

Denmark

Understanding World Cultures
Osher course, January 2021

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Travel Plan

A world map showing red lines connecting various continents, with a callout box pointing to Denmark in Northern Europe that says "We are here".

A map of Europe with Denmark highlighted in a red circle. The map shows various European countries and their borders.

Denmark's location in Europe

DENMARK

A detailed map of Denmark showing major cities and regions. The map includes a scale bar (0-60 km / 0-40 miles) and a compass rose. Major cities shown include Copenhagen, Aarhus, and Odense. Regions shown include Jutland, Zealand, and Funen.

Map of Denmark

Photo Album

A photograph of Rådhuspladsen in Copenhagen, showing the large, ornate City Hall building and the tall spire of the Church of Our Lady in the background.

Rådhuspladsen, København

Photo Album

A photograph of Nyhavn in Copenhagen, showing a row of colorful, historic buildings along the water with many boats docked.

Nyhavn, København

Photo Album



Odense, hometown of Hans Christian Andersen

Photo Album



Christiana, København

Photo Album



Part of Tivoli Gardens, København

Photo Album



Den Gamle By,
Århus

Photo Album



Pigs, Århus

More pigs than people.
Highly efficient industry.
No antibiotics.

Photo Album



Seacoast, Jylland

Photo Album



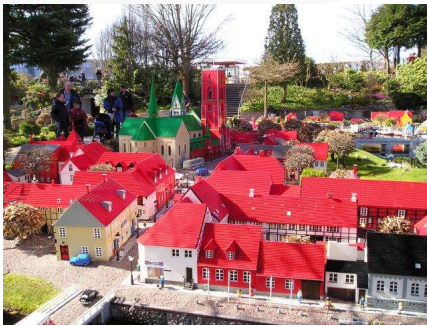
Jylland landscape with wind farm

Photo Album



Sommerhuset

Photo Album



Legoland, Billund

Economic culture

- The state provides cradle-to-grave security.
 - The standard of living is high.
 - There is no poverty and little conspicuous wealth.



Typical Danish home

Economic culture

- The catch...
 - Taxes include 60% income tax plus VAT. 200+% sales tax on automobiles.



First rate cycling infrastructure

Economic culture

- Unemployment is high, but benefits are generous.
 - Unemployed move to Copenhagen



Economic culture


- Danes partly rely on a protective and organized state for a sense of security.
 - Friendship less important.
 - Families weak.
 - Partners often don't marry.
 - Kids in child care, parents in retirement homes.



Day care center, Copenhagen

Economic culture

- Denmark does not rely on the engineering approach of the Germans, but:
 - Much thought invested in efficient design. Neat and orderly.



Economic culture


- Efficient utilities, transportation, etc.
- A highly rationalized and protective state provides security.



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Economic culture

- There is a strong sense of equality (low power distance).
 - Secretaries get office windows.
 - Relatively small salary range.
 - Sanitation worker is a prized occupation because of high salary.



Economic culture

- People do not abuse the system because:
 - There is a sense of enfranchisement; people feel that they are part of the system rather than working for it.
 - The extremely homogeneous population shares values.



Happiest people in the world thru 2016 (*World Happiness Report*)
Now no. 2, behind Finland

Economic culture

- Danes are uneasy about immigrants.
 - Tourists are welcome, but not foreign residents.
 - Admit refugees in special cases, but constantly talk about the immigrant "problem."



Economic culture

– *Jyllandsposten* cartoon.

MORGENAVISEN
Jyllands-Posten



Politics

- The royal family is analogous to the British monarchy.
 - The Parliament (*Folketing*) makes the laws.
- English is widely spoken.



Queen Margarethe

Cultural background

- Danes are private and shy around strangers, particularly foreigners.
 - One does not speak to strangers on the street except for utilitarian purposes.
 - It is OK to ask the time of day: *Hvad er klokken?*
 - Do not ask about family or personal matters, illness, etc.

Cultural background

- There is a Celtic/Nordic sense of fun (*sjov*), adventure (*eventyr*), and make believe
 - *Tivolis* (amusement parks) are popular.
 - Lego toys (from *legetøj*).
 - *Nisser* (elves).



Cultural background

- The society is monochronic but there is little time pressure.
 - No one hurries.
 - Working hours are short.
 - No one works overtime or takes work home.
 - No salvation through work, as in USA.

Cultural background

- Culture is "feminine."
 - There is a preference for cooperation rather than competition.
 - No hard sells or buzz words.



Aarhus Handelshøjskolen

Cultural background

- There is little crime and violence (but there are groups of "bikers").



Cultural background

- Alcoholism is a problem.
 - Long, dark winters and secure, orderly environment are boring.




Cultural background

- Language is earthy.
 - No distinction of polite and vulgar language.
- No trace of Puritanism.
 - Explicit magazines and newspapers, nude beaches, etc.

Cultural background

- Danes are secular (despite a large number of state-supported pastors).
 - Cultural solidarity and patriotism serve some functions of religion.
 - Danes invented the concept of a national flag (*Dannebrog*).



Cultural background

- Bicycles rule the land.
 - Danes see themselves as environmentalists



Cultural background

- Sports enthusiasts, especially *fodbold* (football) - participatory, not spectator sports.



Cultural background

- Stress management techniques include:
 - careful design
 - neatness and order
 - protective state
 - homogeneous population
 - avoidance of time pressure
 - fun.

Social life

- Most business entertaining, when it happens, is in restaurants.
 - *Skål* means "cheers."
 - Friends entertained at home.



Social Life

- A visit to a private home is possible.
 - Your host will want to show you the entire house.
 - Due to their privacy ethic, Danes are nosy.
- Courtesy is not part of the culture.
 - Obedience to rules is.



Some Phrases

- *Godt nok* - OK
- *Det er deilig (dårlig)* - That's nice (nasty)
- *Tak, tak for det* - Thanks
- *Versåvenlig* - Please (rarely used)
- *Held og lykke* - Good luck
- *Ikke os'* - Right?



Scandinavia

Other Scandinavian Countries

- Similar with respect to protective welfare state, neat and orderly existence, efficient design.
 - They tend to have a sense of superiority.
 - Less easygoing and fun-loving than Danes.





Norway

- Dominant Norwegian language (*Bokmål*) is very similar to Danish.
 - But don't mention this fact; it is a sensitive issue.
 - Some Norwegians also speak *Nynorsk*, which is similar to Swedish.

Norway

- Norwegians can be very reclusive.
- Prices are incredibly high, business hours short.



Sweden

- Sweden relies heavily on state regulation of everything.
 - DUI, idling auto.
- A highly developed medical establishment.
 - Cf. Mayo Clinic, USA.
- Sense of superiority (e.g., Nobel Prizes).

Volvo – built for safety




- ### Iceland
- Very insular.
 - The language is carefully protected from foreign influence.
 - Foreigners instantly spotted.
 - Common view: harsh climate evolved a superior breed of people.
 - Financial crisis – deregulation 2001, overvaluation of krona led to currency bubble.



- ### Finland
- Admitted to Scandinavian club as a matter of courtesy.
 - Related to Uralic people of Russia and Magyars of Hungary.
 - Language is not Indo-European.
 - Recent, impressive gains in education.
 - World's happiest country



- ### The Sámi
- The Sámi are native to the tundra in the northern reaches of Scandinavia and Russia.
 - *Tundra* is a Sámi word.
 - Sámi reject the designations "Lapp" and "Lapland."
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The Sámi

- Sámi and Scandinavians conflict over land rights, etc.
 - Similar to “first nation” peoples elsewhere.
 - Many Sámi have migrated to urban areas.



Traditional dress