

LIFESTYLE • TRAVEL • CULTURE

ANTHOLOGY

a collection of beautiful experiences • *volume 19*



VOL. 19
19
9 7720091915036
LUC 88 00

Copenhagen to Malmö

A tale of two cities in one weekend

WORDS AND PHOTOS DEARBHAILE NÍ DHUBHGHAILL



Nyhavn is one of Copenhagen's most iconic sights where old wooden boats are moored on the canal, bordered on each side by colourful houses.



One of the great joys of travelling in Europe is the ability to explore several destinations in even the shortest time span. Copenhagen and Malmö might be in two different countries, but they're only 45 km apart and can easily be visited over a weekend.



COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen, Denmark's capital, began as a humble Viking fishing village in the 10th century, but rapid growth and prosperity during the time of the Kalmar Union (1397–1523) helped it to become the vibrant, modern city it is today. Renowned for its historic landmarks and stunning contemporary buildings, it has been awarded the title of World Capital of Architecture for 2023.

Here are some of my top places to visit:

Nyhavn

Although the name translates to 'New Harbour', this area of the city is over 350 years old. It was created as a gateway between *Kongens Nytorv* (King's New Square) and the sea, and was once a red-light district and lawless hub for sailors. Hans Christian Andersen made it his home for almost two decades in the 19th century. Now, it's an iconic waterfront street lined with colourful townhouses and historic wooden boats.

Copenhagen's castles

Denmark is one of the oldest monarchies in the world and boasts a selection of majestic castles. Here are just a few:

Rosenborg was originally used as a country summerhouse for Danish royalty. Built in the Dutch Renaissance style and surrounded by *Kongens Have* (the King's Gardens), it houses the Danish Crown Jewels.

Amalienborg is the official residence of the modern-day Danish Royal Family and is made up of four near-identical palaces around a central octagonal courtyard. Most of the palace buildings are for private use, but the Amalienborg Museum is open to the public and offers a look into the personal lives of these progressive royals.

Christiansborg, completed in 1928, houses the Danish parliament and the Supreme Court of Denmark, but parts of it are also used for state banquets. Visitors can view several reception rooms, the kitchen and the stables, as well as the ruins of the original 12th-century castle with its infamous Blue Tower. In the 17th century, Christian IV imprisoned his favourite daughter there for twenty-two years.



'It has been awarded the title of World Capital of Architecture for 2023'



ABOVE: The Marble Bridge crosses the canal, leading to the Christiansborg Palace grounds.

LEFT: The unimposing bronze statue of the Little Mermaid was a gift from Danish brewer Carl Jacobsen to the City of Copenhagen in 1913.

OPPOSITE: The Renaissance-era Rosenborg Castle houses Denmark's Crown Jewels.



Some other great things to do in Copenhagen:

- Stroll through the beautiful Botanical Gardens and visit the Palm House with its luscious greenery and ancient trees.
- Wander the streets of Christianshavn, the trendy, yacht-filled neighbourhood bound on all sides by sparkling canals.
- View the statue of the Little Mermaid, the emblem of Copenhagen inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's 1837 fairy tale.
- Go on a canal tour of the city.
- Discover a different side of Copenhagen at Freetown Christiania, the strange and colourful micro-nation established in 1971 that is clinging to its independence, both politically and culturally.
- Climb the four hundred steps to the top of the Church of Our Saviour, with its unique spiral staircase wrapping around the outside of the spire.
- Learn about the history of Denmark at one of the city's many museums, such as the Natural History Museum, the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art or the National Museum of Denmark.
- Visit Helsingør and its famous castle Kronborg, better known as Elsinore in Shakespeare's tragedy *Hamlet*.
- A rare example of expressionist church architecture, Grundtvigs Kirke is located in the Bispebjerg district. The building is shaped like a pipe organ.



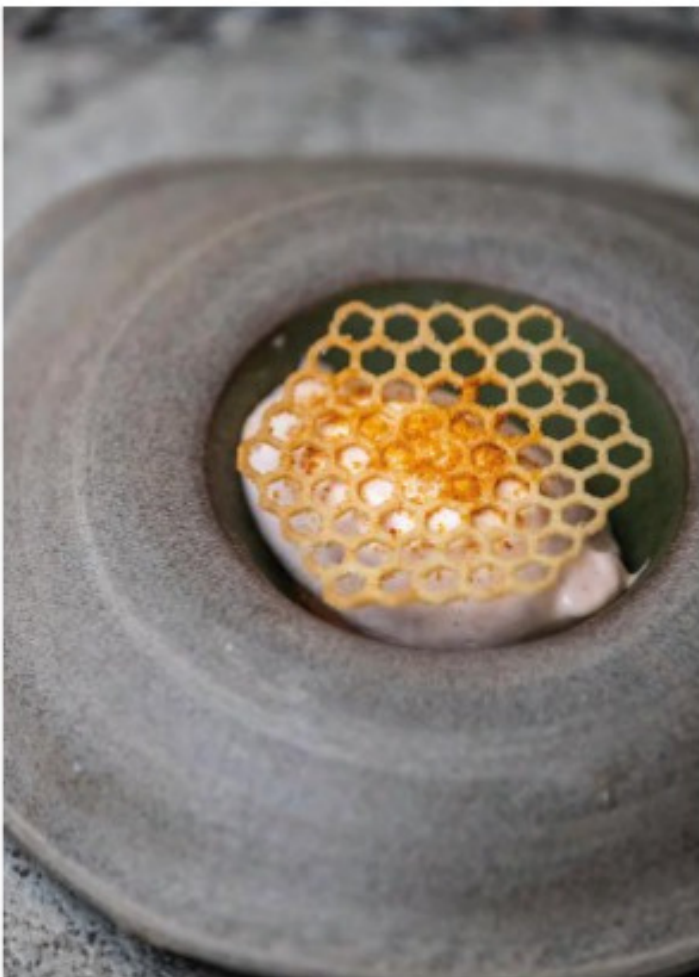
'A rare example of expressionist church architecture'



ABOVE: Grundtvig's Church is a rare combination of Gothic vertical architecture with geometric expressionism and traditional Danish styles.

LEFT: Freetown Christiania operates completely independently of the Danish government.

OPPOSITE: A view of Copenhagen from the top of the Church of Our Saviour.



Copenhagen Card

Visitor cards, available for 24 to 120 hours, can be purchased at www.copenhagencard.com and downloaded onto a handy mobile app. They cover public transport within the entire Danish Capital Region (including the train to Helsingør) and offer access to more than eighty attractions.

Where to stay

Coco Hotel Copenhagen is a bespoke boutique hotel in the Vesterbro area of the city, away from the hustle and bustle yet close to public transport. It mixes modern and classic styles with a serene, greenery-filled courtyard and a warm cafe/wine bar for post-sightseeing evenings.

The hotel is owned by the Copenhagen Food Collective and follows a sustainable ethos such as choosing only organic items for the minibar, using organic bed linen and running on green solar energy.

Where to eat

Bobo Food Studio draws you in with tantalising scents and a fusion of Danish and international tastes. The chefs serve an array of imaginative dishes with a sustainable footprint that nurtures both the body and soul. The three- and six-course tasting menus offer a perfect selection of mouth-watering modern cuisines. Don't miss out on a craft cocktail from the bar. Bobo Food Studio can be found at The Socialist Hotel in the heart of the city centre.

Spuntino, part of the Copenhagen Food Collective, welcomes guests with the comforting scent of freshly-prepared Italian goodness, surrounded by greenery and sparkling lights. Organic and local produce is the name of the game here. The menu, featuring pizzas, antipasti and desserts, changes with the seasons, ensuring freshness and sustainability throughout the year. Spuntino is located in Vesterbro, just a short walk from Coco Hotel.

'A small islet created during the bridge's construction, now reclaimed by nature'

RIGHT: The Øresund Bridge is a combined rail and road bridge across the Øresund strait, connecting Copenhagen and Malmö. The crossing of the strait is completed by a 4 km underwater tunnel.

OPPOSITE: (Clockwise from top) Coco Hotel is a Parisian-style hotel curated with a Danish sense of space and time; Organic and local produce served beneath beautiful lights and greenery at Spuntino; The philosophy at Bobo Food Studio is about keeping waste to a minimum; Apple sorbet at Bobo Food Studio.

