

72 hours in Copenhagen

MAY 7, 2019 / JESSICA ANSELMINI / 0 COMMENTS / EDIT

Long weekend across the pond? More doable than you think

Long trips, short trips – we all love a vacation but there are times when the thought of taking off for a week away seems like more hassle than it's worth. Enter the underrated, long-weekend vacation.

Research actually indicates this type of trip may be best – short spurts of recharge sprinkled throughout the year offer more events to look forward to. In fact, we [derive nearly as much benefit from thinking about & planning for a vacation](#) than we do *taking* the actual vacation or basking in its afterglow.

Need some inspiration to pull the trigger? Just returned from 3 days in Copenhagen – here's the itinerary.

Passport Snapshot

Who: Me (solo!)

What: Long weekend trip

When: Friday – Monday in May (Thursday travel day)

Where: Copenhagen

Why: Flight deal alert thanks to nextvacay.com

How: Icelandair, \$396 BOS to CPH, via KEF

Spend: Approx. \$500 (excluding flight)

Tip: Consider a hostel - Steel House Copenhagen, \$193 for 4 nights

Budget: Go cash-free/save on exchange rate with a travel credit card

Fun Fact: *hygge*, *noun*: a quality of coziness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being (regarded as a defining characteristic of Danish culture)

Day 1, Friday – Copenhagen

- Kick things off with a crash course in Danish history via a 10am “**Grand Tour of Copenhagen**” walking tour. You’ll visit the following & learn your way around: City Hall, Christiansborg Palace, the old City Center, Nyhavn Harbor and Royal Palace of Amalienborg
 - Refuel & refresh with a sandwich from **Bak** – local favorite is crispy pork (specifically, pork roast with red cabbage cream & cornichon)
 - Gather at Højbro Plads at 4pm for your second walking tour of the day, this time around **Christianshavn**
 - End at the Free Town of **Christiania** to explore the “Green Light District” – the world-renowned commune that ironically, has become quite elitist
 - On your way back to town, take refuge from the intermittent rain with wine at **The Corner** & dinner at the **Bridge Street Kitchen’s food market**. Recommend Grød, Denmark’s take on all things porridge (try the daal)
 - Finally, take in **Nyhaven Harbor’s** brightly colored buildings, and Copenhagen’s main attraction, during the golden hour
-

Day 2, Saturday – Copenhagen

- Start the day with a snegle & oat milk latte at **Statement Coffee** (Vester Farimagsgade), while appreciating the modernist décor
- For museum aficionados, a visit to the **National Museet** is worth the time (*note: the Danish Resistance museum was closed due to fire during my visit but would have taken its place – Denmark was the only occupied country that actively resisted the Nazi regime’s attempts to deport its Jewish citizens during WWII*)

- For more outdoor adventures, hop on a **canal tour**. Don't book in advance, your previous day's tour guide will likely provide a free voucher. *General Tip: bring a raincoat, Danish weather can change every 5 minutes – we were met by rain, hail & sun all in the span of an hour cruise.*
 - Head over to **Torvhallerne** hungry (and with a group) to sample your way through the city's best food market. Don't miss the traditional open-faced sandwiches at Smørrebrød (my pick: butter-fried fish) or more porridge at Grød
 - Continue on to the **Botanical Gardens** (consider packing up food market finds for a picnic) for a stroll around the grounds & **Rosenborg Castle**, which dates back to 1606
 - Time to **rent a bike** & move like a true Dane – acclimate yourself on Nørre Søgade (eastern side of the city) for easy riding & beautiful water views
 - Stop for some outdoor reading in one of the city's many public squares – highly recommend **"The Year of Living Danishly"** by **Helen Russell** to learn more about one of the happiest nations on Earth
 - Head over to **Bastard Café** for board games & beer – yes, you read that correctly
-

Day 3, Sunday – Day trip to Sweden

- Easily spend another day enjoying Copenhagen or, for those craving another passport stamp, hop on a train for a 50 min ride **to Lund, Sweden**
- Wander the old university town, taking in the slower pace & varied architecture
- Make your way to **Kulturen**, the world's second oldest open-air museum, for an authentic look at how Swedes lived across centuries

- Wrap up at Lund's **Cathedral** dating back to the Middle Ages – don't miss its remarkable astronomical clock / early calendar
 - Head back to Copenhagen for dinner at **Barr**, a shining example of new Nordic cuisine. Incredible, locally sourced food (try the cod) & an ambiance that is, well, hygge
 - *Note: Consider swapping out the trip to Lund for a [longer day trip to Aarhus](#)*
-

Denmark is a beautiful, welcoming country with one of the highest standards of living in the world. As a tourist, you'll experience all that and more, leaving with an awareness and appreciation of what it means to live danishly (and wanting to come back for more).