



Poul Schmith

IBA GUIDE

2026 | Copenhagen | Denmark

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INTRODUCTION

COPENHAGEN IS BEST EXPERIENCED AS IT IS LIVED.

This guide is not a list of must-see attractions, but a curated snapshot of the city through local habits — places people return to, neighbourhoods they move through, and settings where food, conversation and atmosphere matter more than spectacle.

It's intended as an easy point of orientation, designed to help you experience Copenhagen with the same ease and confidence as a local.





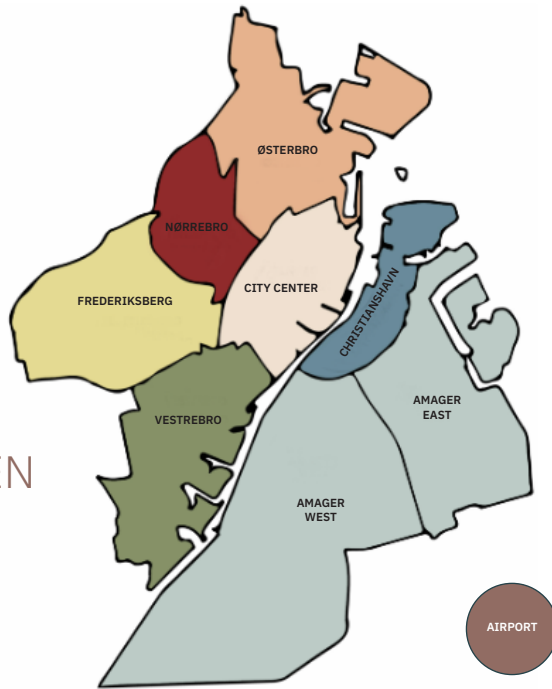
COPENHAGEN

Rather than navigating the city by landmarks, Copenhageners tend to think in districts — each with its own rhythm, character and everyday purpose.

Distances are short and the city is easy to move through, but the atmosphere can change noticeably from one area to the next. Some districts invite long dinners and late evenings, others lend themselves to quiet walks, coffee stops or more experimental food and culture.

The following overview introduces the main districts most visitors will encounter, highlighting what defines them and what they are typically best enjoyed for. Use it as orientation rather than instruction — a way to read the city as locals do.

AREAS IN COPENHAGEN



INDRE BY - CITY CENTER

Indre By is where Copenhagen's history, institutions and landmarks converge. Medieval streets, royal buildings and canals sit alongside galleries, cafés and some of the city's most established restaurants.

BEST FOR: culture, architecture, strolling, shopping, dining

CHRISTIANSHAVN

Canals, creativity and calm — just across the bridge. Known for its canals, waterside walks and independent spirit, the area feels slightly removed from the city centre while remaining very close.

BEST FOR: canals, culture, cafés, waterfront walks

VESTERBRO

Once industrial and rough around the edges, Vesterbro has evolved into a lively neighbourhood known for dining and creative energy. It's social, informal and full of contrasts — classic bodegas next to modern wine bars, bakeries next to cocktail spots. A favourite for evenings out, whether casual or refined.

BEST FOR: dining, coffee, cocktails, nightlife

NØRREBRO

Bold, diverse and constantly evolving. Nørrebro is Copenhagen at its most dynamic. Multicultural, youthful and experimental, the area is known for its urban food scene, independent bars and strong local identity.

BEST FOR: food discovery, wine bars, informal and urban culture

ØSTERBRO

Østerbro is one of Copenhagen's most residential districts, characterised by wide streets, parks and a calmer rhythm. It's elegant without being showy and offers excellent dining and wine spots in a more understated setting.

BEST FOR: green spaces, cafés, neighbourhood atmosphere

FREDERIKSBERG

Although surrounded by Copenhagen, Frederiksberg is its own municipality. It's home to cultural institutions, beautiful parks and well-established restaurants, making it a natural choice for longer lunches or early evenings.

BEST FOR: culture, parks



TRANSPORT

Copenhagen is compact, intuitive and designed to move through easily.

Most districts are close enough to walk between, and the city's infrastructure makes it simple to choose whatever mode of transport suits your schedule and pace — whether that's on foot, by metro, taxi or bike.

Copenhagen is largely cashless. Cards and mobile payments are accepted pretty much everywhere, including taxis, restaurants, stores and cafés. For public transport, it's easier to use the **Rejsekort app**.

The following overview outlines the most relevant options and how to use them with ease during your stay.

METRO

The metro is fast, frequent and easy to navigate, with clear signage and direct connections between the city centre, major districts and the airport. Trains run frequently throughout the day and night, making it a reliable choice even late in the evening.

Public transport is most easily handled via the Rejsekort app, which allows you to check in and out digitally without needing physical tickets.

The app works across metro, buses and trains and is widely used by locals.

TAXI

The Taxis are readily available throughout the city and offer a convenient door-to-door option, particularly in the evening or between meetings.

Ride-hailing apps are commonly used, and waiting times are generally short.

A non-exhaustive list of apps:

- **Bolt**
 - **Dantaxi** - also available through **Uber**
or call +45 48484848
 - **Taxa 4x35**
or call +45 35353535
-

WALKING

Many central areas are best experienced on foot. Distances between districts are shorter than they may appear, and walking is often the simplest way to move between restaurants, bars and cafés.

BIKING

Cycling is a defining part of Copenhagen life and an option for confident riders.

Bike traffic moves quickly and follows its own rules — visitors should only choose this option if they are comfortable navigating busy urban cycling environments.

- **Bolt**
 - **Donkey Bike**
 - **Most hotels offer rentals**
-

CONVENIENT METRO STOPS



KØBENHAVNS LUFTHAVN (COPENHAGEN AIRPORT)

Your point of arrival and departure, with direct metro connections to the city centre and key districts.

KONGENS NYTORV

One of the city's main metro interchanges and a central access point for Indre By, close to many major hotels, restaurants and bars.

HOTEL: *D'Angle Terre, The Darling, Phoenix, Herman K, Hotel Sanders*

KØBENHAVN H (CENTRAL STATION)

A key transport hub connecting metro, trains and taxis, serving hotels in and around the central station area and Tivoli.

HOTEL: *Coco, Bella Grande, Villa, Nobis, Tivoli Hotel, Nimb Hotel*

NØRREPORT & FORUM

Convenient stops for hotels in the northern part of the city centre and Frederiksberg, with easy access to dining, cafés and shopping.

HOTEL: *Kong Arthur, Maison Les Suites, SP34*

FREDERIKSBERG ALLÉ & ENGHAVE PLADS

Primary metro stops for Vesterbro, well placed for hotels, restaurants and nightlife in the area.



GASTRONOMY

Copenhagen plays a central role in the contemporary gastronomic landscape, shaped by decades of Nordic innovation and a deep respect for ingredients, craftsmanship and seasonality.

The breadth of culinary expertise also means that most restaurants and bars are well equipped to accommodate dietary preferences and restrictions, including vegetarian, alcohol-free and allergy-aware options, without compromising the experience.



Restaurant

Gastronomic seatings

RESTAURANT PALÆGADE

Traditional Danish cuisine refined rather than reinvented.

LEVI

Modern European cooking in a relaxed setting, balancing comfort and culinary ambition.

ESMEE

Elegant French-inspired cooking in a polished, contemporary dining room.

FORMEL B

Classic fine dining with French technique and long-standing Copenhagen credibility.

TRIO

Modern Scandi-inspired dining with refined technique, seasonal focus and a calm, elegant atmosphere.

PLUTO

Contemporary European bistro dining with a polished yet relaxed city feel.

ALF

Ingredient-driven Nordic cooking with a restrained, contemporary expression.

BARR

Thoughtful Nordic cooking with roots in tradition, served in a warm setting.

NÆRVÆR

Intimate, ingredient-driven dining with a strong sense of seasonality and personal expression.

Casual seatings

POSH JAH

A more refined take on Japanese-inspired dining with elevated technique and calmer pacing.

JADE

Modern Asian-inspired dining with bold flavours, high energy and a strong social atmosphere.

DELPHINE

Mediterranean-inspired cooking with a lively room and a strong social energy.

JAH IZAKAYA

Japanese izakaya cooking with playful energy, strong flavours and an informal atmosphere.

KØDBYENS FISKEBAR

Seafood-forward dining in an informal, lively setting.

BÆST

Organic, produce-led Italian-inspired cooking with Nordic sensibility and serious craftsmanship. #2 pizza in Europe.

OMAR

Wine-driven dining inspired by Middle Eastern and Mediterranean flavours, designed for sharing.

FISHMARKET

High-quality seafood served in an informal, bustling setting focused on freshness.

DONNA

Modern Italian cooking with precision and warmth.

FRANK

Relaxed luxury bistro with an effortless, convivial atmosphere.

Danish Smørrebrød perfect for lunch

AAMANNS 1921

Classic smørrebrød refined through modern technique, pristine ingredients and elegant presentation.

RESTAURANT PALÆGADE

Traditional Danish lunch dishes and smørrebrød served with quiet authority and timeless confidence.

SCHØNNEMANN

Iconic smørrebrød institution where tradition, generosity and ritual remain uncompromised.

LUMSKEBUGTEN

Old-world Danish lunch restaurant pairing smørrebrød with white tablecloths and historic charm.

RESTAURANT MØNTERGADE

Classic Danish-French lunch cooking and smørrebrød delivered with consistency and restraint.



Quick bites on the go

DIAMOND SLICE

New York-style pizza executed with fine-dining precision by chefs from Bæst.

POPL

Produce-driven burgers executed with fine-dining precision, balancing accessibility and culinary craft.

HELGES OST

Exceptionally good focaccia sandwiches built around outstanding cheese and quality ingredients.

BANZO

Thoughtfully made sour dough pitas with depth and consistency.

GASOLINE GRILL

Benchmark Copenhagen burger known for quality beef, simplicity and speed.

HIJA DE SANCHEZ (TAQUERIA)

Mexican street food delivered with precision, bold flavour and strong identity.

POULETTE

High-quality fried chicken sandwiches served simply and well, ideal for a fast but satisfying meal.

STRANGAS

Greek-inspired pita and plates with generous portions and reliable flavour.



KILLER KEBAB

Elevated take on a classic kebab with better meat, cleaner flavours and local following.

ABRIKOS

Picnic-style sandwiches taken to a new level, defined by great bread, restraint and attention to detail.

ROSETTA

Authentic Italian pizza sandwiches made with excellent bread and uncompromising simplicity.

SLURP RAMEN

Deep, well-executed ramen with a loyal following, often drawing queues due to popularity.

PIZZERIA LA FIORITA

Classic Neapolitan-style pizza served quickly, with quality ingredients and proper technique.

JUJU BURGER

Korean-inspired fried chicken burgers with bold flavours and a cult local following.

Coffee, brunch & baked goods

COFFEE COLLECTIVE

Benchmark Danish roastery known for transparency, consistency and exceptionally clean coffees.

LA CABRA

Scandinavian coffee craftsmanship with light roasts, clean flavours and an understated setting.

ORIGINAL COFFEE

Small, central coffee bars ideal for a quick but well-made cup while moving through the city.

VENNER

Modern brunch spot combining good coffee, simple dishes and a social daytime atmosphere.

RIVIERA

Exceptional pastries, bread and brunch-style treats paired with excellent coffee in a beautifully designed space.

SONNY

Casual café blending good coffee, food and an easy-going local rhythm.

APRIL COFFEE

Meticulously brewed coffee with a modern, almost architectural calm and obsessive attention to detail.



ATELIER SEPTEMBER

Design-forward café culture where coffee, food and atmosphere merge seamlessly.

PROLOG COFFEE BAR

Precision-focused specialty coffee with a minimalist setup and international reputation.

RISTERIET COFFEE HALMTORVET

Roastery café with a more traditional expression and generous space to sit and linger.

KAFFE

Cosy neighbourhood café ideal for an easy breakfast or informal coffee break.

JUNO

Outstanding sourdough and pastries paired with excellent coffee, worth the detour.

KONG HANS BAKERY

Classic Danish bakery with refined technique and a focus on quality ingredients, ideal for a morning stop.

ANDERSEN BAKERY

Japanese–Danish bakery known for precise craftsmanship, refined flavours and excellent coffee.

Wine

BAR VITRINE

Contemporary wine bar with a sharp natural-leaning selection and constant local buzz – if you can get a seat.

APÉRO

Wine-led evenings framed by strong interior design and a distinctly social atmosphere.

NEBBIOLO

Italian-focused wine bar with depth, warmth and a clear point of view.

BAR'VIN

Long-standing Copenhagen wine bar with a broad, reliable selection and classic appeal.

VED STRANDEN 10

Wine-forward institution known for its deep cellar, calm atmosphere and loyal clientele.

DEN VANDRETTE

Small, tightly curated wine bar with a strong focus on craftsmanship and natural wines.

LABAN

Intimate wine bar with a personal, curated approach and strong local following.

ANCESTRALE

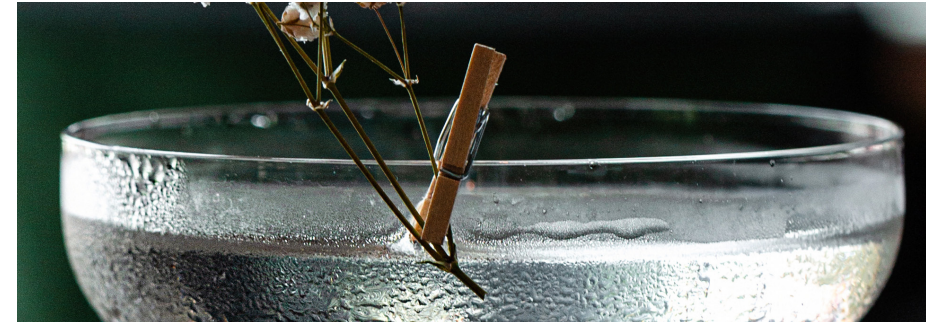
Low-intervention wine bar with a clear philosophy and informal, social setting.

RINO FINO VINO

Playful wine bar balancing seriousness with relaxed energy.

FIGO WINEBAR

Approachable wine bar with a Mediterranean feel and an easy, welcoming rhythm.



Cocktails

BAR DECO

Elegant cocktail bar with a classic foundation and a polished, international feel.

BRØNNUM

Grand cocktail institution combining historical setting with expertly executed classics.

BALDERDASH

Experimental cocktail bar pushing flavour, technique and storytelling without losing warmth.

GAIA COCKTAILS

Contemporary cocktail bar blending precision, seasonal ingredients and a refined atmosphere.

CURFEW

Intimate late-night cocktail bar with strong classics, low lighting and a loyal local crowd. Intimate bar centred on classics and conversation rather than spectacle.

1105

Late-night cocktail bar with a relaxed, slightly underground feel, known for well-executed drinks.



SUGGESTED EXPERIENCES

Rather than offering a list of attractions, the following suggestions are designed as small, flexible experiences that fit naturally into a busy stay. They focus on how Copenhagen is lived — through neighbourhoods, daily routines and moments that require little planning.

Each experience can be adapted to time and energy, and none depend on reservations or fixed schedules. Think of them as invitations to move through the city with ease, gaining a sense of Copenhagen's pace and character along the way.



A late afternoon around Kongens Nytorv

Start at **Kongens Nytorv**, a natural meeting point and one of the city's central connectors.

From here, walk through **Nyhavn** and continue along Havnegade, keeping the water on your left. This route offers an easy introduction to Copenhagen — open views, movement on the harbour and a gradual shift from lively to calm.

Continue along the waterfront toward **Gammel Strand** and Christiansborg, where the historic architecture takes over. The full walk takes approximately 20–25 minutes at an unhurried pace and requires no planning.

Pause for a glass of wine at **Bar'Vin** or **Bar Vitrine**, both well suited for a short stop or an early evening drink, depending on availability.

From here, dinner is close and flexible. Continue on foot to **Restaurant Palægade**, **Levi**, **Pluto**, **Frank** or **Esmée**, all within easy walking distance and well suited for an unforced evening.

A peaceful morning in historic neighbourhoods

Start the day with baked goods from **Kong Hans Bakery**, a refined take on classic Danish baking and an easy first stop in the city centre.

From here, walk north toward **Kartoffelrækkerne**, a series of historic townhouses originally built for workers and now one of Copenhagen's most distinctive residential areas.

Continue on toward **Botanisk Have (The Botanical Garden)** for a short stroll through landscaped paths and historic surroundings. From early October, the gardens take on a distinctly seasonal character, making this an especially atmospheric morning route.

The full walk can comfortably be kept to 30–45 minutes and connects easily back to the city centre by foot or metro.

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