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# The Best Full-Day Tours



# The Best in One Day



- 1 Harbor Tour
- 2 Nyhavn
- 3 Cap Horn
- 4 Strøget
- 5 Café Europa
- 6 Strædet
- 7 Nationalmuseet
- 8 Tivoli
- 9 Café Ketchup

## Time to immerse yourself in romantic, chic Copenhagen.

This city is about more than fabulous art collections and serious museums, although it has its fair share. Take to the cobbled streets to get right to its laid-back heart. See the city from the sea on a harbor trip and savor the casual vibe in the restaurants of Nyhavn before discovering the shopping streets of the old town and taking a tour of Danish history in Copenhagen's biggest museum. Wind up your day at the iconic pleasure gardens of Tivoli to scream around roller coasters and feast on the finest Danish cuisine. **START: Kongens Nytorv.**

**1 ★★★ kids Harbor Tour.** Boat tours leave half hourly from the top of Nyhavn Canal and I recommend taking one to get your bearings and understand how the city has developed from its medieval infancy to the cutting-edge destination of today. Take the Red Line boat trip to the north of the harbor and sit at the front of the boat if you want to catch the English commentary. As you leave Nyhavn, look left for the much-celebrated **Det Kongelige Teater Skuespilhuset** (Royal Danish Playhouse, see p 122), opened in February 2008. Right across the water you'll spy the innovative Opera House (see p 119), with a curving four-story foyer and cantilevered roof, floating on its man-made island. On the left and just downstream from the Queen's palace at Amalienborg (see p 15) there's a photo opportunity at the Little Mermaid (see p 59), who sits on an empty shoreline gazing wistfully out to sea. On the return journey through the canals of Christianshavn (see p 63) get cameras ready for the gold-topped Vor Frelzers Kirke, which appears on the left (see p 64), and the sparkling Den Sorte Diamant (Black Diamond), housing part of Denmark's royal library (see p 30), which looms up as you turn out of Christianshavn Canal. Before returning to Nyhavn, the boat putters around the islet of Slotsholmen (see p 19), site of Copenhagen's first palace, built by Bishop Absalon (see p 19), who founded the city in 1167AD. 🕒 **1 hr. DFDS Canal**

*Tours, Nyhavn 1433 (at head of canal). ☎ +45 3296 3000. [www.canal-tours.com](http://www.canal-tours.com). Book in advance at Copenhagen Tourist Office, Vesterbrogade 4a. ☎ +45 7022 2442. [www.visitcopenhagen.com](http://www.visitcopenhagen.com). Tickets 60DKK adults, 30DKK kids; 20% discount with Copenhagen Card (see p 8). Daily Mar 15–June 27 & Aug 25–Oct 21 9.30am–5pm; June 28–Aug 24 9.30am–7pm; Oct 22–Dec 21 10.15am–3.15pm. Departures every 30 mins except Oct 22–Dec 21, when trips leave at 10.15am, 11.30am, 12.45pm, 2pm & 3.15pm. Closed: Dec 22–Mar 14. Metro: Kongens Nytorv.*

**2 ★★★ kids Nyhavn.** Built in the 17th century to connect Copenhagen to the sea, Nyhavn is bisected by its canal and lined with crooked, brightly

*Reflection of passing tour boats in the glass of the Black Diamond.*



## Save Money with a CPH Card

**The Copenhagen Card: don't go out without it.** This brilliantly conceived card gives free entrance to 63 museums (all the major ones, but not Tivoli or Roskilde Viking Ship Museum, see p 138) plus free travel on public transport (bus, metro, train, and harbor bus, see p 162) throughout Copenhagen and beyond. At the time of writing, a 24-hour CPH Card cost 209DKK, a 72-hour card 439DKK. When you are ready to use your card, sign and date it, and write in your starting time; it's valid from that point. Two children go free with one adult card. Buy the card online ([www.visitcopenhagen.com](http://www.visitcopenhagen.com)), from the tourist office at Vesterbrogade 4a (☎ +45 7022 2442), or at the airport.

painted gabled houses. Once home to sailors and dockworkers, the street was notorious for seedy drinking dens. Today the crowds and venues are still here but they've both gone up-market. Welcoming cafés, bars, and restaurants offer cold beers and (mostly) excellent local dishes at tables spilling into the street. Choose somewhere to eat and settle down to watch the world go by—my preferences are Cap Horn (see below), Leonore Christiane (see p 99), and **SARS Kommandøren** (see p 100) for quality seafood and organic meat dishes. ⌚ 45 min. *Nyhavn. Metro: Kongens Nytorv.*

**3 ★★ Cap Horn.** My first choice at Nyhavn for a leisurely lunch of fresh langoustines and thinly sliced beef with pickles. If the sun is shining, grab a table in the street-side bar and order a chilled dark lager. *See p 96. Nyhavn 15. ☎ +45 3314 5614. [www.sars.dk](http://www.sars.dk). \$\$.*

**4 ★★★ Strøget.** Europe's longest pedestrianized shopping street runs 1.8 km from Kongens Nytorv down to the Rådhuspladsen, moving progressively downmarket as it goes. At the top end, have

credit cards at the ready for Cartier, Gucci, Mulberry, and Chanel as well as department store Illum (see p 77), beloved of wealthy Copenhagen matrons, and its delightful sidekick design emporium, Illums Bolighus (see p 78), where I enjoy seeing the color-coordinated displays. Acclaimed silversmith Georg Jensen's flagship store (see p 82) is here too, next door to Royal Copenhagen (see p 76), doing a roaring trade in its famous blue-and-white pottery. Among the high-street names popping up further down Strøget (Accessorize, H&M), Bodum stands out for selling quality Danish

*Designerware in Illums Bolighus.*





design at sensible prices. ⌚ 1½ hr.  
**Strøget.** **Metro:** *Kongens Nytorv.*  
*Short stroll from Nyhavn.*

**5** ★★ **kids Café Europa.** At the heart of Strøget, Copenhagen's famous pedestrianized shopping street, **Café Europa** boasts an award-winning barlista (coffee expert) and a selection of sinful teatime cakes. See p 93. **Amager-torv 1.** ☎ +45 3314 2889. \$.

**6** ★★★ **Strædet.** Discover the romantic tangle of narrow cobbled streets to the south of Strøget. You couldn't do better for hip boutiques, dusty old vinyl shops, and crowded cafés overflowing with students. Look out for Læderstræde and Kompagnistræde, lined with basement antique shops selling silverware, porcelain, and delicate glass (not many bargains to be found here). These shops are found on the streets running parallel to the left of Strøget as you head towards Rådhuspladsen. ⌚ 1 hr. **Latin Quarter.** **Metro:** *Kongens Nytorv.* *Stroll from Strøget.*

**7** ★★ **kids Nationalmuseet (National Museum).** It's time for a whistle-stop tour of Danish history at the National Museum, housed in an 18th-century palace with a new atrium just off Rådhuspladsen. The collection is broken down into



*Eskimo boots at the Nationalmuseet.*

themes (ethnographic, coins and medals, Middle Ages and Renaissance, Prince's Palace) but don't try to see too much in one go; the collection is vast and navigating around it is time-consuming. I advise you to choose one of several 60-minute audio-guides (find near the ticket desk) to steer you through the highlights. If you're travelling *en famille*, there's an interactive children's museum to spark little imaginations (see p 34). Worth a visit are the ethnographic collections (first floor, rooms 151–172) where you can see an Inuit snow suit, an eerily beautiful Edo period golden screen decorated with frolicking horses, and a collection of Samurai costumes. Tour the state rooms of 1743, complete with fine Flemish tapestries (rooms 127–134 on the first floor) and don't

## Monday Closing

**Don't get caught out:** many museums and attractions in Copenhagen close on Monday, including most of those mentioned in this chapter. There's still lots to do; take a harbor trip past the Little Mermaid, enjoy *smørrebrød* (open sandwiches—they're so much more enticing than they sound) overlooking the canal at Nyhavn, wander around Christianshavn (see p 63), or visit the Viking Ship Museum at Roskilde (see p 138).

## Slotsholmen Museums

After Nyhavn, if you don't want to walk any further or the kids don't want to go shopping, you can always stop off on the island of Slotsholmen, where there are seven museums, including the Royal Reception Rooms (see p 39), **Ruinerne af Absalons** (Absalon's Ruins, see p 19), **Daniel Libeskind's Danske Jødisk Museum** (Danish Jewish Museum, see p 19), **Tøjhusmuseet** (Royal Danish Arsenal Museum, see p 35), **Kongelige Bibliotek** (Royal Library, see p 19). For the **Thorvaldsens Museum**, showcasing one man's obsession with sculpture, and **Teatermuseet**, see p 39.

miss the mystical Iron Age Gundestrup Cauldron, decorated with carved Celtic warriors and dogs, the symbol of death, just off the atrium.

🕒 1 hr. **Frederiksholms Kanal 12.**

☎️ +45 3313 4411. [www.nationalmuseum.dk](http://www.nationalmuseum.dk). Free admission. Tues–Sun 10am–5pm. Closed Dec 24–25, 31. Bus 6a. 10-min. walk from Strædet.

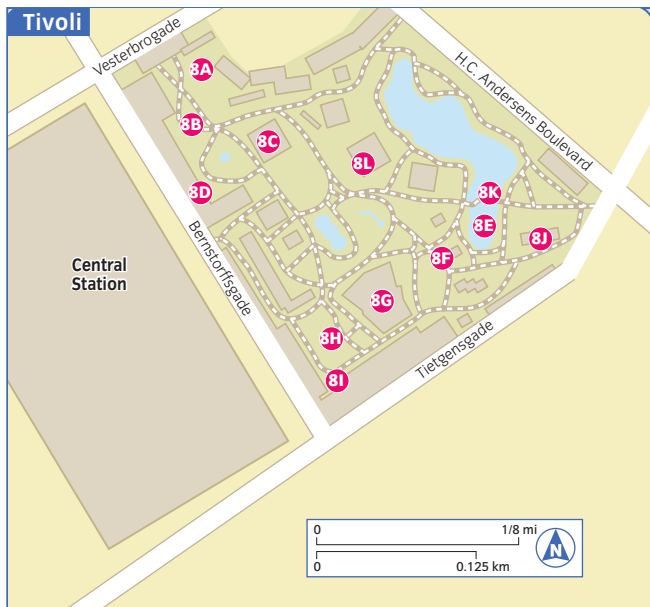
8 ★★★★★ **kids Tivoli.** Bewitching Tivoli weaves its magic after dark, when all its pavilions, pagodas, and follies, intricately landscaped boating lakes and gardens are brightly floodlit. Founded in 1843, the pleasure

*Fairy lights in Tivoli at night.*



gardens are as Danish as bacon and maintain a sweetly old-fashioned appeal, pulling daily crowds by the thousand. You'll find 25 rides to choose from; for spine-tingling chills, head to the Golden Tower, with its high-velocity vertical drop of 63m, then get inverted hurtling at 77mph (125kph) around the madcap Demon roller coaster. There are also many gentle attractions specially aimed at young kids (see p 33). But there's so much more to Tivoli than fairground rides. The concert hall (see p 118) is home to the Tivoli Symphony Orchestra and a seasonal program of cultural events. Jazz and rock concerts take place in the ornate Glass Hall Theatre (see p 118) and on the open-air stage, while mime fans love the nightly shows at the Pantomime Theatre (see p 116). Food and drink options are endless, whatever your budget. Grab a hot dog on the hoof, sink a pint of lager in the Beer Garden, or sit down for a formal dinner in one of Tivoli's pricey restaurants (see The Best Dining). 🕒 3 hrs. **Vesterbrogade 3.**

☎️ +45 3313 4411. [www.tivoli.dk](http://www.tivoli.dk). Admission 85DKK, 45DKK children aged 3–11. Multi-ride tickets 200DKK, 160DKK kids 3–11. Apr 17–Dec 30 Sun–Thur 10am–10pm; Fri–Sat 10am–11pm. Closed Jan–mid-Apr. Bus 2A, 5A, 15. 10-min walk from Nationalmuseet.



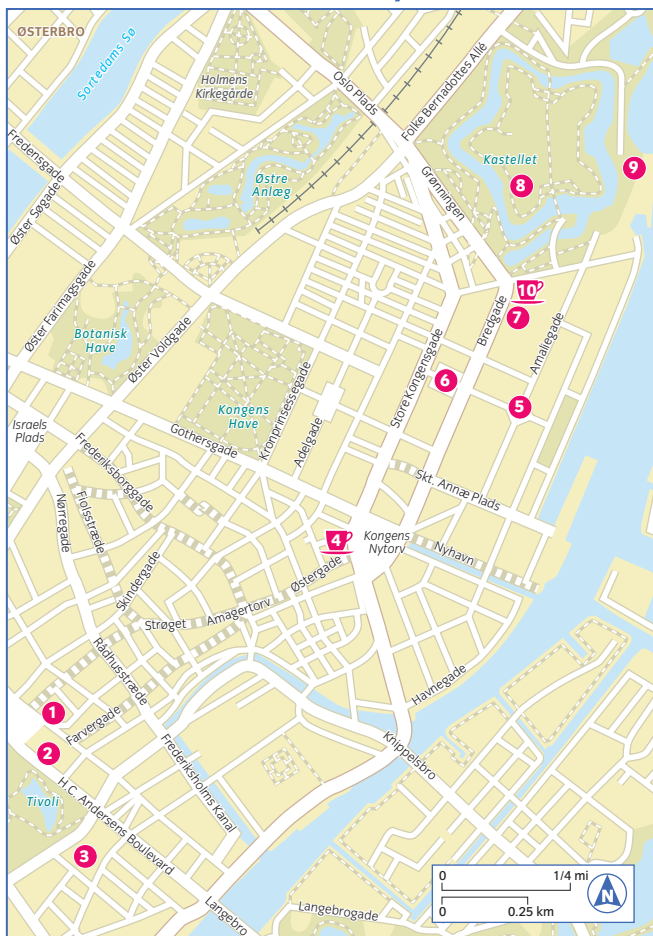
**8A** ★★★ **kids** **Pantomime-teatret**, The Chinese pavilion (see p 117) to the left of the main entrance stages nightly performances of mime and panto. Opposite is the **8B** ★ **Promenade Pavilion**, home to the Tivoli Promenade Orchestra. There's rock music at the **8C** ★★ **Plænen (Open-air Stage Tivoli)**, where local kids hang around looking for action (see p 120). To your right, **8D** ★★★ **Nimb Palace** has trendy restaurant, bar, and hotel (see p 132). Walk to the ornamental lake and on the left is **8E** ★★★ **kids** **Tivoli Lake**, with Dragon Boats (see p 33) for children. Take toddlers on the **8F** ★★ **kids** **Trolley Bus** to explore the rest of the gardens—it stops by the Illums Bolighus store (see p 78) on your left.

Straight ahead the **8G** ★★ **Tivoli Concert Hall** provides music by the resident symphony orchestra (see p 118) and mainstream concerts. Around the hall to the right are **8H** ★★★ **kids** **Rides** including bumper cars, Nautilus and the Star Flyer for the brave (see p 33). The **8I** ★★ **kids** **Amusement Arcade** provides old-fashioned fun, and candy floss. A scary **8J** **kids** **Demon Roller Coaster**, has high-speed inversions, and the Golden Tower boasts unbearable drops (see p 10). Cross the ★ **Wooden bridge** over the floodlit lake and follow the shore around to **8K** ★ **kids** the **Tivoli**

**9** ★★★ **Café Ketchup**. The 40+ food outlets in Tivoli range from hot dog stands to haute cuisine. Ketchup is delightful inside and has an excellent Danish fusion menu. I highly

recommend the Sunday brunch. See p 94. **Tivoli. Vesterbrogade 3.** ☎ 45 3375 0755. [www.cafeketchuptivoli.dk](http://www.cafeketchuptivoli.dk). \$\$\$.

# The Best in Two Days



- 1 The Wonderful World of Hans Christian Andersen
- 2 Rådhus & Astronomical Clock
- 3 NY Carlsberg Glyptotek
- 4 Café à Porta
- 5 Amalienborgmuseet
- 6 Marmorkirken
- 7 Kunstindustrimuseet
- 8 Kastellet
- 9 Langelinie
- 10 Café Petersborg



**T**oday's the day to ingest a little more culture. You'll see a rare and immense collection of antiquities and the very best of Danish decorative arts. Between times, visit the Royal Family at home and introduce your kids to the fairy-tale world of Hans Christian Andersen. There's a chance to stretch your legs along the seafront and the promise of a slap-up supper to round off your day.

**1 ★ kids The Wonderful World of Hans Christian Andersen.**

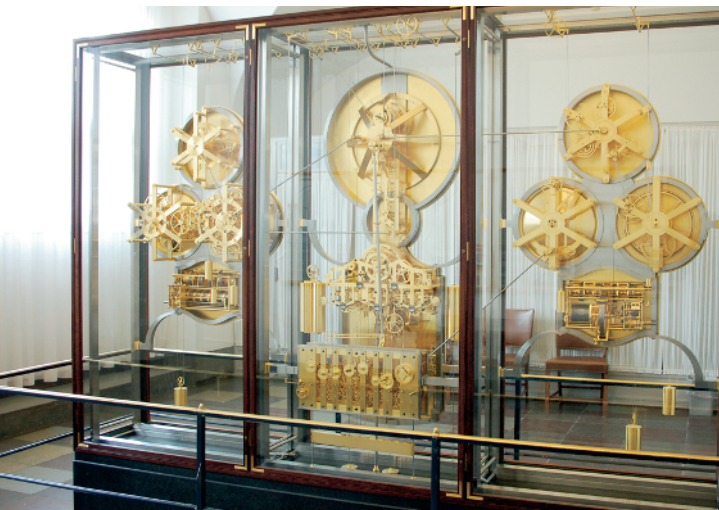
If you are traveling with young kids or have a keen interest in the works of Denmark's favorite storyteller, this is a good option to start the morning, with a series of tableaux illustrating Andersen's fairy-cum-morality tales, plus letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs to appeal to older visitors. 🕒 1 hr. *Rådhuspladsen 57.*

📞 +45 3232 3131. [www.hcandersen.com](http://www.hcandersen.com). Admission 67DKK, 54DKK kids 11–14, 34DKK kids 4–10, free with Copenhagen Card. Jan 2–June 14 & Sept 1–Dec 31 Sun–Thurs 10am–6pm; Fri–Sat 10am–8pm; June 15–Aug 31 daily 10am–8pm. Closed Dec 24–25 & 31, Jan 1. Bus 10, 12, 14, 26, 29, 33, 48, 67, 68, 89, 2A, 5A, 6A, 173E.

**2 ★ Rådhus & Astronomical Clock.**

If whimsical fairy stories are not your thing, take a detour to the monumental architecture of the Rådhus (town hall), which dominates the eastern end of its busy square. Built at the turn of the 20th century by Martin Nyrop (1849–1921), Scandinavia's leading romantic architect, who also designed the Eliaskirken in Vesterbro. Influenced by the Palazzo Pubblico in Siena, the city hall is studied with carvings of mythical creatures and its 106m tower gives great views over the city and Tivoli (see p 10). Jens Olsen's World Clock is hidden away in a room off the main foyer. Completed in 1955, it has 14,000 moving parts, perfectly exhibited in a double-sided glass case.

*Astronomical clock in the Rådhus.*





*Thumbelina at The Wonderful World of Hans Christian Andersen.*

There are guided tours of the massive mock-Gothic city halls and trips up the tower at 12pm. 🕒 30 min. *Rådhuspladsen 1.* ☎ +45 3366 7032. [www.kk.dk](http://www.kk.dk). Admission: (tower) 20DKK; (clock) 10DKK, 5DKK kids, free with Copenhagen Card. Guided tours 30DKK. Guided tours in English: Mon–Fri 3pm; Sat 10am. Tower tours Mon–Fri 12pm. Bus 10, 12, 14, 26, 29, 33, 48, 67, 68, 89, 2A, 5A, 6A, 173E.

### 3 ★★★ NY Carlsberg Glyptotek (Carlsberg Collection).

Cross over Hans Christian Andersen Boulevard to an unsurpassable collection of antiquities and 19th-century

French and Danish paintings donated to Copenhagen in 1897 by scions of the Carlsberg brewing dynasty (see p 50). The ancient sculptures are gathered from Egypt, Greece, and Rome and are laid out in two light-filled neoclassical galleries built around a charming sculpture-and-plant-filled courtyard garden. Make a point of seeing the gilded sarcophagus of Aurelia Kyrelia (300AD), the impassive head of Roman goddess Juno (she's had a nose job) and the evocative Greek statue of an actress holding the head of Dionysus, dating from 200AD. Helge Carlsberg's collection of Danish and French art hangs well in local architect Henning Larsen's minimalist three-story gallery extension. Highlights include Van Gogh's stark 1889 *Landscape from Saint-Remy*, several of Gauguin's Tahitian women, and a series of Degas's ballet-dancer bronzes. There's a delicious but expensive café in the palm-filled Winter Garden (see p 93). 🕒 2 hrs. *Dantes Plads 7.* ☎ +45 3341 8141. [www.glyptotek.dk](http://www.glyptotek.dk). Admission 50DKK adults, free for kids under 18, free with Copenhagen Card. Tues–Sun 10am–4pm. Closed every Mon, Jan 1, June 5, Dec 24–25. Bus 1a, 2a, 10, 12, 14, 15, 26, 29, 33, 48, 67, 68, 89, 2A, 5A, 6A, 173E.

*The Egyptian Room in NY Carlsberg Glyptotek.*





*The Dome inside the Marmorkirken.*

**2-min walk across Rådhuspladsen from Wonderful Word of Hans Christian Andersen.**

**4 ★★★ Café à Porta.** All Belle Epoque decoration, dark and moody, this is an expensive but glamorous pit stop for lunch and is popular in the evening for steak and chips. See p 94. **Kongens Nytorv 17.** ☎ +45 3311 0305. [www.cafeaporta.dk](http://www.cafeaporta.dk). \$\$\$.

**5 ★★ Amalienborgmuseet (Amalienborg Museum).** Walk off lunch to the rococo palaces of the Amalienborg complex, built in the 1750s by Nicolas Eigtved (1701–1754, who also played a role in building the palace at Christiansborg), and still used by the Royal Family today. With your back to the imperious equestrian statue of Frederik V, look towards the dome of

the Marmorkirken (see p 16). The palace immediately to the left serves as luxury accommodation for visiting diplomats; there are guided tours between June and September. The next palace on the left is the winter home of the present Queen, Margrethe II. Crown Prince Frederik and his Tasmanian-born wife Princess Mary will move in 2010 to the fourth palace but for now are based in the first palace on the right. This is partly open to the public; a series of royal apartments house royal jewels, paintings, and costumes, plus fascinating family portraits. A recreation of Frederik VIII's opulent study from 1869 is dominated by a very non-PC polar bear skin. ⌚ 1 hr. **Christian VIII's Palace.** ☎ +45 3315 3286. [www.amalienborgmuseet.dk](http://www.amalienborgmuseet.dk). Admission 50DKK, 40DKK students, 30DKK over 65, 15DKK kids 5–14, free with

## Keep the Change

**Most museums won't allow bags and backpacks to be taken into the galleries:** all baggage has to be deposited in lockers before entry so I made sure to carry 10 and 20DKK coins with me to operate the lockers. The coins are refundable when you reclaim your belongings.

*Copenhagen Card. Jan 2–Apr 30 & Nov 1–Dec 18 Tues–Sun 11am–4pm; May 1–Oct 31 daily 10am–4pm. Closed Mon, Jan 2–Apr 30 & Nov 1–Dec 18. Bus 1A, 15, 20E.*

**6 ★ Marmorkirken (Marble Church).** Properly called Frederiks Kirke and designed as part of the Amalienborg palace complex (see p 15) in the 1750s, this Baroque church was eventually inaugurated in 1894. The 31m dome was to be clad in marble (hence its nickname), but, alas, the budget didn't stretch to that. Still, they made up for it inside; the decorative dome is gilded and smothered with representations of the prophets and cherubim. Choral concerts are held here in summer. ⌚ 30 min. Fredriksgade 4. ☎ +45 3315 0144. [www.marmorkirken.dk](http://www.marmorkirken.dk). Free admission. Mon, Tues & Thu 10am–5pm; Wed 10am–6pm; Fri–Sun 12pm–5pm. Bus 1A, 15, 20E. 5-min. walk from Amalienborgmuseet.

**7 ★★★ kids Kunstindustrimuseet (Danish Museum of Art and Design).** This impressive

collection of decorative arts is in a former hospital backing on to tranquil lawns. Where else can you find blue-patterned drinking cups and tulip vases from the Golden Age of the Dutch and Danish guilds, Chinese and Japanese ceramics, embroidery, and avant-garde contemporary Danish design under the same roof? The late, great Arne Jacobsen and Scotland's Charles Rennie Mackintosh are given floor space alongside an extensive lace collection, temporary exhibitions and the Design Studio, where kids can handle ceramics and other crafts. My only complaint is that English labeling is sparse. ⌚ 2 hrs. Bredgade 68. ☎ +45 3318 5650. [www.kunstindustrimuseet.dk](http://www.kunstindustrimuseet.dk). Admission 50DKK, 35DKK students & over 65s, free kids under 18, free with Copenhagen Card. Tues–Sun 11am–5pm. Closed Mon, Dec 24–25, Jan 1. Metro: Kongens Nytorv. 5-min. walk from Marmorkirken.

**8 ★ kids Kastellet.** Built by Christian IV in 1626 as a star-shaped fortress to strengthen the city walls, Kastellet suffered damage during

*Surprisingly tiny, the Little Mermaid.*







*Dine in Danish style at Café Petersborg.*

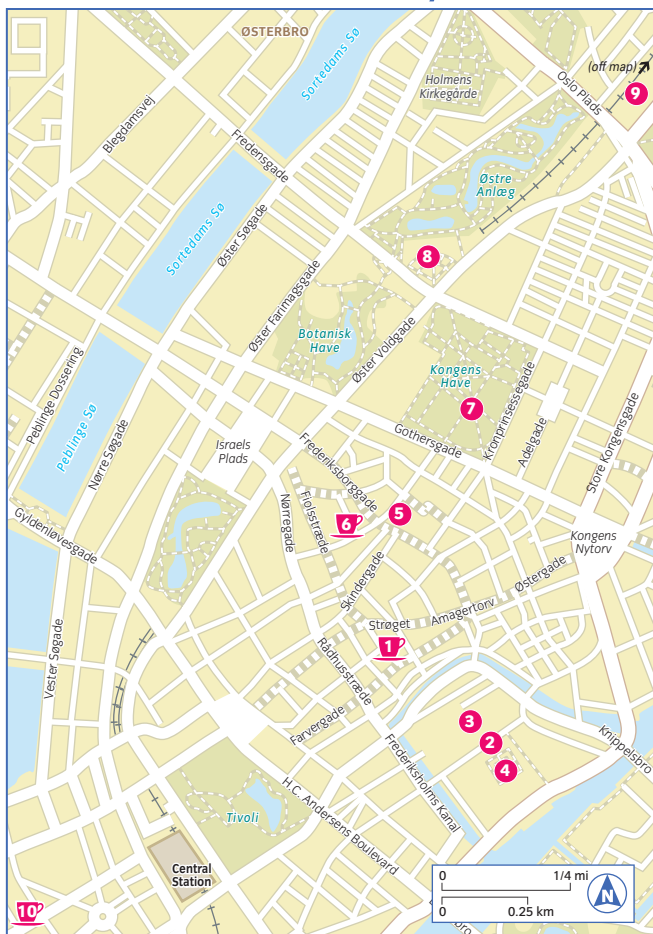
both the Swedish Siege of Copenhagen (1658–1660) and by the British in 1807 during the Napoleonic Wars. Today the buildings inside the fortress are occupied by the army although the public can still enjoy a stroll outside and watch swans swim about the moat. Langelinie (see below) starts from here. ⌚ **45 min.** **Churchilparken.** ☎ **+45 3311 2233.** **Admission free. Metro: Kongens Nytorv. 5-min walk from Kunstin- dustrimuseet.**

**9 ★ kids Langelinie.** Join Copenhageners on an afternoon's promenade along Langelinie (turn right and then left from the Kunstin- dustrimuseet, see p 16) to follow the shoreline along Øresund. The bronze statue of mythical Gefion ploughing up land to create Denmark looms up next to the 17th-century ramparts of the Kastellet (see above). A couple of hundred meters along Langelinie, Edvard Eriksen's iconic *Little Mermaid* (see

p 59) has been perched on her rocky island since 1913. Carry on up Langelinie Quay to the cruise-liner port and turn left into Østbassin for another intriguing pile of stones with a mermaid atop. Dubbed the *Mutant Mermaid*, this sculpture is twisted like a figure in a Mannerist painting and sits opposite a sinister group sculpture called *Paradise Genetically Altered*, a distorted vision of the Holy Family; both are by anarchic artist Bjørn Nørgaard. From here walk back to Bredgade for dinner or catch the number 26 bus into the city center. ⌚ **15 min.** **Bus 26. 1-hr round walk to and from to Bredgade.**

**10P ★★★ Café Petersborg.** A real treat in atmospheric basement premises, serving the best herring in town, presented three ways: marinated, pickled, or curried. See p 94. **Bredgade 76.** ☎ **+45 3312 5016. www.cafe-petersborg.dk. \$\$.**

# The Best in Three Days



- 1** Café Diamanten
- 2** Museums at Slotsholmen
- 3** Ruinerne af Absalons
- 4** Danske Jødisk Museum
- 5** Rundetårn
- 6** Købmagergade
- 7** Rosenborg Slot
- 8** Statens Museum for Kunst
- 9** Karen Blixen Museum
- 10** Spicylicious

**T**here's more art and history on offer today as well as the chance to peer across the Copenhagen skyline—obviously you will see more if you choose a clear day. Take a look at Slotsholmen, the island power-base of Danish politics for a thousand years, and visit a couple of unusual museums, one up the coast near the marina in Rungsted. Wear a pair of comfy shoes for walking along Copenhagen's cobbled streets! **START: Rådhuspladsen.**

**1 ☎ Café Diamanten.** Stop off for a mid-morning frothy *café au lait* and chocolate croissant. If you are feeling slothful, indulge in a hearty and heavy full Danish breakfast. **Gammel Strand 50.** ☎ +45 3393 5545. [www.cafediamanten.dk](http://www.cafediamanten.dk). \$.

**2 Museums at Slotsholmen.** The tiny island of **Slotsholmen** was the site of Bishop Absalon's Copenhagen in the 12th century and subsequent home to the Danish Royal Family in a series of ever-more flamboyant palaces. Today it houses the Danish Parliament in Christiansborg Palace (see p 39), a grand neoclassical church and seven diverse museums. The two described below are my recommendations, for their unusual content, but see p 10 for other options.

**3 ★★★ Kids Ruinerne af Absalons (Absalon's Ruins).**

The foundations of Absalon's castle lie below Christiansborg Palace in an atmospheric little museum; entry is through the arched front gateway. See granite pillars from the chapel, remains of the castle's protective double walls, and the ruins of Absalon's Secret—a coy euphemism for the medieval bathrooms!

🕒 45 min. **Kongeporten.**



*Statue of King Frederik VII  
outside Christiansborg Palace.*

☎ +45 3392 6492. [www.ses.dk/ruins](http://www.ses.dk/ruins). Admission 40DKK, 30DKK students and over 65s, kids under 16 free, free with Copenhagen Card. Daily May–Sept 10am–4pm; Oct–Apr Tues–Sun 10am–4pm. Metro: Kongens Nytorv. 5-min walk from Gammel Strand.

**4 ★★ Danske Jødisk Museum (Danish Jewish Museum).**

Tucked away in a corner of the Kongelige Bibliotek (Royal Library), this little museum is worth a visit just to experience the startling slopes and angles of Daniel Libeskind's extraordinary design. The collection tells the 400-year-old story of Jewish life in Denmark through a series of interactive and clearly labeled exhibits, including ornate Chanukah candlesticks and illuminated Torah manuscripts. The tranquil, fountain-filled garden outside is my secret spot to take a few moments out. 🕒 45 min.

**Proviantspassagen 6.** ☎ +45 3311 2218. [www.jewmus.dk](http://www.jewmus.dk). Admission 40DKK, 30DKK students and over 65s, free for kids under 16, free with Copenhagen Card. Sept 1–May 31 Tues–Fri 1pm–4pm; Sat–Sun 12pm–5pm; June 1–Aug 31 Tues–Sun 10am–5pm. Closed Mon. Metro: Kongens Nytorv. 5-min walk from Gammel Strand.



Entrance to the Jewish Museum on Slotsholmen.

**5** ★★★ **kids Rundetårn (Round Tower).** Commissioned in 1642 by King Christian IV as an observatory for astronomer Tycho Brahe, the Rundetårn now hosts art exhibitions and concerts. Wend your way up the circular internal ramp to the top for the best views across Copenhagen's Latin Quarter (see p 60). At 35m high, you'll see the Øresund, the rides of Tivoli, and the tower of Christiansborg Palace (see p 39) as Copenhagen stretches into the distance. 🕒 **45 min.** **Købmagergade 52a.** ☎ **+45 3373 0373.** **www.rundetaarn.dk.** **Admission 25DKK,**

*The Rundetårn on an icy winter's day.*

**15DKK kids 5–15, free with Copenhagen Card.** Tower open daily Sept 21–May 20 10am–5pm; May 21–Sept 19 10am–8pm; Observatory open daily mid-Oct–mid-Mar 7pm–10pm; Jul 1–Aug 12 Sun 1pm–4pm. Closed Dec 24–25, Jan 1. Metro: Nørreport. 10-min. walk from Christiansborg Slot up Købmagergade.

**6** ☕ **Buzzing Købmagergade** and the surrounding streets offer plenty of food stalls selling hotdogs and burgers if you are after a quick snack. **Croissant'en** in Frederiksborggade does a roaring trade in tasty pizza slices.

**7** ★★ **Rosenborg Slot (Rosenborg Castle).** A fairy-tale castle bang in the middle of Copenhagen, Rosenborg was built as the summer residence for Christian IV (see p 167), who moved in about 1634. The interior is opulent and largely untouched for the past 100 years, now housing the Danish Royal Collections. There are a few sights you cannot miss: fat little cherubs encrusted on the marble ceiling of room 5; Frederick IV's ornate ivory-inlaid mandolin in room





10; the strange mirrored floor of his dressing room (room 13a), and the majestic red, black, and white tiled Long Hall on the third floor. Downstairs in the Treasury, the Danish Crown Jewels sparkle in semi-darkness. The palace is surrounded with the lawns of Kongens Have (King's Gardens, see p 86), the perfect picnic venue on sunny days. 🕒 1 hr. Øster Voldgade 4a. 📞 +45 3315 3286. [www.rosenborgslot.dk](http://www.rosenborgslot.dk). Admission 80DKK, 40DKK students & over 65, free under 18, free with Copenhagen Card. Tues–Sun 11am–4pm. Closed Mon; Dec 24–25, Jan 1. Metro: Nørreport. Bus 6a, 184, 185, 180S, 173E. 10-min walk from Rundetårn.

### 8 ★★ kids Statens Museum for Kunst (National Gallery).

Spanning art from the 14th century to contemporary work, this glorious light-filled gallery began life in the 19th century and nowadays has a simple glass extension linked by a wide exhibition space called Sculpture Street. Renaissance works, portraiture, and Danish art plus a few Rembrandts and Rubens are housed in the original section of the museum with modern works in

the newer glass extension. Look for quality paintings by Braque, Derain, Matisse, Dufy, and Modigliano as well as the odd Picasso and interesting contemporary Danish work. A massive patchwork quilt by Kirsten Roepstorff in 1972 pre-dates Tracey Emin's similar creations by decades.

🕒 1½ hr. Sølvgade 48-50. 📞 +45 3374 8494. [www.smk.dk](http://www.smk.dk). Admission 80DKK, 60DKK over 65, 50DKK students, free under 18s, free with Copenhagen Card. Tues, Thu–Sun 10am–5pm; Wed 10am–8pm. Closed Mon; Dec 24–25, Jan 1. Metro: Nørreport. Bus 6a, 184, 185, 180S, 173E. 5-min walk from Rosenborg Slot.

### 9 ★★ Karen Blixen Museum.

Jump in the train from Østerport (5-min walk from Statens Museum) as far as Rungsted to visit the ivy-covered family home of Karen Blixen (1885–1962), Denmark's favorite lady of letters and best known to the rest of us as author of *Out of Africa*. The coach house is now converted into an exhibition of prints, photos, letters, and manuscripts charting the story of her tumultuous life; witness the striking black-and-white portrait by Cecil Beaton and

King Christian VIII's room at Rosenborg Slot.






*The Karen Blixen Museum is at her country house.*

cartoons featuring her with Ernest Hemingway; they shared a mutual passion for Africa. Born at Rungstedlund in 1885, Blixen moved to Kenya in 1914 with her aristocratic Swedish husband Bror von Blixen-Finecke. Controversially they divorced in 1924 and Karen returned to Denmark in 1931 after her lover Denys Finch Hutton was killed in a plane crash. Living quarters in the main house are virtually unchanged since Blixen's death in 1962. Off the hallway is a gallery hung with her paintings; the two Kikuyu portraits shine out. The rooms are pleasantly but plainly furnished, with great wood-burning stoves and Kenyan furniture. A short film showcases Blixen's life, and there are tapes of her reading her stories. The Corona typewriter she used is in the study at the front of the house.

**Outside**, Blixen is buried at the bottom of Ewald's Hill in the 14-acre garden. Follow the path from the museum through the orchard and her grave is under the beech tree.

 **1 hr.** *Rungstedlund, Rungsted Strandvej 111, 2960 Rungsted Kyst.*

 **+45 4557 1057.** [www.karen-blixen.dk](http://www.karen-blixen.dk). Admission 45DKK, under 18s free, free with Copenhagen Card. May 1–Sept 30 Tues–Sun 10am–5pm; Oct 1–Apr 30 Wed–Fri 1pm–4pm, Sat–Sun 11am–4pm. Tours of the house half hourly. Train: Line F from Østerport to Rungsted departs every 20 minutes and the journey takes 25 minutes. It's a 20-min hike to the museum, but bus No. 388 from the station stops there. Return to Hovedbanegården (Central Station) in Copenhagen.

 **Spicylicious.** Round off a long sightseeing day in Vesterbro, just behind the station on the return from Rungsted. Order a delicious papaya salad with peanuts and chili followed by wok-fried prawns with oyster sauce and pak choi in laid-back surroundings. There's even a take-away service if you want to head straight back to your hotel. See p 101. *Istedgade 27.*  **+45 3322 8533.** [www.restaurantspicylicious.dk](http://www.restaurantspicylicious.dk). \$\$.