

Copenhagen and Malmo Travel Guide (updated 2020, links checked 2024)

We would recommend flying into Copenhagen, then adding Malmo as a day trip or a few nights before flying home.

COPENHAGEN

Travelling There and Around:

There are plentiful flights into CPH Kastrup, or for a longer but more scenic route, trains are available from London via Brussels, Köln or Hamburg with an overnight hotel stop.

<https://www.seat61.com/Denmark.htm>

From the airport, there are many cheap options to get to your hotel. The ticket machines take notes at the airport, but not at other stations, and of course all credit and debit cards.

A good idea is to buy the Copenhagen Card (see below) to include the days you want to travel out of the city (eg Roskilde, Helsingor) and just the travel card for days seeing free stuff in town.

Hotels:

Crowne Plaza, Copenhagen Towers

<https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/gb/en/copenhagen/rkecp/hoteldetail>

This is on the main train line between Central Station and the airport, and trains run every 20 minutes. There is also a metro station next to the hotel which takes you to the East side of town very quickly, and connects with trains north to Helsingor. If travelling to Malmo, you can do it from this station without needing to change.

It is next door to a large, upmarket shopping centre called Field's, which has many breakfast options if you don't want to pay the whopping £20 a head in the hotel.

The Square, Radhuspladsen

<https://www.thesquare.dk/>

popular with tour groups so very busy lobby and very busy breakfast
executive rooms are high with balcony, good view of square, can be noisy
central location, average customer service

We also strongly considered 71 Nyhavn 19, which has a quayside feel

<https://www.71nyhavnhotel.com/>

Tourist Card:

City Pass

<https://dinoffentligetransport.dk/en/find-tickets/day-tickets/city-pass>

Available in Small (just the city and airport) or Large (includes the whole of the wider area, including Helsingor and Roskilde, see below), for between 24 and 120 hours. You can also add in other parts of Denmark if you wish.

Copenhagen Card Discover

<https://copenhagencard.com/>

With this card, you get free transport, free entry to 87 museums and attractions including Tivoli; plus discounts on food and shops. See sightseeing labelled "CPH free" below. 72 hour card is £105, also available from 24 to 120 hours. Covers Helsingor, Roskilde and the airport.

Food:

Lagkagehuset

<https://lagkagehuset.dk/>

A bakery with several branches in the city, serving fantastic food, and is a great place to rest your legs after picking up leaflets and buying your Copenhagen Card in one of the nearby Tourist Information Centres. You'll recognise them as the same company trading as Ole & Steen in the UK.

Mormors, Bredgade 45

<https://mormors.dk/>

A nice café (named after Grandmothers) for sandwiches and smoothies, near the Palace and Little Mermaid, popular with all ages

Torvehallerne, Torveplads

<https://torvehallernekbh.dk/>

A high class food market, with places to dine and lots of take out opportunities. It's actually 2 halls, between Romersgade and Linnestgade, near Norreport Street metro.

We recommend Boutique Fisk which does a great fish platter with sauces and bread, that you can eat there or take back to your hotel.

<https://www.boutiquefisk.dk/>

Shopping:

Areastore, Kongensgade

<https://areastore.dk/>

Cool gifts for the home, for kids and for robots

Scherning, Badstuestraede

<https://www.scherning.dk/>

Earthenware and porcelain jewellery, we've been shopping there since 2004!

Illums Bolighus, Amagertorv

<https://www.illumsbolighus.dk/>

THE high-end department store on Stroget, the longest shopping street, with glass and ceramics, kitchenware and gifts

Fisketorvet, Dybbølsbro

<https://www.fisketorvet.dk/>

Out of town shopping mall, with restaurants. Take trains A, E, B, C or H from Central Station. Get off at Dybbølsbro Station and it's just across the bridge.

We recommend Cyprus, a Mediterranean restaurant.

<https://www.facebook.com/RestaurantCyprus/>

The homewares store Bahne is worth a visit (other branches all over town)

<https://bahne.dk/pages/butikker/bahne-kobenhavn-v-fisketorvet>

Boat Trip:

Stromma

<https://www.stromma.com/en-dk/copenhagen/sightseeing/>

Take a trip visiting the Palace, new Opera House, the Little Mermaid, through Christianshavn and along Gammel Strand

CPH free

Sightseeing:

Danish Jewish Museum, Proviantpassagen

<https://jewmus.dk/en/the-danish-jewish-museum/>

designed by Daniel Liebeskind (Jewish Museum, Berlin; Imperial War Museum, Manchester)

CPH free

City Hall tower & Jens Olsens Clock, Radhus, Radhuspladsen

<https://cphmuseum.kk.dk/en/artikel/jens-olsens-world-clock>

astronomical clock of intricate beauty in the City Hall

CPH free

Amalienborg Palace

<http://www.kongernessamling.dk/en/amalienborg/>

changing of the guard every day at noon, reception rooms, crown jewels

CPH free

Rosenborg Castle

<http://www.kongernessamling.dk/en/rosenborg/>

Another impressive palace

On Slotsholmen Island, well worth a walk round:

Christiansborg Palace, Ridebanen

<https://www.kongeligeslotte.dk/en/palaces-and-gardens/christiansborg-palace.html>

Reception rooms, kitchen, stables and chapel
all CPH free

The Black Diamond: Royal Library extension
Featuring National Museum of Photography
And Museum of Danish Cartoon Art
Christians Brygge, walk or take bus 66

<https://www.kb.dk/en>

CPH reduction

Rundetaarn, Kobmagergade

<https://www.rundetaarn.dk/en/front-page/>

A tower to climb with a 687 foot spiral ramp
CPH free

Statens Museum for Kunst (National Gallery), Solvgade

<https://www.smk.dk/en/>

National Gallery, 700 years of art
CPH free

Tivoli Gardens, Vesterbrogade

<https://www.tivoligardens.com/>

worth seeing in the daytime and the nighttime, the later the better, fireworks every hour
CPH free entrance, but rides cost money

Danish Design Centre, HC Andersens Boulevard

<https://ddc.dk/en/frontpage>

wide variety of changing exhibitions, and well-stocked shop
CPH free

Design Museum Denmark, Bredgade

<https://designmuseum.dk/en/>

historical arts and crafts, and contemporary design
CPH free

The Workers' Museum, Romersgade 22

<https://www.arbejdermuseet.dk/>

With apartments, a shopping street, a recreated meeting hall, and a social history of Denmark
CPH free

Grundtvigs Church, På Bjerget 14B

<https://www.grundtvigskirke.dk/>

This is one of the most impressive parish churches you will see. Started in 1913, it basically towers above the housing estate and looks like it's made of Lego.

It's easy to get there by bus or Metro, but for the simplest journey take train B from the Central Station to Emdrup Street, walk southwest along Tuborgvej for 10 minutes, and turn right onto Bispebjergvej. The church is on the left, you literally can't miss it.

<https://www.arken.dk/>

A contemporary art gallery, 25 minutes out of town, S train lines A or E to Ishøj Station and bus 128 goes directly to the museum. Or walk from Ishøj Station to Arken (about 20 minutes).

Day Trips:

If you buy a City Pass Large (or Copenhagen Card) it gets you to all of the locations below.

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art

<https://louisiana.dk/>

take the regional train from Copenhagen Central to Humlebæk Station

come out of the station on the East side, and there is a 10-minute walk that is clearly signposted, or catch bus 388

trains run until midnight, so there's plenty of time to have dinner at the museum

CPH free

Helsingør (aka Elsinore)

<https://www.helsingborg-helsingor.com/english/>

Only an hour away from Copenhagen, this charming port has both medieval and modern architecture. Our highlights were:

Kronborg Castle (the home of Hamlet)

<https://kongeligeslotte.dk/en/palaces-and-gardens/kronborg-castle.html> (CPH free)

Shipyard Museum <http://www.helsingormuseer.dk/>

Maritime Museum in an amazing underground building <https://mfs.dk/en/> (CPH free)

St Olaf's Church <https://www.helsingoerdomkirke.dk/>

Helsingør City Museum <http://helsingormuseer.dk/> (CPH free)

Roskilde

<https://www.visitroskilde.com/>

Less than half an hour from Copenhagen, this town is home to some of the best Viking finds. It's a must-see if you can find a spare day.

Viking Ship Museum <https://www.vikingskibsmuseet.dk/en/> (CPH discount)

Museum Cafe - tasty flatbreads and cakes

Cathedral <https://roskildedomkirke.dk/> (CPH free)

Roskilde Museum <https://roskildemuseum.dk/> (CPH free)

Museum of Contemporary Art, in a royal mansion, very contrasting <https://samtidskunst.dk/> (CPH free)

Skt Laurentius Church <https://sanktlaurentius.dk/> (CPH free)

MALMO

Travelling There and Around:

To get the train from Copenhagen, you need to get to Orestad (next to the Crowne Plaza above) or Copenhagen Airport station, and catch a train that goes over "The Bridge" - of Scandi-noir fame. It costs about £11 one-way, and takes 30 minutes.

If two or more of you are travelling, get a cheaper Family Ticket for £18

<https://www.dsb.dk/find-produkter-og-services/dsb-oresund-familie-billet/>

In town, it's cheapest to get a One-zone, 24-hour, Together ticket with 25% discount

<https://www.skanetrafiken.se/english/>

Hotel:

Best Western Plus Park City Malmo, Sjömansgatan 2

<https://www.bestwestern.co.uk/hotels/best-western-plus-park-city-malmo-88271>

We stayed here when it was a Radisson Park Inn. This is right by the waterfront with views of "The Bridge" a short walk away, also the Turning Torso tower.

Bus no 3 goes from the city centre but it is only 20 minutes walk, which with one short detour also takes in Malmo Castle (see below).

Food:

Kin Long Restaurant, 1 Raadmansgatan

<https://kinlong.se/>

Boutique Chinese restaurant, best in Malmo

ICA Maxi supermarket at Vastra Hamnen is right across the street from the hotel, open until 10pm, ideal for picking up food for the day, or Swedish presents to take home.

<https://www.ica.se/butiker/maxi/malmo/maxi-ica-stormarknad-vastra-hammen-1003569/>

In town, Malmborgs is a large supermarket in the Caroli shopping centre.

<https://www.ica.se/butiker/kvantum/malmo/ica-kvantum-malmborgs-caroli-1004490/>

Shopping:

Hansa, Stora Nygatan 50

<https://hansamalmo.se/>

shopping mall in the centre

Triangeln, Sodra Förstadsgatan 41

<https://www.triangeln.com/>

shopping mall in the southern area

Emporia

<https://emporia.steenstrom.se/>

out-of-town shopping in one of Sweden's largest malls

regular trains from Malmo Central to Malmo Hyllie and come out at the Amber entrance

Loppis Lounge, Djaknegatan 4

<https://loppislounge.se/>

vast second-hand store and flea market

Sightseeing:

Malmöhus Castle, dating from 1434, with Natural History, Aquarium and Maritime Museums

<https://malmo.se/Uppleva-och-gora/Konst-och-museer/Malmo-museum.html>

Museum Tram, from the city to the Museum

<http://www.mss.se/>

Moderna Museet, Ola Billgrens plats

<https://www.modernamuseet.se/malmo/en/>

St Pauli Church, Kungsgatan

St Petri Church, Goran Olsgatan

<https://www.svenskkyrkan.se/malmo/hitta-kyrka-i-malmo>

Form Design Center, Lilla torg 9

<https://www.formdesigncenter.com/en/>

in one of Malmo's most beautiful squares

Malmo City Library, Kung Oscars vag 11

<https://malmo.se/stadsbiblioteket>

Day Trips:

Almhult, the home of IKEA

This may well be the most niche of all our travel tips. But from Malmo it's only an hour on the train to Almhult, the home of IKEA. Here you can find the IKEA Museum, the IKEA Hotel, the world's only IKEA Outlet Store, and of course a branch of regular IKEA. For science fans, it's also the home of Carl Linnaeus who created scientific classification for organisms.

There are SJ trains (around £20), and regional trains (£12) that take a little longer.

To get to the main store, the Outlet Store and the Iittala/Arabia/Fiskars outlet (for Finnish glassware and ceramics), come out of the station on the town side and walk through the plaza. At the end bear right onto Ostra Esplanaden and just walk for 25 minutes. IKEA is at the end. If you want to take a bus, the #1 runs in a loop from the station every 40 minutes.

Back in town, the IKEA Museum is inside the world's first ever IKEA store, with historical displays, artefacts, activities for children, a cafe and a shop selling exclusive museum items

<https://ikeamuseum.com/en/>

<https://ikeamuseum.com/en/visit/museum-shop/>

It's out the back of the station, in the IKEA industrial complex.