

DENMARK

About the size of Massachusetts and Connecticut, Denmark's nature is modest compared to its Scandinavian neighbors. But, in the right place at the right time, the country's landscape can be quite breathtaking. A train ride from Copenhagen to Jutland during the spring and summer will reveal green hills rolling as far as the eye can see. Even better, across the countryside massive and immaculate wind farms are abundant.

Denmark's cities, on the other hand, are steeped in wondrous culture and history. From HC Andersen's fairy-tale city of Odense to the seaside Riviera of Helsingør, and the eco-friendly metropolis of Copenhagen, Denmark's cities offer travelers a little bit of everything special.

The song 'Wonderful Copenhagen' sung by Danny Kaye in the 1952 film *Hans Christian Andersen*, captures the essence of Denmark's capital, where visitors can enjoy everything from Renaissance castles to five-star cosmopolitan restaurants and thrilling roller coasters at the 150-year-old iconic Tivoli Gardens, to the longest pedestrian street in the world – and all can be enjoyed from the comforts of your own bicycle, which is perhaps the most highly recommended way to travel in the city. Rush hour in Copenhagen consists of hordes of bikes rather than cars. The city is exceedingly old yet modern at the same time, exuding a laid-back, happy yet innovative spirit.

All over Denmark, visitors will see traces of the once vast Danish Viking empire, which stretched all the way from present day South Sweden to most of the Baltic – and even England for a time! Though as time passed, Denmark's domineering imprint in Europe faded, giving rise to a new era of ingenuity, introspection and industrialization – to the Denmark the world has come to know and love today.

Did You Know?

- ❖ Denmark is the birthplace of Lego, which is the abbreviation of two Danish words *leg godt*, meaning 'play well'. Founded in 1932 in the town of Billund, Lego began producing its first iconic bricks in 1958, and has since sold over 320 billion Lego bricks world wide. That amounts to nearly 60 bricks for every person in the entire planet!
- ❖ The Danish flag remains the oldest state flag in the world still in use by an independent nation, first acknowledged in 1219.
- ❖ Denmark is the flattest and lowest of the Scandinavian countries and has no mountains, making it an ideal place for biking – in fact, Denmark has more than twice the amount of bicycles (4.2 million) than cars (1.8 million)!
- ❖ The city of Copenhagen is home to more Michelin-starred restaurants than any other city in Scandinavia.
- ❖ Should you ever find yourself falling into the Copenhagen harbor, worry not! It's clean enough to swim in!