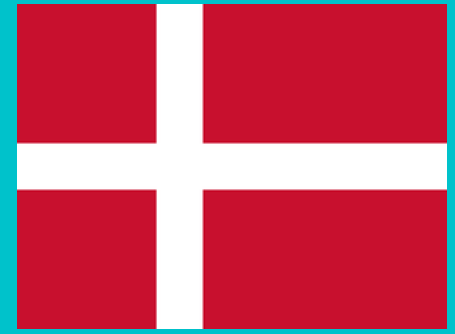




TOUR UPDATE



The Newsletter of mikesworldtour

Tour Highlight:

October 2022
Copenhagen, Denmark



Castles and Canals

Contributed by Michael Davis



A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

The first civilization within Denmark were the Vikings, known for their ship building and exploration. Eventually, Christianity came to the country, and democracy followed. Today, Denmark is a constitutional monarchy ruled by a representative democracy. The country is a champion of human rights and free trade. Denmark is known for its widely supported welfare state where many services are provided to citizens by the government. Denmark has one of the highest scores given by Freedom House at a score of 97 with a perfect score in political rights. Citizens enjoy full political rights as well as freedoms of expression and association. Democracy is strong in Denmark and its citizens enjoy the support and freedoms from their government. This is very typical of many Scandinavian countries.

Copenhagen, Denmark



Some quick tips for Copenhagen :

- Uber is available in the city, but the metro system is very connected any
- Meals and many things are generally more expensive than the rest of Europe so make sure to budget
- It is cold! If you are going anytime after the beginning of August remember to bring a coat

FOOD & DRINK

STREET GLIZZIES



One of my favorite meals while in Copenhagen. There are hot dog stands throughout the city selling Danish style hotdogs. This includes: ketchup, mustard, dijon mustard, raw onions, and crispy onions. I like to call them street glizzies, and they were absolutely delightful. Especially after a long day of walking these hotdogs were great to suite my appetite for a snack during the day. As someone who is from Chicago (basically making me a glizzy connoisseur) I can say that these totally passed my test!

KRISTINEDAL BURGERS



Copenhagen is full of great of great restaurants, and one night for dinner we tried Kristinedal Burgers. We went with the classic burger, and the flavor was delightful. So rich in flavor with a perfectly cooked burger. It is no surprise that the restaurant has a 4.9 on google reviews with over 650 reviews. Make sure to get there early because they do sell out of their popular burgers fast. They also have vegan burgers on their menu. There is only one location, and I highly recommend making a trip here! Throughout Copenhagen there are various vegan restaurants and almost every restaurant has a vegan option. A good option for those that eat Vegan!

Copenhagen, Denmark

EXPERIENCES

There is a lot to do and see in Copenhagen, so make sure to plan your time accordingly. The city is super walkable, and there are plenty of rideshare bikes that you can take to get across the city. Vegan food options are very common in the city, and I highly recommend trying some of it out.

RÅDHUSPLADSEN: CITY HALL

The City Hall building is one of the tallest in the city and was built between 1892-1905. This plaza is considered the exact center of the city. It is also the home of the city court within Copenhagen. There is a large square adjacent to the plaza where throughout the year protest occur. While we were in Copenhagen there was a protest during the night that had a DJ. Definitely interesting to compare to the protests I have seen in the US.



RUNDETAARN THE ROUND TOWER

The Round Tower was built in the 17th century and today is situated on one of the main shopping streets in Copenhagen. The King at the time built the tower in honor of the astronomer Tycho Brahe. The observatory at the top is still used by amateur astronomers, and is the oldest functioning observatory in all of Europe. Hans Christian Anderson used the library within the tower as an influence while writing his stories. There are many old tales about the tower including that a Russian Tsar once rode his horse up the tower.



Copenhagen, Denmark

FREDERIK'S CHURCH

Commonly known as the marble church, this church is actually not made from marble at all. Initially it was planned to when King Frederik V commissioned its building, but the architect of the building died in 1754 which halted the process of its building. The church was not completed until 1894 over 145 years after it was started. It is an evangelical lutheran church that is situated within the heart of the city. Couples line up to get married here as it is a very popular attraction for people to get married in.



AMALIENBORG

This is home to the royal family of Denmark. There are 4 buildings in total and to determine which building the Queen lives in, look to the one that has 5 chimneys. The soldiers guarding the palace were kind enough to allow us to take a picture with them. The palace is situated on the water and has a direct view to the Opera House across the water. Although it is nestled in the middle of the city, it is much quieter here at the palace. The palace was bought in 1794 by the royal family after their previous palace had burned down. In total there are 4 palaces connected in this complex where various members of the royal family live in.



Copenhagen, Denmark

NYHAVN/BOAT TOURS



The iconic colorful buildings that you see in everyone's pictures of Copenhagen are in Nyhavn. In Danish it stands for New Harbor, but it is actually very old. It once used to be a commercial port where ships would sail from all around the world and dock in its port. Sailors would eat at the restaurants nearby leading to the community that lives there today. The harbor was constructed in 1670, and was dug by Swedish prisoners from the war between Sweden and Denmark at the time. After World War II land transportation became more commonly used over the small vessels that stopped in the port. Today the port is a big tourist attraction filled with history. We did a boat tour that takes you through the port and gave a history of the architecture in the city.

I always include a picture of the sight I saw or activity I did. However, taking pictures in Freetown Christiania is strictly forbidden. You will actually see signs posted throughout the zone telling you about this rule. Cars are also not allowed in the zone as well. Christiania used to be an abandoned military base until in 1971 hippies decided to squat there. Today 900 people live there and it functions in a semi-autonomous zone within the city. Police still go into the zone, but generally the people that live in Christiania police themselves. They have their own laws including no violence and the ones from above. It is full of colorful murals and artisans selling their work. Tourists flock to this zone due to sale of various plants in the town ;) but please be careful participating as it is still illegal within the city. When visiting it is important to respect the town's rules and way of life as an outsider visiting.

FREETOWN CHRISTIANIA

Copenhagen, Denmark

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS MUSEUM

Another fun sight to visit in Copenhagen is the Guinness World Records Museum. Here you can learn random facts like the record for the longest finger nails and the longest time standing on one foot (its over 72 hours...). You also can brush up on your cup stacking skills in the museum and time yourself (I got 9 seconds which feels like a world record). I guess all the practice in cup stacking from middle school gym class really paid off. At the museum you also get to learn about the history of the records, and how one gets their name dotted in the famous book.



BIKES!

It is impossible to talk about Copenhagen without mentioning bikes. People in Copenhagen use bikes to go everywhere (per the photo) and it seems like everyone in the city owns a bike. There are also bike lanes incorporated into almost every street, and it is a huge part of their transportation infrastructure. The city also has thousands of bikes you can reserve on their rideshare apps that you can use to travel across the city. Highly recommend riding a bike through the city at least once while you are there!



See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!