**Instructions for non-Danes on riding Danish trains**

Tickets are often cheaper if bought well in advance. You can choose the schedule you want here: <http://www.rejseplanen.dk/bin/query.exe/en>
You will then be forwarded to a website where you can buy the tickets.

You can reserve a seat on the train, or not. It is generally not required. If you do reserve a seat, that reservation is only good for the one train you reserved it for, but the ticket can be used on an earlier or later train on the same route. Some trains are completely full, and then a reservation is needed if you want to sit. Many trains, especially in the middle of the day, are not full, and reservations are not needed. You can always stand if you want to.

When you get on the train, there will be little digital displays on the bottom of the luggage rack above each seat. These let you know if the seat is reserved or not. If it is not reserved, it will say, “kan være reserveret.” Which means “Can be reserved”. This tells you that someone else may be reserving that seat at that very moment. It can happen that you sit in an unreserved seat and someone reserves it at the last minute, and then gets on and asks you to move, even though the display has not been updated and still says, ” kan være reserveret.” If it was reserved in advance, it will say on the display which stops it is reserved from and to.

The Danish system of numbering train cars is confusing when you first arrive. Your reservation may say that you are in car 31. This does not mean the 31st car, but first part of the third car. It generally goes 11, 12, 21, 22, 31, etc.

Opening the internal doors on Danish trains is easy once you know how to do it. A motion sensor just above the sliding door detects horizontal movement parallel to the door. Moving a hand horizontally along the door will open the door. Gesticulating wildly will also work, as long as you are within a few centimeters of the door.

Some tickets (the skinny kind) need to be date stamped on the platform before you get on the train. Others not. Ask someone on the platform to help you.

Danish public transit is as likely to be early as late. Trains occasionally leave a few minutes early if the platform has emptied. Buses are even more likely to be ahead of schedule. Get there a bit early.

Once you are aware of the above points, the Danish train system works remarkably well. It is clean, friendly, safe and efficient. Trains on common routes are very frequent. Danes may not understand why you have trouble, as the Danish system is intuitively obvious to them, but they will usually be friendly and helpful anyway.