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Special Travel Section

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Scandinavia



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Copenhagen

Europe's New Food Soul

Denmark

DENMARK



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→ If you come to Copenhagen, come hungry. You already know about **Noma**, ranked the best restaurant in the world for three years running. Chef René Redzepi has plotted a new culinary course for his country, which is amazing for Denmark but unlucky for you—scoring a table at Noma is now

nearly impossible. (Try anyway.)

The good news: A network of Redzepi acolytes have opened their own places, spreading his New Nordic gospel. In the city center, **Radio** features vegetables from its own farm, and **Geist** makes a strong case for salt-baked celeriac and beer-infused desserts. Then you have **Relæ** (upscale rustic plates) and **Manfreds & Vin** (bistro fare), both run by Noma-trained chef Christian Puglisi, sitting across the street

from each other on Jægersborggade in the city's Nørrebro district.

If you're just looking for a light lunch, you might try eating with dead people. Flowery **Assistens Cemetery**, "home" to Hans Christian Andersen and Søren Kierkegaard, doubles as the world's most idyllically eerie picnic spot. Danes sun themselves between the gravestones, drinking espresso from nearby **Coffee Collective** while snacking on breads and pastries from the **Meyers Bageri**.

You'll work off the calories the same way Danes do—by biking around town. Pick up a free-to-borrow two-wheeler at the **Bycyklen København** kiosks strewn throughout Copenhagen and get used to being passed by granite-calved grandmothers. Ride through **Christiana**,

which is basically a decades-long Occupy movement by urban hippie separatists living in multicolor homespun structures.

Between the biking and the digestion, you'll want a nap in your room at the **Blu Royal Hotel**. Yes, it's a fifty-year-old Radisson, but it's also the benchmark for just about every high-design hotel in the world. Arne Jacobsen created his iconic Swan and Egg chairs for the property. Book room 606, a time capsule stocked with all original midcentury furniture, and it's like staying at Don Draper's Scandinavian getaway.

After dinner, the party's always in the **Kødbyen** (that's *cool-boo-en*) neighborhood, which also doubles as the city's meatpacking district during daylight hours. Go highbrow at the **Karriere Bar**, all UFO-esque light fixtures and craft cocktails. Or try **Jolene**, which stole its name from the Dolly Parton song and pours fresh-from-the-taps Carlsberg—a Danish delicacy that, late at night, tastes as good as anything served by Noma.—HOWIE KAHN

Game of (Beautiful Antique Scandinavian) Thrones



This town only recently became a foodie heaven, but it's always been drool city for lovers of pretty objects and timeless furniture. Copenhagen native Nikolaj Coster-Waldau—full-time Lannister on *Game of Thrones*, part-time design nerd—shares his favorite places to find Scandinavian treasure.—A.R.

Hay

"My favorite shop for cool home stuff: sheets, kitchen gear, and awesome things from local designers."



Cykelbanditten

"Cykelbanditten sells custom-made bikes with that simple Danish look you see on every corner. The prices are wholesale, too."

Ravnsborggade

"It's a street packed with stores carrying vintage Danish furniture. It's stuff that boutiques in L.A. sell for thousands, but here we just give it away for pennies."



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- 1 Nyhavn Harbor.
- 2 A Hindbærssnitter from Meyers Bageri. Duh.
- 3 Room 606 at the Radisson Blu Royal.
- 4 Welcome to Noma.
- 5 Grilled new onions at Relæ.
- 6 Kickin' back at the Coffee Collective.

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