

Teaser:

Hop on a bike and explore Copenhagen! Here are some useful tips when exploring this unique cycle-city.

Blog Post:

If you are looking to plan a trip to Copenhagen, one of the first things you may learn about the city is its flourishing cycling culture. Copenhagen was appointed the first official “Bike City” in the world, and has been ranked the world’s top cycling city time and time again. Since nine out of ten Danes own a bike, it truly is the most authentic way to embrace the Danish lifestyle, as well as see everything this beautiful, eco-friendly city has to offer.

Bicycles became popular in the early 1900s, and Denmark — specifically Copenhagen — embraced the trend. The bike became a symbol of prosperity, freedom and equality, allowing for cultural growth within the community. Suddenly, people from all classes of society, wealthy and lower class alike, were riding bicycles together on the flat terrain of Copenhagen. Yet it was not until the 1970s when Copenhagen proved itself to be a forerunner for the cycling cities we know today. The middle-east oil crisis caused the city to have “Car Free Sundays,” and many Danes pushed to have a completely car-free city. Thus began the cycling culture in Copenhagen: a city that has grown into a beacon of advanced infrastructure, environmentally friendly practices, and home to some of the happiest citizens in the world.

There are many ways to set yourself up with the perfect bike while in Copenhagen. First, check to see if your hotel provides bikes and equipment for guests’ use; if not, there are many alternative sources for rentals.

[Bycyklen](#), the official bike-sharing program in Copenhagen, has docking stations all over the city, and its bicycles are equipped with a GPS and an electric component in case you need to give your legs a break! For roughly \$4.50 an hour, these bikes are a perfect option for a quick ride across town during your stay.

If you are looking to have your own bike for the entirety of your Copenhagen adventure, a long-term rental may be your best option. For about \$25 a day, you can reserve and peddle your own bike like a true Dane. You can even rent online in advance and have your bike ready to pick up upon arrival with [Bike Rental Copenhagen](#).

Once on your bike, be sure to stay safe! There are a few things to do when riding in Copenhagen to make sure you blend in with the locals. Watch out for bus stops in the bike lanes, and be sure to focus on the cycling traffic lights rather than regular traffic lights. Also, if you think you may be cycling after dark, all bicycles in Copenhagen must be equipped with lights, so be sure to check for them when choosing a rental.

Because Copenhagen has such an advanced cycling system, there are some useful hand signals to understand and use yourself when you are cruising on your bike throughout this historic, beautiful city. The “high-five” motion means someone is about to make a stop — be ready to slow down or move around another cyclist when you see this. When making a turn, use your right hand or left hand to signal to other cyclists and cars where you are going. You will often hear the ringing of bike bells on the road in Copenhagen, which will help you be aware of other people around you, and will remind you to share the road so others may pass you. Above all else, stay close to the right-hand curb and remember to wear your helmet!

Your bike is rented, your breaks are intact, and your helmet is on: it’s time to explore Copenhagen! Ride your way along the [Copenhagen Harbor](#), the 8-mile loop that passes over

attractions such as the beautiful [Circle Bridge](#) and see the famous [Little Mermaid](#) statue. Head to the [Tivoli Gardens](#) for a picnic lunch, then stop by the [Amalienborg Palace](#) to learn about the history of Copenhagen. Finally, finish your day in [Freetown Christiania](#), the famous commune society of roughly 1,000 residents, to see their unique way of living. If you want to take a break from cycling, consider joining a Context Travel walking tour. The semi-private [Introduction to Copenhagen](#) tour will give you an excellent overview of the city, or create your own tour with the sights you want to see by booking a [Custom Tour](#). All tours are lead by expert guides and are designed to give you a deeper understanding of the city of Copenhagen.

Cycling in Copenhagen is an excellent way to explore the city like a true citizen of Denmark. Not only will you feel like a local, but you will also have the opportunity to visit many places that are not accessible by car. Travel like a Dane — book your bike and experience the best Copenhagen has to offer!