

Denmark's secret second city

Yes, Copenhagen is cool, but there is more than one way to experience what Denmark has to offer, including its second city, Aarhus, which offers a relaxed, waterfront way of life, with art at its heart, chic shopping and incredible dining

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CULTURE FIX

First stop has to be ARoS Aarhus Art Museum housing Denmark's largest art collection outside of Copenhagen, and one of the largest galleries in northern Europe. You can't miss it as, in a fairly low-rise city, the museum sits on a small hill and is topped off by a dramatic, permanent feature – *Your Rainbow Panorama* (right). Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson's three-metre wide, 150-metre

circular walkway is built with floor-to ceiling windows that are all colours of the spectrum. You feel you're part of the art as you stroll around, observing how you feel while in certain colours gazing out on the city. Beneath the "floating" walkway is a terrace cafe, perfect for a pitstop before moving on to other landmark pieces such as *Boy*, by Ron Mueck. First shown at the Millennium Dome in London in 2000, *Boy* has lived at ARoS since 2001, aros.dk



LIVE THE HIGH LIFE

Blow away any cobwebs with a visit to Salling Rooftop, an architecturally impressive urban oasis above one of the city's high-end department stores. Mingle with the locals who flock here for lunch, after-work cocktails, or pre-dinner drinks with a DJ and panoramic city views to match. Its multi-level details are as clever as they are fun, with plenty of greenery, cool stepped seating and hidden swings. Rooftop also includes the nerve-racking Skywalk, a glass slab 27 metres above street level – walk out on it if you dare, salling.dk



TAKE TO THE STREETS

Among the most charming districts is the Latin Quarter, also one of the city's oldest quarters. Known for its vibrant atmosphere, its centre is Pustervig Torv square, perfect for a coffee refuel before wandering around cobblestoned streets lined with the stores of chic Danish fashion brands such as Samsøe Samsøe and Ganni, as well as unique independent lifestyle shops such as Balsalen (balsalen.dk). Set in the backyard of one of Aarhus's oldest half-timbered buildings, a collection of small, crooked houses frame the cobbled courtyard that draws you in – as does the shop's dog, Carla. Meanwhile, interiors nuts must make a stop at Paustian (uk.paustian.com), a temple to brilliant design. Contrast that with a walk around the ultra-modern, redeveloped Aarhus O waterfront neighbourhood. It's home to the Harbor Bath (aarhus.dk/havnebadet), designed by Danish architect Bjarke Ingels, with a floating 50-metre swimming pool, diving pool, children's pools and saunas.



DELICIOUS DINING

For fabulous cuisine, stroll along Boulevarden in the heart of the city, soak up the lively scene and take your pick of riverfront restaurants. Or make a reservation at exquisite restaurants such as Domestic (restaurantdomestic.dk), where only the best Danish ingredients make it to the menu; my 10-course vegetarian lunch flew by in a delicious flash and was one of the best meals I have ever had. Meanwhile, Haervaerk (restaurant-haervaerk.dk) is a cosy restaurant known for its conscientious philosophy, with incredible dishes mindfully served up from the tasting menu.

NEED TO KNOW

A centrally located place to stay is SOFS Hotel (medium-size room with private bathroom, from £170 per night including breakfast, sofshotel.dk). This sweet little hotel in the Latin Quarter has great boutiques on its doorstep and a pretty garden to sit and eat your organic breakfast, while some rooms look out onto a residential courtyard, making you feel right at home. Aarhus is easily paired with its big sister for a city break – Danish trains (first-class tickets around £68 one-way, dsb.dk) are reassuringly clean and efficient and you can get from Copenhagen to Aarhus in less than three hours. You can also fly with Ryanair (from £16.49 one-way, ryanair.com) from Stansted to Aarhus, visitaarhus.com

