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The South Funen Archipelago

The South Funen Archipelago - Geosite

The Archipelago Trail takes you through the South Funen Archipelago, an internationally recognised Geosite. The archipelago covers circa. 1,304km² and was created around 11,700 years ago towards the end of the last Ice Age. At that time Denmark was linked to England and Sweden by land bridges. The Archipelago was a distinct area of dry land with hills, forests and lakes. As the ice sheets melted, global sea levels rose and the South Funen Archipelago took shape as the low lying areas were flooded. Today's islands are former hill tops, while below sea level you can still find the remains of stone age settlements and tree trunks from ancient forests. From Langeland's west coast you can enjoy the view over the shallow waters of the archipelago and watch the Strynø and Ærø ferries sail by.



© John Rasmussen

Ristinge Klint

Ristinge Klint - Geosite

Although the Archipelago Trail does not extend to South Langeland, but it is well worth making a detour south to explore the Ristinge peninsular and the cliffs of Ristinge Klint, an internationally recognised Geosite.

The cliffs are 2km long and up to 28m high. They were created between 19-18,000 years ago, towards the end of the Weichselian Glacial period, by an ice sheet that advanced from the south east. In the cliffs you can see slanting layers of clay that were pushed up by the ice. These layers have provided a great deal of information that has helped us reconstruct the climatic and landscape histories of Denmark and the Baltic Sea.

Footpath Access

The Archipelago Trail is a footpath that is marked by signposts along the whole route. When walking this trail please respect the following guidelines



The whole footpath is open to walkers from sunrise to sunset

Dogs must be kept on a lead

The path takes you over private land. Please respect private property and don't drop litter.

Overnight camping is only allowed in recognised campsites

At certain times sections of the route may be closed due to hunting. Information on alternative routes will be provided on site.

Transport

You can travel around Langeland with FynBus. See www.fynbus.dk for timetables or call +45 6311 2233. There are ferry connections between Spodsbjerg - Tårs, Rudkøbing - Strynø and Rudkøbing - Marstal.

Accommodation

If you would like information about accommodation please visit www.govisitlangeland.com or call +45 20 130 250

SHORES Langeland

SHORES Langeland is developing the many hotspots for water-based activities that can be found on the coastlines of Langeland and Strynø. Langeland has 152km of coastline offering fishing, underwater-hunting, kayaking, SUP boarding, surfing and diving. See more at www.shores-langeland.com

Geopark: South Funen Archipelago

Langeland is a part of Geopark: South Funen Archipelago. Geopark: South Funen Archipelago uses the regions distinctive geology, nature and cultural history to create a common identity and a framework for sustainable development. The South Funen Archipelago is a flooded ice-age landscape of international significance. On Langeland you can see both the internationally recognised Geosite of Ristinge Klint, and the island's unique 'hat hills'.

Geopark:South Funen Archipelago tells the dramatic story of the rises in sea level around South Funen and the islands that have occurred since the end of the last ice age over 11,000 years ago. The rise in sea level has created the Archipelago's 55 islands and holms and a unique ecosystem, which provides the foundations of the whole region existence, not to mention countless opportunities of outdoors activities.

See more at www.geoparkdetsydfynskeohav.dk



GEOPARK
DET SYDFYNSKE ØHAV



The Archipelago Trail

Stengade Strand - Rudkøbing - Henninge Nor
26 km

Map 6



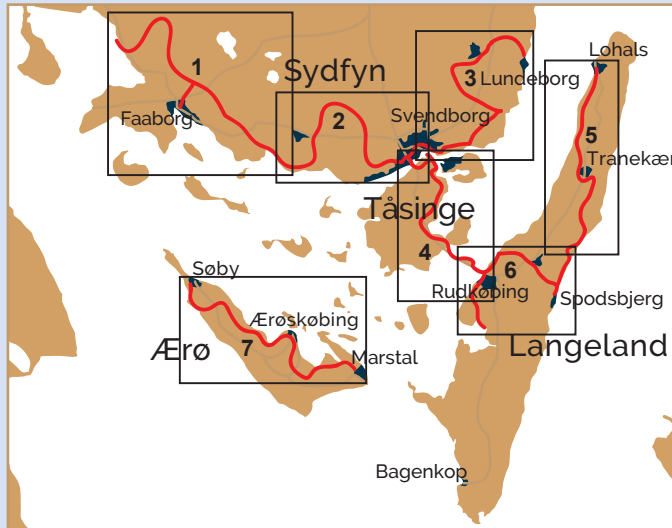


The Archipelago Trail from Stengade Strand to Henninge Nor - 26 km

Along this section of the Archipelago Trail you will see both the east and west coasts of Langeland, passing through leafy forests and a hilly landscape. The route takes you from the beach of Stengade Strand in the north, through Tullebølle to the town of Rudkøbing. Here you can choose between carrying on south to Henninge Nor, taking the ferry to Marstal and following the Archipelago Trail on Ærø, or heading off towards Svendborg over Siø and Tåsinge. This folder describes the route from Stengade Strand to Henninge Nor.

A challenge for walkers

The Archipelago Trail is a 220km long footpath that encircles and binds together the Geopark: South Funen Archipelago. The trail runs from Faldsted in the south west of Funen to Lundeborg in the east. From Lohals, through Rudkøbing to Henninge Nor on Langeland and from Marstal to Søby on Ærø.



Overview of the Archipelago Trail and the 7 published route map folders

1 From boat sheds to container ships

As you walk south along the beach you can often see some of the many many big ships that sail along the winding deep water channel that runs offshore. Around 25,000 ships pass through the Langelands Belt every year, on their way to or from the biggest brackish water sea in the world, the Baltic. The big car ferries that sail from Kiel to Gothenburg and Oslo are also an impressive sight.

At two places along the dyke that runs south from Stengade Strand you can still see boat sheds. These small sheds, used to store boats and fishing gear, are relics from a bygone era. Up to 40 - 50 years ago it was profitable to fish from the coast here with ruses and nets that were set along rows of large posts that were set into the seabed during the late summer. Today, the few remaining sheds are maintained by people who fish as a hobby.



Boat shed at Løkkeby Beach

2 A Mecca for anglers

With its 152km long coastline Langeland offers great fishing all year round. Its position between the warm shallow waters of the Baltic and the cooler North Sea, provides ideal growing and living conditions for many different species of fish. The stretch of coastline from Stengade Skov to the Tranekær Fyr lighthouse offers some of the best fishing on Langeland - at certain times of year you can meet many hopeful anglers fishing from the beach here.

3 Spodsbjerg - a ferry town

Spodsbjerg has a busy ferry terminal and its harbour, the only one on the east coast of Langeland, is widely used by both commercial and recreational fishermen. A ferry to Lolland has sailed from here since the middle ages. In 1884 the South Funen Steamship Company established a new steam ferry route and built a new jetty. Today the ferry traffic that arrives here still gives the town its pulse.

The attractive building at the start of the trail was originally the terminus for the railway from Rudkøbing, which ran from 1911 to 1962. Spodsbjerg offers good, child friendly beaches with perfect conditions for SUP boarding and other water sports.

4 Tullebølle Village Pond and Leisure Park - overnight accommodation

In the heat of Tullebølle you can find the Tullebølle Leisure Park, which was created by local activists. Here you can stay overnight in the park's two shelters.

Tullebølle still has a fine village pond. In Denmark such ponds are called a 'gadekær' and are ponds that occur naturally or have been dug on common-land. Langeland has around 50 such ponds. On top of their natural and cultural historic value, they often have a recreational function and acted as a gathering place for the village. Nearly all villages on Langeland have one or more of these ponds. They are often the villages oldest feature and are the reason why a village is located in a particular spot as they were built where water pressure or springs could provide clean, fresh water all year round. Many village activities took place around them and they also provided water for fighting fires.

5 Church murals and consecration crosses

Tullebølle church, which dates from the 1400s, is one of the most beautiful medieval churches in Denmark. On the church tower stands the date 1830 under a crown and monogram. This belonged to the owner of Tranekær who became co-owner of the church after restoring it. So-called consecration crosses have been painted on 12 places around the church. They mark the spots where the bishop laid his hands on the church walls while consecrating the building as a house of God. You can read more about the church and its beautiful murals in the church's porch.



Tullebølle Church and Leisure Park

6 Peløkke and the 'pear ships'

Along the coast between Peløkke and the old village of Ribbjerg are many fruit plantations. Historically the fruit harvest was also shipped out from here. Skippers of small sailing vessels known as "pear ships" bought up fruit from the growers and sailed it to Copenhagen and other large towns. Here the fruit was sold directly from the ship to people standing on the quayside. Today you can find an attractive farmshop here selling fruit and fruit juice that you can enjoy en route.



Siø - an island with plenty of bird life

7 One island, one farm, one school

Siø is a flat island only 125ha (1.25km²) in size. Originally a number of islands lay here: Skovø, Sidø and Big and Small Fugleholm. These islands were used for summer grazing for animals from Langeland. In 1861 dykes were built around these islands to create usable farmland and thus the island of Siø was created. Today a total of 7km of dykes and a number of pumping stations are used to keep Siø dry. Siø is one of the most important islands for birdlife in the South Funen Archipelago. A wide range of seabirds and waders breed around its coastline, while during the autumn and winter Brent geese, barnacle geese, greylag geese and swans can be seen here in their thousands. In the south east part of the island there is a partially flooded area where many wading birds can be seen. During the breeding season from 1st March -15th July the Archipelago Trail along the coast is closed to walkers, so you should use the footpath that runs alongside the main road instead.

8 The market town of Rudkøbing and Hans Christian Ørsted

Rudkøbing is the only market town on Langeland, and was founded back in the 1100s. The town has, as is quite usual, two market squares: Gåsetorvet and Torvet. Next to the main square, Torvet, you can see the beautifully restored former town hall which is today used as a parish house.



Gåsetorvet and H.C. Ørsted

On the smaller square, Gåsetorvet, is a statue of the chemist and physicist H.C. Ørsted (1777 - 1851), just across the road from the former chemists shop where he was born. H.C. Ørsted worked with both chemistry and physics and is most famous for his discovery of electro-magnetism. You can learn more about H.C. Ørsted's work and discoveries at the town's H.C. Ørsted exhibition. In the center of town you can find Langeland's Museum and its exciting exhibits of items from pre-history to the present day.

9 The archipelago, bathing pavilion and water sports

Rudkøbing was formerly a busy hub for rail, car, bus and not least maritime traffic. From here sail, steam and motor vessels sailed to Copenhagen, Korsør, Svendborg, Marstal, Strynø and the other small islands. Next to the ferry harbour lies the elegant waiting room, built in the style of a Greek temple with doric columns around 1926. From here you can explore the archipelago further by taking the Marstal and Strynø ferries, or a tour on a historic schooner. Close to the ferry harbour you can enjoy a refreshing dip at the bathing pavilion, where townsfolk swim both in summer and winter.

Langeland's coastline and the shallow waters of the archipelago are perfect for water sports such as sea kayaking, SUP boarding and surfing. Read more about project SHORES on the other side of this folder.



The Archipelago is perfect for watersports

10 Water meadows and a popular day out

Just south of Rudkøbing lies another meadow, Rudkøbing Vejle, surrounded by town and woodland. To walk through the area see the path marked on the map. The area flat wetland was an open fjord until 1824 when a dyke and pump was established. Once dry the area could be used as farmland. Pumping was stopped in 1995, and a new wetland created for the benefit of local plant and animal life. Between 1876 and 1957 the woods of Rudkøbing Fredskov, which border the meadow, was a popular day out for townsfolk who would visit the small summer restaurant that once stood here to dance, eat and drink in the woods. This 17ha of woodland is now owed by the state. In the spring the forest floor is covered with anemones, corydalis, yellow star of Bethlehem and pungent wild garlic flowers.



Bettina Klem Andreassen

Vejlen near Rudkøbing

11 Henninge Nor - an Eldorado for birds

Henninge Nor was originally apart of Lindelse Nor. Today a dyke to the south of Henninge Nor separates it from Lindelse Nor, but in the past it once resembled Lindelse Nor with many small islands and holms. Drainage work began in 1912 in the hope of creating good farmland, and a pump station and willmill were built for this purpose. Now, over 100 years later this area can no longer be cultivated, instead a beautiful water meadow has developed. Today the Henninge Nor is an important breeding and resting area for many species of bird. Thousands of diving ducks such as tufted duck and scaup rest on the lakes, while exciting species such as white tailed sea eagle and great egret are also seen here.



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Dinghies at Klæsø

12 Klæsø Nature Trail and car park

The dyke between Henninge Nor and Lindelse Nor is not part of the Archipelago Trail, but a footpath continues for a short distance on the other side of the dyke and connects with Klæsø Nature Trail. Nature conservation regulations allow for crossing the dyke on foot. It is possible to park cars at Klæsø.



Hat hills between Ormstrupvej and Vesteregnsvej

13 Hat Hills - a geological rarity

All around Langeland you can see these small domed hills, that resemble old, round hats. Some have been planted with crops, others lie in the open countryside or in woodlands. The circa 1,000 hat hills on the island are something of a geological rarity, and this type of landscape is found nowhere else in Denmark. Hat hills are only a couple of hundred meters across and 10-20m high. They consist of sand and gravels that collected on lake beds. During the last ice age meltwater gathered in depressions on the surface of the glacial ice. Lakes formed and sand and gravel sank to the bottom of them. When the ice finally melted away, this material was deposited as low round hills on the otherwise flat ground.



- Archipelago Trail
- - - Path (Marked)
- ▲ 1.2 km ▲ Distance markers
- 1-13 Attractions
- i Tourist Information
- P Parking
- WC Toilet
- M Museum
- B Bus stop
- P Picnic spot

