

**April 23, 2006**

## Affordable Europe: Copenhagen

**By SETH SHERWOOD**

Cobbled streets, a sleek new subway system, some of the top restaurants in Scandinavia and that ubiquitous Nordic sense of style: It all adds up to a highly attractive — and costly — vacation spot. Yet even though this city of Renaissance castles and classic modern design routinely ranks among the 10 priciest places in the world, a recent crop of wallet-friendly hot spots and some enduring gratis experiences mean more mileage for your kroners.

### Where to Eat Cheaply

For haute cuisine, the city's best kroner-to-quality ratio is Copenhagen Food Consulting (Abel Cathrines Gade 7; 45-3313-6060). A haven of minimalist Scandinavian style in the trendy Vesterbro district, the two-year-old upscale restaurant (known by the locals as Cofoco) offers a seasonal three-course menu of modern Danish-French dishes for 225 kroner (about \$37, at 6.3 kroner to the dollar). Offerings might include cod with apple and mint or duck with yogurt, beets and horseradish. Its bargains have made Cofoco a popular cult address, so book in advance. Or hit the streets for a hot dog, the sidewalk specialty of [Copenhagen](#). Sold from pushcarts labeled "Polser," the tube steaks come thick or thin, grilled or boiled, and topped with dried onions, sweet pickles and tangy rémoulade sauce, generally about 20 kroner.

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### Lodging for Under 100 Euros

The words "designer-chic" and "hostel" don't usually wind up side by side, but the new Danhostel Copenhagen City (50 H.C. Andersens Boulevard, 45-3311-8585; [www.danhostel.dk](http://www.danhostel.dk)) is changing that. Outfitted by the Danish design firm GUBI, which helped furnish the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the 16-story hostel has more than 1,020 beds spread over 187 rooms. You can have one of the cool white chambers all to yourself or share with strangers. An Internet cafe, a restaurant and a central location sweeten the deal. Depending on season, a room for two to four people costs 520 or 600 kroners (70 or 80 euros; \$86 or \$95) a night.

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### Best Deal on a Cultural Event

Opened last year, the futuristic Copenhagen Opera House, on the island of Holmen (45-3369-6969; [www.operahus.dk](http://www.operahus.dk)), has become one of the most talked-about new cultural venues in Europe. Unsold

advance tickets to its performances — a roster of ballets, classical concerts and operas — are offered to the public at half price at 4 p.m. on the day of the show at the box office at August Bournonvilles Passage 1, in the main square, Kongens Nytorv. (Half-price, same-day tickets for other venues operated by the Danish government are also sold there.) Another bargain: People under 25 and over 65 receive a 50 percent discount when ordering tickets more than a week in advance.

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### **Best Things to Do Free**

A number of top museums permanently abolished entry fees in January, including the National Museum (Ny Vestergade 10; 45-3313-4411), and the National Gallery (Solvgade 48-50; 45-3374-8494), a vast space stocked with European art since 1300 (though special exhibitions can have a fee). Also, circle Wednesday on your calendar: Showcasing cutting-edge creations, the Danish Design Center (27 H.C. Andersens Boulevard, 45-3369-3369) is free on Wednesday from 5 to 9 p.m. Also free on Wednesday (and on Sunday) is the New Carlsberg Museum (Dantes Plads 7; 45-3341-8141) across the street. The collection includes French Impressionist painting and ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian art. But it is closed for renovation from May 1 to June 27.

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### **Best Money-Saving Tip**

Exploring the bicycle-friendly Danish capital on two wheels is a breeze thanks to 2,000 free bikes the city provides from April through November at 110 racks around town. Simply slide a 20-kroner coin into the slot on the front of the bike to release it from the rack. The coin will be returned when the bike is replaced. More details at [www.bycyklen.dk](http://www.bycyklen.dk).

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