

Hat-shaped hills – a geological rarity

Small, dome-shaped hills resembling old, round hats are visible from almost everywhere along this section of the Archipelago Trail on Langeland. Some of the hills are covered with planted vegetation, while others are situated in open countryside or woodland. These 690 hills are something of a geological rarity. They are only a few hundred metres wide and 10–20 metres high. The gravel and sand of which the hills are made actually come from former lake beds.

During the last Ice Age, the melting water collected in hollows on the glacier surface. Lakes were formed and sand and gravel sank to the bottom. After the ice had melted completely, the material from the bottom of the lake was left as round hills on the flat land.



Langeland's unique hat-shaped hills

Coppices – an age-old form of woodland management

A coppice – or stubhave (literally 'stump garden') as it is called on Langeland – is an old method of woodland management where the trees were felled in rotation at five, ten or twenty-year intervals. The coppice owner, usually a local farmer, exploited the fact that shoots grew up from the stump after the tree was felled, hence the name 'stump garden'. The wood was used for fencing, fuel, tools, etc. Hazel and alder were the most commonly coppiced trees, but willow, ash, elm and oak were also used. The coppicing let in lots of light to the coppice floor, providing good growth conditions for grasses and herbs that could be used for grazing and haying. Today, the island's coppices burst with flora such as corydalis, wild orchids and anemones in spring.



The coppice Rifbjerg Stub

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.

Transport

Public transport around Langeland is available on FynBus Route 910 (Rudkøbing–Bagenkop or via Tranekær to Lohals) and Route 800 (Rudkøbing–Spodsbjerg). Visit www.fynbus.dk for timetables or get further details from FynBus by phoning tel. +45 6311 2233.

Accommodation

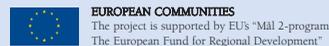
Information about accommodation venues near the trail is available at www.langeland.dk or by contacting Langeland Tourist Office, tel. +45 6251 3505.

Would you like more information?

If you are interested in further details about Langeland or the history of Rudkøbing, contact Langeland Museum, tel. +45 6351 1010 or visit www.langelandsmuseum.dk. Further details on the Archipelago Trail are also available at www.detsydynskeohav.dk.

Colophon

Published by: Langeland Kommune in cooperation with Naturturisme I/S
Editorial / text: Naturturisme I/S, Naturbureauet og Erik Møller Nielsen
Photographs: Erik Møller Nielsen, Birgit Bjerre Laursen og Henriette Mørck
Frontpagephoto: Henninge Nor
Illustration: Jens Overgaard Christensen
Basis of maps: Kort- & Matrikstyrelsen - copyright
Layout / print: tryk team svendborg a/s



The project is supported by EU's "Mål 2-program.
The European Fund for Regional Development"



DMU
541 204
tryk&og



Det
Sydfynske
Øhav



Øhavsstien



The Archipelago Trail

Stengade Strand - Rudkøbing - Henninge Nor
26 km

Map 6



– Days clothed in blue and green



LANGELAND



The Archipelago Trail along Bellevue, Rudkøbing

From Stengade Strand to Henninge Nor – 26 km

Along this stretch of the Archipelago Trail you will experience the west and east coasts of Langeland and pass through luxuriant woods and hilly landscapes. The trail leads from Stengade Strand in the north through Tullebølle to the town of Rudkøbing where you have three options: continuing to Henninge Nor in the south; heading for Svendborg across the islands of Siø and Tåsinge. This pamphlet describes the sights of interest along the way from Stengade Strand to Henninge Nor.

Hiking adventures

When finished, the Archipelago Trail will be 200 kilometres long making it one of Denmark's longest network of trails. The Trail will be established before the end of 2006 and circumvent the South Funen Archipelago, enabling hikers to explore the region's natural habitats and cultural history.



The Archipelago Trail – route overview

1 Boat sheds and all sorts of ships

The walk south along the shore is spiced by the sight of large ships plying the winding, deep-water channel close to shore. 25,000 ships pass through the Langeland Belt each year – on their way to or from the Baltic Sea, the largest brackish-water sea in the world. The big ferries from Kiel to Oslo or Gothenburg are an impressive sight. Boat sheds are visible at two spots along the embankment just south of Stengade Strand. The small boat and tool sheds from shore fishery are a relic of times (almost) past. Until thirty or forty years ago it was profitable to conduct shore fishery using fish traps or pound nets that were set out between large piles driven down into the sea bed. Today, the few remaining sheds and fishing grounds are used and maintained by leisure fishermen.



Boat sheds south of Stengade Strand

2 Spodsbjerg – town of the ferries

Today, Spodsbjerg is an active ferry port and a base for angling and commercial fishery, as the only harbour along the east coast of Langeland. Ferry service to Lolland has been provided here since the Middle Ages. In 1884, Sydneyske Dampskibsselskab established a ferry service from a newly built steam-ferry quay, and to this very day, the ferry traffic is still a source of vitality for Spodsbjerg. The beautiful building at the start of the trail was originally the terminal station for the railway line from Rudkøbing. The railway was in operation from 1911 until 1962. Further into the village you will find a 100-year-old seaside hotel.

3 Sylten – from drained field to luxuriant meadow

Just north of Spodsbjerg near the shore is a large flat meadow area. This is former farmland that was once drained and cultivated, but which has lain fallow (uncultivated) in recent years for the great benefit of flora and fauna alike. The water level is stabilised by an overflow, vastly improving the general living conditions for plants and animals and the area has also attracted many breeding birds. Less common birds such as the garganey and the shoveler breed here.

4 Murals and consecration crosses

Tullebølle church is one of the loveliest of Denmark's numerous medieval churches from the 15th century. The year 1830 is engraved below a crowned monogram on the tower, denoting the then owner of Tranekær who had bought into the church as co-owner for a restoration project. Further details on the church and its beautiful murals are found in the church porch. Twelve consecration crosses are found in the church. They mark the spots where the bishop anointed the church wall with his hand during the consecration of the new church.

5 Langeland's finest coppice

Rifbjerg Krat or Stub is one of the finest coppices (stubhave – stump gardens) on Langeland. The coppice covers roughly 6 hectares and is privately owned, formerly by farmers from nearby villages. Spruce and beech trees were planted in Rifbjerg Stub in 1970. These species were not originally used in coppices as shoots do not grow from their base after felling, which is why they would never survive this method of woodland management.

6 Peløkke and the 'pear boats'

The coastal area between Peløkke and the old village of Rifbjerg is typified by fruit farming and, in former times, the harvest was shipped by boat from here. The skippers of small pæreskuder (literally pear boats) purchased fruit from the growers and sailed the fruit to Copenhagen and other large towns where they sold the fruit right from the deck to people on the quay.



Tullebølle church



Lyrical scene from Siø

7 One island, one farm and one school

Siø is a small, flat island of only 125 hectares. This was originally the sight of several islands: Skovø, Sidø, Store Fugleholm and Lille Fugleholm. These islands were not protected by embankments and were grazed in summer by livestock from Langeland. In 1861, the islands were reclaimed to create tillable land, an event which marked the founding of one continuous island named Siø. Seven kilometres of embankments and several pumps now keep the island dry. Today seed-growing and hog production are Siø's primary features. At the centre of the island is an ancestral farm whose present family has owned the island since 1922. The houses scattered around the island were originally dwellings for farmhands and servants and the island's schoolhouse is visible just behind the farmstead. The island's seven or eight pupils were taught by one teacher in the schoolhouse. Siø's school closed around 1950.

8 Rudkøbing – market town and Hans Christian Ørsted



Rudkøbing is Langeland's only market town and was established as early as the 12th century. According to tradition, the town has two squares, Gåsetorvet and Torvet. The town hall is situated at Torvet. The open-air market trading of former times was monitored from the town hall, and the town's constable had a gaol in the town hall cellar. A statue commemorating Denmark's famous chemist and physicist Hans Christian Ørsted (1777–1851) is found on Gåsetorvet directly opposite his birthplace, now the town's pharmacy. Ørsted was a dedicated chemist and physicist who became famous for discovering electromagnetism. Langeland Museum is situated at the centre of town and has interesting exhibits of relics from prehistoric times to the present.

9 Lively shipping and ferry port

The Port of Rudkøbing was formerly a busy traffic hub for trains, cars, busses and, not least, shipping. From here sailing ships, steamers and motorised ships departed for Copenhagen, Korsør, Svendborg, Marstal, Strynø and other islets. The beautiful waiting room – built around 1926 in the style of a Greek temple with Dorian columns – is located at the ferry port. Today, ferries depart from here for Marstal and Strynø. The port has a large, more recent marina and an old fishing harbour lined by the fishermen's blue, elongated sheds from 1911 – the same blue colour as the fishing boats. The old harbour smithy and the shipyard are located near the fishing harbour.

10 Water meadows and interesting excursion spots

Just south of Rudkøbing is another meadow area: Rudkøbing Vejle, surrounded by town and woods. Rudkøbing Vejle is a flat wetland owned by the municipality. Rudkøbing Vejle was originally an open fjord until 1824 when an embankment with a pump was built. This drained the area for cultivation. The pumping stopped in 1995, and the water meadows were re-established for the great benefit of flora and fauna alike. Rudkøbing Fredskov borders on Rudkøbing Vejle and was a popular spot for outings by Rudkøbing's residents from 1876 to 1957, when they patronised the small summer restaurant with its dancing and outdoor service in the woods. Now the state owns these 17 hectares of woodland. In spring the forest floor is covered with a thick carpet of anemones, corydalis and pungent ramsons.



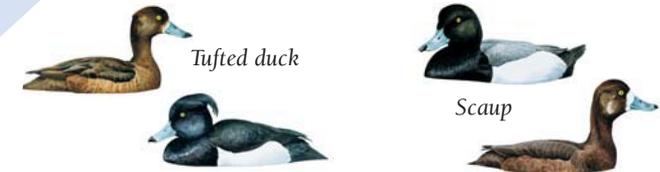
Fårevejle Manor



Rudkøbing's commercial fishing harbour

11 An impressive estate

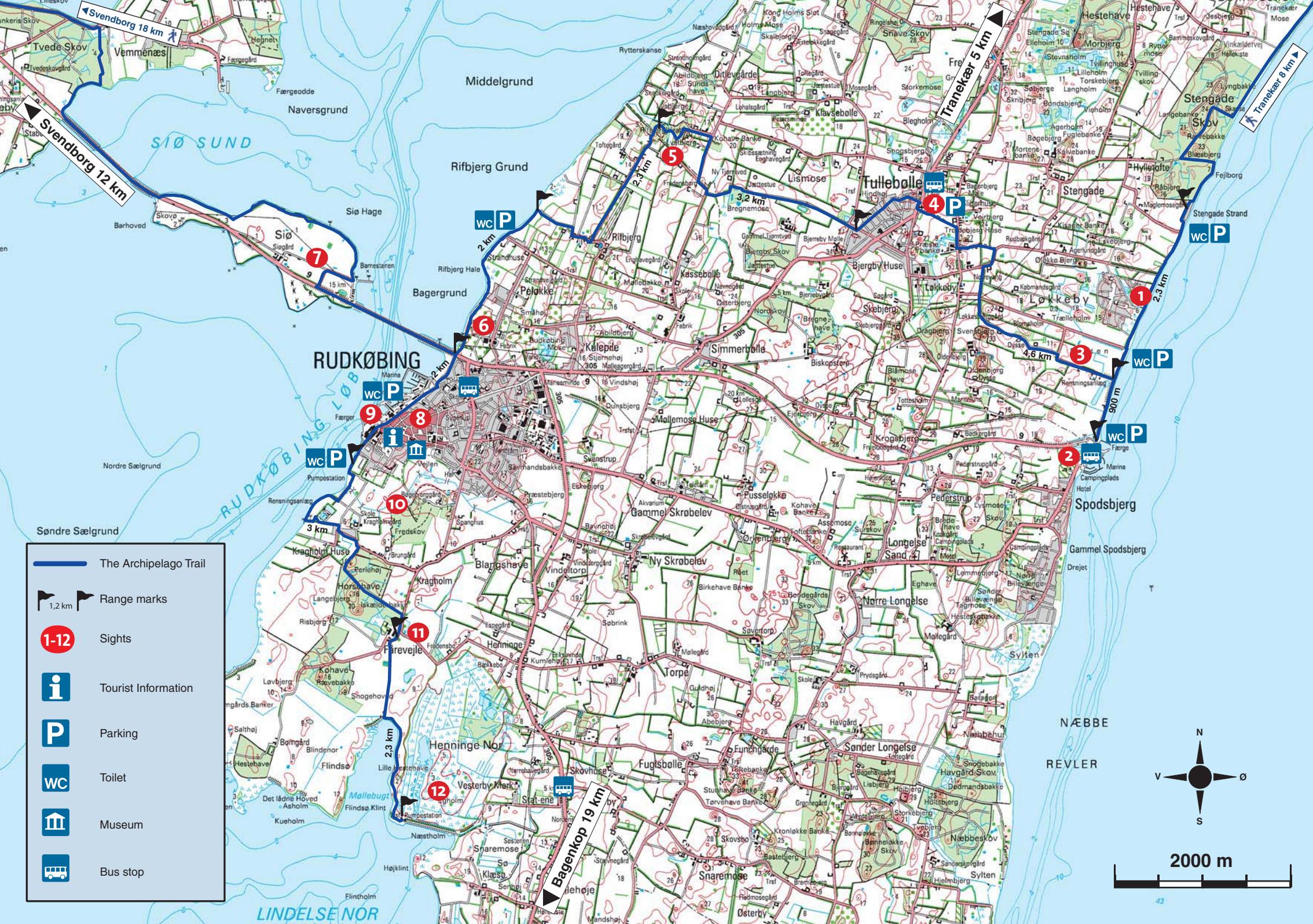
Fårevejle is the second most impressive manor on Langeland – after Tranekær. Fårevejle's main building dates from 1868. The estate also owns farmland, three forests and parts of Henninge Nor. Fårevejle was formerly unprotected against the sea, but embankments built along the west coast enable the area to be cultivated today. The former spacious meadows of Fårevejle were originally used for dairy cattle.



12 Henninge Nor – an eldorado for birds

Henninge Nor was formerly a small cove off the larger Lindelse Nor. An embankment to the south now separates Henninge Nor from Lindelse Nor, but in prehistoric times Henninge resembled Lindelse by having many small islands and islets. Henninge Nor was closed off by an embankment in 1912 for the purpose of establishing tillable farmland. A pump station with a windmill pump and a floodgate were built to reclaim the area. Now, a century later, this large drained area is not tillable but the flooded meadows are a beautiful nature area. Some people wish to limit the pumping of water and improve the general living conditions for birds and wildlife in Henninge Nor.

The Nor is already an important breeding and resting area for many bird species. Divers such as the tufted duck and the scaup are seen resting by the thousands in the lakes and unusual birds such as the white-tailed eagle and the great white egret have been spotted here.



-  The Archipelago Trail
-  Range marks
-  Sights
-  Tourist Information
-  Parking
-  Toilet
-  Museum
-  Bus stop

