



# Nørreskoven

Clover paths, mountain bike track and exercise course



spotted deer. The Deer park, which was established in 1948, is open so that visitors may move freely around the animals. Bats, tawny owls, stock doves and short-toed treecreepers are living in the Deer park.

### A forest for warriors

The Polakkerskoven (the Polack forest) in the northeastern part of the forest is named after the time when Polish mercenaries visited Denmark. They ravaged in the forest and unsettled the city during the Swedish war in

1658-60. Of course that could not be tolerated, and legend has it that they were beheaded and that their skulls, a total of 23, were immured in the north gable of Sct. Nicolai Church, where they can still be seen.

A very special tree is the Soldaterbøgen (the Soldier's beech) north of Store Pytsø (Big Pytsø lake). Notched in the tree's bark is the outline of an Austrian soldier and the year 1864. This is consistent with the fact that German troops and their allies captured Vejle in March 1864.

A war in modern history has also left its traces in the forest. The ski jumping hill at Gyllinghøj was created in connection with the very cold winters during the Second World War. The hill is clearly visible in the terrain but is not being used any more.

### Culture-historical signs

Several small historic memorials are located in the central part of the forest. Here lies Helligkilden (the Holy spring) that into the 18th century was visited by ill people on Walpurgis Day, 1st May, and

Midsummer Day. In 1905 the spring was restored but afterward it has dried up.

The dolmen opposite the entrance to the Deer park on Helligkildevej is not, as one might think, a dolmen from the Neolithic age, but just an artificially constructed dolmen in honour of the archaeologically interested King Frederik VII, who visited the Vejle in 1861. The hill is named Frederik VII's Høj.

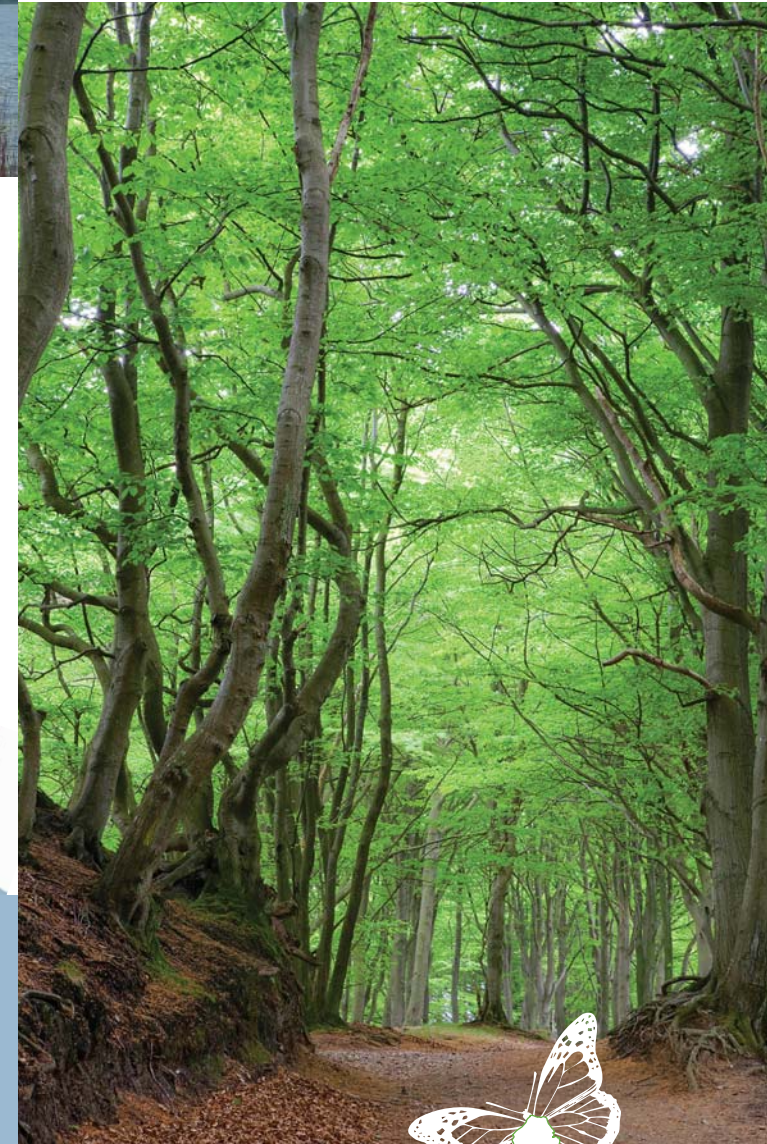
Soldaterbøgen. Foto: Steen Hedrup

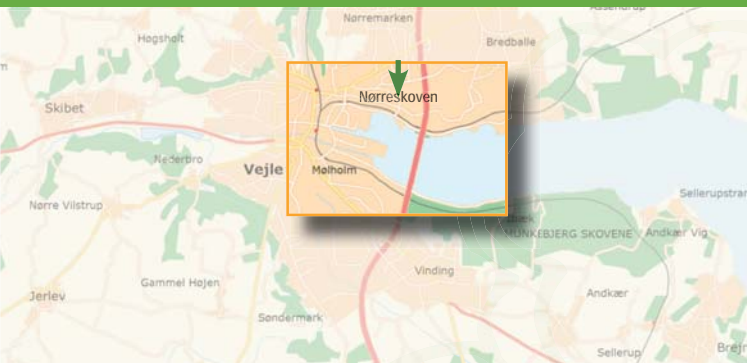
The ski jumping hill at Gyllinghøj



## Did you know that?

Some deer species have a white rump, which in Danish is called spejlet (the mirror). Around spejlet on a fallow deer there is a wide black stripe that also runs down over the tail so that it does actually seem to have 111 written on its rear end. This is seen on both the fawns and on both sexes.





# The forests in Vejle

## – well worth a visit

Vejle town is bordered by dramatic landscapes and unique nature. The coasts and river valleys are dressed with the finest hillside forests, which are intersected by meltwater gorges with trickling streams and spring areas with luxuriant and rare nature. The forests of Munkebjerg Skov, Nørreskoven and Søndereskoven lie completely peri-urban to Vejle. For more than 100 years, Vejle Municipality has here been the forest owner, and is today the owner of approx. 1000 ha. Actually, the

municipality is the country's fifth largest municipal forest owner and it has always been quite crucial that the forests must be an attractive offer for the city residents. Forest cabins, roofed tables and benches, barbecue and campfire sites, path systems and natural playgrounds have been added throughout the years and are constantly being expanded in dialogue with the citizens. It should be easy, fun and nice to be a forest guest in the Vejle forests.

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# Nørreskoven

Nørreskoven on the northern side of Vejle Fjord is one of Vejle's most visited forests. Paths and roads make it easy to get around, and in several spots the hilly terrain offers some fantastic vantage points over the fjord. Here you will also find the oldest woodland in Vejle Municipality. Old high beech forests have become rarer in Denmark, which means that the beech forest, which was planted in the beginning of 18th century, is quite unique. From the city's oldest charters from 1327 it can be seen that already in

the beginning of the 14th century, Nørreskoven fell under Vejle Byfred (jurisdiction), which was the city's built-up area and belonging fields.

### Outdoor life

The forest cabins: Skovsneglen and Fiskerhuset (the Slug and the Fishing house), are offered to schools and day nurseries on weekdays. During the weekends, you may as a citizen rent the cabins. Read how and book a cabin on: [udeliv.vejle.dk](http://udeliv.vejle.dk). If you want to be on foot, you may follow the marked clover

Toothwort. Photo: Biopix

Yellow wood anemone. Photo: Biopix



The Deer park

paths, e.g. through the Deer park. You will find also a climbing course, a forest track and a mountain bike track in Nørreskoven.

### Naturen

The high beech forest is not home to quite as many animal and plant species as the more varied mixed forests around Vejle. However, in the moist parts of Nørreskoven along the streams, there is great variation and here you may be lucky enough to find rare plant species such as the eggleaf twayblade orchid, the

common toothwort and the yellow wood anemone. A very rare fungus, the red-listed pink bracket, lives its life in a pile of old wood that downed in the hurricane in 1999.

Also, mammals such as fox, badgers and deer are having a good life in Nørreskoven. They occupy the steep forested slopes and at night also the gardens along the forest.

### The Deer park

A special attraction is the Deer park, an approx. 30 ha large fenced forest area with both fallow deer and



Scan the code and get more information about the nature and the hiking tracks in Vejle Municipality.

Get an overview of your options for an active outdoor life, hiking routes and overnights in open air etc., and download tour folders at [vejle.dk](http://vejle.dk) or visit [Vejle.dk](http://Vejle.dk). For booking of shelters please see [udeliv.vejle.dk](http://udeliv.vejle.dk), and for nature guidance please see



# Tours in the area

## Clover paths

The paths in Nørreskoven are named Kløverstier (cloverpaths) and are part of a nation-wide path concept started by The Danish Outdoor Council. There are approx. 27 clover paths spread throughout Denmark. A clover path is located in an urban area and consists of four tracks, which all emanate from a centrally located clover path post. The four paths in Nørreskoven all start at NOVAskolen, Moldevej 5, 7100 Vejle, and each of them has a specific length and colour. In Vejle Municipality, there are also clover paths in Sønderskoven.

A treetop adventure in Gorilla Park.

## ● Green tour, approx. 3 km

The path passes the old and the new stadium and through a section of Nørreskoven where you can see a very contemporary picture of Vejle's municipal forests of today. Here, especially old beech trees grow with young maples between the old large trunk trees. You will also find areas with oak and some coniferous trees in the area. Wherever possible the old giant trees are allowed to remain. Dead trees, both standing and fallen, are allowed to remain in the forest because they house a true eldorado of different fungi and insects, which over time break down the dead wood. Also birds, bats and other animals enjoy

A fallow buck relaxes in the Deer park.



Nørreskoven offers a mountain bike course with a red and a blue track.

the dead trees as their hiding places and habitat. In the western part of the path, you will be able to see that the forest on the south-facing slopes towards Vejle Fjord is affected by wind and weather.

## ● Blue tour, approx. 5,3 km

The path goes through the residential areas in the north and down through Nørreskoven from Vejle Stadium. From here, you are going from 50-60 m above sea level and down to the fjord. In the forest you will pass Helligkilden and the Helligkilde houses that were built by the German

Fiskerhuset.

occupying forces during the Second World War. Here the fairground is placed - a large flat area in the forest. On Walpurgis Night and Midsummer Night, festivities were held here and on these days the water from Helligkilden was 9 times more powerful than otherwise! You will also pass by Sneglehuset - a cottage that many day nurseries use for day excursions and that you may rent during the week-ends. You also go along the climbing park of Gorilla Park, the Deer park and the Dog forest. Then the path passes along Vejle Fjord, where you

Sneglehuset. You may book Vejle Municipality's forest cabins at [udeliv.vejle.dk](http://udeliv.vejle.dk).



A forest course with 15 different challenges provide excellent opportunities for training.

can enjoy the open expanse of water and the view to Bølgen (the Wave) and the marina. A large part of the time you will be walking on sidewalks and paved roads.

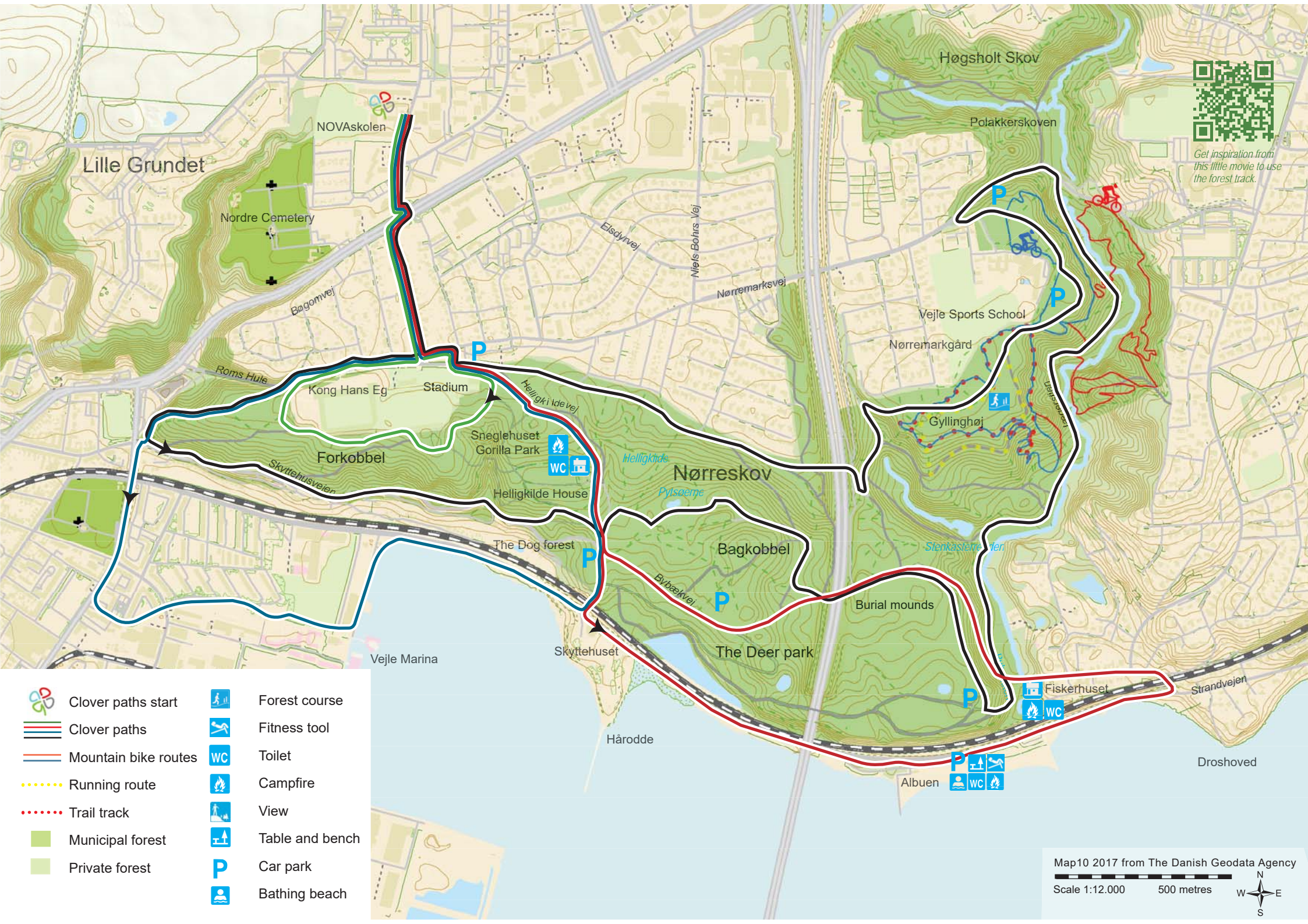
## ● Red tour, approx. 6 km

With this path you will come through parts of Nørreskoven, the Deer park and Skyttehushaven. Please notice that particularly in the Deer park there are many old giant beeches and snags from the beginning of the 18th century. On a large part of the path you follow Vejle Fjord with beautiful views of the water.
















## ● Black tour, approx. 10,2 km

This path will take you around the entire Nørreskoven. Between the Pytsø lakes and Bybækvej you will see the forest's oldest beech trees, planted way back in 1710. You also pass Fiskerhuset, which was formerly home to fishing families, and which today is a forest hut that day nurseries and citizens may use for excursions. Two bronze age burial mounds appear as two smaller bumps in the terrain at Bybækvej. From Jægerstien on the northeastern part of the track, you may in the spring see yellow wood anemones and common toothworts flower.





Get inspiration from this little movie to use the forest track.

-  Clover paths start
-  Clover paths
-  Mountain bike routes
-  Running route
-  Trail track
-  Municipal forest
-  Private forest
-  Forest course
-  Fitness tool
-  Toilet
-  Campfire
-  View
-  Table and bench
-  Car park
-  Bathing beach