



SONS of NORWAY



January 2022
Walworth County, WI

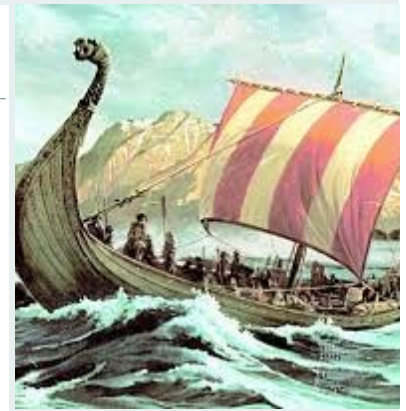
Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Happy New Year:

Our Christmas buffet at Calvary Community Church was perfect. We enjoyed a great meal, lovely entertainment, a little information about Christmas traditions in Scandinavia, the fun of exchanging gifts, and caroling. For those of you who missed the celebration this year, I hope you can make it next year.

Our next meeting will be our traditional March visit to the Atrium in Williams Bay. I won't be there, and neither will our new VP, Kathy Norquist. However, our past president and current counselor, Brian Ogne will step in and preside. We won't have any business to attend to, but I hope you will enjoy the food, fellowship and film with residents of the Atrium. Our film, The Lutefisk Wars, is about a rural frozen food delivery man who is mistaken for someone else and ends up in the middle of an ancient feud between two Norwegian Mafia Families. Make sure you are prepared to laugh.

This issue is dedicated to Denmark. I hope you get as much out of reading it as I did compiling it.



Gratulerer med dagen

January Birthdays

Dennis Westgor	8th
Deb Weber	11th
Cathy Nolan	23rd
Trevor Wilson	27th

Norway's rising star winter athletes



With its snowy climate and ample trail access, Norway is an ideal place for athletes to train and excel at winter sports. The country is home to some of the world's greatest winter athletes. Did you know that Norway has won more medals than any other nation since the first Winter Olympics in 1924? In the January issue of *Viking* magazine, meet some of the country's sporting heroes that dominate the slopes and ice. Here are three more to keep an eye on.

At the age of 4, **Silje Norendal** strapped on her first snowboard and never looked back. These days, she is turning heads on the international stage. In 2014, Norendal won a gold medal at the Winter X Games in Aspen before heading to the Olympic Games in Sochi, where she competed in the ladies' slopestyle event. Norendal has won four X Games gold medals and is known for her stylish riding and jumping skills. The talented athlete is one of the Top 20 X Games Snowboarders of All-Time.

Mats Zuccarello started ice skating on the ponds near Oslo as a child. At age 18, he made his Norwegian hockey league debut, followed by time playing on the Swedish Elite League. He represented Norway at the Vancouver Olympics and soon caught the attention of National Hockey League (NHL). The New York Rangers signed Zuccarello in 2010. Currently, he is only one of eight Norwegians to play in the NHL. Today, the 33-year-old is a talented passer for the Minnesota Wild. Zuccarello is also committed to giving back in his native Norway. The Zuccarello Foundation supports grass roots sports in Norway.

Johannes Høsflot Klæbo, 24, is Norway's new cross-country ski phenomenon. His grandfather gave him his first pair of skis for Christmas at the age of 2. Now, the Trondheim native is a superstar athlete. At age 21, Klæbo won three gold medals at the Olympics in PyeongChang in 2018, making him the youngest Olympic champion in his sport. And he's garnering international acclaim for his other accomplishments. He's the youngest male to win the FIS cross-country World Cup, the Tour de Ski, a World Championship event and an Olympic cross-country ski event.

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CALENDAR

Next meeting:

March 8th
Atrium Senior Living Center,
116 Cherry St.,
Williams Bay
Potluck at 6 P.M.
followed by the
movie "The
Lutefisk Wars".



Movie Review: The Resistance Banker

During the Nazi occupation, Amsterdam family banker Walraven van Hall enthusiastically accepts, despite brother-partner Gijs and many colleagues' reservations, to help the resistance by financing them with fake credits, for which the Dutch government in exile gives a post-war guarantee. As the war drags on, he largely exceeds the guaranteed sum and forges a coordination between resistance components, but the Germans plus collaborators set up a large operation to find and roll up the "under-ground bank".

As Allied forces approach, a far larger sum is needed to pay for a massive railway strike, but the regular systems are exhausted. Walraven now devises a daring plan to liberate funds from the national bank by a complex web of forged promissory notes, but the ruthless SS is hot on their trail.

This Dutch language film is a well told, true story worth knowing about little-known heroes of World War II.

This movie is available on Netflix in Dutch with English subtitles. Two thumbs up from Corlene.

Denmark v Norway: Two Scandinavian Countries Compared

December 10, 2021 by Michelle Madsen

People often mix up Norway and Denmark. I understand why. Danes would say that Norwegians are the people we are the most like. We **share a long history**. Norway was a part of Denmark for more than two hundred years. We (mostly) understand each other's languages, the **cross flags** look alike and our society structures and welfare systems are also quite similar.



But some of the differences between the two countries are big. I have lived in both countries, and I'm currently living in Norway. Here are some of the differences I have experienced as a Dane living in Norway.

Alcohol culture

Denmark has a much more relaxed relationship to alcohol, whereas the approach to **alcohol in Norway** is quite strict. You can buy hard liquor, beer and wine in any kiosk or grocery shop in Denmark. The freedom to drink is a big part of Danish culture. During the summer the Danes sit in parks and harbors and enjoy alcohol. Danes are also really fond of beer, and they are willing to share this appreciation with others.

At festivals and bigger football matches it is common to experience how Danes suddenly throw beer up in the air as a special form of cheering. And it's not unusual that Danes serve beer and liquor at baptism parties while this would be socially unacceptable in Norway.



Photo: monticello / Shutterstock.com.

In Norway the state has a monopoly on selling alcohol and selling is limited to shops called *Vinmonopolet*. In Norway, drinking alcohol is not allowed in public places and you may end up getting a fine. Also, a tap beer costs around \$5 in Denmark while you have to pay an overwhelming \$14 in Norway, and it's super Danish to point out how expensive it is to purchase a drink in Norway.

Use of nature

Compared to Norway, Denmark is as flat as a pancake. Norway has **mountains** and big national parks and many **opportunities for hiking** and skiing. Norwegians are way better than Danes at using nature all year around. They are more outdoorsy and used to unpredictable weather and wild nature. It makes me happy to see how Norwegians of all ages and shapes get outside and enjoy great nature experiences. On hikes where I'm out of breath, I'm overtaken by Norwegians with small kids and small dogs heading smoothly up the rocky, steep path to the mountain.

Love of the outdoors is not so strong in Denmark. It is common to see Norwegians hiking with a baby in a backpack. For a Dane who's mostly familiar with sandy beaches, this is a very rare sight.

Be careful on your bicycle

Danes love bicycling as a means of transportation, whether it is to work, school or getting around in the city. In Denmark we have bicycle lanes everywhere and, of course, this is easier when you are in a flat country. It's both safe and easy to get around by bicycle in Denmark.

I thought it would be manageable in Oslo as it is quite flat in the city center, so I tried to bicycle in Oslo, and I was terrified. Suddenly the bicycle lanes just stopped and I was zig-zagging to avoid hitting pedestrians, people on scooters or myself being hit by a car. In Norway you most likely have to share the road with other types of traffic, and those are not always familiar with bicycles in traffic.

Danish and Norwegian traditions

Norwegians do take traditions seriously compared to Denmark! A good example would be the celebration of the Syttendi Mai. It's a public holiday where Norwegians dress up in national costumes that cost a fortune. In Denmark, national costumes are only used for folk dancing. Danes would consider you silly if you suddenly approach a party in this outfit.

On that special day in Norway, people celebrate with parades and music and wave the Norwegian flag pretty much everywhere – even on mountain peaks. For Norwegians the 17th of May is bigger than Christmas and New Years. Some years I didn't even notice constitution day in Denmark. It is not a public holiday; we don't dress up nor is it a big celebration. You can hear some political speeches here and there and that's pretty much it.

Quality of food in Denmark and Norway

The quality of food is not that great in Norway – sorry Norway. In Denmark the selection of food is wider, and you have a bigger and more affordable selection.

Norwegians like a quick meal and sometimes it seems as if Norwegians are only eating because they must. I was surprised the first time I went grocery shopping in Norway. The wide selection of pizzas, fast meals and tacos seemed enormous.

A good thing in Norway is the selection of fish, however. Even though Denmark is surrounded by the sea, Danes don't eat that much fish, and the variety of fish they eat tends to be on the sad side. Norwegians enjoy their fish and eat it multiple days a week. In Norway fish is considered more affordable and you can buy fresh fish in many grocery stores.

Avoid chit-chat

Danish people are known for their open, direct style of communication. Danes tend not to lie or make excuses for why they say things. This can cause some problems as some Norwegians are more cautious in what they say and do. Norwegians are more reserved and seem to be happy if they can avoid chit-chat. For example, it's not always you get a "hi" back if you say hello to a Norwegian in an elevator. This feels very awkward when you share an elevator for five floors. I try my best not to be regarded as a rude Dane, so sometimes I have to hold my tongue so that I don't say anything that leads to misunderstanding or create uncomfortable situations.

Even though we sometimes misunderstand each other, Norwegians and Danes are like siblings. We love to compare and measure things up against each other, and we like to tease each other with the differences in our language and culture.

This article is opinion based, of course, and I expect that people have their own. Because I have only lived in Norway for a short duration, I believe more differences and similarities will show up later. Without a doubt, I can say that both are absolutely great countries in which to live.

Norwegian Tabby Takes the World by Storm

Meet Jesperpus ("yes-per-poose"), Norway's famous adventure cat! This large, fluffy tabby bunks with his human family in the municipality of Løten, in Innlandet county in eastern Norway. He spends his days riding on one of his many horse friends, or out on the hunt with his younger cat brother, Kasper. He also loves to hike in the mountains and go swimming. However, his primary passion is *snørekjøring*.

In the sport of *snørekjøring*, better known to North Americans as skijoring, a human skier swoops over the snowscape, pulled along by a strong and fast animal or vehicle. As far as we know, Jesper is the only cat in this field dominated by dogs and horses! It started when a video of Jesper and his human Aina Stormo on a ski trip went viral in 2013. Harnessed by a thin lead, Jesper races ahead, clearly a determined and focused athlete. When he gets tired, he gives Aina a special signal – he flops down in the snow and refuses to move. She then scoops him up, and he enjoys a well-deserved rest riding the rest of the way on her shoulders, the cold Nordic wind swirling through his fur and whiskers.

Jesperpus boasts an impressive social network following, holding a prominent presence on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. He has also made appearances on Spanish TV and has been glimpsed between the pages of a very popular German cat magazine. In 2016, he was named one of TIME Magazine's most influential animals of the year. With such a busy schedule, it's hard to determine when he found the time to inspire three books featuring his own fluffy self.

You can find out more about Jesperpus on his blog, <https://www.jesperpus.com/blog/>
Watch him and his human Snørekjøring here: <https://youtu.be/u7ekWeSmWYQ>



15 Fun Facts About Denmark

April 21, 2020 by Andrew McKay

If you're looking for some new Scandinavian knowledge to throw around at parties, then you've come to the right place! Norway and Denmark, along with Sweden of course, have a long, intertwined history. However, there are some things that make Denmark unique. Today we take a look at some favorite facts about our Scandinavian sibling: Denmark.

1. They have the oldest flag in the world

The white cross on a red background that comprises the *Dannebrog* or 'Danish Cloth' is instantly recognizable. Originating in the 14th Century, legend has it that the flag appeared during the battle of Lyndanisse in 1219 and inspired the Danes to victory against Latvia. The flag was adopted at some point during the next 100 years. Whilst it's not the oldest flag ever to have existed, it holds the Guinness World Record for being the oldest continuously used national flag.

It's a matter of contention as to what constitutes 'continuous use' as the saltire of Scotland also lays claim to a similar feat, but through sketchy evidence, Guinness sides with Denmark and gives a date of 1625 for its adoption.

2. And the monarchy is even older

Even older than the flag is the Danish Monarchy. Since Gorm the Old started things off in 935, the monarchy has continued right through to today. Originally an elective monarchy, it became hereditary in the 17th century and then in the 19th century was converted to a constitutional monarchy. The current monarch is Queen Margrethe II, the first female monarch since her namesake Margrethe I died in 1412 during the Kalmar Union.

3. They have a model Prince

Queen Margrethe's eldest grandson, Prince Nikolai, has an unusual job for a royal. The 19-year-old Prince is currently wowing catwalks around the world as a model! He made his bow walking for Burberry at London Fashion Week in 2018. He has since modelled for Dior designer Kim Jones who, himself, has a Danish mother.

He's not the first royal to walk a catwalk, though he's perhaps unique in having the full approval and support of his family. As Nikolai is currently seventh in line to the throne – down from third when he was born – he's unlikely to have to put his career aside to rule over Denmark anytime soon!

4. It's a small country

Outside the cities, Scandinavia has a reputation as being a vast open space with mountains, fjords and lakes. Not so with Denmark! Our Danish friends live in a relatively small place. At just a shade larger than the Netherlands and Switzerland, it ranks 130th in the world. In US terms, that's somewhere between Maryland and West Virginia in size.

5. That is also a big country

However, the Kingdom of Denmark has islands, and lots of them! In total, Denmark has 443 islands, 70 of which are inhabited. One of those islands is Greenland, the largest non-continental island on the planet. It is an autonomous territory of Denmark. The mother country retains control of foreign affairs and defense, but most other decisions have been devolved to a Greenlandic government.

So while Denmark itself is small, its total territory is much bigger. Adding it all up brings them rocketing up to 12th biggest in the world, nestled between DR Congo and Saudi Arabia.

6. The economy can be rather taxing

Many people visiting Scandinavia are shocked by how much things cost. Denmark's sales tax of 25% is one of the highest in the world. Denmark also has one of the highest rates of income tax in the world with Danes paying as much as 45% of their income to the government. Surprisingly, though, in surveys 90% of Danes are happy with the level of taxation.

7. They're also pretty happy

Denmark is currently second in the UN's World Happiness Report, just behind Finland. All education is free, and both the education and healthcare systems are renowned throughout the globe. So maybe paying higher taxes isn't as bad as people in lower-taxed countries might think!

8. The Danes know how to "play well"

Most people know the joy that comes from opening a box of pieces and ending up with a finished model an hour or two later. Lego is probably Denmark's best-known export, especially among children. The Lego company was invented in 1932 in the small town of Billund by carpenter Ole Kirk Christiansen. The name comes from "leg godt," which means "play well." The company's initial products were wooden toys. It wasn't until 1947 that they introduced the iconic interlocking plastic bricks that we all know and love. Since then the company has grown to a multi-billion-dollar business including theme parks and clothing. Perhaps most amazingly, the earliest bricks still fit together with the ones made today!

9. They know a thing or two about amusements

Long before Walt Disney was even a blink in the eyes of the world, the Danes had amusement parks. In fact the country is home to the world's two oldest operating amusement parks: Bakken and Tivoli.

Bakken originated in 1583 when a natural spring was discovered. Thanks to the poor water quality in Copenhagen at the time, residents flocked. After this followed hawkers and entertainers. Nowadays, the park is home to a wide variety of vendors, entertainers and rides. Entrance to the park is free, though there is a charge for many of the rides.



Tivoli Gardens, a relative newcomer that opened in 1843, is the better known of the two. From the start, Tivoli included a range of themed buildings, as well as mechanical rides and a scenic railway. The park is constantly evolving and, as the founder said, “will never, so to speak, be finished.”

10. They’re naturally cozy people

Enjoying the simple things in life is so important to the Danes that they have a special word for it – Hygge. Pronounced Hoo-ga, the word defies direct translation. Instead, it’s the feeling of contentment you get from enjoying simple pleasures. In a way it’s the opposite of stress. Instead of worrying about terrible weather, simply make a cup of cocoa and curl up with a good book. Ignore the stresses of work and spend quality time with friends and family. These are all examples of Hygge, and its concept, I think, we should all embrace.

11. And Danes love their bicycles

There might be nine million bicycles in Beijing, if Katie Melua is to be believed, but there’s also a lot in Denmark. Danes love cycling and there are more bicycles in the country than people! Part of the reason for this is that the country is relatively flat. The highest point in the country is a mere hill of 170m called Mollehoj. Another reason is that new cars are heavily taxed to discourage them. The investment in infrastructure has made cycling safe and easy for both recreation and transportation.



12. They enjoy a few gourmet delights

All countries have their contributions to the world of food and drink, and Denmark is no exception. Smørrebrød comes from the words for bread and butter, and they’re a type of open sandwich. Originally, they would simply have been rye bread with lard, but over the years they’ve grown into an artform. Restaurants compete to provide patrons with the most lavish open sandwiches. Frikadeller are flat meatballs of veal or pork and are eaten throughout Denmark. Even though the original concept is German, the Danes simply love them!

13. And they let children drink...a little

Unlike some countries, there are no laws to prevent children from consuming alcohol. There are laws in place to stop purchases that vary the age based on the strength. Beer can be bought at 16 but you’ll have to be 18 to buy spirits. This doesn’t mean that kids are on the streets getting drunk. Instead, the permissive culture leads to a more relaxed attitude to alcohol.

In terms of what they drink, the Carlsberg brewery has been providing Denmark and the world with beer for over 150 years. The lesser-known Tuborg brewery, now owned by Carlsberg, produces a seasonal ale every year. Akvavit, meanwhile, is a spirit flavored with herbs such as dill that has been produced in Scandinavia for hundreds of years.

14. Some surprising things are controlled by the government

One area that might be considered odd to most people is the naming of children. The government keeps a list of 7,000 names that are pre-approved for babies’ names. So, you’ll never meet a Danish Chardonnay or Gaga!

Another bizarre law is about burning flags. It’s only illegal to burn foreign flags. Danish flags can be burnt to your heart’s content!

15. Overall though, they’re a pretty progressive nation

Denmark is among the nations that are leading the world in progressive policies. In 1969, Denmark was the first country in the world to legalize pornography, and it can be found everywhere, including on TV. The Danes have a healthy, liberal attitude to sex. They were also the first nation in the world to legalize same-sex unions. This came in 1989 and since then 28 other countries have followed suit. Opinion polls in Denmark show support among the public is at 86%.

Which was your favorite fact about Norway’s southern neighbors?



Haakon & Mette-Marit: 20 years

In August, Norway’s crown prince pair celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. The couple decided to delay their celebration due to coronavirus concerns. On the date of their anniversary, Princess Ingrid Alexandra was quarantined due to a Covid diagnosis and has since recovered.

The 2001 royal wedding was an international occasion, with royals from several other European countries in attendance. Crown Prince Haakon was elegantly clad in his naval dress uniform. After they wed, the crown prince pair went on to earn master’s degrees and have two children together, Princess Ingrid Alexandra (now 17) and Prince Sverre Magnus (15). Haakon and Mette-Marit support causes on behalf of youth, and also campaign in areas

such as industry, innovation, mental health, literacy and more.

Earlier this summer, the pair were interviewed about their two decades of marriage on the NRK radio program “Sommer i P2.” Of Mette-Marit, Haakon said that when they met, “She was nice to talk to and it felt safe when we were together. The fact that she had a small child really only told me that she was not afraid to take on commitment and responsibility. It really was similar to my situation. We both were involved in something we saw as important.” He added that he is proud that they have built such a wonderful thriving family together.

Beyond Norway: The Best of Denmark In Pictures

December 10, 2021 by David Nikel



Extend your trip to Scandinavia and take in some of the highlights offered by Norway's neighbor: Denmark.

The three Scandinavian countries are tied by so much shared history and culture, that it sometimes surprises visitors how different they can be.

After a week trekking the Norwegian mountains, Denmark offers something quite different. From Norway, Denmark is a simple weekend trip with several flights per day to Copenhagen from most major cities. For those travelling internationally, Denmark often makes sense as the arrival airport given the huge number of international arrivals. Plus, given how close the air-

port is to the capital city, a quick tour is a superb option to keep things interesting during a long layover.

Copenhagen

For canals, castles and Scandinavian cool, few places can rival the Danish capital, Copenhagen. With a thriving culinary scene, cool Scandinavian design and super accessible arts and culture, Denmark's capital city draws visitors in the millions every year. Copenhagen ranks as one of the happiest places in the world to live, and it won't take more than a quick stroll along the harbor to understand why.

Based on the fairy tale of the same name by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, the Little Mermaid is a Copenhagen icon. I have no idea how this figure is guesstimated, but tourist bosses claim that five million photographs are taken of her every single year.

At the heart of Copenhagen, Tivoli Gardens is the second oldest theme park in the world. Rollercoasters draw thrill-seekers to the park during the summer months, but it also serves as a concert venue year-round. Although usually closed for much of the winter, the park opens for a period in the run-up to Christmas, which is an especially atmospheric time to visit. Just remember to wrap up warm!



Lego Land Village

Denmark for kids

The Scandinavian nation doesn't immediately leap out as a kid-friendly destination. But of course, there is one big exception. Denmark is the home of those famous little bricks! Who doesn't love Lego!? One of the most famous Danish exports, these tiny little bricks remind generations of adults of their childhood. So much so, that parents will get just as much enjoyment from Denmark's Legoland than their kids do! If you need further justification to add Legoland to your



Lego Land Crocodiles

itinerary, then here you go: It's easy to access from Billund Airport and even offers accommodation inside the park!

A cultural capital

Its reign as "European Capital of Culture" is over, but Aarhus continues to benefit from its year in the spotlight. Known for its modern architecture, the "city of smiles" is well worth a detour on your travels. Start at the city's ARoS art museum. Its rainbow panorama skywalk gives visitors a unique and ever-changing perspective on the city.

Take a walk through the streets of 1970s Denmark, and meet actors playing the parts of locals from the 19th and early 20th centuries at Aarhus Old Town museum.

During the busy season, you'll often find people cooking food, chopping wood, sewing, and needling, or attending to customers in the museum shops. The grounds are also home to the Jewelry Box, the Decorative Arts Gallery, the Danish Posters Museum, and the Toy Museum, making this a firm family favorite.

A cycling vacation

Few countries in the world are better equipped to support cyclists than Denmark. First and foremost, the

country is flat. But beyond that, the infrastructure in terms of cycling lanes is outstanding, both in the cities and even out in the countryside. Copenhagen in rush hour can be a sight to behold as thousands of bikes speed past stationary cars.



Al Case (CC 2.0)Photo: Stig Nygaard (CC 2.0)

Rock out at Roskilde

One of Europe's largest music festivals, Roskilde has been held every year since 1971. Headliners in recent years have included the Foo Fighters, Arcade Fire, Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, Florence + the Machine, Bruce Springsteen, Metallica, Prince, The Who, and Jay-Z.

The white men of Esbjerg

One of the more bizarre tourist attractions in Denmark, the white men of Esbjerg (officially known as Man meets the sea) are four 9-metre-high monuments built to celebrate a city anniversary. According to Visit Esbjerg, the sculpture "portrays the meeting between pure, unspoiled mankind and nature. Man, innocent as from his mother's womb. Man before rising up and beginning to act."

