

Introduction

The smallest and most southern of the Scandinavian countries, Denmark offers an interesting mix of lively cities and rural countryside. Ancient castles, ring forts, jazz festivals, the sleekest modern design you'll ever see and the people who invented Lego – who could ask for more?

Danish Vikings once took to the seas and ravaged half Europe, but these days they've filed down their horns and forged a society that stands as a benchmark of civilisation, with progressive policies, widespread tolerance and a liberal social-welfare system.



Destination Facts

Full country name: Kingdom of Denmark

Population: 5,356,000

Area: 42,930 sq km

Capital city: Copenhagen (pop 1,800,00)

People: 95% Danish; 5% foreign nationals

Languages: Danish; German and English are widely spoken

Religion: Lutheran

Government: Constitutional monarchy

Queen: Margrethe II

For more information, check out Lonely Planet's range of Denmark books (<http://shop.lonelyplanet.com>).

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