

# Vacation Guide

## Nyhavn: return to the past

NYHAVN is Copenhagen's old and most notorious harbour. Few places in Denmark have been more fiercely loved or more stubbornly detested than Nyhavn. It was always a "world unto itself", whether maligned as Copenhagen's bawling "ghetto" or praised as a mixing bowl where writers and artists rubbed shoulders with tough factory workers and wily seamen.

For some 200 years it was the uncontested center of Copenhagen's non-stop night life. Before World War II, Nyhavn's 42 bars, restaurants and dance halls were always choked with a great menagerie of people. Few would deny that Nyhavn had an exotic, international atmosphere.

During the daylight hours, Nyhavn's wharf was bustling with commercial activity. Thousands of tons of goods moved in and out of its warehouses and shops. Many pined the coastal waters between Copenhagen and Jutland as well as the 100 inhabited islands that comprise the Danish archipelago. Others sailed to Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Russia and even as far as North America.

In 1662, when King Frederik III ordered plans to be drawn up for a Ny Kanal (New Copenhagen), the city was rapidly becoming an important commercial center. In the coming years, Denmark would be Europe's "bridge" into Scandinavia.

Although original plans called for a Ny Kanal rather than a Ny Haven, the royal treasury was drained following the Danish-Swedish War of 1657-60 (which the Danes lost). So the canal became a harbour. Army engineers began the project in 1671, and by October 1673 Nyhavn was completed.

The west side (now known as the quiet "good" side) was reserved for the Royal Navy and Ulrik Christian Gyldenløve, the illegitimate son of King Christian IV. The King carted up the east side and handed out the choice morsels to his land-hungry aristocracy, who in turn sold their chunks to the burgeoning merchant class and a cross section of the bourgeoisie.

Despite this, its bohemian "anything goes" atmosphere began to attract a core of intellectuals. The list of celebrities that have lived in Nyhavn reads like a Who's Who in Denmark. During his lifetime, Hans Christian Andersen had three different flats in Nyhavn. In the early 1900's one of Denmark's most celebrated actresses, Anna Larsen, lived there with her lover, Johannes Poulsen, another renowned actor. Artist, Asger Jorn, one of the country's most famous "abstractionists", used to paint the walls of the courtyard at Skipper Kræm (Nyhavn 27) to pay his beer bills!

Following WW II, Nyhavn's importance began to shrivel. Denmark was industrializing at an explosive rate. Larger cargo ships that rapidly began to replace the coastal schooners, could not get into Nyhavn. Times were changing too fast. Containers, huge cranes, fork lifts and other forms of mechanization were making small harbours obsolete.

By 1965, Nyhavn was just barely breathing. Only a few wooden ships bothered to dock there. Around 1970, some of the merchants and residents decided that Nyhavn needed a scrubbing.

When the city celebrated Nyhavn's 300-year anniversary in October, 1973, renewed interest in



Nyhavn harbour, although still in need of work, is starting to get back some of its old world charm. The ships are not in working order anymore, but are a pleasant reminder of the past.

the harbour was sparked. Three years ago, the Nyhavn Committee was formed and now consists of about 200 "contributing" members.

However, the committee is spearheaded by three people: "Curly" Hilma Johansen, who initiated the Nyhavn Committee, is the proprietor of Nyhavn 13 - a shop known for its bargain priced cold weather wear. Architect Peter Stephensen, who has an office in Nyhavn, was elected chairman of the committee. And Jan Enev, a member of the Adventurer's Club of Denmark (the club is headquartered in Nyhavn) is a civil engineer and

the man who discovered the sunken Viking ships in the Roskilde Fjord in 1950. These three people and the other committee members have one thing in common - they are all united in their determination to salvage Nyhavn.

Peter Stephensen outlined the committee's three basic goals: "First, turn Nyhavn into a refuge for old wooden sailing ships, second, rid Nyhavn of its parking lot image by banning all cars from the quay, and third, clean up the harbour. We hope that these measures will bring back some of the old atmosphere."

The basic plan was approved at the end of August, 1976 and on September 17th, Nyhavn was officially inaugurated as a sanctuary for old wooden sailing ships.

But the committee's work is not over. After all, there is much in Nyhavn worth preserving. The history of each building in Nyhavn would probably fill a book. Nyhavn 9 is a case in point. The founding date, 1681, can still be seen - set in large iron numbers near its gabled roof.

The exquisitely carved nautical "coat of arms" over the entrance to Nyhavn 65 dates from 1737. The sign reads: "P. Berg - Sail, Flag and Compass Maker".

Because of the changing atmosphere, Nyhavn is attracting a new type of bohemian. They're young, hard-working, and committed to changing Nyhavn by turning back the clock. Typical of these young entrepreneurs is 29-year-old Svend Lovstad, owner of Maritime Antiques. Besides his passion for unique, rare handcrafted ship's models - including two versions of Lord Nelson's flagship, the HMS Victory - he has ship's wheels, engine room telegraphs, sextants, copper ship's lamps and running lights, antique figure heads, brass portholes and diving helmets.

According to the legend, an unknown person of the day put ice cream in a dish, added flavoring but no soda water and came up with ice cream sunday, or sundae.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
TAKE NOTICE THAT Council for The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills intends to pass a by law to stop up, close and convey a portion of the Unopened Road Allowance between the East Halves of Lots 10 and 11, Concession 11, in the former Village of Norval, now in the Town of Halton Hills, in the Regional Municipality of Halton. The portion of Unopened Road Allowance which is to be stopped up, closed and conveyed is shown on a Plan of Survey registered as Plan 54 of the Village of Norval, now a part of the Town of Halton Hills, in the Registry Office at Milton. A copy of the Plan of Survey is available for inspection at the Municipal Offices for the Town of Halton Hills located on the 7th Line of the former Township of Esquesing.

THE COUNCIL or a Committee of the Council will hear in person, or by their Counsel, Solicitor, or Agent, any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected by the by law and who applies to be heard at a meeting to be held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Offices, Trafalgar Road on the 22nd day of October 1979, at the hour of 7:30 p.m. o'clock.

THIS NOTICE was first published on the 19th day of September, A.D. 1979.

K.R. RICHARDSON  
Clerk Administrator  
The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills  
36 Main Street South,  
Georgetown, Halton Hills, Ontario  
L7G 4X1

**Sundae, Sunday**  
National Geographic notes how sundae got its name: Selling ice cream sodas on Sunday was outlawed in some parts of the United States in the 1880's.

**Coaches**  
THE HALTON HILLS RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT is offering Coaching Certification Courses in conjunction with the National Coaching Development Program.

**LEVEL II THEORY:** This course is designed to assist coaches in the practical application of general coaching principles and to see how these principles could be applied to various sports.

All applicants must provide proof of their successful completion of Level I Theory.

Location: Acton Library  
Time: Sundays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
Commencing Sunday, Oct. 21, 1979  
Fee: \$22.00 participant

**LEVEL II HOCKEY:** A great course for every enthusiastic hockey coach. (Must have completed Level I Hockey)

Location: Acton Arena  
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
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Fee: \$12.00

To register, call Jennifer Lintow at 853-1540 or 877-5185 ext. 19.