

Copenhagen with the Kids:

Two Days in the Danish Capital

Thought you couldn't take a city-break with the kids? Think again. Denmark's fairytale capital has plenty to keep both children and adults out of mischief for a couple of days. Find out how with our practical itinerary for Copenhagen *en famille*.

CANAL BOATS & FERRIS WHEELS

Start the day slowly with breakfast at your hotel before striking out towards **Nyhavn**, Copenhagen's picturesque canal and star of a thousand postcards. It was dug in the 17th century to allow traders to bring their wares into the heart of the city. Long a haunt for sailors and writers (including Hans Christian Andersen, who lived in the house at No 67 for nearly 20 years), Nyhavn today is a half-salty, half-gentrified tourist magnet of bright colours, herring buffets and foaming beers.

From here, follow the lanes south to the Slotsholm canal. One-hour boat cruises with local operator **Netto-Bådene** (www.havnerundfart.dk) leave from outside the Holmenskirke church. The tours glide you past the highlights of waterside Copenhagen, including its islands, the harbour and the famous **Little Mermaid** statue.

Back on dry land on Slotsholm, amble north towards the Latin Quarter. Be sure to take in some of pedestrianised **Strøget**. It teems with hundreds of shops, cafés, arcades and street performers, and takes on some quite distinctive flavours along its 1km length. The smaller streets running off it are also worth exploring if the kids' interest holds.

You'll reach your lunch destination by heading up Købmagergade. At No 37, take the elevator up to the **Café Hovedtelegraf** (www.ptt-museum.dk), situated

on the top floor of the Post & Tele Museum (you don't have to pay entry to get to it). It offers great skyline views, a spacious interior, a local menu and a crate of toys to keep the nippers happy.

Head southwest via **Gråbrødretorv**, a pleasant square lined with cafés. Don't linger too long though – you'll need the whole afternoon to explore glittering, twinkling **Tivoli** (Vesterbrogade 3; www.tivoligardens.com). Situated right in the heart of the city and firmly entrenched in the heart of every Dane, Tivoli is a tantalising combination of flower gardens, food pavilions, amusement rides, carnival games, open-air stage shows, fairy lights, fireworks and a warm, fuzzy nostalgia for a carefree childhood. Visitors can ride the new 'Daemon' roller coaster, stick to the old Ferris wheel, take aim at the shooting gallery, enjoy the pantomime of Commedia dell'Arte or simply sit and watch the crowds stroll by.

There are a number of hotdog and greasy chip stalls round the park, but you don't need to compromise on food as there are a number of decent restaurants here too. For dinner, stay within Tivoli and opt for pasta and pizza alongside more adventurous Italian fare at **Café Ultimo**. In the evening Tivoli takes on a more romantic aura as the lights come on and the cultural activities unfold, with one stage hosting traditional folk dancing as another prepares a theatrical performance.

Assuming you have a babysitter booked, drop the kids back at the hotel and devote the rest of the evening to yours truly. There are a couple of options here. The first is to wind down (or perk up, depending on your mood) over a few drinks in some of Copenhagen's bars, many of which have outdoor terraces. The Latin Quarter

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has a good number of bars catering to every type of punter, while the Tivoli area gives you quirky **Bankerådet** (Ahlefeldtsgade 27) and suave **Stereo Bar** (Linnestgade 16a). Alternatively, take in a performance of some of the most exciting contemporary Scandinavian dance around at **Dansescenen** (Østerfælled Torv; ☎ 34 35 43 58 58; www.dansescenen.dk).

LESSONS IN ART, SCIENCE & HISTORY

After breakfast, catch the train to Humlebæk and **Louisiana** (Gammel Strandvej 13; open Tuesday–Thursday only; www.louisiana.dk). Denmark's most renowned museum of modern art is on a seaside knoll in a strikingly modernistic complex featuring sculpture-laden gardens. Best of all for families is the wing entirely devoted to children, where young tortured types can explore their inner Picasso using interactive computers and various hands-on media. The museum's **Solarium Café** offers a good range of light meals, as well as sea views.

If the museum's rather restricted opening hours don't coincide with the time of your visit, or your offspring have a scientific rather than artistic temperament, spend the morning at **Experimentarium** (Tuborg Havnevej 7; www.experimentarium.dk). This extensive technology and natural science centre contains some 300 exhibits. Time-honoured standards such as the Hall of Mirrors feature alongside computer-enhanced activities that make it possible to compose water music, stand on the moon or take a ride on an inverted bicycle.

For lunch, wander up Strandvejen to nearby **Sticks'n'Sushi** (Nansengarde 59; www.sushi.dk). Its kids sushi boxes contain snacks such as chicken meatballs and vegetables served up on sticks Popsicle-style – a great way to introduce the small and wary to Japanese.

In the afternoon, make your way south to **Kongens Have**. The expansive gardens behind Rosenberg Castle (Øster Voldgade 4a) are the site of free marionette theatre. The shows start at 2pm and 3pm daily (except Mondays) from June to August. The performance over, head inside the fairy-tale **Rosenberg Castle** (www.rosenborg-slot.dk) for the rest of the afternoon, or wile away a few hours in the adjacent **Botanisk Have** (Gothersgade 128; [\[.botanic-garden.ku.dk\]\(http://www.botanic-garden.ku.dk\)\). The botanical gardens hold 20,000 species of plant from around the world, some of which live in the exotic palm, orchid and cactus greenhouses.](http://www</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Feed the kids at **Café Klimt** (Frederiksborggade 29), south of the gardens. Then, if you have a babysitter, take them back to the hotel and yourself out – for a memorable dinner at **The Paul** (Tivoli; ☎ 33 75 07 75; www.thepaul.dk). Ignore the terrible name – white-hot inside and out, the Michelin-starred restaurant is a memorable spot to get acquainted with modern Danish cuisine, and to say goodbye to Copenhagen.

SLEEPING

Budget:

Hotel Nora (www.hotelnora.dk; ☎ 3537 2021) Comfortable, friendly hotel in Nørrebrogade, with family rooms.

Midrange:

71 Nyhavn Hotel (www.71nyhavnhotelcopenhagen.dk; ☎ 3343 6200) Fabulous 200-year-old canal-side hotel with harbour views and babysitting.

Top End:

Hotel Sankt Petri (www.hotelsanktpetri.com; ☎ 3345 9100) Happening hotel in classic 21st-century Scandinavian style; offers connecting rooms and babysitting.

For more reviews of Copenhagen accommodation, check out the Sleep section on www.lonelyplanet.com/accommodation.

By Amanda Canning

For the complete guide to Copenhagen grab a copy of Lonely Planet's *Copenhagen* guide, available online at shop.lonelyplanet.com.

