

From Blåvandshuk to Vejle

On the Coast to Coast Trail you have the chance to experience the idyllic countryside of Jutland all the way from Blåvands Huk to Vejle. Follow the path along Varde River, Holme River and Vejle River and leave traffic and stress behind and get close to nature instead. The route measures some 120 km in total. Basic campsites where you can stay the night are available along its entire length. Plus, with several car parks close to the route it's also possible to walk a brief stretch instead. Take the kids and experience the unique Danish countryside.



Blåvandshuk lighthouse

www.kyst-kyststien.dk

See here to:

- View and print a detailed map (1:50.000) of the entire route
- See the route on Google Earth
- Read more about sites along the route and the countryside of Jutland



Scan the code and get Coast to Coast on your Smartphone.



Vejle River Valley seen from the air



Hikers route

The Coast to Coast Trail is marked with signs along its entire length, and along most of its length the path is for hikers only. Most people can walk between 10 and 25 kilometres a day. Private landowners have opened the areas in question to public access voluntarily. During wet weather it's a good idea to take some rubber boots with you. During the winter months and in the spring when water levels are at their highest some stretches may be impassable. Cyclists and dogs (on a leash) are welcome on the stretch between Vejle and Bække. No dogs or bicycles are permitted on the rest of the route.

The mouth of Varde River at Ho Bay



Accommodation

There are basic campsites dotted along the route where visitors are welcome to spend a night or two. All campsites have fresh running water, toilets and a bonfire site. A small nightly charge is levied at some campsites, others are free. Basic campsites are strictly for use by hikers only. The campsites north of Karlsgårde Lake and adjacent to Janderup Church are also available for canoeists.

For further information see www.teltpladser.dk and www.udinaturen.dk



Angling

Varde River, Holme River and Vejle River are an angler's paradise. To fish the rivers anglers must first acquire both national and local permits which are available from tourist offices and in local stores. A national permit is sufficient if you're planning to fish from the coast.

For further information see www.dagkort.dk and www.fisketegn.dk



Transport

Car drivers are welcome to use the car parks marked on the map. For information about public transport please see www.rejseplanen.dk.

Shopping

There are plenty of places to purchase the things you need in the various villages and towns en route.

River valleys and landscapes

When you walk the Coast to Coast Trail you'll pass through millennia of changing landscapes and witness the impact of the ice age forces that formed them 16,000 years ago.

To the west the Coast to Coast Trail passes through the broad Varde and Holme river valleys which were created by meltwater during the last ice age. These are bordered in many places by sandy heaths and plantations.

East of the ice front located between Bække and Hovborg, the ice sheet formed the undulating countryside of Vejle and Egtved valleys. Here the landscape is full of dips, dales, heathland, meadows and scrubs as far as the eye can see.

Flora and fauna

In the 1980s the otter had all but died out in Jutland, but it has returned in large numbers and you may well be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of one, or traces of its activity, along the Coast to Coast Trail.

If you see a blue flash skimming across the water then take a second look. It's a kingfisher. The kingfisher catches its prey by plunging into the water from its vantage point on shore.

Between May and June you may be lucky enough to spot the brilliantly coloured western marsh orchid. It's a plant that's dependent on grazing to maintain its habitat. Were the meadows to be allowed to become overgrown it would quickly vanish. The orchid's Danish name translates roughly as "cuckoo herb" and it's said to flower when the cuckoo arrives.



Varde River and surrounding meadows.



The gently rolling countryside of Vejle River Valley



Otter



Kingfisher



Western marsh orchid

Traces of ancient times

Many of the valleys are home to bronze age burial mounds. And near Bække there's a so-called "stone ship" (a Viking burial custom involving standing stones in the shape of a ship) between two bronze age mounds, and in Vejle River Valley you can see a reconstruction of Harald Bluetooth's 10th Century bridge called Ravningsbroen.

Towns, churches and water power

The path passes through the town of Varde, that grew up around a ford on Vejle River. To the east the path ends in Vejle which was only a small town until the railway arrived and the town's port was built in the mid 18th century.

The route takes in a number of fascinating churches, most of them romanesque and dating from the 12th and 13th centuries. Ål and Skibet churches also feature some stunning and unique frescos.

Traces of the use of water power in earlier times can be seen at a number of locations along the route. There's still a functioning water power plant (Karlsgårdeværket) on Varde River.



Varde and Holme rivers empty into Karlsgårde Lake, which supplies water power to Karlsgårdeværket.



Runestone in front of Bække Church



Varde Square

Coast to Coast Trail

– crossing Jutland by foot

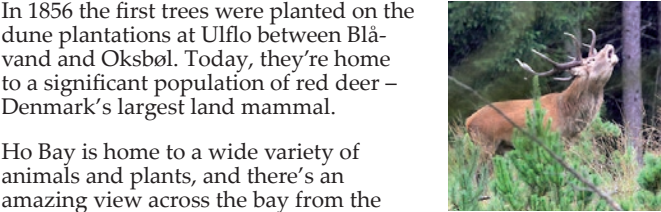


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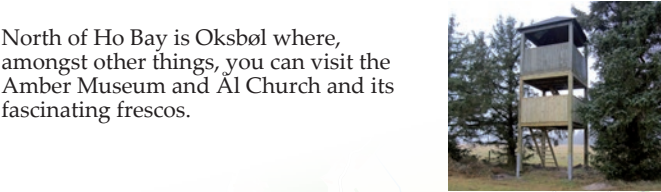
In 1856 the first trees were planted on the dune plantations at Ulflo between Blåvand and Oksbøl. Today, they're home to a significant population of red deer – Denmark's largest land mammal.

Ho Bay is home to a wide variety of animals and plants, and there's an amazing view across the bay from the observation tower.

North of Ho Bay is Oksbøl where, amongst other things, you can visit the Amber Museum and Al Church and its fascinating frescos.



Red deer



Observation tower (Ho Bay)



Amber hunters at Blåvandshuk.

Blåvandshuk is Denmark's westernmost point and the site of the 39m-tall lighthouse Blåvandshuk Fyr. Near by the lighthouse is Blåvand Nature Centre. Slightly to the east you'll also find the Tirpitz Exhibition – a bunker constructed by the Germans in 1944. Blåvand Beach is perfect for bathers and a good spot to go amber hunting.

There's also plenty to see in Varde and the surrounding area including Varde Miniature Village and Vardehus Slotsbanke, which is right on the river and was the site of a medieval fort. Just east of Varde is Kongens Kær where four bends were reintroduced to the river in 2000 to improve conditions for salmon and freshwater pearl mussels. Near Skonager, just a couple of kilometres further to the east, you can also see traces in the landscape of iron age cultivation.



Kongens Kær, Varde



Karlsgårdeværket

Denmark's second largest water power plant is located on Karlsgårde Lake. Constructed in 1921, the plant remains in active use to this day, though electricity generation is due to be phased out. The plant also houses an exhibition dedicated to electricity generation and the environment.

Karlsgårde Lake was created by damming, and today it gets its water from Holme River and a couple of other minor waterways. Adjacent to Karlsgårde Lake is Tambours Gardens with plants from all over the world.



A meadow on Holme River with Starup Church in the background.

In 1912 a merchant by the name of Holger Petersen had Villa Baldersbæk built right on Baldersbæk (Balders Stream). He also had Treherredstenen (The Three Counties Stone) erected by Holme River to mark the point at which 3 counties met.

At Hovborg you'll find an exhibition explaining all about the local wildlife and landscapes right from glaciers to farmland and from wandering clothing and fabric sellers to agricultural pioneer Enrico Dalgas.

South of Holme River lies Vittrup Baun. An exceptionally attractive natural area with its own observation tower. It's also well worth detouring to the north to visit Vorbasse Krigshavn – a village pond full of model warships. Vorbasse Market is held every year in July.



Treherredsstenen

King Harald Bluetooth built a gigantic bridge across Vejle Valley in the 8th century. The bridge has been reconstructed at Raving, and you can learn all about it at the accompanying exhibition. Just to the north of the bridge is Troldborg Ring, a castle that was used as a place of refuge.

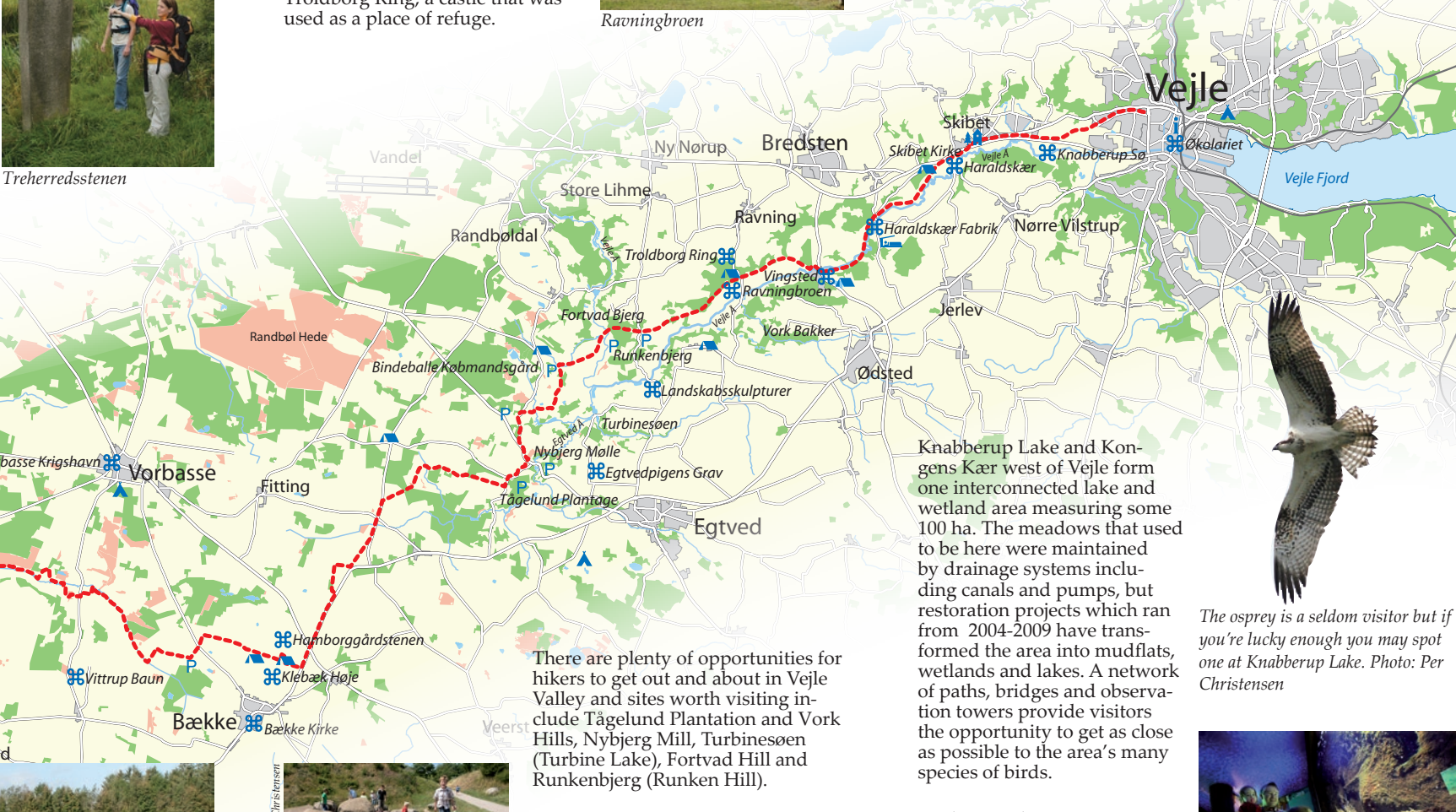


Ravningbroen

Haraldskær Hovedgård has been a manor since 1434. Today, it's a conference centre. Skibet Church is home to some outstanding frescos. Haraldskær Factory dates from 1741 and once utilised water power to manufacture copper products, clay and nails.



Haraldskær Manor



Knabberup Lake and Kongens Kær west of Vejle form one interconnected lake and wetland area measuring some 100 ha. The meadows that used to be here were maintained by drainage systems including canals and pumps, but restoration projects which ran from 2004-2009 have transformed the area into mudflats, wetlands and lakes. A network of paths, bridges and observation towers provide visitors the opportunity to get as close as possible to the area's many species of birds.

The osprey is a seldom visitor but if you're lucky enough you may spot one at Knabberup Lake. Photo: Per Christensen



A family visiting Økolariet.

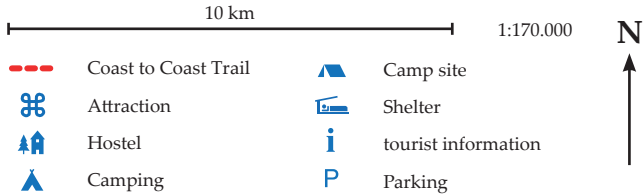
There are plenty of opportunities for hikers to get out and about in Vejle Valley and sites worth visiting include Tågelund Plantation and Vork Hills, Nybjerg Mill, Turbinesøen (Turbine Lake), Fortvad Hill and Runkenbjerg (Runken Hill).

Bindeballe General Store dates from 1897 and you can still make your purchases here.

Vingsted historic workshop houses a number of reconstructed iron age farms, and you can access the fascinating site 24 hours a day.

Near Egtved an exhibition tells the story of the Egtved Girl, right next to the mound in which she was buried.

To the east the Coast to Coast Trail heads into Vejle. Entry to local attraction Økolariet, a unique nature, environmental and energy centre, is free of charge and the centre is well worth a visit.



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