



# Tranekær

## nature & culture

### Welcome to Tranekær

Dear Guest, you are now standing in the middle of a very special village – a castle village built up around Tranekær Castle over the last thousand years – surrounded by a very special and unique landscape created by the ice 20.000 years ago and since then shaped and influenced by human activity. This folder describes a little of what can be experienced in connection with the area's nature and culture



The coastline west of Tranekær

### From coast to coast – sunrise to sunset

Tranekær is only 3 km from either coast. On a day trip, it is possible to watch the sun rise over Lolland from Langeland's east coast – experience Tranekær - and then watch the sun set over Funen and Tåsinge from the west coast.

### The name Tranekær

According to legend, Tranekær is named after the Stone Age King Tran. The name is made no less charming, though as a crane couple (called "trane" in Danish) has resided in the meadows around Tranekær for the last couple of summers.

### 1 The church

Tranekær village stretches between the church and the castle, the 2 distinctive spires mark the relationship that existed between Church and Castle in earlier times. The church was built around 1450 on the site of a previous church from the 12th century. The Ahlefeldt family owned the church until 1942 when the ownership of the church passed to the State. Langeland's two largest and most distinctive lime trees stand at the entrance to the church yard.

### Development – Castle and village

Until about the beginning of 1700, the village only consisted of Tranekær Castle, the church, eight small farms and eight small workers cottages that belonged to the Castle. Throughout the 1700s the number of houses increased dramatically, especially so during the time of Count Frederik Ahlefeldt-Laurvig, known as the General. The General's interest in art and culture was a key factor to the little village's expansion. He founded several companies and institutions in the village and hired foreign clerks, workmen, musicians and actors. Their descendants can still be found on Langeland.



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**If you want to know more:**  
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### Dear guest

Tranekær is a vibrant city. Please respect the fencing and signage. There is public access on foot to roads and paths.

**The Sugar Factory**, built in the early 1800s with the aim of producing sugar. It did not succeed. Nowadays the building has been converted into a restaurant and hotel/ bed and breakfast, www.sukkerfabrikken.dk

**Tranekær Slotskro**, hotel and Royal chartered inn, built in 1802, www.tranekaer.kro.dk

**The Medicinal Plant Gardens**  
 /Plant Resource Association Langeland www.prfo.dk

**Tranekær Castle Mill** was built in 1846, it has now been turned into a museum to exhibit, amongst other things, the history of wind power. Opening times can be found on the Mill website: www.tranekaerlotismolle.dk

### Tranekær Castle

The main building and the Castle hill is not open to the public, outside the moat there is an excellent network of paths. In the old stables at the foot of the Castle hill there is a restaurant (Generalen) which is open during the summer. The large park, TICKON, is open to the public for a modest fee. A brochure describing the paths and trees is available at the entrance, www.tranekaergods.dk

### Serious fire

In May 1875 a fire broke out in Tranekær Vicarage. A strong wind caused the fire to spread quickly. It is said that the vicarage coachman came home at midnight, he noticed nothing but the horses stopped and were first unwilling to enter the gates. The fire broke out two hours later and by 4 o'clock in the morning hall of Tranekær had burned down. More than 30 houses burned down.

### 2 Cultural history's start – Hunters' settlement at Basballe Lake

The first signs of human activity in the area is dated to about 7500 – 7000 BC. Langeland's Museum has found the remains of a summer settlement for a hunter/gatherer society at 'Flådet' that once used to be called Basballe Lake. Bones from wild game such as deer, wild boar and possibly moose have been found here.

### 3 Private road for the Count – 'Lammehaven'

When a smallpox epidemic wreaked havoc in Tranekær at the end of the 1700s, the Count built a road bypassing the town. This was used amongst other times when the Count went to church. It is said though that the Count, who was very fond of children, was infected one day when he stopped to talk to a boy working in a field beside the avenue. The Count subsequently died.



Lammehaven: The avenue still consists of the over 200 years old, beautiful linden trees!

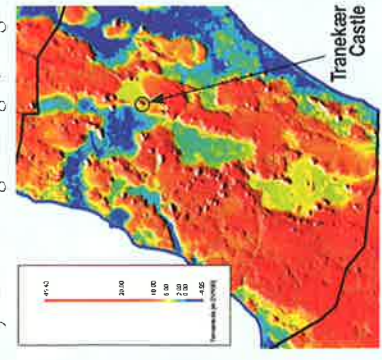
### The houses in Tranekær

Almost all the houses in Tranekær have a history and were built for a particular purpose. Until the 1960s Tranekær Estate (the earlier County of Langeland) owned all the houses in town except for the school, the church, the vicarage and a house in Slotsgade.

### The Hunter's House



is one of the most unique houses in Tranekær. Built in Swiss chalet style in 1890, it is situated at the top of the Lammehave avenue, close to Åsøvej. From here, there is a beautiful view to Tuemosen and the distinctive hat shaped hills.



**Height model**  
 The map shows the terrain in the area.

### The red colour

The castle has been rebuilt many times through the ages. Originally it was a four sided castle with a tower in the middle, it has been painted the red colour, called English red, since 1947. In previous times it has been amongst other colours yellow, white and pink.

### The king besieged the castle

During Valdemar Atterdags attempt to unite Denmark, Tranekær Castle was besieged for 2 weeks before, at the second attempt, the king succeeded in taking the castle from the dukes of Schleswig Helstein. It was again crown property and centre for the counts who controlled large parts of Langeland (then known as the County of Langeland) on behalf of the king. Subsequently it became part of the County of Langeland founded by Frederik Ahlefeldt. In 1928 the county changed to normal ownership with the name of Tranekær Estate. The present owner is the 13th generation Ahlefeldt.

### A strategically located fortress

Tranekær Castle sits majestically on a 20 m high hill. For nearly 1000 years there has been a fortification here, the first built by King Valdemar the Great. A brilliant location with both moat and drawbridge. Originally it was possible to sail to the foot of the castle from both the east and the west sides of Langeland. It was also necessary to pass the Castle should you want to travel along the length of Langeland.



### 4 Galaxy - inaugurated by Queen Margrethe II

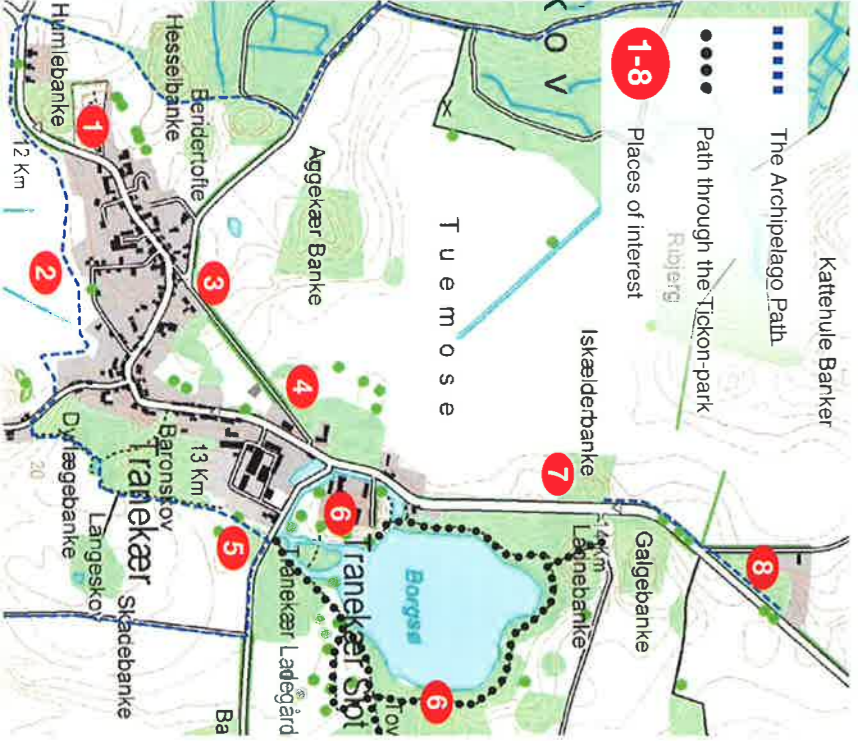
At the bottom of Lammehaven stands a sculpture created by the local artist Jan Axel Starup. The grassy area south of the sculpture used to be the sports ground for Tranekær school and is now a recreational area for residents and visitors.

### 5 Medicinal herb gardens

– Plant Resource Association Langeland  
 A medicinal herb garden opened in 2010 at Smørtøften, behind the earlier "Hønseshuset" on Borløvej. The intention is to plant nine gardens. The first, the "breathing" garden is already established and includes a section for scents. A special folder is available at the entrance and the garden is open all the year.

### 6 TICKON – Land-art sculpture park since 1993

The Park, which is the original Castle park, contains many rare and old trees, amongst others, the impressive cobbler's oak with an information board with "The trees prayer". It is possible to walk all the way round the castle lake via a series of paths in the park and - in the northwest corner - continue to 8. Tranekær Castle Mill.



- The Archipelago Path
- Path through the Tickon-park
- Places of interest

### 1-8



Langeland's landscape offers a wealth of experiences and the area around Tranekær is no exception. The complex Ice Age created landscape, with hat shaped hills formed like pearls on a string and lowland marsh areas in between, form the basis for the areas many cultural clues. There are passage graves, dolmens, and other relics of early habitation, hedgerows on protected dikes, large forest areas and lowland marsh areas. Most are now drained and cultivated - or as Botofte Skovmose - restored as wetland.

*At the top of Humlebanke there is a lovely rest place with old trees and table/benches. At the foot of the hill is a memorial stone*



### Hat shaped hills

They are called banks on Langeland - there are hat shaped hills all around Tranekær. Both the Castle and church are built on one. There is public access to many of the banks giving fantastic views to both Tranekær and the island's coast. This applies, amongst others, to Galgebakke, Humlebanke and Hesselbanke.



### 7 Ice cellar bank

As the name indicates, an ice cellar belonging to the Castle was located here. During the winter, ice was cut from the Castle lake and placed in the stone lined well. A winch over the well was used to lower meat on to the ice so that it could act as a primitive fridge.

### The houses in the countryside

As well as the many dykes and beautiful views, many charming houses lie scattered around the area, each with its own style and history such as here on Krybskyttevej.



*Originally the Ravnebjerg Forester's House, it was built in about 1815. In front of the house stands a large Caucasian Walnut tree. The pattern in the gable is typical for half-timbered houses on Langeland.*

### 9 Art Towers - the world's longest exhibition

Twelve old electricity transformer towers scattered over the whole of Langeland are decorated each year by local artists. Two of these towers are to be found near Tranekær. Every summer a "Tower Singer" day is held when every tower is visited by either a choir or a band. It is possible to drive - or cycle - from tower to tower and hear music for a whole day.

### 10 Korsebølle

The largest farm on the Tranekær Estate covers 459 ha, with Korsebølle Kohave, which faces the South Funen Archipelago, as its western boundary.

### 11 Helletofte long barrow

The long barrow is from around 3000 BC. Just nearby, you will find a picnic table as well as an information board which describes the local area. It was also just north of here that, until 1917, the northern boundary of the Tranekær hunting area was marked by a hedge.



### 12 Åsø Beach

The remains of a ferry pier can still be seen here. Ferries and freight vessels docked here and sailed agricultural products such as live pigs and corn from Åsø Beach.

During the summer the Count's private yacht was moored at the pier. Many bathing jetties were also found here, each social class had its own jetty. 100 years ago, there were separate jetties for the Count, the Castle employees, for the town and for the school.

### 13 Stranby

Once an active fishing village with several fishermen's families. In a stone wall a small memorial stone is embedded in memory of two battles fought here during the Swedish war which ravaged Langeland in 1659. These were events that took place in the period after the Swedes had broken the Roskilde Peace Agreement of 1658. An effective defence had been built up on Langeland to prevent the Swedes from occupying the island. Fortifications, including here at Stranby, were built in several places. Watches were established and throughout the winter, the ice was broken to keep the sea open. The story about the death of estate owner

Vincent Steensen of Steensgård during a violent battle on the 20th March 1659 is one of the most famous. It was on exactly this day that the Swedes managed to take Langeland. They came ashore south of Stengade forest where they overmanned the watch. The defence of Langeland was over and the island was subsequently violently ravaged and destroyed.

### 14 Skindeløkke Bank and the General's Oak

Ravnebjerg Forest is famous for its many hat shaped hills. The banks are most prominent during the winter when their shapes appear clearly through the vegetation. The most prominent hill is Skindeløkke Bank with a height of 41 m above sea level. A large, beautiful oak called the General's Oak also stands here.

### 15 The Tobacco Drying Shed and "Ryttermosen"

The tobacco drying shed was built at the end of the 2. World War. Tobacco growing continued for some years after the war. When Virginia tobacco came on the market after the war, Danish tobacco growing stopped. The shed was used instead for threshing and has therefore been preserved until the present day. Beside the tobacco barn is a small forest "Ryttermosen" which has been classified as wild forest by the Tranekær Estate.

### 16 Stengade Forest

Before the great hurricane in 1967, the forest consisted solely of large uniform beeches making it a popular attraction. Now there are many different types of tree in the forest. The festival area is at the end of the road from the forester's house down at the beach. One of the island's largest and oldest beech trees stands here, Oehlhenschläger's beech.

We know that it was here that he wrote the Danish national anthem when, in 1819, he was visiting the apothecary family Ørsted in Rudkøbing. In a clearing by the beach, there is a large fortification built during the English War in 1807. With a little imagination we can, 200 years later, imagine the myriad of horses, soldiers and large and small boats that were assembled next to Stengade Fort - to sail the more than 1000 Spanish soldiers out to the waiting English war ships which should bring them home to Spain.

### 17 Bukkeskov and Tvedeskov

Beside the road stands an avenue of Douglas fir planted in 1886. A rare double chamber passage grave is also to be found in the forest. The forest floor still shows signs of the great



storm on 17th October 1967. The whole beech forest behind the passage grave was blown over because of unusually heavy rainfall in the previous months and the trees not yet having dropped their leaves.

### 18 Tranekær lighthouse

Tranekær lighthouse was built in 1897 and is a clear orientation point on the coast. It is now private property.

### 19 Botofte Skovmose

This was originally part of a large marsh area east of Tranekær. The northern part includes the area around the previous islands of Sletø and Tevelso. The whole area was drained in 1943 by means of a sea dyke, drainage and pumping. In 2010 pumping was discontinued. In connection with the project, a rubbish dump in the centre of the area was covered over with a water-tight bentonite membrane and subsequently covered with earth and sown with grass. There is public access to this area. Many different bird species, both breeding and migrating birds, have benefited from the resurrected marshland. The photo shows a decorative avocet.



### 20 Østring

A lovely place with tables and benches and a charming toilet building. There is a memorial to the great flood of 1872. The impressive new wind turbines near Lejbølle can be seen from the beach. They were erected in the winter 2010/11 and supply enough electricity to satisfy nearly half of Langeland's electricity consumption.



### The Count's hunting area

The inset map shows the extent of the Tranekær hunting area. The wildlife hedge was maintained until 1917.

The Archipelago Path goes through the area and continues all the way to Lohals to the north and Spødsbjerg/Rudkøbing to the south. Archipelago Path brochures are available many places in the area.

