The South Funen Archipelago

The Archipelago to the south of Funen is a vast, flooded landscape rich in wildlife. Ice covered the area 17,000 years ago. It came in from the sea. Animals, especially shore birds, performed during the Ice Age. Only the very highest hills poke out of the Archipelago to the south of Funen is a vast, flooded landscape rich in wildlife. Ice covered the area 17,000 years ago. It came in from the sea. Animals, especially shore birds, performed during the Ice Age. Only the very highest hills poke out of the

The Archipelago Trail is a 220-kilometre long trail that circumnavigates the three largest islands to the south of Funen. It is a walking challenge for adventurous hikers and offers spectacular views over the South Funen Archipelago. The trail affords spectacular views over the Archipelago, forests and vast manor house landscapes. The leaflet describes some of the beautiful natural protected woodland areas and the South Funen Archipelago. The leaflet describes some of the beautiful natural protected woodland areas and the

Walking and making stops on the trail

The Archipelago Trail is for walkers and is signposted all the way. We ask you to show consideration when out walking and to respect the following:

- The trail is open to walkers from 6 a.m. until sunset. Dogs must be kept on a leash.
- The route crosses private land. Please show consideration to the owners, be thoughtful, and do not leave litter.
- Camping is only permitted at designated campsites, or other areas with the owner's permission.
- During huts the trail may be closed, but information about alternative routes will be displayed.

Coffee sites

Along the Archipelago Trail there are 10 coffee sites where hikers can enjoy their meals or coffee. The coffee sites are beautifully situated and offer information about the surrounding area and activity inspiration for children. The coffee sites are marked on the map, but there are several other rest sites along the trail.

Archipelago Trail Guidebook

The guidebook provides you with detailed descriptions of the routes, a presentation of the nature- and cultural values of the South Funen Archipelago, and more information about accommodation and shopping. The guidebook is in Danish, German and English and is available at the local tourist offices.

Transport

You can get around Sydfyn and Tåstige by Fynbus. See timetables at www.fynbus.dk or obtain further information from Fynbus on tel. +45 63 12 33.

Accommodation

For information on accommodation options please contact Sydfyns Turist Office on tel. +45 6221 0980. You can also visit our website at www.visitydfyn.dk or www.sydfynskoomoech.dk.

Would you like more information?


Further information about The South of Funen Archipelago can be found at www.nydfynskeoehav.dk.

Colophon

Published by: Svendborg Kommune, Mål og Silkeb. July 2011

Editorial/Text: Naturturism I/S, Erik Møller Nielsen og Naturbureauet

Photos: Erik Møller Nielsen, DD-Pilou, Hans Eefk Herning, Lene van Boedt, Preben Eider

Bases of maps:

Kort & Matrikelstyrelsen – copyright

Layout/Print: trykteam svendborg a/s

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The name Svendborg derives from Swinehubb, which alludes to pigs and castle. The name may refer to porcupines, or pig fish, swimming in herds on their way to and from the Baltic Sea through Svendborg Sound. North of the town was Ørklid castle that belonged to the Bishop of Órcen. During the 19th century, Svendborg became known as a maritime town. The A. P. Møller shipping company, to name but one, has its origins in the town. Over half of Denmark's wooden ships were towed from countless small shipyards dotted along the protective banks of Svendborg Sound. Today the town's lifeblood is the training of sailors and shipping. The attractive commercial town with its maritime atmosphere is a popular tourist destination. In Svendborg you can also experience Naturam, a modern natural history exhibit with modern natural history.

Svendborg

Svendborg's second largest town is idyllically situated on the narrow Funen Sound. Some 30,000 people live in the market town which dates back to 1299 when the town's protector, King Valdemar the Victorious, gave Svendborg to his sister-in-law as a morning gift.

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They lost their lives in battle

To the north of Hvidkilde Manor the landscape is formed by immense hills up towards Løvehaveskoven Forest. Many well-built homes for the estate workers, typical of that era, are scattered around the vast manor landscape. The trail passes a monument in Løvehaveskoven for Count Lennart who was one of the leaders of the Funen resistance movement during the Second World War and that ultimately cost him his life in 1945. Just north of Hvidkilde’s barn is a stone by the roadside. It commemorates another Dane who lost his life during the German occupation of Denmark. He was shot by the Germans during an air drop of illegal weapons by the Allies.

Hvidkilde – a manor and an entire region

The estate is the third largest in Funen. It covers 21 km² of Funen soil including 24 forests. The beautiful three wings main building in mansion style dates back to 1792 where the side wings was added till main building. The huge farm buildings witness the prime of the mansion.

Hvidkilde Lake – a paradise for birdlife

The lake at Hvidkilde is the largest and most beautiful of a number of lakes situated in the valley to the west of Svendborg. The 66-hectare lake contains the wooded islands of Storeholm, Kirsehartholm and Lilleholm. On the estate is the little Rønninge wattermill, situated on the fringe of the Amalielyst forest. When grain was delivered, or flour collected, a boat would sail up to the mill. The lake attracts a large number of birds. In the summer greylag geese, herons and crested grebes, and in the winter tens of thousands of tufted ducks and pochards. From here the trail continues southwards towards the coast, where you follow the old bridleway on the first, long straight stretch.

An eel in the landscape

On your way you will pass Egenese Ridge. The winding hill is reminiscent of an eel in the open, flat terrain. A ridge is deposited by a subglacial stream and the large quantity of soil and clay in the water leaves behind an oblong, twisted hill when the ice melts.

A village razed to the ground

The trail reaches the coast of Svendborg Sound at Lølleg. The small village of Kogteved once stood here, but the last two remaining thatched half-timbered farmsteads were demolished in 1993 to make way for a modern housing development. Only a small idyllic watermill was left standing near the coast.

St Jørgen’s Church – a chapel for lepers

The previous church on this site was a wooden chapel for lepers lodged at St Jørgensgård outside the town’s ramparts as lepers were not welcome in the town. They were taken care of out here by volunteers from a religious fraternity. The lepers lived on almshouses and farming the land on a farm donated by Valdemar Atterdag. The farmstead was called Bygedård, which gives its name to the road leading to the beautiful church which is worth a visit.

The slender Svendborg Sound Bridge

The 1220-metre-long bridge, Denmark’s first pillar bridge, was opened to traffic in 1966 by the then heir to the throne, Princess Margrethe. That same day the frequent ferry service between the marina and Vindley bek ey ended. St Ø Source Sound Bridge, Langeland Bridge and Svendborg Sound Bridge make up the links connecting the islands of Tåsinge, Sø and Langeland.

Svendborg’s harbours

The oldest part of Svendborg Harbour is situated at the end of Brogade (Quay Street, or “street leading to the quay”). Next to the yellow stonehouse is a wooden jetty reserved for old, wooden ships of historic interest. Through Maritime Center Denmark more of these wooden ships offer cruises in the archipelago. The 250-year-old merchant shipping company Baagøe og Riber, is also based here.

Christiansminde summer area

The point where the trail meets the water at Svendborg’s North Harbour is where Ørnhøj Shipyard was once located. Seventy-seven wooden ships, some of Denmark’s largest, were launched here between 1833 and 1920. Many other smaller shipyards were once located along the banks of Svendborg Sound. The forest on the slope along the shore was planted 200 years ago by Niels Ibad of Valdemar Castle and has since been taken over by Svendborg Municipality. Christiansminde is the town’s summer destination. There is a popular beach here.

The ancient burial site in the forest clearing

To the north of the former training centre is an unusual landscape brimming with ancient monuments. There are twenty burial mounds which date back to the early Bronze Age (1800–1000 BC). Some have not survived, but a 4,500-year-old stone burial chamber still stands between two of the larger burial mounds. Back in ancient times the landscape was open, and the burial mounds could have been seen for miles around. Svendborg Kommune has published a leaflet with walks from Ørklit to Skåneskov.

Bydegård – thé road leading to St Jørgen’s Church

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