



Aabenraa
Kommune



Welcome to Aabenraa Kommune

aabenraa.dk/newcomers

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Moving to Aabenraa – a brief introduction

Our newcomer & welcoming team will be happy to answer any questions you may have about moving to our community. We do speak English and welcome you.

As a newcomer, you probably have many practical things to do, e.g. registering your address, applying for a Danish social security number (CPR number), finding a general practitioner, registering children in day care centres and schools.

Many of these tasks require a personal, digital MitID.

Perhaps you also have other questions that you are looking for answers to: What housing options are there in the municipality? Can my partner also find a job? What cultural and leisure opportunities are there?

Our newcomer & welcoming team can help you with all these questions and tasks. It can also inform you about our offers and services for newcomers.

Email: newcomer@aabenraa.dk.



Moving to Aabenraa Kommune

Your general Step By Step guide for an easy relocation to Aabenraa

1. Apply for a residence permit
(nyidanmark.dk)

2. Apply for a CPR-nr / yellow healthcard
(aabenraa.dk/vores-kommune/english/newcomers)

3. Apply for a tax card
(skat.dk)

4. Apply for MitID
(aabenraa.dk/vores-kommune/english/newcomers)

5. Open a bank account (Nemkonto)
(lifeindenmark.borger.dk)

6. Join unemployment fund & union
(lifeindenmark.borger.dk)

7. Take out insurances (incl. blue EU health card)
(lifeindenmark.borger.dk)

8. Register car
(skat.dk)

9. Learn Danish
(sprogcenter.aofsydjylland.dk/kurser/danskuddannelse/)



Residence permits for EU citizens, EEA citizens and Nordic nationals

According to the “EU rules on free movement”, citizens of the EU/EEA and Switzerland are free to enter Denmark to work or to look for a job. If you are planning to be here for six months or less, you do not need a residence permit. However, if you plan to work in Denmark for three months or more, it is advisable to register immediately and apply for a CPR number (Danish social security number).

EU citizens are nationals of Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus (only from the Greek Cypriot area), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Czech Republic, Sweden, as well as Germany, Hungary and Austria.

EEA citizens are nationals of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. If you come from Norway, however, the regulations for Nordic citizens apply.

The same rules apply to Swiss nationals as to EU/EEA citizens.

Visit SIRI's website, fill out the application, and book an appointment

SIRI is the authority, which issues residence permits. On SIRI's website, you can see on what basis you can apply for a residence permit and fill out the application. After you have completed the application, you submit it personally to SIRI after having booked an appointment online.

Contact information **nyidanmark.dk**

Telephone number:
(+45) 7214 2000

Telephone number for EU nationals:
(+45) 7214 2004

CPR number and the yellow health card

In Denmark, all citizens have a personal social security number, the so-called CPR number.

If your spouse, partner or children move to Denmark, they also need their own CPR number.

"CPR" is the abbreviation for the central register of persons. You must state the CPR number whenever you contact public authorities in Denmark. The number has ten digits, the first six of which indicate your date of birth. The CPR number is personal, unique and used by all authorities as an identification and reference number.

The CPR number is a requirement for obtaining a national health insurance card, tax card and opening a bank account.

Once you have received a CPR number and registered entry into the municipality, you are covered by the general Danish health insurance. This means that in case of sickness you can get free medical treatment.

You have to select a specific doctor from a list of practicing doctors in Aabenraa Kommune.

The Citizens' Service Center ensures that you will receive the national ID card in the post, which means that you are covered by the public health insurance.

We call this card "det gule sundhedskort". You always have to bring the card with you when you go to the doctor, hospital or require other health services.

As part of the Danish welfare system, you not only have the right to health insurance, but also – if you have children – the opportunity to apply for child and family benefits, including childcare and education for your

children. You can find more information about the Danish welfare system on lifeindenmark.borger.dk

Applying for the CPR number and the yellow health card (sundhedskort)

Once you have received your "Bevis for registrering" (residence permit), you need to book an appointment with the Citizens' Service Center. Note that you have to book an appointment for each person.

At the Citizens' Service Center, you will receive your CPR number and order your sundhedskort at the same time.

Bring the following with you:

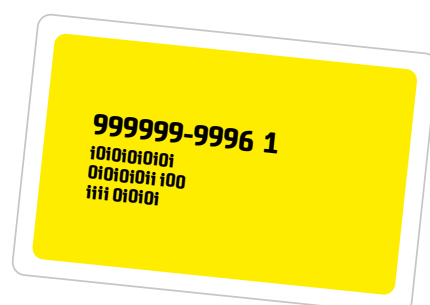
- Passport/ID card
- Residence permit
- Rent/purchase agreement

If you are married, divorced or widowed:

- Marriage certificate (if your spouse is not present and the spouse's date of birth is not on the marriage certificate: also the spouse's birth certificate)
- Final divorce decree or death certificate

If you have a child/children:

- Birth certificate(s) of the child(ren).



MitID

The Citizens' Service Center will also help you to get a MitID - your personal digital signature - and to open a so-called "e-boks" for your electronic mail.

You need this electronic mailbox (e-boks) because the Danish authorities send almost all mail, such as requests for hospital examinations, MOT examinations, etc., to citizens electronically. A large part of the case working and communication with citizens is based on the so-called "electronic self-entry procedure". In many cases, it is mandatory to use this procedure. You also need the MitID for online banking.

You can get a MitID after the age of 15 if you have a Danish CPR number and can show valid identification such as a passport, a Danish photo residence permit, a driving license, a birth or name certificate and/or health insurance card.

Apply for MitID

When you have received your sundhedskort, you have to book an appointment with the Citizens' Service Center again to get your MitID.





Please note the rules that apply when applying for a MitID.

It is a requirement that at least one of the documents contains your CPR-number.

Rules

To get your MitID, you have to make an appointment and go to the Citizens' Service Centre in person and bring the following with you:

- Character witness (see witness requirements below)
- Valid passport or ID card or Danish driver's license
- The yellow health card (sundhedskort), or the special health card (særlige sundhedskort) or the Sundhedskortapp

The witness must be there in person, be of legal age, have had MitID for at least 10 days, know you personally and be willing to confirm your identity with their MitID. You can only appear as a character witness three times in a 120-day period.

The witness must bring the following:

- Valid passport or ID card or Danish driver's license
- The yellow health card (sundhedskort), or the special health card (specielt sundhedskort) or the Sundhedskortapp
- MitID app



Driver's license

If you are an EU citizen, you can use the driver's license from your home country, if it is valid.

SKAT, bank account and insurance

SKAT (tax office)

Everyone who works in Denmark and has an income must have a tax card. Your employer, who is obliged to automatically deduct taxes before paying your wages/salary and to transfer them to the tax authority SKAT, requires the tax card.

From the tax card, you can see what percentage of wages taxes are to be paid minus the deductions/allowances. This rate is calculated based on an advance payment notice. That means you have to state what income and any deductions/exemptions you expect for the rest of the year.

At the end of the year, the tax authority SKAT creates an overview (the tax assessment) of your income and the taxes deducted. The tax assessment is then available in March. The tax assessment notice states whether you have to pay back taxes or are entitled to a tax refund.

The tax authority SKAT receives most of the information directly from employers, banks, trade unions and unemployment insurance. However, you are obliged to check the entries yourself and to inform the SKAT tax authority if they are incorrect.

At bit.ly/3AzdSt2 you can learn more about

the Danish tax system and what the taxes finance.

Registration of a foreign vehicle in Denmark

If you move to Denmark and have a car with a foreign number plate, you must register your car no later than 30 days after moving. You can find more information in English at bit.ly/3VdXUN2.

The website of the Danish tax authority SKAT contains information in English: bit.ly/3tT5tx8

Open a bank account - NemKonto

If you have an income in Denmark, the employer must transfer your wages/salary to a bank account. You can use a bank account abroad, but you often have to pay a fee if the money is transferred abroad. It is therefore advantageous to open an account with a Danish bank or savings bank.

In order to become a customer of a Danish bank or savings bank, you need to provide the necessary documentation, i.e. passport, driver's license, rental agreement, yellow health insurance card or your Danish CPR number. Some banks also require you to see your employment contract or an employer statement.

If a bank account or possibly several accounts have been opened, you must decide on an account as a so-called NemKonto, "simple account". All individuals and companies in Denmark need a NemKonto for government payments, such as tax refunds. You can find more information under NEMKONTO.

The blue EU health insurance card

The blue EU health insurance card covers the costs of necessary medical and hospital treatment, medicines, etc. during a stay in an EU country as well as in Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The card is free and valid for up to five years. If you need the card for something other than holidays and live abroad, the validity may be shorter. It is important that your blue EU health insurance card is valid for the entire period of your stay abroad.

The blue EU health insurance card only covers if the healthcare provider is affiliated with the public health insurance in the country you are in. The blue EU health insurance card does not cover treatment in private hospitals or clinics.

There is therefore a restriction on the treatment location. You can only avoid this restriction by taking out private travel insurance with coverage for acute illnesses in the countries mentioned.

The blue health insurance card is available from Udbetaling Danmark. The number to apply for the blue health insurance card is (+45) 70 12 80 81 and you can also order one at borger.dk.



INSURANCES

Legal Insurance

In Denmark, there are several statutory insurance policies that you must take out if you own a specific vehicle or animal.

Liability insurance / car insurance

If you own a motor vehicle, it is mandatory to take out a liability insurance. This insurance covers you in the event of damage and accidents for which you are liable. It may be your fault that others have been injured or their car has to be taken to a workshop. Passengers in the car are also covered by this insurance.

You must also have liability insurance if you own a horse, drone, or boat. You must also register your dog in a dog registry.

Dog insurance

If you have a dog, liability insurance for your dog is also compulsory for you as the owner. This insurance covers you if your dog injures somebody or somebody else's property, for example if your dog runs in front of a car. If an accident occurs, you can expect high compensation amounts.

Fire insurance

Fire insurance is compulsory insurance if you own a property. This insurance covers repairs and reconstruction of your property if a fire breaks out.

The insurance does not cover your household contents, so you should also take out household contents insurance.

Workers' compensation insurance in a company

If you hire employees to work for you - whether paid or unpaid - you must take out worker's compensation insurance. Remember, if you are the owner of the business, insurance must be taken out in order for you to be covered. Including this, the conclusion of an occupational health insurance is obligatory.

OTHER INSURANCES WHICH ARE NOT REQUIRED BY LAW - BUT USEFUL

Household insurance

Although home insurance is not part of the statutory insurance policy, it is important if you want to insure yourself and your belongings.

Household contents insurance, also known as family insurance, can be viewed as a package deal that covers your household contents. Home insurance covers everything from clothing, furniture, bikes and electronics if these are stolen.

Various other insurance options can also be purchased for your household contents

insurance, so that you are particularly well insured. This can be bicycle insurance and travel insurance.

In this way you are protected against burglary and fire.

Accident insurance

Accident insurance will help you in the event of an accident.

This insurance covers you and your family in the event of an accident.

You can either take out full-time accident insurance if you want to be insured 24 hours a day, or part-time accident insurance that only covers you during your free time.



Language school, institutions and school system

Language school

All adult foreigners who move to Denmark are offered the opportunity to learn Danish. Tuition is free because being able to speak and write Danish is an important requirement if you want to be a part of the Danish society. However, you have to leave a deposit of 2,000 DKK, which will be returned according to the rules. The training consists of 5 to 6 modules.

Being able to understand and speak the language is a great advantage, both for work and for leisure.

Learning and trying to speak Danish shows that you are interested in Danes and Danish culture, and this helps you become a part of the social community at work and in your free time. You will also get to know your neighbours and others you meet in associations more quickly.

If you are bringing children to Denmark, it is also important to be able to speak the language so that you can keep up with their development. Children learn a new language

very quickly when they speak it in kindergarten or at school. As a parent, it is also crucial that you are interested in schoolwork and that you support your children. Both you and your children will learn Danish more easily if you practice at home. For example, you can watch Danish TV, listen to Danish radio and there are also numerous apps where you can learn Danish.

In Aabenraa Kommune, Sprogskolen AOF Sydjylland offers Danish classes for foreigners.

Contact information:

Sprogskolen AOF Sydjylland
Ramsherred 25, 1.
6200 Aabenraa

Telephone number:
(+45) 7020 2377

E-Mail:
administration@aofsydjylland.dk

sprogcenter.aofsydjylland.dk/kurser/danskuddannelse/





Daycare and kindergarten

When a child is between 0-2 years old, they usually attend a crèche or day-care centre.

When the child is 3 years old, it usually starts in kindergarten. When the child is 5 or 6 years old, it starts in elementary school (folkeskole) in the 0th grade.

In Denmark there is a daycare guarantee, which is why the citizen is always guaranteed a daycare option.

The Danish school system

The Danish school starts with the 9-year elementary school (folkeskole), which ends with the elementary school final examination. It is also possible to choose a 10th school year.

In the 9th and 10th grades, many choose to attend an independent boarding school for lower secondary students (efterskole). Independent boarding school for lower secondary students are a unique Danish form of school where the students are taught and live. It is a school for students between the ages of 14 and 18. There are about 260 post-schools in Denmark, with a total of about 28,500 students. It is important to know that you bear the costs of attending

this type of school yourself. You can find out more at www.efterskole.dk.

After that, the students usually complete an apprenticeship (carpenter, hairdresser, SOSU) or a two- (HF – Højere Forberedelseseksamen) or three-year high school education.

It is also possible at EUX (den erhvervsfaglige studentereksamen) to receive both a journeyman's certificate and a high school degree at the same time, since this form of training combines vocational training and high school training.

The high school degree offers access to higher education such as a 3-3.5-year bachelor's degree and a professional bachelor's degree.

After that, students can choose to work. However, when pursuing a bachelor's degree, it is typical for students to also pursue a two-year master degree, as the job market demands this to a greater degree than a bachelor's does.

After the Master's degree, students can work or pursue a PhD.

All about the labour market

JOB SEARCH

Jobsites

- [stepstone.dk](#)
- [jobindex.dk](#)
- [sydjob.dk](#)
- [jobnet.dk](#)
- [jobbank.dk](#)
- [jobfinder.dk](#)
- [offentlige-stillinger.dk](#)

The job centre

We can also refer you to Jobcenter Aabenraa.

Work in Denmark

Work in Denmark in Odense offers free job search courses for international job seekers. You can find out more on their website [workindenmark.dk](#).

Recognition of foreign training

Some training must be recognized in Denmark in order to be allowed to practice in Denmark.

You can find out more at Uddannelses- og Forskningsministeriet. If you work in the healthcare sector, you can find out more at Styrelsen for Patientsikkerhed.

Unemployment benefits

You can find information on unemployment benefits on [lifeindenmark.dk](#).

A-kasse (unemployment fund)

A-kasse/unemployment funds are private insurance companies that are supported by the state. It is a great advantage to be a member of an a-kasse so that you can receive unemployment benefits if you

become unemployed. It is important to know that you are not automatically covered by unemployment insurance if you lose your job if they are employed by a company. You have to become an active part of an a-kasse yourself in order to be insured.

There are 24 different unemployment funds in Denmark, and each unemployment fund only covers certain areas. Therefore, not all applicants will be accepted as members.

In addition to membership, there are different rules for receiving unemployment benefits if you lose your job. You must have been a paying member for at least 1 year.

The amount paid out monthly is based on your own income. You can find more information at (English link): [bit.ly/3OH7GFg](#)

Fagforening (union)

A union is an organization for employees in one or more occupational areas, who work for better wages and working conditions. Primarily through treaties and agreements.

It is the members who own the union and it is the members who decide who is elected to union posts. The more members, the more the union faces the employer, e.g. in salary negotiations and working conditions.

It is not mandatory that you are a member of a union. However, a union has more advantages than disadvantages. Union membership is usually cheap. Being a union member is always beneficial, whether you have doubts about something or need advice, whether it is about pay and working conditions or more complex situations such

as harassment and bullying. In these cases you can seek legal help and advice from your union.

Many unions are politically active and influence the various parties to create better working conditions in union members' workplaces.

You have to choose the union you like best;

this cannot be determined by others. However, it is important to know if the union covers your area of work. For example, it is a bad idea to vote for a union that specializes in the IT sector if you are a craftsman.

At allefagforeninger.dk you can find an overview of all trade unions.



Real estate purchase

Buying real estate

If you are sure that you would like to live permanently in Denmark and you know where you would like to live, you might consider wanting to buy a property. In the long run, this can be cheaper than renting an apartment or house. At the same time, you acquire an increase in value with the property.

Consult a lawyer, a bank and a real estate agent to see what requirements you must meet in order for you to be able to purchase a property.

There are special housing loans in Denmark, where the purchase price plus interest can be paid over the course of 10-30 years. As a prerequisite, however, the banks and real estate credit institutions require that there is an available amount in your budget.

You can find an overview of all real estate agents on our “Rent, buy or build?” website.

House purchase

Who can buy a house in Denmark without separate approval from Civilstyrelsen?

- Anyone residing in Denmark
- Anyone who has lived in Denmark for 5 years
- Anyone who inherited the property
- Anyone who receives the property as a gift in a straight line, ascending or descending

Every citizen who

- is an employee in Denmark, a member state of the EU or the EEA, or
- would like to work independently in Denmark and
- the property must be intended for year-round use

All others require permission from Civilstyrelsen.





Miscellaneous

Useful apps for your everyday life in Denmark

- E-boks
- Bank App
- MobilePay
- Rejseplanen
- Mobilbillet
- Min Læge
- Min sundhed
- MitID

Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig

Regionskontor & Infocenter

Lyren 1

DK-6330 Padborg

Tel.: (+45) 74 67 05 01

E-Mail: region@region.dk

pendlerinfo.org/pendlerinfo/de/

If you have questions about cross-border issues such as pension payments, health insurance and double taxation, you can contact the regional office & information centre.

Business Aabenraa

Storegade 30

6200 Aabenraa

Telephone: +45 73 62 20 27

E-Mail: post@businessaabenraa.com

businessaabenraa.com/english/

Are you self-employed or thinking about becoming self-employed, contact Business Aabenraa, who specialize in this.

Recruitment Officer JobGateDenmark

Maria Petersen Heesch

E-Mail: jobgatedanmark@aabenraa.dk

The German minority in Southern Jutland

The German minority in Southern Jutland has existed since the referendum in 1920 and today comprises around 15,000 people. The German minority maintains its own kindergartens, schools and libraries, does church and social work, publishes its own digital daily newspaper and offers sporting and cultural activities in many clubs. The umbrella organization is the BDN (Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger), whose general secretariat is in Apenrade. More at nordschleswig.dk



Hygge and leisure time

Danish 'hygge' is a broad term associated with everything that can be described as beautiful, friendly, comfortable, relaxing, secure and often homely.

'Hygge' also means inviting guests, to go for a walk with the family, have dinner with colleagues, to go to a restaurant with friends, to have a cup of coffee with your neighbour or friends, watch TV with the children or play games. Cosiness is often connected to experiences with others, but we also like to make ourselves comfortable when we read a good book in front of a burning candle and have a cup of coffee or work in the garden. That is 'hygge' for us.

Employees in Denmark have the most daily spare time of any of their European neighbours, according to a new interactive index from the OECD. Even if Danes spent 10 hours a day eating and sleeping, they would still have just over six hours to watch TV, go for a bike ride or visit a nearby town.

The index defines leisure time and personal hygiene as time spent eating, sleeping,

socializing, hobbies, watching television and using computers.

Maybe you are already acquainted with the Danish 37-hour week or the legally prescribed 5-week holiday. However, what to do with all that free time?

We Danes are known for our active social life. We have a tradition of founding associations for young and old. Our leisure activities in particular take place in clubs and associations. The Danish Sports Association alone has around 9,000 sports clubs with a total of over 1.9 million members. Whether you like running, rowing, knitting, playing chess, singing in a choir or brewing beer - there is a club and association for every interest.

Danish associations are the backbone of social life. Many function as volunteer-based hangouts where you show up and do what you love with people who share your passion.

Aabenraa Kommune is one of the municipalities in Denmark with the highest

density of associations. Check our association page to see if there is an association for you. Aabenraa Kommune also offers a diverse cultural life, so that you can always spend your free time in an interesting way.

You can also use the Danish and German libraries as a cultural meeting point. There are not only books, but you can read magazines and newspapers too, surf the Internet for free, as well as print and copy. There are play corners and other activities for the little ones, and there are readings, sewing courses and theater groups as well.

Do you need more inspiration about what to do with your free time?

Here are some tips:

- Music festivals: There are hundreds of music festivals in Denmark - from mainstream rock events to niche festivals with folk, jazz, opera or electronic music.
- Dining: Visit one of the 26 Michelin

restaurants or head for a more casual meal at one of the many food markets offering quality street food from around the world.

- Architecture: Enjoy a mix of medieval, renaissance and modern architecture. Experience state-of-the-art design with a strong focus on sustainability.
- Art and History: Visit excellent historical museums and modern art collections or galleries, e.g. Brundlund Slot, Oldemorstof, Frøslevlejren and Damgaard Mølle og Veterantraktorsamling.
- Amusement parks: Try Tivoli in central Copenhagen, LEGOLAND, Fårup Sommerland and Tivoli Friheden to name just a few.
- Nature: Aabenraa Municipality has a wide variety of landscapes and natural beauty waiting to be explored by you.

On Visit Sønderjylland, Southern Denmark's tourism organization, you will definitely find something that suits your taste.





Here are a few tips on do's and don'ts

As a newcomer, you should familiarize yourself with the country you plan to move to/ have moved to

The people

Danes are respected for their achievements in science, art, literature and architecture. They value tolerance and diversity. The individual is also valued in Danish culture and the Danes are very easy-going. The Danes are very proud of their excellent education system. Although Danes value a close and stable family life, they have one of the highest divorce rates in Europe. Most women are working. In addition, Danes are known to be very actively involved in various associations – and if you want to meet (new) people, joining an association is the perfect way to do so.

Meet and greet

- Be punctual – Danes are very punctual and consider unpunctuality impolite.
- At a business or social gathering, shake hands with everyone present – men, women, and children – and look them in the eye. When you leave, you shake hands with everyone present.
- People are on first-name terms and address each other by their first names.

Body language

- Danes do not like being touched “unnecessarily”. You have to know each other well before you hug, for example.

Corporate culture

- Danes take punctuality to business meetings very seriously and expect you to do the same. If you are late, give notice and explain that you are late.

- Meetings start and end on time.
- Danes generally make small talk before getting down to business.
- Agendas for meetings with a stated purpose to inform, discuss or decide an issue are clearly set.
- Decisions are made after consultation with everyone involved in a project, but responsibility rests with the individual.
- Danes are notorious for their informality.
- You are expected to take responsibility and initiative yourself. “Freedom under responsibility” is a popular motto.

Gastronomy and entertainment

- Danes insist on punctuality at social events.
- Dinner is generally long and slow (can last up to 4-5 hours) with lots of conversation. Plan to stay at least an hour after the end of a meal.
- The toasting can be a very formal process and at social occasions, there is a lot of speech making and singing of self-composed songs for the main character(s).

Clothing

- Danes are very fashion conscious and sloppy attire is frowned upon at social events.
- Black tie events are common in the business world.

Gifts

- Gifts are opened immediately upon receipt.
- If you are invited to someone's house, you always bring a small gift.

Useful hints

- Danes may have an ironic way of expressing themselves. You can say "It's beautiful weather" when it's pouring rain, or "It's a bit chilly" when it's sweltering hot.
- Danes say "thank you" for everything – anytime, anywhere.
- Use proper etiquette with Danes. Calm, polite manners are appreciated.

As a newcomer, you should also familiarize yourself with the neighbourhood and city you are moving to.

You have become part of an amazing neighbourhood and you have a responsibility to continue the traditions that exist here.

Your neighbourhood has a big impact on what is expected of you. In some places, it is taken for granted, for example, to say hello, chat over the hedge or have a cup of coffee. Elsewhere, residents also hold street parties

and other social gatherings, while there are areas where people rarely say hello or know who lives where.

For example, you can ask the seller, real estate agent, or civic association who knows the neighbourhood what the jargon is and what the unwritten norms are.

The following can be mentioned as examples:

- Do children go around the neighbourhood at carnivals?
- Do the children go around the neighbourhood on New Year's Eve and wish everybody a Happy New Year?
- Why is the hedge cut before Sankt Hans and how high must it be?
- Who keeps the sidewalks, etc. in front of your house?
- Can you mow the lawn on Sundays?
- Are there other unwritten rules?





Introduce yourself and greet your neighbours

While it may not be customary to greet each other in your new neighbourhood, make sure to introduce yourself to your new neighbours. As a newcomer, it is important to signal openness and interest to your neighbours and other residents right from the start.

Join the community

- If you have moved to a place where people care about each other, social events are a great opportunity to get involved in the community. If you have the surplus, sign up as a volunteer when the next summer festival or the next working day is coming up. It is a great opportunity to get to know your new neighbours better.
- Check out the offers of language cafes near you to get to know the Danish language and Danish jargon better.

Be considerate

As a homeowner, you have a responsibility to take care of the people who live around you. Ask yourself: How would I feel if the neighbour did that? The answer may give you food for thought. Also, remember to let your neighbours know (or invite them) before you have a big party.

Set the necessary boundaries from the start (with a smile)

There is a fine line between getting to know each other and becoming friends. If you're moving to a neighbourhood where people are more social than you'd like, it's important to say "no" in a nice way and set boundaries between your privacy and community before a conflict arises. At the same time, however, it is also important to have a sense of the limits of others.

Danish traditions

Leap into the new year

The Danes line up on chairs just before midnight, as it is an old tradition in Denmark to leap into the New Year at midnight! And it is a very important tradition: it is bad luck if you forget to jump into the new year at midnight.

The Cat Beating - Children as Kings of the Carnival

The first important festival of the year is the carnival. On Shrove Sunday, numerous children dress up and go from house to house to improve their pocket money or sweets with their singing. Cat slapping is an extraordinary custom that results in the election of the cat king. It is about the winner of a competition in which a candy cane filled with candy is smashed out of wood.

Easter letters - a competition with Easter eggs as the main prize

The Danish Easter has certain parallels with the German variant. People mostly decorate their houses with daffodils and twigs. These

are decorated with colourful Easter eggs. Children especially love the Easter letters and put a lot of effort into creating them. They artistically cut out a card and write a verse on it. The children only sign the letters with dots. Each dot stands for a letter in the name of the respective sender. The recipient has the task of guessing the name of the sender. If he succeeds, the sender is a gæk. This is the Danish term for the English word "fool". Should the receiver fail, then he is the gæk. The winner must give their opponent an Easter egg for the celebration.

Warm rolls - the Danish Penance Day (Store Bededag) in spring

On a tour of Denmark, numerous tourists notice that the Danish Penance Day is not celebrated in November, but on the fourth Friday after Easter. On the evening before the Penance Day and on the actual day, numerous Danes eat warm rolls. There is a very special tradition on this holiday in the capital of Copenhagen. Many people go to the old city wall and listen to the sounds of the bells.





Sankt Hans Aften - a holiday of great popularity

The most popular holiday of the year in Denmark is called Sankt Hans Aften. This is the birthday of John the Baptist. Most Danes meet at large bonfires where they also burn a "witch" to commemorate Midsummer's Eve. They celebrate with singing, dancing and delicious meals until the early hours of the morning. The highlight of the festival is the Fire Speech, which has a symbolic character today. It is mostly about political issues, while in the past the power of fire was supposed to rid people of evil.

The week of June when all Danes want to be high school graduates

In the last week of June in Denmark you will most likely come across a group of teenagers wearing our iconic student hats. These teenagers have just graduated from high school and for the following weeks they will be wearing the white caps everywhere

they go. There are many different rules as to what gets written and cut on the caps - if you ask any of the graduates about them, they're usually more than willing to explain everything to you!

One of the most traditional ways to celebrate graduation is hard to miss: during the last week of June, the streets are filled with large, decorated trucks as graduating classes celebrate together, stopping by each of their classmates' homes for a bite to eat and to do drink.

J-dag – or: The start of the Christmas season in Denmark

"J-dag" is an abbreviation for "julebrygsdag", which literally means "Christmas Beer Day". J-dag was introduced by the Danish brewery Tuborg in 1990 to launch the Christmas beer of the year. Since then it has been a Danish tradition that more or less starts the Christmas season in Denmark.



J-day falls on the first Friday in November every year and starts at exactly 8:59 p.m. Over time, the J-day has developed into a Danish Christmas tradition, celebrated in bars and pubs across the country.

When does the Christmas countdown start?

The Christmas countdown begins on December 1st with the lighting of the calendar candle for the first time. The traditional calendar candle is numbered from 1 to 24 and the daily burning ritual shows how many days are left until Christmas. In addition, the cute pack calendars are finally being used. In this Advent tradition, 24 small surprises are individually wrapped and one can be opened every day. But the “kalendergave” is also popular. The gifts are larger or more valuable, but they are only available on the Sundays in Advent!

Why the Danes love Saint Lucia so much

The Norse Saint Lucia festival is celebrated across Scandinavia on December 13th and starts early in the morning. Young girls wrap themselves in long white robes and the chosen Queen of Light, Lucia, wears a crown with glowing candles. They all sing the famous song “Santa Lucia” together during a procession.

According to lore, they bring the light into the darkness.

What Danish customs are there?

You will experience magical winter landscapes, Christmas markets, Santa Lucia parades, Christmas events and customs. It is even claimed that without “nisser” or an imp, there would be no Christmas celebrations. The little goblins can be found as decorations in every apartment and their owners strive to appease the “nisser”. If this does not happen,

they will become a real nuisance. The Julemand also brings the gifts here and the Danish Santa Claus comes from Greenland.

What celebrations take place during Advent?

During the entire pre-Christmas period, families, friends, colleagues and companies invite you to a convivial Julefrokost. This is a Christmas party where you will be served with typical winter and Christmas specialties. Of course, special Christmas beers, schnapps and mulled wines should not be missing.

What do Danes eat on Christmas Eve?

Bon appetit or Velbekomme!

Christmas in Denmark also means good food. A must at the classic Christmas dinner are the following dishes: Baked Christmas ham, duck or goose, potatoes, glazed potatoes and matching sauces. For

dessert follows the famous rice pudding Risalamande, in which an almond is hidden. Anyone who finds these in their portion of rice pudding will be lucky in the coming year and often receive an additional Christmas present.

What the Danes look out for on December 24th

Across the country, Christmas Eve is associated with much excitement. To shorten the time before opening the presents, Christmas Disney films are shown in the living rooms. Then the church calls for the Christmas service and even those who do not like the church attend mass on this day. Back home, everyone dances around the Christmas tree and sings carols like "Højt fra træets grønne top". The time has finally come for the distribution of gifts and the cheering will not end.



