



STUDY SUPPORT

DENMARK GENERAL PART





I. GENERAL PART

1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTRY

1.1 GEOGRAPHY

Denmark spans an area of 44.000 km² and very flat. The highest you can get is 170,86 m at Møllehøj, 9 cm taller than the second highest, Yding Skovhøj at 170,77 m.

Denmark, as presented on the map, consist of 1.419 islands of more than 100 m², of which 443 are given names. 72 of these islands have inhabitants. Altogether, the part of Denmark present at this map, has almost 7.000 km of coastline.

The only land-based border Denmark has is in the south, connecting Denmark to Europe by Germany.

In fact, Denmark is one of the biggest countries in the world. We are much bigger than the 44.000 square meters presented at the first map. Greenland and The Faroe Islands are also a part of the Danish Kingdom. Greenland is 2.166.000 km² and the Faroe Islands is 1.399 km² and consist 18 islands.



Denmark make up, together with Sweden and Norway, the Scandinavian countries, and make up with Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway, the Nordic countries. The Capital of Denmark is Copenhagen.



1.2 STATE AND TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Denmark is a constitutional monarchy. Representing it is Queen Margrethe the 2nd, who is head of state. Denmark has been a kingdom ever since the middle of the 9th century.

The line of kings and queens has consisted of many various generations, but they all descend from the first king in the line: Gorm the Old. (However, the Norwegian Magnus the Good (Danish King 1042-1047) was not known as a descendant of Gorm the Old).



The first photo is of queen Margarethe visiting people in Greenland, and in the second she is visiting the Faroe Islands, placed north of Scotland.

On June 5, 1849 King Frederik 7 signed Denmark's first democratic constitution. This constitution replaced the constitution of 1665, and marked the transition from sovereign monarchy, to constitutional monarchy and a more democratic rule of law – though only 8% of the population obtained the right to vote. The background for this law must be seen in the light of the revolutionary, democratic and national policy flow, that characterized most of Europe in the first part of the 19th century. Denmark first obtained full democracy with the new constitution in 1915, when women, servants and poor people got the right to vote, and to be elected to the parliament. Denmark has a parliament of 179 members, with 2 secured members representing the Faroe Islands and 2 secured members representing Greenland.

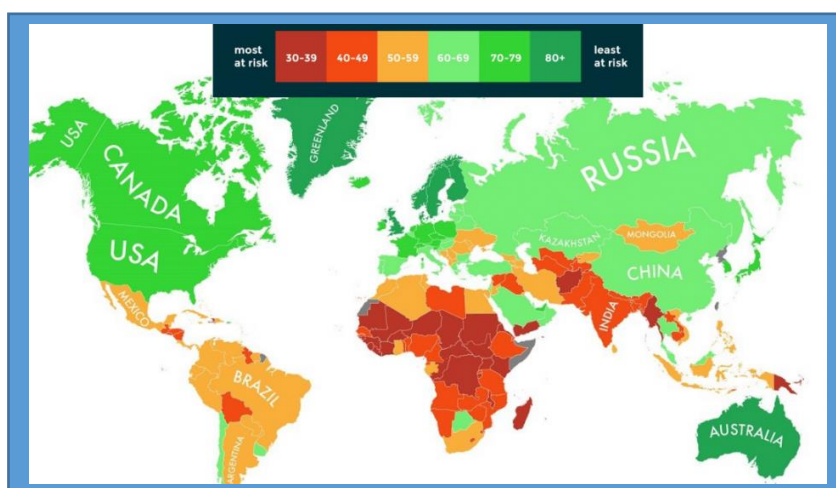


1.3 TIME AND CLIMATE ZONES

Our central European time is UTC +1:00, 1 hour ahead of England and 1 hour behind Israel and Greece. In the period of late March to late October, Denmark changes to daylight saving time – which means that the clock is pushed one hour ahead.




The location of Denmark being up North, results in cool summers with average temperatures around 16 ° C, and not particularly cold winters with average temperatures around 0.5 ° C. Denmark is thus located in the temperate climate zone. It is very windy, most strongly in winter and weakest in summer.

However, it has changed, which is becoming more and more visible. It is becoming warmer and this provides heavier rain. Denmark has measured its climate systematically since the middle of 1850ths. Summer 2018 has set all times records when it comes to heat and number of sun hours, the number of days higher than 30celcius, and the length of dry period.



However, as the world map shows, Denmark is one the countries who are most prepared and ready to meet the consequences of climate change.

Denmark has

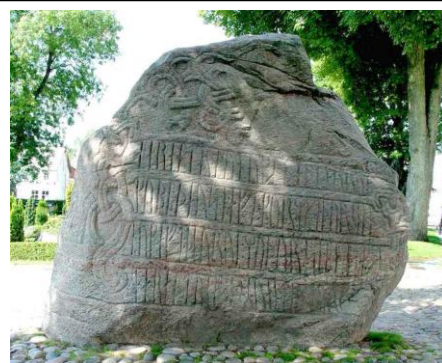
-  5.8 million people living in Denmark
-  66.000 people living in Greenland
-  49.200 living in the Faroe Islands



The first people in Denmark

To a lot of people, Denmark is known as the place of the Vikings. Officially, the Viking period is defined to take place between 800 to 1050. During this period Denmark is set up as a country.

The name *Denmark* is identified for the first time at the Stone of Jelling dated to 985, but the word Denamearc is also mentioned around 890 by the Norwegian Ottar, and in the Anglo-Saxon chronicle Orosius, and is considered to refer to the same territory as Harald Bluetooth wrote on the big stone at Jelling.

[illegible]

King Harald ordered the making of these words to honour Gorm, his father, and after Thyra, his mother - the Harald who won all Denmark and Norway and made the Danes Christian.



3. COUNTRY POLICY

3.1 POLITICAL SITUATION

Denmark is a democracy, and it has been since 1848, as stated earlier. For the election for municipality and regional authorities, the potential voters were **4.145.321**

It is a free decision if Danes vote on elections, but normally Danes take part in elections at a quite high level. The election turnout at November 2017 was **85,5 %**

The Danish way of holding an election is pointed out to be one of the fairest in the world. On the other hand, it is also one of the most complex.

We think it is good to share our system with other people/nations.

A total of 179 members must be elected to FOLKETINGET (the Danish Parliament). 175 members comes from Denmark, 2 comes from Greenland and 2 from the Faroe Islands.

The seats in the Parliament are distributed according to a special Danish variant of the method called 'the ratio method'.

The method ensures that the parties get seats in the parliament in proportion to how many votes they have received throughout the country. For example, if a party receives 10 percent of the votes in the country, it must also have 10 percent of the seats in Parliament.





4. ECONOMY

4.1 CURRENCY

Denmark is not a member of the Eurozone. The national currency is named **kroner** (Danish crowns) and have a value of approximately 7,48 dkr. which correspond with 1 euro.

Denmark is rated at triple AAA when it comes to creditworthiness.

Denmark's economic freedom score is 76.6, making its economy the 12th most free economy in the 2018 Index published by the world bank.

Its overall score has increased by 1.5 points, led by improvements in the judicial effectiveness, tax burden, and government spending indicators.

Denmark is ranked 6th among 44 countries in the European region, and its overall score is above the regional and world averages.

Denmark's economy performs notably well in regulatory efficiency. Open-market policies sustain flexibility, competitiveness, and large trade and investment flows, and the transparent and efficient regulatory and legal environment encourages robust entrepreneurial activity.



In Denmark we have „Kroner“ and the smallere ones are named „Øre“

4.2 WAGES, SALARY RATIOS

Denmark is one of the countries with the highest level of equality when it comes to salaries and income. The majority of people belong to the middle-income group.



4.3 SOCIAL SUPPORT, RETIREMENT

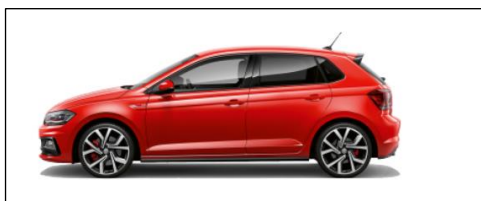
Denmark has quite high rates for social support, and people can be supported from the age of 18. The retirement age from the labour market has been age 65 for many years, but it is now slowly increasing, in accordance with people's birth year. It is expected that younger people will have to stay at the labour market until age 70/71. the reason for this increase is the positive development in average lifespan.

4.4 PRICES

Most foreigners coming to Denmark as tourists or for shorter stays, experience the fact that Denmark is an expensive country. When you live in Denmark the high prices are of course met by relatively high salaries. Going to supermarkets, prices are comparable to many countries, but going to restaurants, transportation and visiting tourists' attractions, prices are quite expensive. Due to the price level, many Danes make car trips to Germany to buy specific goods – but on the other hand the Swedish come to Denmark to buy certain goods and articles.

- 1 litre of milk - 5,95 d.kr. /0,80 euro
- 1 kg Salmon - 274 d.kr. pr. kg. /36 euro
- 1,5 litre of Coca Cola - 2,5 euro
- 1 litre gasoline 11 d.kr./1,50 euro

Cars are quite expensive in Denmark compared to other countries, as they are taxed quite high.





4.5 TYPICAL DANISH PRODUCTS

Denmark is an agricultural country. We raise about 20 million pigs every year - almost more than 3x the population. The slaughter company Danish Crown is the biggest exporter of meat in Europe and among the 5 greatest slaughter companies in the world.

In the same way, many people have met and perhaps tasted ARLA's milk products as ARLA is the 5th biggest dairy producer in the world.



Denmark was the first country to focus on green electricity produced by windmills. The company **Vestas** has, for many years, been the biggest company in the world when it comes to producing windmills worldwide.



Many diabetics around the world are using insulin from **Novo Nordisk**. Novo has for many years been a leading company within the diabetic area, mainly because of the quality of their insulin, but also very much caused by their focus on developing user-friendly tools and equipment. And many children will know LEGO. **LEGO** is the second largest producer of toys for children in the world. All due to a little brick that has been a part of many people's childhood all over the world. LEGO has for many years focused on the correlation between play/fun, learning and development.





5. RELIGIONS, ETHNICS, MINORITIES

It is stated in the constitution that people in Denmark have religious freedom.

A religious community must consist of at least 150 official members in order to be approved.

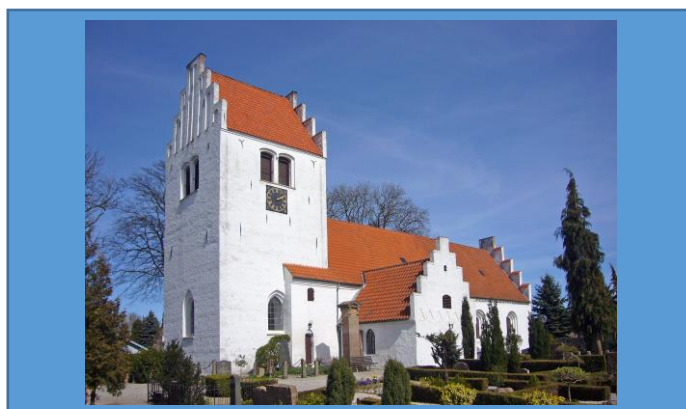
A congregation must consist of at least 50 official members in order to be approved. However, a church in the world religions may be approved despite a lower number of members, if it is in a sparsely populated area, for example in Greenland.

Denmark is a Lutheran protestant evangelic community.

Lutheranism is a Christian tradition, more specifically the direction of Protestantism, based on Martin Luther's reformist and theology. Worldwide, approx. 70 million of the 2 billion Christians, are Lutherans.

There are approximately 300.000 Muslims in Denmark, and about 140 Mosques.

All over the 44.000 km² we have more than 1.900 of these typical Danish church buildings, as you can see below. Equal to one in every 5 x 5 km. Standing in the right place, you can see up to 19 church towers at once. Most of the churches were built between 1100 and 1200 century.



<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/06/19/unlike-their-central-and-eastern-european-neighbors-most-czechs-dont-believe-in-god/>



6. HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONS OF THE COUNTRY

Denmark have 10 official holidays and 6 weeks of vacation. Schools and educational institutions have up to 8 or 10 weeks of holiday.

One of the most valued traditions is FASTELAVN, but in the last 10 years, less and less children celebrate, or take active part in, the traditional FASTELAVN, but more or less all children celebrate Halloween in October.



The midsummer fire is another valued tradition in Denmark. People meet all around the country around a huge bonfire, to celebrate the longest day in the year, and the return of the more dark period. It is a tradition to send a fake witch to Bloksbjerg or Hekkenfeldt in Germany, by burning a doll.



Easter is another tradition with many different habits and things to be done. Painting eggs is one of them, and at Christmas we bring a tree into our houses.





7. FAMILY

7.1 TRADITIONAL FAMILY, GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

According to the National Statistics office, there are 37 different forms of being a family in Denmark. The majority is still the classic 'father, mother and children' constellation. However, as people nowadays get divorced more and more often, new family constellations are appearing

A family is defined as 'one or more persons living at the same address and having certain mutual relationships'. However, families with children are defined as families with children living at home.

The most common family form of the 37, used by Statistics Denmark, are still couples with children, but it is almost just as common to be a single parent with a child. Denmark was the first country to accept registered partnerships between two people of same sex. It took place the 26th of May 1989.

7.2 MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, REGISTRATED RELATIONSHIP

You can be married at your religious places – for Christians it also includes female/female and male/male marriage. Everybody has to register their marriage with the public authorities. In Denmark, people can be divorced electronically. People just have to enter the internet and tip a document, fill in the forms – and you are divorced. The number of divorces was 15,265 in 2017, which is a decrease of 11 % compared with the previous year, and the lowest since 2012, as well as being on the level of the years before the change in rules in 2013, where you could now be divorced without a separation period.

7.3 CARE FOR AN UNAUTHORIZED CHILD

By anonymous adoption, the child is adopted to unknown families whose identity remains hidden from the biological parents. Throughout the last 20-30 years, anonymous adoptions have evolved into an international social task, which can be seen by in fact that 19 out of 20 anonymous adoptions conducted in Denmark, are about children born abroad. In total, over 500 children from abroad have been coming from many different countries every year, whereas there are only 20-30 Danish children are available for adoption.



8. LIFESTYLE OF THE COUNTRY

8.1 GENERAL

A characteristic that many foreigners attach to, is the Danish's informal relationship with each other. This applies between management personnel and employees. It applies between wealthy and not wealthy people. It also applies between teachers and students, and students and students.

You do not flash your income, and it is less important to the person you are with. It is probably caused by the Danes' fascination of establishing unions and associations. We meet by interest, not by social level.

8.2 EDUCATION

Education is free in Denmark, all the way from primary school, to graduating either a VET education or a higher education. Students receive either a salary being a student at many VET educations or are supported by the state with a monthly amount of approximately 800 euro.

In general, educational institutions are operated by public authorities, however there is an increase in the number of "independent primary schools" and private primary schools in Denmark.

You can attend education in Denmark no matter your age. It is unusual though, that people over the age of 40 start at a new educational program.





8.3 PEOPLE'S APPEARANCE

Many Danes believe, and think, that our country is inhabited by a friendly, cheerfully humorous, generously helpful and relaxed folklore.

Studies show that the Danes have a completely different reputation both in our neighbouring countries and beyond, in the big world.

A study shows that foreigners regard the Danes as shameless, raw and unnecessarily rude and honest. We do not care to lose face or to laugh. Our mildly informal performance, casual attire and free mode of action can awaken anxiety and often create difficulties during business negotiations.

8.4 SPECIFICS OF COMMUNICATION, ETIQUETTE

In the old days, when people met, we started with the expression „Hello “. Today most people will say, „Hi“.

In some parts of the population, hugs are a common way of saluting each other – but most people will find it too much, if it takes place the first time people meet. Second or third time will be ok for many people.

For most people it will be enough, and expected, to shake hands.

8.5 MENTALITY

It is difficult to describe a “Danish mentality” as we become more and more of a multiculturalism country. Basically, Danes are a hardworking people and some will say easy to be with, but difficult to get to know more deeply. Some will also characterize Danes as very independent and self-governing people, who like to make their own decisions and have a huge influence on their own daily way of living.

8.6 FOOD

When it comes to food, Denmark has become international during the last 30 to 50 years, mainly because more and more people, starting from the 1960s could afford, and have the possibility, to travel and visit foreign countries and, from that became inspired by their local food habits.

Food is in part influenced by the influx of foreign people coming to Denmark, which started in the late 1960s and now count, as stated before, almost 13% of the Danish population.

Traditionally Denmark is an agricultural country. To elderly people, vegetables and porridge have been a major part of their normal dishes. Later, pork dishes became affordable to everybody and essential to many, and still are today.

Surrounded by sea and water, Denmark has been, and still is, a fishing nation. Fish was a dish for the poor man for many years, particularly in the poor and rural areas. Now a days it is considered as an important dish because of its health benefits. It is expensive and therefore not everybody can afford to include it in their daily or weekly meal.

There are some specialities that are very connected to Denmark. The RUGBRØD is one them and RUGBRØD this transitions into the second one, SMØRREBRØD.

A HOT DOG is also very connected to Denmark, and then what we call BRUN SOVS (brown sauce).

These four things are all good reasons to come to Denmark.



8.7 SPORT, LEISURE

People generally work 7,4 hours a day and spend their spare time in many different ways. Some are very active, but the statistics also show that many people spend more and more time looking at their iPad or computer or watching television.

Football is still the most popular sport in Denmark, followed by handball and badminton. But during the last 10 or 15 years running has been the new way of relaxing and taking care of one's health. The bicycle is also important to many people. Next to the Dutch, Danes are the people who bike the most in Europe.