

Skate scene in Copenhagen

Copenhagen is a cold northern city. This is the land that once belonged to the vikings, where there is never a lack of beer and during the weekend you don't get home before dawn. Despite the bad weather that sometimes takes a good 8 months of the year, most of the people get around by bike. In this way the city is alive in every street, alley, square and park. I'm not only talking about the center, but all the neighborhoods around.

During the summer the city blossoms like a flower, with its colors, sounds, cultures and events. The strong democratic tradition of the country and the “janteloven”, which is a sort of common cultural trait according to which nobody has the right to consider her/himself better than anyone, have allowed the growing of different realities and cultures.

The term “skater” has always equalled misfit, at least in Italy I've experienced this, and somehow I believe that it's quite a common feeling among the skaters of my generation. In Copenhagen however the skate scene is growing on solid basis, sometimes supported by the city, and by personalities of the skate scene such as Rune Glifberg that are committed to rendering skateboarding accessible to everybody.

The city of Copenhagen offers five skateparks, three outdoor and two indoor. These are distributed between Nørrebro, Vesterbro and Christianshavn, the major neighborhoods of the city. Yours is the choice.

In Nørrebro, you've got the Fælled parken, an outdoor skatepark which opened in July 2011 and is considered the biggest in northern Europe. It offers three different areas with ledges, pyramids, quarters, banks, rails, stairs and three bowls, all made of super smooth concrete.

Nørrebro park is more hardcore so to say but lots of fun. It's situated in the heart of the neighborhood and surrounded by a pleasant green area perfect for chilling after session. It features mostly ledges, banks and a nice manual pad, all is made of concrete and asphalt.

In Vesterbro you've got Enghave park, little outdoor street skatepark with ledges, quarters and other fun stuff (mix of wood and concrete), and the Royal Skatepark of Copenhagen (indoor).

The Royal Skatepark features banks, hips, quarters, a bowl and a vert. Every year it's torn apart and rebuilt anew to host the CPH pro contest, an event where pro skaters from all over the world participate. Last but not least Christiania, a neighborhood occupied since 1971 that features an indoor bowl where you might happen to see the good old Tom Penny rolling around. These are the main spots in Copenhagen but the city is rich of street spots and smaller skateparks that are worth a couple of tricks, just ask the locals.

Taking advantage of the bike lanes, it's possible and very fun to skate from spot to spot. I've lived in Copenhagen two and a half years and I skate almost everyday. I've never seen a skate stopper and no one has ever asked me to leave, even from street city spots. People smile, curious and fascinated. Skateboarding is growing thanks to the schools too. Skate schools are popping up from this scene, schools like “AFUK” (academy for untamed creativity), that not only teach to skate, but give the kids an insight into the arts that surround this activity, from movie making to photography, from design and development of structures to event management.

In Copenhagen skateboarding is not just punk, not anymore. With its pros and cons skateboarding has switched from being an exclusive expression of a subculture, to being a phenomenon spread, acknowledged and by all means respected.

Kids are ruling the city and I am far behind but it's ok, as long as I'm allowed to enjoy my humble sessions, and on the way home, to chill at the bridge with my pals, saluting happily the ladies passing by.

I strongly recommend to everybody a weekend in Copenhagen, during the summer of course. The city is cheaper than you think and it's really becoming a mecca for skateboarding. Street beer at the cost of 1 euro spread all over the city. Cheap Flights from Milano Malpensa. Enjoy.