

# Welcome

## Your guide to life in Copenhagen





# Welcome

Dear international Copenhagener,

Welcome to Copenhagen. We are happy that you have chosen our wonderful city as your new home.

Copenhagen is known for its liveability, community and civic participation. It's a place where history and tradition meet modern living, and where safety and quality of life go hand in hand.

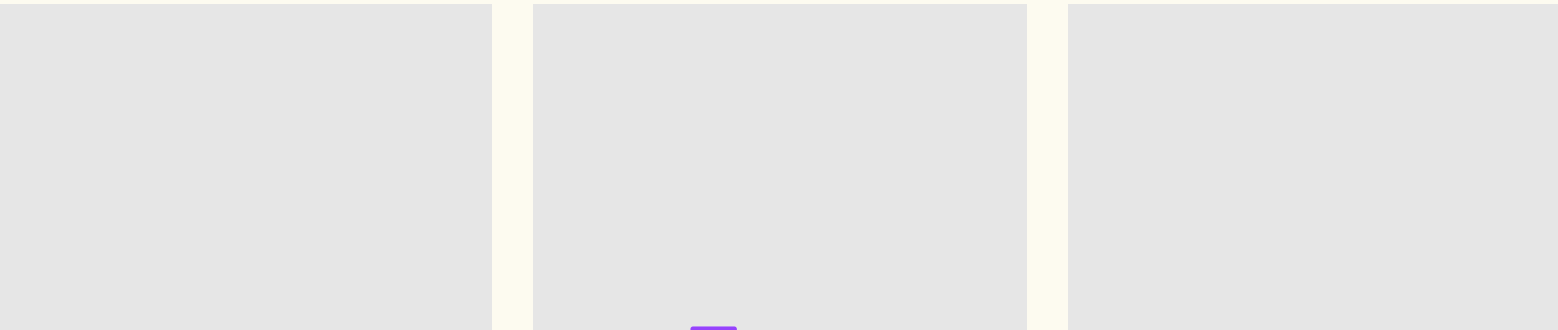
We recognise that settling into a new city can be both exciting and challenging. We know from many newcomers that while Copenhagen is safe, clean, and green, making new friends, navigating cultural differences, a new language, or simply feeling at home can take time. But you are not alone.

There are people, organisations and communities in Copenhagen ready to welcome you and help you feel comfortable in your new surroundings. Whether through your local library, culture house, volunteer group, sports club or neighbourhood event, there are many ways to turn this city from a place you live into a place you love.

We are committed to making your transition as seamless as possible, encouraging you to reach out, get involved and stay curious. There are countless ways to connect, and while Danes might not always start the conversation, we promise that you will often find warmth and openness just below the surface.

This letter and welcome guide is more than just a greeting. Think of it as a key – a small but important first step in unlocking the life that awaits you here. With it, we hope that you can open doors. Doors to local life, great resources, to hidden corners and shared experiences, and most importantly, to community and a sense of belonging.

You are now a Copenhagener, and the city is yours to explore, shape, and grow in. Let this welcome be the key that helps you unlock its doors and begin a new chapter in this wonderful city. Once again, a warm welcome.



Mia Nyegaard  
Mayor of Culture and  
Leisure

Jens-Kristian Lütken  
Mayor of Employment  
and Integration

Lars Weiss  
Lord Mayor




# Exploring this Guide



Copenhageners value their leisure time — and spend it well. From its great harbour to its community spaces and associations, the city invites you to take part. You can do this by joining a sports club, exploring the great outdoors, volunteering in your local area, or just enjoying a moment of “hygge”. You do not need perfect Danish to participate — just curiosity and a little initiative.

Consider this guide as your symbolic key to Copenhagen — created to help you settle into your new neighbourhood, to discover the city’s cultural landscape, and to connect with your fellow Copenhageners. Inside, **you'll** find a curated overview of life in this city and how to engage with it. The aim is to smoothen your transition into being a Copenhagener and to help you unlock Copenhagen’s potential.

On the next page, you will see a key surrounded by essential topics for new Copenhageners to explore. Click on any of these topics to open a dedicated section full of useful information complete with links. Feel free to browse and explore the guide at your own pace. 

If you come across webpages where the content is only in Danish, do not be discouraged. Most Danes speak English well and are happy to assist. Never hesitate to reach out.

Hopefully you will find this guide to be a helpful companion as you begin your journey as a Copenhagener.



Digital Tools at Your Fingertips

**A great way  
to experience  
Copenhagen is with  
The Copenhagen App  
– your pocket guide to  
events, hidden gems,  
and personalised  
tips across the  
city’s diverse  
neighbourhoods.**

# Contents





# International House Copenhagen

Services and events for  
international newcomers.

Established in 2013, International House Copenhagen provides the comfort of a one-point entry to a broad range of free services for international citizens in Greater Copenhagen. The goal is to make sure that all newcomers – whether you are here for work, studies or as accompanying family – get the best possible start to a new life in Denmark.

The services include official registration such as CPR, MitID, EU residence document, job and career programmes, as well as a broad range of informative events on everything from housing, tax, and Danish workplace culture to childcare, volunteering and kick-starting an active social life. You can learn more about International House Copenhagen at [www.ihcph.kk.dk](http://www.ihcph.kk.dk).





# Getting Involved in Your Community

Do you want to meet new people and build your network?  
Consider volunteering or joining an association.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of Danish society, and it plays a vital role in the everyday lives of many Copenhageners.

Joining a book club or volunteering as a coach for the local football team are just some of the many ways you can get involved with your new community. This is also a great way to become an integrated part of Danish society and to create meaningful connections across generations and cultures. For newcomers, it's also a great way to meet fellow Copenhageners.

You can volunteer episodically at sporting or cultural events, or on a more regular basis, for example as a team coach. If you want to volunteer, you can find a wealth of information on how to become a volunteer in Copenhagen on [international.kk.dk](https://international.kk.dk).

Make sure to also explore [Kulturens Frivillige](https://kulturensfrivillige.dk) and [volunteering.dk](https://volunteering.dk). These platforms are specifically designed to connect organisations looking for volunteers around Copenhagen and people looking to volunteer. If you are looking to join a sports club, check out the section **'Sports & Physical Recreation'** within this guide. Or, if you are looking to join a book club or a language café, check out the section **'Navigating the Copenhagen Libraries'** instead.



Photo: Lukas Bukoven



# Sports & Physical Recreation

Copenhageners are known for their active lifestyle — and it's easy for you to join in.

Danes are well-known for being an active people. That is why Copenhagen is full of so many different sports and recreational centres. Here you can join a wide range of sporting activities as a team or an individual. There are many ways you can join - as a member of a sports club or association, to exercising independently through self-organised activities. There's something for everyone.



Photo: Rune Svenningsen





## Self-organised Sports & Activities

Do you like to do things in your own time? [Here's](#) how you get started

Each neighbourhood in Copenhagen has several sports and leisure centres. For a registration fee, they offer a wide range of activities that you can book for yourself or enjoy with friends. A good place to start is [International.kk.dk](#) and [Brug byen](#), where you can find maps and overviews of [sports facilities](#) and [outdoor fitness facilities](#) throughout the city. There are also several other options such as DGI Byen, Hafnia Hallen, various padel centres and more.

For a guide on how to book facilities, please check out the section called "Book Byen" within this guide.





Photo: Daniel Rasmussen

## Sports Clubs & Associations

Looking for a sports club or an association near you? Get ready for team-spirit!

In Denmark, many people participate in sports by joining an association, in Danish 'forening'. Associations are organised communities where you meet up in your spare time to do what you love – whether that is badminton, basket, football or some other sporting or hobby activity. You can either join as a member or as a volunteer, **e.g. as a coach for a team**. A good place to start is to check out [bevaegdigforlivet.dk](https://bevaegdigforlivet.dk), where you can find an overview of sports clubs and associations in your area.

Many clubs and associations in Denmark are run by volunteers, which means maintaining websites in other languages than Danish is not always a top priority. As a result, translations of the information on their websites may be limited — but online translation tools can usually help you get the information you need. If anything is unclear, **don't** hesitate to call them. Most Danes speak excellent English and are happy to assist.





Photo: Astrid Maria Rasmussen

# Where to Begin?

Need help to get started? Here is a few recommendations for newcomers

There are many options when it comes to joining a sports club or an association. Below you can find some examples of sports clubs and associations in Copenhagen that have experience with welcoming international citizens. There are many other types of sports communities than those listed here, doing running, yoga, swimming, etc. You can find most of these with a simple internet search.



## Associations focusing on diversity and inclusivity

 [m Pan Idræt - Pan Idræt](#)

## Basketball


 [BBF - Hovedstadens Basketball Fællesskab](#)

 [3B Basketball in Copenhagen](#)

## Family sports

[Familieidræt](#)


## Football clubs

 [oldklubben Skjold | Danmarks største fodbold-klub](#)

 [oldklubben Union - Union er min ven](#)

 [ørrebro United](#)

## Gymnastics

 [ymnastikforeningen ODK - Gymnastik i København og på Frederiksberg](#)

 [umspring - gymnastik og motorik i København](#)

## Sports associations for students

 [J Studenteridræt](#)

 [3S Sport](#)

## Volleyball

 [mager Volley](#)



# Booking Cultural & Sports Facilities

Bookbyen.kk.dk is your gateway to facilities all over Copenhagen.

Book Byen is an online site that allows you to book public facilities across the city. Booking the facilities costs a small fee and include sports centres and cultural houses that allow for a wide range of activities from badminton to community events, or even as venues for your child's birthday party. Although this website is currently in Danish only, its search function is simple and user-friendly.

From the front page you can filter your search to find the exact space and time you are interested in. Once **you've** set the parameters of your search, simply click "SØG", after which a calendar will appear, showing what timeslots are available and at what facilities, depending on your chosen filters. From here, you simply click one of the green timeslots to proceed with the booking.



Photo: Canva



# What's On in Copenhagen

BrugByen.kk.dk is Copenhagen's official portal for culture and leisure offers. This is how to use it.

Brug Byen is the City of Copenhagen's official online platform for discovering local events at facilities managed by the municipality. This includes cultural and creative gatherings, sports and leisure, parks and beaches, as well as various activities for children.

The Danish version has various subsites like Det sker / What's On - for browsing upcoming events, that can be filtered by date, category, location, price, age group; For børn / For Kids - a child friendly events section; Gratis / Free - specifically for showcasing free activities; and Koncerter, Din bydel and more - filters for music events and neighbourhood based browsing.

There's an English version under "What's On", where you can search in English.

## Helpful Tips & Local Insights

### English interface

Use the English "What's On" page for easier navigation if you do not speak Danish.

### Save & plan events

Sign up or note the details such as date, time, and venue.

### Check for free activities

Even paid events may offer occasional free sessions, especially during festivals or public holidays.

### Neighbourhood exploration

Use "Din bydel" to support local events in your area.

### Children & family

Keep an eye on summer camps, beach events, and library children's programmes — especially from June to August.

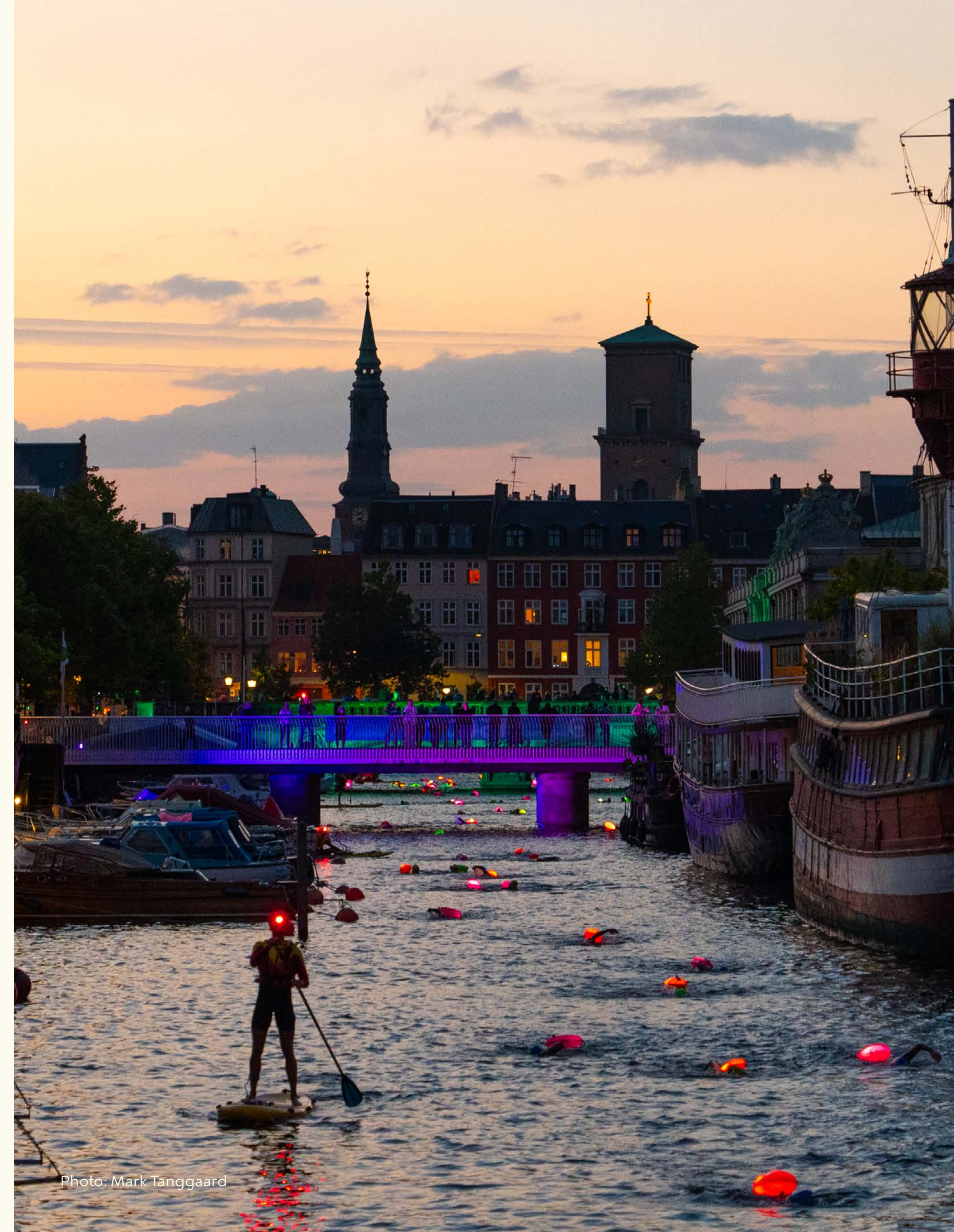


Photo: Mark Tanggaard



# Go Swimming in Copenhagen

## A City for Swimmers — All Year Round

Surrounded by the sea, Denmark is truly a country for water enthusiasts. For many Copenhageners swimming is part of everyday life all year round.

During summer, locals usually take every opportunity to soak up the sunlight. Harbour bathing and beaches offer the perfect way to stay cool, active, and social. Across the city, **you'll** find a variety of swimming spots, ideal for relaxing or spending time with friends, no matter the weather.

Copenhagen has 9 public indoor pools, each with its own distinct profile. You can buy single- and multi-visit tickets or season passes either at the door when you arrive or online - just remember to bring your own swimwear and towel, and to follow the instructions before entering the pool. Swimming lessons and sports teams are also available. Swimming lessons and sports teams are also available.

You can always jump into one of the public harbour baths or swimming zones located in the heart of the city. **It's** safe, clean, and fun - and all 4 harbour baths and 6 swimming zones are free to use.

Copenhagen's three beaches are perfect for open-water swimming, relaxing in the sand dunes, or watching your kids play in the child-friendly lagoons.



Photo: Astrid Maria Rasmussen



# Discovering Culture Houses

Culture houses are the doorway into Copenhagen community life. Here, you'll find spaces for culture, creativity, and connection no matter your background or language.

Culture houses are public community spaces found in neighbourhoods all over Copenhagen. Each one is a little different — some host concerts and exhibitions, others offer kitchen labs, art studios, open mics, or quiet corners for co-working. What they all share is a focus on community and creativity.

You're welcome at any culture house in the city — not just the ones in your area. Many offer free or low-cost events, and you don't need to speak Danish to join in. You can also book facilities for your own activities, events, or projects — whether personal, creative, or community-focused. Just contact the culture house in question and ask them about the possibilities.

Want to get more involved? Most culture houses welcome volunteers and support residents who want to start a project or lead an event. You don't need to be an artist — you just need to be curious.

A culture house is more than a venue — it's an open door into Copenhagen life, shaped by the people who show up. And now you have the key as well.



Photo: Kim Matthäi Leland



## Year-Round Events & Festivals

Because being new **do** not  
have to be boring.

From music and food to art and family-friendly fun, Denmark hosts an abundance of cultural events - and Copenhagen is no exception. Throughout the year, the city has a vibrant calendar of events and festivals for every interest, with summer being the peak season. If you are new to the city, the event calendars in [The Copenhagen App](#) or on [visitorservice.kk.dk](#) are good places to start. They feature a great selection of events and festivals in and around the city.

All international citizens in and around Copenhagen are also encouraged to explore [International House Copenhagen's events](#) and take part in International Citizen Days - a unique celebration designed especially for the international community in Greater Copenhagen.



Photo: Daniel Rasmussen





## International Citizen Days

A one-of-a-kind welcome event tailored specifically for the international community in Greater Copenhagen.

Taking place in the heart of Copenhagen every year, International Citizen Days brings together public authorities, private organisations, and local communities for two days of guidance on everything from job and career to housing and social life in 'hyggelige' surroundings.

International Citizen Days is part of the national month of Welcome September and is organised by International House Copenhagen in collaboration with a wide range of partners from both the public and private sectors. The objective is to provide newcomers with the best possible start to life in Denmark, celebrating diversity and cross-cultural connections.



# Navigating the Copenhagen Libraries

The public libraries in Copenhagen inspire curiosity and community through both digital platforms and welcoming physical spaces.

In Copenhagen, you will find a total of 20 public libraries – a main library and 19 branch libraries – located throughout the city. Like all public libraries in Denmark, the Copenhagen Libraries are free to use for all residents living in the country. All guests are welcome, and the friendly staff will do their best to help you.

At each library, you will find places to sit and read, to play, and of course lots of books for you and your family to borrow. Here you can get to know other families, enjoy literature, toys, and activities, or attend free events all year round. You can also become part of a language or reading community by joining a Book Club or a Talking Group either in Danish or in a wide range of other languages. In addition to all this, you can print, scan, copy, and use public computers.

## The Library App "Biblioteket"

Use our library app "Biblioteket" to enhance your library experience.

When borrowing books at the library, you can either use your yellow health card or your digital borrower's card in the app "Biblioteket". You can use the app to search, place loan holds, and renew loans. You can also use the app to receive recommendations and reminders for final return dates and collection of loan holds.



Photo: Københavns Biblioteker





Photo: Københavns Biblioteker

## How to Use Copenhagen Libraries

Did you know that  
Copenhagen Libraries are  
more than just books?  
Here is how you get started.

Everyone over the age of 18 can [register as a patron](#) at Copenhagen Libraries and gain quick access to physical books and digital resources. As a parent or guardian, you can also [register children](#) under the age of 18. Both requires a Danish civil registration number / CPR and MitID.

Once registered, you can log in to the website with your CPR number and a PIN code of your choice, reserving books for pick-up at your preferred library. You can also [access digital resources](#) such as e-books, online periodicals, dictionaries or movies.

Please do not hesitate to [contact The Copenhagen Libraries](#), if you have any questions about the use of services, loans, fees or how to search at bibliotek.kk.dk.



## Families & Children in the City

Copenhagen is a city that welcomes children, and is full of opportunities for children to play, create, and grow.

From the city's 125 public playgrounds to its parks, Copenhagen is full of places and child-friendly attractions made specifically for its youngest citizens. Whether your child loves climbing, drawing, listening to stories, or just running free, [there's](#) room to explore.

Across every neighbourhood, [you'll](#) find [playgrounds](#) — from small local swings to large adventure areas. Some are staffed part-time, offering tools and organised activities, but most encourage open, imaginative play. Libraries welcome young readers with storytelling, craft stations, and play corners. Older children can take part in music, theatre, or creative workshops at local youth clubs and culture houses. And during school holidays, [FerieCamp](#) offers free activities for ages 3 to 17.

The online platforms [Copenhagen for Families](#) and [Copenhagen with kids](#) offer good overviews of the many opportunities for families in Copenhagen.

Whatever your child's age or interests, Copenhagen makes space for play, learning, and curiosity — at every corner.



Photo: Daniel Rasmussen



## What to See and Where to Explore

Discover the Cultural Treasures of Copenhagen. Whether you like museums, fine cuisine, or just a quiet place for a stroll, the city got you covered.

As a 'newcomer', why not temporarily embrace that role and stop by [Copenhagen Visitor Service](#)? Here, you can find helpful information about what to see and what to do in Copenhagen. The staff knows the city well and are happy to help you explore.

You can also start online. There [you'll](#) find everything from [local walking routes](#) and [bike tours](#) to guides and recommendations of restaurants throughout the city. This can help you discover your new favourite place in Copenhagen, and not least in the area surrounding it.

Each part of the city and the Greater Copenhagen area has its own unique character, and tools like the [Copenhagen App](#) or websites like [Visit Copenhagen](#) can help you uncover it all.



Photo: Thomas Høyrup Christensen





Photo: Anders Helsager Pedersen

## Museums and Art Galleries



Copenhagen is packed with [museums](#) and [galleries](#) that host many activities and events in addition to exhibitions. These include guided tours, historical walks, happenings, and debates – mixing themes like food and art, sculptures and electronic music. Here, you have a great opportunity to discover new interests while learning about Copenhagen, Danish culture, and the country's history. Many museums stay open late at least once a week, and a few even offer free admission, so it is always a good idea to check out their websites before visiting.

You can find most museums and cultural institutions across the city in [The Copenhagen App](#).





# The Green Oases of Copenhagen

Copenhageners live outside no matter the season. From parks to walks by the lakes, the great outdoors is part of everyday life in the city.

You are never far from a green oasis in Copenhagen. Gardens and parks are spread throughout the city - ideal for a stroll, a picnic, sunbathing, or simply relaxing. These spaces offer the perfect escape from the bustle of everyday life. As a Danish saying even goes **'there's** no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing'. So, make sure to dress for the weather and go explore the outdoors.

If you need inspiration for your next trip into "the wild", make sure to explore [the Copenhagen App](#) for inspiration. You can also explore [this overview of the Copenhagen's parks and green oases](#) or [this recommendation of the best parks and gardens](#) throughout the city to help you find your own little haven.





Photo: Lukas Bukoven

## Beyond Copenhagen

Less than an hour from Copenhagen lies a whole world of natural beauty, history and hygge for you to explore.

Whether you seek UNESCO world heritage sites, world-class culinary craftsmanship, or just a quick trip away from the bustle of the city, you will find it all just beyond Copenhagen. And the best part? It is all just a short train or car ride away.

Need ideas for your next day trip? Check out this guide to [Museums outside Copenhagen](#) for inspiration. Websites like [Visit Denmark](#), [Visit North Zealand](#) and [Visit Copenhagen](#) can also be great sources of inspiration for your next daytrip away from the capital.

On top of that, the raw, natural beauty of Sweden lies just beyond the Øresund strait, a short train-ride away. And there is a lot to see in the Swedish south. You can find excellent guides to the south of Sweden on both [Visit Sweden](#) and [Visit Malmö](#).



# How to Get Around

A model city for bicycles and public transport.

Copenhagen is internationally recognised as a leader in sustainable urban mobility, offering exceptional infrastructure for both cyclists and public transport users. With more than half of its residents commuting by bike daily, the city has developed an extensive network of dedicated bike lanes, cycle superhighways, and bike-friendly policies that make cycling safe, convenient, and accessible year-round.

In addition to its world-class cycling culture, Copenhagen boasts an efficient and reliable public transportation system. The Metro, S-trains, and buses are well-integrated, offering frequent service and seamless connections throughout the city and its surrounding areas. Innovations such as real-time travel information, contactless ticketing, and multimodal transport hubs further enhance the user experience.



Photo: Mark Tanggaard





Photo: Mark Tanggaard

## Getting Around by Public Transport

Public transport in Denmark is reliable, efficient, and easy to use. Whether you are travelling by train, metro, or bus - it is all well connected.

With the [S-trains](#), [The Copenhagen Metro](#), or the many busses, you can reach almost every corner of Greater Copenhagen within just a couple of hours. If you want to explore other regions, the Danish national rail company, [DSB](#), connects most of the country. [DOT](#) / Din Offentlige Transport is a platform that unites all public transport operators in Denmark, helping you plan, pay for, and navigate your travels with ease.

Many Danes use the [Rejsekort](#) when travelling. Use [Journeyplanner](#) or [publictransport.dk](#) to plan your trip, see timetables, prices, and much more. Denmark is well connected.





Photo: Marc Skafte-Vaabengaard

## Getting Around by Bike

Most Copenhageners would agree that bicycles are the best means of transportation within the city and not least one of the greatest ways to explore it.

Copenhagen is known as one of the best cities for cyclists in the world. It has more than 375 km of bike lanes designed specifically for cyclists, many of them running along parks and the harbour front, safely away from traffic.

Are you planning on living outside Copenhagen? A network of cycle superhighways connect the city with direct and safe routes.

Would you like to teach your children how to ride a bike in a safe and fun way? Check out the Danish Cyclists' Federation's 20 Cycling Games.

Just make sure you know the traffic rules and how to cycle in Denmark before heading out.