

COASTAL LIVING IN DENMARK

The land of endless beaches

In Denmark, we look for a touch of magic in the ordinary, and we know that travel is more than ticking sights off a list. It's about finding wonder in the things you see and the places you go.

One of the wonders that we at VisitDenmark are particularly proud of is our nature. Denmark has wonderful beaches open to everyone, and nowhere in the nation are you ever more than 50km from the coast.





Denmark and its regions

Geography

- The smallest of the Scandinavian countries
- The southernmost of the Scandinavian countries
- Only has a physical border with Germany
- Denmark's regions are: North, Mid, West and South Jutland, Funen, Zealand, and North Zealand and Copenhagen

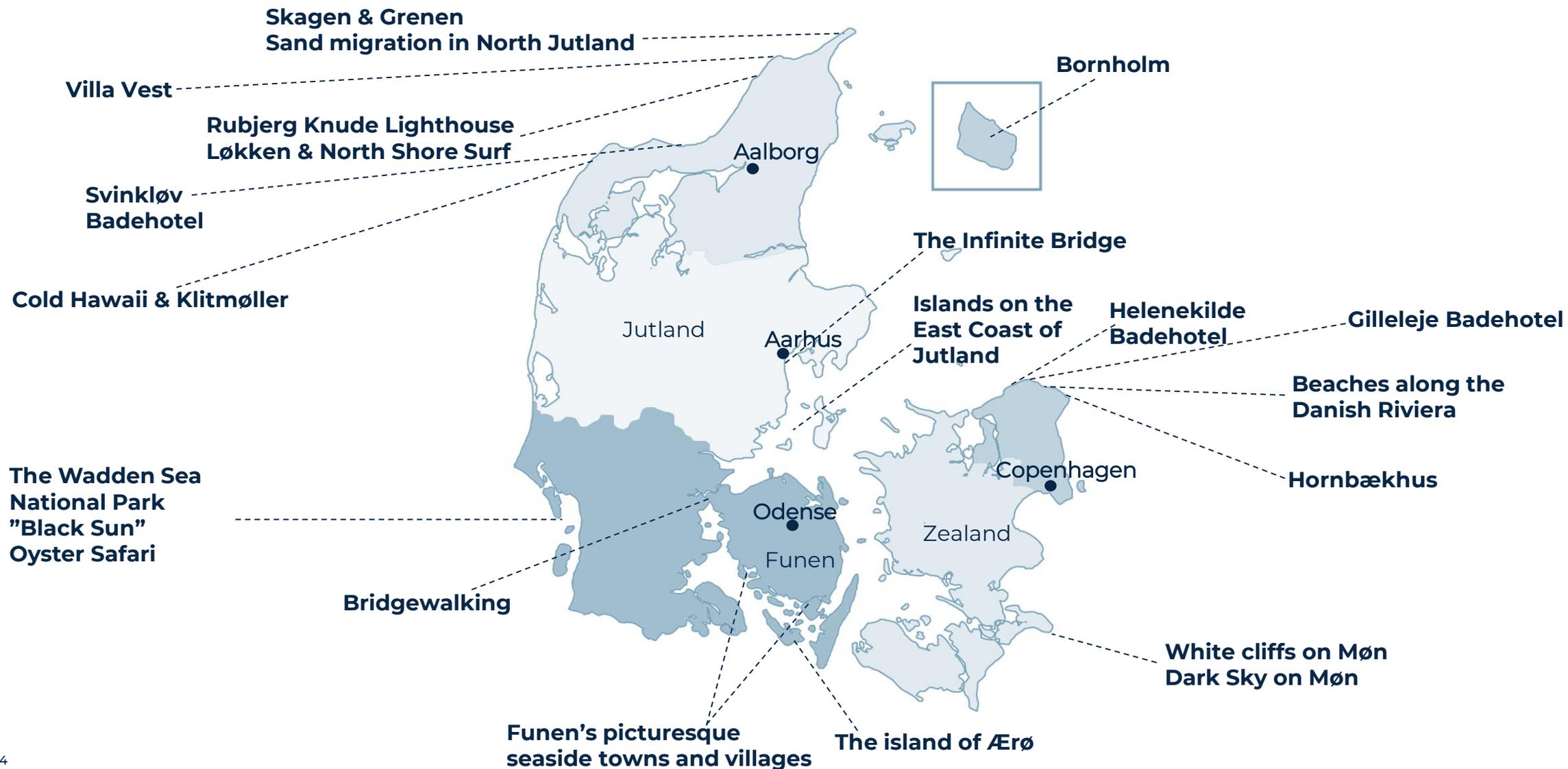
Travel distances

- Copenhagen to Odense: Under 2 hours by car
- Odense to Aarhus: Under 2 hours by car
- Aarhus to Aalborg: Under 2 hours by car

Facts

- [Video Introduction](#)
- Denmark's currency is the Danish Kroner
- Tipping is not required
- Most Danes speak fluent English
- Denmark is one of the happiest countries in the world and Copenhagen is one of the world's most liveable cities
- Denmark is home of 'Hygge', New Nordic Cuisine, and LEGO®
- Denmark is easily combined with other Nordic countries
- Denmark is a safe country
- Denmark is perfect for all types of travelers (family, romantic, nature, bicyclist dream, history/Vikings/Royalty)
- Denmark has a population of 5.7 million people

A map of coastal experiences



A taste of our coastal wonders

Bornholm



© Stefan Asp

The Wadden Sea National Park



© Lars Roed

White cliffs of Møn



© Sascha Bendix

Coastal experiences in Denmark

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Bornholm

The island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea is filled with a unique combination of nature phenomena and soft adventure experiences. Bornholm is a paradise for rock climbers and everyone with a love of dramatic, rocky coastlines.

The Sanctuary Cliffs on the northeast side of Bornholm's coastline are particularly spectacular. Caves are scattered along the coast and some reach as much as 60 metres into the cliffs. If you venture northwest, you will reach the beautiful Opal Lake nestled in between steep cliffs. Depending on the season, you can swim in or ice skate on the lake. If you are looking for an extra thrill, try the 290-metre zipline across the lake.

One of the most special things about Bornholm is the light. It draws artists and ceramicists to the little island, giving it a creative and artistic feeling.



bornholm.info



Look up local transportation [here](#)



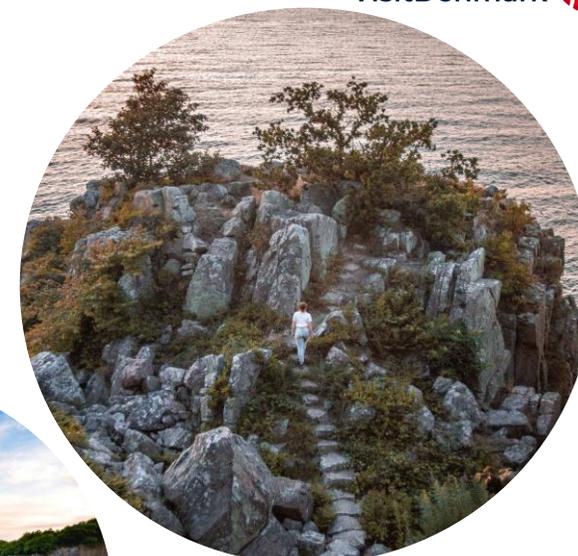
Driving distance from Copenhagen: 4h 15m (including ferry)



Nearest airport: Rønne Airport on Bornholm (40m by air from Copenhagen Airport)



Look for accommodation on Bornholm [here](#)



© Mads Gregersen
📍 Røverborgen, Gudhjem



© Stefan Asp
📍 Opal Lake



© Stefan Asp
📍 Dueodde



Skagen & Grenen

Skagen, the most northerly part of Jutland, is a 700-year-old fishing village turned holiday haven.

The idyllic seaside town is rich with Danish hygge and has a cultural and culinary heritage that makes it the perfect place for quality time, relaxation and contemplation. The lively fish auction is a must-see, along with a trip to explore the celebrated Danish art inspired by the area at Skagen's Museum.

At Grenen you can stand in two seas at the same time! Grenen is a natural wonder at Denmark's northerly tip with colliding seas where the waters don't mix. It is a unique spectacle that you can only experience a few places in the world.

You'll have to leave the swimming to the local seals, though. The current is too strong.



© Dennis Lundby
📍 Grenen



© Mette Johnsen
📍 Skagen



📍 9990 Skagen

🔗 www.toppenafdanmark.com

🚌 Look up local transportation [here](#)

🚗 Driving distance from Aalborg: 1h 15m

✈️ Nearest airport: Aalborg Airport

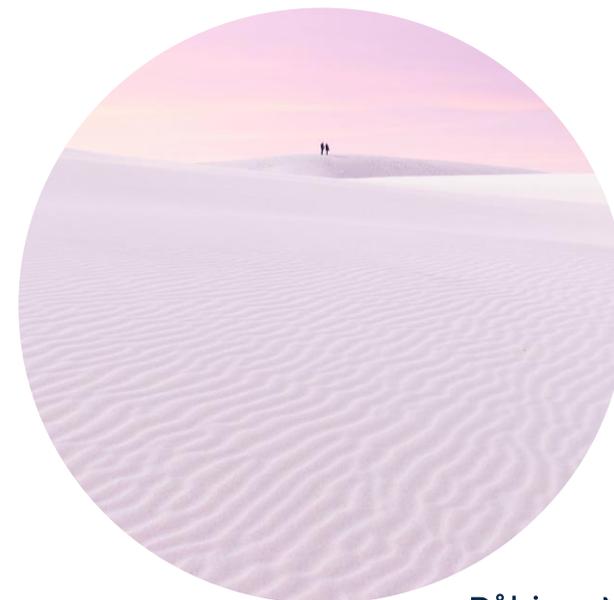
🛏️ Find accommodation in Skagen [here](#)

Sand migration in North Jutland

A desert in Denmark? Well, not technically, but it's pretty close! Råbjerg Mile is a fascinating phenomenon; a giant migrating set of sand dunes, the largest in Northern Europe, moving at a staggering 15 metres per year.

Walk out into this almost lunar landscape and you'll forget that you are less than 20 minutes from the holiday town of Skagen in the north of Denmark.

The sand-buried church is found in this same area. The church was built in the 14th century and was, at that time, the largest church in the region. The sand migration reached the church at the end of the 18th century. The congregation had to dig their way into the church when they wanted to attend services. The struggle against the sand continued until 1795 when the church was closed by royal decree. Today, only the tower of the ancient church is visible.



© Christian Faber
📍 Råbjerg Mile



© Christian Faber
📍 The Sandburied Church

Råbjerg Mile and the Sand-buried Church



- 📍 Råbjerg Mile Vej, 9990 Skagen
The Sandburied Church, Gamle Landevej 63, 9990 Skagen
- 🔗 [Råbjerg Mile](#)
- 🚌 Look up local transportation [here](#)
- 🚗 Driving distance from Skagen: 7-19 mins
- ✈️ Nearest airport: Aalborg Airport
- 🛏️ Find accommodation near Skagen [here](#)

Rubjerg Knude lighthouse

You'll have to hurry if you want to see one of Denmark's most iconic landmarks, Rubjerg Knude Lighthouse: one day the lighthouse might fall into the sea! When the lighthouse was built, it was 200m inland, and now the coast has eaten its way closer.

In 2019, the lighthouse was moved inland to preserve it. The project was given to a local builder, Kjeld. Despite harsh working conditions, Kjeld and his team worked every day with excavation and reinforcement, and it turned out to be of great interest from locals, tourists and the press.

In October 2019, the nearly 30-meter-high lighthouse moved on a large rollerskate and rolled 70 meters further inland. It's a special example of Danish design thinking.

From the top of the lighthouse you will find one of the most impressive views of the North Sea and Vendsyssel.



© Mette Johnsen

 Fyrvejen 110, 9480 Løkken

 [Rubjerg Knude](#)

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Aalborg: 58 mins

 Nearest airport: Aalborg Airport

 Find accommodation in North Jutland [here](#)



Seaside hotels in North Jutland

There is a range of high-quality seaside hotels to choose from in North Jutland, including:

Villa Vest

Villa Vest is Nordic luxury for all your senses. Villa Vest Badehotel is a small, charming 100-year-old seaside hotel offering bright rooms with peace and quiet. Relax and wake up to breakfast made with the most delicious local specialities. Staying at Villa Vest is like being transported back in time.

Svinkløv Seaside Hotel

This idyllic seaside hotel by the coast is loved by tourists and locals alike. It is set right by the water on the edge of a sand dune. The restaurant's chef is Kenneth Hansen, a star in Danish Gastronomy, and the winner of Bocuse d'Or 2019.

A fire destroyed the hotel in 2016, but it was rebuilt to match the old building, much loved by Danes, and the doors reopened in 2019.



© Niclas Jessen
📍 Svinkløv

📍 Villa Vest, Rubjergvej 2, 9800 Hjørring
Svinkløv Badehotel, Svinkløvvej 593, 9690 Fjerritslev.

🔗 villavest.dk (in Danish)
www.svinkloev-badehotel.dk (in Danish)

☎️ Villa Vest: +45 98 96 00 66
Svinkløv: +45 98 21 70 02

🚌 Look up local transportation [here](#)

🚗 Driving time from Aalborg: 50 mins to both hotels.

✈️ Nearest airport: Aalborg Airport

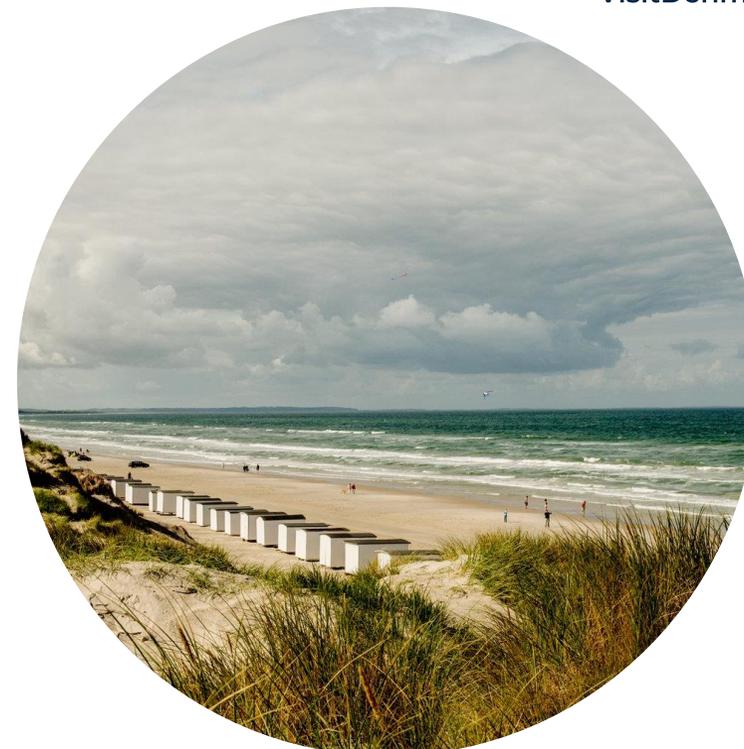


Løkken & North Shore Surf

Miles and miles of coast, white sand, salty waves and hundreds of little white bathhouses welcome you in Løkken. A flag with three stars indicates water of high quality, a clean beach and tidy public conveniences.

Here you can join North Shore Surf in the waves of the North Sea. They offer surf courses for all and Løkken Pier is one of the best surf spots, also for beginners.

After a day of exploring nature or surfing, you can take good care of your body and soul in one of the pier's saunas and wilderness hot tubs. Leave all the worries at home as you enjoy the view of Løkken Pier, the fishing boats and the North Sea. The saunas are pointed towards the west, so you also get a great view of the sunset, while sitting in warm and relaxing conditions.



© Mette Johnsen Løkken



North Shore Surf, Sdr. Strandvej 18, 9480 Løkken



northshoresurf.dk



+45 20 70 86 43



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Aalborg: 44 mins



Nearest airport: Aalborg Airport



Find accommodation in Løkken [here](#)



Cold Hawaii & Klitmøller

As you've probably guessed from the name, Cold Hawaii is Denmark's surfers' paradise, only it's just a teensy bit colder than Hawaii!

Whatever your level, head to Cold Hawaii to not only experience some of northern Europe's most exciting waves, but also for the laid-back and welcoming atmosphere of the surf community here. It's Danish hygge and exercise rolled into one!

Cold Hawaii at Klitmøller is part of Thy National Park and is Denmark's centre for extreme water sports.

The North Sea provides ideal conditions for kite surfers and surfers alike, and powerful ocean streams create surfable waves. If it's one of those rare still days, paddle boarding is the perfect second option for a good day out on the water.



© Mette Johnsen

-  7700 Thisted
-  www.visitnordjylland.com/north-jutland/destinations/klitmoller
-  Look up local transportation [here](#)
-  Driving distance from Aalborg: 1h 35m
-  Nearest airport: Aalborg Airport
-  Find accommodation in the area [here](#)



The Wadden Sea National Park

The Wadden Sea National Park is Denmark's largest national park. It consists of shallow waters, tidal flats, sand banks, barrier islands, tidal channels, sand dunes, marshland areas and salt meadows.

The area is characterised by an ever-changing natural environment due to tidal waters and waves transforming the landscape every single day. The tidal waters are home to an enormous production of worms, snails, mussels and crustaceans. This is crucial for the millions of migratory birds that each spring and autumn descend on the Wadden Sea to eat and rest. This creates the phenomenon “Black Sun”, an astonishing starling murmuration, and also provides ideal circumstances for an oyster safari, both of which we describe on the next two slides.

In 2014, UNESCO designated about 80% of the Wadden Sea National Park as a World Heritage Site because of the area's outstanding universal value.



© Lars Roed



© Nationalpark Vadehavet



The Wadden Sea National Park

-  The Wadden Sea National Park
-  nationalparkvadehavet.dk
-  www.vadehavscentret.dk/en
-  Look up local transportation [here](#)
-  Driving distance from Ribe: 16 mins to the Wadden Sea Centre
-  Nearest airport: Billund Airport
-  Find accommodation in Ribe [here](#)

The Black Sun

Every year in spring and autumn, about a million starlings move in unison over the marshland in South Jutland. This is one dance party you don't want to miss!

The largest flocks of these starlings – called a *murmuration* if you're going to get technical – come in to rest in the reed forests of the Wadden Sea. With so many birds, they might even completely envelope the low evening sun, in a unique phenomenon called the Black Sun.

Year after year, it astounds people who experience it for the first time. Even people who are familiar with it lose themselves in the rhythmic and unpredictable movements of the starlings. Each individual starling is merely a black dot in a constantly shifting pattern that whirls across the night sky and creates enormous shapes that can fill the horizon and even block out the sun.

Visitors can attend guided tours via The Wadden Sea Centre.

 The Wadden Sea National Park

 nationalparkvadehavet.dk/experience-the-national-park/black-sun

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Ribe: 45 mins to the Tønder Marsh

 Nearest airport: Billund Airport

 Find accommodation in Ribe [here](#)



© Vadehavscentret



Oyster Safari

The Wadden Sea is brimming with oysters. At low tide, large oyster banks are exposed, and you can simply walk out to collect and eat oysters on the spot.

You can be lucky enough to find these culinary pearls on your own, but you can also hire a guide to take you to oyster banks along the coast of the Wadden Sea, through The Wadden Sea Centre in Ribe.

Because the Pacific Oyster is not an indigenous species in Danish waters and has a negative effect on other indigenous species, it is referred to as an invasive species. So you are helping maintain Denmark's indigenous nature when you harvest oysters for your own consumption along the sea shore, and doing your bit for our ecosystem.



© Vadehavscentret



The Wadden Sea National Park



The Wadden Sea National Park



nationalparkvadehavet.dk/experience-the-national-park/oysters-of-the-wadden-sea/



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Ribe: 35-40 mins to Rømø or Mandø



Nearest airport: Billund Airport



Find accommodation in Ribe [here](#)

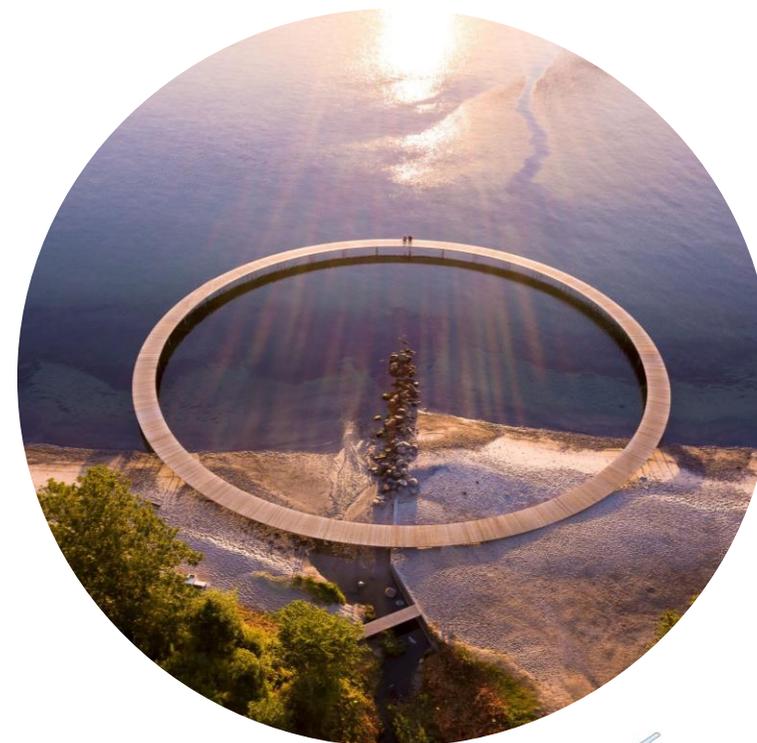
The Infinite Bridge

Imagine a bridge on which you can walk and walk and walk, without ever reaching the end in the most breathtaking scenery.

This is exactly what you get when you visit the wooden pier and work of art, The Infinite Bridge in Aarhus, created by architect Niels Povlsgaard and Johan Gjødes.

Whether you feel like putting on your bathing suit and jumping in the water, or simply walk around and around enjoying the view of the sea, the beach and the forest, The Infinite Bridge is an amazing place to spend the day with family and friends.

The Infinite Bridge is set up from April (week 16) until October (week 44).



© Dennis Borup Jakobsen



 Varna Strand, 8000 Aarhus C

 www.visitdenmark.com/denmark/explore/infinite-bridge-gdk1092521

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Aarhus: 12 mins

 Nearest airport: Aarhus Airport

 Find accommodation in Aarhus [here](#)

Islands on the east coast of Jutland

Did you know that Denmark is made up of 444 islands? That's right – one island for every day of the year, and then 79 more after that.

Each island has something unique to offer. On the east coast of Jutland you can visit the car-free island of [Tunø](#), bike around [Alrø](#) and [Hjarnø](#) using a little bicycle ferry or go looking for rabbits on [Endelave](#). Last but not least, you can also explore the nearby bigger island of [Samsø](#) with all of its gastronomic offerings.

The islands all have their own delicious local eateries. Tunø Røgeri (Tunø Smokehouse) serves freshly prepared seafood and at the local Café Alrø, you can sample an enormous version of 'tarteletter', the Danish traditional pastry comprising of chicken in an asparagus sauce. Or you can visit Skipperly in Balling on Samsø for some homemade brandy and classic dishes such as herring.

For more information about Denmark's many islands, take a look at VisitDenmark's 'Island hopping in Denmark' itinerary.



© Melissa Villumsen – Destination Kystlandet
📍 Endelave



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Aarhus to Hou Harbour and Snaptun Harbour: 38-55 mins



Nearest airports: Billund Airport and Aarhus Airport



Bridgewalking

You could go to Sydney...or if that's too far, why not visit Lillebælt (The Little Belt) in Denmark?

In both places, you can try bridgewalking (another fun fact about Sydney and Denmark is that the Sydney Opera House is designed by Danish Architect Jørn Utzon, who is born in Aalborg. Yes. Denmark is more like Australia than you might think!)

Experience the height. The sinking feeling. The spectacular and unimpeded view. Enjoy the water. The ships. The view towards the land. The weather. The gentle shaking of the bridge when a train rumbles over the bridge.

Bridgewalking Lillebælt is a unique attraction that takes you 60 metres up on top of the Little Belt Bridge, with an instructor leading the way.



© Daniel Villadsen

 Galsklintvej 4, 5500 Middelfart

 www.bridgewalking.com

 +45 88 32 58 00

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Middelfart: 6 mins

 Nearest airport: Billund Airport

 Find accommodation in Middelfart [here](#)



Funen's seaside towns and villages

Funen is dotted with picturesque towns and villages, many of which are right by the water. Faaborg and Svendborg are two beautiful old towns where visitors can enjoy half-timbered houses, cosy cobbled streets and beautiful harbours that come to life in summer.

If you visit Faaborg in summertime, you can take an evening walk with the watchmen, taking place in July and August. Their task was to keep an eye out for fires and to make sure the cities were safe and sound – and they would sing a song each hour between 8pm and 4am, so people knew what the time was.

The harbour town of Svendborg has excellent eateries and unique shopping in the old, idyllic streets. Stay for the afternoon or take a longer pause here - it's the starting point for island-hopping around the south Funen Archipelago. From Svendborg, you can jump on the ferry to the tiny islands of Skarø, Drejø and Hjortø and to the charming island of Ærø.



© Michael Fiukowski & Sarah Moritz
📍 Svendborg



© Michael Fiukowski & Sarah Moritz
📍 Faaborg



📍 5601 Faaborg and 5700 Svendborg

🔗 www.visitfaaborg.com
www.visitsvendborg.com

🚌 Look up local transportation [here](#)

🚗 Driving distance from Odense: 40 mins to both Faaborg and Svendborg

✈️ Nearest airport: Billund Airport

🏠 Find accommodation in Faaborg [here](#) and Svendborg [here](#)

The island of Ærø

Try saying “Ærø”. We know this seems impossible to pronounce for non-Danish speakers, especially since it contains two of our special Danish letters ‘æ’ and ‘ø’.

This beautiful island offers hidden nature experiences and is much easier to access (by ferry from Svendborg and Faaborg) than it is to say. Once you are here, you can venture out in nature on your own by foot or bike.

The coast around the island is very diverse: soft and calm in some places and torn and wild with rugged cliffs in other parts.

On the island, you’ll experience a truly idyllic atmosphere. Its town, Ærøskøbing, is often referred to as the fairy-tale town of Denmark. Ærøskøbing dates back to the 18th century and is Denmark’s most well-preserved town from the early Middle Ages. Here you can explore the cobbled streets, the cosy town square, narrow alleys, small almost doll-sized houses and colourful environments. And behind the romantic facades the town continues living its quiet and tranquil life.



© Picasa, Visitfyn



© Michael Fiukowski & Sarah Moritz



© Kasper Orthmann Andersen



5970 Ærøskøbing



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Svendborg: 1h 50 mins



Nearest airport: Billund Airport



Find accommodation on Ærø [here](#)

White cliffs of Møn

Mountains are overrated. Cliffs are much better. (We would say that, with a country as flat as this, right?) After a visit to the white cliffs of Møn on the south of Zealand, you may well feel the same way. Reaching 128 metres above the beach and covering a seven kilometre stretch, the chalky white cliffs are a jaw-dropping sight.

The nature around the cliffs is so spectacular that it has been selected as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, thanks to its multitude of flora and fauna and ongoing work with nature preservation. There's a high chance you'll find fossils on the beach nearby too.

If you want ways to really experience the cliffs, try one (or more) of these very different ideas: sailing boats, kayaks, fishing trips... even diving and snorkelling. Join a guided tour on sturdy little Icelandic ponies for the ultimate ride, or strap on a helmet and explore the forest at the top of the cliffs on the two mountain bike trails that zig-zag a scenic route across the terrain.



© Sascha Bendix



 Møns Klint, 4791 Borre

 moensklint.dk

 Look up local transportation [here](#)

 Driving distance from Stege: 18 mins

 Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport

 Find accommodation on Møn [here](#)

Dark Sky on Møn and Nyord

Imagine seeing the night sky without light pollution, as millions of stars twinkle. If you choose to stay the night on Møn or Nyord, you can experience this phenomenon, as the area is so far from cities and light pollution and the starry sky is exceptionally clear. It is Denmark's first Dark Sky Park.

This is one particular experience that yoga and other mindfulness exercises can't match.

Go to Møns Klint to experience the stars being reflected in the sea 128 metres below you while standing on top of the white chalk cliffs – it's nothing short of magical!

Did you know that the light you see from a twinkling star is actually several thousand years old, which means that seeing twinkling stars is like looking back in time?!



© Ruslan Merzlyakov



GeoCenter Møns Klint, Stengårdsvej 8, 4791 Borre



moensklint.dk/uk/nature/dark-sky



+45 55 86 36 00



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Stege: 24 mins



Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport



Find accommodation on Møn [here](#)



Beaches of the Danish Riviera

North Zealand has a 90-kilometre-long coastline, named The Danish Riviera, with a wealth of beautiful beaches. These are two of the finest:

Hornbæk Beach is the largest and most famous beach on The Danish Riviera. This is mainly due to the great quality of the beach, with a good water quality, sand dunes and fine sand. The beach has lifeguards during summer and buzzes with holidaymakers but is rarely too busy.

Tisvildeleje Beach at the top of the Danish Riviera, is a popular holiday area for Danes. Visit the quaint fishing town of Tisvildeleje or rent a summer house and walk the picturesque heathland of Tisvilde Hegn nearby. The small bathhouses along the beach create a very special atmosphere, recalling a bygone era.



© Tine Uffelmann - VisitNordsjælland



© Daniel Overbeck - VisitNordsjælland



Hornbæk Beach, 3100 Hornbæk
Tisvildeleje Beach, 3220 Tisvildeleje



www.visitnorthsealand.com/north-sealand/activities/beaches-north-sealand



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Driving distance from Copenhagen: 50-55 mins



Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport



Find accommodation in North Zealand [here](#)

Seaside hotels of the Danish Riviera

A hundred years ago, beach hotels were the hot trend for the Copenhagen upper class, allowing them to get some fresh air and enjoy life by the sea. Funny how some things change, but some things always stay the same! These are three of our favourites.

Helenekilde is a beautiful, classic hotel from 1905 right by the water's edge. The main street continues into the sand and is transformed into long stretches of beach. Just behind the sand dunes you can get lost in Denmark's oldest forest.

Gilleleje Badehotel sits on the top of a 30-metre cliff at Zealand's most northern point. The views are immense! The hotel also has a lovely spa area for hotel guests.

Hotel Hornbækhus is a wooden house built in 1904 that retains its historical feel. The small, intimate hotel has recently been decorated with personality and diligence by Danish design studio EEN. The hotel is a space for socialising and experiences, as well as peace and quiet.



© Tine Uffelmann - VisitNordsjælland



Helenekilde: Stranden 25, 3220 Tisvildeleje
Gilleleje Badehotel: Hulsøvej 15, 3250 Gilleleje
Hornbækhus: Skovvej 7, 3100 Hornbæk

[helenekilde.com](https://www.helenekilde.com)



[gillelejebadehotel.dk](https://www.gillelejebadehotel.dk)
[hornbaekhus.com](https://www.hornbaekhus.com)



Helenekilde: +45 48 70 70 01
Gilleleje Badehotel: +45 48 30 13 47
Hornbækhus: +45 49 70 01 69



Look up local transportation [here](#)



Nearest airport: Copenhagen Airport (approx. 1 hr's drive)

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For VisitDenmark Travel Trade website, click [here](#)

You're always welcome to contact us on our Travel Trade email:

travelagent@visitdenmark.com





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Tak!