
Denmark / Jutland

Jutland is the ancient heart of Denmark, the worlds oldest kingdom. It is the only part of Denmark linked to the continent, and considerably larger than the 500-or-so islands that make up the rest of the country. It is a favorite holiday resort for the Danes themselves and with reason. There are clean and beautiful beaches, lovely seaside resorts, friendly villages, and magnificent fjords; an inheritance left by the ice when it withdrew thousands of years ago. Remains from Viking times also abound in the area.

Denmark has 5 million inhabitants, a quarter of whom live in or near Copenhagen. This means lots of room on the Jutland beaches, no crowds anywhere and still endless possibilities for entertainment, for, as if, the above mentioned attractions were not enough the Danes have constructed many amusement parks and zoos on Jutland.

Another factor that will make your stay in Denmark a relaxed one is that English has been compulsory in secondary schools since World War II and is spoken and understood throughout the country.

Telephone and time difference

Access code to USA: 009. To phone Denmark: 45; time difference (Eastern Daylight) plus 6 hours.

Climate

Thanks to the Gulf stream, winters are relatively mild with daytime temperatures averaging 34°F (about 0°C) in February the coldest month. The changeable summer weather often includes rainstorms and the long summer nights can be chilly but summer days average about 70°F (21°C)

Theatre and Nightlife

In most small towns and villages, the obvious thing to do in the evenings is to go to the local pub, where the beer is good, though expensive. This is also a very good way to get to know the Danish people as they all speak English and are very welcoming.

For disco and nightclubs you will have to go to one of the larger towns on Jutland such as Århus, Aalborg or Silkeborg. Aalborgs "Jomfru Ane Gade" with its many restaurants, cafes, and clubs may be the place to visit if you cannot do without your weekly fill of disco sound. Århus, a university town, has many students bars and cafes.

Shopping

Shopping hours; shops are normally open from 9 am to 5.30 pm and on Saturdays to 12 noon. Goods sold for export may be exempt from the sales tax, ask the shopkeeper about regulations.

Denmark is famous for its knitwear (sweaters and cardigans) and glass. In most towns you will be able to pick up lovely pieces to take home with you.

North Jutland has many skilled craftsmen; potters, weavers and textile artists and, of course, their products are on sale.

Museums and sights

Jutland has a rich treasure of well preserved manor houses. We will mention just a few: Borglums Monastery is on a hill top outside lokken. It was built by monks and became episcopal residence. After the reformation it became a manor house; Clausholme, near Randers, pure baroque design dating from the end of the 17th century. The manor house lies in distinguished grounds, with fountains and avenues of lime trees.

Many museums in this area concern themselves with the past, again we will mention just a few out of many. Gun Tower Museum, in Frederikshavn harbour area, one of the few remains of the fortifications built in 1686. There is a collection of weapons and uniforms. Skive Museum, has a rich collection of antiquities, Bronze Age rock carvings and Iron Age yokes. For modern art visit the Hjørring Museum of Art.

Excursions

Legoland. Legoland near Billund is one of Jutlands most famous attractions. It is a miniature town built out of 33 million Lego bricks. It is also an amusement park full of surprises for all ages. There are, for instance, a traffic school and a Wild West Park (in which Sitting Bull can be found, built up out of Lego). Here you will also find Titanias Palace, which contains 3000 miniatures of great value, antique dolls and dolls'-houses, antique mechanical toys and the Lego World Show.

Århus; Århus is the second town of Denmark, but not very well-known outside its own country. There are quite a few interesting museums like the "Moesgård" museum (pre-history and archeology) and the "Den Gamle By"-The Old Town- an open air museum. Apart from visiting museums, you can go for a walk along the harbour, visit the botanical gardens, spend an afternoon of fun in the amusement park "Tivoli Friheden" or just spend your time shopping in one of the many shopping streets. Not just the town itself, but also its surroundings are very attractive. Nearby you will find the romantic town of Ebeltoft, beautiful lakes around the Himmelbjerg and lovely beaches.

Aalborg; Aalborg, the home town of the Danish snaps-aquavit-, was founded in Viking times. In the 18th Century it was the second largest town in the country. Aalborg is a charming mixture of old and new. There are beautiful historic houses in the narrow streets around the Church of our Lady and the Aalborghus Manor House. In the square called C.W. Obels Plads lies the monastery of the holy ghost, founded in 1431, the largest and best preserved monastery in Denmark and still serving as a social institution. Modern Aalborg is a considerable trade and industrial center with many institutions of learning and a rich cultural life with Aalborg Theatre, Jomfru Ane Theatre and Nordjyllands Kunstmuseum; a fine example of modern architecture. Aalborg is also known for its varied and exciting nightlife.

Silkeborg; In the middle of the beautiful Lake District you will find Silkeborg one of Denmarks loveliest towns. It offers many possibilities for canoeing or relaxing while taking a boat trip on the lakes. For the past 2000 years people have lived in this area and some of the remains of the earliest inhabitants can be seen in the Silkeborg Museum, these remains were found in the bogs and are very well preserved. The town of Silkeborg itself, however, is rather modern. It dates back to the end of the last century. In the market in the center of the town you will find the statue of Michael Drewsen the founder of the town.