

The Funen Alps

Seventeen thousand years ago, a glacier moved up through the belts from the Baltic Sea creating the submerged Ice Age landscape that characterises the South Funen Archipelago today, where only the highest hills rise above the water. The glacier's edge left behind a hilly landscape with deep valleys known as the Funen Alps that stretch eastward from the area north of Faaborg. As the sandy soil here is poor farmland, the area is characterised by woods, moorland, bogs, lakes and streams. It is populated with a wide variety of plants and animals, such as the climbing corydalis or the rare common dormouse. The dormouse is Denmark's only representative of the common European dormouse family. The dormouse is nocturnal and lives in trees in thickets and woodland fringes. In Denmark, the dormouse hibernates from October to May.

Faaborg

This provincial town is situated on the banks of the South Funen Archipelago. Ferry service departs from the harbour to no less than 4 islands: Ærø, Lyø, Avernakø and Bjørnø. The town's by-pass, intersected by the trail, runs between the town and a wildlife area known as »Sundet«, a former bay. Sundet was drained from 1940 to 1946, but was re-flooded in 2000 and is now a large freshwater lake teeming with bird life.

The town gate in Vestergade is the only remnant of Faaborg's medieval fortification. The distinctive, 31 metre belfry dates from 1450.

Faaborg is situated in a corner of Denmark teeming with culture and history and has many charming old houses and merchant dwellings along winding streets. The town's population is around 7,500.



The belfry in Faaborg

Colophon

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Hiking and stopping along the trail

The Archipelago Trail is made for hikers and ramblers and is way-marked by posts along the entire trail. On your hike, we kindly ask you to be considerate and observe the following:



- The entire trail is open from 6.00 a.m. until sunset.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash.
- You are walking on private property, so please show consideration for the owners and do not discard refuse.
- Tenting overnight is only permitted at campsites or campgrounds or in areas where this is specifically permitted by the property owner.
- Sections of the trail may be closed during the hunting season, but you will be informed of an alternate route on site.

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

FynBus serves South Funen with several public bus lines to and from the area. Further details and timetables are available from FynBus by visiting www.fynbus.dk or by phoning tel. +45 6311 2233.

Further information

Faaborg Turistbureau, www.visitfaaborg-midtfyn.dk
tel. +45 7253 1818 – information about accommodation.

Øhavsmuseet, www.ohavsmuseet.dk
tel. +45 6361 2000 – information about Faaborg's history.

Further particulars on the archipelago trail can also be found at www.detsydfynskeohav.dk



Det
Sydfynske
Øhav



Øhavsstien



Archipelago Trail

Faldsled - Faaborg - Fjællebroen

39 km

Map 1



– Days clothed in blue and green



Trebjerg

The Archipelago Trail from Faldsled to Fjællebroen with a side trip to Faaborg – approx. 39 km

Along this section of the trail, you will experience Funen's lush agricultural landscape and the mighty hills and valleys, known as the Funen Alps, left by the retreating glacier. A side trip leads to Faaborg, while the main trail takes you through the hilly terrain down to the coast with spectacular views across the South Funen Archipelago along the way. The section of trail described in this pamphlet starts in Faldsled and includes some of the memorable sights in the area.

Hiking adventures

The Archipelago Trail is a 220 km long trail that circumvents the South Funen Archipelago. The trail stretches from Faldsled in South West Funen to Lundeberg in East Funen. From Lohals in north Langeland to Rudkøbing and then on from Marstal to Søby in Ærø.



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

1 Faldsled: a village of peasants and seafarers

This lovely village of national historic interest arose as a settlement on cleared land in an otherwise forested coastal area. Only a few farmsteads moved out of the village later on and the nine in Faldsled are larger and more distinguished than those found in most Danish villages. This is especially because the residents also participated in the shipping trade. The well-kept inn of nationwide renown is worth a closer look.



Faldsled Kro

2 Steensgaard

Steensgaard was built in the mid-1500s. In 1594 its owner, Otto Emmiksen – also nicknamed »the Evil«, was killed by a stroke with an axe in his head. His wife had paid some of their farmhands to kill him. The rumours say that the wife still haunts Steensgaard. Today Steensgaard is run as a modern, organic concept farm which means that Steensgaard grows their own fodder and have their animals graze their fields. The animals are both butchered and prepared at the premises. You can buy some of the meat in the farm shop »Gårdbutikken« or eat it in the restaurant »Spiseriet« (the eatery). See more on www.steensgaard.dk



Steensgaard

3 Railway: steam and royalty

500 metres into the woods, the trail crosses the former railway line. The railway connected Odense with Nørre Broby, Håstrup, Stensgaard and Faaborg and was opened in 1905 when King Frederik VIII and Queen Louise cut the ribbon. 4 steam locomotives, freight wagons and passenger cars made the last trip on the line in 1954.

4 Horses and oxen along a sunken road

Where the trail takes a left turn from Håstrupvej is an old sunken road, gradually shaped by the narrow hard wheels of peasants' carts, so the road is now one metre lower than the surrounding countryside. Old hawthorn provided shelter for peasants, oxen and horses along the way.

5 Third-highest hill on Funen

Trebjerg, 128 metres above sea level, affords a lovely view of the landscape – not least of the islands in Helnæs Bay. Dronningudsigt (Queen's Vantage Point) lies 600 metres to the north where Queen Margrethe II stopped for a break a few years ago. A Norwegian who climbed this hill wrote afterwards, »Who needs Prozac when you have Trebjerg? Peaks like this should be available on prescription!« After Trebjerg, the trail follows an old church path taken by Østrupgård's residents for going to service at Håstrup church.



Svanninge Hills

6 Funen's oldest inhabited building

The barn for Østrupgård Manor is a large timber-framed building with an enormous thatched roof. The outbuildings are some of the largest thatched timber-framed farm buildings in Scandinavia, and the two-storey, stone-built, whitewashed, fieldstone building was built back in the 14th century as a place of refuge, surrounded by moats for protection. This is the oldest dwelling in Funen and one of the few preserved stronghold buildings in Denmark.

7 Svanninge Bakker

The hilly area east of Svanninge is one of the most visited natural resorts on Funen. As a visitor you will be exposed to open grassland, springs, alkaline fens, and varying hardwood- and softwood forests. You get a very nice view of the South Funen Archipelago (Sydfynske Øhav) and the Helnæs Bay while being at the top of the ridges. In Svanninge Bakker the famous painters »Fynboerne« found many of their motives in the early 1900s. Some of the paintings can be viewed at Faaborg Museum of Funen Painting. Svanninge Bakker, Nørremarken, Sollerup Skov and Svanninge Bjerge make up one of the largest nature areas on Funen covering nearly 11 km². There is an extensive system of gravel tracks which make the area accessible for horse riders, hikers and cyclists. See more on www.naturstyrelsen.dk



Holstenshuus

8 Svanninge Bjerger (Mountains)

Svanninge Bjerger is a 600 ha forest- and natural area owned by the »Bikubenfunden« (a private foundation) which put much emphasis on the redevelopment of nature and the creation of splendid outdoors experiences for visitors. The Archipelago Trail will take you to »Lerbjerg«; a hill 126 metres above sea level makes it the fourth highest peak on Funen and the highest spot on the Archipelago Trail. From here you get a nice view of a large part of the mountains and the South Funen Archipelago. If you want to do more hiking in the area, there are 7 fascinating routes all offering a number of experiences. In Svanninge Bjerger you get close to the Welsh Black cattle grazing in vast areas in the forests. Read more on www.svanningebjerger.dk

9 Side trip to sound and town

At the point where a side trail leads to Faaborg is a heather bog. This type of biotope is rare in Funen and can be observed from the boardwalk leading through the area. The trail passes »Sundet« (the Sound) just before reaching Faaborg (read the »Faaborg« section for further details). Many birds rest and breed here in the lake.

10 Old boundaries

Many stone walls are found in this area, demarcating both parish and settlement boundaries. Some of the settlement boundaries represent the oldest division of the countryside and date back to the Iron Age, more than 2,500 years ago. When the nomadic way of life came to an end, the various settlements needed to mark off their area of habitation and resources. In addition to their interesting history, the stone walls also serve as a vital sanctuary for flora and fauna. Drought-tolerant plants are often found here and many amphibians spend the winter in the walls.

11 Norden: rebuilt farmsteads

The small collection of buildings known as Norden (the North) is named for its northernmost location in Diernæs parish. Like everywhere else, the farmsteads in the village were relocated over a hundred years ago when each peasant rebuilt his farmstead and marked off his property's boundaries with hedgerows.

12 Diernæs: large village on a broad promontory

Which is the meaning of the name »Diernæs«. When the sea level was higher, this formed a promontory into the sea here. A large fieldstone house with an imposing thatched roof is located in the village proper. It served as a retirement home for poor villagers and was built by the baron at the Holstenshuus Estate. Farms and houses in Diernæs belonged to the estate and the inhabitants laboured for the baron. He acknowledged this by helping elderly and poor parishioners.

13 Holstenshuus and an old deer park

Holstenshuus, one of Denmark's most recent manor house buildings, is located at the foot of the Funen Alps. Holstenshuus was built after a fire in 1908. Several peaks are located in and around the deer park lined with a stone wall. One was named after King Frederik VII who climbed it in 1861, after which it was renamed



Nakkebølle Lake

»Kongenshøj« (King's Hill) the same day. A large fieldstone tower with an exterior spiral staircase adorns the top of the hill.

14 Åstrup: finding one's home by the luck of the draw

Åstrup is intersected by the noisy, heavily trafficked highway between Svendborg and Faaborg. In 1822, the village farmsteads were relocated to the surrounding countryside. The many scattered plots of land were reorganised into large sections and were allocated to the peasants by the drawing of lots, drawn by a »minor, not more than 6 years old, who is also blindfolded.« Most farmsteads in Åstrup were relocated south of the village.

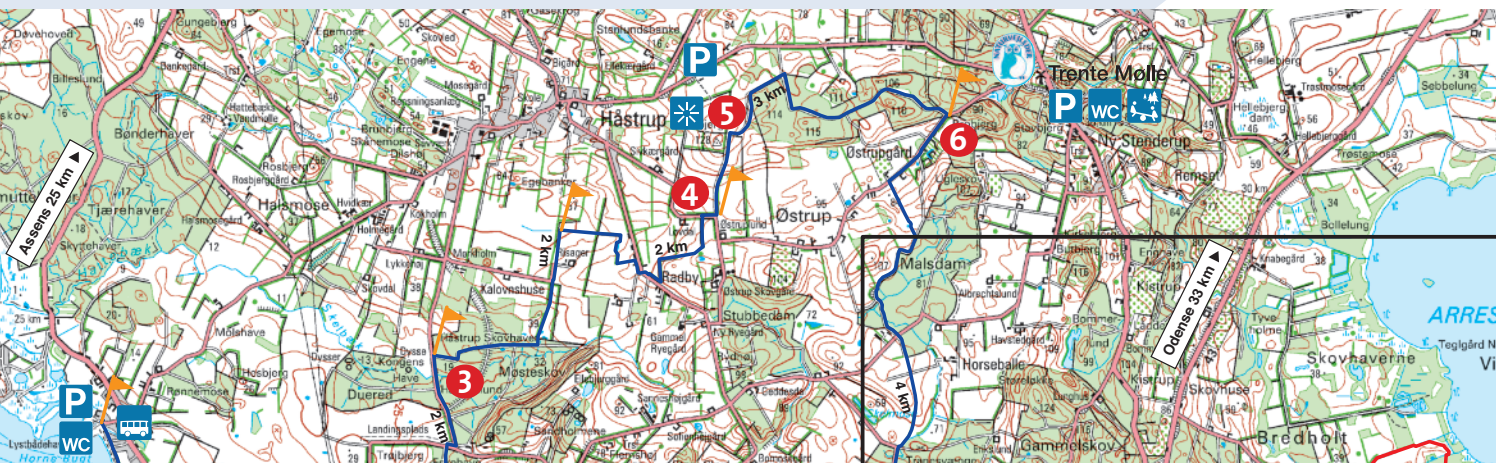
15 Nakkebølle Lake and Sanatorium

The fields south of Nakkebølle Estate were originally part of the fjord. More than 0.5 km² was drained in 1866–1870 and turned into farmland. In 2003, however, one of the largest lakes in Funen was established here. The lake prevents agriculture's excess fertiliser from flowing into the sea, thus improving the water quality in the Archipelago. Many birds inhabit the new lake. One of the many sanatoriums built near the coast in Denmark in the early 1900s is located near Nakkebølle Fjord. Back then sunshine, warmth and rest in fresh air were thought to be a cure for the infectious disease tuberculosis.

16 Fjællebroen: a disembarkation site

Fjællebroen was established as disembarkation site in 1764 by the owner of Rødkilde Estate. The estates in the area wanted their trading activities to circumvent the monopolies held by market towns, and sea-based transport was easier than transport over land.

A village of mariners and fishermen grew up around the disembarkation jetty from the mid-1800s. Timber from nearby woodland was exported from here, and the site has a small custom house, engine factory, boatbuilding works, inn and bakery. Today the harbour is a large marina and the inn's original interiors make it worth a visit.





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- 2 km Range marks
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- Parking
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- Bus stop
- Nature playground
- Coffee site
- see the comment on the reverse page
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