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DISCOVER EU – A Ride Toward Inclusion

Use of Alternative Modes of Transport in the
Infrastructure of European Cities, 14.12.2025 –
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Germany, Sweden, Denmark

Our Nordic Adventure

Travel isn't just about the landmarks; it's mostly about the experiences you don't plan for. That is exactly what our six-day train trip to the Nordic countries was about—starting with an innocent departure from Tábor and ending with a wealth of memories to last a lifetime.

Our journey began in a classic fashion: boarding in Tábor, picking up the rest of the crew in Prague, and then heading straight for Dresden. The German city welcomed us with a wonderful Christmas atmosphere. We walked through the historic centre, soaked up the scents of the markets, and some of us even got to ride a double-decker train for the first time. But the real adventure was only just beginning.

The Mystery of the Disappearing Train

At the Dresden main station, we were waiting for our night connection. As the departure time approached, something unexpected happened—our train simply vanished from the information board. In its place, a completely different connection appeared. We looked around in confusion, and judging by the expressions of the other passengers, we weren't the only ones.

When we went to ask what was going on, we received a rather humorous answer: "We've lost the train in the system." This sentence amused us so much that it became the catchphrase of the entire trip. After an hour of freezing on the platform, the "lost train" was finally found. However, our joy was short-lived—after boarding, we discovered there was no power in our carriage. It was dark and freezing. Fortunately, the situation was saved by Mr. Gottwald, our teacher, who communicated everything with the conductor, allowing us to move to a compartment that had both light and heat. Even though we didn't get much sleep that night, it didn't ruin our mood.

Sweden: Turning Torso and IKEA

The morning welcomed us to Malmö, Sweden. After checking into the hotel, we set out to explore. A walk along the sea promenade with a view of the iconic Turning Torso skyscraper was breathtaking. The sight of the harbour full of massive cargo ships was no less impressive. And since we are students, hunger eventually drove us to the cheapest and tastiest place in Sweden—IKEA. To get around the cities, we made full use of the urban and suburban rail lines.

Re-energized, we took the train to the university town of Lund, where we saw the cathedral, the church, and the historic university buildings. By the evening, however, the exhaustion from the night journey caught up with us, and we crashed into our beds as soon as we got back to the hotel.

Denmark: Flags, Bikes, and Vikings

On the third day, we moved on to Denmark. The first thing you notice are the flags. They are everywhere. The Danes are clearly very proud of their country. The second thing is the bicycles. Everyone rides them, regardless of age. Parking a car in Copenhagen isn't nearly as much of a challenge as finding a spot for a bike.

We visited Rosenborg Castle with its crown jewels and beautiful gardens and didn't miss the famous Little Mermaid statue. What caught us by surprise, however, was the factory on the opposite shore; its chimneys served as a silent reminder of the importance of ecology and alternative modes of transport. We stayed in a beautiful apartment right by the water, which added a special charm to our evening walks through Copenhagen. We finished the evening with a communal dinner—spaghetti, board games, and plenty of laughter around one table.

The fourth day was dedicated to history. In the town of Roskilde, we visited the Viking Ship Museum. It was a real hands-on experience—we got to try on period clothing, play at being tough Northmen, and admire their ships (drakkars). Back in Copenhagen, we enjoyed the Christmas markets and, like true tourists, couldn't skip the Lego Store.

Hamburg and a Miniature World

On the fifth day, we headed back south to Hamburg, Germany. The city has a great vibe—we had sushi for lunch and even danced in the street to music played by a lady with an accordion. We toured several of the city's many harbours. The absolute highlight of the day was a visit to Miniatur Wunderland. This model railway museum is simply "insane" in the best way possible. The level of detail the creators managed to achieve is unbelievable.

The final day, day six, was purely about the journey home. The whole week flew by incredibly fast. Despite the initial chaos with the lost train, it was an amazing experience. The Nordic countries are beautiful, but it's the people you travel with who make the trip what it is.

If you ever get the chance to go on a journey like this, don't hesitate for a second. It's worth it!

The Discover EU 2025 Team