

# RELOCATION GUIDE TO



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	1
Intro .....	2
About DENMARK .....	3
Social security.....	9
Health Insurance.....	10
Healthcare.....	10
Emergency numbers .....	12
Mandatory and optional insurances .....	13
Childcare .....	15
Schooling and Education .....	16
Renting property in denmark .....	18
Utilities.....	19
Waste management.....	25
Driving in Denmark .....	29
Transportation in Denmark .....	31
Sights, attractions and typical food in Denmark .....	32

# **INTRO**

Welcome to our relocation guide to Denmark!

This guide contains some practical information to help you with moving to and living in Denmark.

Please note that all information in this document is gathered from external, reliable sources, mentioned at the bottom of each section. Yet, we cannot fully guarantee the quality of the used sources and the completeness, accuracy and up-to-date nature of the content. Thus, before making decisions or taking actions, make sure you always check important or critical information with the responsible authorities and do take possible changes since the publication of this document into account.

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Whenever you would discover some missing key-information that would be interesting to add in this relocation guide, feel free to let us know. We also do confirm that our company does not have any commercial bindings with any of the companies or organizations mentioned in this guide.

We hope this guide provides you some useful insights and we wish you all the best and a lot of success in your new challenge !

23/11/2022

# **ABOUT DENMARK**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Practical Information**

Country name: Kingdom of Denmark, Kongeriget Danmark

Government type: parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Climate: temperate and humid with windy winters and cool summers

Capital: Copenhagen

Currency: Danish krone (DKK)

Languages: Danish (official language); Faroese, Greenlandic, and German (recognized regional languages)

Religion: Protestant, Lutheran

Time Zones: UTC+1 and UTC+2

Calling Code: +45 for Denmark, +298 Faroe Islands, +299 Greenland

Emergency number: 112

### **Public Holidays in Denmark**

New Year's Day, Nytårsdag: 1 January

Palm Sunday, Palmesøndag: Sunday before Easter

Maundy Thursday, Skærtorsdag: Thursday before Easter Sunday

Good Friday, Langfredag: Friday before Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday, Påskedag: movable holiday in March or April

Easter Monday, Anden påskedag: The day after Easter Sunday

All-Prayers Day, Store bededag: movable holiday on the fourth Friday after Easter

Holy Thursday, Kristi Himmelfartsdag: 40 days after Easter

Pentecost, Pinsedag: seventh Sunday after Easter

Pentecost Monday, Anden Pinsedag: The day after Pentecost

Constitution Day, or national day, Grundlovsdag: 5 June

Christmas, Juledag: 25 December

Boxing Day, Anden Juledag: 26 December

### **Main Embassies in Denmark**

Denmark's capital, Copenhagen, hosts the majority of embassies in the country—72 in total. These include embassies for most European countries and some Asian and American countries.

Although a few African countries have embassies in Denmark, most expats from the continent seeking diplomatic services will need to travel to neighboring capitals: Stockholm, Oslo, Brussels, Berlin, London, or Paris.

### **Cost of Living**

Getting acquainted with the average cost of living in Denmark should prepare you for the kind of lifestyle you can sustain in the country.

Is It Expensive to Live in Denmark?

It can be quite expensive to live in Denmark, especially in the most popular cities: Copenhagen and Aarhus. Copenhagen is among the most expensive cities in the world and both cities are in the top 15 of the most expensive in Europe.

### **Cost of Living in Denmark by Region**

You can expect the most popular cities to be the most expensive, like Copenhagen, Aarhus, Odense, and Aalborg. You will find other cities more affordable, like Esbjerg, Horsens, Randers, or Vejle.

The cheapest areas in Denmark are Southern Zealand, Langeland, and the southern islands, Lolland and Falster. Keep in mind that employment, cultural activities, public transportation, and the like are scarce in these areas.

### **Living Expenses in Denmark**

Here are what your monthly expenses would be in Denmark excluding rent or utilities:

Single person—5,300 DKK (712 EUR)

Couple—9,800 DKK (1.316 EUR)

Couple with two children—14,100 DKK (1.894 EUR)

### **Rent and Utility Prices in Denmark**

Below you will find the average monthly rent for an 85 square meter apartment in Denmark's main cities.

City Rent (DKK): Copenhagen 16,600 DKK (2.230 EUR), Aarhus 11,800 DKK (1.585 EUR), Odense 10,000 DKK (1.343 EUR), Aalborg 8,500 DKK (1.142 EUR).

One month of utilities, including water, heating, and electricity is around 880 DKK (118 EUR). To that you should add internet connection which costs around 186 DKK (25 EUR) a month.

### **Restaurant Costs**

Eating out at restaurants in Denmark does not come cheap. Here are the prices you should expect: at an inexpensive restaurant 120 DKK (16 EUR), for two at a mid-range restaurant 520 DKK (70 EUR), at fast-food chain 75 DKK (10 EUR) etc.

### **Cost of Education**

Education in Denmark should be free of charge if you opt for the public school system.

If you opt for private schools, know that enrolling your kids in kindergarten will cost around 3,000 DKK (403 EUR) a month. If they are attending international school, you should expect to pay around 56,500 DKK (8.797 EUR) a year.

### Healthcare Costs

The state healthcare system is free for all residents in Denmark, so you would not need to have expenses related to healthcare. You would still need to pay for medication. This could be around 56 DKK (7,5 EUR) for regular painkillers, or 78 DKK (10,5 EUR) for antibiotics. If you wish to visit a private doctor, that will cost you around 1,700 DKK (228 EUR).

### Travel and Transportation Cost

A monthly card for public transportation costs 462 DKK (62,05 EUR), while a ticket for a single trip is usually 22 DKK (3 EUR). If you plan on driving, buying a car will likely cost you more in Denmark.

## GEOGRAPHY

Denmark is a member of the European Union and the Schengen Area. As a Nordic country, Denmark has strong ties to Norway, Finland, Iceland, and Sweden.

The Kingdom of Denmark includes two autonomous territories: Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Greenland is not part of the European Union although it has the status of Overseas countries and territories of the EU. Denmark is divided into five regions: Nordjylland, Midtjylland, Syddanmark, Sjælland, and Hovedstaden. Each region is split even further into municipalities or kommuner.

### Main cities

- **Copenhagen**  
Copenhagen: the biggest and capital city of Denmark, situated on the Zealand island's eastern coast. It is one of the world's greenest cities and is also famous for being bicycle-friendly. The Copenhagen Airport, Kastrup is the largest airport in the Nordic countries.
- **Aarhus**  
Aarhus: Ranking second among the biggest cities in Denmark, Aarhus is located on the Jutland Peninsula's east coast, 187 km northwest of Copenhagen. Aarhus is the country's important industrial port and trade hub with major Danish companies having their headquarters in the city.
- **Odense**  
Odense: located on the island of Funen, 167 km southwest of Copenhagen.
- **Aalborg**  
Aalborg: located in the North of Jutland, 118 km north of Aarhus. Aalborg is an important cultural hub in the country and houses several museums, palaces, orchestras, theaters, and more.
- **Frederiksberg**  
Frederiksberg: an affluent Danish town that is part of the Capital Region of the country. There are vast tracts of green spaces in the town and some attractions considered to be part of Copenhagen like the Copenhagen Zoo are actually part of Frederiksberg.

## **INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES**

- **No Place In Denmark Is More Than 52 Km From The Sea.**  
Denmark encompasses a total land area of 43,094 km<sup>2</sup>. The country's territory is composed of the Jutland Peninsula and islands of the Danish Archipelago. Additionally, the country features 8,750 km of tidal shoreline, and its only land border is 68 m long. Denmark's close proximity to the sea and its peninsular shape mean that all parts of the country are located within 52 km from the sea.
- **Denmark Is One Of The World's Happiest Countries**  
With a score of 7.55 according to the 2018 Happiness Index, Denmark is the third happiest country in the world, while Finland and Norway occupy the top two positions. A prosperous economy, controlled population, equitable distribution of wealth, liberal social laws, high standard of living, and healthy work environments are all factors that contribute to the happiness of the Danes.
- **The Danish monarchy is the oldest continuing monarchy in the world and has existed for over 1,000 years.**
- **Inventions that hail from Denmark include Google Maps, the loud speaker, insulin, LEGO bricks, Carlsberg Yeast, and dry-cell batteries.**
- **In Denmark, it rains or snows every second day. On average, Denmark has 171 days with precipitation of more than 0.004 in. (0.1 mm).**

## **PEOPLE, SOCIETY AND CULTURE**

### **Greeting**

Greeting in Denmark is casual with a firm handshake and a smile. Introductions are usually on a first-name basis. You greet each person individually when arriving and leaving, and you should typically shake hands with women first.

### **Public Behavior**

Being courteous to everyone is a must in Denmark. Danish culture is one of the most egalitarian in the world, and that goes for gender, ethnicity, job position, and so on. Your tone of voice should be moderate in public as drawing attention to yourself in any way is usually frowned upon (i.e., playing loud music on public transportation). Danes like their spoken (or unspoken) rules to be followed. Failure to comply may create confrontation with Danish locals.

### **Dining and Gift-Giving Etiquette**

If you are invited to dine at a Danish home, it is customary to bring a gift. This could be a bottle of good wine or a box of high-quality chocolate. Flowers make an excellent gift too, which you can send in advance. Be sure to arrive on time. Danes are punctual, whether it is for a social gathering or business meeting. Do not sit at the table without being assigned a seat. You may if you are told to do so but try and avoid being the first to sit down. You should keep your hands visible while dining. Rest your wrists on the table, never your elbows. You are generally offered seconds, which you may politely refuse without insulting the host. Do try and finish what is in your plate as food waste is generally looked down upon. If you are eating out at a restaurant in Denmark, know that tipping is uncommon. That also goes for other services such as taxis. Of course, you can do so if you wish but it is generally not expected.

### **Values and Culture**

Danes have a very egalitarian social structure. This is true for family, business, genders, and social groups. Even the Danish language tends to use gender-neutral words. You will find that both women and men are equally respected, receive equal pay, and occupy leadership roles in business. The majority of people are on a first-name basis.

Being a team player is highly valued and respected. The group's needs are generally prioritized over individual ones. For that reason, Danes tend to be modest about their own achievements so avoid humble bragging as it may not be well-received.

Danes enjoy spending time with their friends and family. The nuclear family tends to be the norm when it comes to family structure. The way children are raised may not be quite what you are used to. Kids are brought up to be independent and self-reliant from a young age. Most one-year-old kids are sent to daycare once parental leave ends and parents get back to work.



## **Religion**

As for religion, it is mostly Protestant and Lutheran. Over 75% of people are members of the Church of Denmark which is the officially recognized church. However, despite the country's religious roots, this does not reflect much on Danes' day-to-day life. Most people do not attend church often and couples do not feel the need to get married to live together or start a family.

## **POLITICS, GOVERNMENT, AND ADMINISTRATION**

Politics in Denmark operate under a framework laid out in the Constitution of Denmark. First written in 1849, it establishes a sovereign state in the form of a constitutional monarchy, with a representative parliamentary system. The monarch officially retains executive power and presides over the Council of State (privy council). In practice, the duties of the monarch are strictly representative and ceremonial, such as the formal appointment and dismissal of the Prime Minister and other Government ministers. The Monarch is not answerable for his or her actions, and their person is sacrosanct. Hereditary monarch Queen Margrethe II has been head of state since 14 January 1972.

The political system of Denmark is a multi-party structure, where several parties are represented in the Parliament. Danish governments are most often minority administrations, governing with the aid of one or more supporting parties. This means that Danish politics are characterised by inter-party compromising. Since 1909 no single party has had the majority of parliamentary seats.

## **RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**

Denmark has been considered a progressive country, which has adopted legislation and policies to support women's rights, minority rights, and LGBT rights. Human rights in Denmark are protected by the state's Constitution of the Realm (Danmarks Riges Grundlov); applying equally in Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, and through the ratification of international human rights treaties. Denmark has held a significant role in the adoption of both the European Convention on Human Rights and in the establishment of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

## **USED SOURCES**

[Biggest Cities In Denmark - WorldAtlas](#)

[10 Interesting Facts About Denmark - WorldAtlas](#)

[70 Interesting and Fun Denmark Facts | Fact Retriever](#)

[Denmark - Wikipedia](#)

[Government and politics \(um.dk\)](#)

# **SOCIAL SECURITY**

## **SOCIAL SECURITY IN DENMARK**

### APPLY FOR A VISA IN DENMARK: TYPES OF WORK VISAS

Depending on the type of employment, you can find several types of work visas, including the following:

- Fast-Track Scheme
- Pay Limit Scheme
- Positive List
- Employed PhD
- Herdsmen and farm managers

The first three are the most common ones, i.e., these apply to the broadest range of sectors.

When it comes to the very application process, you will need to follow a couple of simple steps to complete it, and it can all be done online. Firstly, you will need to create a case order ID, where you'll state your full name and the type of application you want to submit. The next step will be to pay the fee, which, in most cases, amounts to about 445 EUR. Once you've done that, you will be asked to submit the required documents, including:

- Copy of your passport
- Proof of paid fee
- Work contract or proof of job offer
- Diplomas proving your qualifications
- Danish authorization (if needed)

Finally, you should submit the application form and then have your biometrics taken within 14 days of filing the application. Then all that's left to do is wait for a response.

# HEALTH INSURANCE

When it comes to healthcare, you won't have anything to worry about as Denmark has one of the best healthcare systems in the entire world. You will be entitled to free emergency healthcare, but keep in mind that you'll need a health insurance card for routine medical care.

## **REGISTER TO GET A HEALTH INSURANCE CARD**

Also known as **the yellow card**, a health insurance card ensures free access to healthcare when you move. So, one of the first things you should do when you get there is to register to get one. Your yellow card will contain your name, address, CPR number, and the name and address of your doctor.

# HEALTHCARE

## HOW HEALTHCARE WORKS IN DENMARK

Denmark has a mixed healthcare system with both public and private health institutions.

## DANISH HEALTHCARE FACTS

Danes are generally satisfied with public healthcare.

Out of all EU countries, Denmark has the shortest length of stay in hospitals, at four and a half days.

Denmark has an online system which stores all patients' data. This can be accessed by a number of medical professionals, from doctors to nurses, even pharmacists. An at-home monitoring system called *telehealth* allows patients to videocall doctors from their homes. This includes equipment for patients to measure their own vital signs.

## DOES DENMARK HAVE PUBLIC HEALTHCARE?

Yes, Denmark has free public healthcare for its citizens and residents. The healthcare system is regulated by the central government, although most services are provided by the five regions' local governments. Hospitals and general practitioners are managed at a regional level, while nursing homes, home care, and school health services are the responsibility of municipalities. Only some specialized hospitals are managed centrally.

## THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN DENMARK EXPLAINED

What does the public healthcare cover? Public healthcare in Denmark covers all medical assistance and hospital stays. This includes: a general practitioner to provide primary medical care which includes routine treatment, examinations, and advice; access to specialist care if referred by your general practitioner; emergency care and medical assistance after hours; treatment at hospitals including surgery, admission, and aftercare; home nursing and visits from a health visitor.

However, there are some services which are not subsidized by the state for which you will have to pay entirely or partially. Public healthcare in Denmark does not include: medication: some is subsidized but you will still have to pay between 50 and 25% of the price; dental care: free until the age of 18 after which it is no longer covered by public health insurance; elective cosmetic surgeries; fertility treatments although some subsidy may be available; physiotherapy; psychology: may also get a subsidy if you have a referral from your doctor; chiropractic: partially subsidized if you have a referral from your doctor; other non-medical care or alternative treatments such as psychotherapy or coaching.

## HOW DOES HEALTHCARE WORK IN DENMARK?

Here are a few things you should know about public healthcare in Denmark:

Once you register in the country and obtain your CPR number, you will immediately have access to free healthcare. This means you can choose a general practitioner. You will need a referral from your GP to see specialists with the exception of dentists, ENT (ear, nose, and throat doctors), or eye specialists. General practitioners typically work during weekdays from 8:00 to 16:00. They may only be available for phone calls from 8:00 to 9:00 which should only be for emergencies. You may be able to book appointments online with your GP if they give you a specific access code. Your GP and other doctors will give you prescriptions for medication, subsidized or not, which can be picked up at any pharmacy. You can choose which hospital to go to; just make sure it has the specialty you need. If you are not sure, ask your family doctor or check online, as the hospital is likely to have a website. If you do not speak Danish, the doctor may decide to have an interpreter present. This ensures that patients receive all the necessary information and consent to the treatment. You can also request an interpreter yourself, if you think you need one.

## SUNDHEDSKORT: THE YELLOW CARD

To access free healthcare in Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands, you must have a health insurance card, known as the yellow card.

This card contains:

- your name;
- your address;
- your CPR number (the equivalent of a social security number);
- the name and address of your doctor.



You should receive your yellow card automatically after registering for a CPR number. If you have not registered for a CPR number, **you should do so first thing**. The card should take no more than four weeks to arrive in the mail. You should show this card every time you see doctors, specialists, and psychologists, and visit hospitals and pharmacies. You can also use it as an ID document in libraries, post offices, stores, etc., so it is recommended that you **carry it with you**.

## **DANISH HEALTHCARE COSTS**

As mentioned, public healthcare is free in Denmark. Just remember to show your yellow card whenever requesting public health services. You will still need to pay for some medical services such as dentist appointments, psychologists, medication, etc. You can get a subsidy for some medical specialists that are not covered by public health insurance by getting a referral from your GP.

## **USED SOURCES**

[Guide to Health Insurance and Healthcare System in Denmark | InterNations](#)

# **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

## **Police, fire brigade and ambulance:**

Call **(+45) 112** for life threatening emergencies and ask for the police, fire department or ambulance service.

Call **(+45) 1813** for injuries or sudden illness and speak to a nurse or doctor, or to go to a hospital emergency department.

Call **(+45) 114** for police, when it is not an emergency.

## **USED SOURCES**

[Emergency phone numbers in Denmark – Copenhagen \(mfa.ee\)](#)

# **MANDATORY AND OPTIONAL INSURANCES**

## **HOME INSURANCE**

Home Insurance in Denmark covers the contents of your home in the event of fire, water damage, theft and vandalism. The cost of home insurance generally depends on what it would cost to replace your home and exactly which additional contents you have insured alongside it. In this instance, home insurance is particular to each case, as opposed to universal.

## **CAR INSURANCE**

As in all EU countries, all vehicles in Denmark must have third party liability insurance. It is compulsory for a car owner to take out insurance against injury and damage. The insurance covers both driver and passengers.

The two types of insurance available are third party and comprehensive. Third party ensures compensation is paid to victims, while comprehensive covers injury and damages whether or not the driver was responsible. The criteria on which insurance is based upon include age, car and driving history.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Residents of Denmark can choose between two systems of health care. Firstly, there is medical care provided free-of-charge by a GP, picked by the patient for the longevity of a year. This doctor will then refer the patient to any physicians or specialists for further treatment.

The second, and less popular, option is the freedom to choose any physician or specialist, providing you meet two-thirds of the medical bill.

There are many companies dealing in private health insurance. Private patients generate higher earnings for medical professionals and therefore will invariably be consulted by senior doctors. A private patient can also request a doctor who speaks their native language.

## **LIFE INSURANCE**

Life insurance in Denmark isn't just something to think about when you reach old age. In fact, the earlier you take it out, the better deal you get. Insurers are more likely to give a better deal to someone who is young and healthy than old and ill. Even if you have no family or dependents to worry about, there are still very good reasons for you to invest in life insurance.

Life insurance isn't really a country-specific affair, like health or vehicle cover is. It is tailored to your individual circumstances and needs.

It is important to know the kinds of life insurance available to you. Typically, these are term/temporary insurance and investment/permanent insurance.

Term insurance invariably provides compensation and benefits to a family or dependent in the case of death within the terms outlined in the policy. It ensures that, in the instance of death, the people you leave behind are not left in financial turmoil.

Investment-type insurance will be inclusive of endowment and 'whole of life' policies, and is valid for as long as premium payments are made. Technically, part of the premium is invested and will build in

value. It can even be cashed before you die. Therefore, the earlier you buy, the more will accumulate, the more you can reclaim.

It is essential to remember, that, when looking for a life insurer, you shop around. It is imperative that you get a deal to suit your needs. So, with this in mind, not only are you looking for a good price, but a suitable, individual policy. Ask yourself what you need from a life insurance policy. There are many people that can help you deduce which company and policy is most appropriate for you, and there are many price comparison sites located on the internet.

## **USED SOURCES**

[Insurances in Denmark : Startup Overseas](#)

# **CHILDCARE**

All children in Denmark are guaranteed a place in a childcare institution. Almost all Danish families use child daycare.

## **Options for childcare consist of:**

- day nurseries for children 0-3 years old
- kindergartens for children 3-6 years old
- pre-school/after school centres for children 6-10 years old.

In addition, there is the option of local childcare, in which children are cared for in private homes.

## **Opening hours**

The opening hours of the childcare facilities are approx. Monday to Thursday 6.30 to 17.00, and Fridays 6.30 to 16.00.

## **Cost**

Childcare is financed partly by the parents, partly by the municipality. Prices differ somewhat depending on the municipality and the type of childcare.

Most childcare services are municipal, but there are a great many privately owned facilities as well, and in a few of them the spoken language is English. To register, please contact the respective municipality, and do it as soon as possible. A waiting list is not unusual.

## **USED SOURCES**

[Childcare facilities for young children \(borger.dk\)](http://borger.dk)



# **SCHOOLING AND EDUCATION**

## **THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN DENMARK**

The education system in Denmark ranks among the best in the world. Here is an overview of Danish education, including some facts, school ages, passing grades, and more.

## **EDUCATION FACTS ABOUT DENMARK**

Denmark's education system comprises of both public and private schools. Around 15% of students in basic school attend private schools. The public education system is free from primary to higher education. Although compulsory education is only up to 16 years of age, more than 80% of students go on to study in the following education levels. Private schools take in around 15% of students in Denmark. The vast majority attend public schools or folkeskole.

### **What is the Education System Like?**

Education is divided into the following levels: preschool, primary education, secondary education (which includes lower and upper secondary school), and higher education.

Below is a table of the various school levels and corresponding ages in Denmark.

<b><u>School level</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>
Kindergarten	1	5
Preschool	/	6
Primary and lower secondary	1-9	7-15
10th Grade (Efterskole)	10	16
Upper secondary	10-12	16-19
Higher education	/	19+

## **THE DANISH GRADING SYSTEM**

Danish schools use a seven-point scale grading system.

Grade Description: 12 Excellent performance, 10 Very good performance, 7 Good performance, 4 Fair performance, 2 Adequate performance, 0 Inadequate performance, -3 Unacceptable performance

The minimum passing grade is two. In some cases, only two grades may be given: pass and fail.

## **SCHOOL HOURS AND TERMS**

The school year in Denmark must make up 200 days of the year. It usually starts in August and ends in June, but different schools may start their terms on different dates. It is best to check the websites of the schools you would like to apply to and find out their application dates and requirements. If you need help finding schools, you can have InterNations do it for you by requesting our School Search services. Schools tend to work 30 to 35 hours a week. Each school can define their own hours, but most run from 8:00 to 15:00.

## **MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

If you are already living in Denmark the year your child turns six, and you have not chosen a specific school, your municipality will automatically assign your child a public school or folkeskole. Make sure to contact your preferred school in advance to know all the requirements and whether there is a waiting list. One of the most important requirements for enrollment in school is for your child to have a CPR number (personal identification number).

Private schools in Denmark tend to be smaller than municipal schools. These can be small independent schools in rural areas (friskoler), larger independent schools in urban areas (privatskoler), progressive free schools, etc. Private schools may have waiting lists as well, especially in or around Copenhagen. Private upper secondary schools teach the same type of curricula as public schools, since this education level is mainly focused on preparation for the final exams which lead to university.

## **WHAT IF YOU ARRIVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR?**

If you arrive in the middle of the school year, a school coordinator may need to assess your child's needs and language skills. This will result in your child either being enrolled straight into Danish public school classes or placed in a reception class where they will be introduced to the Danish language and school system.

## **USED SOURCES**

[International Schools and the Education System in Denmark | InterNations](#)

# **RENTING PROPERTY IN DENMARK**

Most Danish rental properties are marketed through real estate agencies with a letting department. A few properties are also advertised in local daily newspapers and in classified newspapers such as [Den Blå Avis](#) and its respective website (all in Danish). Useful websites for finding rental property in Denmark include [Boligsiden.dk](#), [Boligbasen.dk](#) and [boligportal.dk](#)

## **Types of Property**

Apartments (*lejlighed*), terraced houses (*raekkehus*) and detached houses (*villa* or *hus*) are the most commonly found rental properties. Property advertisements generally include the size of the property in square metres (*kvadratmeter - kvm*).

## **Renting private housing (*privat bolig*)**

The most easily found rental accommodation is privately-owned and leased by a landlord or property agency on their behalf. Furnished property is generally available for short-term rental only. Houses and apartments available long-term are usually rented unfurnished. An unfurnished property may have a kitchen equipped with basic appliances such as an oven and fridge. Check with the landlord or agency on the furniture and equipment provided and make sure this is declared in the contract. Monthly rental costs are much lower for unfurnished properties than furnished ones.

## **Renting public housing (*almen bolig*)**

Much of Denmark's rental accommodation is in public housing, which is owned by non-profit/subsidised housing associations. Everyone has the right to apply for public housing, which is usually cheaper than private housing. Public housing is available for long-term rental only. Property is rented based on a waiting list; priority is given to people with special housing needs such as the elderly and disabled, while families with children get priority placement in larger properties. Those who already have homes within the system have priority over new candidates. The waiting lists are usually long (especially in main cities) and property is not easily available to a newcomer.

To get on a waiting list, apply in writing to the local social housing organisations or enquire at the local municipal housing authority. Further information on public housing is available from [The National Federation of Housing Associations](#) (*Boligselskabernes Landsforening*).

## **Renting from a tenant (rooms - *Værelser*)**

Tenants may sublet rooms in a rental property in Denmark. A tenant may sublet up to half the rooms in a property but the number of people renting may not exceed the number of rooms. Subletting agreements must be made in writing and the tenant sends a copy to the owner before the sublet period begins. A sublet rental contract may not be for a period longer than two years. The tenant is responsible for damage caused by their subletter.

**Note:** Subletting is not permitted on short-term rentals.

## **USED SOURCES**

[Renting Property in Denmark - Denmark - Angloinfo](#)

# UTILITIES

## GENERAL:

You need to have a CPR number to use the services of Danish supply companies.

In Denmark, it is common to pay a fixed prepayment ("a conto" in Danish) that is included in your rent to cover the cost of utilities. You may receive a refund or be asked to pay more depending on your actual consumption.

You can choose to change your electricity supplier or gas supplier. Typically, one supplier will have a universal service obligation where you live. They will automatically be your supplier unless you choose another supplier.

## Before you move in

Read your contract thoroughly and check if any utilities are included in your rent. Heating and water supply are normally provided when you move in. However, you need to personally contact service providers before you can start using electricity or gas in your new home.

## When you move out

When you move out, remember to read your meters and inform your service providers or you will be charged for the utilities you did not use.

## ELECTRICITY AND GAS:

Denmark's electricity market is divided up so that a consumer has two utilities, a supplier (*elleverandøren*) and a grid company/network operator (*netselskabet*). A network operator owns the cables and wires that go out to the individual consumer and is responsible for a secure supply of electricity to a customer, providing energy advice, as well as information about electrical safety and the markets.

The electricity supplier buys electricity on the open market and sells it to customers. The network operator can also be the electricity provider - in this case there is one electricity account, as the electricity provider also collects payment for the network operator. If the electricity provider is a different company, there can be two accounts, depending on their agreement.

The main utility provider and network operator in Denmark is Dong Energy (known as Orsted), which provides both electricity and gas.

- [Dong Energy/ Orsted](#) (in Danish) **Tel:** 72 10 31 18 **Open:** Monday to Thursday from 08:00-16:00 and Friday from 08:15-15:00
- For information on electricity providers and network operators see the [Electricity Board's website](#) (in Danish)

## **Getting connected**

To connect or disconnect the electricity or gas supply, customers can contact the supplier two months before moving. The latest that the supplier can be notified is 10 working days before moving out and 14 working days after moving in.

To disconnect the supply, customers should provide their customer number (*Kundenummer*) and account number (*Kontonummer*) which is on the utility bill. Provide the supplier with a final meter reading. The final bill is then sent within 14 days.

Customers may switch electricity and gas suppliers without cost. Rates are regulated by the Danish Energy Regulatory Authority. Customers can choose between a fixed price and a variable price when creating an account with a provider.

Orsted (Dong Energy) has more on how to disconnect the electricity supply.

### **Utility emergencies**

- Gas - **Tel:** 112
- Electricity - **Tel:** 72 10 20 30

## **WATER**

Understanding the Danish water supply system including mains supply, water meters and waste water charges...

Denmark's water supply is decentralised, with companies operating countrywide. Unlike electricity suppliers, water suppliers cannot be changed, as each municipality has its own water supplier. Local municipal offices can provide information on the local water supplier.

Water usage is metered and Danish households are generally billed based on their consumption. Meters are read annually.

Drinking water, waste water, green taxes and VAT are covered in one bill. However, water drainage and sewerage are paid for either via property tax or directly to the water company itself.

## **INTERNET**

A list of internet providers in Denmark:

- YouSee – (the biggest provider in Denmark)
- Stofa
- Fibia
- Kazoom
- Snappii
- Fastspeed
- Telenor
- Energi Fyn
- Kviknet
- EWII
- Hiper
- Viptel
- Unotel

Which internet providers are the best?

That is entirely defined by your needs. Do you need very fast internet to a relatively low price? Then Fastspeed might be the choice as they deliver - per first half of 2020 1.000 Mbit/s. for 249 DKK (34 EUR) / month.

YouSee is the biggest brand and can provide a rich TV experience in addition to your broadband package if that has any interest for you. Telenor provides a combined discount if you buy broadband, mobile plans etc. as a package. However, it is not always the best option to buy telco products that way.

Which internet providers are the cheapest?

As the prior question, this depends on your needs. Often times, you are able to reduce the price if you demand broadband with a lower internet speed or a less technology.

Which internet providers are the fastest?

This depends on the address you reside on. While one provider might be the fastest option in the city of Viborg, another provider might be able to deliver faster internet in Roskilde. Providers even deliver different internet speeds on the same street!

## **MOBILE PHONE**

There are various mobile telephone providers in Denmark to choose from. Competition is fierce so it is worth shopping around to find the tariff that suits you best. The main network providers in Denmark are Telia, TDC, 3 (known as Hi3G or Hutchison 3) and Telenor. The other providers normally use the network one of the main providers and are also often owned by them. Each of these companies offer a variety of packages aimed to suit different people with different needs. Some tariffs even offer attractive rates on international calls. You can shop around at any of these companies' high street stores and speak to a salesperson who will advise you on what to go for.

### **Using a foreign SIM card in Denmark**

If you want to keep your existing mobile number and bring it with you to Denmark, you should first check with your operator as to whether you will get coverage in Denmark. This should not be a problem in the bigger cities, but you should make sure nonetheless.

Be aware that using a foreign SIM card in Denmark will probably result in extremely high roaming fees unless you have a specific tariff in place. Again, you should definitely consult your home operator in order to avoid receiving a shocking telephone bill.

Another option is to bring an unlocked mobile phone to Denmark and purchase a SIM card locally. Alternatively you can purchase a disposable mobile phone when you arrive in Denmark. This will be basic, but it will at least be a cost-effective way to communicate.

## **GROCERY SHOPPING**

An essential part of getting to know your new surroundings when moving to a country is finding the best places to get your groceries. When arriving in Denmark, you may be overwhelmed by the wide variety of different grocery store chains. This will give you an overview of your possibilities and help you decide which shop to pick based on your budget, location, and what products you're looking for.

### **1. Budget-friendly grocery stores**

Denmark has a whole array of discount stores where you can find anything you need for great prices (on a Danish scale, at least!).

Rema 1000 is said to be the cheapest of all the supermarket chains. The Norwegian chain with branches in Denmark offers a variety of products for low prices. The stores are usually not huge, but still you'll find pretty much everything you need. Fakta and Netto are the cheapest stores owned by two of the biggest retail groups (Coop and Salling group, respectively). They, too, offer all the essentials for attractive prices.

The two supermarket chains Aldi and Lidl can also be counted into the discounter list. In fact, Lidl is said to be the second cheapest grocery store chains. One downside to shopping at these stores is that they can be a bit hard to navigate, but you'll definitely find your way through them after the first couple of trips! The staff there will also be happy to help: watch this lesson on Swap Language to learn how to ask employees at a shop when grocery shopping in Denmark.

### **2. Greengrocers and shops with foreign products**

Fruit and vegetable display as an example of places to go grocery shopping in Denmark, greengrocers, market. In many locations – mostly in cities – chances are you'll find mostly smaller greengrocers! In these, you'll find interesting varieties of products. There will, of course, be lots of fresh fruit and vegetables for good prices. In addition to that, you'll also find lots of products that may be hard to find in other grocery stores, especially when it comes to Mediterranean and/or Middle Eastern delicacies. Depending on where you're from, this means you can get a taste of home – or lots of new foods to try!

And then, there are “hyper” versions of these shops: Bazar vest right outside Aarhus and Vestegnens Bazar outside Copenhagen, for example, will have you looking over a literal sea of fruits, vegetables, and other produce in awe. For foods of other origins, such as Eastern Europe, a visit to a EuroDeli store is in order! Asian food shops are also spread across Denmark, offering products from various Asian countries. And it's also a good idea to keep an eye out for street markets!

### **3. Well-sorted mid-range supermarkets**

If you prefer large, well-sorted supermarkets where you can be sure to find everything you need (such as food, household items, maybe clothes ...) under one roof, the places in the following list are for you: Føtex stores are usually spread out throughout cities, and chances are you'll find one near where you live. Kvickly's are a bit rarer, but you'll find a few per city. Bilka is a so-called Hypermarket chain, meaning the stores are enormous – and you'll find a large choice of anything from food to cosmetics, cleaning products, clothes, stationery, home improvement items, and more. They can usually be found once outside every bigger city.

### **4. More expensive supermarkets**

The most expensive supermarket chains are Irma and Meny. They, too, are well-sorted and tend to offer some more high-end products. Irma, in particular, advertises itself as prioritising local and organic products. Irma stores can only be found on Zealand (Sjælland). Meny has stores spread throughout all of Denmark. Even these pricier stores have a whole range of products, including cheaper product lines.

### **5. Getting groceries budget-friendly – while reducing food waste!**

Finally, there are some more original and useful ways to get your daily meals while watching your budget – and contributing to food waste reduction!

You may know the app TooGoodToGo already as it is popular in many countries across the globe. Good news – it works in Denmark, too! This app helps you find shops, restaurants, and hotels close to you that sell overproduced foods at reduced prices. You can reserve your portion and collect it at a fixed time.

Denmark also has supermarkets that sell food produced in too large quantities cheaper. Wefood, a project by the Danish charity organization Folkekirkens Nødhjælp, have a handful of venues spread across all of Denmark!

You can also go to motatos.dk and buy reduced-price foods and other necessities that have been produced in excess.

### **6. Minimal-waste grocery shopping**

The number of zero- or minimal-waste shops in Denmark is limited, but rising! Bigger cities usually have one to several stores that specialize in environmentally friendly and bulk-buyable products. In regular supermarkets, there are lots of package-free loose vegetables and fruits, but these stores are great for package-free pasta, grains, candy, soap, and other necessities.

So if you would like to produce as little waste as possible, the options for minimal-waste grocery shopping in Denmark include (but are not limited to) Tinc in Aarhus, Løs Market in Copenhagen, or Silo Marked in Odense.

### **7. Online grocery shopping**

There are more possibilities to grocery shop from home besides the one named in the last category! Some of the “regular” grocery stores let you shop for things online. They will collect the goods that you need and have them ready for you to pick up! This can, for example, be done on Coop’s website or Føtex’s “Køb og hent” page. You can also order groceries right to your home: nemlig.com offers you this possibility. For a small delivery fee, you can get regular grocery items delivered to you, as well as “meal boxes” with the ingredients you need for recipes you can find on their website.

### **Good to know when you’re grocery shopping in Denmark**

Many shops have pretty long opening hours, often from 7am or 8am to 9pm-10pm. Some, like Bilka, can also be open from 6am until 11pm or midnight. In Denmark, people rarely pay with cash anymore. Usually, payments happen via credit card or MobilePay, a smartphone app that allows you to transfer money to other people and stores. Very often, you’ll find yourself using self-service check out machines. They can take some time to get used to, but once you get the hang of it, it’s fast and easy. If you do end up using the “traditional” check-out, but aren’t sure what to say to the cashier (and what they’re saying to you)?

Because prices in Denmark are generally high, it’s always good to keep an eye on special offers. On minetilbud.dk, you can find every grocery store chain’s “tilbudsavis” (a magazine that presents special offers). They also have an app!



## **USED SOURCES**

[Water, gas, heating and electricity | International.kk.dk](#)

[Broadband: Compare Internet Prices Today \(samlino.dk\)](#)

[Denmark Guide: Mobile phone, Using a mobile phone in Denmark: There are various mobile telephone providers in \(justlanded.com\)](#)

[The Ultimate Guide on Grocery Shopping in Denmark: 7 Types of Shops to Fit Your Needs! - Swap Language Blog](#)

[Electricity and Gas - Denmark - Angloinfo](#)





out if they offer such service. Regular bags and any packaging should not be thrown in the container (unless they are paper bags). The biobags must be tied closed tightly so nothing leaks and thrown in the madaffald bin.

*Yes please: Raw & cooked food, eggs & eggshells, nuts & nutshells, fish & fishbones, grains & pasta, meat & bones, teabags (remove the tag and staple), coffee filters, cut flowers, used kitchen roll*

*No thank you: Cat and other pet litter, potted plants, garden waste (soil/sand), packaged food waste*

### **PAPIRAFFALD – PAPER WASTE – BECOMES NEW PAPER**

Paper waste should go in the container without a bag. The paper has to be dry and clean before it goes in the bin. This is where all those advertisements and newspapers will end up in if you haven't applied for the "Nej Tak" stickers. If the paper is wet or dirty, it should go in the residual waste bin.

*Yes please: letters, envelopes (with/without window), newspapers, advertisements, brochures, books, small cardboard items (cereal boxes and the like), shoe boxes, writing/drawing/office paper*

*Milk, juice and similar cartons as well as pizza boxes and egg trays do not go in these containers.*

They are made with a mixture of materials and go in the residual waste bin. Same goes for padded envelopes with mixed materials (bubble wrap etc.). Staples, windows from the envelopes and the like are removed in the recycling process. Large cardboard items should be taken to a recycling centre or left for bulky waste collection (read more below).

### **EMBALLAGEAFFALD – PACKAGING WASTE – REUSED FOR NEW PRODUCTS**

Packaging waste is for glass, metal or plastic packaging that has been washed and is not contaminated with food waste or the like. The packaging must be thrown directly in the bin with no lids on. The labels on bottles and jars can be left on, but the extra effort of removing them is appreciated. If the packaging is dirty and can't be cleaned, it has to go in the residual waste container.

*Yes please: tea-light holder, jars, glass bottles, drinking glasses, plastic containers and bottles, plastic fruit packaging, beer/soda cans, metal lids*

*No thank you: chip bags, coffee bags, nails, spray cans, plastic flower pots, ceramics*

Any tableware like plates, mugs, ceramics etc. goes in the residual waste or has to be taken to a recycling centre.



### **STORSKRALD – BULKY WASTE**

There are 3 ways to deal with bulky waste (storskrald):

- Leave the waste on the sidewalk in front of your building the night before waste collecting or before 6am (contact your municipality about the exact days/hours)
- Order a pickup service (information can be found on the website of your municipality)
- Deliver the waste to a recycling centre yourself

If you live in a rental and decide to leave the waste on the street, you need to contact your landlord before doing so. Carpets and large pieces of cardboard should be tied together with a string. If you are leaving a bicycle to be collected as bulky waste, it needs to be marked as such (attach a note to it saying "storskrald").

Note that bulky waste should not be left next to the underground containers as it can prevent the containers from being lifted as well as the collectors are not equipped to collect such waste.

Each type of waste should be put in separate transparent bags. F.e. clothes and shoes in one bag, pots and pans in other. This way the collectors can see what items are in the bags and take them to the right place for recycling.

*Yes please: bicycles, large cardboard items, electronics, white goods, furniture, metal and iron, blankets and mattresses, soft plastic, clothes and shoes, miscellaneous items*

*No thank you: car parts, construction waste, waste water, hazardous waste, garden waste, glass*



## **GENBRUGSPLADS**

Recycling centres are facilities where you can take your household waste that is not food waste or residual waste. These facilities are accessible by vehicles and have multiple large containers available for waste disposal. Some centres have swap points where you can exchange items that are still usable for other similar items. To find your local recycling centre, go to the website of your municipality or look up “genbrugsplads \_\_\_\_\_” (blank = your municipality) on Google.

## **TØJCONTAINERE – CLOTHING CONTAINERS**

Unwanted clothes that are not dirty and wet can be left in clothing containers found all over Denmark. These items will be either sold at recycling stores (genbrugsbutik) or sold for further recycling abroad. Clothes that are in very poor condition will be recycled as textile fibres and become new fabrics.

You can also deliver some interior items, toys etc. to some recycling stores. Find the map of those as well as the containers by using this link

<https://www.rodekors.dk/genbrug/genbrugsbutikker/toejcontainer>.

*Yes please: clothes (stained, with holes, worn down), shoes, textiles (scarves, linen, tablecloths), bags and belts*

*No thank you: dirty or wet items*

.

## **USED SOURCES**

[Recycling In Denmark - How To Dispose Of Your Trash Correctly - DenmarkNU](#)

# **DRIVING IN DENMARK**

## **DRIVING IN DENMARK**

Driving in Denmark requires having a Danish driver's license or a European license. If you have neither, you may be able to exchange your foreign license for a recognized one. Driving in the city centers will likely not outweigh the costs. Most people rely on public transportation or bicycles to commute.

## **RULES OF DRIVING IN DENMARK**

Not signaling when changing lanes could result in a 1,000 DKK fine (roughly 134 EUR).

You must have your headlights on at all times—day or night. If you buy or rent a car in Denmark, its headlights will likely turn on automatically. The use of seatbelts is mandatory for every person in the car. Driving speed is 50 km/h in cities, 80 km/h outside the city, and between 110 and 130 km/h in highways. It is common to switch tires twice a year in Denmark—a set of tires for winter and another for summer. To drive in Denmark, you will need a valid driving license, proof of registration, and insurance for your vehicle. The minimum age for driving in Denmark is 18 (or 17 if supervised by another driver who is at least 30 years old and has had a driver's license for at least ten years).

## **HOW TO GET A DANISH DRIVING LICENSE**

Exchanging your foreign driver's license costs 280 DKK (38 EUR).

International driving permits only allow non-residents to drive in the country. Residents in Denmark registered with a CPR number will need to either exchange their existing license or take the Danish driving exam.

### **Who Needs to Exchange Their License and Who Doesn't:**

European licenses are valid in Denmark. There is no need to exchange it and you can use it as long as the license itself is valid. Greenland is an exception. To drive there, you will need to take lessons and a driving test.

You may also be able to exchange your license if you are from a country outside the EU or EEA. The countries include Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Isle of Man, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Ukraine, and the US. These licenses can be exchanged within one year. The driver must sign a declaration stating that they have been driving for the last two years and have not had their license revoked in the previous five years.

If your license is not listed, you must check with your kommune (municipality) if you can exchange it without taking the theoretical or practical exam. If not, taking the test is your only option.

### **Exchanging a Foreign Driver's License**

The first step is to make an appointment with the Borgerservice in your kommune. You should bring the following documents:

- medical certificate issued by your family doctor no longer than 3 months in a sealed envelope
- photograph (see the requirements)
- original driving license
- residence permit (if applicable)
- passport if you are a Nordic citizen
- yellow health card if you are an EU citizen
- translation if the driving license is not written in English or in accordance with the EU model

## **RENTING A CAR IN DENMARK**

If you need drive a rental car in Denmark, you should have no problem finding car rental companies in your area. You will need to be at least 21 years old and had to have held a driver's license for a minimum of one year. In some companies, you may be asked to pay a young driver fee if you are under 26 years old.

# **TRANSPORTATION IN DENMARK**

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN DENMARK**

How is public transportation in Denmark? Most public transportation networks in Denmark are extensive and reliable. You will find buses and trains in major cities, a metro in Copenhagen, and a number of ferries connecting the country's main islands. There are a few airports connecting bigger cities, although these are typically not used for domestic travel.

In bigger cities, one ticket for public transportation often works for several modes of transportation, like buses, trains, or the metro. Do keep in mind that most people in Denmark own a bicycle and use it for everyday trips.

## **COSTS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN DENMARK**

A ticket for public transportation should cost around 22 DKK (3 EUR). A monthly pass for several transportation modes would be around 462 DKK (62 EUR).

### **Bus**

Bus networks are common in main cities. These may be divided into several zones, which often dictate the price of the transportation. You can buy tickets on the bus. Just make sure to have the correct amount, as drivers may not have change or refuse to take bills as a security measure.

### **Train**

DSB is the national railway company operating in Denmark, but you will find other companies as well, such as Arriva or Nordjyske. Regional trains connect several towns and outskirts of a city to a main station. Intercity trains are the best way to travel between cities, especially the InterCity Lyn (ICL) which is faster and around the same price as regular intercity trains. With an intercity train from the capital, you should take an hour and a half to visit Odense, three hours to visit Aarhus, and one hour to reach Aalborg.

### **Metro**

You will find a metro network in Copenhagen. The lines connect the municipalities of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg, and Tårnby.

### **Taxi**

Taxis can be quite expensive in Denmark. You should expect a normal tariff to start at around 48 DKK (6,5 EUR) and every kilometer to cost 15 DKK (2 EUR). For example, a ride from the airport to the city center in Copenhagen would cost around 200 DKK (27 EUR).



# **SIGHTS, ATTRACTIONS AND TYPICAL FOOD IN DENMARK**

Very few of us are familiar with the Danish cuisine other than pickled herring and butter cookies. Over the years, the cuisine has been greatly influenced by many other surrounding European cultures. However, here are some of the more traditional Danish offerings that the Danish people love.

- Smørrebrød (open-faced sandwiches)
- Stegt flæsk med persillesovs (pieces of pork with potatoes and parsley sauce)
- Krasenkager (marizpan ring cake)
- Boller i karry (dumplings in curry)
- Æblekage (apple charlotte)
- Frikadeller (meat balls)
- Kannelsnegl (cinnamon roll)
- Pandekager (a thin, crepe-like pancake)
- Rødgrød
- Æbleflæsk

The ancient heartland of the Viking kingdoms and one of the undisputed jewels of the continent, Denmark bridges the cultural and geographical gap between northern Europe and Scandinavia. Here, we list some of the must-see spots in the country. From ancient burial sites to sophisticated, design-mad cities, Denmark has a lot to offer.

- Copenhagen
- Faroe Islands
- The Danish Riviera
- Odense
- Skagen
- Roskilde
- Skjodungernes Land National Park
- Aarhus
- Thy National Park
- Fredericia
- Billund
- Bornholm
- Ribe
- Aalborg
- Kerteminde

## **USED SOURCES**

[Traditional Food In Denmark | Trip101](#)

[15 Best Places to Visit in Denmark - The Crazy Tourist](#)