

DENMARK AND SWEDEN



Day 1, ARRIVAL COPENHAGEN

Arrive by individual flights, arranged on own. Transfer to your hotel at own arrangement.

Copenhagen, the capital city of the kingdom of Denmark since 1417. Copenhagen is one of Europe's oldest capitals with a royal touch - the monarchy in Denmark is the oldest in the world! Copenhagen is a place where old fairytales blend with flashy new architecture and world class design. Copenhagen is also considered one of the world's most environmentally friendly cities and one of the world's leading cycle cities.

At 16:00 meet local guide at the hotel lobby area and start **2½ hours introduction walking tour**. During the tour you will pass sights such as the Amalienborg Palace, the old harbour of Nyhavn, Christiansborg Palace (seat of the Danish Parliament), the City Hall, Hans Christian Andersen's statue, and many other popular sights. The tour terminates in **Tivoli (entrance incl.)**.

At 19:00 welcome dinner at restaurant inside Tivoli. The Tivoli Gardens opened in 1843, and is the second oldest amusement park in the world. Apart from the various attractions (roller coasters, carousels etc.) there are many restaurants within the park, a pantomime theater, concert halls, etc. In the summertime, the park is decorated with a multitude of flowers. Return to your hotel on own.

Accommodation at Phoenix Hotel, centrally located



Day 2, COPENHAGEN – NORTH ZEALAND – COPENHAGEN

Breakfast at the hotel. Today enjoy a **full-day excursion (10 hours) to the beautiful castles of North Zealand and Louisiana Museum of Modern Art.**

At 09:00 leave Copenhagen by coach with local guide, passing through rural villages and wooded, undulating countryside to Hillerød and the **Frederiksborg Castle (entrance incl.)**, the beautifully situated Renaissance building which - like so many others - was built by orders of King Christian IV. Today, Frederiksborg is the home of the Museum of National History, the collection of which includes priceless paintings, silver and porcelain items, furniture and tapestries. The castle chapel houses Denmark's oldest organ from 1610. From Frederiksborg, drive on to Helsingør and visit the imposing **Kronborg Castle (entrance incl.)**, which was the setting of 'Hamlet', the dramatic masterpiece by William Shakespeare. The castle's story dates back to a fortress, Krogen, built in the 1420s by the Danish king, Eric of Pomerania. Kronborg is situated near the town of Helsingør (immortalized as Elsinore in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*) on the extreme northeastern tip of Zealand at the narrowest point of the Øresund, the sound between Denmark and Sweden. In this part, the sound is only 4 km wide, hence the strategic importance of maintaining a sea fortress at this location. The castle has for centuries been one of the most important Renaissance castles in Northern Europe and was added to UNESCO's World Heritage Sites list in 2000

After Kronborg, drive south along the coastal road, passing through small villages, fashionable resorts and some exclusive residential areas on the way. Stop for a visit at the **Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (entrance incl.)**, located directly on the shores of Øresund in Humlebæk. Its originality lies in the fact that the beautiful natural surroundings play a leading role in showing the collections to great effect. The collection comprises sculptures by Arp, Calder, Ernst, Dubuffet, Moore, Jacobsen as well as a series of Giacometti's sculptures dramatically displayed in rooms overlooking Humlebæk Lake through floor to ceiling glass panels. The museum also holds regular temporary exhibitions. Return to Copenhagen in the evening.

Accommodation at Phoenix Hotel, centrally located



Day 3, COPENHAGEN

Breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy the morning free at leisure.

Transfer on own to the New Market Halls (Torvehallerne), near Nørreport station (1,5 km from your hotel.)

At 12:00 start of 2 hours private food tour. This tour is centered mainly around the New Market halls (Torvehallerne) with little walking required. The tastings will provide a good sample of new Danish gastronomy along with stories about the recent spectacular rise of Nordic cuisine. The tastings make up a light meal. Tasting locations and samples during this tour (*samples may vary*): A bottle of water (0.33cl), 3 samples of organic cheeses, a small glass of apple wine, a "Bornholmer" plate (samples of mustard, crackers, juice and various candies), a sample of local smoked ham or beef (according to supply), 1 glass of craft beer/juice, 2 different types of bonbons, Chocolate treats (flødebolle), Samples of seasonal spices and herbs.

The rest of the day is free at leisure to explore some of the many museums of art, culture, history and design. We warmly recommend a visit to Rosenborg Castle, the Round Tower (Rundetårn), Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, the National Gallery etc. Also remember time to just enjoy the pedestrian shopping streets of Strøget and surroundings.

Accommodation at Phoenix Hotel, centrally located

Day 4, COPENHAGEN – SKÅNE – COPENHAGEN

Breakfast at the hotel. **At 09:00 meet guide and depart from Copenhagen by coach for a full day (9 hours) excursion to Skåne in Sweden.** Before crossing the bridge to Sweden you make a stop at the fishing village **Dragør**, which was founded by Dutch settlers invited by the King to grow vegetables for the Court. Fishing of particularly herrings has also played an important role in the history of the place. Here you can experience a very special atmosphere, narrow cobbled streets, and small colorful thatched houses. Dragør harbour gives you great opportunities to see the Øresund Bridge, a 16 km direct link between Denmark and Sweden.

Pass the bridge over the Øresund to **Malmö**, the biggest city in the Skåne area. In recent years, Malmö has developed into an exciting city with focus on cultural offerings, innovative architecture and a strong organic social character. Malmö was certified as Sweden's first Fairtrade City in 2006 and this has spurred the city's organic and fair trade offerings ever since. In Malmö we recommend a visit to Malmöhus Castle (*entrance not incl.*) which has been housing museum collections since 1926. In 1434 king Erik VII of Denmark had the castle of Myntergaarden built where the Malmöhus Castle stands today.

From Malmö drive to **Ystad**. Only a few cities in Scandinavia and Europe boast such a complete and 'living' picture of bygone days as Ystad. Many of the 300 half-timbered houses and other buildings are filled with restaurants and shops and the picturesque corners are alive with surprises and bargains. Best-selling author Henning Mankell has put the city of Ystad, also called the "Wallander's Ystad", on the world map with his detective stories about Police Superintendent Kurt Wallander, a bachelor who grapples with murder investigations and difficult criminal cases in Ystad and its surroundings. The popular books have been adapted for the screen, and you can now go on a guided tour in an old veteran fire engine (not included) around Ystad and listen to stories about the films and the books.

Proceed from Ystad to Käseberga for a visit to **Ales Stenar**. Ales stenar (Stones) is Sweden's largest preserved "ship setting" – stones set in the layout of a ship. We do not know for certain what function the stones have had through the ages, or what the ship setting symbolised for the people who created it.

Return to Copenhagen in the evening.

Accommodation at Phoenix Hotel, centrally located

Day 5, COPENHAGEN – ODENSE – RIBE

After breakfast meet your long distance coach driver (day 5-9, terminates in Frederikshavn) and depart from your hotel **at 09:00**. Leave Copenhagen westward through farming countryside and small villages, some of which were founded by Vikings more than a thousand years ago. From Halskov you will drive over one of the world's largest suspension bridges constructed off-shore, the Great Belt Bridge (Storebæltsbroen) and arrive on the island of Funen. Continue to **Odense**, Denmark's third largest city and Hans Christian Andersen's home town. Visit **Hans Christian Andersen's home (entrance incl.)** on own. The humble

house, where HC Andersen was born in 1805, has been turned into a museum dedicated to the world famous fairy tale writer. *(PLEASE NOTE: the HCA museum will be at a temporary location summer 2018 due to renovation.)*

You will also visit **Funen Village Open Air Museum (entrance incl.)**. The village is from the time of Hans Christian Anderson, and here you can experience how most people on Funen lived 200 years ago in a society full of changes that affected even quite ordinary people.

Leave Odense and cross the Little Belt waterway to Jutland and continue to **Ribe**, Denmark's most famous medieval town. However, the small size has enabled it to preserve its architectural unity and to retain its old-world atmosphere while remaining a lively town.

Accommodation at Hotel Dagmar in Ribe, centrally located

Day 6, RIBE – FANØ – RIBE

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning visit to the **Viking Museum (entrance incl.)** of Ribe which brings to life the town of Ribe during the Viking period and the Middle Ages. If time permits, we can also recommend visits to the **Ribe Cathedral** and the **Viking Centre (entrance not incl.)** where you can wander around the reconstructed life-size Viking estate and meet Vikings who work with reconstructed tools using techniques that were used back then.

Drive to Esbjerg and board the ferry to **Fanø**, an approx. 12 minutes ferry crossing. Enjoy the afternoon and evening on the island in the North Sea with wide sandy beaches and great nature to explore. You have your coach at disposal all day. A visit to **Sønderho** is a must! Voted the most beautiful village in Denmark, Sønderho is the essence of Danish "hygge". The old houses and the maritime history is the perfect setting for a holiday in a relaxed atmosphere.

Ferry Fanø-Esbjerg and return to Ribe.

Accommodation at Hotel Dagmar in Ribe, centrally located

Day 7, RIBE – KOLDING – JELLING – AARHUS

After breakfast at the hotel route to Kolding. Here we recommend a visit to **Tropholt museum for modern art and design (entrance not incl.)** and/or **Koldinghus (entrance not incl.)**.

Continue by coach to the village of **Jelling**. During the 10C, at the height of the Viking period, Jelling was for sometime the royal seat chosen by two Viking kings, Gorm the Old and his son Harald Bluetooth, who started the Danish Royal line. As evidence they left two large burial mounds and two rune stones, known as the **Jelling Stones**, which have given crucial information about early Danish history.

Proceed to **Aarhus**, the second largest city of Denmark and also known as the City of the Smile.

Accommodation at Comwell Hotel Aarhus, centrally located

Day 8, AARHUS

Breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy a full day in Aarhus with your coach at disposal all day. During the day you will visit the museum of Danish prehistory **Moesgård Museum (entrance incl.)** located outside city centre. You will also visit the Old City, the botanical garden and ARoS art museum in Aarhus city centre. **The Old City (entrance incl.)** (Den Gamle By) is a fascinating open-air collection of completely furnished old Danish town houses with workshops etc. Next to the Old City is the Botanical Garden. Enjoy a walk through the park on own before your visit to **ARoS art museum (entrance incl.)**, one of Europe's largest art museums. The museum owns notable collections of Danish art span 300 years plus a noteworthy contingent of modern art.

Enjoy rest of the day free at leisure in Aarhus.

Accommodation at Comwell Hotel Aarhus, centrally located

Day 9, AARHUS – SKAGEN – FREDERIKSHAVN – GOTHENBURG

A small breakfast box to go is arranged with pick up in the reception before departure.

At 06:15, leave Aarhus and drive to the unique North of Jutland, **Skagen**, with the numerous attractions. This region is famous, not only for the extremely diverse landscape and many hours of sun, but also for

the unique light and nature created by the influence of 3 seas – the **North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat**. **Among the highlights are the Sanded Church, the moving dune of Råbjerg Mile, the village of Skagen, former home of a colony of well-known artists such as Krøyer, Ancher, Drachmann and Tuxen, and finally Grenen, the northernmost part where the seas meet in a dramatic dance, especially on windy days.**

At 09:30, enjoy a ride with **“Sandormen” (included)** – a truck drawn by a tractor – from the parking lot along the beach to the point where the two seas meet. Duration approx. ½ hour.

Afterwards, short drive to **Skagen art museum** for a visit at own arrangement (*entrance not included*).

At noon proceed by coach towards Frederikshavn, where you will say goodbye to your long distance coach.

At 14:00, take the ferry to Gothenburg. Arrive in Gothenburg at 17:30 and transfer by coach to your hotel for check in.

Accommodation at Clarion Hotel Post, centrally located



Day 10, GOTHENBURG – STOCKHOLM

Breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy the day free at leisure in **Gothenburg**. The relatively young city (1621) is the number one seaport in Scandinavia and a bustling commercial centre. It has a lot to offer with an interesting history, culture and many famous places such as the Kungssportavenue, Gustav Adolfs Torg and the amusement park Liseberg.

Late afternoon, walk one block from your hotel to the train station

16:29-19:36 express train (x2000) from Gothenburg to Stockholm. Arrive in Stockholm and transfer by coach to your hotel for check in.

Accommodation at Best Western Premiere Hotel Kung Carl, centrally located

Day 11, GOTHENBURG – STOCKHOLM

Breakfast at the hotel. **At 09:00 meet local guide and start full day sightseeing (8 hours guide). Start with a 3 hours panoramic city tour by coach.** Famous sights on the tour include the Royal Palace, the Parliament Buildings, the island of Djurgården and the Old Town (Gamla Stan), with its narrow cobbled streets and numerous antique shops.

End of coach services by the pier and proceed with your guide to Drottningholm.

At 12:00 board a magnificent turn of the century ship that will take you from central Stockholm (City Hall) out to the royal residence Drottningholm. The journey itself (1 hour) is a great way to experience Stockholm and its surroundings from the water. *Possible to add lunch on board (not included).*

Arrive at Drottningholm and enjoy the beautiful garden before following your guide on a guided tour at the **Drottningholm Castle (entrance incl.)**. The Drottningholm Palace is on UNESCO's World Heritage list. It is the most well-preserved royal castle built in the 1600s in Sweden and at the same time is representative of all European architecture for the period. The Palace has been the present Royal Family's permanent residence. The rooms in the southern wing of the palace are reserved for this purpose. The rest of the palace and grounds are open to the public year round.

After the guided tour at the Castle enjoy a walk through the park.

At 15:15 follows a private guided tour at Drottningholm Castle Theatre (entrance incl.). Duration of the tour is approx. 30 minutes. Follow the theatre guide on a tour that will take you into the public rooms surrounding the auditorium, into the auditorium where the magic of the stage and the splendid decorations will almost come to life, and end up in the beautiful Déjeuner Salon looking out over the English garden. You will hear the sound of the thunder box and the wind machine or experience an aria and a famous orchestra piece, if there are rehearsals! A visit to Drottningholm Castle Theatre will convey impressions of the theatre life in the 18th century and give a better understanding of the living cultural heritage.

At 16:15 transfer from Drottningholm back to your. Terminate at your hotel 17:00.

Accommodation at Best Western Premiere Hotel Kung Carl, centrally located

Day 12, STOCKHOLM

Breakfast at the hotel. **At 10:00, transfer from your hotel to Skansen (entrance incl.)**. Skansen, the world's oldest open air museum, was founded in 1891 and features some 150 cultural-historic buildings from all over Sweden. Including a zoo with wild and domestic Nordic animals, Skansen is the venue for traditional annual festivities, markets, folk dance displays and other celebrations. Here you can learn about traditional Swedish handicraft and folklore.

At 14:00 coach transfer back to your hotel or to Gamla Stan (transfer with 2 stops). In the Gamla Stan area we warmly recommend a visit to the Nobel Museum, Storkyrkan Cathedral, the Royal Palace etc. A few blocks from your hotel is the Östermalms Saluhall – we suggest dinner on your own here. The market hall in the posh Östermalm neighborhood is a true Stockholm gem. Its distinctive tower and soaring glass ceiling give it the feeling of a cathedral. Step inside, and you'll immediately see that food is what's worshipped here. Fish, game, baked goods, cheese, deli meats, produce, and chocolate are all on display.

Accommodation at Best Western Premiere Hotel Kung Carl, centrally located

Day 13, STOCKHOLM

Breakfast at the hotel. **At 09:00 meet guide and driver and start full day (7 hours) sightseeing to Djurgården for a visit to Vasa Museum (entrance incl.), Prince Eugen's Waldemarsudde (entrance incl.), and Thielska Gallery (entrance incl.)**.

Vasa Museum: The impressive warship Vasa sank on her maiden voyage in 1628 but was salvaged 333 years later in 1961. She has since been restored and can now be seen with her complete rigging at the Vasa Museum.

Prince Eugen's Waldemarsudde: The museum consists of a main building, the "Palace", built in 1903–1905 as a residence for Prince Eugen (1865–1947), and a gallery building that was added in 1913. Architect Ferdinand Boberg designed both buildings in close cooperation with Prince Eugen. The Prince, son of King Oscar II and Queen Sophia, was one of the leading landscape painters of his time. He was also an important art collector and a central figure in the Swedish cultural world.

On the ground floor of the Palace, you can visit the common areas of Prince Eugen's home, which are preserved as they were in his time. The upper floors of the building and the Gallery show work from the collection and temporary exhibitions. These exhibitions include work by both contemporary artists and artists who were contemporaries of Prince Eugen. The Prince's lovely park and gardens are dotted with sculptures, including work by Carl Milles. There are also several historic buildings, including the Linseed Oil Mill, from 1785.

Possible to add group lunch at Waldemarsudde (not included).

Thielska Gallery: Thielska Galleriet is recognized as one of the finest art museums in Sweden and is beautifully set in walled grounds at Blockhusudden in the royal park of Djurgården. The gallery houses a

unique collection of works of art from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by leading artists of the period including Eugène Jansson, Carl Larsson, Bruno Liljefors, Edvard Munch, August Strindberg and Anders Zorn.

At 18:00 3 hours roundtrip transfer hotel-restaurant-hotel. Enjoy a **farewell dinner at Kaknästornet at 18:15**, while you enjoy the view of Stockholm and the archipelago from the restaurant in the old TV tower 134 meter above Djurgården.

Accommodation at Best Western Premiere Hotel Kung Carl, centrally located

Day 14, STOCKHOLM DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the hotel and check out. Transfer and flight out on own.

The package price includes:

- 13 night's accommodation including breakfast
- 1 welcome dinner in Tivoli and 1 farewell dinner at Kaknästornet
- Coach, English speaking local guide, and entrances:
 - Day 1, guide 2½ hours (walking tour)
 - Day 1, entrance Tivoli (without guide)
 - Day 2, coach+guide 10 hours
 - Day 2, entrance Frederiksborg + Kronborg + Louisiana
 - Day 3, private Food Tour 2 hours incl. guide + tastings (walking tour)
 - Day 4, coach+guide 9 hours, including bridge toll Øresund Bridge DK-SE-DK
 - Day 5-9, long distance coach Copenhagen-Odense-Ribe-Fanø-Ribe-Kolding-Jelling-Aarhus-Skagen-Frederikshavn, including bridge toll Great Belt Bridge and board & lodging for the driver
 - Day 5, entrance H. C. Andersen Museum and Funen Village Open Air Museum
 - Day 6, entrance Ribe Viking Museum
 - Day 7, entrance Moesgård Museum
 - Day 8, entrance the Old City (Den Gamle By) and ARoS
 - Day 9, 'Sandormen'
 - Day 9, coach transfer port-hotel
 - Day 10, coach transfer train-hotel
 - Day 11, coach 3 hours + guide 8 hours + coach transfer Drottningholm-hotel
 - Day 11, canal tour Stockholm-Drottningholm (pax)
 - Day 11, entrance Drottningholm Castle and Drottningholm Castle Theatre including the theaters own guide
 - Day 12, coach transfer hotel-museum + coach transfer museum-hotel/Gamla Stan (2 stops)
 - Day 12, entrance Skansen
 - Day 13, coach+guide 7 hours
 - Day 13, entrance Vasa + Prince Eugens Waldemarsudde + Thielska
 - Day 13, roundtrip coach transfer hotel-restaurant-hotel (max 3 hours)
- Ferry and train:
 - Day 6, ferry pax+coach Esbjerg-Fanø-Esbjerg
 - Day 9, ferry pax Frederikshavn-Gothenburg
 - Day 10, train pax Gothenburg-Stockholm