

BEYOND COPENHAGEN



A magazine dedicated to showcasing the best attractions outside the city centre, covering design, architecture, outdoor pursuits, food, nature and much more. From comprehensive guides and captivating photo series to insider tips from locals and exclusive interviews with prominent figures from the world of gastronomy, art and design. We invite you to follow the locals' example and explore beyond.

By Visit Copenhagen

BE AN EXPLORER
BEYOND
COPENHAGEN

Hej and welcome!

With this magazine, we'd like to wish you a very warm welcome to the areas North, East, South, and West of Copenhagen. Perhaps you have already seen many of the attractions in Denmark's capital and now you're wondering what to do next. Well, Copenhagen is bigger than you might think. That's why we're inviting you to do as the locals do and go beyond.

Throughout the magazine, you'll find our very best tips for local gems in the area, which we hope will inspire you to explore more of the places beyond Copenhagen and stay a little longer. It's so easy to get immersed here. Whether you jump on a bicycle and enjoy the many outdoor options or go deep into our history and explore majestic castles, there is something for you, your friends and family.

In the areas beyond Copenhagen, you'll discover how architecture, nature, gastronomy and culture are woven into both modern and historic settings. You might be interested in the charm felt throughout the little towns, their quaint houses and cobblestone streets, or end up exploring a museum or a local shop with handcrafted goods. My personal favourite thing to do is to unwind with a walk or a bike ride in the amazing outdoors and taste my way through the areas' many culinary delights.

Finally, sharing a communal meal alongside Danes and fellow travellers is a fantastic way to make new friends and gain fresh perspectives. I hope you will enjoy the areas outside the city centre as much as we do and feel inspired to go beyond.

All the best,
Rikke Holm Petersen
Director of Communication,
Wonderful Copenhagen



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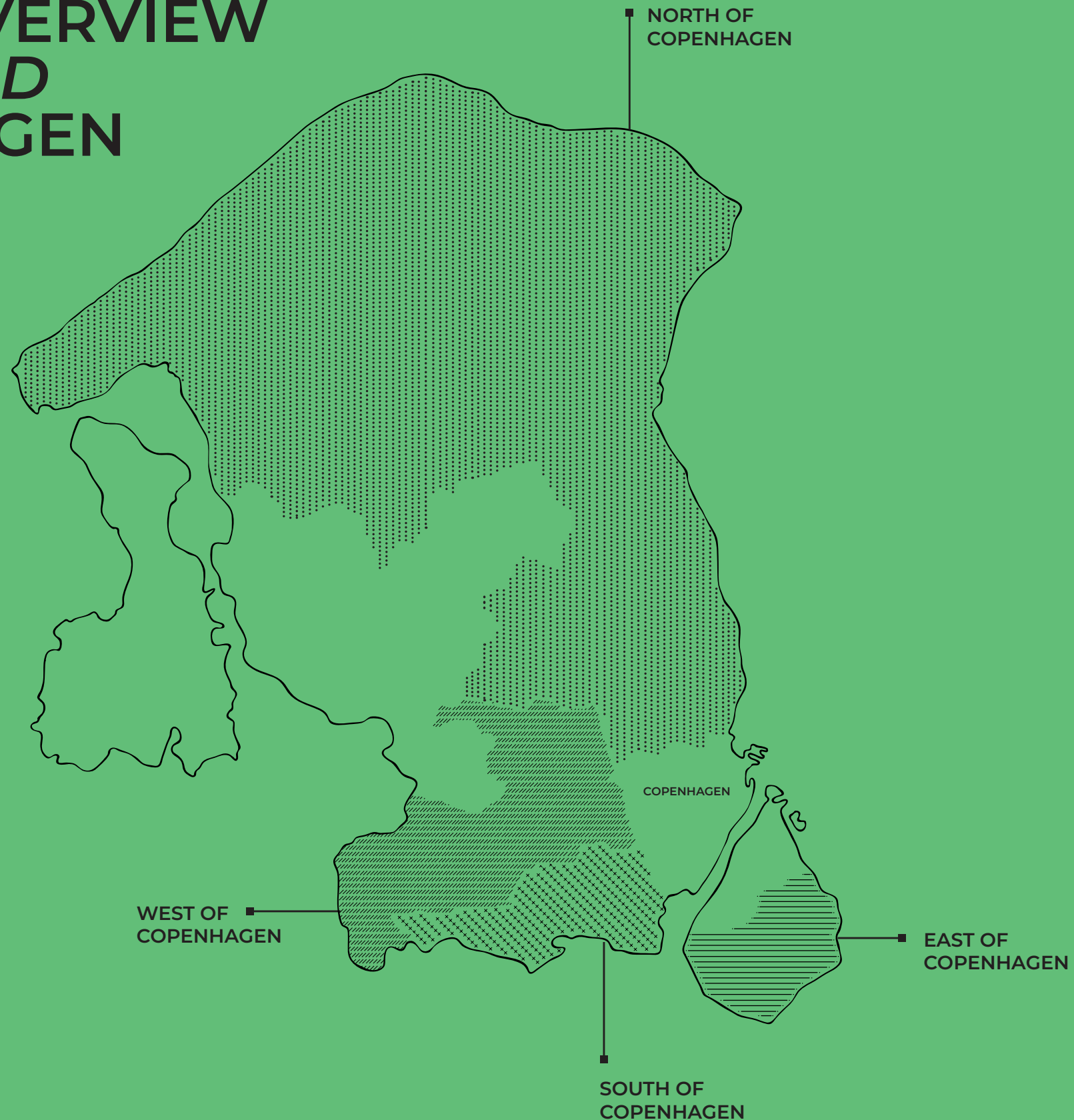
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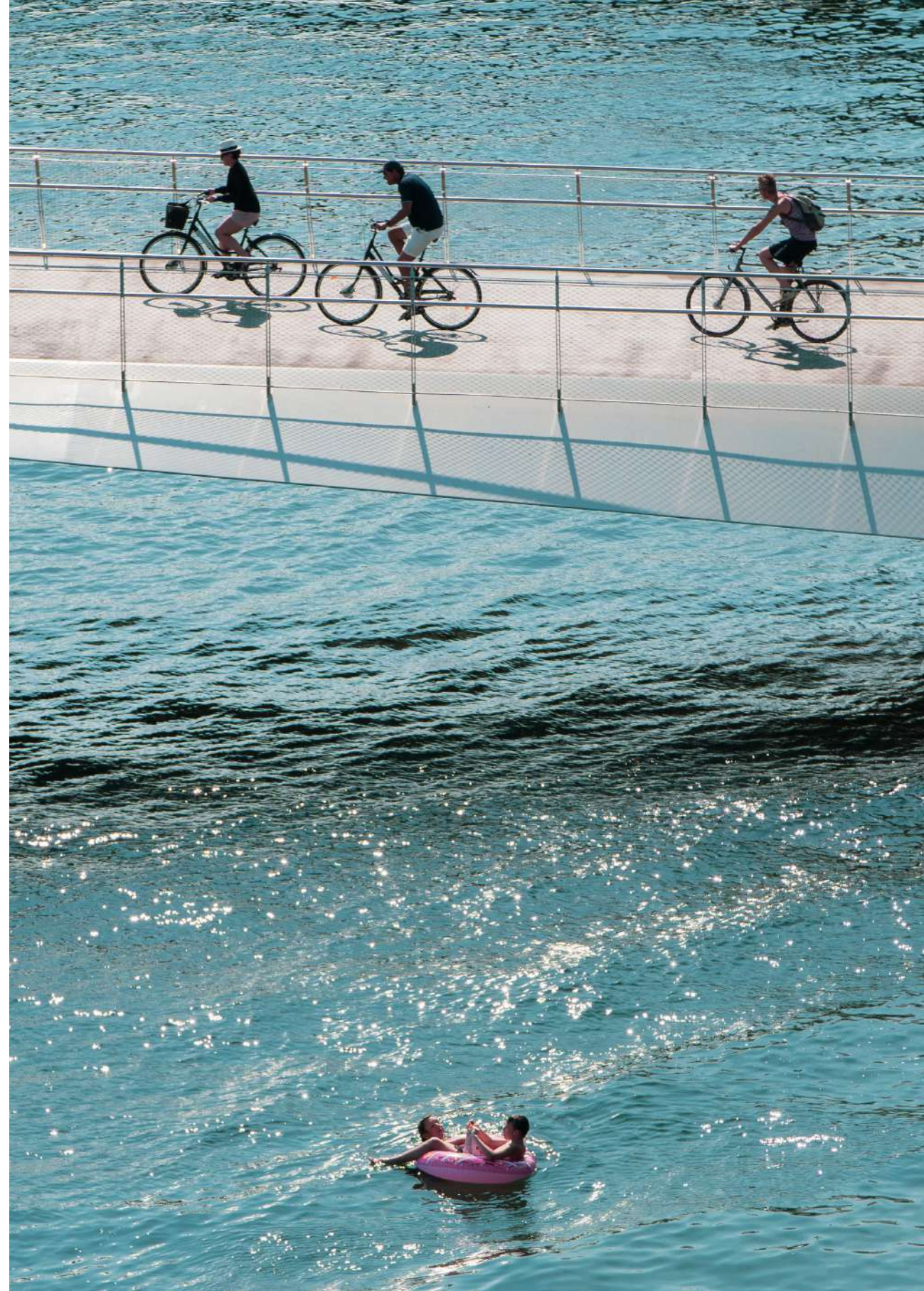
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SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW AS A VISITOR IN DENMARK

Words by Lakeisha Goedluck
Photography by Visit Copenhagen

A clean, colourful central harbour, the famous Danish poet Hans Christian Andersen and tasty pastries. This is what most visitors associate with Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark. What's lesser-known about the place is the accessibility of the swimming spots, the reason Danish people like their national flag so much and the views, attractions and architecture to discover outside the city centre – beyond Copenhagen.



OLD-SCHOOL AMUSEMENT PARKS

What is often overlooked is that the Copenhagen area has a history of building long-lasting amusement parks. The Tivoli Gardens in central Copenhagen is the second oldest amusement park in the world (even older than Disneyland). The oldest is Dyrehavsbakken founded in 1583, also known as Bakken in The Deer Park which is a half-hour train ride away from Copenhagen. Unlike Tivoli Gardens, entering Bakken is completely free. Located at Klampenborg Station, the final stop on the S-train route, enjoy the deer-filled forest and coastal views on a day trip to the amusement park and a visit to one of the many places in the area serving traditional Danish food.

FLY THE NATIONAL FLAG

Did you know that Denmark has the oldest flag in the world? Named Dannebrog, and first used in 1219, the flag isn't just used for sporting events. The Danes simply like to fly their flag at full mast on most occasions, and you can see it around gardens across the country. At Copenhagen Airport, it's a tradition to welcome loved ones with flags in the arrival hall. For Kristoffer Guldager Kongshaug, Creative Director of the Danish womenswear label Forza Collective, the flag is a symbol of nostalgia: "I remember birthdays as a kid and going on summer vacations around Denmark as the warmest memories of the flag; it's usually a symbol of something happy being manifested."



DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?

Out of all the Scandinavian languages, Danish wins the title for being the hardest to pronounce. Have a go at trying to say "rødgrød med fløde". Described as sounding as if you're speaking with a potato down your throat, only 6 million people across the globe speak it. However, Danes are taught English in school which means that most are comfortable and confident when speaking the universal language.

COAST TO EXPLORE

If Hans Christian Andersen's tale The Little Mermaid was real, she'd be very happy in a country that's surrounded by calm waters.



Denmark consists of the peninsular Jutland and 444 islands – only 76 of which are inhabited. Wherever you are in the country, you're no more than 52 kilometres away from the coast. In and outside the capital, there are lots of spots to choose from for a leisurely swim. For Sorcha McCrory, an expat from the UK who works as a copywriter for Danish textile company Tekla, there are specific places where you'll find her with a beach towel in her bag. "The first time I came to visit my sister in Copenhagen on my own, she took me to her local winter bathing club on Amager Beach; I realised this was where I wanted to live," she explains. From Hellerup Beach to Bellevue Beach and all the way up to the former fishing village of Hornbæk, there are plenty of cosy coastal places to explore.

IN DENMARK WE TRUST

Denmark is often ranked one of the most trustworthy countries in the world. This is largely due to the country being a welfare state – the locals trust in the authorities and that feeling is shared amongst the population. Don't be alarmed if you see people leaving their babies outside of cafés and restaurants to have a comfortable afternoon nap as this is totally normal! Oftentimes, you'll find bookshelves offering free books along the streets and unmanned stalls selling goods like jam and honey for passersby to leave cash donations for. Locals also often sell their second-hand clothing in the same way: you'll see racks of items outside shops and homes that can be purchased for fair prices. Danes use a banking app called MobilePay to purchase these pieces that can only be accessed if you have a Danish bank account, so remember to carry spare cash with you if you'd like to do some thrift shopping when you're visiting the country.

CYCLING AND SIGHTSEEING

Since the early 2000s, Copenhagen has spent over 200 million euros in developing the city's cycling infrastructure. Copenhagen has around 750,000 bicycles and around 650,000 locals, meaning there are more bikes than people. A popular route for visitors is the ride along Strandvejen and Kystvejen which is just north of Copenhagen and offers stunning views of the water. Amager, east of Copenhagen, also has great cycling routes, providing a mix of urban and natural settings for cycling enthusiasts.



ADVENTUROUS ARCHITECTURE



Denmark is home to some of the world's most interesting architecture. From Danish architect and designer Arne Jacobsen's old petrol station in Charlottenlund to the Maritime Museum of Denmark in Elsinore designed by the Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG). There's also Den Blå Planet, National Aquarium Denmark, in Kastrup by 3XN Architects, the country's award-winning architects consistently focus on the legacy they leave behind. From 2023 to 2025, UNESCO has given Copenhagen the title of World Capital of Architecture.

THE COUNTRY OF SOURDOUGH

Most people know that Denmark is a culinary hotspot with 44 Michelin-starred restaurants spread over 31 restaurants across Denmark. 26 of those stars are given to 15 restaurants in Copenhagen and beyond. If you haven't landed a booking at a Michelin-starred restaurant, don't worry: there are a number of specialties to try across the Danish food scene.

From the classic *smørrebrød* (open-faced sandwiches) – best enjoyed with a knife and fork – to the world-renowned cinnamon bun. Enjoy *smørrebrød* at various locations such as Sankt Peder in Hellerup and try a cinnamon bun from Enlil Bakery in Kongens Lyngby. A sourdough bun with cheese (*bolle med ost* in Danish) is also a must try. "I think the unique standpoint of Danish sourdough is the fermenting process which results in a much crunchier crust and more moist inside," says Kai Semple, a Denmark-based chef from the UK.

UNCOVERING LOCAL FOOD FAVOURITES OUTSIDE THE CITY

As told to Ditlev Fejerskov
Photography by Betty Krag & Visit Copenhagen

From lobster bisque at a legendary Michelin-starred restaurant and thick-cut french fries to what is perhaps the best croissant in all of Denmark. Here's four locals' recommendations on where to eat beyond the city limits.



SØLLERØD KRO

RECOMMENDED BY EVA HURTIGKARL,
CHEF AT FASHION BRAND GANNI

I've heard countless times that Søllerød Kro's legendary restaurant manager, Jan Restorff, is the best in the industry. He's set the standard for hospitality at Danish restaurants. A friend of mine worked there as a waiter many years ago, so I've heard plenty about Jan and the restaurant's service, but you have to experience him to fully grasp what he's about. I finally had the chance to do that one Sunday in January when my boyfriend treated me to lunch at Søllerød Kro as a birthday present. From the moment we arrived, everything was perfect. Even though it's a fancy, well-known one-star Michelin restaurant, we didn't feel like we had to be anyone special to feel welcome. The atmosphere was down to earth. I'm not usually a fan of fine dining and all those small dishes, but the



food at Søllerød Kro was delicious – leaning towards the relatively classic and French end: lobster bisque, beetroots, apples and whatever else was in season. The kitchen, with Brian Mark Hansen (champion of Bocuse d'or in 2023, ed.) at the helm, is undoubtedly technically skilled, but I appreciated that all the ingredients were familiar. The most surprising

dish was a small pre-dessert with little drops of ice cream that looked remarkably like Calippo Shots: an ice cream I ate a lot as a child. The waiter had never heard that comparison before and found it amusing. I love that I could joke with a waiter about such things – it really lightened the mood. → North of Copenhagen, [@soellerod kro](#)

BATTING BAKERY

RECOMMENDED BY SEBASTIAN QUISTORFF,
CO-FOUNDER OF PROLOG COFFEE

Batting Bakery is located in an old brick building in Charlottenlund. The look of the bakery is simple and industrial, and it's obviously the pastry that is important here. There are no fancy floral decorations or interior design done by a design agency. They bake really good buns and sourdough bread, and you can taste that the ingredients are first-rate, and that the sourdough is fermented perfectly. But their croissants are perhaps the best in the country. Everything you want in a croissant – plenty of butter, many crispy layers of dough and a perfect shape – has been taken to the next level. I often look for such small glimpses of quality of life: that the bun is still warm and the butter is melting when it is served. That's the beauty of simplicity. A bread or croissant that just tastes insanely good because someone has made an effort and refined their craft over the years.

In the morning, when I have dropped off my children, I often go past the bakery which is just around the corner from the daycare. Especially on days when I work from home, I like to buy something tasty and either eat it outside in the sun or take it over to the art museum Ordrupgaard, where I sit in the sculpture park and enjoy world-class installations from artists like Olafur Eliasson and Jeppe Hein. It is completely quiet before the museum opens. I sit and listen to the birds sing. Tranquility of aesthetic and peace. And tastiness from the baked goods, of course. → North of Copenhagen, [@battingbakery](#)



GABRIEL JENSENS TRAKTØRSTED

RECOMMENDED BY NICOLAI NØRREGAARD,
HEAD CHEF AND CO-OWNER OF KADEAU

In the meadows where the sheep and geese graze, close to the beach and on the way down to Dragør Sea Bath, you'll find Gabriel Jensens Traktørsted located in an old barrack. You can't see it from the main road, as it's a bit of a hidden gem. On Sundays, I go there with my family to eat a good breakfast, drink a cup of coffee or have some lunch in the sun with a view of the sea. It's also a great place to stop and have a beer at the end of a long bike ride. In my opinion, it is Dragør's best restaurant.



They serve a good bun with cheese, freshly squeezed juice and a decent egg. For lunch, there are also simple and classic dishes such as salmon rilette, stracciatella with olive oil and thick-cut french fries. I really appreciate honest and simple food, perhaps because I cook Michelin-level cuisine. We operate at maximum capacity in the pursuit of something surprising and original. Good food is not synonymous with many ingredients; this is a pitfall that many chefs fall into. When I dine out, I prefer establishments like Gabriel Jensens, where they use honest, locally-sourced ingredients, prioritise sustainability and skillfully combine a few but truly exceptional ingredients in a well-considered manner. It's so simple that the raw materials are allowed to speak for themselves. → East of Copenhagen, [@gabriel.jensens](#)

PATIO

RECOMMENDED BY PIL KALLESØ, ARCHITECT
AND PARTNER AT KALLESØ ARKITEKTER

My husband, our two kids and I visit Patio almost every weekend for breakfast. We love the minimalist decor, inspired by French and Japanese styles. The food is just as delicious. The owners make buns, coffee and various small dishes, such as toasted bread with peas, ricotta and herbs, and Greek yoghurt with homemade granola and rhubarb compote. Patio also provides space for the kids, complete with wooden toys for them to play with in the cosy courtyard. It's not often that aesthetics and children come together so successfully.



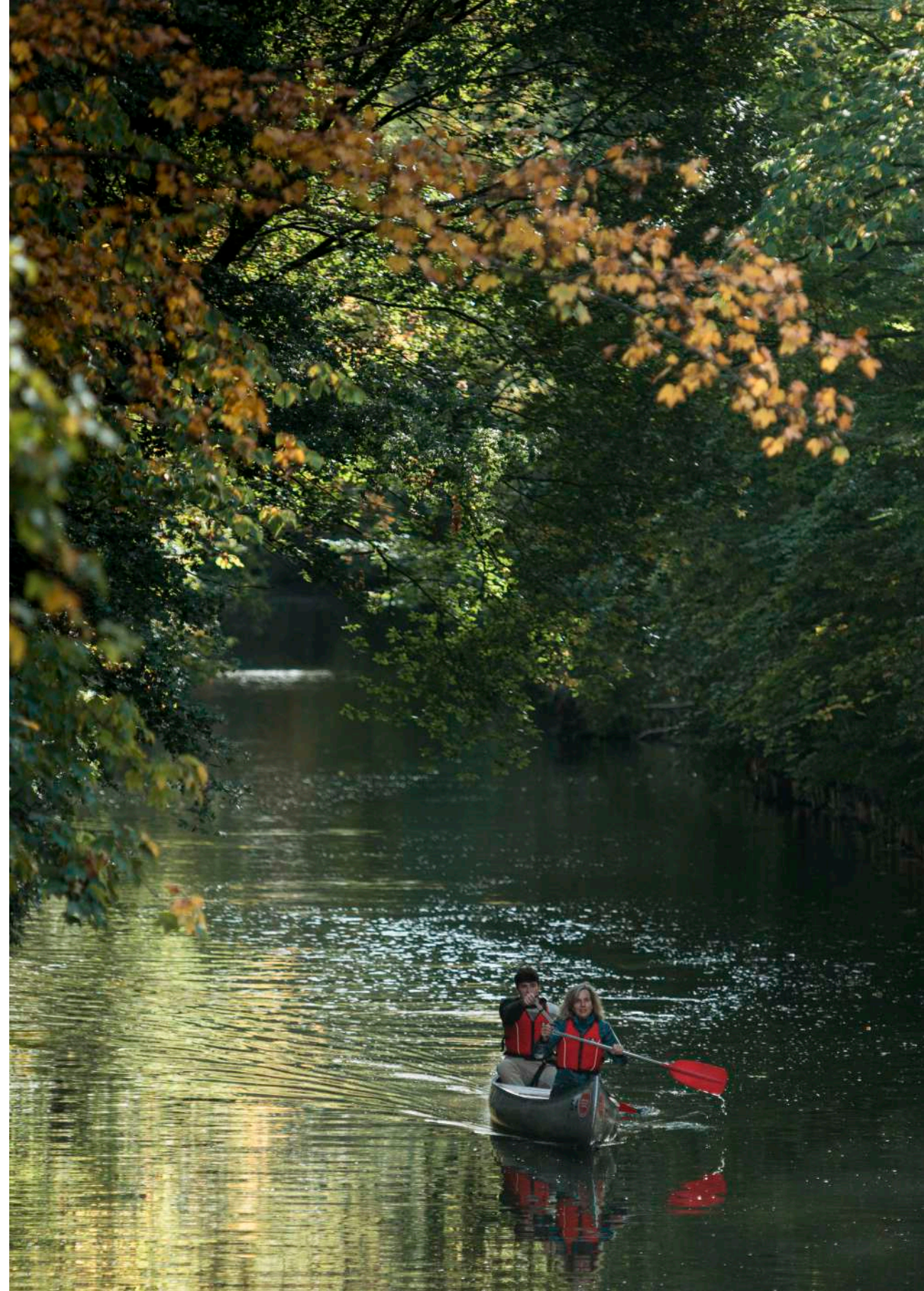
We moved to Elsinore because we got the opportunity to buy one of the houses designed by the famous Danish architect Jørn Utzon. Since then, the city has really surprised us positively. There is so much culture here, including many Utzon houses, museums, the harbour and the old town. Patio is located in one of Elsinore's many charming houses, and they have an attached backyard where you can see over the roofs of the city. Elsinore has various cafes, but Patio brings something completely new to the city. The interior has been thought through in a special way, exuding quality and good taste. → North of Copenhagen, [@patio_34](#)



OUT OF THE CITY INTO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Photography by Visit Copenhagen

Beyond the city limits of Copenhagen, you'll find thrilling outdoor adventures, art spaces, bathing spots and scenic routes to walk, bike or run.



CYCLING CRUISE

Both Amager and the coastline north of the city offer many scenic routes worth exploring. For breathtaking views of the water, follow the locals' lead and rent a bike from one of the many train stations in the area. Cruise along Strandvejen for stunning vistas of Øresund, or venture into The Deer Park – a natural haven boasting lush forests, tranquil lakes



and expansive landscapes. Additionally, Amager itself hosts a plethora of great cycling routes, perfect for exploring the eastern part of Copenhagen's unique charm. If trail riding is more your speed, we'd recommend heading to Hareskoven north-west of Copenhagen where MTB-Tours reside. Here, you can rent a mountain bike and ride the various routes through the beautiful nature in the woods. Feel free to bring your own bike on the S-train to ride the different routes: it's free.

A WALK TO REMEMBER

While avid walkers may be familiar with Spain's 800 kilometre Camino pilgrimage along the North Coast, Denmark offers its own, more accessible counterpart: Amarminoen. Starting in Amager, east of the city centre, this 27



kilometre walk or bike ride showcases typical Danish nature. Popularised in 2020 amid the pandemic, locals sought solace in its serene beauty. Scattered in various locations

across Copenhagen and beyond, including Amarminoen, where visitors will encounter Bjarke Cirkelsten, a creation from artist Thomas Dambo's series of six colossal wooden giants. Dubbed a modern-day treasure hunt, these whimsical sculptures provide an unconventional attraction for families. The locations of these unique artworks are available online, inviting anyone with a penchant for offbeat tourist experiences.

GO FOR A DIP

Just outside of Copenhagen, you'll find a myriad of destinations for a refreshing dip. Furesø lies just 20 kilometres northwest of Copenhagen and has rapidly become a hotspot for outdoor swimming. Or head east to Kastrup Sea Bath, also known as *Sneglen*. Not only is it an astonishing piece of architecture, it's also free and open all year round, making it a perfect spot for a swim. Alternatively, head north to Bellevue, a scenic beach just 10 kilometres from the city centre with a 700-metre-long sandy beachfront. The beach is not only an ideal destination for a dip but also features the iconic striped lifeguard towers created by one of Denmark's most prolific architects and designers, Arne Jacobsen.



GO WITH THE FLOW

Northwest of Copenhagen, less than an hour away by public transport, you'll find Furesø – the deepest lake in



the entire country. Next to the lake, visitors can rent a canoe, SUP board or kayak from Frederiksdal Kanoudlejning, or many other spots in the area and enjoy the lake views while going with the flow.

RIDE THE WAVE


In Amager, east of Copenhagen, you'll find Amager Kiteschool. The ideal day trip for those dreaming of a more active alternative to lounging on the beach. Here, instructors will teach you how to kitesurf, windsurf or ride a SUP board just 25 minutes by bus from the city centre. The destination welcomes beginners as well as well-versed surfers.



A SCULPTURAL SANCTUARY

On the edge of the northern part of the island of Zealand, you'll find the Rudolph Tegnens Museum and Statue Park. An outdoor art space that's both calm and powerful due to the beautiful nature and impressive concrete architecture. Walk in heather-covered hills between statues created by artist Rudolph Tegner in the park behind the museum. Continue inside the museum, which echoes like a cathedral, and see Danish sculptor Rudolph Tegner's enormous works in plaster, marble and bronze. The museum is open from spring to autumn – admission to the park is free, but entering the museum requires a ticket.





There is a fine art to brewing beer, and in recent times, Denmark has established itself as a hub for some of the most progressive beer makers in the world. While Copenhagen has cemented its reputation as a prime destination for craft beer, the scene extends beyond the city limits to local breweries crafting some of the most interesting beers around.

A BEER LOVER'S GUIDE TO THE BEST LOCAL BEERS BEYOND COPENHAGEN

Photography by Jakob Norby Houmøller

So, how did the Copenhagen area become one of the prime destinations for craft beer? In part because Copenhagen was one of the first cities in Europe to adapt and draw inspiration from the beer revolution that was happening in America.

According to Ulrik Christensen, sales manager at the Copenhagen-based microbrewery People Like Us, part of the success should be attributed to craft beer pioneers Mikkeller and their owner, Mikkel Borg-Bjergsø: “He started the wave. When they entered the scene, it changed the game. He inspired a generation of brewers that wanted to try new things and experiment with different flavours. Today, we have beer tourists flying in to try Danish beer, the same way we have food tourists coming for Nordic gastronomy. I don’t think that would have been the case if it hadn’t been for Mikkeller.”

When reflecting on Denmark’s beer brewing history, it’s impossible not to mention Carlsberg. Since being established in 1847, the brewery has significantly contributed to Denmark’s global standing in the beer industry. Today, with its long-established history, Carlsberg remains one of the world’s most recognised brands. Meanwhile, Mikkeller, as a newcomer, has played a pivotal role in advancing Danish craft beer onto the international stage.

Christensen notes that the selection of New England IPAs across bars has significantly contributed to the development of the scene: “It’s by far our most popular type of beer. It’s less bitter and very easy to drink. It’s also made the crowd at craft beer bars more diverse. In the past, craft beer bars were mostly inhabited by men, but these days, we have visitors of all ages and genders. These newer types of beer like IPA and sours have opened up the market to a new generation of consumers.”



Photos by Gamma

WHERE TO FIND THEM

Amager Bryghus

On the island of Amager, you’ll find Amager Bryghus, a pioneer in the Danish beer revolution. What started as a fun idea among a group of friends in 2007 has become a well-respected brand globally. But that wasn’t the plan all along. Initially, their goal was to establish the microbrewery as a local favourite in Amager, but their beer soon gained attention from the American market, making the brewery an international hit. Years later, Amager Bryghus remains strictly independent, and its beers can be found in over 30 countries worldwide. The brewery’s location in Amager is open for visits, offering a beer tasting tour. Here, you can try a range of more than 20 beers, including some seasonal ones depending on the time of year while also enjoying a meal to accompany the delicious beer.
→ [East of Copenhagen, @amager-bryghus](#)

Det Våde Får

Directly translated, this microbrewery situated north of Copenhagen bears the name “The Wet Sheep”. However, don’t be misled by its quirky name. The brewery prides itself on sourcing only the finest ingredients from its own farm, resulting in a limited annual production. Each keg and bottle is thus a coveted rarity in the world of microbrewing. Visitors are welcome to explore the premises and indulge in tastings, guided tours around the farm, as well as lessons on how to brew beer the way Det Våde Får does it. Immerse yourself in the art of beer production while enjoying the picturesque surroundings of this charming area north of the city.

→ [North of Copenhagen, @detvaadefaar](#)

Skands

Considered one of the originators of modern-day brewing, Skands has been around since 2003, making it one of the oldest microbreweries in the country. The company was started by the couple Birthe and Morten Skands, and since its inception, the pair have been devoted to brewing beer using only organic ingredients with a strong commitment to sustainability. Skands offers everything from lager to dark ale and low-alcohol beer from its brewery in Brøndby, just south of Copenhagen. The location is open to anyone who wants to pick up the product straight from the source. The brewery’s signature beer, Blå Chimpanse, is a Belgian-inspired brew infused with Belgian yeast and hints of sweet, dried fruit.

→ [South of Copenhagen, @bryggeriet_skands](#)

Slowburn

Speaking of great, juicy beer, Slowburn is a microbrewery located in the former Vridsløselille prison in Albertslund, just west of the city. Founded by an Italian, an American and a Dane, the brewery offers everything from traditional pilsners and brown ales to modern takes on pale ales and mixed fermentation sours. Their mission is to craft beer that “anyone will like,” according to Amalie Knage, one of the three co-founders. The brewery’s most popular beer is Vridsløse Pils, a classic pilsner made from high-quality ingredients. Every Friday, Slowburn invites visitors to join guided tours of the brewery, complete with tastings and insights into its unique brewing techniques. For those looking to indulge further, the brewery also offers traditional Danish *smørrebrød* (open-faced sandwiches) paired with beer tasting menus on select dates. Additionally, guests can purchase cans and bottles to enjoy Slowburn’s creations from the comfort of their home. → [West of Copenhagen, @slowburnbrewing](#)

Gamma

West of Copenhagen, in Herlev to be precise, you’ll find Gamma. The brewery was founded in early 2015 by five friends who met while bartending at craft beer bars in Copenhagen. Today, the brewery is considered one of the leading destinations for hop-infused, thirst-quenching, juicy craft beer, with the most popular beer being the hazy double IPA “Big Doink”, full of fruity, tropical, sweet and juicy flavours, and aromas. The beer can be sampled in some of the finer restaurants in the city, but for the full experience, head to Herlev for a beer tasting and a tour of the brewery on select days to see how the beer is made. The place also has great outdoor seating for anyone visiting on warmer days.
→ [West of Copenhagen, @gammabrewing](#)



ANNIKA ZOBEL AGERLED AND KARL-OSKAR OLSEN ON THEIR FAVOURITE PLACES TO VISIT WITH THEIR CHILDREN

As told to Ditlev Fejerskov
Photography by Betty Krag

The area beyond the city is packed with child-friendly attractions, setting the scene for a good time for kids of all ages – and adults, too. For parents Annika and Karl-Oskar, it's important to not only bring their two kids, Noam and Alban, to playgrounds but also to various events, from gallery openings to work trips because they want to share life's great experiences with them. It is essential for Annika, co-founder of the tableware company Akua Objects, and Karl-Oskar, founder of the cycling brand Pas Normal Studios, that they, too, feel stimulated and inspired by the places they visit.

Ordrupgaard Museum and Art Park

KARL-OSKAR:

"The children become incredibly inventive when they run around the garden's sculpture playground. They explore the labyrinth, the playhouse that hovers above the ground and the vast bamboo installation that resembles something from a fairy tale. It's a playful place, and we witness their imagination unfold whenever we visit. I love the museum's collection of Lundström and Hammershøj works, and the new extension by architect Zaha Hadid. Leaving here, we all feel mentally and physically stimulated."

ANNIKA:

"It's important for me to introduce my children to places that I find inspiring; places that held a special significance in my own childhood. I used to visit Ordrupgaard frequently, particularly with my grandmother, who would take me out to the garden. It will always remind me of her. I associate the beautiful garden with peace and serenity, and this is something I hope to pass on to Noam and Alban. It's quite easy now, as we live just next door." → [North of Copenhagen](#), [@ordrupgaard](#)

Inside the art museum Ordrupgaard, there are rotating exhibitions alongside a great collection of Danish and French art from the 20th and 21st centuries. Outside at the art park, you can enjoy interactive works by artists like Olafur Eliasson and Jeppe Hein.



The Open Air Museum

ANNIKA:

"The Open Air Museum is an incredibly inspiring place because it transports you back in time and showcases how people lived in the old days and how their houses were structured. It's enriching to stroll around with your children and talk about the things they notice. They find it exciting, and they are always curious about many different things, like why the beds were so small and why the doors were so low – some of them are almost hobbit-sized. They embark on a journey of discovery into another world, and it stimulates their imagination. I also feel uplifted when we wander around the museum.

It is one of the most impressive places to discover colours: the faded shades of deep red, the smouldering orange and the soft dove blue flow together and create a symphony of colours that tell stories of warm summer days on the cobblestones and long, cold winters in the living rooms. The colour combinations are quite unique because they are both modern and historical at the same time. The facades, doors and panels are so beautiful. I can draw inspiration from them when designing for my brand of glassware, Akua Objects." → [North of Copenhagen](#), [@frilandsmuseet](#)

The Open Air Museum in Lyngby is one of the oldest and largest open air museums in the world. The museum holds more than 50 farms, mills and houses from the period 1650-1940 and gives you the chance to step back into old Denmark, as it was in the past.



National Aquarium Denmark

ANNIKA:

"It's a thrilling experience to see the bottom of the sea up close and sense the fish and sharks swimming overhead. Noam and Alban are in awe when they catch sight of the belly of a passing shark. It's really fascinating to study these living creatures."

KARL-OSKAR:

"It's overwhelming to stand in front of such a huge aquarium and feel the power from all the water and life that unfolds just behind the glass. And to witness the light blue colour from the water shining out into the rooms." → [East of Copenhagen, @denblaaplanet](#)

Right next to the metro stop, Kastrup, you'll find Northern Europe's largest aquarium. With 7 million liters of water and 727 animal species, Den Blå Planet, National Aquarium Denmark, is a must-visit destination for all ages.



Photos by Visit Copenhagen

The Rose Garden in Hellerup Harbour



Photo by Laura Levin Ulrich

KARL-OSKAR:

"We are looking for playgrounds where we can also be stimulated. The Rose Garden is an excellent choice because it immerses you in the heart of a small local community unfolding around Hellerup Harbour. Elderly ladies enjoy the benches in the park, craftsmen maintain the old optimist dinghies and young people gather on the beach – all against the backdrop of rackets hitting balls on the tennis courts. Despite being in the midst of this vibrant community, the harbour is not overly crowded, and the playground is often peaceful. You feel as though you have a bit of privacy, even though you are at a central meeting point."

ANNIKA:

"The playground at The Rose Garden in Hellerup Harbour is really good, especially for smaller children like Alban and Noam, because it is small and fenced off. For us parents, it is a beautiful place to spend time while the children play. The sculptures and roses around the garden are wonderful. It is also a playground where I spent time as a child. I was often there with my grandmother and then I could climb up the tower in the playground and look over at my father's aunt playing tennis – these are some pleasant memories."

→ [North of Copenhagen](#)

In the small park adjacent to Hellerup Beach and Harbour, visitors can discover The Rose Garden, a diverse floral park with artistic sculptures and a charming playground.

Experimentarium

KARL-OSKAR:

"Our son Alban is completely engaged and enthusiastic when we visit the Experimentarium. He loves it. There are so many things that fascinate him, so it's difficult for him to stay in one place for very long before rushing onto the next thing. We've spent a lot of time by the laser installation that allows you to make music using your hands. As a child, it's cool when you are allowed to wear a construction helmet. I think the interaction that the children have with the different experiences and that they use their senses is enormously enriching for them. They can live out a fantasy world in reality."

ANNIKA:

"I like that the place stimulates you mentally, both as an adult and as a child. Every time we've been there, we've discovered and learned something new. I think the gift shop is absolutely brilliant. I love the little things with planets and games where you have to use your head to solve the puzzles." → [North of Copenhagen, @experimentarium](#)

Denmark's leading science centre has been capturing the imagination of adults and children alike since undergoing extensive renovations and reopening in 2017. Here, you can encase yourself in a giant soap bubble, ride a rodeo armchair or experience what it's like to be a baby in the womb.



NORTH OF COPEN- HAGEN



↓ Explore
more



Synonymous with the good life, the north of Copenhagen offers stunning water views, iconic architecture, historic castles, grand parks and a welcome break from the busy city life. From the charming cobblestone streets and maritime heritage of Elsinore in the far north to the beautiful beaches along the coast, the region is an oasis of relaxation. The north of Copenhagen has everything from modern art and historic sights to classic gastronomy and lush green areas to explore.



MALENE HVIDT AND NIKOLAJ MENTZE EXPLORE THE NATURE AND ARCHITECTURE THAT INSPIRES THEM NORTH OF COPENHAGEN

As told to Ditlev Fejerskov
Photography by Lasse Dearman

The northern part of Zealand is celebrated for its iconic architecture and lush natural landscapes. Whether you're exploring historic homes once owned by Danish designers or wandering through parks ideal for fishing and leisurely strolls, this area promises an inspiring escape. Malene Hvidt and Nikolaj Mentze, a couple with a shared passion for architecture and nature, often venture north of the city to immerse themselves in their surroundings. Hvidt, as a partner at the acclaimed studio Spacon & X, creates thoughtful architecture while Mentze's Studio 0405 specialises in designing interiors and products for brands like Frama and HAY. In their spare time, they enjoy drawing inspiration from Finn Juhl's House, taking walks with their dog in The Bernstorff Park and immersing themselves in the nature of The Deer Park.

Finn Juhl's House

MALENE:

"Entering designer and architect Finn Juhl's House feels like stepping into my grandparents' living room, with its familiar scent of wood and the carefully selected furniture and art. The house offers a profound insight into Juhl's life, not just through his iconic furniture pieces but also through the eclectic collection of items he amassed over the years. Chairs sit alongside sculptures by Sonja Ferlov and Erik Thommesen, complemented by paintings from artists like Vilhelm Lundström and Asger Jorn. The synergy between the architecture and these objects is truly remarkable."

"As an architect, designing my own house is a dream of mine. I find it inspiring to see how Finn Juhl meticulously attended to every detail in his house. Remarkably, he was only 30 years old when he designed and built it. The evolution of his house and its interior over time reflects his ability to adapt to new routines and everyday rituals, living and growing with the space he created."

NIKOLAJ:

"Growing up in the Copenhagen suburbs, apple orchards were a significant part of my childhood landscape, with apple trees stretching as far as the eye could see. The solitary apple tree standing in Finn Juhl's garden today serves as a poignant reminder of the era before urban expansion. This lone tree evokes pleasant memories of a time when the city was intimately connected with nature. To me, Finn Juhl's House embodies the 1950s dream of escaping urban life and embracing a closer connection to the natural world." → [@ordrupgaard](#)

Designer and architect Finn Juhl, a prominent figure in Danish design, left a lasting legacy through his innovative and artistic approach. His private home next to Ordrupgaard Museum offers a glimpse into his private and professional world.



Femvejen Roundabout



NIKOLAJ:

"Femvejen embodies the cultural heritage north of the city, characterised by the small castles and grand villas built in the early 20th century when the upper class sought refuge from the city on weekends. The junction at Femvejen gained significance when architect T.A. Thierry designed the roundabout with its central obelisk. There's a poetic charm to meeting points in small towns, whether it's a pond or a roundabout – places where people converge and influence the course of life."

"The retaining wall, now home to a kiosk, exudes simple beauty. I have long harboured a dream of transforming the kiosk into a cosy café serving great croissants and old-fashioned lemon soda. It could be a wonderful place with outdoor seating on the other side which faces the park. A real gathering point for all the residents of the area. If it doesn't work out sooner, we'll get around to it when we retire."

Femvejen, a roundabout in Gentofte, features an obelisk erected in 1913 to pay tribute to King Christian IX and Queen Louise. Serving as a reminder of Denmark's royal heritage, it offers a glimpse into the area's past.

The Bernstorff Park

MALENE:

"The Bernstorff Park was practically an extension of our garden when I grew up. My mother wheeled me around in the pram, and later we held my birthdays there. I also learned to ride a bike on the park's quiet gravel paths. Nikolaj and I even went on our first date in the Swedish Villa, a café inside the park. Today, The Bernstorff Park is one of our favourite places to go, especially because we have a dog, and she gets to run around with no leash on. Even though it's not far from the city, it feels more like stepping into a genuine forest than simply strolling through a park. The park boasts a beautiful apple grove where you can collect apples in the autumn, a cosy teahouse, and charming utility gardens, making it a delightful escape from urban life."

The Bernstorff Park in Gentofte is a serene oasis with Bernstorff Castle at its centre. The park offers lush greenery, historical landmarks and charming spots like an apple grove, and a café called The Swedish Villa.



The Deer Park and Raadvad

NIKOLAJ:

"As a child, I attended nature school in Raadvad, located right at the entrance to The Deer Park. Here, we ran down to the water and caught small animals like diving beetles and backswimmers. We wandered out onto the plains where the historic Hermitage Hunting Lodge is and into the beautiful hunting landscape with the old oak and beech forests. We watched kingfishers catch fish, and once you've experienced that, you end up really wanting to go fishing yourself. Today, I always have my fishing rod with me in the car. If I'm out driving and there's some water where I can go fishing, it's great to be able to take a break for an hour. It's my way to enjoy nature and just stand and look out over the water."

The area around Raadvad has always been a gathering point for Danish architectural heritage and craftsmanship. Most Danes own a Raadvad knife or some other piece of metal that was made and sharpened at the factory out here. I see the area as a good emblem of craftsmanship that must be preserved and passed on."

MALENE:

"You can walk around and explore the workshops, which invite curious visitors inside, and where ceramics, bronze sculptures and textiles are made. It's so inspiring."

Raadvad is right next to The Deer Park, which is renowned for the more than 2000 free-range deer that inhabit the park. In 2015, The Deer Park was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of the par force landscape that was once used for hunting by the Danish royalty.



Malene and Nikolaj at The Deer Park



Malene at the workshop in Raadvad

Sophienholm Art Gallery

MALENE:

"Sophienholm Art Gallery was built in 1769, and I am captivated by the Italian inspiration and the scientific and artistic conversation salons that took place here. Sophienholm continues that tradition. In several of the gallery's exhibitions, I have rediscovered crafts such as ceramics and wicker. It is the frugality of making a finished object that fascinates me. It takes time. It reminds me that I must immerse myself in my own professionalism but also in the small rituals of everyday life. Life is also about being together as a family. Going for walks with the dog in the forest and fishing in the lake - and creating spaces without too many disturbances."

NIKOLAJ:

"My grandmother always celebrated her birthdays at Sophienholm's café. My brother and I weren't that interested in sitting at the table; we'd rather run around and find small animals. We played in the dollhouse, a miniature version of Sophienholm, and dashed into the beautiful greenhouse. We have spent countless hours exploring this beautiful natural area. Over the years, Sophienholm Art Gallery has presented some exciting exhibitions, but I still feel like a child when I'm there. Most of all, I want to go out into the garden and gaze at the lake." → [@sophienholm](#)

Sophienholm Art Gallery is a former manor house and exhibition venue of Danish modern art on the shore of Lake Bagsværd. Here, you can also enjoy the cosy café and the romantic park.



Other places worth visiting in the area

ARNE JACOBSEN'S
BELLEVUE THEATRE

In 1936, designer and architect Arne Jacobsen created Bellevue Theatre as one of the best examples of a Danish interpretation of Bauhaus architecture. According to Malene Hvidt, this can be seen in the theatre's whitewashed facades, clean lines and rounded design. Malene's been coming there since her childhood. "Experiencing architecture from the eyes of a child has a special quality, where the way the building, the furniture, the play and the smell of popcorn stands out as a holistic experience of a place that has left an impression on me." → [@bellevueteatret](#)


SKOVSHOVED PETROL STATION

The functionalist petrol station at Skovshoved Harbour by Arne Jacobsen was built in 1938, cast in reinforced concrete and covered with white Meissner tiles. Today, it houses the café Olivers Garage. Malene Hvidt clearly sees how the building mimics its surroundings. "It stands as an iconic symbol of sun, summer and ice cream. In my childhood, we always had to pass by when we went swimming in Skovshoved Harbour."

→ [@olivers_garage](#)



Photo by Visit Copenhagen

A man wearing a tan jacket, a white baseball cap, and glasses stands on a cobblestone path in a park. He is looking towards a large, dark, spherical sculpture on the grass. The background features lush green trees and a modern building with a glass facade.

CREATIVE DIRECTOR *VIRGIL NICHOLAS* ON HIS FAVOURITE PLACES ALONG THE COAST LINE

As told to Oliver Enné
Photography by Lasse Dearman

The Coast Line is a scenic regional railway journey spanning from Copenhagen to Elsinore. The trains run several times every hour, offering passengers flexibility and convenience. As the train rides along on the 50-minute route, it offers breathtaking views of the majestic UNESCO heritage site The Deer Park and stops at various attractions along the picturesque coastline, each offering its own unique sense of adventure and discovery.

Every day, Virgil Nicholas embarks on a journey from his home in Humlebæk to his bustling office in Copenhagen. As the founder and creative director of the shoe brand Vinny's, his designs receive international acclaim. Despite his global success, Virgil remains rooted in the charm of his local community. Here, he invites us to join him on his daily commute, sharing insights into the gems and cherished spots that dot the landscape between Humlebæk Station and the city.

Humlebæk Station

"My entire adult life, I have been living in the centre of Copenhagen, but a few years ago, I reached a point where I needed more space and fresh air. Essentially, I wanted to step away from big city life during my downtime. It just made perfect sense for my family to relocate outside the city while still maintaining close proximity for convenience. Getting to the city is incredibly easy; a train departs every 15 minutes, and within 36 minutes, I get from Humlebæk Station to the heart of Copenhagen, right where I need to be for work. During my commute, I often switch between working and taking work-related phone calls, or simply sitting back and enjoying the passing scenery. Both options provide a pleasant start or end to my day."

Humlebæk Station, located on the scenic Coast Line, is one of the 14 stations on the way from Copenhagen to Elsinore.

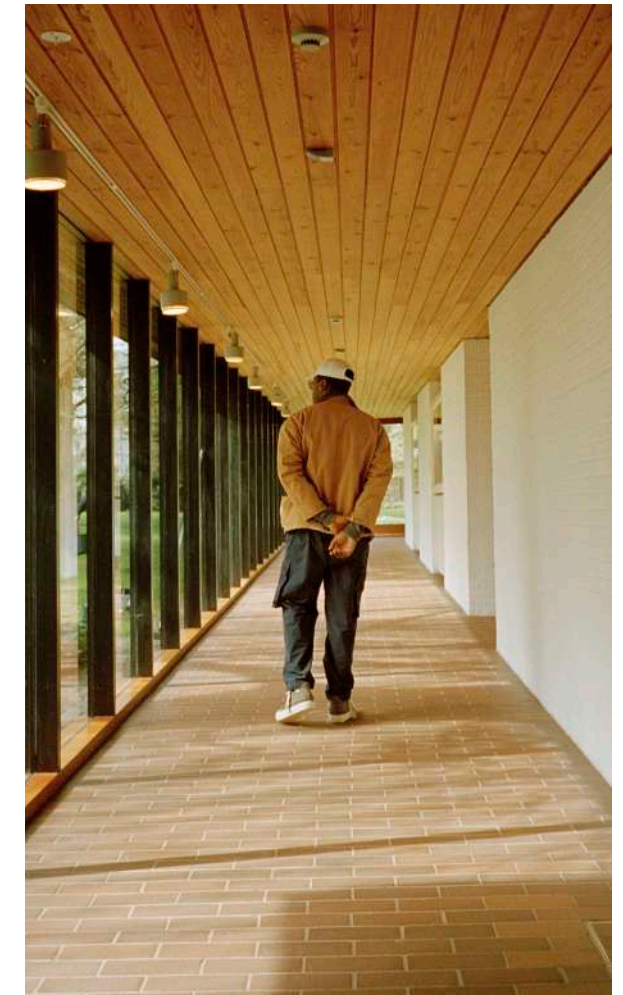


Hej Humlebæk

"I probably go there once or twice a week. In the morning, I usually go for a coffee and enjoy it in the café. The staff are really cool, and the coffee is great. On Fridays, they serve up really fantastic drinks and wines. I usually pick up my kid at the kindergarten and then we go there and say hi to all the parents. The kids get a soda while the parents have a drink. It's a place to gather as a family that I value a lot. It reminds me of some of my favourite cafés in Copenhagen, just on a smaller, more local scale."

→ [@hej.humblebaek](#)

Hej Humlebæk is a café located within the heart of Humlebæk's train station. Created by locals, the idea was to build a space for neighbourhood residents and global visitors. The establishment offers baked goods, coffee and warm lunches while seamlessly transitioning into cocktail offerings as the day unfolds.



Louisiana Museum of Modern Art

"Just down the road from Hej Humlebæk, I love heading to Louisiana. I actually used to not like the space when I lived in the city, so I never frequented it myself. But everything changed when I moved here. What can I say? It's such a peaceful place to go. When you visit during the week, it's quiet and really fantastic. The sculpture garden is so beautiful. I often go with my son, and he loves it too. Oh, and the café has wonderful food and a beautiful view of the water. So, everything about it is lovely, I love it now."

→ [@louisianamuseum](#)

The Louisiana Museum of Modern Art is an international art museum and an absolute top attraction in Denmark. Art, nature and architecture combine for an experience that attracts guests from all over the world year-round.

Den Gule Cottage

"It's such a nice restaurant just next to the beach. It's intimate and very welcoming. It almost feels like a small, hidden gem right next to Strandvejen. I think people should go there and get a glass of wine and some *smørrebrød* (open-faced sandwiches). You can get here really easily, have a fantastic lunch, go and dip your toes in the water and then head to your next destination. It's really neat."

→ @dengule_cottage

Den Gule Cottage (meaning the yellow cottage) in Klampenborg has a cosy atmosphere, Danish cuisine, and a scenic view of the water. Set amidst lush greenery, it's the perfect spot for a relaxed dining experience in nature.

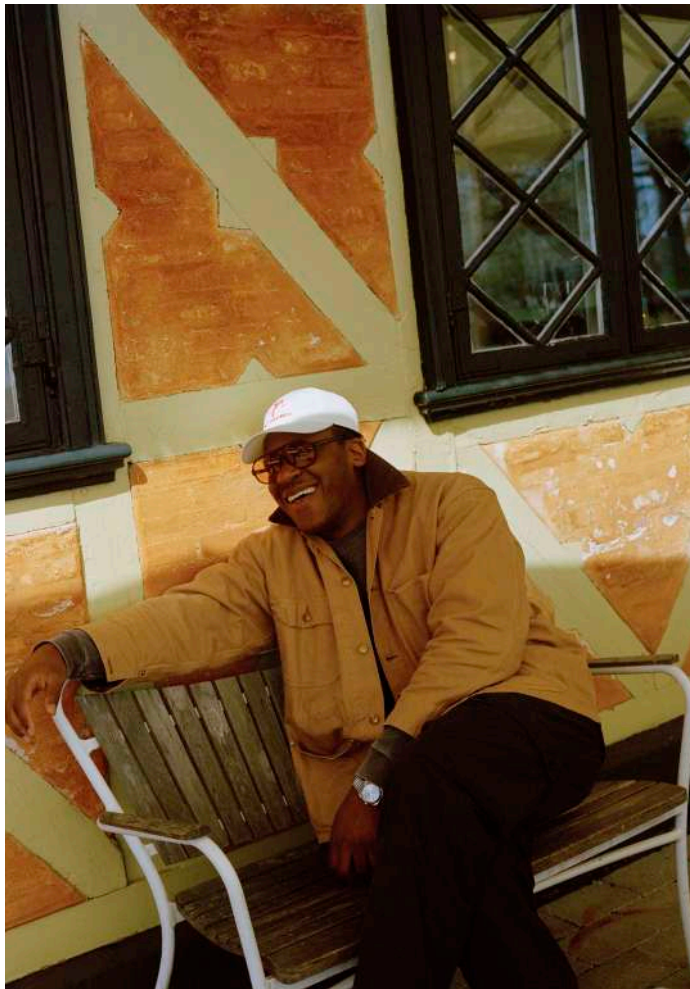


Photo by Visit Copenhagen



Bellevue Beach

"As a kid, we often had one day off when the whole school went to Bellevue, so I've always had a deep affection for the place. Looking out at the water is just the most peaceful thing in the world. I have spent too much time in the city surrounded by cars and people that going out to the water just makes me feel calm. I think we have the most beautiful sunrises in Denmark during the summer. The sunsets are fine, but the sunrises are where it's at. I often go swimming in the early autumn while watching the sunrise, and it's the perfect way to start or end the day. It just calms down the body, soul and mind."

Near Klampenborg Station lies Bellevue, a 700-metre stretch of sandy shore drawing approximately 500,000 visitors annually. The area is synonymous with world-renowned architect and designer, Arne Jacobsen. His celebrated Danish design can be seen almost everywhere, from the geometric kiosks and surrounding housing to the lifeguard towers.

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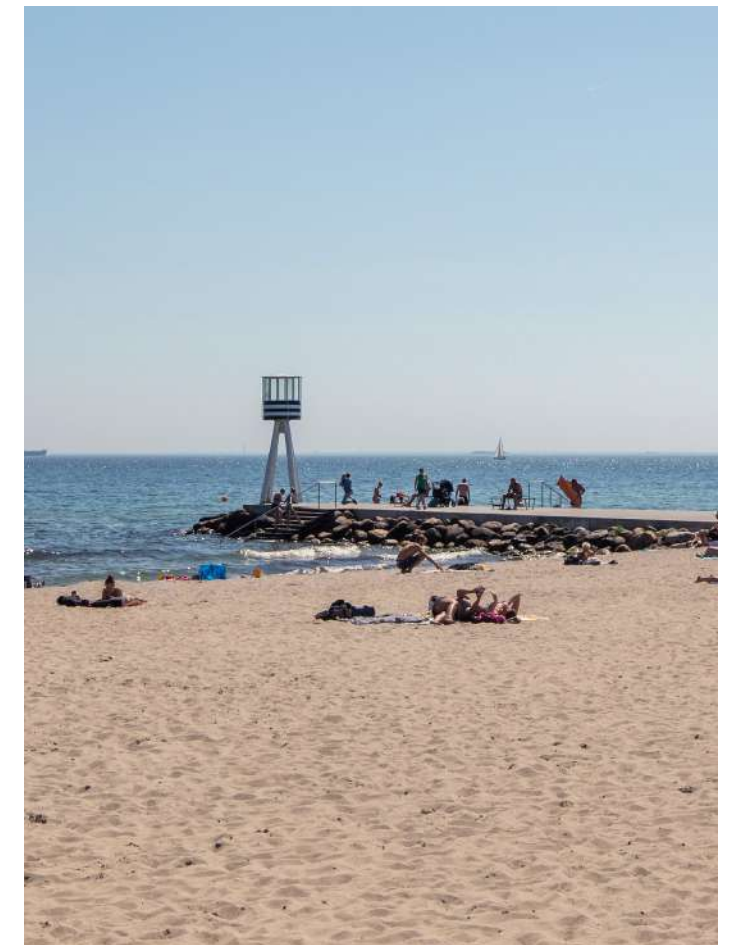


Photo by Visit Copenhagen

Words by Oliver Enné
Photography by Oliver Enné & Visit Copenhagen

IN ELSINORE, A CASTLE IMMORTALISED BY SHAKESPEARE AND ROYAL HISTORY HAS THE BEST SEASIDE VIEW NORTH OF THE CITY



Only a few places in the world are surrounded by as much drama and history as Kronborg Castle. A sight so spectacular that Shakespeare made it the setting for his play, Hamlet. In the late 1580s, Frederik II of Denmark resided at Kronborg, throwing some of the most extravagant dinner parties in all of Europe. Today, Kronborg is one of the most important Renaissance castles in Northern Europe and was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2000. We spoke to the castle's director, Christian Struckmann Irgens, to learn more about the rich history of the castle.

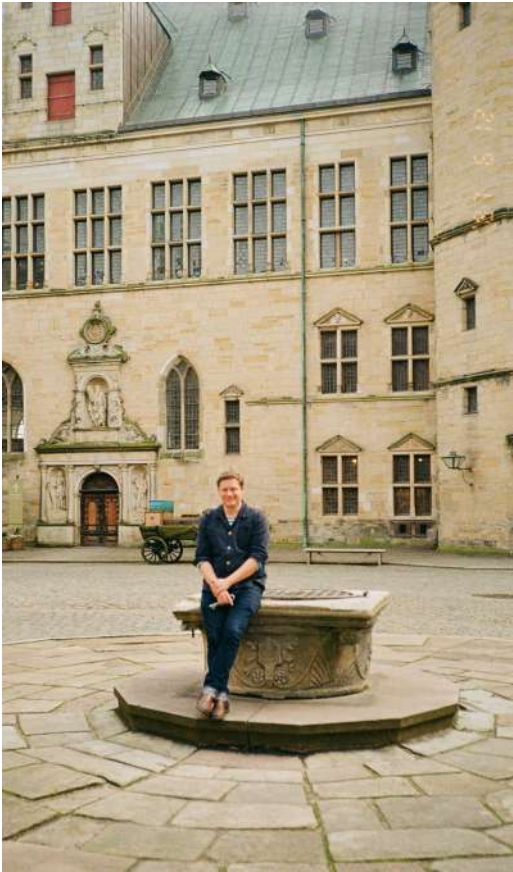
WHAT MAKES ELSINORE
SPECIAL TO YOU?

Elsinore almost feels like a distillation of Denmark itself. It has breathtaking nature, culture and gastronomy all in one place. While Copenhagen is a city with a wide variety of experiences, if you're in town for more than a few days, I strongly recommend taking the trip just north of the city to Elsinore. Taking the train to Elsinore is an unforgettable experience, treating you to one of the most beautiful train rides in Northern Europe. The journey follows the coast and winds through the lush landscape of The Deer Park. When you step off the train, it feels as if you've travelled back in time.

You have all the elements right in front of you. From the moment you leave the train, you're treated to a stunning view of the water. Next, you'll see the charming old city, with its cobblestone streets and half-timbered houses. And then, towering above the coastline, you'll behold the majestic Kronborg Castle – a sight that's almost like something out of a fairy tale.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ROYAL
HISTORY OF KRONBORG?

King Frederik II built it along with his wife, Princess Sofie, in the summer of 1585. It was built at the height of Danish royal history, when the country was historically rich. It was constructed to demonstrate the country's success and showcase its prosperity to surrounding nations. The monarchs would host lavish parties here, which is how Shakespeare became aware of the stories surrounding Kronborg and used it as the backdrop for his famous play about Hamlet.



SPEAKING OF HAMLET, IS THERE ANY TRACE
OF HIM IN THE CASTLE?

Hamlet is, of course, a fictional character, but visitors often ask if they can see Hamlet's old chambers, which unfortunately don't exist. However, every summer, the theatrical group Hamlet Scenen sets up outdoor performances right next to the castle, under the open sky. Inside Kronborg Castle, we offer an immersive Hamlet experience that allows guests to engage with theatrical characters and gain a deeper understanding of the drama within the story and the dilemmas of the time.

THE CASTLE IS NOT AN ART MUSEUM BUT RATHER
A CULTURAL INSTITUTION. WHAT CAN PEOPLE EX-
PECT TO SEE WHEN VISITING?

There are many things to see and explore within the castle. In certain parts of the castle, you can gain access to the king's old apartment and catch a glimpse into the lifestyle of the past. It's as if you're sneaking a peek into the private chambers of the royals from a bygone era. You can also take a leisurely walk along the old cannon towers to enjoy a first-class view over Øresund. In fact, I don't think you'll find a better view of the water north of Copenhagen. If you strike up a conversation with some of the staff members who are roaming the premises, they're always happy to open doors to hidden chambers that aren't part of the regular exhibition. We're eager to reveal the old nooks and crannies and share stories about the building's history. The architecture itself is truly breathtaking, and you don't need to be an architect to appreciate that the castle is a magnificent piece of architectural heritage.





YOU MIGHT NOT FIND A MASTERPIECE IN THE STYLE OF THE MONA LISA HANGING HERE, BUT BENEATH THE CASTLE LIES A STATUE OF HOLGER DANSKE, THE LEGENDARY DANISH FOLKLORE HERO. WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THIS ICONIC SCULPTURE?

"Yes, his statue resides beneath the castle. According to old folklore, should Denmark ever be in need, he'll come back to life and help defend the country. The famous fairy tale writer Hans Christian Andersen wrote about it in one of his poems - that Holger Danske resides under Kronborg. However, for a very long time, there was no statue here. The current one, made of cement, was installed in the 1980s. So it's quite new. But if you ask any Dane, they'll tell you that he's been sitting there for ages."

KRONBORG IS ON UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE LIST, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

"It's quite unique. The list consists of around 1,200 places in the world that are regarded by UNESCO as completely unique and worth preserving. In the same league as the Egyptian pyramids and the Great Wall of China. Kronborg is seen as not just a completely unique Renaissance building with royal history but as a testament to the Northern European development of the era. If you stand in one of the towers overlooking Øresund, it becomes clear why it was important to have a castle towering above the water right here. I think what's special about this attraction is that it's well-known internationally as a piece of UNESCO's World Heritage List, as well as through Shakespeare's Hamlet. But also, it has a rich place in Danish folklore. It's a national icon. I would argue it's the most famous castle in Denmark by some margin." → [@kronborgcastle](#)



THE GREAT CASTLES OF BEYOND



The Hermitage Hunting Lodge

For decades, the Danish royal family has resided in majestic castles located across the country. Today, many of these historic spaces are open to visitors seeking exhibitions, lush sculpture gardens and a glimpse into the royal way of life.

Frederiksborg Castle

Frederiksborg Castle stands out as one of Denmark's most renowned landmarks for good reason. Situated on three islands surrounded by a scenic lake and stunning gardens, its beauty is undeniable. Since 1878, Frederiksborg Castle has housed the Museum of National History, inviting visitors to delve into 500 years of Danish history. Inside the castle, built by King Christian IV in the early 17th century, guests can explore numerous exhibits, including portraits, paintings, furniture, sculptures and decorative art, providing a comprehensive journey through Denmark's past from the Middle Ages to present day. Adjacent to the castle is a baroque garden featuring cascades and flower beds. An English-style garden and the elegant Bath House nearby enhance the charm, where the royal family once gathered for hunting lunches, adding regal history to this destination.

→ [@_frederiksborg](#)



Frederiksborg Castle

The Hermitage Hunting Lodge

On top of a hill with views of the Øresund, you will find The Hermitage Hunting Lodge located in a UNESCO-listed par force hunting landscape at The Deer Park, a short train ride from the heart of the city. Inside the park, visitors will encounter a magnificent-looking Hunting Lodge built for the king in 1734 by the royal architect Lauritz de Thurah. Back in the day, King Christian VI would host hunting dinners

in the lodge. The castle is a must-visit solely for its stunning location. As you stroll through the park, you'll have the opportunity to walk among the approximately 2,000 deer that roam freely, and enjoy the scenic views of the surrounding landscape. The Hermitage Hunting Lodge is open to visitors during the summer. Due to the delicate interiors, it is only possible to visit the royal hunting lodge on a guided tour.

Fredensborg Palace

Fredensborg Palace, initially built in the 18th century as a hunting lodge for Frederik IV, has since evolved into the primary summer residence of the Danish royal family. Designed by renowned Danish architects including J.C. Krieger and Nicolai Eigtved, the palace reflects French baroque style, akin to the Palace of Versailles.

This exquisite 18th-century baroque palace frequently hosts significant official state visits and family gatherings for the royal family, embodying centuries of Danish royal history and tradition. Its gardens, dating back to the 1720s, are a celebrated example of Danish baroque design, earning prestigious awards such as the European Heritage Awards, which recognise outstanding cultural and historical heritage sites. As visitors stroll through the sculpture gardens, they can immerse themselves in the grand beauty of the French Baroque style, with long, straight avenues extending in a star formation from the palace. The garden's layout showcases a unique historical landscape featuring 67 sculptures by Baroque artist Johannes Wiedewelt. The Fredensborg Palace Garden, surrounding the summer residence of the Danish royal family, stands as a testament to the country's cultural significance and architectural splendour, offering a glimpse into the past. During the summer, visitors can enjoy a guided tour of the palace and the garden.



Fredensborg Palace



A DAY IN ELSINORE WITH STILL LIFE PHOTOGRAPHER *ELIZABETH HELTOFT*

As told to Oliver Enné
Photography by Elizabeth Heltoft

Elizabeth Heltoft is one of the country's most esteemed photographers, operating at the intersection of design, fashion and lifestyle. But what happens when a modern-day photographer shifts her focus to Elsinore, one of Denmark's oldest historic cities?



01 "I really like the way they designed the museum at the M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark. Building something so modern in a more old-fashioned city really spoke to me."

02 "This is the ice cream from Brostræde Is. It's just iconic. I'm sure it resembles most ice creams you can get across the country, but due to its location and legacy, it just feels special. The traditional Danish ice cream is kind of childish: served in a cone with whipped cream and a chocolate-coated marshmallow on top. But it's just the essence of Danish summer."

Red building in the old town

01 Staircase leading to M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark



Colourful window in the old town



Cute old house in the old town



02 Ice cream from Brostræde Is



Fountain surrounded by flowers



03 Yellow buildings in the old town

03 "The old part of the city is really romantic. All the old red and yellow buildings really reminded me of a different time period."

04 "I have this thing from my mum: if you walk by a church in a city you're visiting, you should go inside and check it out. Churches are usually quite simple when seen from the outside, but when you go inside, they're always impressive and quite overwhelming."

05 "This place started to appear on my Instagram feed just before I went to shoot. It feels like a specialty coffee spot in Copenhagen that's just been placed in the old town. The backyard is really nice, and the pastry is tasty."

06 "The ferries crossing from Elsinore to Sweden really fascinate me. It's quite fun that you can stand by the sea and see another country from there. I love photographing the water, and I was really glad I got to capture the two ferries crossing."

04 Ceiling at Sct. Mariæ Church



05 Juice and pastry at Patio

06 The distance between Elsinore and Sweden is only six kilometres



MUSEUM DIRECTOR ANNI MOGENSEN ON HER FAVOURITE PLACES TO SHOP, EAT AND ENJOY THE SEASIDE IN ELSINORE

As told to Ditlev Fejerskov
Photography by Visit Copenhagen & Ida Johansen



Every day, Anni Mogensen sets out on a journey from her home to the heart of Elsinore. Her destination is the M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark, where she serves as director, guiding its endeavours. After a year in the role, she has become intimately acquainted with the city. According to Mogensen, Elsinore has it all – a charming town centre adorned with unique shops, a vibrant mix of cultures and, of course, a breathtaking sea view.

The historical harbour

I often end a day of work by taking a stroll down to the harbour to gaze out over the horizon, feel the wind and admire the vast clouds. I particularly enjoy walking around the historic harbour and admiring the old wooden ships, which are meticulously maintained by craftsmen dedicated to using the original linseed oil, paint and artisanal methods. These ships embody a rich past. As a visitor, you can board



some of the ships and learn about their heritage. Several have over a century of history. For example, the S/S Bjørn, an old steamship with a century-long legacy, where they shovel coal into the engine to keep it going. It's a truly authentic experience. Out in the Øresund, the bluefin tuna have made a comeback to our waters. In fact, Elsinore boasts the largest concentration of bluefin tuna in the entire Øresund region. Thanks to protective measures against trawling and other harmful fishing methods, these fish are thriving once more. A tuna safari at the Øresund Aquarium tops my bucket list – I can't wait to take the kids out to sea and witness the joyous sight of tuna leaping in the waves.

The charming old town centre

Within the old town centre, among colourful houses and narrow cobblestone streets, you will find several small pottery, yarn and antique shops. There are very few cities the size of Elsinore that boast as many specialty stores, which reflects a clear love for quality and craftsmanship. I believe it speaks volumes about the inventive nature of the city and its creative spirit. I particularly enjoy places like Tibberup Høkeren, Igen I Brug, Nichen and Nordiska Raum. My favourite knitting shop is Pause. Stepping into the shop, I am enveloped by countless colours and a wide variety of yarn and fabric qualities. I feel inspired and my mind is set free. It ignites my desire to create something.

Restaurant MOS

I have been to Restaurant MOS several times, both with work, some friends and most recently with my brother and cousin. It's always a pleasant experience to eat at MOS. The staff have a good sense of what you need as a guest, they remember who you are, and serve you differently depending on which group of people you are. The restaurant not only impresses with its remarkable interior, featuring incredible design furniture but also with the complexity of its food. The menu features many excellent fish dishes and an array of seasonal vegetables, offering delicious and visually stunning Nordic cuisine. MOS is among the finer dining establishments, located in the old town square. Elsinore's restaurant scene is notably diverse, with various options situated side by side.



I think that's nice. → [@restaurant.mos](https://www.restaurantmos.dk)

About M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark

The M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark, located in the heart of Elsinore, celebrates the rich maritime history of Denmark. Housed within an innovative subterranean structure designed by Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), the museum offers visitors a captivating journey through Denmark's seafaring heritage.



AUTHOR BASTIAN EMIL GOLDSCHMIDT ON HIS FASCINATION WITH KAREN BLIXEN AND HER HOME, RUNGSTEDLUND

As told to Ditlev Fejerskov
Photography by Lasse Dearman

THIRTY KILOMETRES NORTH OF COPENHAGEN, BY THE SEA, LIES RUNGSTEDLUND – THE HOME OF THE FAMOUS DANISH AUTHOR KAREN BLIXEN. SHE PUBLISHED THE BOOK *OUT OF AFRICA*, WHICH WAS LATER ADAPTED INTO AN ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING FILM. THIS SPECIAL PLACE HOLDS A PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE AUTHOR AND CYCLING COMMENTATOR BASTIAN EMIL GOLDSCHMIDT, WHO ADMIRES BLIXEN'S LITERARY AND AESTHETIC ABILITIES. IN ADDITION TO HIS DEEP ADMIRATION FOR BLIXEN, GOLDSCHMIDT HAS WRITTEN BOOKS ABOUT SOME OF HIS CYCLING HEROES AND SHARED HIS KNOWLEDGE AS A PUNDIT FOR SOME OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST CYCLING RACES.

Once a year, my brother and I take the train north to visit Rungstedlund. I find it wonderful that the house and its interior have been preserved just as Blixen had it when she lived there. It feels as if time has stood still. Walking through the same living rooms, with the same paintings on the walls, and looking at the same books Blixen did makes the past feel very close. It's such a historic house. Rungstedlund was an inn in the 18th century and later Karen Blixen took it over – living and working in the same rooms until her passing in 1962.



The garden is beautiful. Almost like a golden age motif with the white bridge that goes over the small pond. It's very romantic. Blixen was a great aesthete. The effort that is made to keep the flowers in the living rooms fresh is impressive. The bouquets were close to Blixen's heart. She could spend several days preparing a bouquet for the dinner parties she held for writers and artists. But Rungstedlund is not pure idyll. It shows in one of her books displayed in the office, still open on a page about her strife and sorrow.

I've read almost everything Blixen has written. Her way of storytelling is seductive. She embodies the essence of a true narrator, painting landscapes, emotions and conflicts with such vividness that they embed themselves deeper within the reader, becoming part of one's own experience.

To me, Blixen transcends the label of a mere writer. Her artistic endeavours seamlessly intertwined with her lifestyle. She unapologetically championed the sensual and aesthetic aspects of life. I deeply admire her for that. → [@karenblixenrungstedlund](#)

ABOUT RUNGSTEDLUND

Rungstedlund, the former home of the renowned Danish author Karen Blixen, nestled along the coastline in Rungsted, is just 25 minutes from the city centre by train. Today, it serves as a museum, preserving Blixen's legacy and offering visitors insight into her life and work. The museum also features a bird sanctuary, a museum shop and a café.

A COMMUNAL DINNER AT HOTEL HORNBAEKHUS CAN CREATE MIRACLES

Words by Ditlev Fejerskov
Photography by Visit Copenhagen



Hotel Hornbækhus is a place where people meet. The hotel, located near the beach in Hornbæk, invites both locals and tourists to enjoy daily activities such as yoga, knitting, table tennis tournaments and communal dining every evening. For the owner, Lennart Lajboschitz, the ambition is to inspire visitors to engage with each other.

According to Lajboschitz, an encounter between two strangers holds significance as it can spark inspiration. “When we travel and engage with people who live differently from us, we find inspiration for personal growth. There are always two journeys within one journey: the outward exploration and the inward reflection upon return,” the Hornbækhus owner explains. In 2018, entrepreneur Lajboschitz and his wife, Sus Lajboschitz, acquired Hornbækhus – a seaside hotel dating back to 1904 – and undertook a comprehensive renovation. Today, the hotel boasts 34 rooms, embodying the Lajboschitz’ vision of fostering social connections among guests.

Lajboschitz recounts a memorable incident involving a Japanese tourist who, during a communal dinner, struck up a conversation with a local resident of Hornbæk. They discovered a shared passion for gardening, and their lively discussion culminated in the local inviting the tourist to visit his garden. “We have witnessed numerous instances of such interesting encounters during our dinners,” says Lajboschitz.

When Cathrine de Lichtenberg embarked on her first journey from Copenhagen to Hornbækhus, she was immediately enchanted by the hotel’s cosy ambiance and personalised interior design. “It felt like stepping into a summer retreat with dear friends. I instantly felt at ease,” she reminisces. As an interior stylist and co-owner of the design company Marmo Marmo, Lichtenberg found her stay to be an excursion into the realm of colour therapy. “The decor is a visual delight. Each room boasts its own unique palette, adorned with art, vintage furniture and charming floral arrangements.” During the communal dinner, Lichtenberg and her companions swiftly struck up conversations with those sitting next to them, initially centred around practical matters such

as sharing utensils and food. However, the dialogue soon expanded to include topics like their neighbour’s visit from the island of Fejø. “I was so inspired with the experience that I immediately booked another stay two weeks later,” she exclaims.

Hornbækhus offers a diverse array of daily activities, including running, swimming, knitting clubs, yoga, song sessions, petanque and table tennis tournaments, catering to both tourists and locals from the surrounding area. “To realise our goal of creating a vibrant community year-round, our daily communal dinner is indispensable. Many locals join us for meals, and our bookings often extend well into the future,” explains Lajboschitz. The intentional placement of cutlery in piles at the centre of tables and serving food in large bowls, requiring diners to distribute it among themselves, is a deliberate strategy devised by Lajboschitz and his team. “These subtle disruptions encourage spontaneous conversation,” he says. Similarly, the staff’s personalised and laid-back approach to service, exemplified by the chef personally presenting dishes and the offer of coffee and cake in the fireplace room, further fosters a welcoming atmosphere. “Our guests absorb our hospitality culture, creating a sense of unity. By dining together, we cultivate a collective spirit where small miracles can unfold.”

About Hotel Hornbækhus

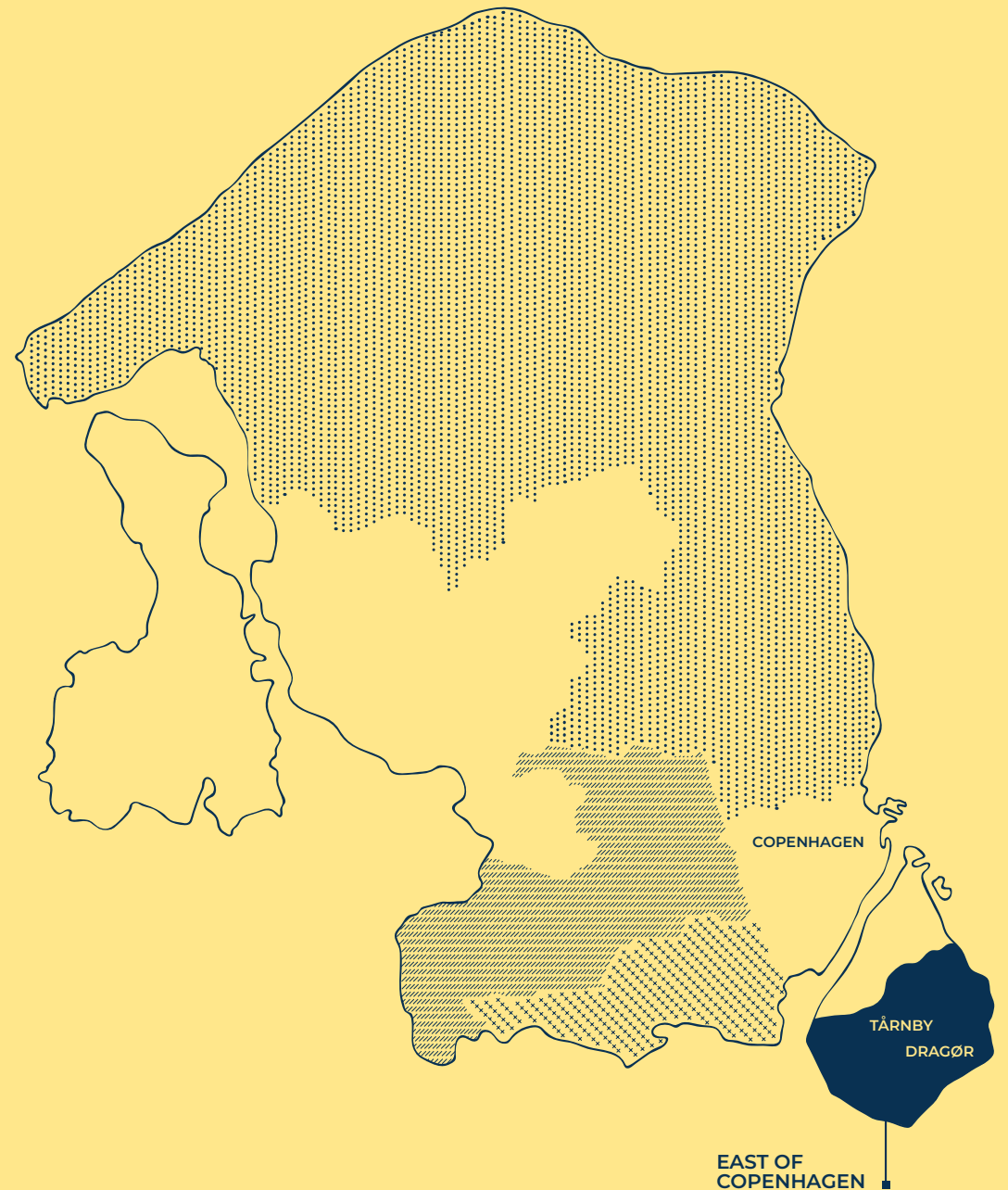
Situated in the harbour town of Hornbæk on the northern coast of Zealand, Hotel Hornbækhus offers an atmosphere where guests can stay, enjoy the surroundings and share meals with fellow visitors. The hotel is located close to nature and beautiful white beaches, providing an ideal setting for relaxation, exploration and social gatherings. → [@hornbaekhus](#)

EAST OF COPEN- HAGEN

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Often regarded as the inner city's hidden gem, the eastern part of Copenhagen offers a unique blend of history and modernity. From the untamed beauty of the natural area Amager Fælled to the historic charm of The Old Town in Dragør, the destination invites visitors to take a trip back in time. The area features stunning architectural landmarks that reflect both its rich heritage and contemporary flair. But that's not all – the area also offers sandy beaches, artisanal ice cream and exciting adventures. With its diverse offerings, it's a treasure trove waiting to be explored.



DESIGNER *BONNIE HVILLUM* ON HER FAVOURITE PLACES IN DRAGØR AND TÅRNBY

As told to Ditlev Fejerskov
Photography by Betty Krag

The area east of Copenhagen offers picturesque beaches, charming harbours and cultural attractions just 20–40 minutes by public transportation from the city centre. Wander through its historic old town, or explore vast fields of untamed nature and culinary delights. Here, you come to relax and explore the diverse landscapes and vibrant culture that make the area unique.



A few years ago, Bonnie Hvillum and her family moved to Tømmerup, a small town between Kastrup and Dragør, just east of the city. Here, there's room for Hvillum to create and develop new projects through her Dezeen Award-winning design company, Natural Material Studio, which aims to transform the discourse of design leading to equal synergies between humans, nature and space. On the family's farm, surrounded by a large plot of land, she found peace to cultivate her joy for nature and rediscovered her childhood love of riding. We spent a day with Hvillum exploring her favourite local gems, beginning in the historic old town of Dragør.

Dragør Old Town

"I can wander around among the small, charming yellow houses for ages. It is so idyllic with old water fountains in the small squares, open windows where laundry is hanging and lots of flowering bushes and trees. For me, it is the epitome of Danish cultural heritage. You really feel like you have gone back in time when you walk around the historic houses. It reminds me of my youth when I went to Skagen in North Jutland every summer to work – Dragør gives me the same feeling of summer."

Dragør Old Town, with its narrow streets and low houses from the 18th and 19th centuries, is one of the best-preserved towns in Denmark. Dragør was one of Denmark's largest maritime towns. Today you can explore the area's charming cafés, craft shops and life at the local harbour.



Photo by Visit Copenhagen



Dragør Smokehouse

"We often go down to the harbour and buy loads of fish and shellfish from the smokehouse, especially the smoked prawns, which I have never seen at other fishmongers. They are fantastic. Often, we also buy some fish patties and sit by the bridge, where the children catch crabs while we enjoy the fish and maybe a beer. I like that it is so authentic. I might as well be in a small fishing village far out in the countryside."

Dragør Smokehouse is located in the heart of the Old Harbour in Dragør and offers smoked, salted and fresh fish and snacks on the terrace.



Amager Adult Riding Tour

"For most of my childhood I had my own horse, and as often as I could, I cycled down through the woods to the stud where my horse walked around. When we moved here, we were suddenly surrounded by stables, and when I found the Amager Adult Riding Tour I started riding again. It's really liberating for me to ride out in the open. It gives me a special sense of calm. I relax and don't think about my work at all. At Amager Adult Riding Tour, you can mostly call and book a trip on the same day, which is great, but their greatest quality is that you can ride in nature – through the forest or by the beach."

→ [@amagervoksenridetur](#)

Amager Adult Riding Tour offers three different horse-riding tours, which give you the opportunity to experience various beautiful natural areas on Amager and by the beach on horseback.



The Kastrupgård Collection



Photo by Visit Copenhagen

“The Kastrupgård Collection is an old manor house surrounded by ordinary residential buildings and grocery stores and offers memories of another time. Inside, contemporary art is showcased. I am particularly excited about the many workshops available, where you can learn more about the crafts of linoleum printing and woodcutting. Every month, there’s also a creative workshop for kids. We often take advantage of these when we visit museums with the children. Sensing and interacting with materials are a big part of my life. When I design, I work with my hands and deeply engage with the materials because I believe that human interaction is essential for successful design.”

→ [@kastrupgårdsamlingen](#)

The Kastrupgård Collection, located in the historic 1700s manor house of Kastrupgård in Kastrup, is a museum featuring modern graphics and contemporary Danish art. Visitors can also enjoy the convenience of an onsite café.

The Airplane Grill

“The Airplane Grill (Flyvergrillen) is an unpretentious and authentic place where you can watch planes land and take off at Copenhagen Airport, buy ice cream and enjoy fast food. We often go there when we’re hungover. The Airplane Grill is also interesting from an anthropological perspective. I am forever interested in people, and The Airplane Grill is the perfect place to observe the many different types of people who go there. There are suits and artistic types, workers and groups of children from the local kindergartens. It also reflects something unique about Denmark. My husband is from England, where society is more divided by class, and when we visit his family and then return to The Airplane Grill it is striking how much different types of people get along a lot better. I think this is particularly characteristic of Amager, which is one of the reasons why I like the area so much.”

Located right next to the fence leading to the runways at the Copenhagen Airport is The Airport Grill. It has become a place for aviation enthusiasts to spot planes while enjoying classic Danish food.



Uganda Farm Shop and Ice Cream



Photo by Laura Levin Ulrich

“We just have to go down through our garden and cross the road, then we’re at Uganda Farm Shop and Ice Cream, a local farm shop that also has a great ice cream parlour. This is where we buy the majority of our vegetables, in addition to those we grow ourselves in our garden. They have local ingredients grown by Danish farmers, everything that is in season: lots of potatoes, strawberries and peas in the summer, and the most amazing lemons, oranges, melons and tomatoes, as well as other exotic produce from southern Europe. Delicious ice cream is served from the small parlour, where you can sit among flowers and lush trees and enjoy it.”

→ [@ugandaismejeri](#)

Uganda Farm Shop and Ice Cream is a shop where you can buy fresh local produce and enjoy homemade ice cream, all made with quality ingredients.

Amager Nature Centre

“I had a sensory experience when I sat in the café on an icy January morning and looked out at the mist dancing over the frost that lay on the grass while the sun was low through the large windows. I think that the plains of Amager Fælled are incredibly beautiful. They are so endless. It can’t be compared to going for a walk in a city park; this is a real nature experience. It is a good idea to end a long walk at Amager Nature Centre. It is a place we have visited several times because there is a cosy atmosphere, offering a meeting point for like-minded people who also like to enjoy nature.”

The Amager Nature Centre is situated within Kalvebod Fælled, spanning a 20 square kilometre area on Amager. Visitors at the centre can enjoy a meal or rent equipment for an immersive exploration of the local flora and fauna.



Photos by Visit Copenhagen

WEST OF COPEN- HAGEN



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An area that's often overlooked, perhaps because the western part of the city is known for its authenticity and grit, yet it features great natural beauty, museums off the beaten path and honest local food experiences – making it a gem for anyone ready to explore and discover its hidden treasures. From tranquil parks to vibrant cultural hubs, the area west of Copenhagen offers a diverse tapestry of experiences waiting to be uncovered.



WEST OF THE CITY, A HISTORIC RESTAURANT IS SERVING UP NEW FLAVOURS

As told to Oliver Enné
Photography by Lasse Dearman

In Rødovre, you'll find Espehus Kro, a 125-year-old restaurant renowned for serving some of the most delicious and innovative dishes the area has ever seen. The secret? The food is anything but old school. Childhood friends Rasmus Lund Jonasson and Birk Voss have combined their culinary experiences from New York, Northern Italy and some of Copenhagen's trendiest spots to create a unique dining experience in the neighbourhood they grew up in.

RASMUS LUND JONASSON,
OWNER AND HEAD CHEF

I grew up west of Copenhagen, where my family is from. It meant a lot to me to create something special in the area, and I dreamed of opening a great place to eat here. One day, my dad sent me a link about Espehus Kro, an old restaurant for sale. At first, I felt it was too beautiful for me, but I went for it and it worked out.

I've worked in restaurants all my life. One day, Claus Meyer, widely considered the founder of new Nordic gastronomy, invited me to work for him in New York, where I spent three years. After that, I moved to Northern Italy for another three years to learn about Italian wine and food. During my time there, I missed my family and started looking for a place to open my own restaurant back home.

During the renovation of Espehus Kro, the whole community came together. Friends, family and even friends of friends helped us get everything sorted within three months. It was hard work, but it was a great way to reconnect with my loved ones.

AND WHAT KIND OF FOOD
DO YOU SERVE HERE?

At lunch, we serve *smørrebrød* (open-faced sandwiches), ranging from Danish classics such as shrimp salad to fried plaice to more creative innovations. Everything is homemade. Every vegetable and piece of fish we serve is fresh and cooked to order. We always shop for organic produce and ensure the meal on the table is as sustainable as possible. Cooking in New York and Northern Italy has obviously inspired the way we do things. I think that shines through in the evening menu, where we serve tasting menus as well as more innovative à la carte options like halibut with horseradish sauce or fried apricots with salted caramel – we always try to do things in our own way.

In the summer, we open the terrace and barbecue every Sunday. That's all we do – no starters or three-course menus. Just great barbecue in the way we used to do it when I was working in restaurants in New York. I love standing by the grill, serving up dishes for locals as well as tourists when the sun is out. There is no better feeling.

Rasmus Lund Jonassen, owner & head chef



Birk Voss, front of house



BIRK VOSS,
FRONT OF HOUSE

Rasmus and I grew up together. Our mothers have been best friends since they were teenagers, and ever since I was born, we have been really close. We both grew up in Albertslund, west of the city, and we would skate together as teenagers and get up to all sorts of trouble.

In my late teens, I got into working in bars and restaurants in Copenhagen. At the same time, Rasmus started working as a chef. When I finally opened my first restaurant in the city, Rasmus was off to New York.

I think we always knew that we wanted to work together; it was just about finding the right time to do it. When Rasmus opened Espehus Kro back in 2021, I came for dinner with my parents, my brother and our grandmother, who lives in the area. By the time I started working here, I had probably eaten here ten times.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES
ESPEHUS KRO UNIQUE?

How peaceful the surroundings are. I personally find it quite unique to have a place like this, where the location itself is unlike anything in Copenhagen. And yet the food on the plate is one hundred percent up to par with the food served in some of the best restaurants in the city.

You can catch bus 7A from Værnedamsvej in Frederiksberg, one of the coolest streets in the city, and 30 minutes later, you're here. As you walk from the bus stop to the restaurant, you'll start seeing the park and the flowers in full bloom. When you finally enter the restaurant, it feels like you've discovered something unexpected. It truly is a hidden gem.

Hopefully, you'll get the feeling that we're a team of people who genuinely care about great service and gastronomy. The area west of Copenhagen is not known for being fancy at all. We have a variety of guests who visit us for the first time, and quite often, they're pleasantly surprised by how magic the surroundings are.

→ [@espehus_kro](#)

PLACES TO VISIT WHILE
EXPLORING THE AREA

THE LAKE DAMHUSSØEN

"I always go out of my way to pass by Damhussøen on my daily commute out here," says Jonassen. "It's such a beautiful place to go for a walk and an ice cream. It's probably ten to fifteen minutes away by foot from Espehus Kro. The ideal place for a walk after a great lunch."

VESTBAD

"This is a bit of a gem," says Voss. Located just around the corner from Espehus Kro, Vestbad is an open-air bath that opened in the 1950s and features a swimming pool and lounge area. "Go to Espehus Kro for lunch, enjoy some food and a few cold drinks. Then head over there for a dip when the sun is out. Pretty ideal."

OLEA KITCHEN AND BAR

On the other side of the park where Espehus Kro is located, you'll find Irma Byen, where Olea is situated. The restaurant and wine bar specialises in Mediterranean cuisine and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. During the warmer months, the terrace with outdoor seating provides a clear view of Irma Byen's landmark, the Coffee Tower.

→ [@olea_kitchenandbar](#)



ARTIST FARSHAD FARZANKIA ON FINDING INSPIRATION AT HEERUP MUSEUM

As told to Ditlev Fejerskov
Photography by Lasse Dearman

WITH SOLO EXHIBITIONS AT BOTH THE RENOWNED ARKEN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, SOUTH OF COPENHAGEN, AND AT GALLERIES IN NEW YORK, SEOUL AND BERLIN, FARSHAD FARZANKIA HAS ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS A NOTABLE NAME ON THE INTERNATIONAL ART SCENE. WHEN HE NEEDS TO FIND INSPIRATION, HE LIKES TO GO TO THE HEERUP MUSEUM IN RØDOVRE, WEST OF COPENHAGEN, TO STUDY THE WORKS OF THE DANISH ARTIST, HENRY HEERUP.

I have always liked Henry Heerup, and I clearly remember seeing his artworks for the first time as a child. Heerup has taught me a lot about Danish culture. I think that Heerup is a bit underrated in Denmark. For me, he is one of the greatest.

I can be inspired by Heerup in many ways, especially by his use of colour and shape. There is love and great tenderness in his art, and it seems that he retained his inner child when interpreting the world. His pictures are so sensitive. The many paintings of his mother are particularly fantastic and so honest – he was giving something back to the strong woman who had taken care of him. He had a direct and strong language, and he portrayed the world in a simplified way. I mean that as a compliment. There are so many images in the world that, if you can't hold the viewer's attention, you are quickly forgotten. Heerup is recognisable, and his images imprint themselves in your memory.

It's wonderful when an entire museum, like the Heerup Museum, is dedicated to one artist. It offers me the opportunity to get up close to the artist, observe the brushstrokes, the canvases he used and how he arranged them. Delving into these details of an artist's creative process takes time but is immensely rewarding.

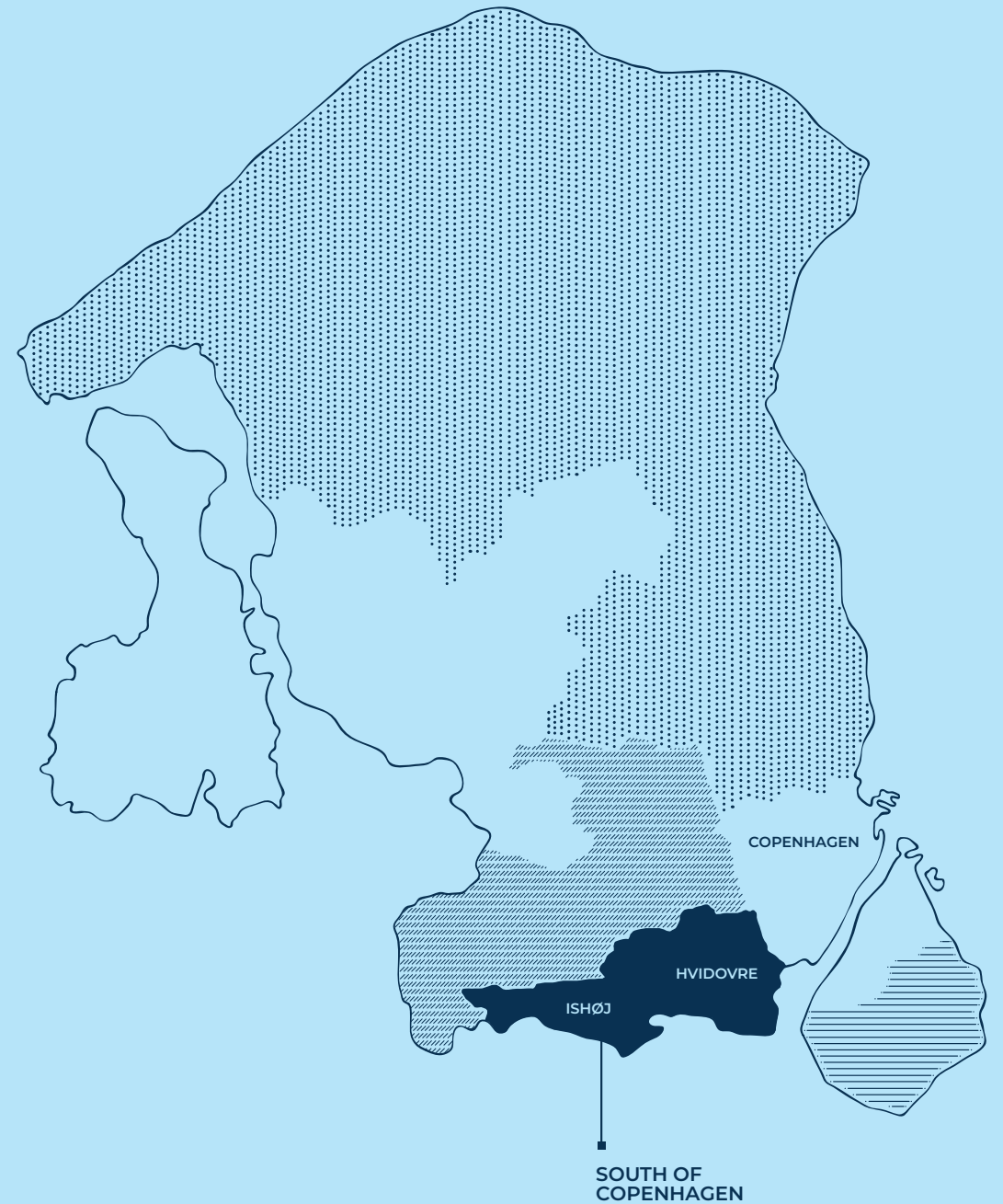
The Heerup Museum is a small venue, often quiet enough for me to explore Heerup's works without any distractions. Over the years, they have also done a great job of exhibiting his art alongside other contemporary artists, providing new perspectives on Heerup's work and ensuring the art remains relevant. Situated in an old farm with a beautiful surrounding garden, the museum exudes a village atmosphere, especially with the school directly opposite. It truly is a charming place to spend an afternoon. → [@heerupmuseum](https://www.heerupmuseum.dk)

ABOUT HENRY HEERUP MUSEUM

The Heerup Museum in Rødovre showcases the vibrant works of Danish artist Henry Heerup (1907–1993). Heerup is known to have expressed himself in almost any material, everything from rocks and garbage to paper and canvas has gone through his hands and imagination. Situated in the Copenhagen suburb of Rødovre, the museum offers visitors a diverse collection of paintings, sculptures and drawings by Heerup. With temporary exhibitions providing additional insights into his art.



SOUTH OF COPEN- HAGEN



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Considered a cultural haven south of the city, visitors will encounter artistic trolls in the woods, discover one of the country's leading art museums, sculptural gardens and captivating sea views. Whether drawn to the area for its cultural attractions or its natural beauty, travellers will find inviting local eateries serving delicious Danish cuisine, sandy beaches and charming cafés suited for a day trip south of the city.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF *MARIE NIPPER*, THE DIRECTOR OF ARKEN MUSEUM

As told to Oliver Enné
Photography by Lasse Dearman



She's inspired an artist to spray paint the walls of the museum, and she believes art should be playful and fun. We talked to Marie Nipper, the director of ARKEN Museum of Contemporary Art, about what her typical day looks like. It turns out, there is no such thing.

The scenic commute

It's surprisingly easy to get to the southern part of Copenhagen. If you take a train from Copenhagen Central Station, you'll arrive in Ishøj within 15 minutes where ARKEN is located. Once I get off the train, I just have to decide whether to take the bus to the museum or to walk. I prefer to walk. A few years ago, we installed signature red lamps by artist Jeppe Hein, and if you follow them, they guide you straight to the museum.

On the way, you pass through the urban area by the station, then by small family houses built in the 1970s, and finally into the natural area by the beach. As you get closer, you can see ARKEN in the distance. The building itself was designed to resemble a ship, standing out and contrasting with the beautiful nature surrounding it.

As you approach the museum, you will walk past installations by Olafur Eliasson and Elmgreen & Dragset. Oftentimes, visitors will make their way around the museum to take in the artworks in the sculpture garden that surrounds it before entering the museum. I really love that.

My day at ARKEN

From my office, I can look straight out into nature and at the sculptures. I like to follow the seasons from here; it's always beautiful, but I think winter is my favourite time of year when the sun sets over the snow. When I'm not doing that, my day consists of working on my laptop and attending meetings. Obviously, no two days are the same, but a huge part of my job is planning the year, making sure the museum is engaging for locals and visitors, talking to artists and everything of that nature.

We recently underwent a transformation from being a museum of modern art to a museum of contemporary art. Currently, we're in the process of asking ourselves what that kind of museum should feel, look and smell like. We want to make sure a visit to ARKEN feels completely unique compared to any other museum in the country. Architecturally, the museum is different from anything else with its unique shape which makes installing works tricky, but also thrilling. One of the rooms in the museum is the longest exhibition room in any museum in Denmark. A way in which we utilise that is by installing very large art installations from international artists who often see it as a interesting challenge to create art that works specifically within that space.



The art of walking

One of the things we're really focused on is how people interact within museum spaces. At ARKEN, we cherish its atmosphere as a place where visitors can freely laugh, play and even be loud. Here, art isn't confined to intellectual understanding but can be physically experienced. I appreciate the relaxed vibe of an informal museum setting. I really learn a lot when walking around the exhibition. Personally, I find exploring the exhibitions to be incredibly enriching. I see it as my responsibility not only to anticipate visitors' preferences but also to engage with them directly.

Beyond the museum walls, there's an intriguing installation resembling a cage by Danish artist Jeppe Hein. I often wander through the sculpture park, admiring the various artworks. In summer, it's not uncommon to discover rose petals scattered across the floor. It's heartwarming to hear that some newlyweds even come here straight from the church to capture their portraits by the installation. It's these little moments that make ARKEN truly special.



Photo by Visit Copenhagen

Inspired by artists

We have a long list of artists whose work we're eager to showcase at the museum. Typically, we take the initiative to reach out, inviting artists to visit and experience the museum firsthand. It's incredibly inspiring to witness the creativity that our spaces ignite within these artists. For instance, just last year, one artist proposed spray painting the rooms with graffiti and transforming part of the museum into a skate park. We embraced the idea and brought it to life.



Lunch with a view

I would go as far as to say that the restaurant at ARKEN has the best view in the area. The chef really cares about the food being organic and sources local produce for the dishes. Since the museum is right next to the beach, we have direct access to berries, herbs and all sorts of local ingredients that are unique to the area. Eating here should feel like a local food experience. On top of that, our chef is dedicated to making cakes that match the current exhibitions. It's always fun to see what's on display.

About ARKEN Museum of Contemporary Art

The museum houses one of Scandinavia's finest collections of contemporary art, and its maritime-inspired architecture has won recognition at home and abroad since it opened in 1996.
→ [@arkenmuseum](https://www.arkenmuseum.dk)

THINGS TO DO IN THE AREA

Be your own troll detective

A 20-minute walk from ARKEN, along a scenic coastal path, will lead you to Oscar Under The Bridge. The large wooden sculpture was created by Danish artist and recycling activist Thomas Dambo, and is part of The Six Forgotten Giants, which are hidden in natural areas around the Copenhagen Area. Also close by are the artworks Lille Tilde and Thomas On The Mountain. The sculptures are created using recycled materials, and they're purposefully a bit hidden to bring out visitors' adventurous spirit. Go on a troll expedition and find the sculptures based on coordinates found on trollmap.com. Another family friendly experience nearby is the Circus Museum in Hvidovre, where the whole family can get creative playing dress-up, drawing and having a go at juggling.

→ [@thomasdambo](https://www.instagram.com/thomasdambo/) / [@cirkusmuseet](https://www.instagram.com/cirkusmuseet/)



Photos by Visit Copenhagen



Discover the scenic coastline

Ishøj Beach is a charming section of a seven kilometre long beach-front riviera. This coastal area features soft, white sands ideal for sunbathing and swimming as well as scenic walking and cycling paths winding through lush greenery and tranquil lagoons for visitors to explore. With numerous picnic spots and a nearby marina, complemented by cosy cafes and ice cream shops, it's the ideal place for a serene outing.

Taste the local grapes

In Hvidovre, there is a vineyard called Nordlund, which translates to the northern grove. It has 8,000 organic vines and the vineyard is run entirely by Miriam My Sandra Arcerito, who occasionally has volunteers help out. In 2018, she launched her first batch of organic wines. The red grapes grown here are of the varieties Rondo, Castel, Regent and Leon Millot, and the green grapes are all Solaris. You can visit the vineyard and wine shop on Thursdays between 13:00-17:00 or go on a guided tour of the place. Sample Nordlund's sparkling rosé, which Arcerito calls a "true cold climate Viking grape".
→ [@nordlund_vingaard](https://www.instagram.com/nordlund_vingaard/)



GETTING AROUND BEYOND COPENHAGEN

↓ Get the
Copenhagen
Card



Photos by Visit Copenhagen



COPENHAGEN CARD

With Copenhagen Card, you can explore the best of Copenhagen – and everything beyond – while saving money. Get access to more than 80 top attractions in the Capital Region and enjoy unlimited public transportation. Download the Copenhagen Card app or visit copenhagencard.com via the QR-code.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Find the best routes and purchase tickets online at publictransport.dk

TRAINS

S-train: The S-train network in the Capital Region provides convenient and efficient transportation throughout the city and beyond. You can bring your bike on board for free.

Regional/Coastal Line/Intercity trains: You can find Regional or Intercity trains at major stations such as Østerport, Nørreport and other selected stations between Copenhagen Central Station and Copenhagen Airport.

Hornbæk Line: A small local train that will take you along the coast, north of the city.

Always have a valid ticket with you to avoid fines (DKK 750-1.000) during ticket inspections. Adults with a valid ticket or city pass can bring 2 children under the age of 12 years for free.

BICYCLES

You can easily rent bicycles either at hotels, in the city or at certain destinations. For example, Donkey Republic bikes can be rented in various locations beyond the city. Download the app for more specific locations.

DESIGNER *AKANKSHA DEO* SHARMA ON MOVING FROM NEW DELHI TO DENMARK

As told to Ditlev Fejerskov
Photography by Lasse Dearman

New Delhi-born Akanksha Deo Sharma moved to Scandinavia when she landed a job as a designer at IKEA. Today, she lives in Copenhagen with her Danish partner. Deo Sharma, who has been featured on Forbes India's 30 Under 30 list, is constantly navigating the cultural differences she experiences between her home country and Danish culture. The calmness, safety and the Danes' love for nature were all completely new to her. The same was true for the way we celebrate our birthdays. Occasionally, she misses the chaos of New Delhi.





New Delhi is a beautiful city, and it's my childhood home, but it's also rough, edgy and chaotic. Even as a local, it can be quite challenging. At times, I didn't feel that safe. But when I moved to Denmark, I felt incredibly safe. I could walk alone at night, cycle around town and not have to worry about anything – feeling free and relaxed.

One of the first things I noticed about the Danes was their beautiful relationship with nature. They're born with access to water: they swim like fish, and they embrace hiking. They want to get out of the city to be in nature. As someone born amidst so many people, cars and tall buildings, I'm a big city person, but I'm trying to learn from the Danes' connection to nature. It's a very alluring and calm way of living.

In Denmark, everyone is running around in their cool running gear – it's like a whole culture here – with communities of runners. It seems like people are really taking care of their bodies, and health is very effortlessly intertwined with everyday activities. I think that's so inspiring and something I've tried to embrace by taking up running myself.

The funniest thing I learned about Denmark is the fact that Danes put up Danish flags on birthdays. I think it's so cute and funny. I could never imagine that happening in India. But here, it's never looked at in a nationalistic way. It's simply: "Yeah, it's my birthday, so I put flags on the table." That's real Danish *hygge*.

I've found that people here are more reserved and less spontaneous than I'm used to. However, in Denmark, the process is more gradual when building relationships. In parts of India, we make friends easily, and I've often had friends over for dinner just

hours after meeting. Here, it can be a bit more challenging to move into people's personal lives. But I think that's also the beauty of it. Danes tend to have fewer close friends, but those relationships are often long-standing and deep. I've focused on strengthening and deepening my friendships both from back home and in Denmark. Once you break the friendship barrier, I think people here are really warm and welcoming.

I was born in a country where the beauty lies in the paradox. There is chaos, contrast, sublimity, fun and opportunities all together. For me, it's a sign of human life. Denmark is a leading force in architecture, design and food at the moment while Copenhagen is the focal point of creativity; the people are free and can be whoever they want. But I see so many people who look quite alike. White and grey sneakers and overcoats – it's like a uniform. I'm used to seeing so many different styles, looks and people. So for me, it's really interesting to understand why people look more the same here.

In India, you are often encouraged to stand out from the crowd, to be a star, to be unique – as a means of survival and success. In contrast, Denmark seems to embody a socialist mindset, where everyone should have the same opportunities in life. This approach strives to maintain a sense of cohesion and balance, where no one is allowed to stand out or show off their qualities or wealth. I think it's a fascinating space to be in for a culture.

The Danes are very calm and tolerant people – except on the bike lanes. They're fast and efficient, so please be wary of walking onto the bike lanes by mistake. Most people use their bikes as an everyday means of transport, so they are experts at riding them, no matter if there's snow or rain.



MICHELIN-STARRED CHEF *RASMUS KOFOED* SHOPS LOCAL AND ONLY COOKS WHAT'S IN SEASON

As told to Ditlev Fejerskov
Photography by Lasse Dearman

Deeply rooted in creating innovative dishes using local produce, the Danish food scene has become one of the leading culinary destinations, with 44 Michelin stars spread out across 31 restaurants. One of the most prominent figures within gastronomy is chef Rasmus Kofoed, renowned for his three-star restaurant Geranium in Copenhagen – famous for its focus on vegetables and farm-to-table philosophy. Kofoed stopped eating meat several years ago, and today, Geranium, the winner of The World's 50 Best Restaurants 2022, only serves fish and vegetables. His love for vegetables dominates everything he cooks, as does his passion for local Danish produce. Here, the head chef shares insights into Denmark's culinary landscape and recommends the farm shops he likes to visit.

Last summer, I created one of the best meals I have ever made. My son and I were out fishing, and suddenly I saw the plug on his fishing rod whizzing around in the water. We pulled up a large, beautiful sea trout. Back at the cottage, I marinated the fish with thyme from the garden, olive oil, lemon zest and garlic. I fried the skin in the oven, made a hollandaise sauce and sautéed Brussels sprouts, purslane, and potatoes from the local farm shop. Being able to catch your own fish and combine it with local or home-grown vegetables is the most divine thing in the world.

Another inspiring thing for me is that the seasons in Denmark are so sharply divided. This allows for brief windows when the raw materials become available, which means that you have to stay alert, and be ready when the ingredients are in season. I challenge myself to only cook with what is in season. It imposes some limitations, but within these constraints, I can essentially create anything I want. I find qualities in every season. In the winter, when it's dark and cold, we pull root vegetables, beets and onions out of the ground early while they're still full of power. In the summer, all the baby vegetables such as tomatoes, potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, carrots, scallions and turnips appear from the earth. Later in the summer, all the berries become ripe, and in autumn, there are apples and mushrooms, which crop up before it gets cold again.

The sign of spring is the arrival of rhubarb. It's like a good old friend I haven't seen in nine months. Rhubarb's taste and appearance can vary depending on the climate. Asparagus is another favourite. When it is in season, we eat it almost every day. Whenever fresh produce returns, I see it with a renewed perspective. This guides the creation of many new dishes at Geranium, using ingredients that come back year after year. Working with local Danish ingredients, in season, resonates with me both as a chef and as a person. I could choose to cook without constraints and source ingredients from around the world, but that would contradict my personal values, particularly regarding the environment. It's important to me that you can taste the essence of Denmark's nature in my food. I believe that's the most compelling way to cook.

Throughout Denmark, there are several small farms that value the land, and that don't spray it with pesticides and cultivate the best possible raw materials according to biodynamic and organic principles. They are good at cultivating in symbiosis with the soil and nature: the same way we did it in the past. They give the raw materials time to grow big and keep them tasty. At Geranium, we collaborate with several of these places as well as local foragers who find a lot of exciting edible plants, shoots, herbs and flowers for us. We value their commitment to delivering exceptional, world-class raw materials and their clear dedication to giving back to nature. Supporting these smaller, local providers in agriculture is important to me.

RASMUS KOFOED'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FARM SHOPS

Aarstiderne Krogerup

"I live right next to Aarstiderne Krogerup, so this is mainly where we shop. It's a lovely place with a farm shop full of good organic produce and a beautiful natural area with straw bales and tree stumps. Earlier this year, I invited two school classes to Aarstiderne Krogerup to make soups over an open fire and pizzas in the outdoor pizza oven. It was exciting to be able to inspire a bunch of children and introduce them to new vegetables they didn't know about but really liked." → [North of Copenhagen, @aarstiderne_krogerup](#)

Mangholm

"We order organic vegetables from Mangholm to Geranium because they're passionate farmers who cultivate in the best possible way for plants and animals. The farm is especially renowned for its infant cucumbers, variety of herbs and exceptional turnips. While turnips can sometimes have quite a strong taste, the farm's are sweet, crisp and slightly tangy. This unique flavour profile enhances several of our dishes at the restaurant. Additionally, we've hosted some plant-based dinners in the farm's outdoor area, resulting in magical evenings. Proceeds from these events support the conservation of Danish wildlife." → [North of Copenhagen, @mangholm.dk](#)

Rabarbergaarden

"Rabarbergaarden in Tisvilde is a nice place to visit as a family. We occasionally head up there to stroll around the fields, observe the animals and immerse ourselves in nature. There's a charming restaurant, bakery and café, serving dishes crafted from high-quality ingredients. Additionally, the shop owners have recently opened a restaurant at Frederiksborg Castle." → [North of Copenhagen, @rabarbergaarden](#)





OTHER FARM SHOPS WORTH VISITING

Frydenlund Castle

Since 1722, fruit has been grown within the grounds at the foot of Frydenlund Castle, which was once Queen Caroline Mathilde's estate until 1772. Here, visitors can enjoy picking their own apples at the idyllic grounds during autumn and the farm shop, which is open daily, offers a variety of products including honey, apples, juice, gin and jam. → [North of Copenhagen, @frydenlundslot](#)

Rokkedyssegaard

Rokkedyssegaard, located in Værløse, is particularly known for its sun-ripened and tasty strawberries. Here, visitors can pick berries themselves or purchase freshly picked ones in the farm shop, featuring homemade jams and other berry products from the farm, or enjoy a berry brunch or ice cream onsite. Rokkedyssegaard supplies berries to renowned Copenhagen restaurants such as Noma. → [North of Copenhagen, @rokkedysse](#)

Seerupgaard

At Seerupgaard, an organic farm in Amager, visitors can enjoy the seasonal vegetables and flowers that grow large within the surrounding fields, and purchase organically grown produce, eggs and honey in the farm shop. Book a tasting tour to explore the fields and herb garden, and learn about the family's long tradition of farming in Amager. → [East of Copenhagen, @seerupgaard](#)

Øllingegaard

In the heart of North Zealand lies Øllingegaard, an organic dairy shop. Alongside experiencing the production process on guided tours, visitors can enjoy the beautiful nature on the farm, visit the animals, attend child-friendly events, as well as taste and purchase products in the farm shop. → [North of Copenhagen, @oellingegaard](#)

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