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Kong Renes Høj

Dolmens and Passage Graves

Langeland has many passage graves and dolmens. The dolmens date from the early neolithic stone age and either take the form of a circle (round barrow) or a rectangle (long barrow) with one or more chambers that were used as individual graves. Passage graves appeared in the late neolithic and are spacious stone built burial chambers with space for more than one body. The Archipelago Trail passes a long barrow north of Kohave (15) and a passage grave near Bukkeskov (15).

© Mette Johnsen



Tranekær Castle

Tranekær Castle

Known as a royal castle back in the 13th century this fortified manor house has it all: fortified earthworks, parklands, a castle lake, moats, watermill, riding area, stables and a theatre. From its hill top, the ox-blood coloured castle buildings tower over the surrounding castle town of Tranekær. More than half of Langeland once belonged to the castle, which has housed some of Denmark's most powerful men. The public has access to the castle's park, which houses Tickon - a large assemblage of landscape art. Here, over 20 major Danish and international artists have created artworks from organic materials, that harmonise beautifully with the surrounding nature. See www.tickon.org. The castle's park was originally laid out in the so-called open style with scattered groups of trees. Driveways ran between the trees. In the early 1800s the Count, who was also known as "The General" would drive through the park and listen to his own orchestra play military music in the evenings.

Footpath Access

The Archipelago Trail is a footpath that is marked by signposts along the whole route. When walking this trail please respect the following guidelines



The whole footpath is open to walkers from sunrise to sunset

Dogs must be kept on a lead

The path takes you over private land. Please respect private property and don't drop litter.

Overnight camping is only allowed in recognised campsites

At certain times sections of the route may be closed due to hunting. Information on alternative routes will be provided on site.

Transport

You can travel around Langeland with FynBus. See www.fynbus.dk for timetables or call +45 6311 2233. There are ferry connections between Spodsbjerg - Tårs, Rudkøbing - Strynø and Rudkøbing - Marstal

Accommodation

If you would like information about accommodation please visit www.govisitlangeland.com or call +45 20 130 250

SHORES Langeland

SHORES Langeland is developing the many hotspots for water-based activities that can be found on the coastlines of Langeland and Strynø. Langeland has 152km of coastline offering fishing, underwater-hunting, kayaking, SUP boarding, surfing and diving. See more at www.shores-langeland.com

Geopark South Funen Archipelago

Langeland is a part of Geopark: South Funen Archipelago. Geopark: South Funen Archipelago uses the regions distinctive geology, nature and cultural history to create a common identity and a framework for sustainable development. The South Funen Archipelago is a flooded ice-age landscape of international significance. On Langeland you can see both the internationally recognised Geosite of Ristinge Klint, and the island's unique 'hat hills'.

Geopark:South Funen Archipelago tells the dramatic story of the rises in sea level around South Funen and the islands that have occurred since the end of the last ice age over 11,000 years ago. The rise in sea level has created the Archipelago's 55 islands and holms and a unique ecosystem, which provides the foundations of the whole region existence, not to mention countless opportunities of outdoors activities. See more at www.geoparkdetsydfynskeohav.dk



GEOPARK
DET SYDFYNSKE ØHAV



The Archipelago Trail

Lohals - Tranekær - Stengade Strand

29 km

Map 5





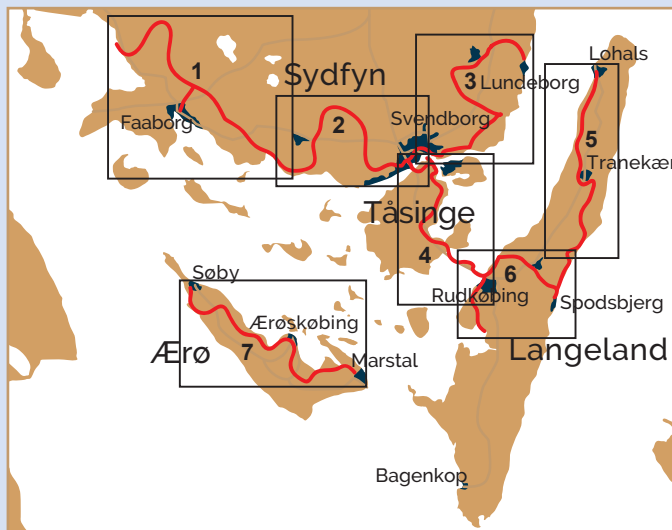
Oehenschlägers beech at Stengade

The Archipelago Trail: Lohals-Tranekær - Stengade Strand – ca. 29 km

The footpath starts in Lohals and for the first many kilometers is characterised by the sea and the coastline of west Langeland, with beautiful views over the sea from the top of the high coastal cliffs. From Kohave the path cuts across the island, passing through the village of Tranekær, to Langelands more low lying east coast and the beautiful beach of Stengade Strand. This folder, taking Lohals as its starting place, describes some of the sights worth seeing along the way.

A challenge for walkers

The Archipelago Trail is a 220km long footpath that encircles and binds together the Geopark: South Funen Archipelago. The trail runs from Faldsted in the south west of Funen to Lundeborg in the east. From Lohals, through Rudkøbing to Henninge Nor on Langeland and from Marstal to Søby on Ærø.



Overview of the Archipelago Trail and the 7 published route map folders

1 Lohals

A feeling of peace, quiet and recreation has overtaken Lohals, which was once a bustling maritime, ferry and fishing village. Steamships once moored in the harbour, and around 1900, tourists flocked here to stay in the local beach hotels. The ferry to Korsør finally stopped running in 1998, but now new developments are again underway. In recent years the harbour and its promenade have been renovated, and the town's new cultural centre, Banjen, has been built here.



Vestre Stigehave



The black squirrel

2 "Vestre Stigehave" and the black squirrels

Although the harbour and the sea formed the basis for Lohals' development over the years, the local forests were also of great significance as they provided Lohals with the timber it needed for boat building and shipping. Nordstranden ("North Beach") 500m nord for town is an attractive bathing beach with a good view of the Great Belt Bridge. Here you will also find Vestre Stigehave, a beautiful forest with a nice view over the sea and fine overnight shelters. On Langeland woodland is often called "haver" (gardens). The woods of north Langeland were once owned by the church, over the years the name Fyns Stifts Haver (Funen Diocese's gardens) changed to Stiftets Haver, and finally to the current name: Stigehaverne.

Since 2012 the forests of North Langeland have been home to black squirrels. For many years Langeland did not have any squirrels, which made it the perfect place to release native black squirrels in an attempt to conserve the Danish population. In other parts of Denmark red and black squirrels live in the same areas, over time the two colour variants will interbreed and the recessive black colour variant will disappear. But the isolated population of black squirrels on North Langeland is thriving and hopefully the black sub-species will survive.

3 The Funen Atlantis

In the sea west of Lohals it is possible to make out a sandbank that rises above sea level. This is known as "Smørstakken" (the mound of butter), and it was once covered in grass. Further to the north are other such sandbanks, mostly underwater. They were all created during the last ice age when a glacier ran through the Great Belt and sand and other material was deposited at the edge of this ice-tongue. Nine km to the north lies the reef Vresen. It is becoming smaller and smaller and is now so low that it can no longer be seen from the footpath. However fishermen once lived on this island.

4 Village Pond (Gadekær)

Langeland has circa. 50 ponds. "Gadekær" is the original name for a pond (natural or artificial) on a village's common land. On top of their natural and cultural historic value, they often have a recreational function and acted as a gathering place for the village. Nearly all villages on Langeland have one or more of these ponds. They are often the villages oldest feature and are the reason why a village is located in a particular spot as they were built where water pressure or springs could provide clean, fresh water all year round. Many village activities took place around them and they also provided water for fighting fires.



Plants in a village pond



The Langeland's Belt

5 A vulnerable sea

The waters between Langeland and the east coast of Funen is called the Langelands Belts. It is a very vulnerable area of sea, as every year it is threatened by oxygen deficiencies. This occurs when marine algae dies and falls to the sea floor. The bacteria and animals that "eat" the dead algae use oxygen. If there is a lot of algae in the water, and thus many bacteria, all the oxygen close to the sea bed is used up. In the worst case, fish and other marine animals must flee the area or die. Sometimes it is possible to see porpoises swimming close to shore. You can often spot these small whales when they break surface to breath.

6 Stones that can tell a story

On the beach just south of Dageløkke you can see boulders known as "erratics". These rocks were brought here by glaciers during the ice age, they are often so characteristic that they can be traced back to their place of origin.



7 Brickworks swallowed by the sea

If you keep your eyes open along the coast, you can – ca. 1 km south of the small woodland of Travens Vænge – find the remains of bricks on the beach. In many places the fine clay found on Langeland was used to make bricks. As far back as the middle ages brick kilns where built on the island, many of which have now been taken by the sea.

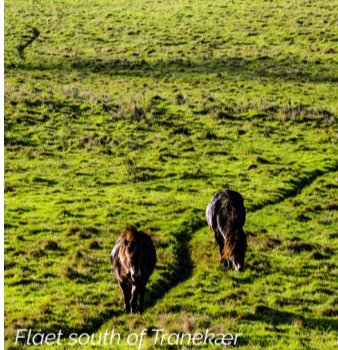
8 Egeløkke - a hidden paradise

From the coast a road leads up to the grounds of Egeløkke House. From here you can catch a glimpse of this beautiful architectural gem from Imperial times. The stately house and its grounds are privately owned and there is no public access. The current house dates from 1890. It was here that the young poet and author D.N.F.S. Grundtvig arrived in 1805 as a private teacher. He fell deeply, but unhappily, in love with the estate owner's wife, Mrs Constance Steensen-Leth and wrote his love poem "Strandbakken ved Egeløkke" (The hill by Egeløkke beach).



9 Hills and hazel trees

With a height of 38m, Hesselbanke is one of the tallest "Hat Hills" on Langeland. From this hill you have an interesting view, encompassing both the "back" of the village of Tranekær and the large fields owned by the estate to the west, surrounded by the green edge of the forest. Just to the south west of this hill stands one of the islands most majestic oak trees. The word "hessel" is Langeland's name for "hazel", so presumably this hill got its name as it was once covered with hazel trees.



10 A stone age archipelago

9,000 years ago the large areas of water meadow south of Tranekær, known as Flådet, was a big, shallow lake. On islands and headlands in and around the lake the stone-age hunters who lived in the region built summer camps. Here, using weapons made from wood and bone they hunted roe deer, red deer, wild boar and possibly even moose, while in the lake they fished for pike. Archaeological finds also show that their catch also included small mammals and birds. Bones from dogs have also been found here which suggests they used hunting dogs.

At certain times of the year Flådet can be very wet and you should wear good, waterproof boots. It is also possible to take an alternative route through the town of Tranekær.



11 Tranekær

The village of Tranekær offers an outstanding cultural environment and distinctive countryside, kulturmiljø med en særpræget natur, forest plantations, Tranekær castle and its estate with its wooded "Hat Hills". Today Tranekær is one of Denmark's few well preserved castle towns. Here the officials and craftsmen who worked at the castle would live. In the 1800s Lieutenant-General Frederik Ahlefeldt-Laurvig had workmen from North Germany build the castle town and its teachers seminary, machine factory and the country's first sugar factory. Read more about Tranekær Castle and TICKON on the other side of this folder.

12 Holms Mose – shelter at Pæregård Beach

If you make a detour south along the coast, you can overnight at the beautifully situated shelters close to the coast in Pæregård Wood. You can book your stay at www.bookenshelter.dk. Close by you can find the wetland of Holms Mose, which is ca. 30 ha. In size. This area was once drained by a pump station, but the pumping has now stopped and water levels have risen. The area now drains naturally into the sea and consists of marshes, with permanent standing water, and an area with water- and dry meadows. Here you can see birds such as grebes, coots, greenshank, lapwings and marsh harriers.

13 The Medicine Gardens

The Medicine gardens in Tranekær houses Scandinavia's largest collection of medicinal plants. The Medicine gardens are run completely by volunteers and consists of six circular themed gardens, each 800m2 in size. More than 80 different types of trees have been planted in the arboretum that surrounds the themed gardens. Descriptions of the medicinal properties, uses its natural range is given next to each plant. The "Children's medicine garden" is a recent addition, where children can also learn about the plants here.

14 Wetland: Botofte Skovmose

This wetland, around 70 ha in size, lies east of Tranekær. The Archipelago Trail passes through the southern part of it. The area is privately owned as access is confined to established paths. It is possible to walk north along the beach to Østrig, from where you can walk along public roads around the lake, passing a number of spots that offer great views over the water. This walk is around 5km in length.

15 Bukkeskov's Sleepyheads

In the undergrowth and margins of Bukkeskov wood thrives Denmark's only species of dormouse - which despite its name isn't a true mouse. Denmark has the responsibility of taking good care of this rare species as part of the EU's so called Habitat Directive. It is possible to make a short detour here by turning left when you meet the public road. After some 600 m a signpost shows the way to a 6000 year old double-passage grave. An alleyway of tall Douglas fir trees was planted along the road in 1886 which helps make walking here a really special experience.

16 9000 Spaniards

This fortified earthwork, or Sconce, in the forest was one of the many that were built during the Napoleonic Wars of 1807-14, when Denmark was at war with England. A canon was placed here that could shoot far out to sea, to help keep control over ships in the Great Belt. No one knows how much the Sconce here was involved in the war, but its role was reported on the 21st August 1808 when 9000 Spanish soldiers, who had been stationed on Langeland all summer, were to be ferried from Stengade Skov and Spodsbjerg to English warships offshore. There was much commotion and uproar at Stengade Skov, as the local farmers had to deliver 300 cows, 60 tons of rye and 8,000lbs of salted pork to feed the Spanish troops on their journey home. Water was collected from the lake Stengade Sø.

17 Salten østerstrand

The huge, 200 year old beech tree with multiple trunks, which stands right next to the beach has been named "Oehenschlägers Beech", because it has been said that it was here he wrote the Danish National anthem: "There is a lovely land, with spreading, shady beech trees - Near the salty eastern shore".



18 Fredens dyke

The dyke near the woodland's edge is 200 years old. After 1805 tenant farmers no longer had the right to graze livestock in forests. Denmark lacked timber to build the King's navy, which meant Denmark's forests must produce more wood. Domestic animals were kept out of the forest by dykes, so that they would no longer be able to eat young trees. In this way the forests were "protected". Some forest dykes however were built by landowners to keep in populations of game animals. This is why there are earth dykes, ditches or stone walls around almost all of the forests.

