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Postcard from Denmark

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Yes, another travel anecdote; that's what you get for having jetset English tutors who love to travel. I can't think of anything that is more fun or fulfilling. My August saw me in Denmark. The trip in itself did not get off to such a good start but in spite of that all, I did enjoy the country.

Denmark is a place I have always wanted to go to. My maternal grandmother's grandparents made the journey by ship from Denmark to Ellis Island and then traveled to Iowa to make their home in the New World. Thus, I feel a sort of connection to Denmark, just as I do to Germany on my Dad's side. These trips are a sort of homecoming for me, going to a home I never knew.

We missed out on our first day, which was going to be to the tip of Denmark, but we caught up on the second day and could see everything planned. Denmark is great to see lots of things in little time because it is small and very accessible. From one city to the next it takes you about two hours, which, I think, is reasonable.

We saw Aalborg, a small city but a nice, quaint first stop with its typical architecture. The next

day found us in Århus, a bit bigger and more cosmopolitan. It's *Den Gamle By* outdoor museum is worth seeing, though a bit tiresome after a while. There is a lovely walk along the river with restaurants and bars to have a beer or sandwich and watch the blond folk go by. From there we went to Odense, Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace. It's also worth seeing and doesn't take too long.

Denmark's crown jewel, though, is Copenhagen. It is just big enough without being too big and has everything a big city can offer, including long pedestrian shopping areas, museums and concert halls, and old lady stalkers.

We were walking down *Strøget* when I noticed a lady behind us. I wouldn't have paid much attention but I had noticed her before in a men's clothing shop; I'm not sure what she was going to buy there. As we walked along the street, we stopped to see certain shop windows. So did the lady. Where we stopped, she also stopped. Where we did not stop, she didn't stop either. I turned around and looked at her and she just looked into space. To confirm that she was indeed following us, we ducked behind a van that happened to be parked there. She nonchalantly chased us around the van. Once she couldn't see us anymore, she kept looking and finally must have assumed that we had stepped into the church, as most tourists would. She went into the church and we quickly made our way along.

I recommend Denmark. But go in the summer, perhaps July would be better, and if you plan on going to the beach, have alternatives. The weather wasn't bad, but it wasn't marvelous, either. Go there to be calm and get lots of sleep. You won't find much past 11 on a weeknight and shops don't open until 10. Lovely, but sleepy...perfect. Tak!

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