



Danmark er dejligt!

Denmark is delightful!



***/Sverige är fantastiskt!/
/***

Sweden is fantastic!



***Norge er et vakkert land, fjell og daler,
hav og strand!***

Norway is a scenic land, peaks and dales, sea and strand!

This listserve message is the six and last in the series of listserve threads in anticipation of the 2009 CPTSC annual meeting. The series is also posted at <http://www.cptsc.org/annual.html>.

6. Sights to see in Scandinavia

Because many CPTSC members have asked me what I would recommend that they see in Scandinavia on their way to or from this year's CPTSC conference and LSP Symposium in Aarhus, I'll end this listserve series with the suggestions below. The descriptions of the sights in this message are not intended to duplicate what you can find in published guidebooks. Rather, they highlight, from my time living in and exploring Scandinavia, what stands out as the most memorable, most Scandinavian, and most different from America (with the exception of the bust of Lincoln at the end). If you look up anything on the Web for further information and it's in a Scandinavian language, be sure to look for a link that says "English" or an icon of the British Union Jack. A quick link will bring up the English-language pages.

Because the conferences take place in Denmark, I'll devote most space to that country, and because Gothenburg, Sweden, and Oslo, Norway, are easy to get to from Denmark via ferry, the sections on Denmark's neighbors will focus mainly on those two cities.

Together, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden make up the region known as Scandinavia. Add Finland and Iceland, and you have the region that Scandinavians call *Norden* (The North or the Nordic countries). The messages in

this series have been headed by Denmark's longtime national tourism slogan, "*Danmark er dejligt.*" This time I've added Sweden's, plus the first lines of a much-sung song from Norway.



For seeing the Jutland Peninsula, the local arrangements committee has made superb arrangements for the Wednesday excursions from Aarhus. **The Old Town** in Aarhus, the fishing village of **Ebeltoft**, and Denmark's **Lake District** are all ones that I would recommend.

If you're traveling to Aarhus via ferry from Oslo or Gothenburg, you'll disembark at the port of **Frederikshavn**, near the top of the peninsula. From there you can catch a train or drive a rental car to Aarhus. If you have time to linger in the Frederikshavn area, you can drive or take the small local train to the beaches at **Skagen** (known in English as The Skaw). It's the name of both the sandy point and fishing village that forms the northernmost part of Denmark proper. It's fascinating to stand on the point and watch the waves from the North Sea's extension known as the Skagerak roll east through the waves rolling west from the Kattegat and far-off Baltic. The beauty of the scenery has captured the imagination of many Danish painters, so much so that an artists' colony formed there in the 19th century. Many of their paintings are exhibited in the Skagen Museum. The sand dunes, lighthouse, and fishing boats in the angled sun of the high north display a beauty all their own, reminding me of sunsets along Michigan's Leelanau Peninsula. Skagen draws crowds in August. You'll hear as much German spoken on the beaches in August as you will Danish, as it's a favorite with vacationing Germans.

If you're flying in or out of Billund airport, a visit to nearby **Legoland** is surprisingly worthwhile, even if you don't have children in tow. The park features huge replicas of famous places, from a Dutch canal town to Mount Rushmore and Cape Canaveral, all built out of Lego bricks.

On your way across Denmark between Aarhus and Copenhagen, you may wish to stop in Denmark's third-largest city, **Odense**, on the island of Fyn. It's the home of **Hans Christian Andersen**, and all the trans-national trains stop here. You can disembark, even if just for a few hours, to tour Andersen's house not far from the train station, before catching one of the frequent later trains.

In **Copenhagen** (*København* in Danish), the **Tivoli Garden** is not to be missed. Though many guidebooks declare it the first modern amusement park, it's really typified more by its beer gardens, cafes, and live-entertainment stages than its thrill rides. Tivoli can easily send you away singing the lyrics of "Wonderful,

Wonderful Copenhagen." Other sights depend on your tastes. Shoppers will delight in **Strøget**, one of the world's longest pedestrian shopping streets. History and monarchy aficionados will want to see the changing of the guard at **Amalienborg Palace** and the crown jewels at **Rosenborg Castle**. Those who like seafaring will enjoy the boats in the canals at **Nyhavn** and the port, including the **Little Mermaid**. Art lovers will gravitate to the **National Gallery**, the **Louisiana Museum**, and the **Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek**. And speaking of Carlsberg, those who enjoy their beer will take pleasure in the tours at the **Carlsberg and Tuborg breweries**.

My favorite sights in Denmark are in two towns just a half-hour train ride north of Copenhagen: Roskilde and Hillerød. In the first you'll find not only the impressive **Roskilde Cathedral** but also the **Viking Ship Museum**, featuring five vessels found in the adjoining fjord and pulled out and preserved in 1962. A few miles away in Hillerød is **Frederiksborg Palace**, which I think of as the Danish version of Versailles.



Sweden

The west coast of Sweden features one of the most beautiful archipelagoes in the world. It's easy to see from one of the ferries from Frederikshavn, Denmark, to **Gothenburg**, Sweden. The latter (spelled *Göteborg* in Swedish) is the country's second-largest city and the port from which most Swedish immigrants embarked to sail to America. North Americans with Swedish backgrounds may wish to check out **Emigranternas Hus** (the Emigrant House). If you travel to Gothenburg by train, you can still take a boat ride through the coastal islands on tour boats designated for this purpose. Just head down to the **Göta River**, which bisects the city. Another worthwhile boat ride connects the river to the 17th-century **Göta Canal**, where you can reach **Trollhättan** (the Troll's Bonnet waterfall).

If you take the train or a car between Gothenburg and Copenhagen, you'll find beautiful beaches and cliffs, a picturesque 17th-century town, and an impressive castle fortress in **Varberg**, which used to be on the international border separating Sweden from Denmark during the centuries when the southernmost part of the Scandinavian peninsula belonged to Denmark.



Norway

I could fill a book with sights to see in Norway. Instead, because **Oslo** is easily reachable by overnight ferry (your hotel room that night) from Copenhagen or

Frederikshavn, Denmark, I'll limit my descriptions to Norway's capital and largest city.

If you arrive by ferry or train, you'll find yourself in the city center and **Karl Johans Gate**, Oslo's park-like main street. It's well worth walking from **Stortinget** (the Parliament Building) at one end to the Royal Palace at the other, not only for the shops along the way but also to see the institutions in between, such as the **National Theater**, where several of Henrik Ibsen's plays premiered, and the **Aula** of the University of Oslo's Law School, where the Nobel Peace Prizes were awarded until 1978 and where several stunning murals by Edvard Munch adorn the walls. Wander several blocks south to the harbor on the fjord and you'll find **Askerhus Fortress** and **Rådhuset** (the City Hall), where the Nobel Peace Prizes are now awarded amidst still more stunning frescoes by Munch, Henrik Sørensen, and Per Krohg.

From the dock in front of City Hall, you can catch a harbor ferry to the **Bygdøy Peninsula** and several of Scandinavia's best museums: the **Viking Ship Museum**, with the world's best-preserved Viking ships, carts, and silver artwork; the **Folk Museum**, whose large collection of buildings includes an 800-year old stave church from Gol; Thor Heyerdahl's Polynesian **Kon-Tiki Museum**; the **Fram Museum**, with the sailing ship that carried Roald Amundson's South Pole discoverers to Antarctica; and the Maritime Museum.

Also worth visiting in Oslo are the **Holmenkollen Ski Jump and Ski Museum**, with its unparalleled views of the city, fjord, mountains, and forests; and **Frogner Park**, with its 200+ captivating sculptures of humans in all stages of life, carved by Gustav Vigeland, plus (I'd be remiss if I didn't include this) one bronze bust of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, carved by North Dakota sculptor Paul Fjelde and donated to Norway by the State of North Dakota in 1914 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Norway's Constitution. Every 4th of July, Americans and Norwegians gather in front of the statue to commemorate the freedoms and cultures shared by the two nations.