



Greetings from Copenhagen!



Copenhagen is in a festive mood these days with shops crowded with restless Christmas shoppers. Even though the weather is really warm for the season and actually not very Christmas-like, the spirit of Christmas has found its way into the city centre as these pictures hopefully convey.

In this and the newsletters that will follow until the Copenhagen conference we will try to introduce you to various aspects of Copenhagen and Denmark. Each newsletter will feature a section on a particular neighborhood in Copenhagen, various practical information and tips for your stay in the city. We will also try to give you a crash course in Danish history and culture.

We hope that you are making plans for your trip to Copenhagen and look forward to see you!



Practical information

You can now get in touch with the local organizing committee at the email address, spr2014@psy.ku.dk. We will be happy to try to answer your questions about Copenhagen and the conference (but please consult the information on the conference website before sending your email).

Please note that SAS offers up to 10% discount on your ticket to Copenhagen (except 2% on the lowest Economy fares). Simply log in with the designated event code DK1411 at [SAS Conference and Event booking engine](#) and book your flight on SAS and Widerøe.

A brief history lesson...

When you stroll around Copenhagen this summer you might like to know that until the 1850s, the city was confined behind a ring of ramparts built to protect the city from attacks by the Swedes, the British or whoever else that have wanted to conquer our small kingdom through history. Even though these ramparts surrounding Copenhagen have largely disappeared, you may still be able to imagine life in the city as it was centuries ago if you take a walk down the side alleys from main pedestrian streets that run through the city center.

The first settlements in Copenhagen can be traced back to the 11th century and from the middle of the 12th century, Copenhagen (literally “Købmændenes Havn”, i.e. “the Merchants Harbour”) grew in importance and turned into an important trading center.

The town was significantly enlarged under Christian IV of Denmark who commissioned the construction of iconic

buildings such as the Round Tower, the Stock Exchange and Rosenborg Castle. By the time of Christian IV's death in 1648, Copenhagen had become Denmark's principal fortification and naval port, and was the seat of the administration of the Danish kingdom.



Over the centuries, Copenhagen has been subjected to a series of attacks. In 1658-59 it withstood a severe siege by the Swedes under Charles X and successfully repelled a major assault. Things went less well in 1807 when, during the Napoleonic wars, a British naval force bombarded Copenhagen, killing hundreds of people and leaving the city severely devastated. Already, large parts of the city had been ravaged by large fires in 1728 and again in 1795, which destroyed most of the medieval part of town. Thus, large parts of the inner city of today was built from mid-18th to mid-19th century. In the second part of the 18th century, Frederiksstaden, home of the royal castle, Amalienborg, was erected, while most of the city center around the pedestrian streets was built in the first half of the 19th century.

In the 1850s, the ramparts of the city were opened to allow new housing to be built around the lakes, which bordered the old defense system to the west. Among the developments from this period are the famous Tivoli Gardens as well the old

Municipality Hospital, which now belongs to the University of Copenhagen and is the venue of the SPR conference.

The dramatic increase of space was long overdue, since the city center was extremely overpopulated with a peak population of 140,000 (today the figure is around 25,000).

In 1901, Copenhagen expanded further, incorporating communities with 40,000 people, and in the process making Frederiksberg an enclave within Copenhagen. More recently (in the summer 2000), the cities of Copenhagen and Malmö (in Sweden) have been connected by a bridge/tunnel for both rail and road traffic. As a result, Copenhagen has become the centre of a larger metropolitan area which spans both nations. The construction of the bridge has led to a large number of changes to the public transportation system and the extensive redevelopment of Amager, south of the main city, where the so-called Ørestad has been developed



The Copenhagen City Centre

Inner city includes Copenhagen's oldest neighborhood with small, narrow streets and crooked houses. Here you will find some of the city's most popular attractions, the political and historic center as well as a myriad of great shopping streets, cozy cafes, restaurants, green oases, charming canals and a modern waterfront.

The main arteries of the city centre are the pedestrian streets Strøget, that runs from City Hall Square to Kongens Nytorv, and Købmagergade, that connects Strøget with Nørreport Station (close to the conference venue).



While these streets may be most famous for shopping, strolling down the pedestrian streets will take you to some of the most characteristic and charming buildings, streets and squares in Copenhagen. You will, for instance, on your way down Købmagergade pass the Round Tower, famous for its helical corridor leading to the top, and for the expansive views it affords over Copenhagen. The corridor is wide enough to allow ascent by horse-drawn coach, a possibility used by the czarina of Russia during her visit in 1716. In later years, the corridor has been the scene of several bicycle races.

A little further down Købmagergade, if you turn right you will find Gråbrødre Torv, one of the city's most beloved squares where tourists and natives alike gather in the summer time for an outdoor dinner or a beer at one the numerous outdoor bars. With a little luck, the square will be the scene of an outdoor concert as well.

Finally, right across Kongens Nytorv (the King's New Square) at the end of Strøget lies Nyhavn, a picturesque row of timber-framed houses by the canal. Along the street, dozens of restaurants and pubs serve food and beer and while the place is admittedly something of a tourist trap, it still captures a lot of the charm of the old Copenhagen.

From Nyhavn, you can catch a boat for a tour round the harbor and canals. On the tour, you will see a lot of the main sights of Copenhagen, among these the Parliament



(known from the TV series, “Borgen”), the Stock Exchange, the Royal Castle and the Little Mermaid (which is actually rather disappointing to most visitors). The real highlight of the tour, though, are the canals of Christianshavn – we will get back to them in our next newsletter ☺



Photos: Tuala Hjarnø, Morten Jerichau, Cees van Roeden, Ty Stange & copenhagenmediacenter.com.
Text includes excerpts from Wikipedia.