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DISASTER'**

**Size
24**



Cool Copenhagen!

Michelin-starred restaurants, great shopping and a scenic waterfront make Denmark's dynamic capital a cool choice for a weekend break

BEST TRAVEL WRITER **AMANDA STATHAM**



TRAVEL SNAPSHOT

Forward-thinking Copenhagen's a treasure trove of gorgeous architecture, Scandi design and no-fuss fashion. Its cycling culture is strong – you'll definitely want two wheels rather than four as it's the quickest and easiest way to explore neighbourhoods like historical Indre By and chic Frederiksberg. Must-see sights include the Botanical Gardens; primary-coloured, 17th-century Nyhavn waterfront; and Tivoli Gardens, the twinkling fun fair in the heart of the city (and one of the oldest in Europe), which reopens every Spring.



The beautiful Botanical Gardens



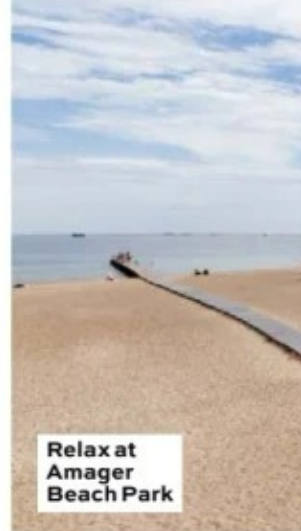
Gorgeous architecture fills the city



INSIDER'S GUIDE

Set to be the world's first carbon-neutral city by 2025, Copenhagen's eco credentials are exemplary, from its electric ferries and miles of cycle paths to its clean water. Feeling brave? Take a dip in the open-air Harbour Bath at Islands Brygge, reached via a bridge from the centre. It's cold, but swimming in crystal clear water with a backdrop of the city skyline is magical.

Europe's longest pedestrianised shopping street, Strøget has a good mix of high street and designer. Those in the know head to Storm, a boutique on Store Regnegade, filled with meticulously curated men's and women's fashion, jewellery, beauty and books. On the same street, you'll find Danish label Ganni, for effortless contemporary style, and Munthe, selling hot homewares and accessories.



Relax at Amager Beach Park



The iconic pastel houses of Nyhavn



GETTING THERE: Easyjet (easyjet.com) flies from London Gatwick to Copenhagen from £52 return.



STAYING THERE: Hotel Sanders (hotelsanders.com; from £302pn) is a handsome five-storey townhouse close to buzzy Nyhavn waterfront, with a roof terrace, 1950s cocktail bar and plenty of Hygge touches, such as candles and rugs. Just as cosy and cool (but way less pricey) is Coco Hotel (coco-hotel.com; from £99pn), a Scandi-meets-Parisian getaway, which is a 20-minute walk from Tivoli Gardens. There's Café Coco for tasty bites beneath striped awnings and hotel bikes to hire, too.

Chic vibes at Hotel Sanders



Planetarium dome at Alchemist



DON'T MISS

Did you know Copenhagen has a beach? Well it does – and it is easily reached from the city centre by pedal power (or the Metro if you're not up for the cycle). It's called Amager Beach Park and offers a total of 4.6km of beaches, lagoons and huge sandy dunes.



FOOD AND DRINK

The food scene's awash with Michelin stars. Noma, regularly voted the world's best restaurant, has three but recently announced it's closing at the end of 2024 – better book a table pronto. Geranium, on the 8th floor of the National Football Stadium, also has three stars for its flavoursome meat-free tasting menu. Alchemist, a theatrical dining experience with images projected on to the ceiling and holistic cuisine created by chef Rasmus Munk, was recently awarded two stars.

Less starry (but just as tasty) are Lagkagehuset's Danish pastries and Sonny's heavenly brunch menu – think smoked salmon, scrambled organic eggs, spinach, fennel and avocado on toasted rye bread. Detox on poké bowls and green smoothies at the city's healthiest restaurant, 42 Raw, then retox later with cheeky espresso martinis at Noho, the best cocktail bar in town.

MERMAID'S END

It's obligatory to take a selfie next to the (surprisingly small) Little Mermaid bronze statue at the Langelinie Pier. Inspired by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairytale, you can still walk by the red house (No 20) overlooking the Nyhavn Canal where he lived in the 1830s.

