Denmark - Officially- Kingdom of Denmark

- In Danish- Kongeriget Danmark

• Size
Denmark is approximately 43,069 square kilometers or 16,629 square miles. Denmark consists of a peninsula, Jutland, that extends from Germany northward as well as around 406 islands surrounding the mainland. Some of the larger islands are Fyn, Lolland, Sjælland, Falster, Langeland, MØn, and Bornholm. Its size is comparable to the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut combined.

• Location
Denmark's exact location is the 56°14’ N. latitude and 8°30’ E. longitude at a central point. It is mostly bordered by water and is considered to be the central point of sea going trade between eastern and western Europe. If standing on the Jutland peninsula and headed in the specific direction these are the bodies of water or countries that would be met.

North: Skagettak, Norway
West: North Sea, United Kingdom
South: Germany
East: Kattegat, Sweden

Most of the islands governed by Denmark are close in proximity except Bornholm. This island is located in the Baltic Sea south of Sweden and north of Poland.

• Capital
The capital city of Denmark is Copenhagen. In Danish it is Københaun. It is located on the Island of Sjælland. Latitude of the capital is 55°43’ N. and longitude is 12°27’ E.

• Geography
Terrain: Denmark is basically flat land that averages around 30 meters, 100 feet, above sea level. Its highest elevation is Yding Skovhøj that is 173 meters, 586 feet, above sea level. This point is located in the central range of the Jutland peninsula.
Coastline: The 406 islands that make up part of Denmark allow for a great amount of coastline. There are 4545 miles of coast making Denmark a country that relies heavily on sea transportation. The eastern coastline is heavily indented with waterways called fjords. When in Denmark, no matter where you are you can not be more than 32 miles from a coast.

Temperature: In summer, the temperature averages 61° F, while winter temperatures are around 32° F. At these temperatures, wearing a coat is required year round.

Rainfall: Annual rainfall is approximately 610 millimeters or 24 inches.

• History
Many historians believe that somewhere in 10,000 B.C. Danes inhabited Denmark and its islands. However, most of the history that is known about the Danes starts in the 5th and 6th centuries A.D. This information was mostly discovered on archeological digs. Such things as canals and bridges as well as ramparts from fortifications were found. Most of the historical information starts in the 8th century with the Viking Age beginning. The Vikings from the Denmark area started conquering areas such as England and other isles in the area and set up a system known as Danelaw. The Christian religion was brought to Denmark in the 10th century and still remains today. Expansion of the Danish rule happened in the 12th and 13th centuries. The kingdom and nobility became very powerful at this time while the peasant class became poorer. This era led to the creation of the merchant and tradesman classes to find higher income to support families. As the nobility became restless, King Eric V was forced to sign a charter that made the crown subordinate to the law and the Assembly of Lords. After a minor fall in Danish power occurred in 1330’s, Waldemar IV reestablished Denmark as the leading power force in the Baltic Sea with trade control held by the Hanseatic League. The late 1330’s brought Norway, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands into a union with Denmark. When Olaf II, grandson of Waldemar IV died, his mother Margaret I reigned and obtained Sweden which formed the Union of Kalmar. The Swedish aristocrats fought Christian II’s tyrannical rule for independence and eventually won. After losing Sweden, Christian II was driven from the throne and chaos ruled the land until Christian III with the help from the Swedish king gained political power. In the late 16th and early 17th centuries the Nordic Seven Years’ War and the War of Kalmar were fought between Sweden and Denmark for rule over the Baltic Sea. Interference by Denmark in the German struggle of the Protestant cause brought the country into the Thirty Years’ War. The constant struggle between Denmark and Sweden continued and lead to the Swedish Wars. During these wars Denmark lost several islands in the Baltic and the Scandinavian Peninsula, except Norway. Due to the losses sustained by these wars, the members of the commercial class and the Monarchy joined forces to remove some of the power that the nobility held. In 1661, the Monarchy became completely hereditary and
more of the privileges were removed from nobility and commoners began to rule in administrative positions. By the 18th century, Greenland was colonized and trading companies were set up in East Asia and the West Indies. Back in the northern reaches of Denmark, the enclosure movement brought about an increased production of agricultural products. England’s blockades during the Napoleonic War’s led to the destruction of Copenhagen twice and the defeat of the Danish Navy. After siding with Napoleon, Denmark lost Helgoland to England, and Norway to Sweden. This was a direct result of the loss of the naval forces to control these land areas. However, Denmark did gain Swedish Pomerania, which it exchanged for Lauenburg. The government then created the constitution and became a Constitutional Monarchy, which is still in place today. In 1848 a revolution erupted between Denmark and Germany over two duchies. Denmark with aid from Russia won the first wave of attacks. Then in 1864, Prussia and Austria combined forces and captured the duchies as well as more land. In 1866, the revision of the constitution added a more powerful house to the government than the one in place. Commerce, industry, and finance flourished while the working class grew. During World War I Denmark stayed neutral. At the end of the war the Virgin Islands were sold to the United States. The next year Denmark recognized Iceland’s independence while keeping Denmark’s king as the Head of State. In 1939, Denmark signed a 10-year non-aggression act with Nazi Germany, and in 1940 the Germans invaded and occupied Denmark. However, Danish police helped Denmark’s 6000 Jews to escape to neutral Sweden on the eve of their arrest and deportation. In 1944, Iceland removed all Danish ties and became a republic. After World War II, Denmark joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Community (EEC). After World War II, the governing bodies of Denmark looked toward the environment, setting new bills into action to provide for the country and its future. In 1992, narrowly rejected the treaty that would integrate monetary units with the European Community and provide increased political power in the Community. After modifications were made, the treaty went to vote again and passed.

• Important Dates
  5th and 6th centuries – First known history
  8th century – Age of the Viking
  780 – First raid on the British Isles
  10th century – Christianity brought to Scandinavian region
  1013-1014 – Sweyn I conquers all of England
  12th and 13th centuries – Eastern expansion, especially the southern coastal regions of the Baltic Sea
- Denmark is twice the size it is today
- Feudalism is at its peak

1282 – King Eric V signed what is known as the “Danish Magna Carta”
giving more power to the assembly of lords. This is known as Danehof.

1332 – Decline of Danish power after Christopher II until Waldemar IV
gained control

1380 – Norway, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands join Denmark under Olaf II

1389 – Olaf’s mother, Margaret I ascends the thrown and gains Sweden

1397 – Completion of the Union of Kalmar

1523 – Breakdown of the Union of Kalmar when Sweden won independence

- Christian II driven from throne of Denmark

1534-1559 – Rule of Christian III and the conformation of the Lutheran church as the state church

1563-1570 – Nordic Seven Years’ War

1611-1613 – War of Kalmar

1620’s – Denmark led into the Thirty Years’ War with Germany over the Protestant cause

1643-1645 – Swedish Wars

1657-1660 – Swedish Wars, Denmark lost several Baltic islands and all land on the Scandinavian Peninsula except Norway

- Loss of foreign markets and trade

1660 – Aristocratic titles made hereditary

1661 – Commoners replace nobility in the nations administrative positions

18th century – Denmark settles Greenland and makes foreign markets in East Asia and the West Indies

1788 – Enclosure movements create more agricultural products

1799-1815 – Napoleonic Wars
1801 and 1807 – Copenhagen bombarded by English naval fleets and Danish Navy destroyed

1814 – Peace of Kiel; Denmark lost Helgoland to the British, Norway to Sweden and gained Swedish Pomerania which was later traded to Prussia for Lauenburg

1848 – Revolution of 1848 for two duchies between Denmark, with Russian help, win against Germany. Then Austria and Prussia fight Denmark to win the duchies.

1849 – Proclamation of the constitution

1866 – Revision of the constitution to add upper house (Landstig) to the government with the lower house (Folketing)

1880 – Organization of the Democratic party helped the Danish labor movement fight for democratic constitution.

1914-1918 -- World War I, Denmark remains neutral

1917 – Sale of the Virgin Islands in the West Indies to United States

1918 – Iceland’s independence recognized by Denmark with king still Iceland’s head of state

- Universal suffrage in effect

1920 – Schleswig split into northern, Danish, and southern, German, portions

1939-1945 – World War II

1939 – Denmark signed a 10-year non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany

1940 – Germany invades and occupies Denmark

1949 – Denmark joins North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

1953 – Revised constitution was accepted

1959 – Denmark joins European Free Trade Association

1972 – Denmark joins European Economic Community (EEC)
1979 – Greenland was allowed home rule with Danish protection

1980-1990’s – Folketing focuses on environmental conditions

1992 – Voters reject the Maastricht Treaty

1993 – After revisions were made, voters accepted the treaty that increased political and monetary integration with other European countries

- Population
  The population of Denmark is 5,192,000. There was a large boom of births in the early twentieth century; however, now there is a negative population growth rate of 0.07%. Life expectancy for a male is 71 years for females it is 77 years. Approximately 85% of the population live in urban areas. There is a population density at 121 people per square kilometer or 312 people per square mile.

- Currency
  Standard form of currency in Denmark is a Krone. The representation for a Krone is “kr.” In 1999, a US dollar equaled 6.57kr and in turn 10kr equaled $1.52 US.

- Education
  All children between the ages of 7-16 are required to attend government tax supported schools. Universities are also tax supported. However there is very high competition to be accepted. There is a 99% literacy rate in Denmark. Foreign language classes are also required.

- Language
  The primary language in Denmark is Danish. English is said to be the second most popular language although it is not official. Most schools also teach Russian, German, French and Spanish.

- Religion
The Evangelical Lutheran church is the primary religion having 96% of the population claiming this religion. Another 3% combine several other Christian religions while 1% are non-Christian religions. Denmark as a whole is very tolerant where religion is concerned.

- **Agriculture**
  Approximately 70% of Denmark is cultivatable land. Another 10% is forested area that contains conifers, beech, oak and ash trees. Indigenous animals include deer, fox, squirrel, hare, and wild fowl. Fishing, fresh and salt water, is very important to the population of Denmark as well. Soils in the area are highly acidic in nature. Crops that are grown also need intense fertilization. Barley and wheat are the most abundant crops grown. Other crops include oats, rye, sugar beets, potatoes, flax, hemp, hops, and tobacco. Meat and dairy products are the most significant to the country. Denmark is reported to be on the top of the list in meat production, with hogs and cattle being produced most. Recently, the poultry industry and fur breeders have begun to make progress in Denmark. Small farms are abundant and work through a cooperative system to purchase and market their goods.

- **Imports/Exports and Industry**
  Denmark imports mostly raw materials and processes them for sale internally or in foreign trade. Soil conditions demand fertilizer that is imported as well. Denmark’s highest export is butter. Hogs, cattle, cheese, and eggs also are part of the export market. They trade in the European Economic Community (EEC). Denmark is becoming an industrialized country, with shipbuilding being one of the largest industries. The fishing industry and food processing industries are in high demand.

- **Common Foods**
  Open-faced sandwiches are quite popular at noon and dinner meals using a variety of meats, poultry and fish. Dairy products are also plentiful in Denmark. Common drinks in Denmark include coffee, tea, and beer. Beer is one of the most common drinks and Denmark can boast that they are the second highest producer of beer. Eighteen years is the legal drinking age.

- **Landmarks**
  Most of the famous sites to be seen are found in the country’s capital of Copenhagen. However, there are a few landmarks in other parts of the country also.

  Copenhagen:
  - Rundentarn – Round Tower
- Tivoli - Amusement Park
- Nyhavn – Hans Christian Anderson wrote some of his first fairy tales here
- Christianborg Castle – Parliament house
- Royal Theater – Houses the Royal Danish Ballet
- Amalienborg Palace – Queens Palace
- Den Lille Havfrue – Statue of the Little Mermaid
- Arbejder Museet – Workers Museum
- Assistens Kirkegard – Resting place of several people important to Denmark’s history including Hans Christian Anderson

Odense:

- H.C. Andersen’s Hus – Museum about the author with free showings of some of the fairy tales
- Den Fynske Lansby – Collection of 18th and 19th century buildings
- Egeskov Castle – one of a dozen castles in the area that are still standing

Arhus:

- Marselisborg Castle: The Queen’s summer home

Border of Denmark and Germany:

- Dybobøl Battlefield – several historical sites that relate to any conflict between Denmark and Germany
- Ribe – Old cathedral town that has been well preserved

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