Copenhagen for kids [1]

Copenhagen is a great city to explore with children. It’s not too big, it’s relaxed and many attractions and services offer that little bit extra for kids. Here are some tips and inspiration to help you plan a family break to the fun-filled Danish capital.

Get to know the city

If this is your first time to Copenhagen, a bus tour [2] is a great way to get to know its streets and sights and kids love seeing the city from the top of a big double-decker. Or why not head down to the canal for a boat tour [3] of the inner city, its canals and harbour?

Create your own Copenhagen tour

It’s also possible to create your own sightseeing tour which fits your family by combining a 24-hour public transport [4] ticket, valid on bus, train and metro throughout the city, with a harbour ferry [5] ticket. Remember too that a paying adult can take two children under 12 years of age with them for free.

The changing of the guards

Children never forget witnessing the changing of the guards, an impressive display of control and precision taking place everyday at 12 noon outside the Queen’s residence, Amalienborg Palace [6].

Parliament tour

Take a tour through Christiansborg Palace [7], next to today’s parliament, and walk through hundreds of years of Danish history depicted on beautiful tapestries and paintings in the Royal Reception Rooms [8].

Fairytale jewels

Head with your family to Rosenborg Castle [9], in the stunning King’s Garden, for a real-life treasure hunt. Tucked away inside the castle are the Crown Jewels, the dream of any little prince or princess!

Bird's-eye views

If you can convince your little ones to climb the dizzy heights of The Round Tower [10] in the city centre, the views over the city’s old town are well worth the trek. Alternatively, a walk up the outside of the twisted dragon spire of Vor Frelsers Kirke [11] (Our Saviour's Church) affords incredible views but is not for the faint-hearted!

The old town centre

Copenhagen’s popular pedestrian streets [12] are wonderfully atmospheric for a walk around and you will often be entertained by street performers and musicians. From the King's New Square [13] (Kongens Nytorv) you can take a stroll down the colourful harbour street Nyhavn [14] and jump onto a canal tour boat [3].

Tivoli

Tivoli [15] is an unforgettable experience, regardless of your age. Within the boundaries of this world-famous city amusement park, you’ll find centuries of history, a unique atmosphere and

thrilling fairground rides. Hans Christian Andersen once strolled in these gardens and today, you can enjoy concerts, performances, rides, restaurants and exhibitions all in one place.

Tivoli is open throughout the summer months but it also opens for two extra special occasions, bringing Halloween [16] and Christmas [17] to life for a whole new generation of children.

Bakken

Just north of the city, is the famous Deer Park [18] by Klampenborg Station. It's a wonderful place for a stroll, picnic or to see the park's deer strutting their stuff or quietly grazing together. The Deer Park is also home to the world's oldest amusement park, Bakken [19]. The area also offers you the popular Bellevue Beach [20], so Bakken makes for a perfect day trip for the whole family.

A day at the zoo

Copenhagen Zoo [21] is a great day out, situated at the edge of the beautiful Frederiksberg Gardens [22]. The zoo is full of wild creatures, big and small, with a famous elephant house [23], a polar bear, tigers and much more. At the zoo's children's area, your kids can interact with tamer animals and learn about how to look after them.

Child-friendly city museums

Many of the city's museums offer special exhibitions, activities and areas for children. In particular, the following have great provision for kids: the Post & Tele Museum [24], National Gallery of Denmark [25], the Tycho Brahe Planetarium [26], Denmark's Aquarium [27], The National Museum [28], Zoological Museum [29], The Workers' Museum [30] and the Experimentarium [31]. Another great place to take your kids is the Guinness Museum of World Records [32].

Green spaces

You can head to many parks in Copenhagen, green oases with space for relaxation and all sorts of things to distract your children. Most parks have playgrounds with the latest equipment and Fælledparken [33] in Østerbro offers both a sensory garden and a skate park.

The King's Garden [34] (Kongens Have) is a wonderful picnic spot and in the summer, your children can enjoy a free puppet show. Frederiksberg's large formal gardens [22] are a fantastic place to stroll, feed ducks and take a rowboat out on the water. You can even see the zoo [21] and its inhabitants from parts of the park.

A refreshing dip

If you and your family are in need of a refreshing dip, there are bathing and paddling pools in a number of Copenhagen's parks, including the intimate Shooting Range Gardens (Skydebanehaven) in Vesterbro and Nørrebro Park.

For the more adventurous, the open harbour at Islands Brygge has a charming outdoor swimming area [35] complete with a high diving platform. You can also swim in the harbour at Fisketorvet [36] and at Svanemøllen harbour [37]. If it's sand you're after, Amager Beach Park [38] is only 5km from the centre of Copenhagen and offers you kilometres of white sandy beach and watersports.

Further reading

Read more about Copenhagen [39].

Book a hotel in Copenhagen [40].