On the trail of the Vikings [1]

Follow this easily accessible route around the country and piece together the Viking history of Denmark.

National Museum (Nationalmuseet), Copenhagen

A great place to start your Viking trail across Denmark. Learn all about Denmark's distant past and see priceless treasures such as Viking jewellery, coins, weapons and rune stones. Afterwards, head to Restaurant Valhal in Tivoli Gardens [2] and sample their Viking menu, right at the heart of the theme park!

Viking Ship Museum, Roskilde

Next stop is Roskilde, only 30km south west of Copenhagen. The Viking Ship Museum [3] lies on beautiful Roskilde Fjord and contains five completely reconstructed Viking longboats, built from salvaged wrecks from the Fjord itself. See their film telling the fascinating story of the salvage and restoration.

Trelleborg, Slagelse

Head south from Roskilde and you'll come to the Viking stronghold of Trelleborg [4]. This impressive ring fortress is surrounded by a 134-metre-diameter wall. Walk the site and visit ancient archaeological finds in the museum, next to a reconstructed castle. In summer, you can enjoy a fantastic Viking market.

Ladbyskibet, Kerteminde

From Slagelse near Trelleborg, drive west over the Great Belt Bridge (Storebæltsbro) to the island of Funen [5] (Fyn). South of the town Kerteminde, you'll find Ladby Viking Museum [6]. This museum is at the site of a Viking burial mound found to contain a 20-metre-long Viking warship in which a Viking chieftan was buried along with his most precious things.

Ribe's Viking Museum

140km south west of Kerteminde in Jutland, you come to Ribe, Denmark's oldest town. You can sense the history all around in this picturesque country town. At its Viking Centre [7], you can wander through a full-size reconstruction of Ribe's Viking market place. See their film, Odin's Eye, which also takes you back to Viking times.

Bork Viking harbour

From Ribe, head north west towards Ringkøbing Fjord. At its southern end, you'll find Bork Viking harbour [8]. Learn all about life in the area in Viking times at the new visitors' centre and experience reconstructed Viking ships and houses.

Jelling rune stones and burial ground

Head east again from Ringkøbing Fjord and a few kilometres before the town of Vejle [9], you'll reach Jelling [10] – one of the most important historical sites in Denmark. Here you'll find the incredible Viking rune stones, known as Denmark's birth certificate. They tell the story of Denmark's birth as a nation, as well as King Harald Bluetooth's introduction of Christianity to the country.

Hobro Museum

From Jelling, head to Aarhus [11] and further north to Hobro, around 135km away. Here you can visit the Hobro Museum [12] and its rich collection of prehistoric and Viking archaeological finds. Close by, you can see the foundations of a large Viking castle.

Lindholm Høje, Nørresundby

40km north of Hobro, towards Aalborg [13], you'll come to Nørresundby and Lindholm Høje [14] – the biggest ancient burial ground in Scandinavia. The site dates back to the Iron Age and Viking period and contains a staggering 700 graves, marked with striking stone rings and patterns. There's also a great museum for you to visit.

Aggersborg, Løgstør

As a fitting end to this grand Viking journey, head to Aggersborg [15] near the small town of Løgstør. Here you can wander around the atmospheric ruins of a round Viking castle fortress and absorb the thousand years of history you've collected on your journey back to Viking Denmark.

Further reading

Read more about The History of Denmark [16].