

THE BALTIC SEA PART 1

COPENHAGEN & BORNHOLM, DENMARK

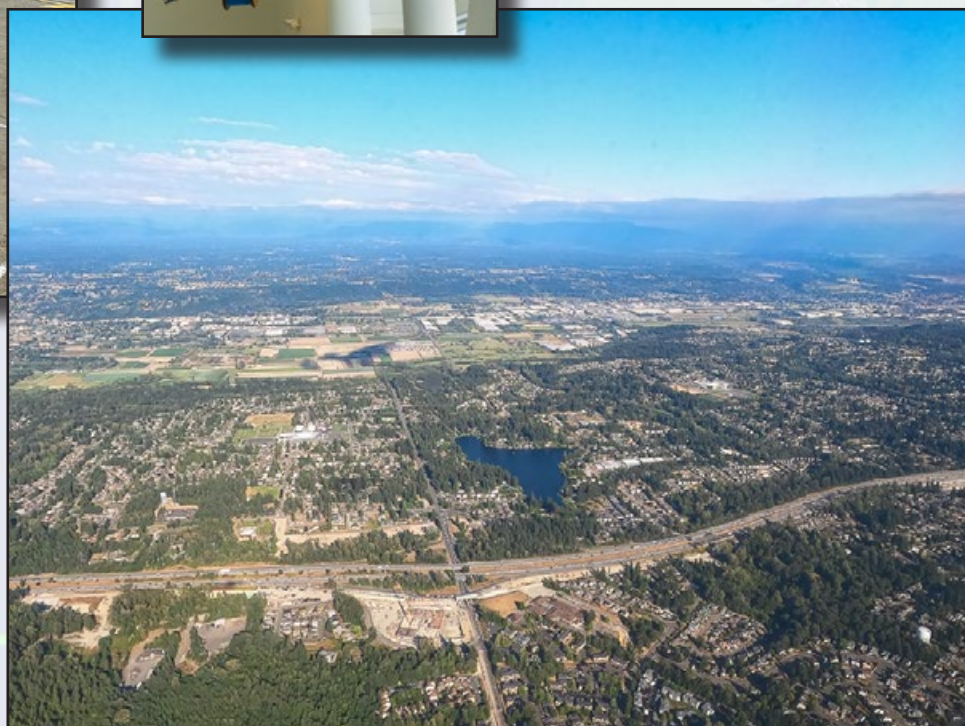
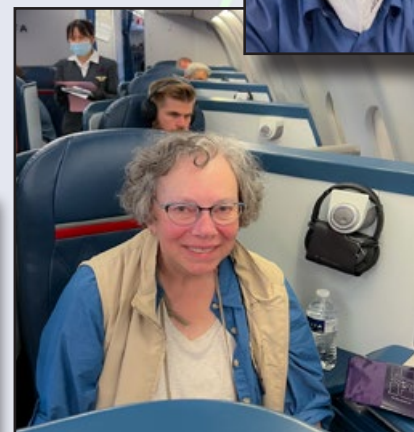
For our first significant travel since the start of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic we took our three-times canceled Baltic Sea trip and added a week in Oslo to it.

With the invasion of Ukraine by Russia came the cancelation of the St. Petersburg portion of the trip. Seeing the museums of St. Petersburg was the major draw to this trip for us, but we decided to go even though St. Petersburg was 86'd from the itinerary. We had already paid for it years ago, prior to COVID-19, and it did visit several countries that we would most likely never go to if it was not on a trip like this (and it seems we were part of the "Revenge Travel" movement without even knowing it... okay then, acknowledging it).

With a certain amount of anxiety and uncertainty, we flew from Seattle to Amsterdam and then to Copenhagen a couple days early of the ship sailed to explore Copenhagen on our own.

While we waited at the gate to board the plane from Seattle to Amsterdam we enjoyed the new art... hoping at the same time this piece did not reflect our flight plan.

We were impressed that Delta sent a Porsche shuttle to take us to our plane, but we never heard our name called or saw a chauffeur with our name on a placard... so it seems there was some sort of miscommunication right from the very start of the trip.



Eventually we exited Seattle terra firma, had a nice view, settled into our pods, had something to eat, and began our wait for re-entry in Amsterdam.

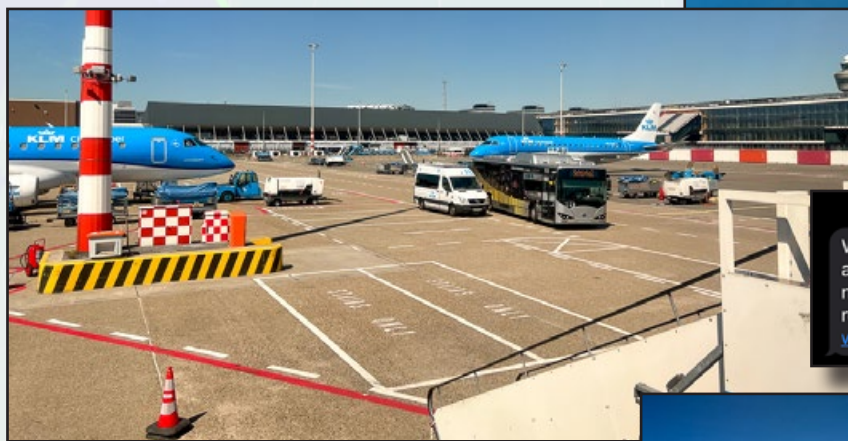
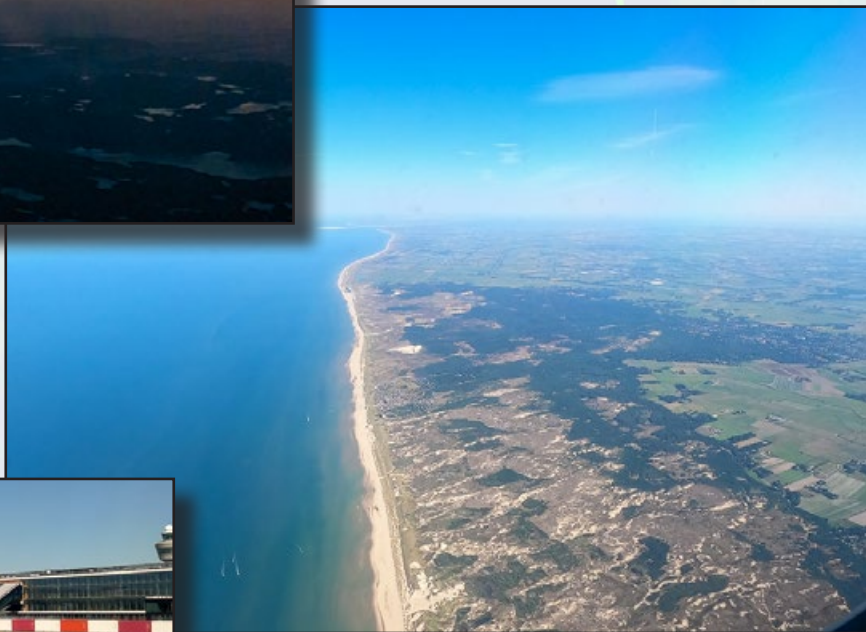
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After a couple of nice sunsets and/or sunrises we saw the familiar coast of the Netherlands west of Amsterdam.



I looked for, but couldn't see the Zandvoort race track below us. The weekend of our return flight there was to be a Formula One race there. In a haze of orange smoke from flares his rabid fans lit off, the Netherlands's popular driver Max Verstappen would win... again.

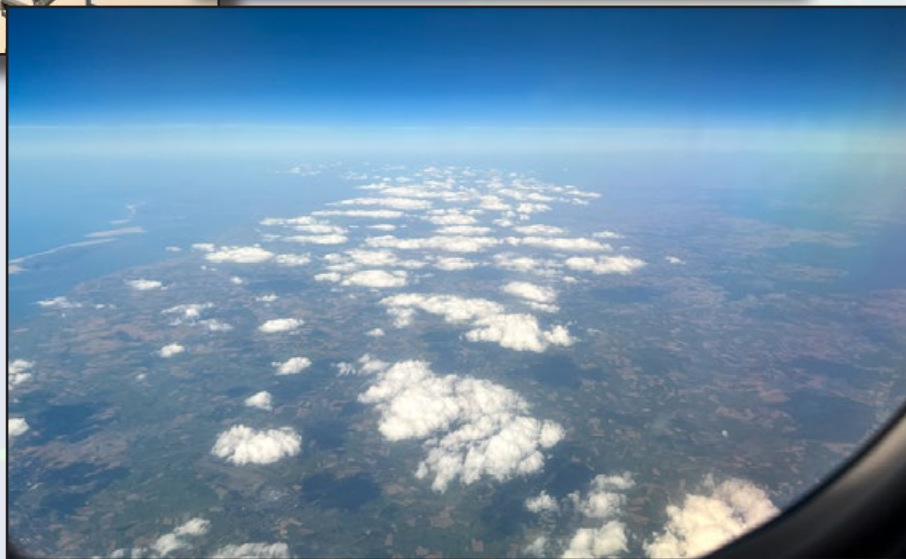


Welcome to Netherlands. You have 250 minutes, 1000 texts and 5GB included in your International travel plan. If you use more, calls will cost \$0.25/min, text \$0.05 to send and free to receive and data \$20/1GB. If you need help visit www.vzw.com/intltry/ or call +1.908.559.4899. Enjoy your trip.

In Amsterdam we took our carry on luggage, the only luggage we took on this trip, and hurried over to our connecting flight to Copenhagen.

We did not get to see the mountains of lost and delayed luggage in Amsterdam as reported in the media. Since we had none to transfer to the next flight we were able to avoid that area (and experience).

We did see piles, if not mountains, of lost and delayed luggage in the Copenhagen as we exited that airport with just our carry on luggage.



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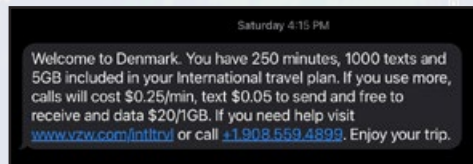
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We stayed the next three nights in the Admiral Hotel (photograph below). It was a good central location for the few things we wanted to see and only a block from the touristy but very interesting Nyhavn canal and old boats.

Our room was not on the water view side, but on the street side just above the drive up entrance and across from the elevators. This is what happens when one lets the tour company book your room. None-the-less, the noise from the elevators and entrance were very minimal.

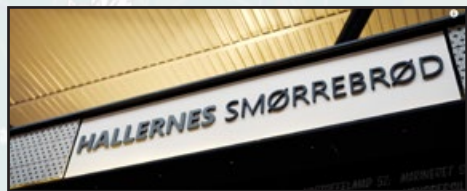


The hotel had a nice Situation Room on the promenade that we took advantage of and where we contemplated and planned a small study of the well kept lines on the ship in front of us.



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We had heard of this place called Hallernes Smørrebrød that put a *ristad* contemporary and foody twist on the traditional Smørrebrød. They have a couple-three locations but the original location and the one we wanted to go to was at the Torvehallerne: a food court, farmers market and gourmet shop.

Smørrebrød is a traditional open-faced sandwich in the cuisines of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They usually consists of a piece of buttered dense, dark brown rye bread topped with commercial or homemade cold cuts, pieces of meat or fish, cheese or spreads, and garnishes.

When we hooked up with our fellow tour participants after a couple of days, one couple had their checked luggage disappeared so we escorted them to a large department store where they could purchase some clothing to tide them over while their checked luggage caught up to them. We had already shopped there our first day or two, adding to our limited carry on luggage things we did or could not carry on (like clothing for hot weather and a pocket knife).

As good fortune found us once more, there was a Hallernes Smørrebrød in that store, so we got to have another Hallernes Smørrebrød experience AND share the discovery with fellow travelers.



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A short cruise out of Nyhavn on a barge like the one to the right was enjoyable and provided some views not possible otherwise. The barge we took was not as crowded as the one to the right as we took the first morning trip offered.



A water view of Copenhagen's iconic "The Little Mermaid" sculpture shows it's popularity, while on shore among the tourist mass does provide a seemingly more tranquil composition.

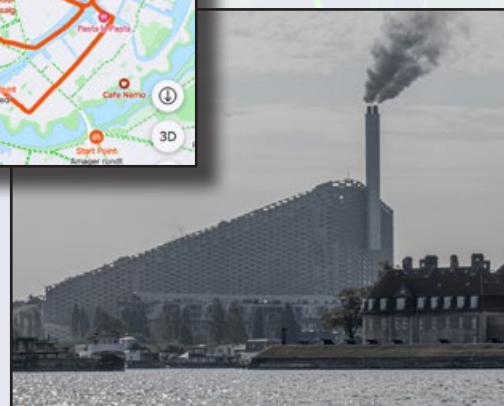
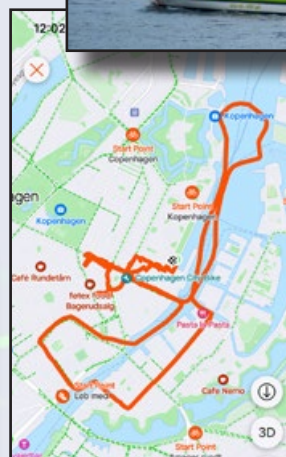
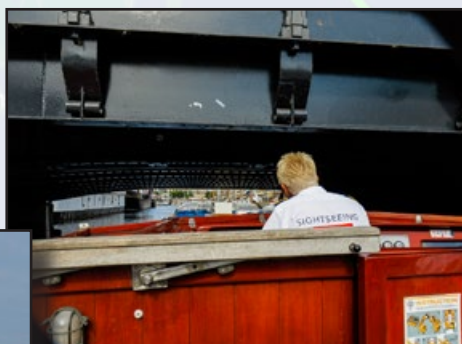


The sculpture of The Little Mermaid. was inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairy tale about a mermaid who gives up everything to be united with a young, handsome prince on land Every morning and evening she swims to the surface from the bottom of the sea and, perched on her rock in the water, she stares longingly towards the shore hoping to catch a glimpse of her beloved prince.

The sculpture was inspired by ballerina Ellen Price, who in 1909 danced the lead role in the ballet The Little Mermaid at the Royal Theatre However, Ellen Price would not model in the nude for sculptor Edvard Eriksen. Thus Eriksen's wife, Eline Eriksen, posed for the sculpture of The Little Mermaid.



Some bridges were lower than others and required everyone to duck a bit.



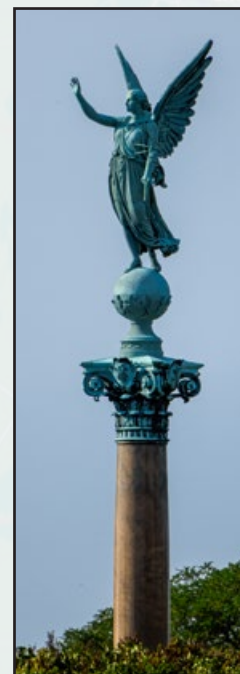
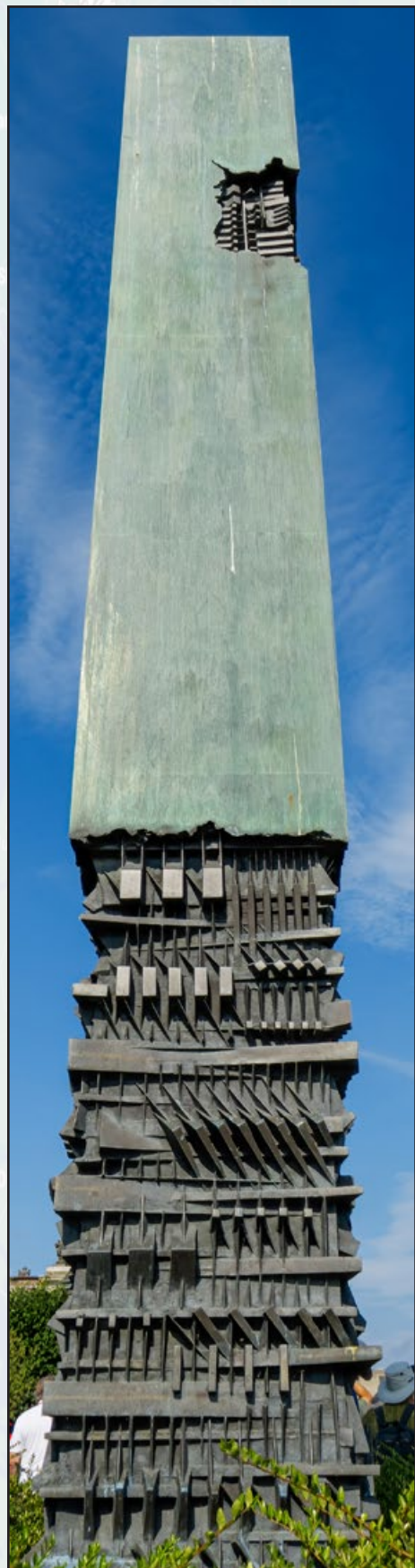
Above is Copenhagen's trash burning incinerator waste-to-energy plant, synthetic ski slope (using Neveplast, a synthetic "dry skiing" surface), a hiking trail, climbing walls, a Strava run segment, cross fit bars and great views.

Up to 300 truckloads of waste arrive at the plant each day from households and businesses across the metropolitan area. It is the rubbish left over after Copenhagen's waste has been sorted for recycling.

Two huge furnaces burn the waste at around 1,000C. Water coming into the plant is boiled to produce steam. A turbine and generator produce electricity which is fed into grid. The leftover energy from the steam is used to provide heating for 72,000 homes, through a system called district heating, which is common throughout Denmark.

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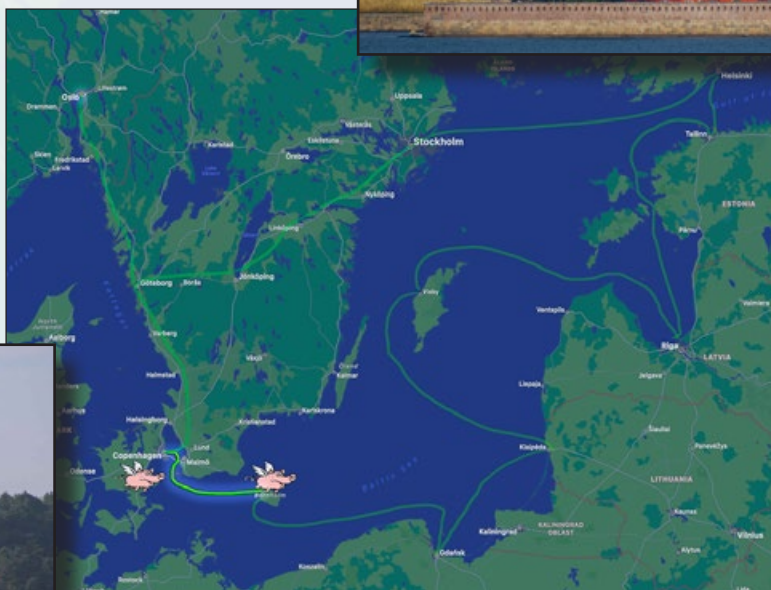


The last day in Copenhagen we connected with the rest of the tour participants, were given a short bus tour to a few spots around Copenhagen, given some free time to have lunch and shop on our own (this is when we escorted the couple that has their checked luggage disappeared to that department store and our 2nd Hallernes Smørrebrød lunch). We were all re-collected and taken to the ship to start our cruise.

The ship to the right was NOT our ship. There were several like this spotted on our way out of the Copenhagen harbor.



We had a nice balcony room on the top floor of the small ship below. The balcony was a great Situation Room for the next couple of weeks. We spent the evening enjoying the views on the way out of the Copenhagen harbor on our way to the island of Bornholm.



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The ship in the above left photograph is the HDMS Peder Skram and is famous for firing "*The Whoops Missile*" back in 1982. Specifically, The HDMS Peder Skram accidentally discharged a live Harpoon missile (an all-weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile) during a training maneuver in the Kattegat (a sea area between Denmark and Sweden). The missile traveled 34 kilometers at low altitude, severing several power lines before eventually striking a group of trees and exploding. The fireball and subsequent shock wave destroyed four nearby unoccupied summer cottages and caused minor damage to a further 130 buildings in the area. No human injury was reported. Luckily for us, it was no longer active and serves as a museum now.

As the daylight faded we passed several more of the thousands of off-shore wind generators in these countries. Europe is a major player in the offshore wind sector. According to industry body WindEurope, as of 2019 it is home to 106 offshore wind farms across 11 countries, with 4,811 wind turbines connected to the grid.



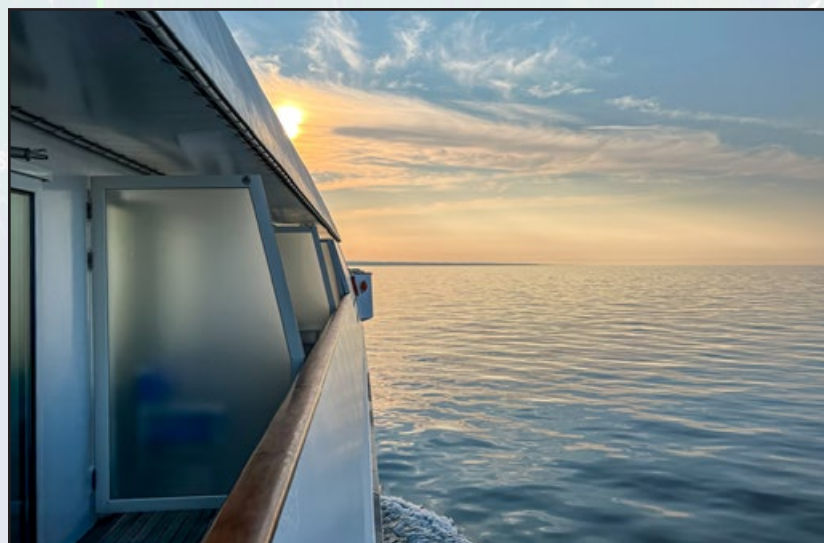
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That night we sailed on to Bornholm. Early the next morning we passed close enough to Germany that my cell phone international plan connected up to the country for awhile.

As the sun rose and we enjoyed the views we had coffee and tea on our Clio Situation Room.

Today 5:07 AM
Welcome to Germany. You have 250 minutes, 1000 texts and 5GB included in your International travel plan. If you use more, calls will cost \$0.25/min, text \$0.05 to send and free to receive and data \$20/1GB. If you need help visit www.vzw.com/intltrlv or call +1.908.559.4899. Enjoy your trip.



Eventually our phones reconnected back up to the Denmark cellular systems as we arrived in Rønne Havn Harbor on Bornholm.

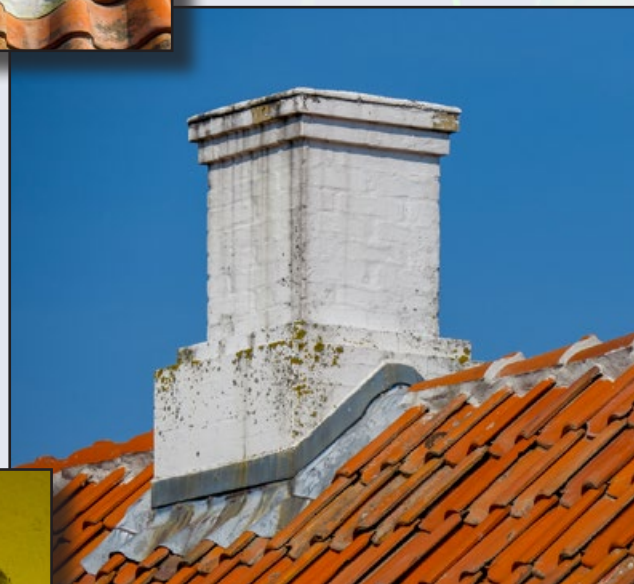
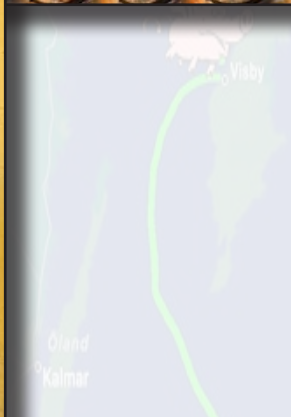


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Once on land in Bornholm (the very first European World Craft Region) we were taken to an artist's home / gallery / workshop called Jollyfishface in a small town called Nyker where they do 'fish rubbings'. You can check out their web site here: <https://bornholm.info/en/jollyfishface/>

While most of the tour group made fish rubbings I found a few details to photograph.



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Right next door to Jollyfishface is one of Denmark's seven medieval round churches. Four are located on Bornholm. This one is called Rotunda Church in Nyker and/or Ny Kirke (New Church) and was built in the 12th century.

The metal worker on the roof of the Ny Kirke added a self portrait of themselves with a hat.



These black boards are a chronological record of the pastors dating all the way back to the 1500's. It shows their name, years of service, year of death, and comments.



This above fresco depicts the devil influencing the decisions of the king. I found it timeless and current.

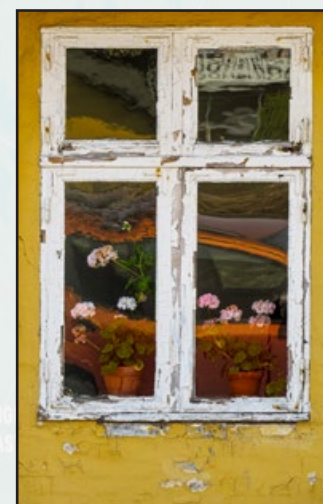
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After our visit to Jollyfishface and the Ny Kirke we stopped for a short time in a small village on the east side of the island called Svaneke where I found some more interesting details to photograph.



I'd not seen this game before. Seems it involves placing a bet on a square and hoping that the chicken chooses the same one for it's business?



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Back to our little ship, we set off for Gdańsk, Poland... our next port of call. As we left we passed by some of the industrial side of Bornholm.



Below is the fast ferry catamarans they use for getting to Sassnitz, Germany, Ystad, Sweden and Świnoujście, Poland. They travel at about 43 knots (50 mph / 80 kph).



We were escorted out of the harbor by the Lotti out of Greifswald, Germany, one of my all-time favorite boats, a ketch rigged Fisher 34 footer.

Our next issue will be on our Gdańsk, Poland and Klaipėda, Lithuania adventures.

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