



Krovej in Vester Skerninge

There is a lovely circular walk that you can do through this publicly-owned area. Not only are there fantastic views across the kettle-hole landscape north of Egebjerg Hills and the South Funen Archipelago, but to the south you can see how nature is coming into its own again in the area. There are no longer corn fields out here, just nature and the great outdoors. The eventual aim is to regenerate an open grazing landscape. Open grazing land is rare on Funen. It is typically found in sandy, hilly areas. If the many plants and flowers of the open grazing land are to come into their own again, the vegetation needs to be kept down by grazing sheep, cattle or horses. Well-grazed open pasture easily contains 50 different species of plants per square metre. In the close vicinity of Bakkelund lies Egebjerg Mill, where a unique view over the archipelago can be found.

6 Out into open grazing land - Bakkelundgård

Syltemade Adal



Svendborg

Funen's second largest town is idyllically situated on the narrow Svendborg Sound. Some 30,000 people live in the market town which dates back to 1229 when the town's protector, King Valdemar the Victorious, gave Svendborg to his sister-in-law as a morning gift.

The name Svendborg derives from Swineburgh, which alludes to pigs and castle. The pigs may refer to porpoises, or pig fish, swimming in herds on their way to and from the Baltic Sea through Svendborg Sound.

North of the town was Ørkild castle that belonged to the Bishop of Odense. 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 ship tonnage was launched 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 Naturama, which has an exhibition with modern natural history.

The South Funen Archipelago

The Archipelago to the south of Funen is a vast, flooded landscape formed during the Ice Age. Only the very highest hills poke out above the water to form the 55 islands and islets scattered about in the sea. Ice covered the area 17,000 years ago. It came in from the southeast, which is why many of the islands are shaped in a southeast-northwest direction. The Archipelago has been nominated as a Danish national park due to its valuable landscapes of low-lying land and sea areas that are home to many plants and animals, especially shore birds.



The South Funen Archipelago

Colophon

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By the inn and the church in Vester Skerninge is a well-preserved village environment. The inn is one of the old highway inns licensed by the king which, in the days of stagecoaches, provided a place to rest and shelter for the night. Vester Skerninge is also one of Denmark's longest villages. A leaflet of the area around Krovej has been published and are available at the tourist office.

5 The inn and the church – unique village environment

The protected Syltemade river valley is narrow and up to twenty metres deep. The upper part was formed by a subglacial stream that was pushed forwards from the east under the ice. The trail runs along Syltemade stream through alder swamps and over grassy meadows. In the winter you can see the white-throated dipper run underwater to catch insects. At one time or another there have been of South Funen's many illegal smuggling ports which, during the 17th century, breached the sole trading right of the market towns. Please note that the trail can be very wet during winter time.

4 Syltemade Adal – deep and narrow

The trail goes through some beautiful natural protected woodland owned by the local parish council. Windswept hawthorns form a fringe out onto the Archipelago but otherwise the small wood is made up of 200-year-old oaks, maples, hazels and ivy. In the spring, the forest floor is covered in strong-smelling ramsons.

3 The priest's forest with a character of its own

In the waters offshore from the municipal waste water treatment plant at Ringsgaard, there are ancient pieces of flint which date back to the Stone Age. Throughout the Archipelago there are Stone Age settlements at a depth of 2–3 metres, as the sea level was lower then and the Archipelago was habitable land. Wedges, or chips, are pieces of flint from the production of flint tools and they can be found along the coast where they have been swept onto the beach by currents and storms.

2 Ringsgaard – traces of the Stone Age

Fjællebroen was founded as a site of disembarkation in 1764 by the owner of Rødkilde Estate. Like market towns, estates had the right to trade. The lucrative transportation of goods such as cattle, corn and timber was easier across water than land. The what prompted the growth of a town in the mid-19th century where the main livelihoods were fishing, shipping and ship-building. Timber from the nearby forests was exported overseas, as and Fjællebroen had its own fleet of sailing ships, custom-house, engine works, boatbuilding yard, inn and bakery. The Inn is still there with its original features and the harbour is a large marina.

1 Fjællebroen, a site of disembarkation

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 hunts 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 also 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 Tåsinge by Fynbus. See timetables at www.fynbus.dk or obtain further information from Fynbus on tel. +45 6311 2233.

Accommodation

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

Would you like more information?

Sydfyn Turistbureau, www.visitsydfyn.dk, tel. +45 6223 5700 – for information about accommodation near the trail.

Svendborg Museum, www.svendborgmuseum.dk, tel. +45 6221 0261 – for information about the history of Svendborg and surroundings.

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

A route overview of the Archipelago Trail with specification of the 7 maps, which are published.



The Archipelago Trail is a 220-kilometre long trail that circumvents the South Funen Archipelago. The trail stretches from Faldslet in South Funen to Lundeborg in East Funen. From Lohals in north Langeland to Rudkøbing and then on from Marsdal to Søby in Fero.

Hiking adventures

This section of the Archipelago Trail begins in Fjællebroen, an ancient place of disembarkation, and ends in Svendborg at the road bridge over to Tåsinge. This section of the trail leads you along the Sound, in over the Ice Age landscape at Egebjerg Hills, northwest of Svendborg, before taking you back out to the coast. The trail affords spectacular views over the Archipelago, forests and vast manor house landscapes. The leaflet describes some of the attractions worth visiting along the way.

The Archipelago Trail from Fjællebroen to Svendborg – approx. 30 km

A view from Egebjerg Bakker



A walk in Egebjerg Bakker



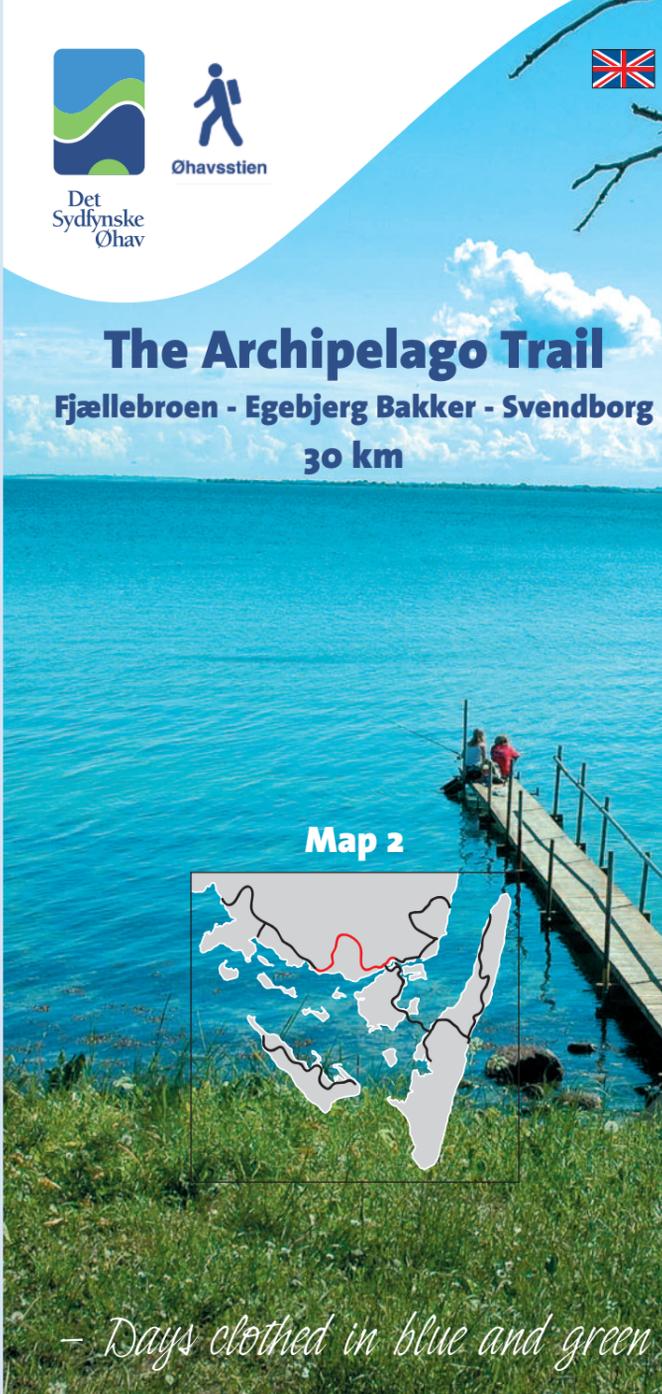





The Archipelago Trail

Fjællebroen - Egebjerg Bakker - Svendborg

30 km





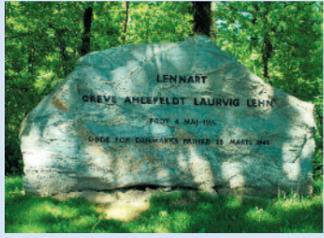
Map 2

– Days clothed in blue and green

7 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.



Monument for Count Lennart

8 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 1742 where the side wings was added til main building. The huge farm buildings witness the prime of the mansion.

9 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, Kirsebærholm and Lilleholm. On the estate is the little Rønninge watermill, situated on the fringe of the Amalielyst forest. When grain was delivered, or flour collected, a boat would sail in under 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.



Hvidkilde Gods

10 An eel in the landscape

On your way you will pass Egense 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.

11 A village razed to the ground

The trail reaches the coast of Svendborg Sound at Lilleng. The small village of Kogtved 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.

12 St Jørgen's Church – a chapel for lepers

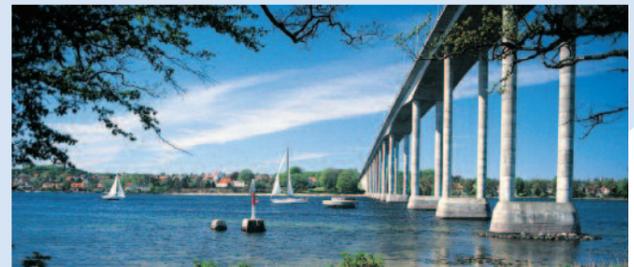
The previous church on this site was a wooden chapel for lepers lodged at St Jørgensgårde outside the town's ramparts as lepers were not welcome in the town. They were taken care of out here by volunteers from a religious fraternity. The lepers lived on alms and farming the land on a farm donated by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



The Sct. Jørgen's Church

13 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 Vindeby ceased. Siø Sound Bridge, Langeland Bridge and Svendborg Sound Bridge make up the links connecting the islands of Tåsinge, Siø and Langeland.



The Svendborg Sound Bridge

14 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 storehouse is a wooden jetty reserved for old, wooden ships of historic interest. Through Maritimt Center Danmark more of these wooden ships offer cruises in the archipelago. The 250-year-old merchant shipping company, Baagøe og Riber, is also based here.

15 Christiansminde summer area

The point where the trail meets the water at Svendborg's North Harbour is where Øxenbjerg 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 Juul 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.

16 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 4,000-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 Ørkild to Skårup Skovmølle.



Svendborg Harbour

