

## Denmark

### Day 1 :

5 of us accompanied by our teacher, Shelly ma'am, headed for an exciting adventure. We were so excited and a bit nervous as we met up



at the airport in Delhi. Our hearts were racing with anticipation. After hugs and goodbyes with family and friends, we went to check in our bags filled with things we needed and a lot of curiosity. With the announcement we got on to our plane heading for a brief stopover at Istanbul.



When we landed in Turkiye, everything seemed so different and interesting. The airport in Istanbul was full of people from all over, speaking many different languages. We didn't stay long, just a short stop, and we were back in air on our way to Amsterdam.

Amsterdam welcomed us with a cool, autumn breeze. Our hotel, Trianon, was right in the middle of the city. We left our bags and went out to explore the charming streets. We did a lot of walking and eventually found a small shop to grab some food. Later, we all headed back to the hotel and got a good night's rest.

### Day 2 :

We woke up early to visit the Anne Frank Museum and walked over 15,000 steps from our hotel till the Museum taking in the sights along the way. We also paused to have a meal and browse for souvenirs. The museum left a deep impression on all of us.

Afterwards, we headed to the famous Seven Canals of Amsterdam. We couldn't resist stopping at every shop that caught our eye. But once we reached the canals, the view was absolutely captivating. We took a ton of pictures, capturing the beauty of the scene. By the end of the day, we were all very tired and eager to fall asleep.



### Day 3 :

We started the day early at 6 am to catch our flight to Copenhagen. There, we had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Mette , from Aarhus School. She was incredibly kind and even picked us up, making it much easier to explore the city.

After getting settled into Steel House Hotel, we quickly got ready and set out to discover the streets of Copenhagen. We also joined in on a feast, a popular tradition in the city where people from all over gather to share a meal. The food was absolutely delicious!

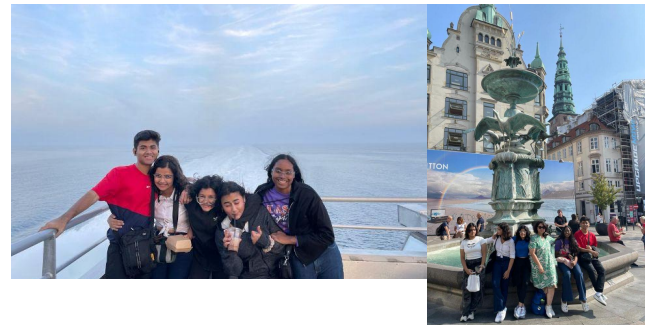


We explored the city, strolling through the streets, capturing the beauty in photographs. As the day came to an end, we returned to our hotels, grateful for the wonderful experiences we had in Copenhagen.

### Day 4 :

We continued our exploration of the city, with another delightful canal ride, which allowed us to see the city through a different perspective. We also took some time to do a bit of shopping.

Later in the day, it was time to leave Copenhagen and head to Aarhus. We settled onto a bus for a three-hour journey, and to our surprise, we had to take a ferry. The ferry ride added an unexpected twist to our adventure, sailing us to the city of Aarhus.



Although we were quite tired from the day's activities, our excitement was at its peak as we looked forward to meeting our host families. Upon arriving in Aarhus, we were warmly welcomed by our hosts. The six of us were split into different groups: Suhani and Aditri, Vaibhavi and Ridha, Dakshyaneel on his own, and Shelly maam with Ms. Mette.

## Day 5:

The next morning, we woke up with our host families and headed to school. At Aarhus StatsGymnasium, we got to experience their education system. Even though the classes were in Danish and we didn't understand much, the teachers and students went out of their way to help us grasp the concepts.

After school, Suhani, Aditri, Ridha, Vaibhavi, and the host families gathered for a small get-together. We shared a meal, engaged in conversations about India and Denmark, and got to know each other better. It was a wonderful opportunity to bridge the cultural gap and build connections.



## Day 6 :

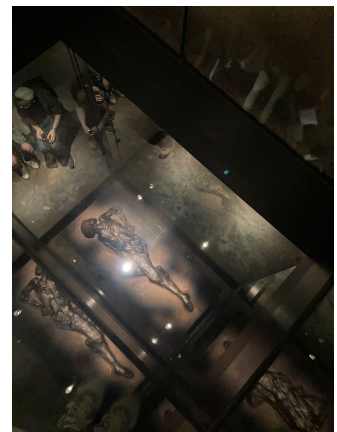
We started our day early with a gym class, where we all joined in and played with the students. Afterwards, we visited the "Moesgaard Museum." There, we learned about the evolution of humans and Danish history. One fascinating exhibit was about a man named "Grauballe Man" who lived in a swamp, and when he passed away, he didn't become a skeleton because he was preserved in mud. The exhibit was captivating, and they even designed the floors to give the sensation of being in a swamp.



Afterwards, we took pictures and headed to the beach. We had hoped to swim, but the water was too cold. We learned about the Danish winter swimming culture, which was really interesting. We all enjoyed some ice creams before heading back home.



In the evening, around 7 pm, we went to a party at one of the hosts' houses. We had a bonfire and made s'mores. We also learnt "Hygge" a Danish idea or word that means feeling cozy, happy, and comfortable. It's about making your surroundings warm and inviting, whether you're at home or outside. You can experience it in different ways, like reading a book or taking a calm walk in nature. The main idea is to find happiness and contentment in the small, everyday moments. It was a great time, but we were all tired, so we turned in for the night soon after.





### Day 7 :

The day we had been eagerly anticipating had finally arrived: Presentation Day. Despite the chilly morning, we made our way to the primary school to share the rich culture of India and give insight into the life of a teenager in our homeland. The principal of the school graciously treated us to some Danish food, which was a lovely gesture. We also had the chance to visit the music room, where we performed a Hindi song for the primary school students.



Later, we returned to Aarhus StatsGymnasium, where we bid farewell to our first host families and transferred to our next ones. Before heading home, our hosts treated us to some delicious ice cream.

### Day 8:

This day quickly became one of our favorites. In the morning, we went to the music room at school to sing for a while. Then, one of the teachers took us out to explore the city. We visited two churches, one of which was an underground church that had been discovered. It was a little eerie, but we also learned about the touching Sunday ceremonies where mothers bring their newborn babies to the church to pray and sing.



In the other church, we climbed 150 steps to reach the top. The view was incredible. We continued our exploration by heading to the "Annette Museum" or the "Art Museum," where we were greeted by a rainbow-colored circular roof that changed colors as we walked through it. We explored the museum, marveling at realistic sculptures created by talented artists. We were particularly awestruck by a light that only glows when a star dies, symbolizing the cosmic connection. We were immensely grateful to the teacher who accompanied us, explaining every little detail.

Afterwards, our host families picked us up, and we returned home to prepare for Indian Night. We danced to "Kala Chashma" and sang four songs. They also introduced us to Danish folk dance, which we enthusiastically joined in. We cooked biryani for them, and they prepared some Danish dishes for us. Decked out in our lehengas, suits, sarees, and jhumkas, the Danes were fascinated to see us in our traditional attire. It was a beautiful blend of cultures and an evening filled with joy.

Day 9 :

We started the day with a trip to school, and from there, we were whisked away to the old town of Denmark, also known as "Del Gamle By." It was like stepping into the Denmark of the 1940s. Everything was authentically preserved, and it was fascinating to see that nothing had been remade; it all remained old and unchanged.

We even had the chance to buy candies from the 1950s, adding to the sense of time-travel. Visiting four different households from that same period was an incredible experience. The attention to detail made everything feel so realistic that it felt like we had truly stepped back in time.

Afterward, we went shopping for gifts, bringing a wonderful end to our day. It was a day filled with living history and a glimpse into a different era.



Day 10 :

As much as we were sad to leave, we were equally excited to reunite with our families and savor some delicious Indian food after indulging in bread and pasta for ten days! Early in the morning, we boarded a bus for a six-hour journey, bidding farewell to our hosts. The bus took us to Copenhagen Airport.

From there, we boarded a flight back to Istanbul and then to Delhi. The moment we reunited with our families was pure joy, though we couldn't help but miss the incredible experiences we had abroad. We owe our deepest gratitude to our principal, Ms Annie Koshi, for granting us such a remarkable opportunity. Taking part in this exchange program was an opportunity we'll forever cherish as it offered us a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We are eagerly awaiting for the Danish students' arrival in India next September '2024'



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