

Candy-Colored Canals by Day, a Rainbow Ring at Sunset — A 6-Day Denmark Itinerary

Denmark · 6-Day Itinerary

DURATION

6 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

May–August

Long daylight hours (up to 17 hrs in June), mild 15–22°C days, and canalside cafes in full swing

FROM

\$1,450 USD / person

for 2 people, incl. mid-range hotels, inter-city trains & key sights

Nyhavn Canal at Golden Hour

Free · allow 1 hour

Denmark's most photographed street looks its best in the hour before sunset, when the low light turns the gabled 17th- and 18th-century townhouses gold and the outdoor cafe tables fill up. Walk the full length of the canal, then loop back along the opposite bank for the classic postcard view.

Dinner: Aamanns 1921

~350 DKK/person · reservations recommended

A Michelin-recognized smørrebrød restaurant that reinvented the open-faced Danish sandwich without losing what makes it work — order a mixed plate and let the kitchen choose. It's a short walk from Nyhavn and a proper introduction to modern Danish cooking.

Aamanns 1921 · aamanns.dk

Day 2

Copenhagen in Full — Crown Jewels, Tivoli & the Canals

A full day through Rosenborg Castle's crown jewel vault and the fairy-tale rides of Tivoli Gardens, with a canal boat gliding past it all in between.

Rosenborg Castle & the Crown Jewels

~1.5 hours · 145 DKK adult

A red-brick Renaissance castle built by King Christian IV, with royal apartments upstairs and the Danish Crown Jewels and Regalia guarded in a basement treasury below. The Knights' Hall's coronation thrones, flanked by silver lions, are the highlight.

Rosenborg Slot · kongernessamling.dk

Canal Boat Tour from Nyhavn

~1 hour · 120 DKK adult

Open-air and glass-topped boats leave from the Nyhavn quay every 20–30 minutes, looping past the Little Mermaid statue, the Opera House, and Christiansborg Palace. Sit toward the back for the best photos of Nyhavn itself as you pull away from the dock.

Canal Tours Copenhagen · canaltours.com

Tivoli Gardens

Evening · 145 DKK entry (rides extra)

Open since 1843 and still one of the world's most-visited amusement parks, Tivoli mixes wooden roller coasters and pantomime theater with manicured gardens that light up after dark. Arrive for dinner in the gardens and stay through the evening illuminations.

Tivoli Gardens · www.tivoli.dk

Dinner: Grøften at Tivoli

~300 DKK/person · reservations recommended

A Tivoli institution since 1874, serving classic Danish fare — frikadeller, stjerneskud, and a proper Carlsberg — on a terrace overlooking the gardens' lake. It's the easiest way to combine dinner with an evening in the park.

Grøften · groeften.dk

Day 3

Copenhagen to Odense — Hans Christian Andersen's Hometown

An hour and change on the train swaps Copenhagen's grand squares for Odense's half-timbered lanes, where Denmark's most famous storyteller was born.

Train to Odense

~1h 15m · 219 DKK one-way

Direct InterCity trains leave Copenhagen Central roughly every 20–30 minutes for Odense, Denmark's third-largest city. Buy tickets in advance through the DSB app for the cheapest fares, and grab a window seat for views over the Great Belt Bridge.

DSB · www.dsb.dk

Check-In: Comwell Hotel Odense

1 night · from 1,050 DKK/night

A central, modern hotel a short walk from both the train station and the old town's cobbled lanes — the practical, comfortable base for a one-night stop in Odense.

Comwell Hotel Odense · www.comwell.com

H.C. Andersens Hus

Day 4

Odense to Aarhus — Into Denmark's Second City

Another train ride north swaps Odense's storybook lanes for Aarhus's harbor skyline and a museum whose rooftop walkway turns the whole city into a rainbow at sunset.

Train to Aarhus

~1h 25m · 289 DKK one-way

Direct IC and Lyn trains run from Odense to Aarhus roughly every half hour, crossing the Little Belt Bridge into Jutland. It's an easy, scenic ride — no transfers required.

DSB · www.dsb.dk

Check-In: Villa Provence

2 nights · from 1,450 DKK/night

A French-country-style boutique hotel tucked into the Latin Quarter, built around a courtyard garden and filled with antiques the owners bring back from Provence. It's a five-minute walk from the cathedral and the harbor.

Villa Provence · www.villaprovence.dk

ARoS Aarhus Art Museum & Your Rainbow Panorama

~2 hours · 140 DKK adult

Olafur Eliasson's 150-metre circular rainbow walkway crowns this ten-story art museum, giving a 360° view over Aarhus through every color of the spectrum — it's genuinely at its best around sunset. The collection below runs from Danish Golden Age painting to contemporary installation art.

ARoS · www.aros.dk

Dinner: Mefisto Restaurant & Gårdhave

~400 DKK/person · reservations recommended

A seafood-forward restaurant built around a heated courtyard garden in the Latin Quarter, a few minutes' walk from Villa Provence. The oyster and langoustine platters are the move, with a wine list leaning French.

Mefisto · www.mefisto.dk

Day 5

Aarhus — Den Gamle By & the Latin Quarter

A full day in Aarhus proper: a walk through 550 years of Danish town life at the open-air museum, then the cathedral, the harbor, and the cobbled Latin Quarter on foot.

Den Gamle By (The Old Town)

~2.5 hours · 150 DKK adult

More than 75 historic buildings moved here from across Denmark and arranged into a walkable town spanning the 1600s to the 1970s, with costumed staff, working shops, and a genuinely well-done 1970s-neighborhood section. It's one of the best open-air museums in Europe.

Den Gamle By · www.dengamleby.dk

Aarhus Cathedral & the Latin Quarter

Free (cathedral) · allow 1.5 hours

Denmark's longest and tallest church anchors the Latin Quarter's tangle of cobbled lanes, boutiques, and courtyard cafes. Climb the cathedral tower if it's open, then get lost in the surrounding streets — Møllestien's tiny yellow cottages are the prettiest corner.

Aarhus Harbor & Dokk1

Free · allow 1 hour

The revitalized harborfront runs past Dokk1, Scandinavia's largest public library, with a rooftop terrace looking back over the water toward the ARoS rainbow. It's the best spot in the city to watch the sun go down.

Dinner: Restaurant Frederikshøj

~650 DKK/person · reservations recommended

A Michelin-starred tasting menu overlooking Aarhus Bay, worth the splurge on your last night in the city — book the tasting menu with wine pairing if the budget allows.

Frederikshøj · www.frederikshoj.com

Day 6

Aarhus to Copenhagen — Departure

A last Danish train ride back to Copenhagen Airport, with time built in for a final coffee before the flight home.

Morning Coffee: La Cabra

~30 minutes · 45 DKK

A third-wave roastery a few minutes from Villa Provence, and one of the best cups of coffee in Denmark — grab a flat white and a cardamom bun for the road.

La Cabra · lacabra.dk

Train to Copenhagen Airport

~3 hours direct · 459 DKK one-way

Direct InterCity Lyn trains run from Aarhus straight through to Copenhagen Airport several times a day, no transfer required. Book well ahead for the lowest fares, and allow at least 3 hours before an international flight to clear check-in and security.

DSB · www.dsb.dk

Built by I-Journey · i-journey.com · Prices and hours are estimates and subject to change.