

DENMARK ODYSSEY

INFORMATION BOOKLET

We hope this Information Booklet gives you the information you need to make a decision about joining us on the Denmark Odyssey in 2010. Don't hesitate to email info@virginiaodysseys.com or call 757-810-3102 with any questions you might have.

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DENMARK ODYSSEY ITINERARY

Day 1 Thursday, August 5

Meet in Nyborg

Distance – 30 kilometers

Hotel Hesselet, Christianslundsskoven, 5800 Nyborg

Phone 65 31 30 29 www.hesselet.dk

We'll meet in Nyborg, one of Denmark's oldest towns with over 800 years of history. The Nyborg Castle was the seat of Danish government from 1200 – 1413. The completion in 1998 of Europe's longest bridge (11 miles) connected Nyborg to Zealand and ended 1000 years of ferry traffic. We can marvel at the majestic spans of this engineering feat from the seaside patio of the Hotel Hesselet. After fitting our bikes, we'll embark on an afternoon warm-up ride. Winding country lanes lead us through farmland to sea vistas stretching wide on the horizon. We'll renew friendships and get to know our fellow cyclists over dinner prepared by the Hesselet's award winning chef, Tina Rasmussen.



Day 2 Friday, August 6

Kerteminde Loop

Distance - 35 (shuttle), 52 (shuttle), or 65 kilometers

Hotel Hesselet, Christianslundsskoven, 5800 Nyborg

Phone 65 31 30 29 www.hesselet.dk



Our bike route today highlights the thatched timber-framed houses, verdant gardens, and blooming hedgerows showing the true idyll of Funen. Our first stop is Kerteminde, a fishermen's market town with an active harbor, narrow streets, and charming houses and shops. Say hello to Amanda, the fisher girl who stands patiently and stares out at the world beyond the sea. Wander around town and visit the Kerteminde Kirke, the Kerteminde Brewery, and the Johannes Larsen Art Museum. We'll bike to the Viking Museum in Ladby where a Viking prince was buried in his ship around 925 AD. Lunch will be at Ulriksholm Castle. Our next stop is Skellerup Church, built in 1150. The Gothic altarpiece is from 1560 and the pulpit from 1597. We see and do a lot on our first full day of biking, but we're in no rush. Set your own pace, stop often for photos, and enjoy

experiencing the Danish countryside – it's your vacation! Dinner is in an historic house (1787) across from Nyborg's City Hall that has housed a restaurant since 1854.

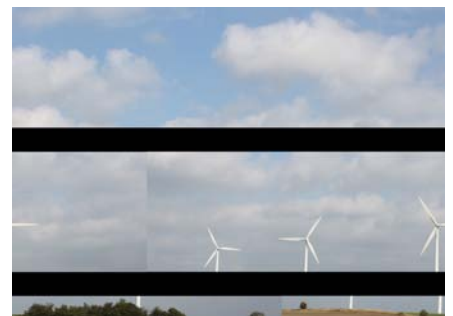
Day 3 Saturday, August 7

Nyborg to Troense

Distance - 46 (shuttle), 56 (shuttle), or 74 kilometers

Hotel Troense Phone 62 22 54 12 www.hoteltroense.dk

This is our longest day so we'll get an early start to our first stop, the ancient monuments at Lykkesholm. You can climb the castle mound where the fortress Magelund Voldsted once stood in the 13th century. Several Neolithic burial chambers are nearby. The main attraction today is Egeskov Castle, widely held to be Europe's best preserved Renaissance island castle. It is indeed a fairytale castle and we'll have plenty of time to explore the house, the magnificent gardens with Europe's largest collection of fuchsias, the three mazes, the dollhouse museum, the tree-top rope walk, and the car museum. After lunch at Egeskov, we'll bike to Tasinge, the fourth largest island in Funen. The Svendborg Sound Bridge, with separate bike path, takes us 132' above the water with dramatic 360° views. Our last stop is medieval Bregninge Kirke, Denmark's most visited church. Climb the church tower and you're at the highest point on the island of Tasinge – 236' above sea level. We'll overnight in Troense which today is a small village overlooking a yachting harbor, but once was home to many sea captains. Dinner at Hotel Troense.



Day 4 Sunday, August 8

Troense to Aeroskobing

Distance - 40 kilometers

Pension Vestergade 44 Phone 62 52 22 98

www.vestergade44.com

We're off to the enchanting island of Aero, where we'll spend two days. Enroute we'll visit the palatial 17th century Valdemars Slot, the 400-year old Ambrosius oak tree, the churchyard where Elvira Madigan and Lt. Sixten Spare (Denmark's Romeo and Juliet) are buried. We'll have lunch in the seaside town of Rudkobing before boarding our ferry for Aero. We disembark in Marstal, where a visit to the Maritime Museum is a must. Aero is called "the Pearl in the South-of-Funen Archipelago." Its largest town, Aeroskobing is perhaps the best preserved 18th century town in Denmark. The European Union Cultural Heritage "Europa Nostra Prize" was awarded in 2002 for its conservation and preservation initiatives. The cozy Pension Vestergade 44 is located in the middle of this fairytale town with its cobblestone streets and half-timbered homes.



Day 5 Monday, August 9

Aero Island Explorer

Distance – 0, 38, 47, or 60 kilometers

Pension Vestergade 44 Phone 62 52 22 98

www.vestergade44.com

The extensive biking routes all across Aero make it the perfect island to be adventuresome and head down any road that looks interesting. Bike at your own pace and make your own discoveries, all the while taking in the magnificent panoramic views opening to the sea.



Layover Day might find you biking to the Soby Mill (1881), Sobygard Slot, the Skjoldnaes lighthouse, the nature reserve of Vitso Nor, several of the seven churches on Aero, or ancient burial mounds. You might choose to visit the largest solar installation in the world. Aero has set a target of covering 80-100% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2010. Our energy for biking will be supplied by both the Soby Bakery and the organic café Den Gronne Gren! At the end of the day we might watch the sun set over the Baltic Sea at Voderup Cliff. The option of "staying put" in Aeroskobing on our Layover Day should also be considered. You certainly won't lack for things to do. After you've shopped, tried a smoked eel, and visited one of the best bottle ship collections in the world, it's off to the beach – or "strand". This is the perfect place to slow down, relax, and listen to the waves lapping the shore.



Day 6 Tuesday, August 10

Aeroskobing to Steensgaard

Distance – 32 or 52 (afternoon option) kilometers

Steensgaard Herregårdspension Phone 62 61 94 90

www.herregaardspension.dk

We bid Aero a fond farewell and board our ferry to return to Funen disembarking at Faaborg, dating from 1229. The self-guided walking tour of Faaborg is highly recommended. Don't miss Kaleko Molle, the oldest working mill in Denmark with its two mill wheels. After visiting the Horne Kirke, one of only six round churches in Denmark, we arrive at Steensgaard Herregårdspension. Steensgaard is listed in *1000 Places to See Before You Die* (2003) and boasts a rich history that goes back centuries and a resident ghost. It is our comfortable manor home for two nights. You have plenty of time to wander its 25-acre park complete with a swan-filled pond. After settling in at Steensgaard you may want to take the optional 20 km spin in the surrounding countryside to work up an appetite. Steensgaard is the perfect setting for our three-course candlelit dinner with accompanying wine for each course.



Day 7 Wednesday, August 11

Steensgaard Layover Day

Distance - 0, 20, or 40 kilometers

Steensgaard Herregårdspension Phone 62 61 94 90

We cross-train today with a hike in the woods! Loop routes for biking in the Funen Alps are also available. Seventeen thousand years ago a glacier moved up from the Baltic Sea. The glacier's edge left behind a hilly landscape with deep valleys known as the Funen Alps. The area is characterized by woods, moorland, bogs, lakes, and streams. Our Danish guide will lead us on a hike in the Svanninge Hills. We'll learn about the wildlife and geology as we climb to Funen's highest peak. Once back at Steensgaard, relax in the garden or at the nearby beach. In the evening we'll be treated to a special presentation by the Hans Christian Andersen Fairytale Players. The child actors in period costumes bring Andersen's timeless fairytales to life. Dinner at Steensgaard.



Day 8 Thursday, August 12

Steensgaard to Odense

Distance – 34 (shuttle) or 50 kilometers

First Hotel Grand Phone 66 11 71 71

www.firsthotels.com/grandodense

Having seen Hans Christian Andersen's fairytales brought to life, it is fitting that we should bike to his home town – Odense. Our route is amidst bucolic rolling countryside, dotted with thatched-roofed farmhouses, orchards, country manors, and kros. Get ready for a geography warp with lunch in a Japanese garden. Peter and Anne Dalsgaard have studied at the University of Kyoto and worked for a Japanese landscape designer. Their desire to achieve a peaceful and harmonious life, and to live in, and pass on, their passion for Japanese gardens and culture, led to the creation of De Japanske Haver. A short bike ride after lunch brings us to the Funen Village, a living open-air Museum just outside Odense. From there we'll cycle on the bike path along the River Odense taking us right into the heart of the Denmark's 3rd largest city. The Danes have voted Odense Denmark's #1 Cycle City for many years running. Odense has been chosen to represent Denmark at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai with its theme *The Revival of the Bicycle*. In keeping with our cultural diversity today, our farewell dinner will be at an authentic Italian restaurant in Odense.



Day 9 Friday, August 13

Odense to Copenhagen by Train

Hotel Mayfair Phone 70 12 17 00

www.clarionhotel.com/hotel-copenhagen-denmark-DK025



Odense After breakfast you may explore Odense on your own. Your checklist might include the H. C. Andersen Birthplace and Museum, the Danish Railway Museum, the Art Museum, the new Brandts Museum of Art and Culture. You can even take a boat cruise on the Odense River. In fact, there is so much to enjoy in Odense that you may want to spend an extra day in this vibrant city full of charm. Odense's new vision statement "At lege er at leve" (To play is to live) is a play on the words of Hans Christian Andersen's "At rejse er at leve" (To travel is to live). The goal is a high quality life for everyone in Odense.

Copenhagen Trains depart every hour for the 1 hr 15 min trip to Copenhagen. If you take the late afternoon train, you'll arrive in time to enjoy dinner before setting out on a walk around the city. Tivoli Gardens, Stroget - the main pedestrian mall, the City Hall Square, and other top attractions are all nearby. The Hotel Mayfair, our recommended hotel in Copenhagen, is only a 10 minute walk from the central train station. It is located in the Vesterbro District.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour Price \$ 2,995 per person, double; \$ 3,495 per person, single

Exchange Rate Adjustment The price above is pegged to the US Dollar-DKK SunTrust Bank exchange rate of 4.70 DKK to 1 dollar on November 5, 2009. The final tour price will be adjusted up, or down, based upon the SunTrust exchange rate on June 15, 2010.

Payment Schedule

December 1	\$ 500 deposit per person (or upon reserving a place)
March 1	\$ 1500 due
July 1	\$ 995

Please make checks payable to: Virginia Odysseys LLC.
Address: 109 Woodmere Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23185

Included in the Tour Price

- 8 nights accommodations
- 8 breakfasts, 7 dinners (3 with wine), 2 lunches and all snacks and drinks for each day's ride
- Bicycle rental
- Full support along the route
- Maps and Cue sheets
- Luggage transfers
- Experienced guides

Not Included in the Tour Price

- Airfare
- Train travel
- Entrance fees to cultural and historical attractions
- Alcohol at dinner (wine is included for 3 dinners)

Cancellations Full refund if cancellation before March 1 (less \$50). Refunds after March 1 based on amount refundable from hotel and travel support vendors.

WHEN, WHERE, & HOW TO ARRIVE

When

The Denmark Odyssey will officially begin on Thursday, August 5 at 2:00 PM in Nyborg. It will end after breakfast Friday, August 13 in Odense.

Where

The Start: Hotel Hesselet, Christianslundsskoven, 5800 Nyborg, Denmark Phone 65 31 30 29
www.hesselet.dk

The End: First Hotel Grand, Jernbanegade 18, 5000 Odense, Denmark Phone 66 11 71 71
www.firsthotels.com/grandodense

Arrival

Nyborg is easily reached by frequent trains from Copenhagen. Trains run every hour and the travel time is 1 hr 15 min. The Hotel Hesselet is six blocks from the Nyborg train station. Shuttle service is available from the train station to the Hotel.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Accommodations

Each overnight accommodation has been hand-picked for its location, uniqueness, and embodiment of "hygge", the special quality of "hominess" the Danes manage to create wherever they live. The accommodations with links to websites are shown in the Itinerary. Needless to say, we'll sleep very well after our day of adventures both on and off the bike.



Food



We'll also eat well! All meals are included, except for five lunches. Our breakfasts will be ample and supply the needed energy for an active day! Dinners are typically three-courses and three dinners include wine. Alcohol at other dinners is on "cash bar" basis. Snacks and water will be provided by the Support Van. Vegetarian and special diet meals are available by request.

Number of Denmark Odyssey Cyclists

The lodging and transportation logistics require that our group size be capped at 18, plus two leaders.

Bikes

The standard Danish 7-speed with upright bars is perfect for our relaxed week of touring easy terrain. Both Diamond (pictured) and Step-thru frames are available. All bikes come with a front basket, a bell, a water bottle cage, and a rear rack. Please bring your own rear rack bag to carry your gear. A limited number of rear rack bags are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. You will need to bring your own pedals if you want to have toe-clips or clipless pedals. Our routes are paved, with an occasional option on hard-packed gravel roads through farmland or through woods.



Support Van

Our Support Van will be capable of carrying two cyclists and bikes as needed. When pre-arranged morning shuttles are necessary, we will use local mini-buses and taxis to transport cyclists to the starting point. The Support Van will carry the bikes. The van will carry luggage, water, snacks, and picnic lunch supplies.



Terrain and Kilometers per Day

Daily biking distances are listed in the day-by-day itinerary. The islands on which we bike – Funen, Tasinge, Langeland, and Aerø are basically flat. Where we encounter hills, the terrain really is "undulating" with no major climbs. You may be in your easiest gear several times a day for short distances.

Multi-Sport Adventure

The Denmark Odyssey will also allow for hiking and swimming. The optional hiking day is not strenuous and can be done in normal "tennis" shoes. Bring your bathing suit. The spa complex at Hotel Hesselet has an indoor pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, and steam bath. Massage is also available.

Climate

Temperatures:	August average High 72° F; Low 57° F
Daylight:	Sunrise 5:30 AM - Sunset 9:00 PM
Precipitation:	August average 2.5 inches

BEFORE & AFTER YOUR TOUR

We recommend arriving at least one day before Thursday, August 5 to unwind from your international flight. We will be glad to offer suggestions for places to stay both before and after the tour. The assumption is that everyone will go to Copenhagen after the tour. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Hotel Mayfair Clarion Collection in Copenhagen. Virginia Odysseys will make all arrangements and send the rooming list and each individual guest will pay upon check-out. You may want to arrange your own lodging in Copenhagen.

Copenhagen has convenient connections by train, boat, or plane to other Scandinavian countries. Why not extend your adventure and explore the Norwegian fiords?

DENMARK ODYSSEY RESOURCES

Films

Elvira Madigan (1967), Swedish film directed by Bo Widerberg. The soundtrack features the Andante from Piano Concerto No 21 in C by Mozart, which is popularly known as "The Theme from Elvira Madigan."

Babette's Feast (1987), Danish film directed by Gabriel Axel based on a story by Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen).

Links

Denmark www.visitdenmark.com

Nyborg www.visitnyborg.dk

Kerteminde www.visitkerteminde.dk

South Funen www.visitsydfyn.dk

Langeland www.visitlangeland.dk

Aero www.visitaeroe.dk

Faaborg www.visitfaaborg.dk

Odense www.visitodense.com

Roskilde www.visitroskilde.dk

Copenhagen www.cph-tourist.dk

Copenhagen www.visitcopenhagen.com

Train Schedules
<http://www.dsb.dk/cs/Satellite?pagename=DSBUK/Forside>

