

Copenhagen



The coolest, most cosmopolitan, most exciting and, yes, Danny Kaye was right, the most *wonderful* city in Scandinavia (don't argue Stockholm): welcome to Copenhagen (København).

These days the Danish capital is blossoming. There is a spring in its step borne from a mixture of some brave new architecture, continued prosperity and a burgeoning confidence in its own charms. There are more cafés and restaurants than ever and, more importantly, the locals are learning how to use them. It used to be that Copenhageners ate out on special occasions only and nights out were restricted to Friday and Saturday only, but that's all changed. Even on a wet Wednesday in February the bars and cafés will be buzzing, that all important *hyggelige* (cosy) atmosphere fostering a uniquely Danish sense of wellbeing and conviviality.

In a way, the rest of the world woke up to how great this historic city of canals, cobbled squares and copper spires was before the locals did, but it is at last sinking in that the world now looks to Copenhagen for the best in design, architecture and fashion and is beginning also to notice the extraordinary culinary revolution that has taken place here over the last decade.

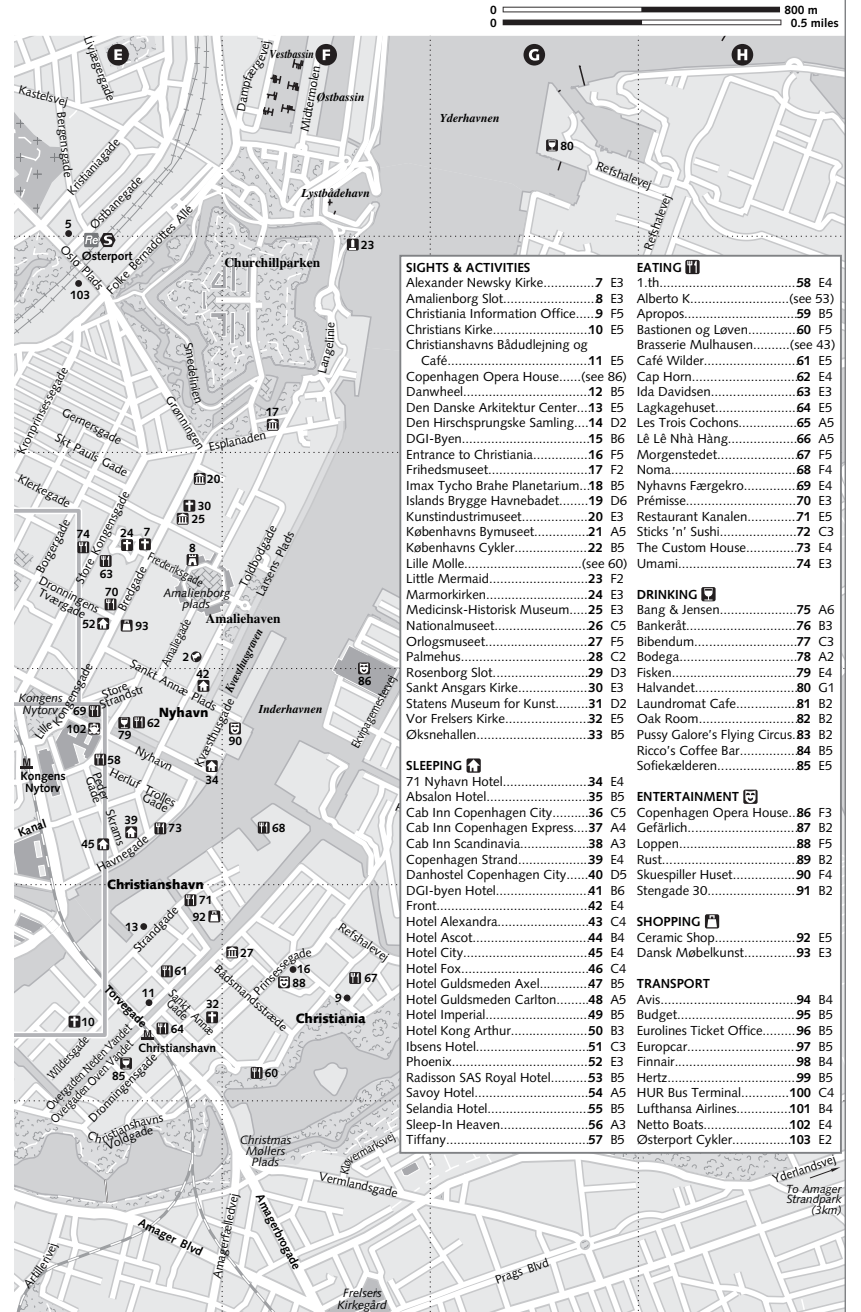
If you are looking for an earthy, hardcore travel experience look elsewhere. Copenhagen is clean, safe and ridiculously easy to get to know, the locals all speak superb English and the transport system makes London's look like it's on the verge of a nervous breakdown. It usually makes the top five, if not the top spot, in those 'most liveable city' lists. And if you are looking for a budget destination, you might also want to reconsider your plans. This is not a cheap city by any means, but then neither is it any more expensive than any other major European city – London and Paris will hit your pocket harder.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the wealth of independent fashion and design stores in **Nørrebro** (p107) and **Vesterbro** (p107)
- See the city from the sea on a **canal and harbour tour** (p92), the easiest way to get to the **Little Mermaid** (p82) too
- Get *hyggelige* by candlelight in one of the city's cosy **cafés** (p97)
- Catch some jazz at the **Copenhagen Jazz Festival** (p105), get tickets for the **opera** (p106) or surrender yourself to the latest contemporary electronic music at **Rust** (p104)
- Taste and believe all the fuss about Modern Danish cuisine at restaurants such as **Geranium** (p100) and **Noma** (p102)



COPENHAGEN



HISTORY

Copenhagen was founded in 1167 by tough-as-nails Bishop Absalon, who erected a fortress on Slotsholmen Island, fortifying a small and previously unprotected harbourside village.

After the fortification was built, the harbourside village grew in importance and took on the name *Kømandshavn* (Merchant's Port), which was later condensed to *København*. Absalon's fortress stood until 1369, when it was destroyed in an attack on the town by the powerful Hanseatic states.

In 1376 construction began on a new Slotsholmen fortification, Copenhagen Castle, and in 1416 King Erik of Pomerania took up residence at the site, marking the beginning of Copenhagen's role as the capital of Denmark.

Still, it wasn't until the reign of Christian IV, in the first half of the 17th century, that the city was endowed with much of its splendour. A lofty Renaissance designer, Christian IV began an ambitious construction scheme, building two new castles and many other grand edifices, including the Rundetårn observatory and the glorious Børsen, Europe's first stock exchange.

In 1711 the bubonic plague reduced Copenhagen's population of 60,000 by one-third. Tragic fires, one in 1728 and the other in 1795, wiped out large tracts of the city, including most of its timber buildings. However, the worst scourge in the city's history is generally regarded as the unprovoked British bombardment of Copenhagen in 1807, during the Napoleonic Wars. The attack targeted the heart of the city, inflicting numerous civilian casualties and setting hundreds of homes, churches and public buildings on fire.

Copenhagen flourished in the 19th and 20th centuries, expanding beyond its old city walls and establishing a reputation as a centre for culture, liberal politics and the arts. Dark times were experienced with the Nazi occupation of the city during WWII, although the city managed to emerge relatively unscathed.

During the war and in the economic depression that had preceded it, many Copenhagen neighbourhoods had deteriorated into slums. In 1948 an ambitious urban renewal policy called the 'Finger Plan' was adopted; this redeveloped much of the city, creating new housing projects interspaced with green areas of parks and recreational facilities that spread out like fingers from the city centre.

A rebellion by young people disillusioned with growing materialism, the nuclear arms race and an authoritarian educational system took hold in Copenhagen in the 1960s. Student protests broke out on the university campus and squatters occupied vacant buildings around the city. It came to a head in 1971 when protesters tore down the fence of an abandoned military camp at the east side of Christianshavn and began an occupation of the 41-hectare site, naming this settlement *Christiania* (see p84).

In the new millennium, the future looks uncertain, as riot police patrol Christiania and the city talks of taking back the land from the squatters. The only event that seemed capable of taking this topic off lips and front pages was the wedding of Crown Prince Frederik to Australian Mary Donaldson in May 2004. They have since had two children, a boy and a girl.

ORIENTATION

The main train station, Central Station (also called *Hovedbanegården* or *København H*), is flanked to the west by the main hotel zone and to the east by Tivoli amusement park. Opposite the northern corner of Tivoli is *Rådhuspladsen*, the central city square and the main terminus for city buses.

Strøget, said to be Europe's longest pedestrian shopping mall at a little over 1km, runs through Copenhagen's city centre from *Rådhuspladsen* to *Kongens Nytorv*, the square at the head of the *Nyhavn* canal. The ever-bustling *Strøget*, which has various mainstream shopping, dining and drinking options, is actually made up of five continuous streets – *Frederiksborggade*, *Nygade*, *Vimmelskafte*, *Amagerstorvet* and *Østergade* – as well as two squares.

Maps

The tourist office produces free, detailed colour maps of Copenhagen with street indexes and keys for major attractions. It covers the entire greater Copenhagen area and includes a detailed blow-up of the city centre. You can pick one up from the airport information desk, the tourist office or the front desk of most hotels.

Although there's not much that the free tourist map doesn't show, you can also buy commercial maps and street directories at bookshops. These maps are larger and have

expanded indexes; one of the best is the street directory *Kraks Kort over København og Omegn*, which costs 240kr.

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Arnold Busck (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 73 35 00; Købmagergade 49) General and specialist titles in the Latin Quarter.

GAD (Map pp78-9; ☎ 77 66 60 00; Vimmelskafte 32; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat) An excellent range of Danish- and English-language titles, plus plenty of guidebooks in a central location.

Nordisk Korthandel (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 38 26 38; Studiestræde 26; ☎ 10.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-3pm Sat) Sells guidebooks as well as an extensive range of cycling and hiking trail maps of Denmark and elsewhere in Europe.

Politik Boghallen (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 47 25 60; Rådhuspladsen 37; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat) Great shop with a large range of travel guides, coffee-table books and novels.

Emergency

Dial ☎ 112 to contact police, ambulance or fire services; the call can be made without coins from public phones.

Politigården (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 14 14 48; Polititorvet; ☎ 24hr) Police headquarters.

Internet Access

Boomtown (Map p75; ☎ 33 32 10 32; Axeltorv 1; per hr 30kr; ☎ 24hr) Large, modern and the most convenient by a long shot.

Hovedbiblioteket (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 73 60 60; Krystalgade 15; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat) The main public library – computers can be used free for up to 30 minutes, but queuing can take an hour.

Use It (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 73 06 20; Rådhusstræde 13; ☎ 11am-4pm Mon-Wed, to 6pm Thu, to 2pm Fri 16 Sep-14 Jun, 9am-7pm Mon-Fri 15 Jun-15 Sep) Budget travel information centre offering free internet access on four computers for 20 minutes at a time. Bookings advised.

Internet Resources

Five websites that will link you to a wealth of information in English:

www.aok.dk An online listings guide to Copenhagen with some English content.

www.cphpost.dk The online edition of the *Copenhagen Post*, with plenty of news and listings.

www.hur.dk The website of the Greater Copenhagen Authority.

www.useit.dk Run by Use It, the budget travel centre, with tips on all things Copenhagen and cheap.

www.visitcopenhagen.dk Run by Wonderful Copenhagen, the tourism office.

Left Luggage

Central Station (Map p75; ☎ 5.30am-1am Mon-Sat, 6am-1am Sun) Left-luggage office (☎ 33 69 21 15; per 24hr, max 10 days suitcase, bag, parcel per piece 40kr, rucksack, pram, bike per piece 60kr); Luggage lockers (per 24hr, max 72hr small/large 30/40kr)

Copenhagen airport (Map p112) Left-luggage room (☎ 32 47 47 32; per piece per day 30kr; ☎ 6am-10pm); Luggage lockers (from 20kr per piece per 24hr) Near the airport's post office.

Medical Services

Hospitals with 24-hour emergency wards:
Amager Hospital (Map p112; ☎ 32 34 32 34; Italiensvej 1)

Bispebjerg Hospital (Map p112; ☎ 35 31 35 31; Bispebjerg Bakke 23)

Frederiksberg Hospital (Map p112; ☎ 38 16 38 16; Nordre Fasanvej 57)

Private doctor and dentist visits vary but usually cost from around 700kr.

City General Practice & Travel Medicine (Map pp78-9; ☎ 70 27 57 57; Ny Østergade) Behind the Hotel d'Angleterre; English spoken.

Tandlægevagten (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 38 02 51; Oslo Plads 14) Emergency dental service.

There are numerous pharmacies around the city; look for the sign *apotek*.

Steno Apotek (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 14 82 66; Vesterbrogade 6; ☎ 24hr) Opposite Central Station.

Money

Banks are plentiful and can be found on nearly every second corner in central Copenhagen. Most are open from 10am to 4pm weekdays (to 6pm on Thursday). Most banks in Copenhagen have ATMs accessible 24 hours per day.

Danske Bank (Arrival & Transit Halls, Copenhagen airport; ☎ 6am-10pm)

Forex (Central Station (Map p75; ☎ 33 11 22 20; Central Station); ☎ 8am-9pm); *Gothersgade* (Map p75; ☎ 33 11 27 00; *Gothersgade* 8; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat); *Nørreport* (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 32 81 00; *Nørre Voldgade* 90; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat); opposite *Tivoli* (Map p75; ☎ 33 93 77 70; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat)

Post

Post office (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 89 90 00; Købmagergade 33; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat) A handy post office just near *Strøget* and in the Latin Quarter.

Post office in Central Station (Map p75; ☎ 33 41 56 00; 🕒 8am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun)

Tourist Information

Use It (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 73 06 20; www.useit.dk; Rådhusstræde 13; 🕒 11am-4pm Mon-Wed, to 6pm Thu, to 2pm Fri 16 Sep-14 Jun, 9am-7pm Mon-Fri 15 Jun-15 Sep) A terrific alternative information centre catering to young budget travellers but open to all. Books accommodation, holds mail and provides information on everything, all free of charge.

Wonderful Copenhagen Tourist Information

Bureau (Map p75; ☎ 70 22 24 42; www.visitcopenhagen.dk; Vesterbrogade 4A; 🕒 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat Jan-Apr, 9am-6pm Mon-Sat May & Jun, 9am-8pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun Jul & Aug, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat Sep-Dec) This excellent information office also has a café, gift shop and multilingual staff. It's the best source of information in town – free maps, masses of brochures and guides to take away, booking services and hotel reservations available for a fee.

SIGHTS

One of the great things about Copenhagen is its size. Virtually all of Copenhagen's major sightseeing attractions – Tivoli, Nationalmuseet, Statens Museum for Kunst, Marmorkirken, Nyhavn, Christiansborg, Christiania, Amalienborg and Rosenborg – are in or close to the medieval city centre. Only the perennially disappointing Little Mermaid lies outside of the city proper on the harbourfront.

Rådhuspladsen & Tivoli

The large central square of Rådhuspladsen (Map p75) is flanked on one side by the city hall (or rådhus) and on another by Copenhagen's modern municipal bus terminus, and

marks the heart of Copenhagen. The bustling pedestrian shopping street Strøget begins at the northeast side of Rådhuspladsen, while the historic pleasure garden, Tivoli, glitters to the southwest.

Rådhuspladsen is not especially attractive and there have been endless discussions recently about how to jazz it up – designs for a spectacular Norman Foster tower within the wall of Tivoli overlooking the square have now been binned.

RÅDHUS

Copenhagen's grand red-brick **Rådhus** (City Hall; Map p75; admission free; 🕒 7.45am-5pm Mon-Fri) was completed in 1905. Designed by the Danish architect Martin Nyrop, it reflects many of the trends of its period, displaying elements of 19th-century national Romanticism, medieval Danish design and northern Italian architecture, the last-mentioned most notable in the central courtyard.

Adorning the façade above the main entrance is a golden statue of Bishop Absalon, who founded the city in 1167. The entrance leads to the main hall, a grand room that serves as a polling station during municipal elections.

You can poke around the main hall on your own but it's more interesting to make the climb up the 105m clock tower for **Jens Olsens Clock** (adult/child 10/5kr; 🕒 8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat), which tops city hall, but expect a decent workout as there are some 300 steps along the way. The clock, designed by Danish astromechanic Jens Olsen (1872-1945) and built at a cost of one million kroner, is of special note to chronometer buffs, displaying not only the local time, but also solar time, sidereal time, sunrises and sunsets, firmament and

celestial pole migration, planet revolutions, the Gregorian calendar and even changing holidays, such as Easter.

TIVOLI

Situated in the heart of the city, **Tivoli** (Map p75; ☎ 33 15 10 01; www.tivoli.gardens.com; Vesterbrogade 3; adult/child 79/40kr, child 0-2 free; 🕒 11am-11pm Sun-Thu, to 12.30am Fri, to midnight Sat mid-Apr-mid-Jun & mid-Aug-mid-Sep, 11am-midnight Sun-Thu, to 12.30am Fri & Sat mid-Jun-mid-Aug, 11am-10pm Sun-Thu, to 11pm Fri & Sat, mid-Nov-30 Dec, closed 24 & 25 Dec, 11am-8pm 23 Dec) is a charming combination of amusement rides, flower gardens, food pavilions, carnival games and open-air stage shows. This genteel entertainment park, which dates from 1843, is Denmark's most popular attraction. Visitors can ride the **roller coaster**

(named 'The Demon' – and Denmark's biggest), take in the famous **fireworks display** at night or just soak up the genuinely special, timeless atmosphere in what is the most beloved of Copenhagen's tourist attractions.

Tivoli is fun by day but in the evening it takes on a more romantic mood as the thousands of specially made fairy lights are switched on and a wide range of cultural activities unfolds, from theatrical performances to pantomime to live rock and pop acts, some of them major international names.

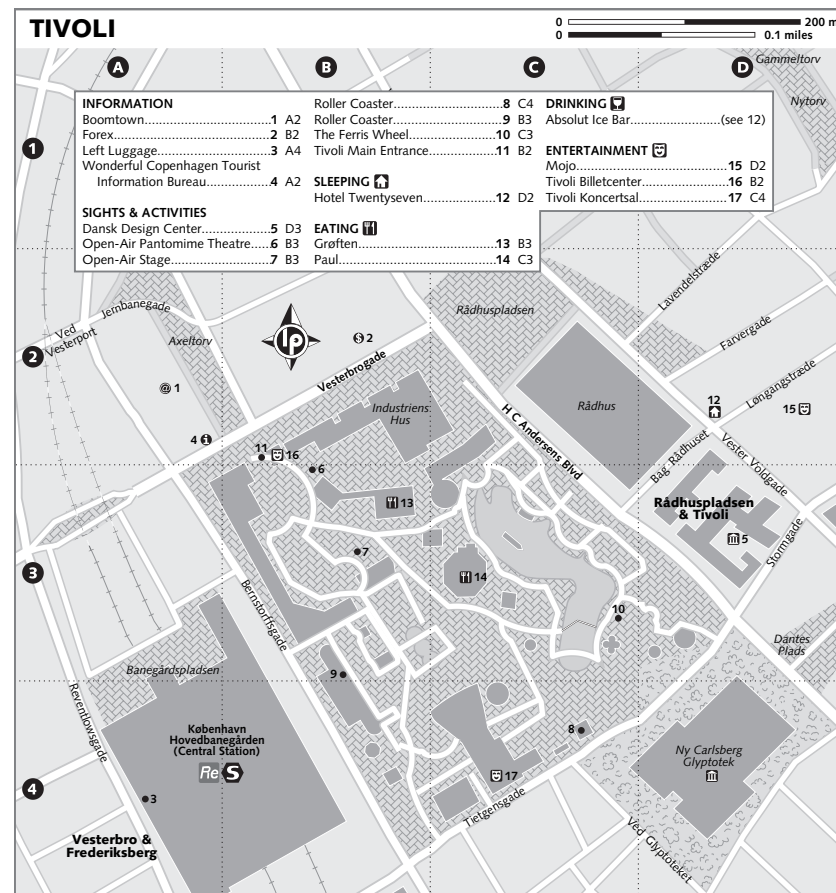
Each of Tivoli's numerous entertainment venues has a different character. Perhaps best known is the **open-air pantomime theatre**, which features mime and ballet, and was built in 1874 by Vilhelm Dahlerup, the Copenhagen

FREE CITY BIKES

Long before Paris got in on the act of free bikes, Copenhagen had its famous **Bycykler** (City Bikes; ☎ 35 43 01 10; www.bycyklen.dk), allowing anyone to borrow a bicycle for free. In all there are over 1000 bikes available from 1 May to 15 December.

These gearless bicycles are rudimentary and are certainly not practical for long-distance cycling, but that's part of the plan – use of the cycles is limited to the city centre. To deter theft and minimise maintenance, the bicycles have a distinctive design that includes solid spokeless wheels with puncture-resistant tyres. The bikes can be found at 110 widely scattered street stands in public places, including S-train stations.

The way it works is that if you're able to find a free bicycle, you deposit a 20kr coin in the stand to release the bike. When you're done using the bicycle, you can return it to any stand and get your 20kr coin back.



architect who also designed the royal theatre. Tivoli also has an indoor cabaret theatre and a large concert hall that features performances by international symphony orchestras and ballet troupes.

Between all the nightlights and glorious flowerbeds, Tivoli is a sweet place to stroll around, and if you feel like eating there are some decent (and even some very good) restaurants that make for a memorable dining experience.

Saturday is the best night to visit as it includes a fireworks display at 11.45pm. There's a nightly sound and light display on Tivoli Lake, 30 minutes before closing. Amusement ride tickets cost 20kr (some rides require up to four tickets), but there are multiticket schemes and passes as well.

The numerous open-air performances are free of charge, but there's usually an admission fee for the indoor performances. For information on performance venues, see p106.

Tivoli is closed between mid-September and mid-November for various holiday festivities, a Christmas market and ice-skating on the lake. Some of Tivoli's restaurants also reopen for that period, serving traditional Danish Christmas fare. Last year also saw a tentative Halloween opening, said to become an annual event.

NY CARLSBERG GLYPTOTEK

The newly renovated **Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek** (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 41 81 41; www.glyptoteket.dk; Tietgensgade 25; adult/child 50kr/free, free Sun; ☎ 10am-4pm Tue-Sun) houses an excellent collection of Greek, Egyptian, Etruscan and Roman sculpture and art. It was built a century ago by beer baron Carl Jacobsen, an ardent collector. The museum's main building, designed by architect Vilhelm Dahlerup, is set around a delightful glass-domed conservatory, replete with palm trees, which houses a lovely café – the perfect escape from the Danish winter.

Although Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek was originally – and remains – dedicated to clas-

sical art, a later gift of more than 20 works by Paul Gauguin (whose wife was Danish) led to the formation of an impressive 19th-century French and Danish art collection. The Danish collection includes paintings by JC Dahl, CW Eckersberg, Christian Købke and Jens Juel.

The French collection is centred on the Gauguin paintings, which now number 45. These are displayed along with works by Cézanne, Van Gogh, Pissarro, Monet and Renoir in the stunning modern wing of the museum, which opened in 1996. This 'French Wing' also boasts one of only three complete series of Degas bronzes.

A treat for low-season visitors are the chamber concerts given on Sunday from October to March in the museum's concert hall, which is lined by life-size statues of Roman patricians. And you won't have to pay a penny for this highbrow experience since the concerts, like Sunday admission itself, are gratis.

NATIONALMUSEET

If you want to learn more about Danish history and culture, you couldn't do better than spending an afternoon at **Nationalmuseet** (National Museum; Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 13 44 11; www.natmus.dk; Ny Vestergade 10; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun), opposite the western entrance to Slotsholmen.

The National Museum has first claims on virtually every antiquity found on Danish soil. These range from the Upper Palaeolithic period to the 1840s and include Stone Age tools, Viking weaponry and impressive Bronze Age, Iron Age and rune-stone collections. Don't miss the exhibition of bronze lurs, some of which date back 3000 years and are still capable of blowing a tune, and the finely crafted 3500-year-old Sun Chariot, unearthed in a Zealand field a century ago. There are sections related to the Norsemen and Inuit of Greenland, collections of 18th-century Danish furniture and a 'Please Touch' exhibition for sight-impaired visitors.

The museum also has an excellent toy museum, a brilliant hands-on children's section, a fine collection of Greek, Roman and medieval coins, and a Classical Antiquities section complete with Egyptian mummies. There's a café as well as a gift shop on the premises.

DANSK DESIGN CENTER

The **Dansk Design Center** (Map p75; ☎ 33 69 33 69; www.ddc.dk; HC Andersens Blvd 27; adult/child 50/25kr; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 10am-9pm Wed, 11am-

4pm Sat & Sun) showcases Danish industrial design alongside international design trends.

The five-storey building, designed by senior Danish architect Henning Larsen, features Danish design classics in the basement and imaginative changing exhibits on a variety of design-related topics on the ground floor. There's a handy café on site and a natty little gift shop.

Strøget & the Latin Quarter

The pedestrian shopping street **Strøget** (Map pp78-9) runs through the city centre from Rådhuspladsen to Kongens Nytorv.

Strøget is the city's main shopping thoroughfare and consists of five continuous streets. It's always busy and packed on Saturday but we can't help feeling it has begun to stagnate in recent years. While the rest of the city usually moves ahead of the times, Strøget seems a decade behind them, offering the same old international brand names at its posh, eastern end (designed entirely, it seems, to separate cruise ship tourists from their money), and a scrappy mix of budget clothing stores, tourist shops and kebab houses to the west towards Rådhuspladsen. If something isn't done fairly soon, Strøget could be heading towards Oxford Street-style 'national disgrace' status. Our verdict? Walk down it once, but after that you'll find the side streets far more productive in terms of independent shops and more interesting design.

With its cafés and secondhand book and clothes shops, the Latin Quarter (north of Strøget, around the old campus of Københavns Universitet or Copenhagen University) is a great area for some leisurely ambling. The university, which was founded in 1479, has largely outgrown its original quarters and moved to a new campus on Amager, but parts of the old campus, including the law department, remain here.

In the north of the Latin Quarter is **Kul-torvet**, a rather soulless pedestrian plaza and summer gathering place with beer bars, flower stalls and produce stands. On sunny days you'll usually find impromptu entertainment here, which can range from the ever-present sounds of the Andean flute to street theatre. Consider yourself warned...

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Climb the stairs of the **university library** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 47 47 47; Fiolstræde 1; admission free; ☎ 10am-7pm

Mon-Fri) to see one quirky remnant of the 1807 British bombardment of Copenhagen: a glass case containing a cannonball in five fragments and the target it hit, ironically a book entitled *Defensor Pacis* (Defender of Peace).

VOR FRUE KIRKE

Opposite the university is **Vor Frue Kirke** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 37 65 40; www.koebenhavnsdomkirke.dk; Nørregade 8; admission free; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun), Copenhagen's cathedral, which was founded in 1191 and rebuilt three times after devastating fires. The current structure dates from 1829 and was designed in neoclassical style by CF Hansen. With its high-vaulted ceilings and columns, Vor Frue Kirke seems as much museum as church – quite apropos because it's also the showcase for sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen's statues of Christ and the 12 apostles, his most acclaimed works, which were completed in 1839. Thorvaldsen's depiction of Christ, with comforting open arms, became the most popular worldwide model for statues of Christ and remains so today. In May 2004, Vor Frue Kirke was the site of Denmark's biggest wedding – that of Crown Prince Frederik to Mary Donaldson.

SANKT PETRI KIRKE

Another handsome place of worship in the Latin Quarter is **Sankt Petri Kirke** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 13 38 33; www.sankt-petri.dk; Sankt Pederstræde 2; admission free; ☎ 10am-1pm Tue-Thu), a German church that dates from the 15th century, making it the oldest church building in the city.

RUNDETÅRN

The **Rundetårn** (Round Tower; Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 73 03 73; www.rundetaarn.dk; Købmagergade 52A; adult/child 20/5kr; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun) is a splendid vantage point from which to admire the old city's red-tiled rooftops and church spires. This vaulted brick tower, 35m high, was built by Christian IV in 1642 and used as an astronomical observatory in conjunction with the nearby university. Although the university erected a newer structure in 1861, amateur astronomers have continued to use the Rundetårn each winter, which gives credence to its claim to be the oldest functioning observatory in Europe.

A 209m spiral walkway winds up the tower around a hollow core; about halfway up is a small exhibition hall housing changing displays of art and culture that is worth a visit if open.

FIREWORKS FACTORY

Tivoli has its own fireworks production team of 10 pyrotechnicians working hard to ensure that the dazzling fireworks that Tivoli is so famous for continue to uphold a proud tradition.

STRØGET & LATIN QUARTER

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SHOPPING

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TRANSPORT

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Winter visitors who would like to view the night sky from the 3m-long telescope that's mounted within the rooftop dome should make enquiries at the ticket booth; the observatory is generally open Tuesday and Wednesday night. In September the observatory opens between 1pm and 4pm on Sunday.

MUSEUM EROTICA

A cross between a museum and a peep-show, **Museum Erotica** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 12 03 11; www.museumerotica.dk; Købmagergade 24; admission 1/2 adults 99/178kr; 🕒 10am-11pm May-Sep, 11am-8pm Oct-Apr) is full of supposedly erotic paintings, posters, photographs, statues and sex toys. These items range from hand-coloured daguerreotype photographs from the 1850s to a multi-screen video room playing modern porn movies that are not for the easily shocked. In our opinion, this place is overpriced, exploitative and a little sad – but that doesn't stop it from being one of the city's most popular attractions. It's two blocks north of Strøget.

Slotsholmen

Slotsholmen is the seat of national government and a veritable repository of historical sites. Located on a small island and separated from the city centre by a moat-like canal, Slotsholmen's centrepiece is **Christiansborg Slot**, a large palace that is home to Folketinget (the Danish parliament) and various government offices.

Several short bridges link Slotsholmen to the rest of Copenhagen. If you walk into Slotsholmen from Ny Vestergade, you'll cross the western part of the canal and enter Christiansborg's large main courtyard, which was once used as royal riding grounds. The courtyard maintains a distinctively equestrian feel, overseen by a **statue of Christian IX** (1863-1906) on horseback and flanked to the north by stables and to the south by carriage buildings.

The stables and buildings surrounding the main courtyard date back to the 1730s when the original Christiansborg palace was built by Christian VI to replace the more modest Copenhagen Castle that previously stood there. The grander west wing of Christian VI's palace went up in flames in 1794, was rebuilt in the early 19th century and was once again destroyed by fire in 1884. In 1907 the cornerstone for the third (and current) Christiansborg palace was laid by Frederik VIII

and, upon completion, the national parliament and the Supreme Court moved into new chambers there.

In addition to the sights listed here, visitors can enter **Christiansborg Slotskirke** (Map p80; admission free; ☎ noon–4pm Sun Aug–Jun, noon–4pm daily Jul), the castle's domed church, which was set ablaze by stray fireworks in 1996 and has since been painstakingly restored.

FOLKETINGET

The **Folketinget** (Map p80; ☎ 33 37 55 00; www.folketinget.dk; Rigsdagsgården; admission free; ☎ guided tours 2pm daily Jul & Aug, 2pm Sun Sep–Jun) is where the 179 members of parliament debate national legislation. Guided tours also take in Wanderer's Hall, which contains the original copy of

the Constitution of the Kingdom of Denmark, enacted in 1849.

DE KONGELIGE REPRÆSENTATIONSLOKALER

The grandest part of Christiansborg is **De Kongelige Repræsentationslokaler** (The Royal Reception Chambers; Map p80; ☎ 33 92 64 92; www.ses.dk; adult/child 50/20kr; ☎ English guided tours 11am, 1pm & 3pm Tue–Sun May–Sep, 3pm Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun Oct–Apr), an ornate Renaissance hall where the queen holds royal banquets and entertains heads of state.

Of particular note are the very colourful (almost cartoonish) wall tapestries depicting the history of Denmark from Viking times to the present day. Created by tapestry designer Bjørn Nørgaard, the tapestries took a full 10 years (until 2000) to complete. Tapestries to

pay particular attention to include the Adam and Eve–style representation of the queen and her husband (albeit clothed) in a Danish Garden of Eden.

DE KONGELIGE STALDE & KARETER

At **De Kongelige Stalde & Kareter** (The Royal Stables & Coaches; Map p80; ☎ 33 40 10 10; www.kongehuset.dk; adult/child 20/10kr; ☎ 2–4pm Fri–Sun May–Sep, 2–4pm Sat & Sun Oct–Apr) visitors can view a collection of antique coaches, uniforms and riding paraphernalia, some of which are still used for royal receptions. You can also see the royal family's carriage and saddle horses.

RUINERNE UNDER CHRISTIANSBORG

A walk through the crypt-like bowels of Slotsholmen, known as **Ruinerne under Christiansborg** (Ruins under Christiansborg; Map p80; ☎ 33 92 64 92; www.ses.dk; adult/child 25/10kr; ☎ 10am–4pm Tue–Sun Oct–Apr, 10am–4pm May–Sep), offers a unique perspective on Copenhagen's lengthy history. In the basement of the current palace, beneath the tower, are the remains of two earlier castles. The most notable are the ruins of Absalon's fortress, Slotsholmen's original castle, built by Bishop Absalon in 1167.

TEATERMUSEET

Occupying the Hofteater (Old Court Theatre), which dates from 1767 and drips with historic character, is **Teatermuseet** (Theatre Museum; Map p80; ☎ 33 11 51 76; www.teatermuseet.dk; Christiansborg Ridebane 18; adult/child 30/20kr; ☎ 11am–3pm Tue–Thu, 1–5pm Wed, 1–4pm Sat & Sun). Performances have ranged from Italian opera and pantomime to shows by local ballet troupes, one of which included fledgling ballet student Hans Christian Andersen. The theatre, which took on its current appearance in 1842, drew its final curtain in 1881 but was reopened as a museum in 1922. The stage, boxes and dressing rooms can be viewed, along with displays of set models, drawings, costumes and period posters tracing the history of Danish theatre. Royal-watchers will enjoy peeking into the royal boxes – Christian VIII's entertainment area is even equipped with its own commode!

THORVALDSENS MUSEUM

This **museum** (Map p80; ☎ 33 32 15 32; www.thorvaldsensmuseum.dk; Bertel Thorvaldsens Plads 2; adult/child 20kr/free, free Wed; ☎ 10am–5pm Tue–Sun) exhibits the works of famed Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770–1844). Heavily influenced by

mythology, after four decades in Rome, Thorvaldsen returned to Copenhagen and donated his private collection to the Danish public. In return the royal family provided this site for the construction of a remarkable, frescoed museum to house Thorvaldsen's drawings, plaster moulds and beautiful statues. The museum also contains antique art from the Mediterranean region that Thorvaldsen collected during his lifetime. You'll find the entrance to the museum on Vindebrogade.

TØJHUSMUSEET

Copenhagen's **Tøjhusmuseet** (The Royal Arsenal Museum; Map p80; ☎ 33 11 60 37; www.thm.dk in Danish; Tøjhusgade 3; adult/concession 40/20kr, child free; ☎ noon–4pm Tue–Sun) houses a stunning collection of historic weaponry, from canons and medieval armour to pistols, swords and even a WWII flying bomb. The 163m-long building is Europe's longest vaulted Renaissance hall, built by Christian IV in 1600.

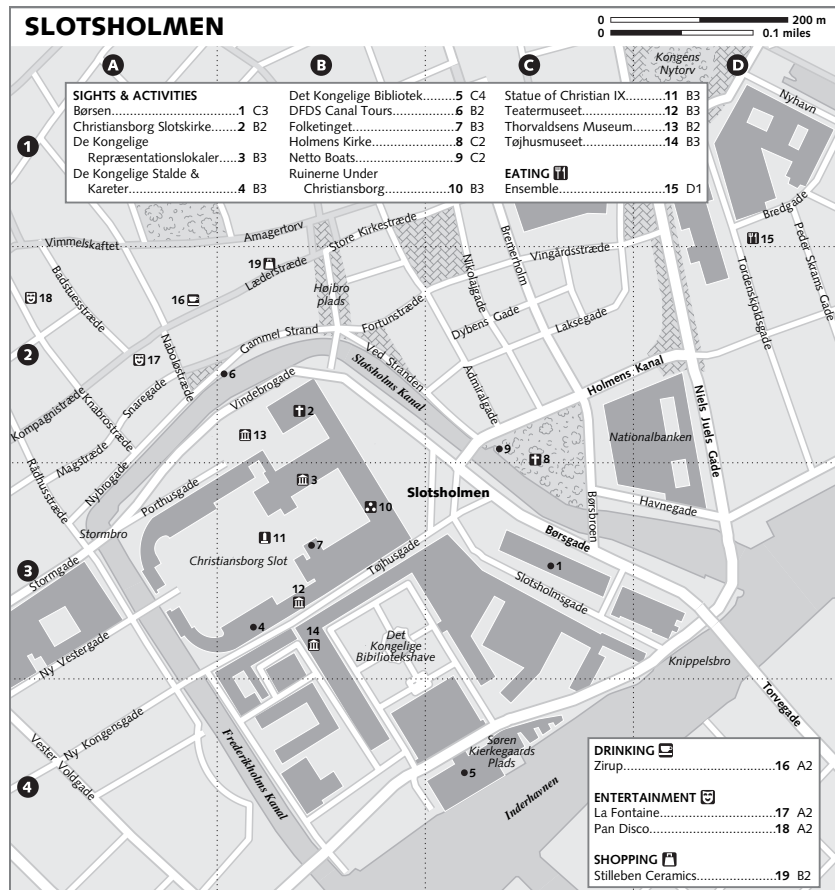
DET KONGELIGE BIBLIOTEK

The largest library in Scandinavia, **Det Kongelige Bibliotek** (The Royal Library; Map p80; ☎ 33 47 47 47; www.kb.dk; Søren Kierkegaards Plads; admission free, exhibition adult/child 40/20kr; ☎ 10am–9pm Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm Sat) is a fascinating blend of the original classical style building near parliament and the seven-storey extension, dubbed the 'Black Diamond', which sports a shiny black granite façade, smoked black windows and a leaning parallelogram design. An enclosed overhead walkway connects the Black Diamond with the library's historic wing.

As Denmark's national library, it contains a complete collection of all Danish printed works produced since 1482 and houses some 21 million items in all. Not an ordinary library, it is well worth a visit. You'll find a spacious lobby with canal views, a 210-sq-metre ceiling mural by the celebrated Danish artist Per Kirkeby and various exhibition areas. The lobby contains a bookshop, café and restaurant.

BØRSEN

Another striking Renaissance building is **Børsen** (Map p80; Børsegade), the stock exchange, at the eastern corner of Slotsholmen. Constructed under Christian IV in the 1620s, it's of note for its ornate spire, formed from the entwined tails of four dragons, and for its richly embellished gables. This still-functioning



THE LITTLE MERMAID

When the world thinks of Copenhagen, the statue of the **Little Mermaid** (Den Lille Havfrue; Map pp70-1) is probably the first image that springs to mind. Love it or loath it, this small unremarkable statue must be the most photographed sight in the country, as well as the cause of perhaps countless indifferent 'yeah, so?' shrugs from tourists who have trudged the kilometre or so along an often windswept harbourfront to see her.

In 1909 the Danish beer baron Carl Jacobsen was so moved after attending a ballet performance based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale *The Little Mermaid* that he commissioned sculptor Edvard Eriksen to create a statue of the eponymous lady-fish to grace Copenhagen's harbourfront.

The face of the famous statue was modelled after the ballerina Ellen Price, while Eline Eriksen, the sculptor's wife, modelled for the body.

The Little Mermaid survived the Great Depression and the WWII occupation unscathed, but modern times haven't been so kind to Denmark's leading lady. Unfortunately, many do seem to loath this tiny statue. She has lost her head a couple of times, as well as her arms in attacks by vandals and protesters trying to make various political points.

Partly in response to this, Danish artist Bjørn Nørgaard was commissioned by Carlsberg in 2006 to create a new Little Mermaid. He came up with a 'genetically altered' mermaid that sits not far from the original beside the harbour and is, in fact, probably truer in spirit to the rather bleak, twisted Andersen fairy tale. Unlike the Disney version, of course, Andersen's mermaid suffers all manner of physical and emotional torments, and definitely doesn't get her man.

chamber of commerce, which first opened during the bustling reign of Christian IV, is the oldest in Europe but is not open to the public.

HOLMENS KIRKE

Just across the canal to the northeast of Slotsholmen is **Holmens Kirke** (Church of the Royal Danish Navy; Map p80; ☎ 33 13 61 78; www.holmenskirke.dk in Danish; Holmens Kanal 9; admission free; ☞ 9am-2pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat). This historic brick structure, with a nave that was originally built in 1562 to be used as an anchor forge, was converted into a church for the Royal Navy in 1619. Most of the present structure, which is predominantly in Dutch Renaissance style, dates from 1641. The church's burial chapel contains the remains of some important naval figures, including Admiral Niels Juel, who beat back the Swedes in the crucial 1677 Battle of Køge Bay.

It was at Holmens Kirke that Queen Margrethe II took her marriage vows in 1967. The interior of the church has an intricately carved 17th-century oak altarpiece and pulpit.

Nyhavn to the Little Mermaid

There are fewer nicer places to be on a sunny day than sitting at the outdoor tables of a café on the quayside of the Nyhavn canal. The canal was built to connect Kongens Nytorv to the harbour, and was long a haunt for

sailors and writers, including Hans Christian Andersen, who lived there for most of his life at, variously, numbers 20, 18 and 67. These days Nyhavn is a tourist magnet of brightly coloured gabled town houses, hering buffets and foaming beers. Behind the bustle of Nyhavn is the city's poshest quarter, Frederiksstadten, home to the royal family, a grand marble church and other historic sites. The northern Kastellet area includes a 17th-century citadel and the city's best-known statue, the Little Mermaid (see above), making this a popular spot on the tour-bus circuit.

CHARLOTTENBORG

Fronting Kongens Nytorv is **Charlottenborg** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 13 40 22; www.charlottenborg-art.dk in Danish; Nyhavn 2; adult/child 30kr/free; ☞ 10am-7pm Wed, to 5pm Mon & Tue, Thu-Sun), built in 1683 as a palace for the royal family. Since 1754 Charlottenborg has housed Det Kongelige Kunstakademi. The academy's exhibition hall, on the eastern side of the central courtyard, features highly recommended changing exhibitions of modern art by Danish and international artists.

AMALIENBORG SLOT

Visitors can enter one wing of the **Amalienborg Slot** (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 12 21 86; www.rosenborg-slot.dk; Amalienborg Plads; adult/child 45/10kr; ☞ 10am-4pm

1 May-31 Oct, 11am-4pm Tue-Sun 2 Jan-30 Apr & 1 Nov-30 Dec), which features exhibits of the royal apartments used by three generations of the monarchy from 1863 to 1947.

The reconstructed rooms have heavy oak furnishings, gilt-leather tapestries, family photographs and old knick-knacks. They include the study and drawing room of Christian IX (1863-1906) and Queen Louise, whose six children wedded into nearly as many royal families – one ascending the throne in Greece and another marrying Russian tsar Alexander III. The **changing of the guard** takes place – entirely for the benefit of tourists, one suspects – outside Amalienborg daily at noon, the new guard having marched through the city centre from the barracks on Gothersgade at 11.30am.

MARMORKIRKEN

Also called Frederikskirken, **Marmorkirken** (Marble Church; Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 15 01 44; www.mar.morkirken.dk; Frederiksgade 4; church admission free, dome adult/child 20/10kr; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Thu, noon-5pm Fri-Sun, to dome 1pm & 3pm Sat & Sun Sep-mid-Jun, 1-3pm mid-Jun-Aug) is a stately neo-Baroque church on Frederiksgade, a block west of Amalienborg Slot. The church's massive dome, which was inspired by St Peter's in Rome and measures more than 30m in diameter, is one of Copenhagen's most impressive landmarks.

The plans for the church were ordered by Frederik V and drawn up by Nicolai Eigtved as part of a grand design that included the Amalienborg mansions. Although church construction began in 1749, it encountered problems as costs overran, due in part to the prohibitively high price of Norwegian marble, and the project was soon shelved.

It wasn't until Denmark's wealthiest 19th-century financier CF Tietgen bankrolled the project's revival that it was finally taken to completion. It was consecrated as a church in 1894.

The church's exterior is ringed by statues of Danish theologians and saints. In addition to viewing the interior, with its huge circular nave, you can tour the dome and catch a broad view of the city from its rim.

ALONG BREDGADE

There is a cluster of sights along the upmarket street known as Bredgade, home to many of the city's top antique dealers and auction houses. **Alexander Newsky Kirke** (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33

13 60 46; Bredgade 53; admission free; ☞ only for services) was built in Russian Byzantine style in 1883 by Tsar Alexander III. Just across the street is the **Medicinsk-Historisk Museum** (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 32 38 00; www.mhm.ku.dk; Bredgade 62; adult/concession 30/20kr; ☞ guided tours 11am & 1pm Wed-Fri, 1pm Sun Nov-Jan, 7pm Wed & Thu Feb-Apr & Aug-Oct, 11am Wed & Thu, 2pm Sun 16 Jun-17 Aug), housed in a former surgical academy dating from 1786 and dealing with the history of medicine, pharmacy and dentistry over the past three centuries. Guided tours are conducted in English.

Sankt Ansgars Kirke (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 13 37 62; Bredgade 64; admission free; ☞ 10am-4pm Tue-Fri), next door, is Copenhagen's Roman Catholic cathedral. It was built in 1841 in the neo-Romanesque style and has a colourfully painted apse.

Kunstindustrimuseet (Museum of Decorative Art; Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 18 56 56; www.kunstindustrimuseet.dk; Bredgade 68; adult/child 50kr/free; ☞ 11am-5pm Tue-Sun), further north towards Kastellet, is based in the former Frederiks Hospital (c 1752). This large, rambling museum boasts an extraordinary, if eclectic, collection of nearly 300,000 items from Asia and Europe, dating from the Middle Ages.

The displays include a fairly extensive collection of Danish silver and porcelain and lots of coverage of innovations in contemporary Danish design. One exhibit, for example, shows Denmark's contribution to chair design, displaying chairs by influential 20th-century designers Kaare Klint, Hans Wegner and Arne Jacobsen. There's a café on site.

FRIHEDSMUSEET

This **museum** (Museum of Danish Resistance; Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 13 77 14; www.natmus.dk; Churchillparken; admission free; ☞ 10am-3pm Tue-Sun Oct-Apr, 10am-5pm Tue-Sun May-Sep) features exhibits on the Danish resistance movement from the time of the German occupation in 1940 to liberation in 1945. There are displays on the Danish underground press, the clandestine radio operations that maintained links with England and the smuggling operations that saved 7200 Danish Jews from capture by the occupying Nazis.

Christianshavn

Christianshavn is Copenhagen's enchanting canal quarter on the eastern flank of Copenhagen. It was established by Christian IV in the early 17th century as a commercial centre and also a military buffer for the expanding

LOCAL VOICES

Kirsten Larsen-Mhoga, Spokesperson for Christiania What's the future like for Christiania?

That's very hard to predict. We are continuing to be cooperative with the state and the present government is having to be very careful because there is an election coming and they are getting weaker.

Why should people still come to Christiania?

It's like Tivoli for grown-ups, but great for all ages and families. There are no cars, and we have a market, workshops, art exhibitions and lots of things to see.

What do you think will surprise people about Christiania?

That it is so peaceful and green. The media only shows the fighting and trouble, but families live and work here. It's like a village.

Are drugs still sold here?

You can buy soft drugs, but not from open stalls and you have to be careful because it is still illegal and, in fact, Denmark has stricter laws than most other countries these days. Hard drugs have always been forbidden.

city. It's cut with a network of canals, modelled after those in Holland, but is equally famous as the home of the 'free state' of **Christiania**.

Still surrounded by its old ramparts, Christianshavn today is an appealing mix of standard-issue public housing complexes and elegant period warehouses that have found second lives as upmarket housing and restored government offices. The neighbourhood attracts an interesting mix of boho-chic artists, yuppies, anarchist dropouts and a sizable Greenlandic community. It was the setting for parts of the novel and movie *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow*. To get to Christianshavn, you can walk over the copper-toned Knippelsbro from the southeastern part of Slotsholmen or catch bus 2A, 19, 48 or 350S, or take the metro to the stop of the same name.

CHRISTIANIA

In 1971 an abandoned 41-hectare military camp on the eastern side of Christianshavn was taken over by squatters who proclaimed it the 'free state' of **Christiania** (Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 95 65 07; www.christiania.org; Prinsessegade), subject to their own laws. The police tried to clear the area but it was the height of the hippie revolution and an increasing number of alternative folk from throughout Denmark continued to pour in, attracted by the concept of communal living and the prospect of reclaiming military land for peaceful purposes.

Bowing to public pressure, the government allowed the community to continue as a social experiment. About 1000 people settled

into Christiania, turning the old barracks into schools and housing, and starting their own collective businesses, workshops and recycling programmes.

Christiania residents, self-governing, ecology-oriented and generally tolerant, did, in time, find it necessary to modify their free-law/anything goes approach. A new policy was established that outlawed hard drugs, and the heroin and cocaine pushers were expelled, although for many years a blind eye was turned to the sale of marijuana and hash on 'Pusher St'.

Many Danes still resent the community's rent-free, tax-free situation and more than a few Christianshavn neighbours would like to see sections of Christiania turned into public parks and school grounds. The sheer size and incredible location of the land means that the pressure for the government to take back the space it's been 'lending' to the Christiania locals for the last 30-odd years has greatly increased.

In recent years, the police, decked out in riot gear, have patrolled Christiania regularly, staging numerous organised raids leading to some ugly confrontations and arrests. However, with an election approaching, which the current administration is by no means assured of winning, coupled with a decline in the power of the Dansk Folkeparti, things are looking slightly better for Christiania than they have in the last five years.

Visitors are welcome to stroll or cycle in car-free Christiania, which has a small market, a couple of craft shops and a few places where you can get coffee and something to eat; the

open sale of soft drugs is now banned. The main entrance into Christiania is on Prinsessegade, 200m northeast of its intersection with Bådsmadsstræde. You can take a **guided tour** (☎ 32 57 96 70; per person 30kr; ☎ 3pm 26 Jun-31 Aug, 3pm Sat & Sun 1 Sep-25 Jun) of Christiania. Meet just inside the main entrance. There's a Pusher St **information office** (☎ 32 95 65 07; nytforum@christiania.org; ☎ noon-6pm Mon-Thu, to 4pm Fri) of sorts – it's just next to the Oasen café.

VOR FRELSERS KIRKE

A few minutes southwest of Christiania is the 17th-century **Vor Frelser's Kirke** (Our Saviour's Church; Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 57 27 98; Sankt Annæ Gade 29; church admission free, tower adult/child 20/10kr; ☎ 11am-4.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-4pm Sun). The church has a grand interior that includes an elaborately carved pipe organ dating from 1698 and an ornate baroque altar with marble cherubs and angels.

For a soul-stirring panoramic city view make the head-spinning 400-step ascent up the church's 95m-high spiral tower – the last 150 steps run along the outside rim of the tower, narrowing to the point where they literally disappear at the top. The colourful spire was added to the church in 1752 by Lauritz de Thurah, who took his inspiration from Boromini's tower of St Ivo in Rome. It was climbed in 1752 by King Frederik V on inauguration day.

If you'd like to hear the organ, it's used in church services, including an English-language one that's held at noon on Sunday. Piped music is often played in the church anyway, making it a rather nice spot to collect your thoughts before resuming a tour of the area.

ORLOGSMUSEET

This **museum** (Royal Danish Naval Museum; Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 54 63 63; www.orlogsmuseet.dk; Overgaden Oven Vandet 58; adult/child 40kr/free; ☎ noon-4pm Tue-Sun), occupying a former naval hospital on Christianshavn Kanal, has more than 300 model ships, many dating from the 16th to the 19th century – meaning that if you are, or someone you know is, the type to get high from tooling around with hobby glue, then you have stumbled upon the mother lode. The museum also displays figureheads, navigational instruments, ship lanterns and the propeller from the German U-boat that sank the *Lusitania*.

CHRISTIANS KIRKE

Designed by the Danish architect Nicolai Eigtved, **Christians Kirke** (Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 54 15 76; Strandgade 1; admission free; ☎ 8am-6pm Sun-Thu, to 5pm Fri & Sat) was completed in 1759. It once served the local German congregation and has a large, theatre-like rococo interior.

LILLE MOLLE

The 17th-century **Lille Molle** (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 47 38 38; www.natmus.dk; Christianshavn Volgade 54; adult/child 50kr/free; ☎ guided tours 1pm, 2pm & 3pm Tue-Sun May-Sep) is a windmill that was turned over to the National Museum in the 1970s and has been preserved as its last owners left it – and they left it in a very interesting state. It's situated on the rampsarts that are southwest of Christiania, and if you time your visit just right, it's perfect for a guided tour preceded or followed by an excellent meal at Bastionen & Løven, the attached restaurant/café (see p101).

COPENHAGEN OPERA HOUSE

Copenhagen's magnificent **opera house** (Map pp70-1; ☎ box office 33 69 69 69; www.operaden.dk; Ekvipagemestervej 10; tours 100kr; ☎ tours 9.30am & 4.30pm Sat & Sun) features two stages: the Main Stage and a smaller venue, Takkeløftet. Productions usually sell out way in advance but 25 tickets are available each day at the box office. Alternatively, many come just to look around the building or eat in the panoramic Franco-Danish restaurant (☎ 33 69 66 19; mains 180kr to 260kr) or ground floor café.

Nørreport to Nørrebro

Straddling the city's lakes, with Nørreport to the south and Nørrebro to the north, these are two of the most intriguing areas of the city, with several cool shopping streets (Elmegade, Blågårdsgade, Ravnborggade and Sankt Hans Torv in Nørrebro, and Nansensgade in Nørreport, prime among them) where you'll find independent designers and fashion, as well as some of the city's best nightlife and bars. Nørrebro in particular, densely packed with 19th-century tenements, has a diverse ethnic mix and a younger demographic that ensures it is usually ahead of the pack when it comes to the latest nightlife and fashion trends.

ROSENBERG SLOT

To the southeast of Nørreport proper is the beautiful early-17th-century **Rosenborg Slot** (Map

pp70-1; ☎ 33 15 32 86; www.rosenborg-slot.dk; Øster Voldgade 4A; adult/child 50/40kr; 🕒 11am-4pm Tue-Sun 2 Jan-30 Apr, 10am-4pm May & Sep, 10am-5pm Jun-Aug, 11am-3pm Oct, 11am-4pm Tue-Sun Nov & Dec, closed mid-Dec-Christmas) with its fairy-tale moat-and-garden setting. It was built between 1606 and 1633 by King Christian IV in Dutch Renaissance style to serve as his summer home. A century later King Frederik IV, who felt cramped at Rosenborg, built a roomier palace north of the city in the town of Fredensborg. In the years that followed, Rosenborg was used mainly for official functions and as a place in which to safeguard the monarchy's heirlooms.

In the 1830s the royal family decided to open the castle to visitors as a museum, while still using it as a treasury for royal regalia and jewels. It continues to serve both functions today.

The 24 rooms in the castle's upper levels are chronologically arranged, housing the furnishings and portraits of each monarch from Christian IV to Frederik VII. In the basement is the dazzling collection of crown jewels. There's Christian IV's ornately designed crown, the jewel-studded sword of Christian III and Queen Margrethe II's emeralds and pearls.

Kongens Have (King's Gardens; Map pp78-9), the expansive green space behind Rosenborg Slot, is the city's oldest public park. It has manicured box hedges, lovely rose beds and plenty of shaded areas. Kongens Have is a very popular picnic spot on sunny days and the site of a free marionette theatre that performs on summer afternoons.

DAVIDS SAMLING

East of Kongens Have, **David's Samling** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 73 49 49; www.davidmus.dk; Kronprinsessegade 30; admission free; 🕒 1-4pm Tue & Thu-Sun, 10am-4pm Wed) is a wonderful curiosity of a museum housing Scandinavia's largest collections of Islamic art, including jewellery, ceramics and silk, and exquisite works such as an Egyptian rock crystal jug from AD 1000 and a 500-year-old Indian dagger inlaid with rubies. That's all up on the 4th floor and worth a visit in itself, but on your way up you can spend a fruitful couple of hours taking in the museum's fine Danish, English and French furniture and art from the 18th and 19th centuries. All of this was bequeathed to the museum by the barrister Christian Ludvig David, who died in 1960, and is maintained by the foundation

he founded. The museum is housed in his former home, a neoclassical mansion dating from 1806.

BOTANISK HAVE

In the 10-hectare **Botanisk Have** (Botanical Garden; Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 32 22 40; www.botanic-garden.ku.dk; Gothersgade 128; admission free; 🕒 8.30am-6pm May-Sep, to 4pm Tue-Sun Oct-Apr) you can wander along fragrant paths amid arbours, terraces, rock gardens and ponds. Within the Botanisk Have is the **Palmehus** (Palm House; 🕒 10am-3pm Tue-Sun Oct-Apr), a large walk-through glasshouse containing a lush collection of tropical plants. There's also a **cactus house** (🕒 1-2pm Wed, Sat & Sun) and an **orchid greenhouse** (🕒 2-3pm Wed, Sat & Sun). One entrance to the Botanisk Have is at the intersection of Gothersgade and Øster Voldgade, while the other is off Øster Farimagsgade.

You can get to the gardens and Rosenborg Slot by taking the S-train or metro to Nørreport station and walking north for two blocks, or via numerous buses.

STATENS MUSEUM FOR KUNST

Denmark's national gallery, **Statens Museum for Kunst** (Royal Museum of Fine Arts; Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 74 84 94; www.smk.dk; Sølvgade 48; admission free; 🕒 10am-8pm Wed, to 5pm Tue & Thu-Sun), was founded in 1824 to house art collections belonging to the royal family. Originally sited at Christiansborg Slot, the museum opened in its current location in 1896. Statens Museum is the largest art museum in Denmark, thanks to an enormous, light-filled modern extension constructed in recent times.

Its collection covers seven centuries of European art, ranging from medieval works with stylised religious themes to free-form modern art. There's an interesting collection of old masters by Dutch and Flemish artists, including Rubens and Frans Hals, as well as more contemporary European paintings by Matisse, Picasso and Munch. The museum also has an extensive collection of drawings, engravings and lithographs representing the works of such prominent artists as Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec.

As might be expected, the museum has a wonderful collection of Danish fine art, including works by CW Eckersberg, Jens Juel, Christen Købke, PS Krøyer and Per Kirkeby. There's plenty to keep children amused too, with special programmes year-round. Acces-

sibility to people in wheelchairs is generally very good.

DEN HIRSCHSPRUNGSKE SAMLING

Dedicated to Danish art of the 19th and early 20th centuries, **Den Hirschsprungske Samling** (The Hirschsprung Collection; Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 42 03 36; www.hirschsprung.dk; Stockholmsgade 20; adult/child 50kr/free, free Wed; 🕒 11am-4pm Thu-Mon, to 9pm Wed) is an enchanting little museum, full of wonderful surprises for art lovers unfamiliar with the classic era of Danish oil painting from the early 19th century. Originally the private holdings of tobacco magnate Heinrich Hirschsprung, it contains works by 'Golden Age' painters such as Christen Købke and CW Eckersberg, a notable selection by Skagen painters PS Krøyer and Anna and Michael Ancher, and also works by the Danish symbolists and the Funen painters.

ASSISTENS KIERKEGÅRD

The serene **Assistens Kirkegård** (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 37 19 17; www.assistens.dk in Danish; Kapelvej 4; admission free; 🕒 8am-5pm Jan & Feb, to 6pm Mar, Apr, Sep & Oct, to 8pm May-Aug, to 4pm Nov & Dec) in the heart of Nørrebro is the final resting place of some of Denmark's most celebrated citizens, including philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, physicist Niels Bohr, author Hans Christian Andersen and artists Jens Juel, Christen Købke and CW Eckersberg. It's an interesting place to wander around – as much a park and garden as it is a graveyard.

A good place to start is at the main entrance on Kapelvej, which has an office where you can pick up a brochure mapping famous grave sites.

ZOOLOGISK MUSEUM

The **Zoologisk museum** (Map p112; ☎ 35 32 10 01; www.zoologiskmuseum.dk in Danish; Universitetsparken 15; adult/child 60/25kr; 🕒 11am-5pm Tue-Sun), 1km north of Assistens Kirkegård, is the sort of place where once magnificent wild creatures, from North Zealand deer to Greenlandic polar bears, get well and truly stuffed. There are also interesting dioramas, recorded animal sounds, a whale skeleton and insect displays. To get here, take bus 18, 42, 43, 185, 150S or 173E.

Vesterbro to Frederiksberg

It is hard to imagine two more disparate neighbours than leafy, middle-class Frederiksberg

and gritty, urban Vesterbro, but both have much to recommend them. Vesterbro begins at the western side of Central Station with the city's most infamous thoroughfare, Istedgade. Istedgade is home to the rather depressing red light district, which begins close to Central Station with numerous sex shops and massage parlours that coexist rather unfortunately with many of the city's lower range hotels. Since the police clamped down on official drug facilities, the junkies have taken to the streets here, which makes for a fairly shaming spectacle in a city so supposedly advanced in its social provision. However, persevere and you will find that Istedgade and Halmtorvet, to its south, are also packed with cool cafés, bars and restaurants, and funky fashion and design stores, which stand shoulder to shoulder with interesting shops catering to the local Pakistani, Turkish, Afghan and Middle Eastern communities.

Running parallel to Istedgade is Vesterbrogade, a mainstream local shopping street with supermarkets and midrange clothing and shoe stores, as well as one or two good restaurants and bars. If you turn right where Vesterbrogade meets Frederiksberg Allé, you come to Værndemsvej, Copenhagen's so-called food street, which these days has as many cool clothing stores as restaurants and food outlets.

Frederiksberg, meanwhile, is home to a couple of the city's most popular tourist attractions – the zoo (p88) and the Carlsberg Brewery Visitors Center (p88) – as well as its loveliest park, Frederiksberg Have.

KØBENHAVNS BYMUSEUM

True to its name, the **København's Bymuseet** (Copenhagen City Museum; Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 21 07 72; www.bymuseum.dk; Vesterbrogade 59; adult/child 20/10kr, free Fri; 🕒 10am-4pm Wed-Mon May-Sep, 1-4pm Wed-Mon Oct-Apr) in Vesterbro has displays about the history and development of Copenhagen – mainly paintings and scale models of the old city. There is also a small room dedicated to philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, who was born in Copenhagen in 1813 and died in the city in 1855.

IMAX TYCHO BRAHE PLANETARIUM

Copenhagen's **Planetarium** (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 12 12 24; www.tycho.dk; Gammel Kongevej 10; adult/child 105/75kr; 🕒 9.30am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-9pm Sat & Sun), 750m northwest of Central Station, has a domed

space theatre that offers shows of the night sky using state-of-the-art equipment capable of projecting more than 7500 stars, planets and galaxies. The planetarium's 1000-sq-metre screen also shows Omnimax natural science films on subjects ranging from astronauts to Australia.

The planetarium was named after the famed Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe (1546–1601), whose creation of precision astronomical instruments allowed him to make exact observations of planets and stars, and paved the way for the discoveries made by later astronomers.

ZOOLOGISK HAVE

Copenhagen's **Zoologisk Have** (Zoo; Map p112; ☎ 72 20 02 00; www.zoo.dk; Roskildevej 32, Frederiksberg; adult/child 120/60kr; ☎ 9am–4pm Jan, Feb, Nov & Dec, 9am–4pm Mon–Fri, to 5pm Sat & Sun Mar, 9am–5pm Mon–Fri, to 6pm Sat & Sun Apr, May & Sep, 9am–6pm Jun, 9am–9.30pm Jul & Aug, 9am–5pm Oct), located up on Frederiksberg (Frederik's Hill), has a large collection (over 2500 critters) of nature's lovelies, including lions, elephants, zebras, hippos, gorillas and polar bears. Both the giraffes and the elephants have new, state-of-the-art homes, the latter courtesy of English architect, Sir Norman Foster.

CARLSBERG VISITORS CENTER

Adjacent to the famed Carlsberg brewery, the newly rejuvenated **Carlsberg Visitors Center** (Map p112; ☎ 33 27 12 82; www.carlsberg.com; Gamle Carlsberg Vej 11; adult/concession 40/25kr; ☎ 10am–4pm Tue–Sun) has an exhibition on the history of Danish beer from 1370 BC (yes, they carbon-dated a bog girl who was found in a peat bog caressing a jug of well-aged brew). Dioramas give the lowdown on the brewing process and en route to your final destination you'll pass antique copper vats and the stables with a dozen Jutland dray horses. The self-guided tour ends at a little pub where you get two free beers.

ØKSNEHALLEN

The former cattle market, **Øksnehallen** (Map pp70–1; ☎ 33 86 04 00; www.oksnehallen.dk; Halmtorvet 11, Vesterbro) is now one of the city's largest and most lively exhibition venues, hosting everything from photographic exhibitions to Copenhagen Cooking (p23). Opening hours and admission prices vary – see the website for individual events.

ACTIVITIES

Despite high levels of drinking and smoking, and a diet rich in fat, salt and other goodies, the Danes are big on physical activity. Cycling is the most obvious choice – it's both a mode of transport and a fitness regimen. You might be surprised to stumble upon good swimming options, both indoors and out.

Swimming BEACHES

If brisk water doesn't deter you, the greater Copenhagen area has several bathing areas. The water is tested regularly and if sewage spills or other serious pollution occur the beaches affected are closed and signposted.

Amager Strandpark (Map p112) This beach has undergone a total transformation in recent years and is now a spectacular sheltered lagoon, with acres of sandy beach and, during summer, a festival atmosphere most days with cafés and bars. Playground facilities and shallow water make it ideal for children. Take the Metro to Lergravsparken (a new Metro station close to the beach itself was due to open at the end of 2007).

Bellevue (Map p112) An attractive popular beach at Klampenborg on the so-called Danish Riviera. To get there take S-train C to Klampenborg.

Charlottenlund (Map p112) An accessible beach north of central Copenhagen. Take S-train C to Charlottenlund.

POOLS

Copenhagen has a handful of swimming pools that visitors can use, including two fantastic open-air places in the harbour itself; the following are the most central ones.

Copencabana (off Map pp70–1; ☎ 23 71 01 85; admission free; ☎ 11am–7pm early Jun–early Sep) With diving, children's and swimming pools, this harbour-based, open-air venue is popular during summer with swimmers and sunbathers alike. It's at Havneholmen, in front of the cinema in Fisketorvet shopping centre.

DGI-byen (Map pp70–1; ☎ 33 29 81 40; www.dgiby.dk; Tietgensgade 65; adult 31–52kr, child 18–32kr; ☎ 6.30am–midnight Mon–Thu, 6.30am–7pm Fri, 9am–5pm Sat & Sun) An extravagant swim centre with several pools, including a grand ellipse-shaped affair with 100m lanes, a deep 'mountain pool' with a climbing wall, a hot-water pool and a children's pool. If you've forgotten your togs or towels, they can be hired for 25kr each.

Islands Brygge Havnebadet (Map pp70–1; ☎ 23 71 31 89; Islands Brygge; admission free; ☎ 7am–7pm Jun–Aug) You'll not have a more authentically local swimming experience than at this natty outdoor pool, which is actually in one of the city's famous canals. Red-and-white striped barriers, interesting architectural shapes and a

great mix of locals makes for a refreshing and captivating dip. Green flags mean good quality water, so don't worry about pollution. If you don't fancy a swim, the lawns, skateboarding parks, basketball courts, restaurants and cafés here are a great place to chill on a sunny day and there's a real carnival atmosphere on summer holidays.

Vesterbro Svømmehal (Map p112; ☎ 33 22 05 00; Angelgade 4; adult/child 30/15kr; ☎ 10am–7pm Mon, 7am–7pm Tue–Thu, 7am–2.30pm Fri, 9am–2pm Sat & Sun) This is a handy 25m-long indoor swimming pool (there's also a sports centre on the premises).

Boating

If you want to explore Christianshavn's historic canals, **Christianshavns Bådudlejning og Café** (Map pp70–1; ☎ 32 96 53 53; Overgaden neden Vandet 29; boats per hr 80kr; ☎ 10am–sunset May–mid-Sep) rents out rowing boats on the canal just beside Christianshavns Torv. An added bonus is the sweet little café on the premises.

Cycling

If you didn't bring a bike with you, you can easily hire one in Copenhagen. In addition to the rental rates, expect to pay a refundable deposit of around 500kr for a regular bike, 1000kr for a mountain bike or tandem.

Danwheel (Map pp70–1; ☎ 33 21 22 27; Colbjørnsensgade 3; bicycle hire per day/week 60/175kr; ☎ 9am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, to 2pm Sat & Sun) A couple of blocks northwest of Central Station, Danwheel hires out bargain-basement older bikes.

Københavns Cykler (Map pp70–1; ☎ 33 33 86 13; www.rentabike.dk; Reventlowsgade 11; bicycle hire per day/week from 75/200kr; ☎ 8am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 9am–1pm Sat year-round, 10am–1pm Sun May–Sep) One of the most convenient rental options is underground at the Reventlowsgade side of Central Station. The bicycles are in good working order and children's seats are available for hire.

Østerport Cykler (Map pp70–1; ☎ 33 33 85 13; www.oesterport-cykler.dk; Oslo Plads 9; bicycle hire per day/week from 75/200kr; ☎ 8am–6pm Mon–Fri, 9am–1pm Sat) At Østerport S-train station near track 13. A sister business to Københavns Cykler; has the same good standards.

WALKING TOURS DESIGN

Your walking tour of this most design-obsessed city starts in Room 606 of its landmark design hotel, the **Radisson SAS Royal Hotel** (1; p97), designed by master builder Arne Jacobsen (right down to the door handles and cutlery), and opened in 1960. The room has been

DESIGN WALKING TOUR

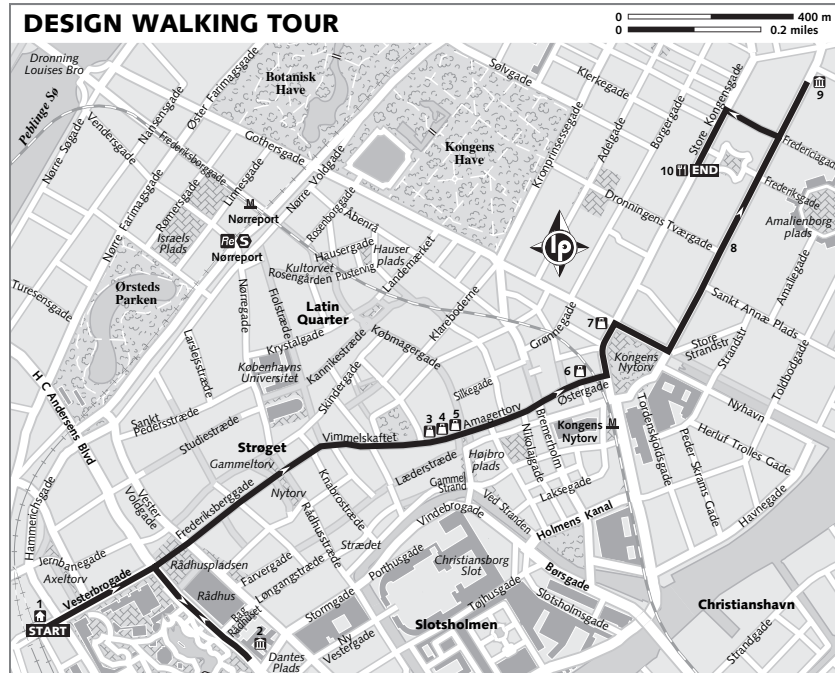
Distance 5km
Duration five hours

kept as it was when the hotel was opened and, if no-one's renting it and you ask nicely, they'll probably let you have a look. From here walk to Rådhuspladsen and down HC Andersens Blvd to the **Dansk Design Center** (2; p76). In the basement you'll find a wealth of Danish design items. Head back to Rådhuspladsen and make your way up Strøget to Amagertorv. There are three shops here – **Illums Bolighus** (3; p108), **Royal Copenhagen Porcelain** (4; p108) and **Georg Jensen** (5; p108) – that sell the best in contemporary and classic Danish design. Now head further up Strøget to Kongens Nytorv, passing the rather more affordable **Bodum** (6) (Østergade; ☎ 33 36 40 50) kitchenware store on your left. **Bang & Olufsen** (7; p107) has its flagship store on the square and if that doesn't stretch your credit cards to breaking point, the antique stores of **Bredgade** (8), filled with classic 20th-century Danish furniture, ought to. Continue your design walking tour at **Kunstindustrimuseet** (9; p83), a cornucopia of industrial design items spanning continents and centuries. End the day with dinner at the gorgeous restaurant **Umami** (10; p101), the ultimate contemporary Scandinavian designer restaurant.

COPENHAGEN IN 48 HOURS

Start at **Statens Museum for Kunst** (1; p86) for a quick run through of the history of Danish art, then wander through **Kongens Have** (2; p86), perusing the sunbathers if it's hot, past **Rosenborg Slot** (3; p85), then head up Gothersgade to **Kongens Nytorv** (4). Cross the square to **Nyhavn** (5) for a late morning beer outside one of the cafés here, then explore the small, boutiquey streets of **Store Strandstræde** (6) and **Lille Strandstræde** (7) behind. After lunch – smørrebrød of course – at **Ida Davidsen** (8; p100) head back to Kongens Nytorv and down **Strøget** (9), for a little window shopping, perhaps stopping off at a café on the way. End up at **Rådhuspladsen** (10; p74) from where it is a short walk to **Tivoli** (11; p75) for all the fun of the fair and dinner at **The Paul** (12; p98). If Tivoli is closed, head for the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel and dinner at **Alberto K** (13; p98) on the 20th floor.

On day two, begin at the **Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek** (1; p76) and bask in the extraordinary



19th-century Danish and French paintings being heading across the road to the **Dansk Design Center** (2; p76) for tips on how to make your home that bit smarter. On nearby **Strædet** (3) you will find a marvellous array of smaller, independent antique, fashion and homeware stores. Stop here for lunch at **Zirup** (4; p104) or any one of the many cafés and restaurants that might take your fancy. At Amagerstorv, turn right across to Slotsholmen, dominated by **Christiansborg Slot** (5; p79), the Danish parliament, but also home to the **Thorvaldsens Museum** (6; p81) and **Det Kongelige Bibliotek** (7; p81). Cross the harbour to **Christianshavn** (8) and wander beside the canals here, perhaps taking a detour into **Christiania** (9) to see how the counterculture lives. See if you can pick up a ticket for a performance at the **Opera House** (10; p106), or spend the evening eating at **Noma** (11; p102).

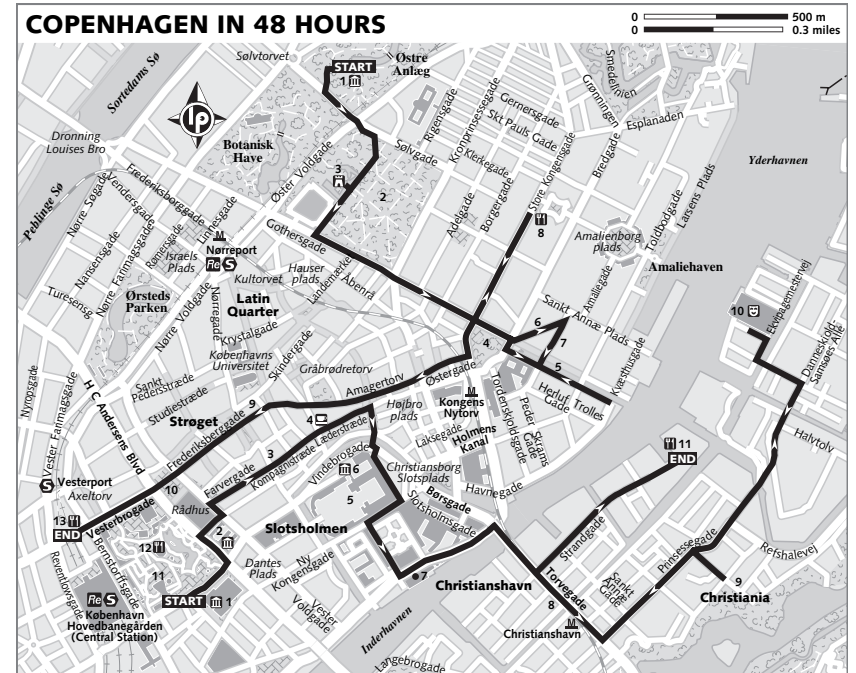
COPENHAGEN ON A BUDGET

Start at **Statens Museum for Kunst** (1; p86), which is free all the time. Pop round the corner to **Den Hirschsprungske Samling** (2; p87), which is free on Wednesday, and then cross Kongens Have to

Dauids Samling (3; p86), free every day. Pick up a **city bike** (4; p74) for a refundable 20kr deposit and cycle to **Christiania** (5) for a 65kr curry lunch at **Morgenstedet** (Langgade Christiania; mains 55kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Tue-Sun). Every Wednesday students from the Danish Music Conservatorium stage free classical concerts at various venues around the city – see www.onsdagkoncerter.dk for details (the website's in Danish only, but it's easy to follow). Alternatively, every Friday, included in the admission, is a live music performance at **Tivoli** (6; p75), often by a major international act (who knows, you could get lucky and catch Tony Bennett or unlucky with Phil Collins, both of whom have played here in recent years). For dinner try the terrific refined Vietnamese street food at **Lê Lê Lê** (7) (☎ 33 22 71 35; Vesterbrogade 56; mains 100kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) in Vesterbro, where you should get a good feed for under 100kr.

COPENHAGEN FOR CHILDREN

Is there a more child-friendly European city than Copenhagen? If there is, we haven't been there. Then again, it shouldn't really come as a surprise considering this is the city that gave



birth to children's literature by way of Hans Christian Andersen. Aside from the facts that it is safe (parents often leave infants sleeping in prams outside cafés and shops), the transport systems are pram-friendly and much of the centre is pedestrianised, the city also lays on numerous attractions specifically targeted at kids.

On the whole, Danish restaurants welcome children with open arms. Virtually all offer highchairs, many have children's menus or will at least provide children's portions, some have play areas, and the steak chain, **Jensens Bøfhus**, has an all-you-can-eat ice cream bar that is guaranteed to keep your children quite for at least five minutes.

Top of the list of kid's sights is, of course, **Tivoli** (p75), then there is the perennially popular zoo (p88) and **Zoologisk museum** (p87). **Statens Museum for Kunst** (p86) and **Nationalmuseet** (p76) both have excellent children's sections. The canal tours (p92) are always a hit with kids, as is the **Planetarium** (p87) and **DGI-byen** (p88).

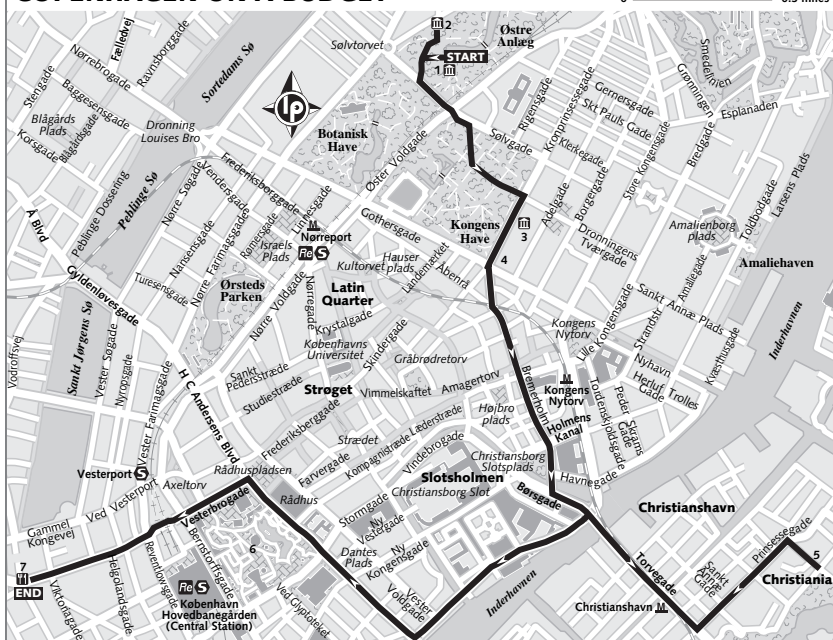
The extensive hands-on technology and natural-world exhibits at **Experimentarium** (Map

p112; ☎ 39 27 33 33; www.experimentarium.dk; Tuborg Havnevej 7, Hellerup; adult/child 125/80kr; ☺ 9.30am-5pm Mon & Wed-Fri, 9.30am-9pm Tue, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun) are housed in a former bottling hall of Tuborg Breweries in Hellerup, north of the city. Containing some 300 exhibits, it's a fun place for kids, featuring such time-honoured standards as the hall of mirrors, as well as computer-enhanced activities that make it possible to compose water music, stand on the moon or ride an inverted bicycle. To get here take the S-train to Hellerup from Central Station.

The touristy **Guinness World of Records Museum** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 32 31 31; www.guinness.dk; Østergade 16; adult/child 83/66kr; ☺ 10am-6pm Sun-Thu, to 2pm Fri & Sat 1 Jan-9 May & 13 Sep-31 Dec, 10am-8pm 10 May-31 May & 1 Sep-12 Sep, 9.30am-10.30pm 1 Jun-31 Aug) on Strøget uses displays, film and photos to depict the world's superlatives – the tallest, fastest, oddest and so on.

Whacky **Ripley's Believe It or Not!** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 91 89 91; Rådhuspladsen 57; adult/child 83/66kr; ☺ 10am-8pm 10 May-31 May, 9.30am-10pm 1 Jun-31 Aug, 10am-8pm 1 Sep-12 Sep, 10am-6pm Sun-Thu & 10am-8pm Fri & Sat 2 Jan-9 May & 13 Sep-31 Dec) museum displays the expected collection of unexpected oddities

COPENHAGEN ON A BUDGET



from around the world (such as a six-legged calf) replicated in wax figures and tableaux. Revelling in its own outlandish clichés, this place gets packed with young folk. The Hans Christian Andersen 'museum' next door really isn't worth the entrance fee though.

TOURS

Bus Tours

Many major cities have a hop-on/hop-off red double-decker bus tour operator, and Copenhagen is no different. **Copenhagen City Sightseeing** (☎ 32 66 00 00; www.citysightseeing.dk; departs from Rådhuspladsen; tickets adult/child from 130/70kr; 🕒 departures 9.30am, 11.30am & 1pm) has themed tour options including Christiania, Carlsberg and Mermaid, which manage to include the most popular sights in the city. If you buy a 220kr 'Freedom' ticket, you can take part in every tour on offer over two days, which is handy for those short on time. Multilingual tape recordings make sure everyone gets the picture.

Canal Tours

You can't visit Copenhagen and *not* take a canal boat trip. Not only is it a fantastic way

to see the city, but you see a side of it landlubbers never see. There are two companies that operate guided canal tours during summer – DFDS and Netto Boats. Both companies cover the same routes taking in the main sights including Nyhavn, the Little Mermaid, Holmen, Christianshavn, the harbour and the canal around Slotsholmen. Be aware that, in most boats, you are totally exposed to the elements (which can be quite elemental in Copenhagen harbour, even during summer). DFDS also offers tours in covered, heated boats during winter (10.15am and one per hour until 2pm, 23 October to 22 December), tours from the Marriott Hotel (9.45am 24 March to 22 November, 9.55am and every hour until 2.55pm 23 November to 22 December) and three hop-on, hop-off water buses during the summer season (10am to 5pm; see the website for route information and a detailed timetable).

DFDS Canal Tours (Map p80; ☎ 32 96 30 00; www.canaltours.com; adult/child 60/25kr; 🕒 every ½hr 10am-5pm 24 Mar-22 Jun & 20 Aug-22 Oct, every ½hr 10am-7.30pm 23 Jun-19 Aug) Embarking points Nyhavn and Gammel Strand.

Harbour Buses (☎ 36 13 14 15; www.movia.dk) The

LOCAL VOICES

Sebastian Sejer, Graphic Designer

What's Copenhagen's best kept secret?

The **Gloria Cinema** (☎ 33 12 42 92; www.gloria.dk; Rådhuspladsen 1-9), an art-house cinema.

What one thing would you recommend visitors do before they leave?

End up drunk in Psykopaten, the nickname for the bar **Alleenberg** (☎ 33 25 44 42; Allégade 4, Frederiksberg; 🕒 10pm-6am Tue-Sat), in the wee small hours.

What would you warn visitors about?

Ending up drunk in Psykopaten in the wee small hours.

What souvenir do you think people should take away with them?

A couple of the pan flute players from Rådhuspladsen (please?).

What do you think will surprise visitors the most?

The sheer number of beautiful women (though this will probably be of most benefit to male visitors).

What does Copenhagen have that no other city has?

Leading politicians who cycle.

harbour boat-bus service runs from the Black Diamond to Nordre Toldbod just south of the Little Mermaid, stopping at Knippelsbro, Nyhavn, the Opera House and twice in Holmen along the way. Single tickets cost a steep 36kr, are valid for one hour and can also be used on the buses, metro and S-tog. Boats sail every 20 minutes until 8pm (7pm on Sunday). A harbour bus also sails from the Opera House to Nyhavn after every performance.

Netto Boats (Map p80; ☎ 32 54 41 02; www.havnerundfart.dk; adult/child 30/15kr; 🕒 2-5 times per hr, 10am-5pm, 25 Mar-22 Oct) Embarking points at Holmens Kirke and Nyhavn.

Walking & Cycle Tours

Students from the University of Copenhagen offer **jogging tours** (☎ 61 60 69 67; www.joggingtours.dk; per person 70kr) following two routes – a Royal Tour and a Nørrebro Tour.

Jazz fans can explore the city's rich jazz past with a **Jazz Tour** (☎ 33 45 43 19; www.jazztour.dk; per person 850kr), which includes a two- to three-course dinner with wine and entrance into two to three clubs. It is run by the Danish Jazz Union.

Copenhagen Walking Tours (☎ 40 81 12 17; www.copenhagen-walkingtours.dk) organises a range of themed tours of the city for, typically, around 100kr per person.

History Tours (☎ 28 49 44 35; www.historytours.dk; prices vary) leads historically themed walking tours of the city centre, leaving from Højbro Plads.

If you don't fancy walking, **City Safari** (☎ 33 23 94 90; www.citysafari.dk) offers cycling tours of the city, departing from the Dansk Arkitektur Center (Strandgade 27b, Christianshavn).

Tours can be adapted to a theme of your choice.

Nightlife Friend (www.nightlifefriend.is) is something rather different. It started in Reykjavik and has now spread to Copenhagen and Stockholm. For 2500kr a local nightlife lover will chaperone you and up to four friends around the city's hotspots for the weekend (9pm to 3am Friday and Saturday), getting VIP entrance to clubs.

Every city has its ghost tour, and Copenhagen is no exception. **Ghost Tours** (☎ 51 92 55 51; www.ghosttour.dk; adult/child 85/60kr) operates a 1½-hour walking tour of the city centre, leaving from Nyhavn at 8pm. Advance booking only.

SLEEPING

Copenhagen's main low/midrange hotel quarter is conveniently located on the western side of Central Station in Vesterbro, where rows of six-storey, early-20th-century buildings house one hotel after another, as well as, you should be aware, a rather full-on red light district based on Istedgade.

The hotel rates quoted in this section include service charge, the 25% value-added tax (VAT). It's a good idea to book in advance – rooms in many of the most popular midrange hotels fill quickly, particularly during the convention season, typically from August to October, when prices increase significantly too. That said, prices for rooms do fluctuate greatly, depending on the time of year or even the time of week, with most hotels tempting guests with special offers throughout

the year. Our listings reflect prices as follows: budget (doubles with bathroom under 975kr to 1000kr per night), midrange (doubles with bathroom between 1000kr and 1700kr) and top end (doubles over 1700kr).

The Wonderful Copenhagen Tourist Information Bureau (p74) can help you find accommodation. Rooms in private homes around the city cost from around 350kr for singles and 500kr for doubles. This office also books unfilled hotel rooms, typically at discounted rates that vary from around 100kr off for budget hotels to as much as 50% off for top-end hotels. These discounts, however, are based on supply and demand, and are not always available during busy periods. There's a 75kr to 100kr fee per booking.

Budget HOSTELS

Copenhagen's hostels often fill early in summer so it's best to make reservations in advance. You will need a hostelling card to get the advertised rates.

Danhostel Copenhagen Bellahøj (Map p112; ☎ 33 28 97 15; www.youth-hostel.dk; Herbergvejen 8, Brønshøj; dm/d/tr 120/350/455kr; ☹ 1 Feb-2 Jan; 📺) This place is in a quiet suburban neighbourhood 4km northwest of the city centre. Although it has 250 beds, it's quite cosy for its size. Facilities include a laundry room, cafeteria, TV room and table tennis, plus reception is open 24 hours. To get here, take bus 2A.

Danhostel Copenhagen Amager (Map p112; ☎ 32 52 29 08; www.copenhagenyouthhostel.dk; Vejlands Allé 200, Amager; dm/d 120/360kr; ☹ 2 Jan-15 Dec) In an isolated part of Amager just off the E20, about 5km from the city centre, this is one of Europe's largest hostels, with 528 beds in a series of low-rise wings containing cells of two-bed and five-bed rooms. There's a laundry room, internet access and a cafeteria. It's accessible to people in wheelchairs. To get here, take the metro to Bella Center.

Sleep-In Heaven (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 35 46 48; www.sleepinheaven.com; Struenseegade 7, Nørrebro; dm 130kr, breakfast 30kr, sheets 30kr; ☹ year-round; 📺) This privately run hostel in the Nørrebro area has 76 beds in a basement dorm. There's no group kitchen but there are a number of cheap eating places within walking distance. There are even 'bridal suites' for couples (445kr).

Danhostel Copenhagen City (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 18 83 32; www.danhostel.dk/copenhagencity.dk; HC Andersens Blvd; dm 130-165kr, s/d with bathroom 520-660kr; 📺) More

like a boutique/designer hotel than a hostel (the interior is by design company Gubi), this tower block overlooking the harbour just south of Tivoli gardens could not be more centrally located. Gets booked up well in advance, with lounge/TV area and organic café.

HOTELS

Hotel Windsor (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 11 08 30; www.hotelwindsor.dk; Frederiksborggade 30, Nørreport; s/d 425/625kr) An exclusively gay hotel in an older building opposite Israels Plads, the Windsor's two dozen rooms are straightforward and a bit worn, but all have TV and some have a VCR and refrigerator.

Selandia Hotel (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 31 46 10; www.hotel-selandia.dk; Helgolandsgade 12, Vesterbro; s/d from 475/595kr) Recently renovated Selandia has 84 rooms, each with a desk, trouser press, TV and free wireless internet connection. Cheapest are the two-dozen or so rooms with shared bathroom. This is a small, personal hotel with really helpful service, but not what you'd call modern.

Cab Inn (www.cabinn.dk; s/d 525/645kr) Modern, well managed and cheap, the Cab Inn chain has taken Copenhagen by storm in the last few years with three hotels, the closest to the city centre being Cab Inn Copenhagen City (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 46 16 16; Mitchellsgade 14), which lies just to the south of Tivoli. Although small and anonymous, the rooms are comfortable and have cable TV, phone, complimentary tea, and bathroom. Reception is open 24 hours and all rooms have free wireless internet connection. The other two branches are Cab Inn Scandinavia (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 36 11 11; Vodroffsvej 57, Frederiksberg) and Cab Inn Copenhagen Express (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 21 04 00; Danasvej 32, Frederiksberg), which both have parking facilities.

TOP FIVE COPENHAGEN SLEEPS

- **Best Waterside Front** (p97)
- **Cooltest Boutique Hotel** Hotel Guldsmeden (p96)
- **Best Fitness Facilities** DGI-byen (p96)
- **Nicest Newcomer** Hotel Twentyseven (opposite)
- **Hippiest Hotspot** First Hotel Sankt Petri (p97)

Hotel Sankt Thomas (Map p112; ☎ 33 21 64 64; www.scctthomas.com; Frederiksberg Allé 7, Frederiksberg; s 595kr, d 695-795kr; 📺) Cosy little Sankt Thomas lies tucked away in a 19th-century building. A 10- to 15-minute walk from the city centre, it's close to the area's new bars, restaurants and theatres, and is charmingly run. There are some cheaper rooms (without toilet) for 495/595kr per single/double (even less in the low season).

Savoy Hotel (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 26 75 00; www.savoyhotel.dk; Vesterbrogade 34; s/d 665/765kr) The Savoy is a century-old hotel that was renovated a few years ago but still retains some of its period character and Art Nouveau décor. Although the hotel fronts a busy road, all of its 66 rooms face a quiet courtyard, and each room has cable TV, a minibar and coffee maker. Plus, the service is some of the sweetest and most efficient we came across.

CAMPING

Charlottenlund Fort (Map p112; ☎ 39 62 36 88; www.campingcopenhagen.dk; Strandvejen 1448; camping per adult 80kr; ☹ 1 May-15 Sep) Eight kilometres north of central Copenhagen, this friendly camping ground, on Charlottenlund beach, is set in the tree-lined grounds of an old moat-encircled coastal fortification. Space is limited so advance bookings are recommended. There's a snack kiosk, showers and a coin laundry on site; a bakery and a supermarket are just a few hundred metres away. To get here, take bus 6A.

Midrange

RÅDHUSPLADSEN & TIVOLI

The Square (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 38 12 00; www.thesquare.dk; Rådhuspladsen 14; s/d from 1085/1260kr; 📺) Ultramodern and so hip it almost hurts (Jacobson chairs, cowhide fabric, red leather), The Square is an excellent three-star hotel with design touches and amenities generally associated with greater expense and more stiffness. Rooms are beautifully equipped, and some have sterling views of the main square – plus all the city's main sights are within walking distance.

Hotel Ascot (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 12 60 00; www.ascothotel.dk; Studiestræde 61; s/d from 1090/1290kr; 📺) The friendly Ascot occupies a former bathhouse erected 100 years ago by the same architect (Martin Nyrop) who designed Copenhagen's city hall. Most of the 155 rooms are large and decorated in a hotchpotch of styles,

although each has a deep soaking tub in the bathroom, and some have a kitchen and internet access. It's not easily accessible to people in wheelchairs though.

Hotel Kong Frederik (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 12 59 02; www.remmen.dk; Vester Voldgade 25; s/d from 1090/1510kr; 📺) Classic English-style hotel with four stars on its door and a solid historic character including dark woods, antique furnishings and paintings of Danish royalty. Its 110 rooms are poshly comfortable and each has a TV, phone, minibar and hairdryer, plus there's free access to the spa/fitness centre at the Hotel d'Angleterre (see p97).

Hotel Alexandra (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 74 44 44; www.hotel-alexandra.dk; HC Andersens Blvd 8; s/d from 1195/1395kr; 📺) This centrally located, recently refurbished, Green Key Award-winning hotel is full of fantastic examples of classic 20th-century Danish furniture from the likes of Arne Jacobsen and Ole Wanscher. The ground floor restaurant, Brasserie Mulhausen (p98; to be renamed Bistreen in late '07), meanwhile, boasts pieces by Kaare Klint and Børge Mogensen. This is an unforgettable place to stay, offering a nice change from all those slick, modern Scandinavian designer places.

Hotel Twentyseven (Map p75; ☎ 37 27 56 27; www.hotel27.dk; Løngangstræde 27; s/d 1225/1575kr; 📺) The latest super-cool, modern Scandinavian hotel to open in the city is this surprisingly well-priced 200-roomer close to Rådhuspladsen. Rooms feature flat-screen TVs and organic products in the black slate bathrooms. All very cool, and even cooler is the Absolut Ice Bar in the basement (p103).

NYHAVN

Copenhagen Strand (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 48 99 00; www.copenhagenstrand.dk; Havnegade 37; s/d from 990/1285kr; 📺) The Strand is an excellent midrange hotel overlooking Copenhagen Harbour. Its 174 rooms are equipped with cable TV, minibar and phone. There's an onsite business centre and a lobby bar, making this a good choice for business travellers.

71 Nyhavn Hotel (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 43 62 00; www.71nyhavnhotel.dk; Nyhavn 71; s/d from 995/1295kr; 📺) Well, you certainly won't forget your address if you stay here, and you won't forget the experience either. Housed in a stunning 200-year-old canal-side warehouse, this wonderful hotel has incorporated some of the building's period features and great views of both the harbour and Nyhavn canal. Everything runs

like clockwork and the location is unbeatable. It's popular with business travellers, and therefore can be a bargain on weekends (single/double 990/1290kr).

Hotel City (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 13 06 66; www.hotelcity.dk; Peder Skramsgade 24; s/d from 995/1350kr; ☒) This relatively small Best Western hotel has 81 pleasant (and Green-Keyed) rooms, each with cable TV, phone and trouser press. Most contain two single beds, placed side by side. The lobby has Jacobsen chairs and a water feature that would have him turning in his grave, but we give the place thumbs up for its friendliness and patience with children.

NØRREPORT

Hotel Kong Arthur (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 11 12 12; www.kongarthur.dk; Nørre Søgade 11; s/d from 1035/1720kr; ☐) The Kong Arthur has 107 stylish rooms, with Persian rugs and period details such as suits of armour, overlooking Peblinge Sø. Room amenities include TV, minibar, trouser press and attractive bathroom. The hotel has a stylish inner courtyard, and there's also a lovely glassed-in atrium for breakfast in inclement weather.

Ibsens Hotel (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 13 19 13; www.ibsenshotel.dk; Vendersgade 23; s/d from 1085/1270kr) Part of the Brøchner Group (which also includes Hotel Fox and Hotel Kong Arthur), Ibsens has 118 rooms spread across four floors of a renovated period building. The place has the character of a boutique hotel with creative décor and no two rooms looking exactly the same. Décor styles vary between modern (with contemporary Scandinavian design features), romantic and traditional (loads of antiques and plush fabric details). All rooms boast a comfortable bed, telephone and TV. Situated near happening Nansensgade, this is a great location for those who are in Copenhagen to experience more than the tourist sights.

VESTERBRO

Tiffany (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 21 80 50; www.hoteltiffany.dk; Colbjørnsensgade 28; s/d 845/1055kr; ☒ ☒ ☒) The Tiffany, which proudly bills itself as a 'Sweet Hotel', is a pleasant little place filled with character. The 29 rooms each have TV, phone, trouser press, private bathroom, and kitchenette with refrigerator and microwave oven. Service is kind and considerate, making this little jewel excellent value for money in this price range.

Hotel Guldsmeden (www.hotelguldsmeden.dk) The gorgeous Guldsmeden hotels include Ber-

trams (☎ 33 25 04 05; Vesterbrogade 107; single/double from 895/1495kr), Carlton (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 22 15 00; Vesterbrogade 66; single/double from 795/1395kr) and the new, equally alluring Axel (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 31 32 66; Helgolandsgade 7-11; single/double 1195/1495kr), just off Istedgade. Axel features more of the same raw stone, bare wood, crisp white linen, spectacular bath tubs and colonial style that have made these hotels *the* place to stay for savvy, style-conscious travellers.

Absalon Hotel (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 24 22 11; www.absalon-hotel.dk; Helgolandsgade 15; s/d 995/1195kr; ☐) At the three-star 165-room Absalon you'll find chintz-laden rooms with good amenities, including cable TV and office facilities available to guests. Cheaper rooms with bathroom facilities are good value if you're pinching pennies (single/double/triple 550/725/925kr), but they're not nearly as attractive as the other rooms in the main wing. If you want a little more luxury, there are rooms on the top floor for a few hundred *kroner* more. Parking is available nearby.

DGI-byen Hotel (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 29 80 50; www.dgi-byen.dk; Tietgensgade 65; s/d from 1295/1495kr; ☐ ☐ ☐) Part of a late-millennium sports complex development 200m south of Central Station, this hotel consists of 104 rooms on three storeys of the complex. The rooms have modern Scandinavian décor with blond hardwood floors and sleek modest furnishings.

COPENHAGEN ISLAND

Copenhagen Island (off Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 38 96 00; www.copenhagenisland.dk; Kalvebod Brygge; s/d 1525/1875kr; ☐ ☒ ☒ ☒) Yes, the Copenhagen Island is built on an island in the South Harbour; yes the rooms look splendid with their sleek Danish-designed furniture; and, yes, the views are great (at least from the rooms looking over the water). But it is a little out of the way, here by the horrid Fisketorvet shopping mall, and some of the rooms are awfully small. Comes with restaurant, fitness centre, parking and well equipped rooms.

Top End

RÅDHUSPLADSEN & TIVOLI

Hotel Fox (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 13 30 00; www.foxhotel.dk; Jarmers Plads 3; s/d from 945/1320kr; ☒ ☒ ☒) With every room designed by a different artist/designer/total crazy person, a room at Hotel Fox adds just a little more to your visit to the city than a trouser press and some

nice prints of the canals. Originally opened to promote a VW car, the Fox has taken on a life of its own as a hip hang-out for arty types. The lobby lounge-bar is a great place to be in the early hours at weekends, although the attempted 'molecular gastronomy' restaurant is best avoided.

Hotel Imperial (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 12 80 00; www.imperialhotel.dk; Vester Farimagsgade 9; s/d from 1295/1595kr; ☐ ☒ ☒ ☒) The Imperial was completely renovated in '06 and now boasts simple, modern rooms all with high-speed internet access. It also has one of the best reputations for service among the city's top-end establishments. Definitely worth booking for a weekend of escapism.

Radisson SAS Royal Hotel (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 42 60 00; www.radissonsas.com; Hammerichsgade 1; s/d from 1395/1695; ☐ ☒ ☒ ☒) Centrally located and famous as all get-out (Arne Jacobsen designed it and Room 606 – a tidy 4900kr per night – has been left intact), this 265-room, multistorey hotel is popular with well-to-do business travellers and visiting dignitaries. Service is peerless and the excellent Alberto K restaurant (p98) on the top (20th) floor is highly recommended.

Palace Hotel (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 14 40 50; www.palace-hotel.dk; Rådhuspladsen 57; s/d 2660/2860kr; ☒ ☒ ☒) Bang on Rådhuspladsen and housed in a 1920s building – by architect Anton Rosen – whose tower is a city landmark itself, the Palace is one of the city's more special places to stay. It will remain open during a discreet renovation that will last until early '08 and will restore the hotel to the height of modern luxury. Service is whip-smart and incredibly helpful.

STRØGET & THE LATIN QUARTER

First Hotel Sankt Petri (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 45 91 00; www.hotelsktpetri.com; Krystalgade 22; s/d from 1595/2395kr; ☐ ☒ ☒ ☒) This is still the hottest hotel in town, despite the arrival of places such as Front and Hotel Twentyseven. It has fabulous rooms (many with charming views over the Latin Quarter's rooftops) in classic Scandinavian 21st-century style and amenities you didn't know you needed (anti-allergy quilts and the like). Plus there's a fantastic bar in the atrium lobby.

NYHAVN

Front (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 13 34 00; www.front.dk; Sankt Annæ Plads 21; s/d from 1460/2930kr; ☒ ☒) Copen-

hagen's sexiest new hotel lies to the rear of Nyhavn overlooking the harbour and features funky contemporary Scandinavian design with bold colours (although perhaps the orange carpets that grace some rooms are best avoided) and patterned wallpaper with, happily, more subdued stained woods and discreet beiges. Each of the 133 rooms is well equipped, while the restaurant serves a free-roaming global-fusion menu. We also like the blackboard in the lobby where you can make your own mark on the place.

Phoenix (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 95 95 00; www.phoenixcopenhagen.dk; Bredgade 37; s/d from 1730/2075kr; ☒ ☒) A block north of Nyhavn, Phoenix is one of the city's more fastidious deluxe hotels and fairly hums with efficient (yet discreet) service. The 200-plus plush rooms have heavy carpets, upholstered chairs and chandeliers and the like, all in keeping with a Louis XVI feel. Business facilities are excellent, as is its proximity to Copenhagen's financial district. Weekend prices plummet by at least 30%.

Hotel d'Angleterre (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 12 00 95; www.remmen.dk; Kongens Nytorv 34; s/d from 2340/2680kr; ☐ ☒ ☒) Visiting high-profile celebrities often opt for the exclusive, reassuringly five-star d'Angleterre, which has enough chandeliers, marble floors and history (dating back to the 18th century) to give you a gilt complex. It also has some of Copenhagen's highest rates, with 18500kr for the royal suite. Breakfast is an extra 165kr per person. Despite its lengthy history, the hotel no longer enjoys the solidly pre-eminent reputation it once had among Copenhagen's top hotels, and service, while perfectly pleasant, is not quite up to the bow-and-scrape standards one expects of these sorts of places. That said, the gym and spa are top class, and business facilities are excellent.

EATING

Copenhagen is one of the hottest culinary destinations in northern Europe right now. It has, to take one admittedly rarefied yardstick, more Michelin stars than the rest of Scandinavia put together (nine at the time of going to press). But the strength of its food scene is based on more than just knowing when to scrape crumbs from linen tablecloths and having a good old world wine list. Chefs such as Rene Redzepi at Noma and Rasmus Kofoed at Geranium are creating an international buzz about the city that is having a welcome knock-on effect on other, less expensive restaurants and, in

TOP FIVE COPENHAGEN EATS

- **A Meal to Remember** Noma (p102)
- **Best for Traditional Danish** Ida David-
sen (p100)
- **Most Romantic** Geranium (p100)
- **Nicest Escape** Bastionen & Løven (p101)
- **Best View** Alberto K (right)

particular, the city's delectable cafés, virtually all of which serve food. Sir Terence Conran has pitched in, too, with The Custom House, a gourmet complex beside the harbour featuring Japanese and Italian restaurants and a New York-style steakhouse.

But despite all the attention from the likes of Michelin, *Condé Nast Traveller* and *Wallpaper*, Copenhageners still have time for traditional Danish fare, such as *frikadeller* (meat balls), *sild* (pickled herring) and, of course, the renowned Danish open sandwich (*smørrebrød*), all of which have a permanent place on even the poshest menus.

Areas to check out for great dining include Vesterbro and Nørrebro for trendy new bistros, cafés and ethnic food, the area west of Gothersgade for Franco-Danish gastronomes, Nyhavn for beer and a sandwich, and Christianshavn to enjoy lunch by the canals away from the crowds.

There are a couple of things to note when eating out in Copenhagen. Firstly, wine costs a fortune, which is odd because it is cheaper in Danish supermarkets than it is in France, so we can only assume that the city's restaurateurs are using colossal mark-ups to offset high labour costs and rent. Secondly, the Danes are not Mediterraneans, meaning that if you like to eat late, you'll have trouble finding a place to accommodate you after about 10pm at night, when many restaurants close their kitchens.

Restaurants that open during the day will commence business at 11am or noon, and keep the kitchen serving lunch until about 3pm, before opening again at about 6pm. Some of the best restaurants close for some weeks in July and August, so be sure to book ahead for the top-range places such as Noma.

Tivoli & Rådhuspladsen

Tivoli boasts nearly 30 places to eat, from simple stalls offering typical amusement-park

fare such as hot dogs, to some of the most respected eating establishments in the city. You need to pay Tivoli admission to eat at its restaurants – and they only open during the Tivoli season.

MIDRANGE

Brasserie Mulhausen (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 74 44 66; www.mulhausen.dk; Hotel Alexandra, HC Andersens Blvd 8; mains 150-225kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, dinner Sun) The area immediately surrounding Rådhuspladsen is something of a culinary desert, which makes the arrival of experienced local chef Søren Thyboe in this delightful Franco-Danish café-restaurant all the more welcome. With its light, airy dining room, charming rear courtyard and excellent Modern European/Danish menu, this is a real oasis in a busy part of town. By late 2007, this restaurant will be renamed Bistron.

Grøften (Map p75; ☎ 33 75 06 75; mains 150-225kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) The speciality here (since 1974) is a type of *smørrebrød* with lip-smacking tiny fjord shrimps spiced with lime and fresh pepper; other *smørrebrød* are priced from 50kr apiece. The archetypal Tivoli restaurant with a jolly atmosphere to match.

TOP END

Alberto K (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 42 61 61; www.aok.dk/kunder/albertok; 4/7 courses 555/745kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, dinner Sat) The modern Italian cuisine is a match for the panoramic view at this 20th floor restaurant in the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, which is saying something. The menu blends locally sourced game and seafood with Italian ingredients – scallops with wild mushrooms and fennel being a good example. The restaurant has a well established, international wine cellar.

The Paul (Map p75; ☎ 33 75 07 75; www.thepaul.dk; tasting menu 800kr, wine menu 800kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) White-hot inside and out, the Michelin-starred restaurant with the terrible name is a must for anyone who wants a memorable meal in relaxed yet beautiful surrounds. English-born chef Paul Cunningham is highly acclaimed, and a look at the menu shows why. Dishes such as butter-roasted turbot (from the Danish west coast) with celeriac are sublime. Reservations essential.

Strøget & the Latin Quarter

Strøget and, more particularly, the grid of streets to its north and south are a fertile hunt-

ing ground for restaurants and cafés, with everything from hole-in-the-wall kebab kiosks to good old traditional Danish lunch restaurants, cool cafés and gourmet starred places.

BUDGET

La Glace (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 14 46 46; www.laglace.com in Danish; Skoubogade 3; pastries from 40kr; ☺ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Thu, to 6pm Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) This is the classic *konditori* (bakery-café) in town and it has been serving tea and fancy cakes for more than a century. A rite of passage if you have a sweet tooth, or are looking to develop one.

Huset med det Grønne Træ (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 12 87 86; Gammeltorv 20; smørrebrød from 50kr; ☺ lunch noon-4pm Mon-Fri year-round, noon-3pm Sat Sep-Mar) The 'Green Tree' of the name has now sadly been replaced by a public toilet (what were they thinking?), but there is still an excellent traditional *smørrebrød* lunch to be had in this period building dating from 1796, with draught beer and a dozen brands of schnapps.

RizRaz (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 15 05 75; www.rizraz.dk; Kompagnistræde 20; buffets 69-79kr, mains 99-139kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) Just south of Strøget, this airy basement café will have you feasting on a Mediterranean-style vegetarian buffet that groans under the weight of felafel, pasta, hummus and salads, served daily to 5pm (to 4pm on weekends). You can also order from the menu, which includes lamb kebabs, grilled fish or fried calamari for the meat lovers among us. A frequent winner of 'best and cheapest' awards, with another branch on

Store Kannikstræde 19 (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 32 33 45).

MIDRANGE

Café Ketchup (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 32 30 30; www.cafeketchup.dk; Pilestræde 19; mains 99-155kr, 3-course set menu 425kr; ☺ 11am-midnight Mon-Wed, to 1am Thu, to 3am Fri & Sat) In the heart of Copenhagen's pre-club/café nightlife quarter, Ketchup reigns supreme with its split-level bar/dining room, global menu and glitzy-groovy crowd on weekends. Its veal *tournedos* with pan-fried foie gras on sweet potato *roesti* with sautéed haricot verts, Serrano ham and Béarnaise butter sounds pretty heavyweight and it is, but it surely won't do you any harm once in a while. On Friday and Saturday night there's a DJ.

Peder Øxe (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 11 00 77; www.pederøxe.dk; Gråbrødretorv 11; mains 114-198kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) Fronting Gråbrødretorv, this stalwart of rustic dining offers wonderful Danish country grub. The *smørrebrød* (two for 138kr plus help yourself to the salad buffet) is a popular option for those at lunch. We fell in love with the solid wood floors, Portuguese tiles and groovy little system whereby you let the waiters know you're ready to order by flicking on a light above your table. Copenhagen's oldest monastery was built on this site in 1238 and the restaurant's wine cellar retains part of the old stone foundations.

Café a Porta (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 11 05 00; www.cafeaporta.dk; Kongens Nytorv 17; mains 165-265kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) Overlooking stately Kongens Nytorv

LOCAL VOICES

Tomas Kammer, Air Traffic Controller

What's Copenhagen's best kept secret?

The stuff certain members of the royal family get up to!

What one thing would you recommend visitors do before they leave?

I would recommend going to Ni Mat (Købmagergade 41, ☎ 33 15 89 55) in Købmagergade; it is a wonderful way to relax. Go for the one-hour massage followed by 30 minutes in an outdoor spa with fresh fruit and champagne...heaven.

What would you warn visitors about?

Getting too excited about the Little Mermaid. She's pretty small.

What souvenir do you think people should take away with them?

Something from Royal Copenhagen Porcelain (p108) or Illums Bolighus (p108).

What do you think will surprise visitors the most?

The feeling of security that is quite rare in big European cities. Then again, some would probably say that was the most boring thing about the city.

What does Copenhagen have that no other city has?

Copenhagen has a unique blend of a big city feel with small town charm, and also a large number of high quality restaurants, compared with other Scandinavian cities.

beside the entrance to the metro is this classic Viennese-style café serving hearty portions of standard brasserie food, with a special seasonal line in asparagus and shellfish. This used to be a favourite of Hans Christian Andersen – the Royal Theatre, his favourite haunt, is just across the street and he lived for a while in an attic room in what is now Magasin du Nord (p108).

TOP END

Restaurant d'Angleterre (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 37 06 45; www.remmen.dk; Hotel d'Angleterre, Kongens Nytorv 34; mains 260kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) Copenhagen's hotel-restaurants are not usually terribly appealing, but the five-star d'Angleterre is a cut above the rest, serving alluring classical French cuisine built upon a solid foundation of the best Danish raw ingredients, and served in a glamorous, glistering dining room overlooking Copenhagen's grandest square.

Cafe Victor (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 13 36 13; www.cafevictor.dk; Ny Østergade 8; mains 275-495kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) One of the original French-style zinc bars that caused a stir back in the '80s – largely due to its rather nouveau riche clientele – still serves a fantastic, if overpriced menu of updated French brasserie classics, including caramelised sweetbreads with peas, watercress and tomato fondue.

Nyhavn to the Little Mermaid

BUDGET

Ida Davidsen (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 91 36 55; Store Kongensgade 70; smørrebrød 50-150kr; ☺ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri) Ida's is widely considered the top smørrebrød purveyor in not just Copenhagen, but all Denmark. The menu features an almost infinite variety of open sandwiches – the only limit is Ida's imagination and the actual dimensions of the piece of (homemade) rye bread that you're dealing with.

Nyhavns Færgetro (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 15 15 88; Nyhavn 5; herring buffets 89kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) An atmospheric café right on the canal, this popular spot has an all-you-can-eat buffet with 10 different kinds of herring, including baked, marinated and rollmops, with condiments to sprinkle on top and boiled potatoes to round out the meal. If you're not a herring lover, then there's something very wrong with you. But there's also a variety of smørrebrød for around 60kr. Dinner, served from 5pm to 11.30pm, betrays French influences, like many Danish restaurants in this area.

Wokshop Cantina (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 91 61 21; www.wokshop.dk; Ny Adelgade 6; mains 95-130kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, dinner Sat) This great value, Wagamama-style modern Thai/Asian place is close to Kongens Nytorv to the rear of Hotel d'Angleterre.

MIDRANGE

The Custom House (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 31 01 30; www.customhouse.dk; Havnegade 44; mains 95-295kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) Sir Terence Conran's recently opened gourmet complex is housed in the old ferry terminal, where boats used to embark for Sweden. As well as a small, rather pointless deli, there are three more appealing upscale restaurants here. At Bacino the menu is contemporary but authentic Italian, with dishes including langoustine with pumpkin risotto, or filet of halibut with basil, courgette and almond cream. Ebisu serves what is for Copenhagen an unusually wide range of Japanese dishes – from sushi to teriyaki to skewers – while the Grill Bar apes a more casual, upmarket New York steak joint. The food and service varies from excellent to so-so but, as you'd expect, the décor is smooth and sophisticated, with lots of dark stained wood and slate.

Rasmus Oubæk (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 32 32 09; www.rasmusoubæk.dk; Store Kongensgade 52; mains 155-185kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri) Rasmus Oubæk is one of Denmark's top chefs but he quit the high stress, low profit world of Michelin-starred dining a while back to open this elegant little traditional French place in the city's royal quarter. We wouldn't ordinarily recommend that you try out-and-out French bistro cooking in Copenhagen, but Oubæk's food is just so good – he does dishes such as duck *confit* and steak tartar better than most French chefs could ever dream of.

Cap Horn (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 12 85 04; www.caphorn.dk in Danish; Nyhavn 21; mains 170kr; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) A deservedly popular spot, this canal favourite specialises in Danish fare and uses mainly organic ingredients. Grab a lunch plate of three open-faced sandwiches, a two-course meal of herring, steak and potatoes and wash it all down with a river of beer. Open until the crowds die down (it's popular with cruise passengers), which is usually late.

TOP END

Geranium (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 11 13 04; www.restaurantergeranium.dk; Kronprinsessegade 13; mains 350kr, set

menu 738kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, dinner Sat) Full marks in literally every Danish newspaper review heralded the opening of the best new – if not the best, full stop – restaurant in Copenhagen in 2007. With multi-award winning chefs Rasmus Kofoed and Søren Ledet in the kitchen that was hardly a surprise, but the fact that they chose to open their first restaurant with a biodynamic/organic menu (including the wine) was. They also chose one of the city's most beautiful dining rooms, a 19th-century pavilion in Kongens Have, to serve awowedly seasonal, locally sourced dishes such as smoked eel and lobster with gooseberries, lovage and beetroot salad, and pike perch with rye bread, fennel juice, green strawberries and purslane.

Umami (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 38 75 00; www.restaurantumami.dk; Store Kongensgade 59; 3-course lunch menu 350kr, set menu 750kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) This glamorous restaurant, overseen by chef Francis Cardenau and designed by Orbit of London as some kind of *Wallpaper* magazine fantasy, sees classical French cuisine (saddle of rabbit, for instance) flirt heavily with modern Japanese cooking to usually sensational effect. It is at its best in the evenings and on weekends when the DJs do their thing.

Premisse (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 11 11 45; www.premisse.dk; Dronningens Tværgade 2; 3-course lunch menu 350kr, set menu 750kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, dinner Sat) A sublime culinary experience is guaranteed in this vaulted cellar restaurant in a historic mansion. Chef Rasmus Grønbech takes the sourcing of the finest Danish ingredients for his restaurant very seriously, applying classic French techniques, learned during stints at Michelin restaurants in France, with dedication and wit. Meanwhile, sommelier Christian Aarø Mortensen is a champion wine steward with an exceptional list (it's particularly strong on Spanish wines). The 'Business Lunch' is excellent value.

Ensemble (Map p80; ☎ 33 11 33 52; www.restaurantensemble.dk; Tordenskjoldsgade 11; set menu 500-800kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) Chefs Morten Schou and Nikolaj Egebøl-Jepesen had a tough act to follow when they took over what was a successful Michelin-starred restaurant a couple of years ago, but their artful and inventive Modern Danish-French cooking has succeeded in maintaining the reputation of this intimate restaurant (and its star). Located in a quiet residential street behind Det Kongelige Teater, Ensemble's menu blends local ingredients –

root vegetables, wild game, shellfish – with French haute cuisine staples such as foie gras and truffles. Typical dishes include eel with apple, quails eggs, brioche and chervil, or *coquelet* with foie gras, salsify and salad.

1.th (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 93 57 70; www.1th.dk; Herluf Trollesgade 9; multicourse dinner incl drinks 1250kr; ☺ dinner Wed-Sat) This unique, private dining 'restaurant' is housed in a classic Copenhagen apartment. 1.th translates as 'first floor, to the right' – the location of this sumptuously decorated living and dining room, open to guests of chef Mette Martinussen. You reserve and pay the admittedly hefty bill (although it does include some, though not limitless, wine) well in advance, then receive an invitation to a convivial, soirée-style evening with a multicourse dinner as the main attraction. Highly recommended, and the contemporary Danish/European food lives up to the high concept.

Christianshavn

BUDGET

Lagkagehuset (Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 57 36 07; www.lagkagehuset.dk; Torvegade 45; sandwiches 55kr; ☺ 6am-7pm) This much-loved bakery – invariably voted the best in the city – sells excellent sandwiches as well as the usual sticky, sweet pastries and heavyweight rye bread. There's another branch at the Wonderful Copenhagen Tourist Information Bureau (p74).

Morgenstedet (Map pp70-1; Långgade Christiania; mains 55kr; ☺ lunch & dinner Tue-Sun) A homely, hippy little place in the heart of the alternative commune of Christiania, Morgenstedet offers but one dish of the day, always vegetarian, always organic, usually a curry and always at a bargain price.

Cafe Wilder (Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 54 71 83; www.cafewilder.dk; Wildersgade 56; mains 85kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) This friendly, laid-back corner café in the heart of pretty Christianshavn serves pasta salads and sandwiches by day and more substantial Franco-Danish food by night. It is one of the most popular cafés in the area, especially with the well-chilled arty community.

MIDRANGE

Bastionen & Løven (Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 95 09 40; www.bastionen-loven.dk; Lille Molle, Christianshavns Voldgade 50; mains 125-185kr; ☺ lunch & dinner) The elegant bare wood interior of this charming, old-style Scandinavian establishment is reason enough to come, but on a sunny day you'll find

yourself yearning to sit outside in the tranquil windmill-by-the-water setting. The whole place feels like a wonderful secret – although the weekend brunch sessions can get mighty packed with local regulars.

Spiseloppen (☎ 32 57 95 58; Bådmandsstræde 43; mains 125-215kr; ☎ dinner Tue-Sun) Christiania's evening offering is something rather more ambitious than Morgenstedet. Spiseloppen, in the Loppen building, serves a global menu, with the cuisine depending on the nationality of the chef in the kitchen each night.

Restaurant Kanalen (Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 95 13 30; www.restaurant-kanalen.dk; Wilders Plads 2; mains 180kr; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) You can eat at this lovely, unpretentious gourmet restaurant beside the canal watching the yacht masts ticking like metronomes, and pretend you are in St Tropez...kind of. Well, at least you can enjoy great Danish staples such as smørrebrød for lunch, and more classically French inspired dishes such as Danish lamb with *pommes anna* (layered potatoes braised in butter) for dinner.

TOP END

Noma (Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 96 32 97; www.noma.dk; Strandgade 93; menu 800kr; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, dinner Sat) This world renowned, Michelin-starred Modern Nordic restaurant is run by chef Rene Redzepi (formerly of Le Bulli and The French Laundry) who uses only Scandinavian-sourced produce such as musk ox, smoked eel and locally caught lobster and oysters. The wine list is classically orientated and European-centric. Not the most exciting ambience perhaps, but Noma was recently voted 15th best restaurant in the world by *Restaurant* magazine in the UK and it could well be serving the most exciting food in Denmark right now.

Nørreport

BUDGET

Govindas (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 33 74 44; Nørre Farimagsgade 82; thali meals 69kr; ☎ 4.30-9.30pm Mon-Sat) Govindas serves savoury Indian-style vegetarian food in a pleasant setting with mellow music. Hare Krishna devotees cook up a nine-dish thali meal of basmati rice, soup, salad and a few hot dishes such as eggplant casserole for bargain prices, meaning that the place is very popular with students and travellers.

MIDRANGE

Sticks 'n' Sushi (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 11 14 07; www.sushi.dk; Nansensgade 59; menus 265-485kr; ☎ lunch & dinner

This handy Japanese restaurant has added some local twists to its menu to make things more appealing to Danes. Many of the items, such as sushi rolls, are served on sticks popsicle-style, similar to the way grilled items such as yakitori are served in Japan. Other branches on Istedgade and elsewhere in the city.

Vesterbro

BUDGET

Lê Lê nhà hàng (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 22 71 35; Vesterbrogade 40; mains 100kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) This cavernous, New York-style Vietnamese restaurant on bustling Vesterbrogade is regularly voted the best cheap eat in the Danish press. It recently moved to these larger premises with open kitchen and spacious, high ceilinged dining room. Deep, welcoming bowls of soups, noodles and refined Vietnamese street food will see you stuffed and satiated for under 100kr. If you venture further up Vesterbrogade (to No 56) you will come to its original premises, now the Lê Lê Cafe, serving excellent Vietnamese-French bistro fare.

MIDRANGE

Apropos (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 23 12 21; www.cafeapropos.dk; Halmtorvet 12; mains 179kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) One of the leading lights of this lovely rejuvenated café square, Apropos serves a free-roaming menu that includes lobster rolls, tandoori salmon and New York cheesecake, with plenty of outdoor seating during summer. If it's full, try Carlton next door.

Les Trois Cochons (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 23 22 50; www.cofoco.dk; Værdemsvvej 10; 3-course set menu 250kr; ☎ lunch Mon-Sat, dinner daily) This small but rather glamorous modern French bistro on the so-called 'food street' heaves with a bubbling mix of diners every night of the week. Its fixed evening menu (starter, main and dessert) for 250kr has to be one of the city's great dining bargains.

DRINKING

Copenhagen is packed with a diverse range of drinking options, from nicotine stained *bodegas* (pubs) to the glitziest DJ bars, which often change role from café to restaurant to DJ bar as the day progresses. Good areas to head to for a night out include Istedgade in Vesterbro, Elmegade and Sankt Hans Torv in Nørrebro, Nansensgade close to Nørreport and the maze of streets to the north of Strøget, including Gråbrødretorv and Pilestræde. And,

of course, on a sunny day there is always Nyhavn, although there can be a serious risk of encountering a Dixieland jazz band.

It is hard to know which is the city's favourite stimulant: alcohol or caffeine. Coffee shops have boomed in the last five years with the arrival of both independent places and global chains, and the city has a great reputation for its expertise when it comes to blending, grinding and brewing a good cup of coffee.

Absolut Ice Bar (Map p75; ☎ 70 27 56 27; Hotel Twentytseven, Longangstræde 27; admission incl one drink 150kr) Admittedly, some might call this an absolute rip-off, but this deep frozen bar is still worth a (one) visit if you have never been to any of the others in Sweden and Norway. Everything, including the glasses is made from the purest Swedish river water. On entering you are given an Arctic cape to protect you from the temperature that can reach -12°C, and warned not to lick the walls...

Bankerådet (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 93 69 88; Ahlefeldtsgade 27; ☎ 10am-midnight Mon-Fri, 11am-midnight Sat & Sun) One of the most characterful bars in all Copenhagen features taxidermic animals in outlandish get-ups in the windows and pickled customers in outlandish get-ups at the tables. Nurse a drink, a hangover and artistic pretensions, but don't expect much from the food.

Bang og Jensen (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 25 53 18; Istedgade 130, Vesterbro; ☎ 8am-2am Mon-Fri, 10am-2am Sat, 10am-midnight Sun) Formerly a pharmacy, this grungy café serves fabulous brunches and treats all day and Danish eye candy all night, when DJs play and so do the patrons of this very cool spot.

Bibendum (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 33 07 74; www.vincafeen.dk in Danish; Nansensgade 45; ☎ 4pm-midnight Mon-Sat) Copenhagen's best wine bar is situated in a cosy, rustic cellar on trendy Nansensgade and serves over 50 wines – from Argentina, Spain, France and Italy – by the glass. Intimate but relaxed, and blessedly free of wine snobs, although the staff are extremely knowledgeable.

Bodega (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 39 07 07; www.bodega.dk; Kapelvej 1, Nørrebro; ☎ 10am-midnight Tue, to 2am Wed & Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat, to 11pm Sun) This recently renamed and reinvigorated DJ bar-café-restaurant beside the walls of Assistens Kirkegård is one of the hotspots in this hottest of neighbourhoods. The fresh-thinking fusion kitchen is accomplished, and soul, funk and R&B grooves are spun from Thursday to Saturday night.

Boutique Lize (off Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 31 15 60; Enghave Plads, Vesterbro; ☎ 9pm-1am Wed, 8pm-3am Thu, 8pm-4am Fri & Sat) This used to be a clothing store but when it was transformed into this spartan but popular cocktail bar a couple of years back, it just seemed easier to keep the old name. A short walk from Vega (p105), Lize has some of the cheapest cocktails in town and is packed on the weekends.

Cosy Bar (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 12 74 27; www.cosybar.dk; Studiestræde 24; ☎ 10pm-6am Sun-Thu, to 8am Fri & Sat) A very popular late-night place for gay men, with DJs playing Tuesday to Saturday and a serious attitude to picking up, and quickly.

Fisken (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 11 99 06; Nyhavn 27; ☎ 11.30am-11pm) This open-all-hours cellar pub beneath the atmospheric Skipper Kroen restaurant distils the essence of everything great about Nyhavn's salty sea dog atmosphere. There's a nightly live folk music.

Halvandet (Map pp70-1; ☎ 70 27 02 96; Refshalevej 325, Refshaleøen; ☎ 10am-10pm Jun-Aug) We can't guarantee this groovy urban beach/lounge bar will be open in '08, but it has drawn a chilled-out party crowd to this rather remote part of town since '03 every summer. You'll find it a little beyond the Opera House, out in the old docklands (Holmen). The food is rudimentary grills and salads, but the vibe and the music are unbeatable, especially if the weather is cooperative.

Laundromat Cafe (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 35 26 72; Elmegade 15, Nørrebro; ☎ 8am-midnight Mon-Thu, 8-2am Fri, 10-2am Sat, 10am-noon Sun) This playful corner café was the brainchild of Icelander Fridrik Weisshappel who decided to turn the old Morgans juice bar into a café-cum-laundrette, with washing machines just round the corner from the bar. Throw in 4000 secondhand books (all for sale) to decorate the bar and you have one of Copenhagen's most distinctive and enjoyable venues.

Masken (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 91 09 37; Studiestræde 33; ☎ 4pm-2am Mon-Thu, 4pm-5am Fri & Sat, 3pm-2am Sun) You'll find a pretty mellow, easy-going atmosphere in this mainstream gay bar, with cheap beer and good snacks. It's mainly a hang-out for gay men, but Thursday is Ladies Night.

MJ Coffee Cafe (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 32 01 05; Gothersgade 26; ☎ 8am-10pm Mon-Thu, 8am-11pm Fri, 9.30am-11pm Sat, 10.30am-8pm Sun) A leading player in the booming Copenhagen coffee house scene, MJs serves a superb home blended cuppa, along with soups and smoothies in an advantageous people-watching corner spot.

ENTERTAINMENT

Copenhagen has come a long way from the days, not so many years ago, when there were but a handful of nightlife options only open from Thursday to Saturday. These days you can get dirty on the dance floor, improve yourself with some opera, nod sagely to some acid jazz contortions or, of course, catch a film every night of the week. As a general rule, entry to bars and clubs is free from Monday to Thursday, while there's usually a cover charge on weekends or any time someone special is playing. Danes tend to be late-nighters and, unlike the restaurants, many nightlife places don't really start to get going until 11pm or midnight.

Most events can be booked through **BilletNet** (☎ 38 48 11 22; www.billetnet.dk), a service that's also available at all post offices. You can also try www.billetlugen.dk or call them on ☎ 70 26 32 67.

Nightclubs

Pan Disco (Map p80; ☎ 33 11 37 84; www.pan-cph.dk; Knabrostræde 3; ☎ disco 10pm-5am Fri, to 6am Sat) On the southern side of Strøget, this is the city's main mixed gay and lesbian danceteria, with multiple bars and two (frequently packed) dance floors. Typically one disco spins current house tunes and the other focuses on camp/romantic pop classics that bring out the inner karaoke queen in all of us.

Gefarlich (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 24 13 24; Fælledvej 7, Nørrebro; ☎ 11am-midnight Tue, 11-2am Wed, 11-3am Thu, 11-3.30am Fri, 10-3.30am Sat, 10-1am Sun) This deeply groovy bar-club-restaurant-lounge-café-hairdresser-clothing store-art space (really) has made a major splash on the Nørrebro nightlife scene. It gets packed on weekends, with the incriminating evidence usually posted on MySpace by midweek.

Rust (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 24 52 00; www.rust.dk; Guldbergsgade 8; admission 50-120kr; ☎ 9pm-5am Wed-Sat) A thriving, smashing place that attracts one of the largest and coolest club crowds in Copenhagen. There's a choice of spaces here from nightclub to concert hall, and a wide variety of edgy modern music. Weekends see some earnest queuing. You'll need to be over 21 to enter the nightclub.

Stengade 30 (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 36 09 38; www.stengade30.dk; Stengade 18; admission 30-90kr) In the Nørrebro area, Stengade 30 has a frequently lively alternative scene with everything from electronica and hip-hop to Berlin-style techno

Oak Room (Map pp70-1; ☎ 38 60 38 60; Birkegade 10, Nørrebro 3; ☎ 7pm-midnight Tue, 7pm-2am Wed & Thu, 5pm-2am Fri, 7pm-2am Sat) If we had to nominate *one* place to go for a memorable, flirty, drunken Copenhagen evening right now, it would have to be the Oak Room. This sweaty, minimalist, invariably packed two-room cocktail bar is close to trendy Elmegade and just around the corner from Rust (right).

Pussy Galore's Flying Circus (Map pp70-1; ☎ 35 24 53 00; Sankt Hans Torv 30, Nørrebro; ☎ 8am-2am Mon-Fri, 9am-2am Sat & Sun) Jacobsen chairs, outdoor seating, an excellent cocktail list and some serious queues mean this place has still got some sort of 'it' factor for many locals. The classic French brasserie Sebastapols next door is equally popular on weekends, creating a buzzing scene on this bustling square.

Ricco's Coffee Bar (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 31 04 40; www.riccos.dk; Istedgade 119, Vesterbro; ☎ 9am-11pm Mon-Fri, 10am-11pm Sat & Sun) Vesterbro's groovy locals love this tiny but dedicated coffee bar, which also sells 20 different types of beans and syrups to take home. Considered by many to be the best coffee bar in Copenhagen. Owner Ricco Harder Sørensen also has a branch in Pisserenden (Map pp78-9; Studiestræde 24), off Strøget.

Sofiekælderen (Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 57 77 01; www.sofiekaelderen.dk; Overgaden Oven Vandet 32; ☎ noon-midnight Tue & Wed, noon-3am Thu-Sat, 10am-10pm Sun) This former old-school jazz bar in a cellar beside the canal is now a cool live music venue and cocktail lounge, serving globally influenced food for lunch and dinner.

Studenterhuset (Map pp78-9; ☎ 35 32 38 60; www.studenterhuset.ku.dk in Danish; Købmagergade 52; ☎ noon-6pm Mon, to midnight Tue, to 2am Wed-Fri) This grungy student hang-out near the Rundetårn features some good light meals to soak up all the cheap beer that's on offer. Not a bad spot to catch some live music either, or the eye of feverish types with Che posters on their bedroom walls.

Zirup (Map p80; ☎ 33 91 31 51; www.azhiba.dk in Danish; Læderstræde 32, Strødet; ☎ 10am-1am Mon-Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat) This is one of our favourites among many excellent café-restaurants on Strødet, the pedestrian street that runs parallel to Strøget to the south, with a fresh and funky menu (burgers, Mexican, wraps, sandwiches and salads) to match its colourful, cosmopolitan interior design. There is plenty of outdoor seating during summer – perfect to see and be seen.

COPENHAGEN JAZZ FESTIVAL

The **Jazz Festival** (☎ 33 93 20 13; www.jazzfestival.dk) is the biggest entertainment event of the Copenhagen year, with 10 days of music beginning on the first Friday in July. It energises the city like nothing else, bringing not just live music to its streets, canalsides and an eclectic mix of venues, but creating a tangible buzz of excitement in the air.

There are usually over 1000 different concerts held in every available space, from cafés and street corners to the Opera House and Tivoli's Koncertsal – in fact, the city itself becomes a venue. Walk around the city centre on a summer night during the festival and the party mood is truly infectious. Even if you have an instinctive aversion to men wearing straw boaters or black turtle-necks, you will be won over by the incredible acts that play in Copenhagen every year. Plus there are special children's jazz events in Kongens Have, to hook the next generation of jazz fiends early.

Copenhagen has been the jazz capital of Scandinavia since the 1920s, when the Montmartre Club was one of the most famous in Europe. Montmartre doesn't exist any more, but clubs such as La Fontaine (p107), now the oldest and most 'hard-core' jazz club in the city, Copenhagen Jazz House (p107), the largest and most popular, and smaller venues such as 1 Sal (at Huset) (p106), ensure that legacy remains vibrant. The city is also home to a disproportionately large population of both home-grown and international jazz musicians.

The first festival took place in 1978. Since then it has mushroomed into one of Europe's leading jazz events. Over the years, performers have included such renowned names as Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, Oscar Peterson, Ray Charles and Wynnton Marsalis. Tony Bennett, Herbie Hancock and Keith Jarrett are regulars, as are Denmark's own Cecilie Norby and David Sanborn.

It's a fun, slightly haphazard scene that brings everyone in the city out to party. Most of the open-air events are free, but you have to buy tickets to the big names in big venues. The music at the Copenhagen Jazz Festival is as varied as the venues. Traditional sounds range from old-fashioned Dixieland jazz and Satchmo-style solo improvisation to the WWII-era swing music that reigned in Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman's day – the Danish free jazz scene also gets a look-in. There's plenty of modern jazz along the lines of that inspired by legendary trumpeter Miles Davis, and you can also find lots of contemporary hybrid sounds: free-jazz, acid jazz, soul jazz, nu-jazz, jazz vocals and rhythm and blues. The festival programme is usually published in May.

If you can't make it to Copenhagen in summer for the main jazz festival, you can take heart that a smaller festival takes place in autumn. It's called, not surprisingly, Autumn Jazz (it shares a website with the July festival). Many think that Autumn Jazz has a mellow, less-harried atmosphere.

and edgy international DJs such as Miss Kittin and Ned Flanders. Big nights last until about 5am or thereabouts. The Rub-a-Dub Sundays are very popular.

Vega (Map p112; ☎ 33 25 70 11; www.vega.dk; Eng-havevej 40; admission 60-130kr; ☎ nightclub 11pm-5am Fri & Sat) In the Vesterbro area, this is one of Copenhagen's hippest spots with big-name rock, pop and jazz bands performing on its main stage (Store Vega) and underground acts on a smaller stage (Lille Vega). It's also home to a cool club that gets packed with seriously good-looking Vesterbro locals. Or you could try the heavenly Ideal Bar (open 7pm to 4am Thursday, to 5am Friday and Saturday).

Cinemas

First-release movies are shown on about 20 screens in the group of cinemas along Vestergade between Rådhuspladsen and Cen-

tral Station. Tickets for movies range from around 70kr for weekday matinees to 90kr for weekend evenings. As in the rest of Denmark, movies are generally shown in their original language with Danish subtitles.

Cinemateket (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 74 34 12; www.dfi.dk; Gothersgade 55; admission 60kr; ☎ 10am-10pm Tue-Fri, noon-10pm Sat & Sun) The Danish Film Institute's wonderful cinema plays classic Danish and foreign films. There's also an excellent shop and restaurant on the swanky premises.

Dagmar Teatret (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 14 32 22; www.sandrewmetronome.dk in Danish; Jernbanegade 2; admission 60-90kr; ☎ 11.30am-9.45pm) A good central theatre that plays art-house and mainstream films.

Grand Teatret (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 15 16 11; www.grandteatret.dk in Danish; Mikkil Bryggergade 8; admission 70-90kr; ☎ noon-9.40pm) Just off Strøget, this comfortable theatre shows art-house and some mainstream films.

GAY & LESBIAN COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen is a relatively easy place to be gay. The Danish Law of Registered Partnership took effect in October 1989, allowing people of the same sex to tie the knot. Since then more than 5000 couples have taken advantage of the law and registered their partnership with city hall. Adoption laws are liberal compared with other Western countries, and public displays of affection between people of the same sex are unlikely to provoke ire. The Danish national organisation for gays and lesbians, **Landsforeningen for Bøsser og Lesbiske** (LBL; Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 13 19 48; www.lbl.dk; Teglgårdsstræde 13) is based in the Latin Quarter. The facility includes a library, bookshop, informal café, various gay and lesbian support groups and counselling services.

See our review for the Hotel Windsor (p94) for gay-friendly sleeping options.

A network of gay and gay-friendly businesses in the city is Copenhagen Gay Life (www.copenhagen-gay-life.dk). The website includes useful tourist information and listings in English, as well as links to LBL and other gay organisations.

Copenhagen has one of the liveliest gay and lesbian scenes in Europe, with dozens of gay bars, clubs and cafés, nearly half of them concentrated along Studiestræde in the two blocks between Vester Voldgade and Nørregade. For a complete list pick up a copy of *PAN-bladet*, which is available at gay businesses, including the clubs mentioned here. This monthly newspaper has information on gay organisations, saunas and other places of interest. Another read worth keeping an eye out for is *Out & About* (free), which lists gay venues and events. Its website is www.out-and-about.dk.

Good gay venues include Cosy Bar (p103), Masken (p103) and Pan Disco (p104).

Huset (☎ 33 15 20 02; www.husetmagstraede.dk; Rådhusstræde 13; admission & opening times vary) This excellent arts centre is home to Musik Cæfen, which promotes up-and-coming pop and rock acts and is a nightclub on the weekends; Salon K, home to improv, experimental theatre and cabaret; the gay nightclub Boiz (☎ 33 14 52 70; www.boiz.dk; open 11pm to 3am Sunday to Thursday, to 5am Friday and Saturday); a small art-house cinema; and 1.Sal, a live jazz and world music venue. Oh, and there's a café too. Use it, the young person's information centre, is also based here (see p74).

Ballet, Opera, Theatre & Classical Music

At the time of going to press, Denmark's impressive new theatre, Skuespillerhuset (Map pp70-1), was due to be completed on reclaimed land on the harbourfront at Kvæsthusgade. When finished it will have two stages – one 750 seater, one a 250 seater. At that point theatre productions will move here from Det Kongelige Teater.

Copenhagen Opera House (Map pp70-1; ☎ box office 33 69 69 69; www.operahuset.dk; Ekvipagemestervej 10; tickets 40-690kr, under 25 & over 65 50% discount if book more than a week in advance; ☎ box office noon-6pm Mon-Sat) This state-of-the-art opera house features two stages: the Main Stage and a

smaller venue, Takkeløftet. The repertoire runs the gamut from classic to contemporary opera, as well as the odd curve-ball such as a performance from the Jazz Festival (see p105). Productions usually sell out way in advance but 25 tickets are available each day at the box office. Tickets are also available through www.billetnet.dk and the opera house's website.

Det Kongelige Teater (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 69 69 69; www.kgl-teater.dk; Kongens Nytorv; tickets 60-1000kr) This historic stage is the home venue for the world renowned Kongelige Ballet (Royal Ballet). The season runs from mid-August to late May, skipping the main summer months.

Tivoli Koncertsal (Concert Hall; Map p75; ☎ 33 15 10 12; www.tivoli.dk; Tietgengsgade 30) This is the venue for symphony orchestra, string quartet and other classical music performances by Danish and international musicians. There's a ballet festival each season with top international troupes, as well as cabaret performances. It also hosts modern dance performances by such big names as the Alvin Ailey dance troupe. Tickets are sold at the Tivoli Billetcenter (below).

BOOKING OFFICE

Tivoli Billetcenter (Map p75; ☎ 33 15 10 12; Vesterbrogade 3; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun) At the main Tivoli entrance and good for tickets

of any kind. Not only does it sell Tivoli performance tickets, but it's also the box office for ARTE, which handles tickets for plays in Copenhagen, and an agent for BilletNet, which sells tickets for concerts and music festivals nationwide.

Live Music

Copenhagen Jazz House (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 15 03 66; www.jazzhouse.dk; Niels Hemmingsensgade 10; ☎ 6pm-midnight Sun-Thu, to 5am Fri & Sat) The city's leading jazz spot, featuring top Danish musicians and international performers. The music runs the gamut from bebop to fusion jazz, and there's a large dance floor that usually fills after live gigs on weekends.

La Fontaine (Map p80; ☎ 33 11 60 98; www.lafontaine.dk; Kompagnistræde 11, Strædet; admission varies; ☎ 8pm-5am, live music 11pm-3am Fri & Sat, 9pm-1am Sun) Copenhagen's oldest and cosiest jazz venue is right in the city centre and offers live jazz from Friday to Sunday – it's renowned for its late night jam sessions.

Loppen (Map pp70-1; ☎ 32 57 84 22; www.loppen.dk in Danish; Bådsmændstræde 43; admission varies; ☎ Wed-Sat) Housed in a historic, wooden-beamed warehouse in Christiania, this is a popular spot with some of the city's top bands, ranging from funk and soul to punk rock. On weekends, the live concerts are followed by a disco (2am to 5am).

Mojo (Map p75; ☎ 33 11 64 53; www.mojo.dk in Danish; Longangstræde 21; admission 30-60kr; ☎ 8pm-5am) East of Tivoli, this is a great spot for blues, with live entertainment nightly and draught beer aplenty.

SHOPPING

Strøget is usually people's first experience of shopping in Copenhagen, but the city has so much more to offer than this mainstream, touristy drag. Running parallel to the south is another pedestrian shopping street, Strædet (made up of two streets, Kompagnistræde and Læderstræde), full of interesting, independent jewellery, clothing, interior design and antique shops, while to the north of Strøget are the mazy areas of Pisserenden (centred on Studiestræde, Larsbjørnstræde and Vestergade and good for street style and CDs) and the so-called Latin Quarter (from Vor Frue Kirke to Købmagergade, good for books and clothing). To the northern end, exclusive designer shops fill the area between Købmagergade, Strøget and Gothersgade. Head out to Nør-

rebro and Vesterbro for more fantastic independent clothes designers and homewares and, on Ravnsborggade in Nørrebro, around a dozen fascinating bric-a-brac and antique shops. Meanwhile, Nansensgade, close to Nørreport station, has an interesting range of ever changing, often unnamed independent clothing designers.

Clothing

Day Birger Mikkelsen (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 45 88 80; www.day.dk; Pilestræde 16; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Thu, to 7pm Fri, to 4pm Sat) The magnificent flagship store for this leading Danish brand is right in the heart of the mainstream fashion district with the equally excellent Designers Remix just across the way. Birger's clothes are ultra desirable – elegant, feminine, classic, sexy with just a hint of hippy (and that's just the menswear). Designer Malene Birger's own shop (she is no longer part of the Day group) is just around the corner (☎ 35 43 22 33; www.by-malenebirger.dk; Antonigade 10; open 10am to 6pm Monday to Thursday, to 7pm Friday and to 4pm Saturday).

Munthe Plus Simonsen (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 32 03 12; Grønnegade 10; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Thu, to 7pm Fri, to 4pm Sat) Local gals flock to this stunning flagship store of local label Munthe Plus Simonsen. The look is part boho-chic, part ethno-dress ups, part luxe detailing and part Stevie Nicks at her most coke-addled. To get here, take bus 350S.

Rützou Fashion (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 32 63 20; www.rutzou.com; Store Regnegade 3; ☎ 11am-5pm Mon-Thu, to 6pm Fri, to 4pm Sat) One of the leading names in contemporary Danish fashion, Susanne Rützou now has this impressive store in the city's fashion quarter. If you are looking for that kooky-feminine Copenhagen look, this is where you'll find it.

Danish Design & Homewares

Bang & Olufsen (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 15 04 22; www.bang-olufsen.com; Østergade 3; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Thu, to 6pm Fri, to 2pm Sat) For sleek, top-priced audio and televisual equipment, it's hard to go past this über-stylish brand. The shop itself is a hi-tech marvel that has design nuts drooling.

Dansk Møbelkunst (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 32 38 37; Bredgade 32; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 3pm Sat) Filled with the very best of 20th-century Scandinavian furniture and design, this excellent shop had us wondering: 'would they mind if we moved in?'

LOCAL VOICES**Inge Vincents and Karin Michelsen, Ceramic Artists****What one thing should visitors to Copenhagen make sure they see?**

(Inge) Christiania is unique, I don't know anywhere else in the world like it.

(Karin) Rosenborg Slot (p85) shows the transition from royal power to people power. Davids Samling (p86) has the best collection of Islamic art in Europe.

What is the best thing to buy as a souvenir?

(Both) Ceramics, of course! Really, Danish ceramics are something else.

Where is a good place to shop for ceramics?

(Both) The area behind Nyhavn, Strandstræde. [Modesty forbade them from mentioning their own excellent workshop at Wilders Plads 9b in Christianshavn (☎ 32 96 29 20)].

What do you think will surprise people about Copenhagen?

(Karin) That you can swim in the harbour.

When is a good time to visit?

(Inge) July is good for the Jazz Festival.

Stilleben Ceramics (Map p80; ☎ 33 91 11 31; www.stilleben.dk; Læderstræde 14, Strædet; ☎ 11am-6pm Mon-Thu, to 7pm Fri, to 4pm Sat) This tiny boutique is one of our favourites on the pedestrian street Strædet. Owners Ditte and Jelena are graduates of the Danish Design School's ceramic and glass course, and stock a contemporary and stunningly beautiful range of ceramic and glassware from young local designers.

Department Stores

Illum (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 14 40 02; www.illum.dk; Østergade 52; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Thu, 10am-8pm Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) Large department store with a fabulous range of essential wares arranged around its central glass dome. It has a slightly more upmarket feel than Magasin du Nord.

Magasin du Nord (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 11 44 33; www.magasindu.dk; Kongens Nytorv 13; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Thu, to 8pm Fri, to 5pm Sat) The city's largest (and oldest) department store, this place covers an entire block on the southwestern side

of Kongens Nytorv and stocks everything from clothing and luggage to books and groceries.

Fabulous-looking **Illums Bolighus** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 13 71 81; Amagerortov 10; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Thu, to 7pm Fri, to 5pm Sat) stocks wonderful Danish-designed furniture, clothing, ceramics, silverware and glass, and is also a good place to look for gifts such as quality toys or kitchen utensils. It is next door to two other Copenhagen design stalwarts: **Royal Copenhagen Porcelain** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 13 71 81; Amagerortov 6; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Thu, to 7pm Fri, to 5pm Sat), incorporating the former Holmegaard Glass store; and the world famous **Georg Jensen** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 11 40 80; www.georgejensen.dk; Amagerortov 4; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Thu, to 7pm Fri, to 5pm Sat) silverware store.

GETTING THERE & AWAY
Air

Copenhagen's wonderful airport is Scandinavia's busiest hub, with flights from over 100 cities across the world. There are direct flights to Copenhagen from Europe, Asia and North America, as well as a handful of Danish cities. For more details about flying to and from Copenhagen see p326.

The modern international airport is in Kastrup, 9km southeast of Copenhagen city centre, and sees about 1.7 million passengers each year. It has good eating, retail and information facilities.

If you're waiting for a flight, note that this is a 'silent' airport and there are no boarding calls, although there are numerous monitor screens throughout the terminal.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET...

Copenhagen's main produce market (Map pp78-9) is at Israels Plads, a few minutes' walk west of Nørreport station. Stalls are set up until 5pm Monday to Friday and until 2pm on Saturday, when it doubles as a flea market. As we went to press, there were ongoing plans to move the Israels Plads market underground, which would certainly make it more pleasant to shop there in winter.

Boat

There is a daily sailing from Oslo to Copenhagen with **DFDS Seaways** (☎ 33 42 30 00; www.dfdsseaways.com). **Polferries** (☎ +46 40 97 61 80; www.polferries.se) operates boats to Swinoujscie in Poland, leaving from Nordhavn (the northern harbour) five times a week and taking about 10 hours. From Germany, it is just five hours by train from Hamburg to Copenhagen Central Station via the **DSB** (☎ 70 13 14 15; www.dsb.dk) boat-train from Puttgarden to Rødby.

Bus

International buses to several European cities are operated by **Eurolines** (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 88 70 00; www.eurolines.dk; Reventlowsgade 8), which has a ticket office behind Central Station. Long-distance buses leave from Central Station, though some buses, including those to Oslo, also stop at Copenhagen airport. For more information see p329.

Car & Motorcycle

The main highways into Copenhagen are the E20 from Jutland and Funen (and continuing towards Malmö in Sweden) and the E47 from Helsingør and Sweden. If you're coming from the north on the E47, exit onto Lyngbyvej (Rte 19) and continue south to reach the heart of the city.

Train

All long-distance trains arrive at and depart from Central Station, an elegant, 19th-century wooden-beamed hall with numerous services, including currency exchange, a post office and a supermarket. There are showers at the underground toilets opposite the police office.

GETTING AROUND**To/From the Airport**

If you judge a city by how easy it is to get to/from the airport, Copenhagen takes top marks. The rail system speedily (and cheaply) links the airport arrival terminal directly with Copenhagen's Central Station. The trains run every 20 minutes until midnight from 4.55am on weekdays, 5.35am on Saturday and 6.35am on Sunday. The trip takes just 12 minutes and costs 28.50kr.

By taxi, it's about 15 minutes between the airport and the city centre, as long as traffic isn't too heavy. The cost is about 220kr.

Bicycle

Copenhagen is a great city for getting around by bicycle. Most streets have cycle lanes and, more importantly, motorists tend to respect them.

Except during weekday rush hours, it's possible to carry bikes on S-trains (10kr per ticket). You can load your bicycle into any carriage that has a cycle symbol and you must stay with the bike at all times.

Virtually all of Copenhagen can be toured by bicycle, except for pedestrian-only streets such as Strøget. Bicycles are allowed to cross Strøget at Gammel Torv and Kongens Nytorv.

When touring the city, cyclists should give way to bus passengers who must traverse cycle lanes to reach the pavement and have right of way, and to pedestrians (particularly tourists) who sometimes absent-mindedly step off the kerb and into the path of oncoming cyclists.

Cycling maps, including a 1:50,000-scale map of the greater Copenhagen area called *København's Amt*, are produced by the Danish cycling federation, **Dansk Cyklist Forbund** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 33 32 31 21; www.dcf.dk; Rømersgade 5), and can be purchased at bookshops. For information on bicycle hire, see p89.

Car & Motorcycle

Except for the weekday-morning rush hour, when traffic can bottleneck coming into the city (and vice versa around 5pm), traffic in Copenhagen is generally manageable. Getting around by car is not problematic, except for the usual challenge of finding an empty parking space in the most popular places.

To explore sights in the centre of the city, you're best off on foot or using public transport, but a car is convenient for getting to the suburban sights.

RENTAL

The following car hire companies have booths at the airport in the international terminal. Each also has an office in central Copenhagen.

Avis (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 73 40 99; www.avis.dk; Kampmannsgade 1)

Budget (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 55 05 00; www.budget.dk; Helgolandsgade 2)

Europcar (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 55 99 00; www.europcar.dk; Gammel Kongevej 13)

Hertz (Map pp70-1; ☎ 33 17 90 21; www.hertzd.dk; Ved Vesterport 3)

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NOT AVAILABLE
IN PICK & MIX

PARKING

For street parking, you buy a ticket from a kerbside *billetautomat* (automated ticket machine) and place it inside the windscreen. Copenhagen parking is zoned so that the spaces most in demand, such as those in the central commercial area, are the most costly. Your best bet is to search out a blue zone, where parking costs just 10kr per hour. If you can't find an empty blue space then opt for a green zone, where the fee is 15kr per hour. Avoid red zones, where the parking fee is 25kr per hour. Parking fees must be paid on weekdays from 8am to 6pm (to 8pm in red zones) and also on Saturday to 2pm in green zones and 8pm in red zones.

If you can't find street parking, there are car parks at the main department stores, at

the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel and on Jerbanegade, east of Axeltovej. *Parkeringsforbudt* means 'no parking' and is generally accompanied by a round sign with a red diagonal slash. You can stop for up to three minutes to unload bags and passengers. A round sign with a red 'X', or a sign saying *Stopforbudt*, means that no stopping at all is allowed. Parking ticket fines will set you back 510kr.

On Foot

We can't stress enough that by far the best way to see Copenhagen is on foot. This has to be the most eminently walkable capital in Europe, with much of the city centre pedestrianised and few main sights or shopping quarters more than a 20-minute walk from the city centre.

Public Transport

Copenhagen has an extensive public transport system consisting of a metro, rail and bus network. The metro system – which is driverless – runs through the eastern side of the city centre connecting Nørreport with Kongens Nytorv and Christianshavns Torv. The system now runs to the airport. The S-train network has 11 lines passing through Central Station (København H), and a vast bus system called HUR (Hovedstadens Udviklingsråd; bus terminus; Map pp78–9), the main terminus of which is at Rådhuspladsen, a couple of blocks to the northeast of the Central Station.

BUSES & TRAINS

The bus and train network has an integrated ticket system based on seven geographical zones. Most of your travel will probably be within two zones. Single tickets are valid for one hour's travel (one to two zones adult/child aged 12 to 15 19/9.50kr; three zones 28.50/19kr; children under 12 travel free if accompanied by an adult). Also available are discount 10-ticket cards (one to two zones adult/child 120/66kr; three zones 160/80kr), which you must stamp in the yellow machines when boarding buses or on the train/metro platforms. Tickets are valid for travel on the metro, buses and S-tog (S-train or local train) even though they look slightly different, depending on where you buy them. One ticket allows you to travel for one hour on all three types of transport.

Trains and buses generally run from about 5am (6am on Sunday) to around 12.30am, though buses continue to run through the night (charging double the usual fare) on a few main routes.

The free Copenhagen city maps that are distributed by the tourist office show bus routes (with numbers) and are very useful for finding your way around the city.

For schedules or more details try **HUR** (☎ 36 13 14 15; www.hur.dk in Danish; 🕒 7am–9.30pm), **DSB** (☎ 70 13 14 15; www.dsb.dk; 🕒 7am–10pm), for trains and S-tog local trains, or **Metro** (☎ 70 15 16 15; www.m.dk; 🕒 9am–4pm Mon–Fri).

COPENHAGEN CARD

The **Copenhagen Card** (www.cphcard.com; 24hr adult/child 10–15 199/129kr, 72hr 429/249kr), available at the Wonderful Copenhagen Tourist Information Bureau (p74) or online, gives you free access to around 60 museums in the city and sur-

rounding area, as well as free travel for all S-train, metro and bus journeys within the seven travel zones.

Taxi

Taxis can be flagged on the street and there are ranks at various points around the city centre. If the yellow *taxa* (taxi) sign is lit, the taxi is available for hire. The fare will start at 19kr and costs 10.20kr per kilometre from 7am to 4pm, and 11.20kr from 4pm to 7am, Monday to Friday. On Friday and Saturday, it's 13kr from 11pm to 7am, and on Sunday and holidays the cost is 11kr. The cost is 10.20kr on Saturday from 7am to 11pm. Most taxis accept major credit cards. Four of the main companies are **Codan Taxi** (☎ 70 25 25 25), **Hovedstadens Taxi** (☎ 38 77 77 77), **Taxa** (☎ 35 35 35 35) and **Taxamotor** (☎ 38 10 10 10).

AROUND COPENHAGEN

Many places in the greater Copenhagen area make for quick and easy excursions from the city. If you're hankering for woodlands, lakes, beaches and historic areas, the mix of destinations that follows should satisfy. For other day-trip possibilities a bit further afield, see the North Zealand chapter (p114).

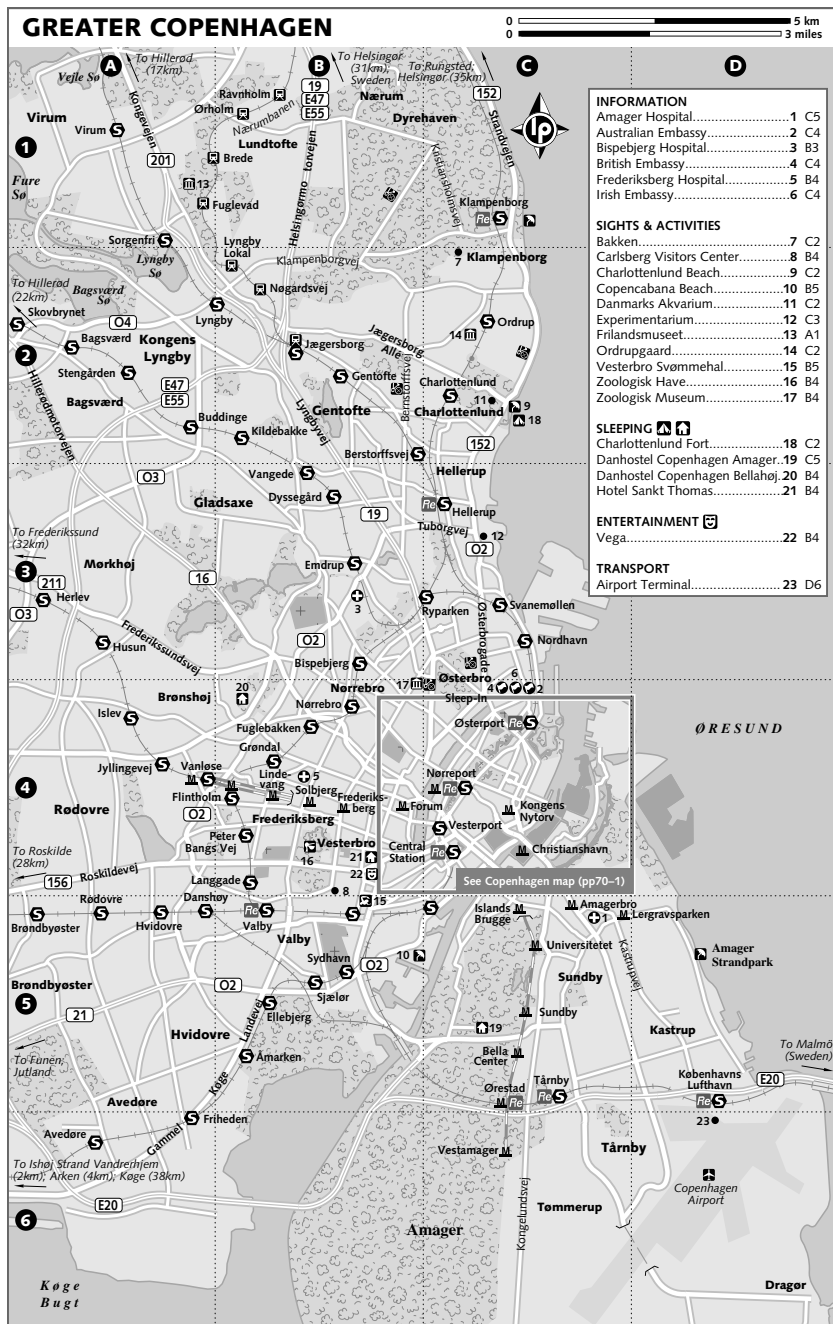
Alternatively, for those who want to tick off two countries in one visit, Sweden's third largest city, Malmö, is just 35 minutes away by train from Copenhagen Central Station via the majestic Øresund Fixed Link bridge and tunnel.

ARKEN MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Having undergone an expansion in 2006, the contemporary art museum **Ark** (off Map p112; ☎ 43 54 02 22; www.arken.dk; Skovvej 100; adult/child 50kr/free; 🕒 10am–5pm Tue & Thu–Sun, to 9pm Wed) should be fully reopened by the time you read this, with more space to exhibit the museum's collection of post-1945 art, including several Warhols and works by celebrated contemporary Danish artists such as Per Kirkeby, Asger Jorn and Olafur Eliasson. There's plenty to keep children intrigued too, including the wonderful sandy beach outside. To get here, take S-train to Ishøj station, then bus 128 from there.

CHARLOTTENLUND

Charlottenlund is a well-to-do coastal suburb just beyond the northern outskirts of



Copenhagen. Despite being so close to the city, it has a decent **sandy beach**.

Danmarks Akvarium (Map p112; ☎ 39 62 32 83; www.akvarium.dk; Kavalergården 1; adult/child 70/35kr; ☞ 10am-6pm mid-Feb-mid-Oct, to 4pm mid-Oct-mid-Feb) is 500m north of the beach on the inland side of the road. By Scandinavian standards it's a fairly large aquarium. The collection is well-presented and includes both cold-water and tropical fish, colourful live corals, nurse sharks, sea turtles, crocodiles and piranhas. To get here, take S-train line C to Charlottenlund.

Architect Zaha Hadid's sexy, slinky glass and stone extension put **Ordrupgaard** (Map p112; ☎ 39 64 11 83; www.ordrupgaard.dk; Vilvordevej 110, Charlottenlund; adult/child 70/55kr; ☞ 1-5pm Tue, Thu & Fri, 10am-6pm Wed, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun), a charming small art museum, on the international map when it opened in 2005. But the museum, housed in a pretty, early-20th-century manor house to the north of Copenhagen, has always had an enviable collection of 19th- and 20th-century art, including works by Gauguin (who lived in Copenhagen for many years), Renoir and Matisse, as well as notable Danish artists of that period such as JT Lundbye and Vilhelm Hammershøj. There is a nice café here, too, with outdoor seating in summer. To get here, take the S-train to Klampenborg, then bus 388D.

KLAMPENBORG

Klampenborg, being only 20 minutes from Central Station on S-train line C, is one of the favourite spots for Copenhageners on family outings.

A few hundred metres east of Klampenborg station is **Bellevue beach** (see p88), a sandy stretch that gets packed with sunbathers in summer.

An 800m walk west from Klampenborg station is the 400-year-old **Bakken** (Map p112; ☎ 39 63 55 44; www.bakken.dk in Danish; Dyrehavevej 62; admission free; ☞ varies, but generally open by 2pm until 10pm & often midnight daily, closed Sep-Apr), the world's oldest amusement park (it opened in the 16th century). A blue-collar version of Tivoli, it's a honky-tonk carnival of bumper cars, roller coasters, slot machines and beer halls. Children's rides cost around 25kr, adult rides about double that and there are discounted multi-use passes.

Bakken is at the southern edge of **Dyrehaven** (more formally called Jægersborg Dyrehave), an expansive 1000-hectare area of beech trees and meadows crisscrossed by an alluring network of walking and cycling trails. Dyrehaven was established as a royal hunting ground in 1669 and has evolved into the capital's most popular picnicking area. There are still about 2000 deer in the park, mostly fallow but also some red and Japanese sika deer. Among the red deer are a few rare white specimens, descendants of deer imported in 1737 from Germany, where they are now extinct.

LYNGBY

The main sight of interest in the Lyngby area is **Frilandsmuseet** (Map p112; ☎ 33 13 44 11; www.nat.mus.dk; Kongevejen 100; admission free; ☞ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun 3 Apr-30 Sep, to 4pm Tue-Sun 1-24 Oct), a sprawling open-air museum of old countryside dwellings that have been gathered from sites around Denmark. Its 100-plus historic buildings are arranged in groupings that provide a sense of Danish rural life as it was in various regions and across different social strata. Frilandsmuseet is a 10-minute signposted walk from Sorgenfri station, 25 minutes from Central Station on S-train line B. You can also take bus 184 or 194, both of which stop at the entrance.

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