

## ◆ DAY TRIPS FROM COPENHAGEN

Before Copenhagen became the capital of Denmark, **Roskilde** just 30 km west of Copenhagen was the capital. With its characteristic Gothic cathedral (listed as UNESCO World Heritage) and a modern Viking museum depicting the time when Roskilde was an important town in the Viking age, Roskilde is worth a visit and can be reached by bus, train or car from Copenhagen. North of Copenhagen, the historic castle called **Kronborg** is located in **Helsingør** (Elsinore). William Shakespeare's world-famous play Hamlet about the Danish prince Hamlet takes place at Kronborg. The castle is also on the UNESCO World Heritage List. According to an urban myth, the legendary figure Holger Danske (Ogier the Dane) is sitting in the basement of the castle, sleeping forever – unless the peace of Denmark is put at risk. The myth says that Holger Danske will awake again to protect the Danes against their enemies.

Kronborg Castle, Elsinore



The Viking Museum, Roskilde



# COPENHAGEN

## A MODERN FAIRYTALE



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## ◆ A SHORT HISTORY LESSON

The story of Copenhagen begins in 1167, when Bishop Absalon founds the city and builds a little fortress on the isle called **Slotsholmen** to protect the new town. Due to its location in the Nordic region, Copenhagen quickly grows to be a central trading port as well as a strong military and political centre. In 1443, Copenhagen replaces the city of Roskilde as Denmark's capital. During the years 1588-1648, King Christian VI reigns in Denmark and makes way for many remarkable buildings in the capital, e.g. **Rundetårn** and **Rosenborg Castle**. Since then Copenhagen has grown to be Scandinavia's biggest city with 1.8 million people living in the metropolitan area.

## ◆ ALWAYS CLOSE TO WATER

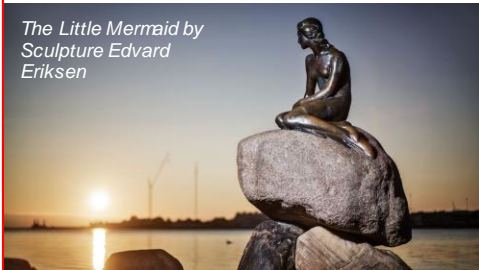


Denmark's coastline is over 7,300 km long, and one of the characteristics of Copenhagen is its connection with water. You are actually never more than 15 minutes away from water in Copenhagen!

A popular place to enjoy Copenhagen's location by the sea is the area

called **Nyhavn**. Nyhavn was originally a commercial port crammed with sailors, ladies of pleasure and pubs. Now the trade has moved elsewhere and only smaller boats sail through the channel, while the street is packed with great restaurants in the colorful old, beautifully renovated buildings just by the waterfront. Many of Copenhagen's canal boat tours start at Nyhavn so it's a great place to get aboard one of the boats and experience Copenhagen from the water. On this tour, you can see the main touristic sites and attraction, for example The Little Mermaid by Sculptor Edvard Eriksen and the Royal Danish Opera.

The Little Mermaid by Sculptor Edvard Eriksen



The Royal Opera



## ◆ A DEMOCRATIC CITY

**Christiansborg Palace** is the centre of Danish democracy. It is the building in which the 179 Danish MPs meet to debate and pass the laws of the country. In Danish the Parliament is called **Folketinget**. Christiansborg was erected in 1736, but the extravagant Rococo palace was devastated by a fire in 1794. Only the Palace Church and Riding grounds stood afterwards, so a second building was built. In 1850, the Danish Parliament moved into the palace, but sadly the building was struck by fire again. The present Parliament building dates back to 1918. Nowadays more than 80,000 people visit the Parliament every year, either to talk to the politicians or just to see where Danish democracy is exercised.



## ◆ MUSIC & LEISURE

There are many options throughout the year for music lovers that are visiting Copenhagen. Especially during the summer months, Copenhagen is buzzing with events and concerts to enjoy. More and more music festivals (and festivals in general) have been popping up lately. A very popular festival is **Distortion** in early June, which is a festival in the streets of Copenhagen with DJs and concerts. Later on another popular festival is **Stella Polaris**, a festival in a beautiful garden in the area Frederiksberg where you can go and chill out while listening to electronic music with friends and family. The historical amusement park **Tivoli** throws a weekly concert on all Fridays from April to September. The concerts are free – you just need to pay entrance to Tivoli, and you're in. Besides the music festivals there are food, science, light and nature festivals – you pick!



Distortion, street party 2018. Photo: Lars Østergård



Tivoli, situated in the middle of CPH. Photo: