



A CITY FULL OF STORY BOOK CHARM

Copenhagen.

It's iconic sights and attractions

Introduction:

Copenhagen is a buzzing capital which mixes royal history and architecture with a positive vibe and a sense of fun. It has an open feel and plenty of great buildings, the city hall being embellished with touches of gold. Restaurants are numerous and there is a great culture for drinking in wine bars and beer establishments which spill onto the sidewalks with awnings and patio heaters and blankets for chilly evenings

Its most famous attractions are the little mermaid statue, the castles, the colourful old docks and of course Tivoli Gardens but there are also many interesting museums and other areas to be explored



An evening of exploration

After an easy journey to Copenhagen we went out to explore the city centre around the hotel. Sarah clocked 12 kilometres that day so it gives some indication of how far we ventured ! The architecture is great and the city feels spacious and open.

From Hotel Mayfair we passed the main train station and crossed into the main square Rådhuspladsen. It is dominated by the Town Hall with ornate embellishments of gold and an impressive tower which features a large ornate world clock created by Jens Olsen.

Here too is a statue of Hans Christian Andersen whose fairytales are known world-wide. This one shows him with

a book. It was created by Henry Luckow-Nielsen and erected in 1965.

We continued down Stroget street. A popular pedestrian shopping area filled with popular stores and restaurants. It led to another square called the Amagertorv with an ornate stork fountain in Dutch renaissance style. It was built to celebrate the silver wedding anniversary of King Frederik VIII to Queen Louise

We stopped for a meal at one of the many restaurants. Delicious like the Danish pastries we enjoyed mid afternoon although the fish and chips and burger were very reminiscent of the UK with their newspaper inners in the chip baskets.



THE LITTLE MERMAID

TOWN HALL

MONUMENT IN THE MAIN SQUARE

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

The Little Mermaid

This was inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairytale about a mermaid who gave up everything to be united with a handsome prince. It was created by Carl Jacobson, who fell in love with the character after watching a ballet performance, based on the story

The sculpture is made of bronze and granite and sits in the water at Langelinie Pier. Eriksen's wife, Eline, posed for the sculpture. Several times it has been the victim of vandalism. Twice she has lost her head, once the arm was sawn off, and several times she has had paint poured on her but every time she is rescued and restored as she has become Copenhagen's iconic landmark

Nyhavn

Nyhavn is a 17th-century harbour and for us a place we returned to again and again. It is lined with multicolored townhouses which are some of the oldest houses in Copenhagen. Its seafood restaurants offered great meals at any time of day and its cafes the best coffee and pastries

Frederiksborg Castle

Frederiksborg Castle was built in the 17th century by the Danish King Christian 4.

Since 1878 it has housed The Museum of National History. The beautifully decorated rooms take visitors on a journey through Danish history and culture from the late Middle Ages to the present.

Church of Our Saviour.

Our Saviour's is one of Denmark's most famous churches. Ever since the serpentine spire was inaugurated in 1752, it has been a popular pastime to climb the 400 steps to the top. We got a great view of its twisted spire from the boat trip we took

CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE

NYHAVN

FREDERIKSBORG CASTLE



The iconic tower contains six large bells and a fantastic carillon which holds 48 bells, and plays over the neighbourhood daily.

Christiansborg Palace

Today, Christiansborg Palace is the home to the Danish Parliament, the Supreme Court, and the offices of the Prime Minister. Once it was the main residence of the royal family and the queen continues to use large parts of the Palace for gala dinners, parties, and formal receptions.

We visited the state gilded and decorated rooms, The Tower Room and The Oval Throne Room where foreign ambassadors to Denmark are received by the Queen.

The most imposing room in the palace was the Great Hall where the Queens tapestries were to be found

Other experiences at Christiansborg Palace included a spooky tour of the ruins discovered underneath the palace and a trip round the castle's former kitchens, complete with sounds and models.

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Tivoli Gardens

Tivoli Gardens is Copenhagen's central theme park and one of the oldest in the world which inspired Hans Christian Andersen and Walt Disney.

Opened in 1843 Tivoli has said to have influenced both Hans Christian Anderson and Walt Disney. It has something for everyone packed into a relatively small space and its old fashioned mechanical rides give it a Jules Verne vibe as the rides echo his characteristic innovations imagined years before their time.

The gardens are well established but the brilliance and size of the plants point to some great 'feeding' with triffid fertiliser.

Sculptures, fountains, small shops, restaurants and eateries melt into the landscape together with passageways of fairground stalls and entertainment venues.

The fabulous luxury of the Nimb hotel flanks one side of the park but there are many more hotels within easy reach of the main gates. We stayed recently at the Mayfair which proved a great choice

We bought an extended ticket which allowed more than a single days entrance but for those wanting to enjoy the rides these could be purchased separately. The small aquarium was free.

AMALIENBORG

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

TIVOLI GARDENS



HOP ON, HOP OFF BUS



In order to see more of the city we took the Stromma hop on hop off bus which gave us 72 hours of travel on three routes which meant we did not need taxis around town and gave us excellent drop off points for restaurants in favourite hot spots and even the connection for the boat trip. It had the added bonus of asking cruise visitors to take alternative buses when we stopped near their docking point.

The commentaries on board also gave us an historical overview and pointed out all of the city's major sights. Amongst the many stops were the colourful harbour, Rosenberg Castle, Kronborg Castle -famous as the setting for Shakespeare's play Hamlet and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Christiansborg Palace with 800 years of royal history and the Marble Church and arguably one of Copenhagen's most iconic tourist attractions, the sculpture of The Little Mermaid which was inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairy tale.

The third journey took us to Christiania. A hippy enclave and an alternative community which is home to many artists and artisans. It has a bohemian vibe and getting off here allows you to wonder colorful streets filled with street art and stop by cozy cafes for coffee and top-notch craft beers.



BOAT TRIP



We also took the hour's journey by boat. A few sprinkles of rain once we were seated aboard triggered the giving out of waterproof red panchoes which flapped in the wind. However they were hardly needed as sunny intervals soon returned.

The trip was especially enjoyable because we saw all the sights we had seen on land from another and often better perspective. It took us out into the harbour and the along the city's canals. We began our journey near the colourful old harbour where we had lunch the day before. We saw the little mermaid from the water, got a better look at the docked German war boat, good views of the Queens residences, the Opera house and Our Saviour's Church with the famous, twisted spire.



ABOVE: CAFÉ AT NYHAVN

LEFT: CHRISTIANIA

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