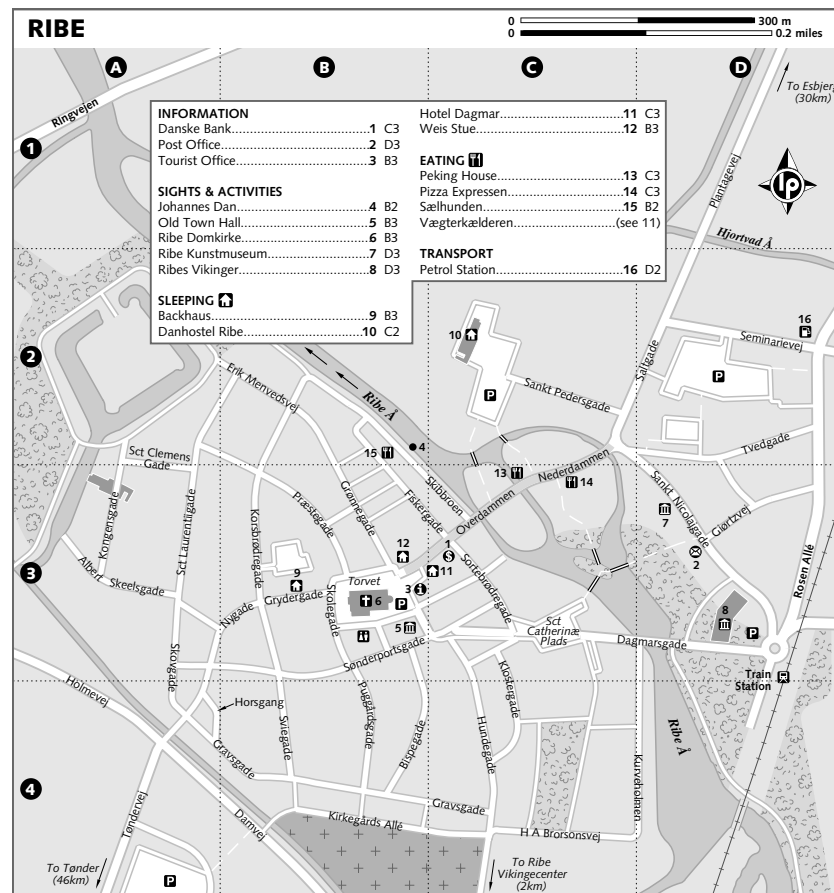
at the **Old Town Hall** (☎ 75 42 05 34; adult/child Dkr15/5; ☎ 1-3pm Mon-Fri), the former debtors' prison, displaying a small arsenal of viciously spiked medieval weaponry and the formidable axe of the town executioner. Make sure you look up at the chimney stacks of the building and you might see a stork's nest, and if you're lucky in spring it's possible to see roosting storks with a clutch of chicks.

There isn't any new-fangled CCTV fad in Ribe; instead, a costumed **night watchman** takes care of security, making the rounds from Torvet at 8pm and 10pm from May to September. You can follow him for free as he sings his way through the old streets.

## Sleeping & Eating

The tourist office maintains a list of singles/doubles in private homes from around Dkr250/350.

**Weis Stue** (☎ 75 42 07 00; www.weisstue.dk; Torvet; s/d Dkr425/625; ☎ lunch & dinner) This is the poorer, quirkiest but no less charming sister to the Dagmar opposite. A small, ancient wooden-beamed house, it has rather small, crooked rooms right above its restaurant, but they have bags of character. The restaurant offers lunch plates of herring, meatballs or lobster (Dkr95 to Dkr125) and seasonal specials that might include half a wild duck with fried potatoes, salad pickles and cream sauce (Dkr175). Breakfast is taken at Hotel Dagmar.



**Danhostel Ribe** (☎ 75 42 06 20; www.danhostel.dk/ribe; Sankt Pedersgade 16; dm/s Dkr150/315, d Dkr355-488; ☹ Feb-late-Nov; (P)) The modern, 140-bed hostel has friendly staff and a good, uncrowded location. The new rooms at the top are especially appealing and worth the extra cost.

**Hotel Dagmar** (☎ 75 42 00 33; www.hoteldagmar.dk in Danish; Torvet; s/d from Dkr925/1125; (P) ☹) The central Hotel Dagmar claims to be the oldest hotel in Denmark, has plush (if mostly rather small) rooms and a great period atmosphere.

**Backhaus** (☎ 75 42 11 01; fax 75 42 52 87; Grydergade 12; s/d Dkr250/500, d with bathroom Dkr750) 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).

**Sælhunden** (☎ 75 42 09 46; Skibbroen 13; fish & meat mains Dkr46-186; ☹ café 10am-10pm, lunch & dinner) This handsome, old restaurant is right on the quayside. A tasty lunch of smoked herring or smoked ham costs Dkr75, it's also a good spot for a coffee and a slice of cake (Dkr30).

**Vægtkælderen** (Torvet; lunch menu Dkr105-135) The basement restaurant in the Hotel Dagmar shares a kitchen with the hotel's classy upstairs restaurant but it has cheaper dishes, including good steaks and fresh fish.

There are several fast-food outlets along Nederdammen, including **Pizza Expressen** (pizza Dkr45) and **Peking House** (lunch Dkr35-85, buffet Dkr129).

## Getting There & Away

There are trains from Esbjerg to Ribe (Dkr65, 40 minutes, hourly) and from Århus to Ribe (Dkr207, two hours 40 minutes).

## RØMØ

Wide open spaces, ruler-straight horizons, rippling summer-heat hazes and air blown fresh in from the North Sea give the unrelentingly flat island of Rømø a hypnotic quality. Just off the mainland coast, midway between the historic towns of Ribe and Tønder and a 30-minute drive from either, Rømø is connected to the mainland by a 10km causeway that passes over marshlands, where sheep graze happily and wading birds forage for food.

During the 18th century, many islanders were captains of German and Dutch whaling ships working off Greenland. Today, Rømø is a hugely popular holiday destination, especially with visitors from nearby Germany. It has its fair share of caravan parks but also a sprinkling of red-walled, thatch-roofed houses nestling in scrubby pine woods. Vast, sandy beaches line the western shore.

The northern end of the island is an out-of-bounds military zone.

The **tourist office** (☎ 74 75 51 30; www.romo.dk; Havnebyvej 30; ☹ 9am-5pm mid-Jun-mid-Sep) is on the eastern side of Rømø, 1km south of the causeway exit on to the island.

## Sights & Activities

Rømø's **beaches** are most easily reached at Lakolk on the central west coast. Conditions are often perfect for **windsurfing** and **kitesurfing** if you have the right gear, although the sea can be more than a kilometre away from the shoreline at low tide. It's also a good place for **horse riding** on sturdy Icelandic ponies. Several places run pony trekking, including **Rømø Ranch** (☎ 74 75 54 11; Lakolk; per hr Dkr60-80). From June to September look out for spectacular sand sculptures at Lakolk.

The inland section of the island has **trails** through heather moors and wooded areas that offer quiet hiking. There's an **old church** with unique Greenlandic grave-stones on the main road in Kirkeby.

The best place to get a feel for Rømø's nautical past is at **Kommandørgården** (☎ 74 75 52 76; Juvrevej 60, Toftum; adult/child Dkr15/free; ☹ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun May-Sep, to 3pm Tue-Sun Oct), the preserved home of one of Rømø's 18th-century whaling captains, on the northeastern side of the island. Dutch tiles line many of the walls, the woodwork is painted in rococo style and the furnishings come from many countries. A whale skeleton bleaches in the sun outside in the garden.

## Sleeping & Eating

**Kommandørgårdens Camping** (☎ 74 75 51 22; www.kommandoergaerden.dk; Havnebyvej 201; camp site per adult/child/tent Dkr65/35/15; ps) Near the hostel, this camping ground has a swimming pool and spa.

**Danhostel Rømø** (☎ 74 75 51 88; www.danhostel.dk/sonderborg; dm/r Dkr120/240; ☹ mid-Mar-Nov) Set among the pines on the southeastern side of Rømø near Havneby, this 91-bed

terracotta-walled hostel is centred on a delightful traditional building with a thatched roof and is close to the beach.

**Hotel Kommandørgården** (☎ 74 75 51 22; www.kommandoergaerden.dk; Havnebyvej 201; s/d Dkr595/795; (P) ☹) A resort-style hotel with comfortable cabin-style rooms with fridges and coffee makers; the downside is the setting right by the busy road, but the facilities include a spa, golf packages and a pool.

**Otto & Ani's Fisk** (☎ 74 75 53 06; Havnepladsen) Right on the harbourside at Havneby, the fish at Otto & Ani's are as fresh as they come and good value too, ranging from Dkr50 for basic fish and chips to Dkr175 for a two-person fish platter.

**Kommandørgården** (☎ 74 75 52 76; Juvrevej 60, Toftum) There's a good café here offering coffee, cake and light lunches (like a snow-crab platter for Dkr98).

There are grocery stores and a bakery within walking distance of the hostel, and numerous cafés near the beach-road end at Lakolk.

## Getting There & Around

Rømø is 14km west of the town of Skærbæk and Rte 11. Buses run from Skærbæk to Havneby (Dkr21, 35 minutes) numerous times a day. From Skærbæk there's a train service to Ribe (Dkr23, 30 minutes), Tønder (Dkr42, 30 minutes) and Esbjerg (Dkr 50, one hour) about once an hour. Car ferries connect Havneby with Germany's island of Sylt (adult/child Dkr53/36, one hour) many times a day.

From May to September, a limited public bus service connects villages on the island. Flat-as-a-pancake Rømø is a good place for cycling; bicycles can be rented in several places for around Dkr55, including the camping grounds.

# DENMARK DIRECTORY

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in this chapter is listed in order of preference.

## Camping & Cabins

Denmark's 516 camping grounds typically charge from Dkr50 to Dkr65 per person to pitch a tent. Many places add about Dkr20 for the tent. A camping pass (available at

any camping ground) is required (Dkr80) 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 pass.

Camping is restricted to camping grounds, or on private land with the owner's permission. Camping in a car along the beach or in a car park is definitely prohibited and can result in an immediate fine. Tourist offices usually have brochures listing local camping grounds.

The **Danish Camping Association** (☎ 39 27 88 44; www.campingraadet.dk; Campingrådet, Mosedalvej 15, Valby) inspects and grades Danish camping grounds using a star system and carries a full list on its website.

## Hostels

The national Hostelling International office is **Danhostel** (☎ 33 31 36 12; www.danhostel.dk; Vesterbrogade 39, 1620 Copenhagen V).

Most of Denmark's 100 *vandrerhjem* (hostels) in its Danhostel association have private rooms in addition to dormitories, making hostels an affordable and popular alternative to hotels (so book ahead from June to August). Dorm beds cost from about Dkr120 to Dkr150, while private rooms range from Dkr200 to Dkr450 for singles, and Dkr300 to Dkr500 for doubles. Blankets and pillows are provided, but not sheets; bring your own or hire them for Dkr40 to Dkr60. Sleeping bags are not allowed.

Travellers can buy international hostel cards in Denmark for Dkr160 or pay Dkr35 extra a night. Outside Copenhagen, check-in is generally between 4pm and 8pm or 9pm (but a few places close as early as 6pm); the reception office is usually closed and the phone not answered between noon and 4pm. Most hostels close in winter.

You can pick up a free 200-page hostel guide from tourist offices giving information on each hostel. All Danish hostels have an all-you-can-eat breakfast for Dkr45 or less. Nearly all hostels also have guest kitchens with pots and pans where you can cook your own food.

## 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 cheaper

by about a third, often occupy pleasing period houses and more often than not offer a sense of homeliness, hospitality and *hygge* (the Danes' wonderfully evocative word for cosiness) that chain hotels cannot hope to compete with. 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. Some hotels offer discount schemes at weekends year-round and from May to September when business travel is light.

### Other Accommodation

Many tourist offices book rooms in private homes for a small fee, or provide a free list of the rooms so travellers can phone on their own. Rates vary, averaging about Dkr250/350 for singles/doubles. Standards of accommodation may vary widely and some rooms may be very basic. **Dansk Bed & Breakfast** (☎ 39 61 04 05; [www.bbdk.dk](http://www.bbdk.dk); PO Box 53, 2900 Hellerup) handles 300 homes throughout Denmark offering private rooms at similar rates.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Cycling

Cycling is a popular holiday activity 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](http://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. Cycling maps can be purchased in advance from DCF or from tourist offices and bookshops upon arrival.

#### Walking

Even though Denmark does not have substantial forests, many small tracts of woodland are crisscrossed by pleasant walking trails. The **Skov og Naturstyrelsen** (Forest and Nature Bureau) produces brochures with sketch maps that show trails in nearly 100 such areas. The brochures can be picked up free at public libraries and some tourist of-

fices. Denmark's coastline is public domain lined with scenic walking tracks.

### Water Sports

**Canoeing** possibilities on Denmark's inland lakes, such as canoe touring between lake-side camping grounds in Jutland's Lake District, are superb. You can hire canoes and equipment at many camping grounds or in main centres such as Silkeborg (p90). The lakes are generally undemanding as far as water conditions go, although some experience is an advantage.

Denmark's remarkable coastline offers terrific **windsurfing** and **kitesurfing** possibilities. Good areas are along the northern coast of Zealand at places such as Smidstrup Strand, and in northwest Jutland. The Limfjord area of northwest Jutland is particularly suited to windsurfing and you can pick up an excellent leaflet, *Windsurfing in the Limfjord Area*, from most tourist offices in the area. There's an English version and it pinpoints 28 windsurfing areas by use of small maps.

### BOOKS

For travellers, Lonely Planet's *Denmark* is the most comprehensive all-round guidebook available. *Camping Danmark*, a new edition of which is published each year by the Danish Camping Board (Campingrådet), has detailed information on all camping grounds in the country.

*Denmark: A Modern History*, by W Glyn Jones, gives a comprehensive account of contemporary Danish society.

*Just as Well I'm Leaving: Around Europe with Hans Christian Andersen* by Michael Booth is both an accomplished biography of Andersen and a funny, entertaining travelogue retracing his footsteps around Denmark and Europe.

Knud Romer's recent *The First to Blink is Afraid to Die*, a novel about racial tensions in southern Denmark, has been critically hailed as a great debut; at the time of this writing, overseas publishers were showing an interest in translating his work into English and other languages.

### BUSINESS HOURS

Office hours are generally 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Most banks are open from 9.30am to 4pm Monday to Friday (to 6pm Thursday), but some still close earlier.

Stores are usually open 9.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Thursday, to 7pm on Friday, and to 2pm on Saturday.

### CHILDREN

It should come as no surprise that Denmark, home of the Lego block, has lots of attractions to entice kids. Legoland itself (p104) is the most visited children's site in Scandinavia, and Denmark abounds with amusement parks. The biggest of these parks, including Tivoli Gardens (p43) are in Copenhagen. Many tourist offices give out brochures focusing on children-oriented activities and attractions.

### DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Denmark is by and large a safe country. Nevertheless, be careful with your belongings, particularly in busy places such as Copenhagen's Central Station. In cities, you'll need to become accustomed quickly to the busy cycle lanes between vehicle roads and the pedestrian pavement, as these lanes are easy to step into accidentally.

### DISABLED TRAVELLERS

Overall, Denmark is a user-friendly destination for the disabled traveller. The Danish Tourist Board ([www.visitdenmark.com](http://www.visitdenmark.com)) has to date accredited, in association with local disability organisations, 1300 locations as 'accessible to all' throughout the country. It also publishes *Access in Denmark: a Travel Guide for the Disabled*, in English, with information on accommodation, transport and sightseeing options for disabled travellers.

### EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

#### Embassies & Consulates in Denmark

**Australia** (☎ 70 26 36 76; [www.denmark.embassy.gov.au](http://www.denmark.embassy.gov.au); Dampfærgevej 26, Copenhagen)

**Canada** (☎ 33 48 32 00; [www.canada.dk](http://www.canada.dk); Kristen Bernikows Gade1, Copenhagen)

**Germany** (☎ 35 45 99 00; [www.kopenhagen.diplo.de](http://www.kopenhagen.diplo.de); Stockholmsgade 57, Copenhagen)

**Ireland** (☎ 35 42 32 33; Østbanegade 21, Copenhagen)

**Norway** (☎ 33 14 01 24; [www.norsk.dk](http://www.norsk.dk); Amaliegade 39, Copenhagen)

**Poland** (☎ 39 46 77 00; [www.ambpol.dk](http://www.ambpol.dk); Richelius Allé 12, Hellerup)

**Sweden** (☎ 33 36 03 70; [www.sverigesambassad.dk](http://www.sverigesambassad.dk); Sankt Annæ Plads 15A, Copenhagen)

**UK** (☎ 35 44 52 00; [www.britisheembassy.dk](http://www.britisheembassy.dk); Kastelsvej 36-40, Copenhagen)

**USA** (☎ 33 41 71 00; [www.usembassy.dk](http://www.usembassy.dk); Dag Hammarskjölds Allé 24, Copenhagen)

### Danish Embassies & Consulates Abroad

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

**Canada** (☎ 613-562 1811; [www.danish-embassycanada.com](http://www.danish-embassycanada.com); 47 Clarence St, Suite 450, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9K1)

**Finland** (☎ 09-684 1050; [www.ambhelsingfors.um.dk](http://www.ambhelsingfors.um.dk); Centralgatan 1A, 00101 Helsinki)

**Germany** (☎ 030-5050 2000; [www.daenemark.org](http://www.daenemark.org); Rauchstrasse 1, 10787 Berlin)

**Ireland** (☎ 01-475 6404; [www.ambdublin.um.dk](http://www.ambdublin.um.dk); 121 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2)

**Netherlands** (☎ 070-302 59 59; [www.danishembassy.nl](http://www.danishembassy.nl); Koninginnegracht 30, 2514 Den Haag)

**New Zealand** (☎ 04-537 3099; 273 Bleakhouse Rd, Howick, PO Box 619, 1015 Auckland)

**Norway** (☎ 22 54 08 00; [www.amboslo.um.dk](http://www.amboslo.um.dk); Olav Kyrres Gate 7, 0244 Oslo)

**Sweden** (☎ 08-406 75 00; [www.ambstockholm.um.dk](http://www.ambstockholm.um.dk); Jakobs Torg 1, 11186 Stockholm)

**UK** (☎ 020-7333 0200; [www.amblondon.um.dk/en](http://www.amblondon.um.dk/en); 55 Sloane St, London SW1X 9SR)

**USA** (☎ 202-234 4300; [www.denmarkemb.org](http://www.denmarkemb.org); 3200 Whitehaven St NW, Washington, DC 20008)

### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Beginning with **Midsummer's Eve** bonfires in late June, Denmark buzzes with outdoor activity throughout the summer. Main attractions are the 180 music festivals that run throughout the country, covering a broad spectrum of music that includes not only jazz, rock and blues but also gospel, folk, classical, country, Cajun and much more.

The acclaimed 10-day **Copenhagen Jazz Festival** (<http://festival.jazz.dk> in Danish) is held in early July, with outdoor concerts and numerous performances in clubs around the city.

The town of Roskilde hosts an internationally acclaimed **rock festival** ([www.roskilde-festival.dk](http://www.roskilde-festival.dk)) on the last weekend of June; a single admission fee includes camping space and entry to all concerts.

There are **folk festivals** in Skagen near the end of June and in Tønder in late August. The 10-day **Århus Festival** in early September features 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.

**Landsforeningen for Bøsser og Lesbiske** (LBL; ☎ 33 13 19 48; www.lbl.dk; Teglgårdstræde 13, Copenhagen) is the national organisation for gay men and lesbians. Branch offices in main towns are mentioned in relevant sections. A good English-language website with links to LBL and other gay organisations is www.copenhagen-gay-life.dk.

## HOLIDAYS

Summer holidays for schoolchildren begin around 20 June and end around 10 August. Many Danes go on holiday during the first three weeks of July. The following public holidays are observed in Denmark:

**New Year's Day** (1 January)

**Maudy Thursday** (Thursday before Easter)

**Good Friday to Easter Monday** (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 Jun)

**Christmas Eve** (24 December from noon)

**Christmas Day** (25 December)

## INTERNET ACCESS

Internet cafés charge about Dkr3 to Dkr45 an hour. Public libraries also have internet-capable computers and visitors generally have free access to them, although you may have to sign up and wait for a free slot. Connections are generally fast. Wi-fi hotspots are mushrooming all over the country, many of them free. **TDC** (<http://tdc.dk> in Danish) is a network of more than 600 paid-for wi-fi hotspots.

## LEGAL MATTERS

Denmark is taking a much harder line on even the 'softest' drugs these days. All forms of cannabis and harder drugs are illegal. If you are arrested for any offence you can be held for 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 the 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, to 4.30pm Fri). Free legal advice clinics can be found in over 90 places across Denmark. The service is organised by the Danish bar, **Det Danske Advokatsamfund** (☎ 38 38 36 38 or 33 96 97 98).

## MONEY ATMs

Major banks have ATMs which accept Visa, MasterCard and the Cirrus and Plus bank 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.

## Moneychangers

All common travellers cheques are accepted in Denmark. Buy your travellers cheques in higher denominations as bank fees for changing money are a hefty Dkr25 to Dkr30 per cheque, with a Dkr40 minimum. If you're exchanging cash, there's a Dkr25 fee for a transaction. Travellers cheques command a better exchange rate than cash by about 1%.

Post offices will also exchange foreign currency at comparable rates to those at banks.

## The Euro

Although Denmark remains outside the Euro zone, acceptance of euros is commonplace. Most hotels and restaurants will take euros, as do many bars, cafés and shops, although you may find reluctance to do so in more remote areas or from very small businesses. Government institutions do not accept euros.

## Tippling

Restaurant bills and taxi fares include service charges in the quoted prices, and further tipping is unnecessary.

## POST

Denmark has an efficient postal system. Most post offices are open 9am or 10am to 5pm or 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am to noon on Saturday. You can receive mail poste restante at any post office in Denmark.

## TELEPHONE & FAX

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 daily and all day on Sunday.

Phonecards (Dkr30 to Dkr100) can be bought at post offices and newspaper kiosks throughout the country.

The country code for calling Denmark from abroad is ☎ 45. To make international calls from Denmark dial ☎ 00 and then the country code for the country you're calling.

## TIME

Time in Denmark is normally one hour ahead of GMT/UTC, the same as in neighbouring European countries. Clocks are moved forward one hour for daylight-saving time from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October. Denmark uses the 24-hour clock and all timetables and business hours are posted accordingly.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

The tourist board's website is www.visitdenmark.com. There are several Danish tourist offices abroad:

**Germany** (☎ 01805-326463; daninfo@dt.dk; Dänemarks offizielle Tourismuszentrale, Glockengießerwall 2, 20095 Hamburg)

**Norway** (☎ 22 00 76 46; turistinfo@visitdenmark.com; Danmarks Turistkontor, Tollbugaten 27, Postboks 406 Sentrum, 0103 Oslo)

**Sweden** (☎ 08 611 72 22; info@visitdenmark.se; Danmarks Turistråd, Box 5524, 114 85 Stockholm)

**UK** (☎ 020-7259 5959; london@visitdenmark.com; Danish Tourist Board, 55 Sloane St, London SW1X 9SY)

**USA** (☎ 212-885 9700; info@goscandinavia.com; Danish Tourist Board, 655 Third Ave, 18th fl, New York, NY 10017)

## VISAS

Citizens of the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand need a valid passport to enter Denmark, but don't need a visa for stays of less than three months. If you wish to apply for a visa, do so at least three months in advance of your planned arrival.

## WOMEN TRAVELLERS

The **Danish Centre for Information on Women & Gender** (KVINFO; ☎ 33 13 50 88; www.kvinfo.dk in Danish; Christians Brygge 3, Copenhagen) has information on feminist issues, while **Kvindehuset** (☎ 33 14 28 04; Gothersgade 37, Copenhagen) is a help centre and meeting place for women. Dial ☎ 112 for rape crisis or other emergencies.

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

In Denmark, dial the free number ☎ 112 when you need police, fire and ambulance services.

# TRANSPORT IN DENMARK

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Air

The profusion of budget carriers and flights into Denmark from elsewhere on the Continent, Ireland and the UK makes flying here very affordable indeed. If you're coming from European destinations consider flying into an airport other than Copenhagen, such as Århus or Billund; air fares can be competitive, and the airports are well connected by bus with neighbouring towns and afford fast access to some great parts of northern and central Jutland.

The budget carrier Ryanair, for instance, has regular, cheap flights from Stansted Airport in England to Århus airport and to Malmö, in Sweden (a short hop by rail from Copenhagen). See the following airport websites for full details.

### AIRLINES

**Scandinavian Airlines** (SAS; ☎ 70 10 30 00; www.scandinavian.net; airline code SK) is the largest carrier serving Denmark, connecting it with much of Europe and the rest of the world.

Many other airlines fly into Denmark including the following ones.

**Aer Lingus** (airline code EI; ☎ +353 818 365000; www.aerlingus.com)

**Air France** (airline code AF; ☎ 82 33 27 01; www.airfrance.com)

**Alitalia** (airline code AZ; ☎ 70 27 02 90; www.alitalia.com)

**BMI British Midland** (airline code BD; ☎ 70 10 20 00; www.flybmi.com)

**British Airways** (airline code BA; ☎ 70 12 80 22; www.britishairways.com)

**Easyjet** (airline code U2; ☎ 70 12 43 21; www.easyjet.com)

**Finnair** (airline code AY; ☎ 33 36 45 45; www.finnair.com)

**Icelandair** (airline code FI; ☎ 33 70 22 00; www.icelandexpress.com)

**KLM Royal Dutch Airlines** (airline code KL; ☎ 70 10 07 47; www.klm.com)

**Lufthansa** (airline code LH; ☎ 70 10 20 00; www.lufthansa.com)

**Ryanair** (airline code FR; ☎ +353 818 303 030; www.ryanair.com)

**Sterling** (airline code NB; ☎ 70 10 84 84; www.sterling.dk)

**MAIN DANISH AIRPORTS****Århus** (☎ 87 75 70 00; www.aar.dk)**Billund** (☎ 76 50 50 50; www.bill.dk)**Copenhagen** (☎ 32 31 32 31; www.cph.dk)**Land****GERMANY**

The E45 is the main motorway running between Germany and Denmark's Jutland Peninsula. There are also three railway lines linking the two countries (2nd-class fares from Copenhagen to Frankfurt are Dkr1732, although be advised fares booked in advance can be substantially cheaper than the prices listed here). Euro-lines operates buses from Copenhagen to Berlin (Dkr290, 6½ hours) and Frankfurt via Hamburg (Dkr770, 15 hours) several times a week.

**NORWAY**

Trains operate between Copenhagen and Oslo; the 2nd-class fare (via Sweden; 7½ hours, one or two daily) is Dkr945. Euro-lines offers a daily bus service between Oslo and Copenhagen (Dkr320, eight hours) via Göteborg.

**SWEDEN**

Trains run many times a day between Denmark and Sweden via a bridge linking Copenhagen with Malmö (Dkr85, 40 minutes), Dkr365 to Göteborg and Dkr945 to Stockholm (five hours). If you're travelling by train, the bridge crossing is included in the fare, but for those travelling by car, there's a Dkr220 toll per vehicle. There are numerous and frequent bus services between Copenhagen and Sweden, including Euro-lines buses to Göteborg (Dkr230, five hours) and Stockholm (Dkr430, 9½ hours).

**Sea****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 and for a car with up to nine passengers it's Dkr420.

Bornholmstrafikken operates a ferry service at least once a day between Rønne and Sassnitz, Germany (Dkr150 one way, 3½ hours).

**ICELAND & THE FAROE ISLANDS**

**Smyril Lines** (in Denmark ☎ 33 16 40 04/96 55 03 60; in Faroe Islands ☎ 345 900; www.smyril-line.dk) runs every week from Hanstholm to Tórshavn (Faroe Islands) and Seyðisfjörður (Iceland) from mid-May to early September. The boat leaves Hanstholm at 9pm Saturday, arriving in Tórshavn at 6am Monday. Visitors then have a two-day stopover in the Faroe Islands (while the boat makes a run to Lerwick, Shetland, and Bergen, Norway), before departing from Tórshavn at 6pm Wednesday and arriving in Seyðisfjörður at 8am Thursday. The return boat departs from Seyðisfjörður at noon Thursday, arriving in Tórshavn at 5am Friday and in Hanstholm at 5pm Saturday.

Midsummer fares to Tórshavn start from €160 with a couchette or sleeping berth with mattress, but no bedding. Fares to Seyðisfjörður include couchette (€230) and cabin bunk (€310); these fares are about 25% less for travel in low season (September to April). There's a 25% discount for students under 26, on presentation of a valid student card.

**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 relevant Getting There & Away sections of the cities for details.

**POLAND**

**Polferries** (☎ 33 11 46 45; www.polferries.pl) operates ferries to Świnoujście from both Copenhagen four times a week (from Dkr410, 10 hours) and Rønne on Saturday (from Dkr250, five hours).

**SWEDEN**

**Scandlines** (☎ 33 15 15 15; www.scandlines.dk) and **Sundbusserne** (☎ 49 71 02 00; www.sundbusserne.dk) sail frequently throughout the day from Helsingør to Helsingborg, in 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 Göteborg and Oslo, and Rønne to Ystad. See the relevant Getting There & Away sections in this chapter.

**UK**

**DFDS Seaways** (in UK ☎ 08705 333 000; in 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. The cost for passage in a chair ranges from Dkr515 in winter to Dkr1250 in midsummer, while the cheapest bed in a two-person cabin is between Dkr902 and Dkr1935.

**GETTING AROUND****Air**

Most internal flights cost around Dkr1000 for a standard ticket and can be much cheaper if you book in advance.

Denmark's domestic air routes are operated by the airlines listed here.

**Imber Air** (☎ 70 10 12 18; www.imber.dk) Services include Copenhagen to Aalborg (50 minutes, three times daily), Rønne (Bornholm, 40 minutes, at least four times daily) and Karup (central Jutland, 50 minutes, 12 times daily weekdays, at least twice on weekends).

**SAS** (☎ 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; make sure you pick up the DSB pamphlet *Cykler i tog*.

**Boat**

A network of ferries links virtually all of Denmark's populated islands. Where there's not a bridge, there's usually a ferry, most of which take cars. All vessels meet strict safety requirements and are punctual and reliable. Specific information is given under individual destination sections. **Scandlines** (☎ 33 15 15 15; www.scandlines.com) operates many domestic ferry services. Timetables are widely available in tourist offices and railway stations.

**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 than the train.

The main bus companies operating in Denmark include the following:

**Abildskou** (☎ 70 21 08 88; www.abildskou.dk) Runs from Copenhagen to Aalborg, Silkeborg and Århus.

**Bornholmerbussen** (☎ 44 68 44 00; www.bat.dk in Danish) Operates the bus services on Bornholm.

**Søndergaards Busser** (☎ 70 10 00 33; www.sondergaards-busser.dk) Runs between Copenhagen and Århus.

**Thinggaard Expressbuser** (☎ 70 10 00 10; www.thinggaardbus.com in Danish) Operates between Copenhagen, Aalborg and Fjerristslev and between Frederikshavn and Esbjerg.

**Car & Motorcycle**

Denmark is perfect for touring by car. Roads are in good condition and well signposted. Traffic is manageable, even in major cities such as Copenhagen (rush hours excepted).

Access to and from motorways is made easy since roads leading out of city and town centres are sensibly named after the main city to which they're routed. For instance, the road leading out of Odense to Faaborg is Faaborgvej, the road leading to Nyborg is Nyborgvej, and so on.

Denmark's extensive network of ferries carries motor vehicles for reasonable rates. It's always a good idea for drivers to call ahead and make reservations.

**AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATIONS**

Denmark's main motoring organisation is **Forened Danske Motorejere** (FDM; ☎ 32 66 01 00/70 13 30 40; www.fdm.dk in Danish; Firkovvej 32, 2800 Lyngby).

**DRIVING LICENCE**

A home driving licence, rather than an international one, is sufficient to drive and hire cars in Denmark, although you may also need to supply a passport at hire places.

**FUEL & SPARE PARTS**

You'll find the best prices for petrol at stations along motorways and at the unstaffed OK Benzin chain, which has self-serve pumps that accept Dkr100 notes as well as major credit cards. It's a small country, so you're never far from a garage and spare parts.



**HIRE**

You'll generally get the best deal by booking through an international rental agency before you arrive in Denmark. Hire rates for the cheapest cars, including VAT, insurance and unlimited kilometres, begin at about Dkr650 a day, or Dkr450 a day for rentals of two days or more. Most companies offer a special weekend rate that allows you to keep the car from Friday afternoon to Monday morning and includes VAT and insurance for around Dkr1200. Europcar offers unlimited kilometres and generally has the cheapest, most flexible weekend deals, but it's wise to call around and compare.

The largest companies, such as **Europcar** (☎ 70 11 66 99; www.europcar.dk), **Avis** (☎ 33 26 80 00; www.avis.dk) and **Hertz** (☎ 0800-1700; www.hertzd.dk), have offices throughout Denmark.

**INSURANCE**

Check with your insurance company that your policy is valid for driving in Denmark before you depart.

**ROAD RULES**

In Denmark you drive on the right-hand side of the road, seat-belt use is mandatory and all drivers are required to carry a warning triangle in case of breakdowns. Speed limits are 50km/h in towns, 80km/h

outside built-up areas and either 110km/h or 130km/h on motorways. Motorcycles and cars must use dipped headlights at all times.

It's illegal to drive with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.05% or greater and driving under the influence is subject to stiff penalties and a possible prison sentence.

**Train**

With the exception of a few short private lines, the **Danish State Railways** (DSB; www.dsb.dk) runs all Danish train services.

There are two types of long-distance trains: sleek intercity (IC) trains that generally require reservations (Dkr20) and older, slower interregional (IR) trains that make more stops and don't require reservations. Both cost the same, apart from the InterCity-Lyn, a cushy, pricier express train aimed at businesspeople. Rail passes don't cover reservation fees or surcharges.

Overall, train travel in Denmark is not expensive, in large part because the distances are short. People aged 65 and older are entitled to a 20% discount on Friday and Saturday and a 50% discount on other days. There are also generous discounts for children. Scanrail, Eurail and other rail passes are valid on DSB ferries and trains, but not on the private lines.