



WELCOME TO COPENHAGEN, TOUR DE FRANCE - GRAND DÉPART

The world's best cycling city welcomes the world's greatest cycling race.

INTRODUCTION TO COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen is many things, amongst them a hugely popular destination for city breaks, events and meetings, and a focal breeding place for business and innovation in the Nordics. To give you a better understanding of our capital's DNA, here is a brief introduction to the city and some fast facts to go.

To put it briefly, Copenhagen holds it all; from being one of Europe's oldest capitals with an exclusive royal touch - our monarchy is amongst the oldest in the world – to brimming with progressive architecture and design, beautiful green areas, great gastro experiences, hip hangouts, cool harbour activities, and a thriving business environment.

The city consistently scores top marks in world rankings for its liveability, enterprise, and sustainability skills, and is an internationally recognized knowledge hub for key industries. It is a

frequent top-scorer on the UN World Happiness City Index too and, in short, a very popular place to both live, work and visit.

Saving on heaps of experiences within culture, entertainment, gastronomy, shopping, sports, and more, and steeped in history, this city is both sensible, youthful, effervescent, and innovative at once. People come to enjoy its local authenticity and air of freedom, equality and diversity, the Copenhagen way.

Facts about Copenhagen

- Originally a Viking fishing village established in the 10th century in the vicinity of what is now called Gammel Strand, Copenhagen became the capital of [Denmark](#) in the early 15th century.
- The population of [Copenhagen Municipality](#) is 1,330,993 (in all of Denmark it is 5,822,763).
- In addition, Copenhagen is the 2nd largest city in Scandinavia, extending over an area of 90 km².
- It is the focal point of the cross-border [Øresund Region](#), the Nordic region's largest metropolitan region.
- The city is the cultural, economic, and governmental centre of Denmark, one of Northern Europe's major financial centres, and home to key global players within e.g., ITC, pharmaceuticals and cleantech.
- Every day, climate, mobility, and smart city initiatives have top priority to ensure, that Copenhagen is a clean, green, and great place to live, work and visit. The aim is to become the world's first CO2 neutral city in 2025.
- Currently, the Social Democrats sit in the Mayor's office, with Lars Weiss as Copenhagen's Lord Mayor.
- Its modern public transportation system is envied by many and features metro lines, extensive bus routes and an easy-to-navigate train network. Visitors may take advantage of buying a [Copenhagen Card](#) for free access to public transport as well as to sights and attractions in/around the city.
- Copenhagen Airport is also the main air hub in the Nordics, and the city's Metro system – connected to the airport too, of course – is rated one of the most punctual in the world.
- Easy to get around, naturally Copenhagen is voted the [world's best cycling city](#). Every day, the Locals cycle an astonishing 1.4m km on the city's 384 km of bike paths and cycle superhighways.
- The Copenhageners are a fortunate crowd as well, with the city currently ranking the 5th happiest city in the world (2019/20) - and Denmark the 3rd happiest place to live, worldwide.
- The capital also holds a position on the '[Global Liveability Index](#)' Top 10 (for best living conditions) and is an increasingly popular city break and meeting destination, amongst local and foreign travellers alike.
- And finally, in 2020 the Guide Michelin, Nordic Cities awarded Copenhagen a total of 23 stars to 17 restaurants - all part of a highly inventive local gastro scene of eateries, food markets, coffee shops, etc.



THE WORLD'S MOST BICYCLE-FRIENDLY CITY

Bike bridges, cycle superhighways and many other innovative solutions makes Copenhagen the world's most bicycle friendly city.

The one thing visitors to Copenhagen comment on the most is the many bikes. You see the fast-rolling spinners pacing into work overtaking families in cargo bikes. Kids cycle with their parents, and both the young and the more mature use the bike to get around the city. Two out of five trips to work and school in Copenhagen are done by bike, and Dronning Louise's Bridge alone is crossed by 40,000 cyclists daily.

What is it that makes the Danish capital such a great city for bikes? Copenhagen ranks as the best bike city in the world due to the infrastructure, making cycling both convenient, safe, and fast. In Copenhagen, you will find curb separated bicycle tracks, bike-bridges across its canals, cycle superhighways, traffic lights, and green waves for two-wheeled commuters. These are just a few examples of Copenhagen's way of designing a city for life, where bikes outnumber cars, and where a cargo bike to take your kids to school is cooler than an SUV.

Choosing the bike is not only for those bright summer days. Winter can get cold, but still Copenhageners are seen on their bikes all year round. This is not due to the locals being genetically disposed towards cycling. It is a matter priority. In the past years, the city has had a consistent focus on bicycle-centric urban planning, with focus on a safe, well connected, and user-friendly bicycle infrastructure, making cycling the best way to get around.

Facts

- Copenhagen has been ranked the world's top cycling city several times. [Latest in 2019.](#)
- Cycling accounts for 49 % of all commuter trips.
- Bikes outnumber cars in central Copenhagen.
- 1.44 million km were cycled per weekday in 2019 in the city.
- Copenhagen has more than 385 km of cycle tracks.
- Almost all major roads in Copenhagen have curb separated bicycle tracks.
- Dronning Louise's Bridge is the most heavily trafficked cycling stretch in Denmark with more than 40,000 cyclists daily.
- 1 in 4 Copenhagen families with two kids own a cargo bike.
- Nine out of ten Danes own a bicycle.
- 25 % of all school children in Copenhagen cycle to school.

Source: [Copenhagen Municipality](#)

Press Photos

Download bicycle related press photos [at this link](#)

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Shooting locations, experiences and story ideas

Experience first-hand what makes Copenhagen the World's most bicycle friendly city

Shooting locations: Copenhagen's bicycle bridges – photo/video reportage opportunity

Photogenic architecture for bikes and pedestrians only: Copenhagen's iconic bike bridges provide a perfect photo or video reportage opportunity for those interested in Danish lifestyle, architecture and design. If you would like to capture images of the busiest cycling hours, 7:30-8:30 and 15:00 – 16:30 are the ideal times.

[Link to Visitcopenhagen's bike bridges guide](#)

What makes Copenhagen the world's most bicycle friendly city? Meet Copenhagenize, experts in bicycle-friendly urban planning

Copenhagenize's intent is helping cities go back to the future and learn to simplify by building for bicycles. Their speciality lies in advising and inspiring cities, governments and organisations about the re-establishment of the bicycle as a normal form of urban transport. Every year, Copenhagenize ranks the world's most bicycle friendly city. On this trip, they will show you Copenhagen's bicycle infrastructure and explain why the city is currently ranked as the most bicycle friendly city in the world.

[Link to the article "What makes Copenhagen the most bicycle friendly city"](#)

[Link to the Copenhagenize index](#)

[Link to Visitcopenhagen's bike and biking pictures for the press](#)

The sustainable city of the future: guided bicycle tour with site visits

Also available as a virtual tour

Copenhagen has set the target to become a carbon neutral city by 2025. On a private tour by the non-profit organisation Green Bike Tours, you will be shown some of the city's many projects and initiatives aimed at reaching this goal.

The city has made a climate plan which describes more than 50 initiatives in different areas, such as energy supply, greener transportation, building efficiency, education of the citizens and finally adjustments to the weather of the future. These are all steps towards a carbon free society.

Green bike tours collaborate with experts from organisations and institutions working with renewable energy, urban sustainable planning and smart city development, and it is possible to arrange for private site visits, if you are interested.

[Link to Green Bike Tours](#)

[Link to the virtual bike-tour](#)

[Link to Visitcopenhagen's sustainability guide](#)

[Link to 10 ways to act sustainably in Copenhagen](#)

Copenhagen, where out-of-the-box Danish design meets the bicycle

Creativity, craftsmanship and democracy are all elements that for decades have helped position Denmark as a frontrunner in innovative design and architecture that improve life, including bicycle design. Come to Copenhagen and explore some of the Danish solutions designed to help replace the car:

Christiania Bike: in the 70s, when alternative souls were dreaming of creating a different society, one of the ideas which arose in Copenhagen was to build a car-free society. This is how the popular cargo bike, which can carry a little bit of everything, was invented. Today, approx. 25% of Copenhagen's families use it as an alternative to the car.

Biomega designer bikes: a premium, high quality bike brand, which started in Copenhagen in 1998 with the ambition to compete with cars by designing bikes that are beautiful, easy and effortless to use.

Larry vs. Harry, the Bullitt cargo bike: As Copenhagengers, Larry and Harry have always biked as much as they could. Not just because it is green, cool or cheap, but because it is the fastest and most convenient way to get around town. Harry had a contract business for 20 years where he used a 60-year-old Danish Long John cargo bike to get from job to job. Larry was busy working for another Danish manufacturer, making the best cargo bike in the world. The problem was Harry's vintage Long John was still faster, lighter and more manoeuvrable. That's when Larry and Harry decided to build the perfect cargo bike. Larry and Harry based the Bullitt design principles

on the classic Danish Long John. It had to be strong, fast and reliable. But the Bullitt had to be much more than just functional: it had to be sexy.

[Omnium messenger bikes](#): The company designs and builds fast, light and stable cargo bikes and messenger bikes for packages, people and travel. It is dedicated to making Cargo bikes of the highest quality and to constantly innovating and improving its products and service. Omnium Cargo is based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Copenhagen cycle chic – photo/video reportage opportunity

Cycling is part of Copenhagen's DNA. This is how the locals go to work, pick up their kids from school, do their shopping, or simply just explore their own city. Danes do not need a sporty outfit to use their bike, and while in Copenhagen you will spot extremely stylish locals on two wheels. This provides the perfect opportunity for a photoshoot if you are into lifestyle and fashion.

[Link to Copenhagen Cycle Chic blog](#)

Gravel cycling, MTB and bikepacking in the nature: cycling in the nature and bikepacking's has never been as popular as in the past years. Explore what it is like to ride off the city's bike paths and discover the beautifully preserved Danish nature just 10 km north of Copenhagen, featuring some of the best kept gravel paths in Europe, as well as free shelter and camping spots for everyone.

[Link to the UNESCO Parforce hunting landscape](#)

[Link to MTB tours in the forest Hareskoven](#)

[Link to Café Parforce by the Deer Park](#)

[Interview suggestion: Dean Strange from Balsamforsjælen, Copenhagen based gravel podcast](#)

Creative cycling initiatives

Copenhagen is the city where creativity unfolds when it comes to the bike, which is being reinvented to do practically everything. Discover some of the most original concepts which can be spotted around the city in the list below:

- [Rustvogncyklen](#) – a Copenhagen based funeral company using a cargo bike as a funeral vehicle
- [Cykelkokken](#) - the cycling chef, cooking and serving a 5-course meal with local, seasonal ingredients through his cycling kitchen
- [Cykling uden alder](#) - Cycling without age is on an important mission: to give the elderly the right to wind in their hair. Bicycle pilots invite seniors to nursing homes out in the rickshaw and together they get new experiences and fresh air.
- [Recycles](#) – a bike café where vintage bikes are stripped down and renewed from scratch with top quality components

- [The bicycle library](#) – Bicycle innovation lab is bike culture center that advocates bikes as an alternative to cars through a bicycle library, bike repair workshops, bike events to develop innovative bicycle culture.
- [Svajerløb](#) - The Danish championship in riding the fastest on a cargo bike
- [Bread delivery bike](#) - delivering fresh bread every morning
- [The donor bike](#) - An environmentally friendly alternative to transport sperm samples to the fertility clinics around Greater Copenhagen.
- [Bike and Bake](#) - Bike and Bake is a street food pizza project and catering company. I'm a pizzaiolo working on my special bicycle equipped with a wood fire pizza oven. We also do pizza consulting and on certain days we also do take away pizzas. We are based in Denmark.
- [The children's traffic playground](#) – The Children's Traffic Playground is a perfect place for young and older kids to learn about road safety and traffic rules.

Cycling routes

[The green bike path](#) (den grønne sti) – Is a bicycle path that connects the districts of Nørrebro, Frederiksberg and Valby by crossing both residential and green areas through green areas with a great bicycle infrastructure.

[The harbour circle](#) (havneringen) - The ultimate Copenhagen biking tour can be found along the edge of the harbour, where trails, sidewalks and bridges together create the 13 kilometers long walking- and biking path - the Harbour Circle. [Link to the map](#)

[Rudersdal route](#) - The beautiful Rudersdal route runs 42 km along gravel and bicycle paths through a varied landscape from the seaside village of Vedbæk in the east to Kajerød in the west with lakes, streams, hills and bogs. Here you will enjoy idyllic nature all for yourself, and can walk, cycle and run as you please.

[Parforce route, UNESCO site](#) - The parforce landscape in North Zealand consists of three forests, Gribskov, Store Dyrehave and Jægersborg Dyrehave, each with its own character. They are all public forests, which means that they are accessible by everyone. The gravel roads and paths that pass through the World Heritage Site crosswise are mostly closed to car traffic, and provide great opportunities for cycling and enjoying nature.

[Amagerminoen](#), Copenhagen's "camino" - 24 km hiking and biking trail that stretches from Copenhagen's Ørestad neighbourhood through the vast nature reserve of Naturpark Amager to the picturesque town of Dragør.

[Cycle superhighways](#) - A cycle superhighway is a cycle highway, where the commuters' needs have been given the highest priority. The cycle superhighways in Greater Copenhagen are a coherent network of cycle highways which provides a safe, smooth ride with increased safety and less stops than on regular streets – offering an alternative to the car on distances of more than 5 kilometers.

In-depth articles

- [What makes Copenhagen the most bike-friendly city in the World](#) – by the urban planning firm Copenhagenize
- [Copenhagen's bike culture](#) - by Visit Copenhagen
- [City of cyclists](#) – Report by Copenhagen's Municipality (latest update 2018)
- [Cyklernes by](#) (in Danish) - Report by Copenhagen's Municipality (latest update 2020)

Useful links

[The Grand Depart's 2022 official website](#)

[The first stage of The Grand Depart](#), taking place in Copenhagen

[The Danish Cyclists' federation](#)

[Copenhagenize Index](#) – the yearly ranking on the world's most bicycle friendly cities

[Copenhagenize Index](#) – the most comprehensive and holistic ranking of bicycle-friendly cities on planet earth.

[Cycle superhighways](#) – A network of cycle highways in Greater Copenhagen, where the commuters' needs have been given the highest priority. The project seeks to create routes that offer direct routes as well as comfortable and safe service.

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