

Cycling from Hamburg to Copenhagen in September 2020 (August 28 – September 15)



Travelling with Servas friends to Servas hosts is always such an experience. 4 of us already cycled last year from Hamburg to Dresden/Germany (Sabine from France, Christa from Germany and Helen and Patrick from Switzerland).



Our start in Hamburg; cycling approx. 800 km to Copenhagen (by train to Kiel and then start our cycling tour to Denmark).

Servas can open doors for travellers who want to connect with the world on another level. There are approx. 15'000 Servas hosts in more than 100 countries who would love to open their homes to travellers – Denmark has a few hundred hosts.

First, we cycled along the Baltic Sea following the Ostsee-Radweg, took ferry to Denmark and followed the Berlin-Copenhagen cycling route.



Our first Servas hosts, Kirsten and Peer in Rodvig spoil us with a great Danish dinner, took us for a long walk to the Beach and showed us Stevens Klint (white chalk cliffs+UNESCO World Heritage Site)



We could talk things over; it is fascinating to explore differences and finally find out that we share same ideas. We are all concerned about the future, environment and peace means a lot to us.



Servas is a special way of seeing the world as a place where there are no strangers. At the beginning when we were writing to Danish Servas hosts some did answer and others said no because of Corona – this we had to accept and were very happy, that we still did find some really great hosts.





Copenhagen is such a fascinating cycling city and thanks to our own bicycles we could cycle a lot around the city. It is, of course, much faster than walking. Christa left for home and 3 of us cycled for a few days up North via Louisiana (famous Museum of Modern Art) to our next nice Servas hosts in Melby, Mona and Michael. They were kind enough to show us around the area; we went to the local farmer's market where we got some fresh vegetable for dinner. This time Patrick did some cooking for all of us. We had two very entertaining, interesting evenings and learnt a lot about Denmark, their work and way of living.



Back to Copenhagen we were lucky to stay 2 nights with Marianne and Gregers; they became part of our journey ☺. That night Marianne had her first online Servas board meeting. We could help to install Zoom and then say hello to the Danish members. Again, great Danish food and an evening with some music and singing old Beatle songs. Gregers is a music teacher – playing the piano - and their son improvised with his Clarinet.



We were so impressed that we were able to travel. Of course, we had to take care of the usual hygienic regulations such as social distance (except during foto shooting), wearing masks in public transportation, restaurants, hotels, stores and wash hands all the time and disinfect. In between we stayed in youth hostels, bed and breakfast places as well as hotels.

The year 2020 is indeed a special year and for sure not so many Servas are travelling since lots of countries are very careful and borders are closed. Hopefully, this will get better in the upcoming year. Stay healthy and all the best to you all.

→ **some remarks from our Danish hosts**

- Servas guests during Corona: We were in doubt whether it was safe for you and us to go on as usual, but we just could not say no to CYCLISTS. We are pretty active in the climate issue so.....

- and you were - as nearly always with Servas - a very positive experience.
- The future for Servas: well, that is a little difficult: we are all getting pretty old, very few youngsters join us. We certainly hope that they will find out what a great idea it is. We tell all people about Servas.
- *For us there was really no change as far as the Servas/Corona mix was concerned.*
- *Well – more handwash and disinfectant but that didn't ruin the experience.*
- *We still think that Servas is a great idea, but for some reason it does not seem to catch the young these days. It is imperative to do so if Servas is to survive.*

Helen, Patrick, Sabine and Christa.

