



Open-air activity map of Sønderborg municipality

OPEN-AIR ATTRACTIONS IN SØNDERBORG MUNICIPALITY



Nydam Mose and Nydambåden

Nydam Mose at Sundevig is a sacrificial bog. Many antiquities were discovered in its depths and many have yet to be discovered from the great weapons sacrifices made there in the Iron Age. In 1992 Nydam Mose was listed in order to protect its many antiquities. The bog's most celebrated find is the Nydam Boat – twenty metres in length and three tonnes in weight – which was excavated in the mid-nineteenth century. The boat is on display at Gottorf Castle in Germany.

Today the area is a green meadow. From the car park at Nydamvej, take the lovely unpaved track and walk along the bog to Nydamhuset, where information boards are on display and you can read about the excavations and see sketches and photographs of the bog. It is a ten-minute walk.



Nydamhuset

Dybbøl Banke

Dybbøl Banke and Als were the site of the battles between the Prussian and Danish armies in 1864. The loss of life was so heavy that Dybbøl subsequently became a national and international symbol for posterity.

Skanserne

The fierce battles of spring 1864 took place in the Dybbøl trenches. After the war, the remnants of the Danish trench system were destroyed and in 1865 the Prussians built the great trench emplacement system that can still be seen today. It was part of the reinforced fortification of Sønderborg, which also included trenches on the Als side. However, the trenches were never used, and the installations were abandoned in 1883.



After the reunification of 1920, a national collection was held to raise the funds to buy back the trenches. They were transferred to the Danish state as a national park.

Dybbøl Mølle (or Mill) and the History Centre at Dybbøl Banke are worth visiting if you want to find out more about the area's cultural history – as is the museum at Sønderborg Slot (Sønderborg Castle).

Vemmingbund

Vemmingbund is an old fishing village on Sønderborg Bay at Dybbøl. Today it is a popular holiday destination, where the blue flag flies over one of the best beaches in the area. You can go for a long walk here or swim, windsurf, sunbathe or go sailing. There are also good opportunities for fishing.

Stengisrose Klint

The layers of sedimentary rock in the cliff at Stengisrose are strongly marked by the last Ice Age. You can see the stripes of abrasions in the great stone layers along the beach, which bear witness to the friction of the ice grinding over the stones. Some sections of the cliff have fossil remains of extinct clams and snails deposited by the ice in the sandy layers of the rock.

During the winter storms the sea is eating away at this hilly landscape, piece by piece. The recent landslips on the cliffs are home to special plant and animal life. There is a beautiful view from the top of the cliff out over Vemmingbund.

Skelde Kobbelskov

This beautiful forest with its tall, straight beech trees is on the eastern edge of the Broagerland area running down to the sea at Sønderborg Bay. The "gendarme path" runs through the wood, waymarked with a small blue gendarme. In the forest are nineteen well-preserved dolmens, both round and long. They are 4.500 years old. The primitive camping site in the forest is beautifully situated next to Sønderborg Bay, so you can also reach it by boat.

Iller Strand

The brick manufacturing area at Iller Strand, with the Cathrinesminde brickworks, goes back to the eighteenth century. This was the site of the great brickworks that provided large parts of Denmark with its bricks and building material. In the late nineteenth century, when the brickworks were at their peak, there were about seventy brickyards on both sides of the Flensburg Fjord. They were close to the water so that bricks and tiles could be sailed directly from the plant to the customers, and close to the forest for access to fuel.

Issø clay

The raw material for the brick production was the rare glacial lake clay that was deposited on the lakebed by stagnant or very slowly flowing meltwater. The water contained a suspension of clay that settled in thick layers on the lake bottom. Large quantities of this coveted clay were built up in the Broagerland area and at Nybøl Nor.

Cultural traces in the landscape

Along Iller Strand there are the remains of no less than eight brickworks. Follow the waymarked brickworks trail along the water and see the traces of the clay pits and kneading machines. The beach is littered with thousands of fragments of brick.

Cathrinesminde Teglværk

This Teglværk was in operation from 1732 to 1968. It is now a museum with exhibits showing the history of brick production through the centuries and examples of brick and tile from various periods and places. As well as the large ring furnace nearly 500 square metres across, there are drying chambers, clay pits, an old-fashioned kneading machine, tipping wagons, the great brickwork machines with their mixers, rolling machines, machine presses, and the jetty for transportation by boat. The old workers' houses with apartments are furnished as they were in the 1890s, 1930s and 1960s.

Gråsten

Gråsten is a cosy, welcoming town surrounded by woods and water. There is so much nature here that it is almost part of the town environment.

The Gråsten skovene

These woods were designated as a site of national interest in 2008 for their beauty. Large areas of these steeply sloping, classically Danish beech woods are among the finest in Denmark. The woods are in 2018 approved as a biodiversity wood. In the glades and grassy areas there are thousands of orchids. Visitors have been coming to parts of the Gråsten woods for hundreds of years, first under the dukes of Gråsten Palace and then since the 1930s in the tenure of the royal family. The woods are roughly the same size as they were in the Middle Ages. They offer a very rich nature experience – very diverse plant and animal life, many antiquities, pure rippling creeks, marshes and lovely lakes.



Gråsten Palace – the royal family's Southern Jutland estate at Gråsten Palace Lake

Helligsø

Not far from Gråsten and Rinkeaaes, down on the shore of Flensburg Fjord, is Helligsø, surrounded by woods, hedgerows and meadows. There was once a small lake here. For nearly fifty years it was drained and used as agricultural land, then in 1992 the drainage pump was dismantled, the dyke facing the sea was dug up, and a channel was created to form a connection between lake and fjord. The lake is a bird sanctuary, particularly in autumn and spring.

Nørreskoven

Nørreskoven on the island of Als offers beautiful experiences the whole year round for walkers, cyclists and horseback riders. Stretching nearly nine kilometres along the coast, this wood is one of Denmark's longest coastal forests. Its beech trees are exceptionally tall and beautiful and it is famous for its rich heritage of history and legend. More than eighty tumuli and long dolmens from the New Stone Age are documented here. The elder of the two stone long dolmens at Havrekøbbel is 5.500 years old. As well as the numerous dolmens, there are also Bronze Age bowl-stones and Iron Age circle graves. Free tenting is permitted in the northern part of the forest



Kingfisher

The fairground in Nørreskoven.



Østerholm Slotsruin and Helvedgård Voldsted

Nørreskoven is home to both the important Als manor houses – Helvedgård and Østerholm. Helvedgård castle mound dates from medieval times. The precise age of the castle is not known, but the name Helvedgård is documented in 1321. A wooden bridge over the moat gives access to the ramparts.

Østerholm Castle, today a listed site (only the foundation stone remains) dates from 1554. It was an island fortress, built in a small lake. The castle site is open to the public and now forms part of a private property. Various objects found at Østerholm are on display in Sønderborg Castle, including a painting and a watercolour of Østerholm Castle.

Blomeskobbel and Oleskobbel

Two smaller beech woods, Blomeskobbel and Oleskobbel, have fine views out over the water towards Funen. The northern part of Blomeskobbel wood contains a group of two round and two long dolmens. In the centre of Blomeskobbel there is a primitive camping site with tables and benches and a barbecue. Oleskobbel has an ancient long dolmen not far from the shore. This dolmen is unique as it consists of two joined long dolmens. Free tenting is permitted in Oleskobbel, and visitors can overnight anywhere except in the fenced areas, among the ancient monuments or on the beach.



Archaeological sites in Blomeskobbel.

Pøl

At the southernmost end of the island of Als are the Pøl wetlands. Behind the foaming sea and the protective embankments lies a flat, drained landscape. Before it was drained, the Pøl lived up to its name – it was a huge marshy puddle. Its other names – the Lake and the Impassable – still conjure up an impassable terrain. This special place can be experienced on foot or by bike along a network of field tracks and trails. There are good parking facilities at Pøls Huk to the south-east. If you walk along the grasslands you will see many meadow birds such as lapwings and larks. The embankment is an excellent birdwatching site. Especially in the autumn months, many birds of prey come here. And the coast here is one of the island's best sea-trout fishing spots. Pøl is also a great place to snorkel.

Hartsø

Hartsø is a large open nature area of lakes, salt marshes, bogs and fresh meadows. Cows graze on the meadows during the summer. The area is an important feeding-, breeding and roosting site for many birds, especially migratory birds. Water is pumped out of the lake to preserve the surrounding meadows. The water level in Hartsø can therefore fluctuate greatly with the seasons.

Arnkilsøre

At the tip of Arnkil, between Augustenborg Fjord and Als Sund, is a thirty-hectare grazing pasture. In the warm May and June evenings you can hear the tree frogs in summer concert at one of the area's fine watering holes.

The slopes down towards Als Sund offer wonderful plants such as the early purple orchid and the large-flowered primrose.

Facing Als Sund is the memorial grave of twenty-two Danish soldiers who were killed in battle on 29 June 1864. The Danish soldiers who fell at the battle of Als were buried where they lay, or were given a memorial stone later. The largest soldier's grave is to the south, near Rønhave. It memorialises sixty-four fallen soldiers.

Arnkil Fredskov

Arnkil Wood lies east of Arnkil. The wood and its surroundings are a popular roosting and breeding ground for seabirds, including the common goldeneye, grebe, and eider. Free tenting is allowed in the wood, so visitors can overnight anywhere except in the fenced areas, among the ancient monuments or on the beach.



Tree frog



Orchid

Kær Vestermark

This 140-hectare former army training area now belongs to Sønderborg municipality. The areas must develop to a nature- and recreational area for the population. There are extensive grassy areas here with marshes, ponds and hedgerows. The area is the habitat of many bird and animal species, including the rarely seen tree frog.

Augustenborg Skov

The forest faces out towards Augustenborg Fjord and is bounded on the east by Augustenborg Palace and town. The forest is marked by its history as part of the Augustenborg Palace grounds. Its great avenues of ancient linden trees give it a very special character. The wood is in 2018 approved as a biodiversity wood. Near Augustenborg are the nature areas of Mjang Dam (one of ALS's finest bird areas), Ketting Nor (an inland lake surrounded by large reed-bed areas) and Rumohrsgård Dyrehave (deer park), east of Ketting Nor.

Rumohrsgård Dyrehave

Rumohrsgård Deer Park is a classic Als forest with typical tree species such as beech, ash, maple and oak. The forest has a wealth of natural and cultural/historical sights – groove stones, long dolmens, and ancient earthworks. It was once part of the Rumohrsgård Manor estate, and in the eighteenth century fallow deer were introduced to the forest for use as a deer park. Free tenting is permitted in the forest.

Nordborg Sø

Nordborg Sø lies in a long, steep-sided glaciated valley whose slopes continue beneath the surface of the water. The lake is 56.3 hectares and 8.5 metres deep. The head of the lake runs into the Lillebælt through Nordborg Brook. A footpath goes all the way round the lake and there are good fishing opportunities for pike, eel and pike-perch. The lake nestles next to Nordborg, which formed around Nordborg Castle. Local legend says that Nordborg Lake was once a fjord and that "Alsborg" was founded around the year 1150 in the bottom of the fjord.



Sønderborg municipality has a very long history, so it is very rich in things to do and see. Here are just a few of them. All these attractions are marked on the map.

Oldenor, Mjels Sø and Bundsø
These three lakes in northern Als were once drained and cultivated, but are now once again under water. This makes for some very beautiful landscape experiences. The area is a bird paradise. The three lakes were aimed in the seventeenth century, and drained and used for cultivation in the 1849-65 period, but in 1993 Oldenor was once again set under water, with Mjels Sø following in 2006 and Bundsø in 2016.

At Mjels Sø a traditional pump-house is preserved. There are tables and benches here, both indoors and out. There are also an exhibition and an equipment bank. Contact information for access to the gear bank can be found in the pump house.

Sønderskoven

Sønderskoven is a distinctive urban wood just to the east of Sønderborg at the edge of the town. The southern part of the wood runs down to Sønderborg Bay. Sønderskoven has a fine population of tree frogs. Both in spring and in the autumn, many migrating birds of prey can be seen here. Fredsmal, at the southern end of the wood, is an important wetland and breeding and roosting area for birds. There is a birdwatching tower in the wetlands area.

There are a large number of tumuli, circle graves and bowl-stones in the wood, mostly in the south part. In some places, large rectangular granite stones can be seen. These are territorial markers from the German period.

Brudgomsållen or Bridegroom's Avenue in the northern part of the wood is the relic of a regulation of 1737 intended to improve the poor state of the woods at that time. The regulation required every young man who wished to marry, to plant ten oak trees or fifteen beech trees and take them for three years before he could do so. For horse riders, the wood offers several bridleways. In the north-west part of the wood there is a section for dogs, where dogs can be let off the lead.



View of the outer inlet, from the dam at Ketting Nor

Ketting Nor

Ketting Nor is a lake of 67 hectares. There are large reed-bed areas here surrounded by marshy grassy areas which are a favoured breeding place for many birds, who find shelter in the reed-beds. There is a path along the bank and a birdwatching tower. The lake was originally a inlet, but was dammed around 1875.

Trillen

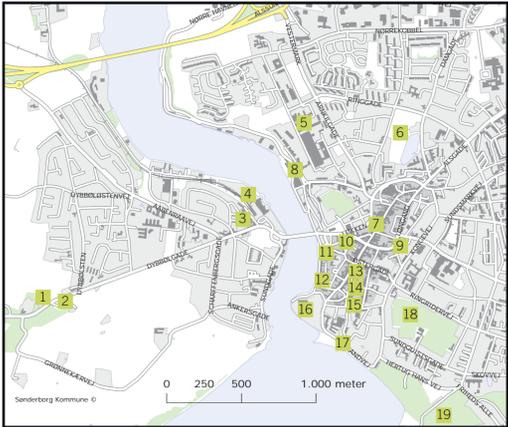
Trillen is a lovely natural area just west of the town of Høruphav. It is a long sandy spit of land encircling the bird-rich lake and marsh area of Vælddam. It is an exciting and very diverse natural environment. From the beach, a little path leads inland to a birdwatching tower, which has views over the Vælddam. The trails have been laid out so as not to disturb the birds here. One of Trillen's best known features is its very beautiful and characteristic Austrian fir trees, which are at least one hundred years old.

Fjordmosen, Troldsmose and Lilleskov

At the heart of Nørreskoven is Fjordmosen, a bog which lies protected behind a high shingle bank. Behind the bank is a varied landscape, alder marshes and reed marshes, peat bogs, lakes and meadows where cows graze. Troldsmose and Lilleskov have been designated as EU protected habitat areas because of their rare species, such as the great crested newt and the narrow-mouthed whorled snail. This swampy area and its dead trees creates the perfect conditions for these rare species.

To the east of the EU habitat area is a well-known habitat for marsh harriers, which breed just beyond its edge. Honey buzzards can be seen above the neighbouring forest during the breeding season, and in the Troldsmose area, the red kite and the osprey can occasionally be glimpsed.

THINGS TO SEE in Sønderborg



Sønderborg municipality has a very long history, so it is very rich in things to do and see. Here are just a few of them. All these attractions are marked on the map.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 History Centre Dybbøl Banke | 11 Winter ice rink |
| 2 Dybbøl Mølle | 12 Harbour promenade |
| 3 Train station | 13 Bus station |
| 4 Alision | 14 Sønderborg Turistbureau |
| 5 Museet Sønderborg Sygehus | 15 Town hall |
| 6 Friluftsscenen Mølleparken | 16 Castle |
| 7 Deutsches Museum Nordschleswig | 17 Beach promenade |
| 8 Multicultural house and Library | 18 Ringriderplassen |
| 9 Industri- og Hattesamling Sønderborg | 19 Sports high school |
| 10 Ringridermuseum | 20 Point of View |

Town life in Sønderborg

Just going up and down the high street is not enough – you need to explore the side streets, or take a turn round the Borgen shopping district. Feel the atmosphere of a warm summer evening in the Rådhusstov square, take a stroll along the harbour promenade, and pay a visit to one of the town's many cafés and restaurants.

Out at sea

Als Sund, the Lille Bælt and Flensburg Fjord form a unique setting for sea activities. Keep an eye out for the porpoise, our local small whale. Porpoises are easy to see out in the open waters around the island of Als. You can see the quick movements of the small triangular dorsal fin as the porpoises drive herring up to the surface.

Blue Flag centre

The Blue Flag centre is Sønderborg Marina's mobile exhibition and activity centre. It is open all summer long.

There is a biologist on hand and the centre has nets, buckets, waders, underwater binoculars, exhibition aquaria, a touch tank, stereo microscopes, and much more. All can be used free of charge.

The Blue Flag centre offers a mass of activities during the summertime. For more information, visit www.sonderborgkommune.dk

Freshwater angling and put-and-take

The Sønderborg area is heaven for anglers. Bring your fishing licence! Good fishing spots are marked on the map. If put-and-take lake fishing is more your thing, Egen Mølle has put-and-take which can be a day out for the whole family. Visit www.egenmølle.dk

Tourist information

Find tourist information 24 hours a day at www.visitsonderborg.com or download the VisitSønderborg app for free - in both media you will find information and inspiration for experiences, overnight stays and places to eat.

If you did not find what you are looking for, please call us or come by the tourist office.

SØNDERBORG TURISTBUREAU

Perlegade 50 · 6400 Sønderborg
Tlf.: +45 74 42 35 55 · info@visitsonderborg.com

Links

Below are a selection of links to visit for practical information and more ideas for things to do.

www.udnaturen.dk	www.OASweb.dk	www.svampe.dk
www.fisketegn.dk	www.sydtrafik.dk	www.aallearter.dk
www.visitsonderborg.com	www.dof.dk	www.naturdata-miljoportal.dk
www.dvl.dk	www.teltpladser.dk	www.arenainfo.dk
www.sonderborg.dk	www.naturstyrelsen.dk	www.dkonline.dk
www.rejseplanen.dk	www.fugleognatur.dk	www.dce.au.dk
www.spor.dk	www.dofbasen.dk	www.nathist.dk

THINGS TO SEE in Sønderborg Kommune

1 Nordborg Slot

Around 1150, the first castle is built on Als. Surrounded by a moat, Alsborg was well protected on the south side of Nordborg Lake. Today the castle is a boarding school and can only be viewed from the outside, but the park is open to the public.

2 Munkegård Traktormuseum

The tractor museum is housed in the wings of Munkegård manor house and is home to approximately two hundred vintage tractors as well as agricultural machines/implements. The oldest tractor dates from 1929. All the tractors are clearly marked with their country of manufacture, model, year, engine power and weight. For more information, visit www.munkegaard-traktormuseum.dk

3 Nordborg Kirke

The Tonføtt church in Nordborg was built in the thirteenth century and has undergone various alterations and extensions since then. Behind the tower is a door leading into the burial chapel of the family of the dukes of Noroborg, completed in 1700. You can see the coffins through a grated door.

4 Jøllimands gård

The farm is a traditional eighteenth-century Als krogdgård or "hook" farm. This name comes from the farm's plan, which resembles a fishing hook. The farm still looks just as it was built, making it a completely unique cultural and historical treasure. It is one of the last remaining "hook" farms in Denmark. For opening hours, visit www.jollimandsgaard.dk.

5 Hjørtspringbåden

The Hjørtspring boat is the oldest clinker-built boat in Scandinavia. It was discovered in Hjørtspring Bog in 1921. The boat, which dates from approximately 350 BC, was part of a huge weapons sacrifice offered in the bog. A copy of the boat can be seen at the Lindeartlett shipyard in Holm, west of Nordborg. It is open in the summer months. For opening hours, visit www.hjortspring.dk.

6 Havnbjerg Mølle

The mill was completed in 1836, replacing a traditional windmill, built in 1612, which blew down in a violent storm. The mill was in operation until 1961 but has now been restored and is today an operational museum mill.

7 Universe Science Park

Universe is a science adventure park, where children and adults can discover science and technology through play. Open from April to October. For more information, visit universe.dk.

8 Jørgen Riecks Arkæologiske Samling

The collection was built up by Jørgen Rieck over sixty years. It is Denmark's largest private archaeological collection and for some geographical areas it surpasses the National Museum. The collection contains some archaeological treasure troves as well as finds from the Bundsø area.

9 Alsingergården and Stolbroleden

Alsingergården is a "bol" – a farm of a particular size. Parts of the farm can be traced back to 1781. The farm was restored at the end of the 1970s with the help of some volunteers. Today it is a venue for social events for the local people.

10 Rønnavemuseet

In the attic of the old horse stable is a small museum with tools, old machines, school furniture and dolls' carriages, an old sleigh and much more. See opening hours at www.ronnhave.u.

11 Elstrup Mølle & Møllerimuseum

In the Elstrup mill is a windmill dating from 1888. The shelves display an exhibit of implements used in the mill. There are guided tours by appointment. For opening hours, visit www.elstrupmolle.dk.

12 Soluret at Guderup

The sundial at Guderup – Northern Europe's tallest – was built in 1992. It is twelve metres high and stands on a platform 28 metres across. The clock shows the time with an incredible accuracy of plus or minus one minute.

13 Egen Kirke and the church stables

This church, located in Guderup, is the largest village church in Als. Until the ducal burial chapel was built at Nordborg, the ducal family's most ancient coffins were kept here. The church also has some of Denmark's most beautiful and best preserved church stables. The thirty-four stable stalls, with room for double that number of horses, are between 150 and 200 years old.

14 Den Kongelige Køkkenhave

The Baroque style is seen in the beautiful, sharply demarcated beds, water mirrors and fruit trees in stringy trellis. The kitchen garden is open; May to Sep, daily from 10-17. A good alternative when the palace garden is closed during the royal stay.

15 Augustenborg Slot

The palace was built in the 1770s as the main seat of the Augustenborg branch of the ducal family. It is not open to the public, but there is access to the grounds and the castle chapel, which serves as the parish church for Augustenborg. In the clocktower wing on the left is a small museum of the palace and its history. For opening hours, visit www.visit-sonderborg.com.

16 Augustiana Skulpturpark og Kunstcenter

The sculpture park, is a unique experience combining art and nature. The Augustiana collection is located in the mansion at Augustenborg Palace. You can walk in the palace grounds and see and touch outdoor sculptures like HULK. It is a day out for the whole family. Admission is free. Augustiana is located on the fjord, so bring swimsuits and jump in the water down by the small, listed bathhouse. For opening hours, visit www.augustiana.dk.

17 Industri- og Hattesamling Sønderborg
A special collection, with old machines and industrial history, as well as the Hatteløuglet's large collection of women's hat fashion through the ages. For opening hours, visit www.ihss.dk.

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WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF OPEN-AIR ACTIVITIES IN SØNDERBORG

Welcome to Sønderborg, an exciting and versatile area that offers fantastic experiences in nature. There is lots of open space for everyone – hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and everyone who just wants to have fun. A network of cycling routes and walking routes criss-crosses the municipality, and local bridleways make up a hundred-kilometre horseback riding route around the island of Als.



We have a wealth of beautiful stretches of coastline, all featuring exciting bathing places and fishing spots. Go sailing, or take a snorkel or a sea kayak and enjoy the pleasures of the sea.

There are also many historical and cultural things to see in the region. The museum at Sønderborg Castle presents the history of the whole of Southern Jutland from the Middle Ages to the present, and History Centre Dybbøl Banke tells the story of the war of 1864, while at Deutsches Museum Nordschleswig, the story is seen through the eyes of the German minority.

There are lots of possibilities for overnight accommodation ranging from hotels to hostels, campsites and primitive tenting sites.

There are a wealth of natural and cultural things to do and see in Sønderborg municipality. Just go ahead and try them.



LIST OF LEAFLETS

The Danish Nature Agency has published leaflets that also include Nørreskoven and Sønder-skoven on Als, Dybbøl, and the Gråsten woods. See www.naturstyrelsen.dk

The Spor i Landskabet (Tracks in the Landscape) association also lists two suggested tours in Sønderborg municipality. For more information, visit www.spor.dk. All leaflets are free of charge. They are also available from libraries and tourist offices. Every year Sønderborg Municipality published a flyer for public tours in the nature and a program of the Blue Flag activities.

All these information leaflets can be found and printed from the municipality website at www.sonderborgkommune.dk:

CYKELRUTER:

- 1 Cykelruter på Nordals: Nordkysten på Als
- 2 Havnberg Strand
- 3 Nørreskoven
- 4 Stålbros Løkke
- 5 Sø- og fjordlandskab

VANDRERUTER:

- 2 Søerne på Nordals
- 3 Mjels Sø
- 4 Stevning Nor stien
- 5 Augustenborgstien
- 6 Alsstien Fynshav – Mommark
- 7 Alsstien Mommark – Drejet
- 8 Kegnæs Kegborg – Kegnæs Ende
- 9 Hjerfestien - en vandrerute i Sønderborg By
- 10 Nydamstien
- 11 Gråstenstien
- 12 Teglværkstien
- 13 Gendarmstien
- 14 Alssundstien
- 15 Nybøl Nor stien
- 16 Sundvedstien



Birds, frogs and fish

The island of Als and the Sundeved peninsula are pearls in the sea. This landscape with its sea and forests will take your breath away. There are a wealth of open-air activities to enjoy all year round – just dive deep and come out in the blue!

The sea

We have 220 km of coastline. On the beach and out at sea you can try lots of activities. On a fine summer's day, small boats in their legions are out enjoying the wonders of Als Sund. There are several marinas on Als, but the approaches to Dyvig/Mjels and Augustenborg in particular have no equal. Many visitors find themselves enchanted.



Both from land and out at sea, you can see the many porpoises that thrive in the Lille Bælt and Sønderborg Bugt. August and September are the best months for this kind of whale-watching with Denmark's only breeding whale. If you prefer fishing, you will be thrilled at our fishing grounds for sea-trout. Als has its own kayak route, and there are a range of possibilities for spending the night in the open at overnight sites along the coast. If you yearn for something a bit grander, take a ferry – take a trip to Funen or Ærg, or try the cosy little route from Hardseshøj on Nordals to Ballebro on Sundeved, or the other way round.

Sønderborg has more bathing beaches than any other part of Denmark. They are of fantastic quality and several are Blue Flag beaches. The longest stretch of beach on the island of Als is Kerneland, down at its southernmost tip, near Skovby. The beach is close to a large summerhouse and camping area, and there are good facilities for visitors.

The stone reefs

The legacy of history's fishing for stone in this area – for harbour jetties, coastal protection and construction projects – means that the cavern-forming stone reefs natural to the area have almost disappeared from the sea around Als and also in the rest of Denmark. The old saying, "Out of sight, out of mind", is unfortunately all too true when it comes to the health of the sea. At the snorkelling reef "Tritons rev" (Triton's reef) on the beach at Sønderborg Castle you can try the reefs for yourself. This educational reef demonstrates why recovery of the lost reefs round Als matters.

As we restore these reefs, we restore whole ecosystems. They are home to a microcosm of life, from the smallest algae, fish, shellfish, molluscs and seabirds to the small toothed-whale porpoise. These "oases of the sea" are vital breeding and nursery sites for animals and plants. They help to strengthen biological diversity.

The landscape and the people

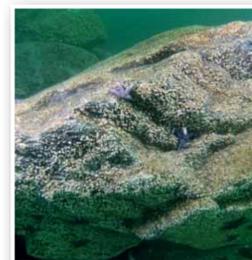
"The island is a garden, each cornfield is a bed", says the much-loved traditional song of Als. Together, the fields, the forests and the protected habitats for small creatures form one large mosaic. The soil of Als is very fertile and the island was soon quite densely populated as a result. In between the cultivated fields were small, isolated wilderness areas. This makes it difficult for animals and plants to move from one place to another, so it is hard for them to multiply and thrive.



Fauna

The Sønderborg area is a key birdwatching location. The great migration of birds of prey in the autumn months is impressive, and up to 100,000 eider duck are guests every year in the waters around Als and the Flensborg Fjord. Sønderborg municipality is host to roughly one-third of the Danish population of mergansers – they are our "species in focus" which we monitor carefully.

On the warm summer nights of May and June, the tree frogs give their own concert at Fjordmosen in Nørreskoven, at Ståls Bog in Sønder-skoven and at the pools of Arnkilsø. The European tree frog is rare and protected throughout Europe. It is highly dependent on small water holes, which must be kept free and not allowed to become overgrown. Something that is very special is Sønderborg's very own version of the "Green Concert".



The country code, access and consideration

It is important that we look after our natural heritage with care and consideration, both for the plants and animals themselves and for the landowners who own and live by nature. We all have the right to experience nature, but in Denmark there are rules on how to conduct ourselves.

- You may walk on all coasts and beaches in Denmark.
- You may cycle and walk on tracks and paths in the woods.
- In publicly owned woodlands, you may also walk off the paths.
- You may ride a bike and walk on all roads and manmade trails in open country, even when a sign says "private road".
- You may go into all grassy areas, including uncultivated areas, that are not fenced. Access does not however include river or stream banks.
- Access is at your own risk.
- Dogs must always be kept under control. On beaches and along coastlines, dogs must be kept on a lead between 1 April and 30 September.



MAP KEY

- WC WC
- Camping site
- Youth hostel
- Camp
- Accommodation space
- Coastal Accommodation space
- Dog forest
- Ride path
- Mountainbike
- Shelter
- Hay hotel
- Picnic cottage
- Beach
- Blue flag
- Surfing
- Marina
- Diving sites
- Suitable for fishing
- Put and Take
- Observation tower
- Golf course
- Boat ramp
- Train station
- Hiking route (trail)
- Cycling route
- Ride route
- Attractions
- Protection zone for fishing
- Municipal boundaries
- Map section
- Areas where a brochure has been published
- Reefs

Sleeping out in the open

There are twenty to thirty primitive camping sites in Sønderborg municipality with access from both sea and shore. They are all marked on the map. They may be privately or publicly owned. At many of these sites you can put up your own tent or you can spend the night in a shelter at the camping site. You can light a small fire and you can do basic cooking over it. You can spend up to two nights here, free of charge at the publicly owned campsites and for 20 kroner per person at the private sites.

The Danish Nature Agency website, www.udnaturen.dk, has an interactive map of things to do out in nature all over Denmark. You will find information here about primitive overnight accommodation such as tenting areas and nature campsites in publicly owned woodlands.

Sønderborg Kommune
BÆREDYGTIGHED, NATUR OG LANDDISTRIKTER
Rådhuset 10
6400 Sønderborg
Tel.: +45 8872 6400
E-mail: post@sonderborg.dk
Website: www.sonderborgkommune.dk



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