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THE IRISH TIMES
OCTOBER 2026

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HAUTE HOLIDAYS

Less crowds, cooler weather and better value – now is the best time to book these alluring autumn getaways

By Penny McCormick



1. Nyhavn's waterfront promenade. 2. Hotel Sanders; www.hotelsanders.com. 3. 14ct gold organically shaped bangle, €139, at Pandora. 4. Daphne Restaurant.

For Design Lovers

COPENHAGEN

Choosing where to stay will be one of your most difficult decisions, quickly followed by what to wear. The super slick Villa Copenhagen with its fabulous rooftop pool is a standout, as is the hygge-luxe Nimb Hotel facing the Tivoli Gardens; every suite has gorgeous views not to mention four-poster beds, log fires, antiques and original art. Hotel Sanders is a refined bolthole close to Nyhavn's colourful waterfront promenade, owned by Danish ballet dancer, Alexander Kolpin. The design is carefully choreographed and inspired by his travels. It's a stroll away from the royal residences of Amalienborg Palace, the Royal Theatre, Christiansborg Palace and the Royal Danish Opera. The hotel has its own Little Red Book of recommendations for each season – in autumn suggestions include foliage-framed coffees in museum Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek's palm garden and browsing some of the harbour markets and the Kunsthall Charlottenborg. Allow plenty of time for people watching in cult cafés – Hans Coffee, Atelier September and Lille Petra – then mooch along the canals, through the clutch of urban islands known as the Christianshavn. Here you'll find the architectural masterpiece, Circle Bridge, designed by Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson. If time permits, take a train to Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, an immersive experience fusing art, al fresco sculptures, nature and architecture. Also immersive is dining at Frederik Bille Brahe's newly opened restaurant, Daphne. For new-Nordic cuisine without the Noma-sized bill, try Host, where dishes are served atop piles of stones or beds of pine, adorned with sprigs and wildflowers. For an upbeat atmosphere and Italian food head to Cantina, or Poulette – which serves Dua Lipa's favourite chicken sandwich. If you're travelmaxxing (ie visiting for a day) head to the main shopping street, Købmagergade, where Arket, H&M Home, Hay House and Illums department store will provide inspiration for the season's trends.