

2021 UCI MOBILITY & BIKE CITY FORUM PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The city of Odense

Odense is situated on the island of Fyn, right in the heart of Denmark, and is the country's third largest city. The city is one of Denmark's oldest, granted town rights in the year 988, and was originally named Odins Vé, as a place of worship for the Nordic god Odin. It was once the site of a Viking ring fortress on the banks of the Odense River. Due to this rich history, it has for centuries been a favorite destination for visitors. Today, it is well known as the hometown of the celebrated author Hans Christian Andersen. A brand-new museum and experience universe to honor him has just opened in the summer of 2021. The city invites guests to wander its cozy cobblestone streets with shops, rows of cafés and parks along the banks of the river. Everything is within comfortable walking and cycling distance, creating an intimate infrastructure and feeling of security.

Arguably a leading cyclist city in Denmark, an ambitious urban development plan is currently reshaping Odense's layout, with the installation of an environment-friendly tramway. This will further cement Odense's position as a green city giving priority to pedestrians, cyclists and other green means of transport. As the Danes are in general, the citizens of Odense have a strong interest in cycling as more than a way of transport. Fyen Rundt is the world's third-oldest cycling race, attracting more than 1,500 amateurs and UCI riders each year. The newly refurbished cycling track Thorvald Ellegaard Arena attracts many races as well as spectators, while the forests and dirt tracks around the city are a favourite playground for mountain bikers. And neighbouring town Bogense hosted the 2019 UCI Cyclo-cross World Championships.

Odense is a centre of innovation, knowledge and education, where strong clusters in the fields of robotics, drones, health technology and IT are booming. In Odense there is a unique and very strong collaboration between the city of Odense, the University of Southern Denmark and Odense University Hospital. This collaboration is a main factor behind the city's status as one of the centers of knowledge and education in Denmark. Within the next few years, the strong profile of Odense as a city of education and science will be confirmed and enhanced even further through the establishment of a brand-new university hospital linked to the University of Southern Denmark and a new science park.

Since Fyn is known as Denmark's garden, Odense offers a wide selection of local culinary specialities, not least (a variety of) fresh vegetables, the classic *rygeost* (smoked cheese) and the famous *brunsviger* cake. Many of the city's restaurants reflect this culinary diversity in their wide selection of both local and international cuisine.

Find more information at https://www.visitodense.com/.



Conference venue

The Forum will be held at the **ODEON**, a state-of-the-art culture house and conference centre opened in 2017 in the heart of Odense. The grand hall hosts shows, concerts and plays with space for a crowd of up to 1,750 persons, making it one of Denmark's largest venues.

Official accommodation

Right next door to the ODEON is the **Comwell H.C. Andersen Hotel**, with 157 newly furbished bedrooms, offering comfortable and central accommodation for the Forum. Comwell offers a special room rate for all Forum participants, by booking via +45 66 14 78 00 or <u>hotel.odense@comwell.com</u> with the booking code 5828016.

In 2019, 2020 and 2021, Comwell was voted the most sustainable hotel chain by Danish consumers, underlining Comwell's sustainability work. The H.C. Andersen Hotel is <u>Green Key certified</u>, has <u>The Organic</u> <u>Cuisine Label</u> and has received the <u>Refood certification</u> for its efforts to minimize food waste.

Travel information

Trains from Copenhagen Airport

Having exited the baggage claim area, you find yourself in the arrival hall of Copenhagen Airport. Walk straight ahead and you will reach the train tracks. Just before the tracks, there are ticket vending machines and a vending booth. All trains towards Odense depart from platform 2. Take the IC or ICL trains in direction of Aalborg/Aarhus. They all stop in Odense with a travel time between 1.5 and 2 hours.

From train station to ODEON and Comwell H.C. Andersen Hotel

The ODEON and Comwell H.C. Andersen hotel are situated right in the heart of the historic city centre of Odense, just 500m from the train station. Upon exiting the main entrance of the train station, cross the street, turn left and continue for 200m. When you reach the Netto supermarket, turn right and walk along the white building, take a left and you will be at the main entrance of ODEON. The red building on the opposite side of the cobblestone square is Comwell H.C. Andersen Hotel.

Health and safety procedures

All information about traveling to and from Denmark and the latest updates on the COVID-19 situation can be found on the Danish authorities' website: <u>https://en.coronasmitte.dk/</u>. All relevant details regarding COVID-19 safety measures will be provided to participants in advance of the event.