

Enehøje is open to the public, but please respect the two privately owned properties on the island. By prior agreement with Skov- og Naturstyrelsen (www.skovognatur.dk) it is possible to overnight in a shelter.

9 VEJLØ

Vejlø is only 36 ha. but was until recently the basis of existence for a family that ran a mixed farm with cattle, just as was done in the 1950's. That the island appears peaceful is deceptive. Vejlø was the impetus behind island "happenings", when it held the first "happening" in 1970 and has since arranged these with hundreds of participants.

The island is not suitable for walking because the beach is narrow and marshy. Furthermore, breeding birds on the salt marshes at the north end of the island must not be disturbed from 1st April to 1st July.

10 SLOTØ

The name Slotø (slot = castle or palace) is because of the remains of a fortification (Engelsborg) which was built by King Hans around the year 1508. Until then the island was called Æbelø. It was a royal fief until 1523, but its importance is probably mostly due to its location by the natural navigation channel and easy access to west Lolland's oak (Quercus) forests with excellent timber for shipbuilding. As a seaward defence



Engelsborg on Slotø

for Nakskov, the fortification was a fiasco when as early on as 1510 the Lübecks from the towns of the Hanseatic League sailed unchallenged past the island's fortification by using a smaller, alternative channel and subsequently plundering Nakskov and Halsted Kloster.

Also during Christian IV's reign there was shipbuilding from 1623-1633. It is believed that the Swedes burned the buildings down in 1659. However, a building berth and careening place which served as a support for ships during maintenance and repairs, can be seen at very low water.

The day before the liberation of Denmark (4th May 1945), 3 ships anchored at Slotø were attacked by 9 Allied fighters.

Indrefjorden is the inner part of the inlet and is more like a lake with brackish water. From the early days of the sugar factory (1882), there is a row of ponds surrounded by lush vegetation which creates a kind of river environment. Indrefjorden has several interesting birds: marsh harrier (Circus aeruginosus), little grebe (Podiceps ruficollis), beard-timouse (Panurus biarmicus), and during their migration, osprey (Pandion haliaëtus) often visit and snatch Indrefjorden's large perch (Perca fluviatilis). The perch can be up to 2 kg. and also attract anglers! A day's fishing card costs DKK 50 (see Nakskov Sportsfiskeforening (anglers' association) at www.nstf-nakskov.dk).

4 INDREFJORDEN

Kuddeholm seen from Hestehovedet



Hestehovedet has a pleasure boat marina which was excavated as a job creation programme in the 1940's.

Nakskov, originally controlled the channel approach to Barneholm, together with another redoubt on nearby reached by a simple bridge. On Kuddeholm are the remains of a redoubt which, perhaps an exaggeration as it can be moved, and "island" is perhaps an exaggeration as it can be reached by a simple bridge. On Kuddeholm are the remains of a redoubt which, together with another redoubt on nearby Barneholm, originally controlled the channel approach to Nakskov.

3 HESTEHØVED AND KUDDEHOLM

Kuddeholm is a little island 3 ha. in size. It lies just off Hestehovedet, and "island" is perhaps an exaggeration as it can be reached by a simple bridge. On Kuddeholm are the remains of a redoubt which, together with another redoubt on nearby Barneholm, originally controlled the channel approach to Nakskov. Hestehovedet has a pleasure boat marina which was excavated as a job creation programme in the 1940's.

beginning of the 1900's when it had a park and public swimming facilities and was a well visited place for meals, Saturday night dances, and excursion boats.

No one was seriously hurt, but for the inhabitants of Slotø, the liberation was no party.

The island is 20 ha. and privately owned. There is access to the castle ruin which is a protected site.



Cormorant colony on Rommerholm

11 ROMMERHOLM

The island is not quite 4 ha. and is owned by Skov- og Naturstyrelsen. There is a small colony of cormorants (Phalacrocorax carbo) on the west end of the island, a lively and unusual sight that only a few people have seen at close quarters. The colony was established after 1980 when cormorants were protected through conservation legislation.

At times, Rommerholm has been used for summer grazing for cattle.

This folder has been produced in cooperation with Lolland Kommune, Nakskov Tourist Information Centre and Naturvejledningen (the Nature Interpretation Service) on Nakskov Fjord.

Have a good trip!

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Danish Forest and Nature Agency is part of the Danish Ministry of the Environment and cares for areas all over Denmark, the running of which takes into consideration open air activities, production and protection of nature and cultural assets.

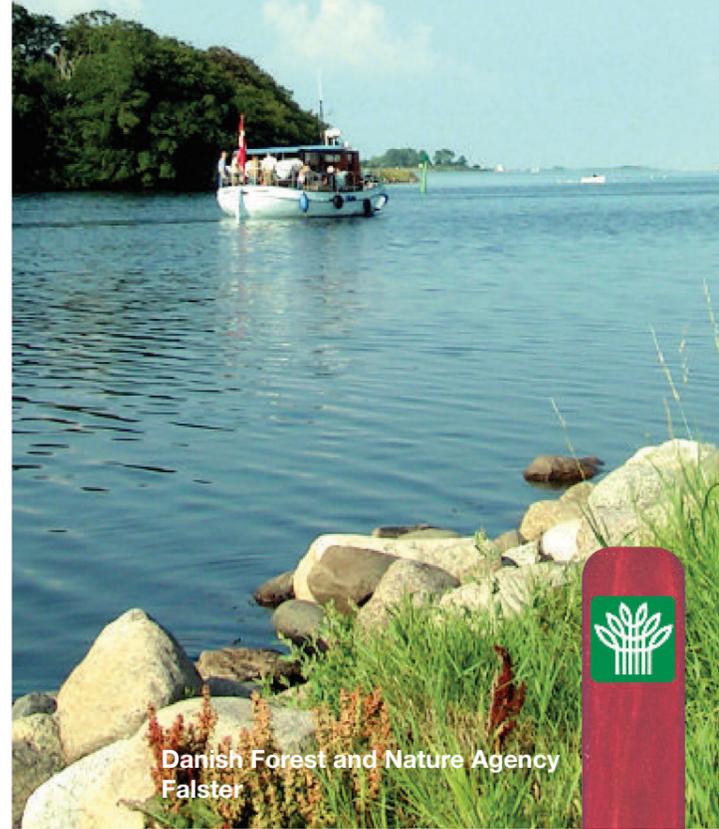
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Nakskov Fjord

English version

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Danish Forest and Nature Agency
Falster



The bay and Lindelse and Hellenæs Woods

The buildings of this hamlet are from the end of the 19th century when fishermen moved there. Lindelse had its zenith at the

2 LINDELSE

Those who want to get close to the microcosm will enjoy the mild May and June evenings when green tree frogs (Hyla arborea) can be heard croaking in the pond east of the inlet. Northwest Lolland has a vigorous population of green tree frogs. Tårns welcomes tourists, some of whom reach the well equipped pleasure boat harbour, camping site and bathing beach by boat or by bicycle. The ferries are the connection on the international cycle route, Østersøen, which is 800 km long. One can also make do with the part forming the national cycle route 8 from Rudbøl to Møri.



Tårns Vig - peace and quiet

Until the end of the 1860's when a steamship route from Nakskov was established, Tårns was the ferry point for travellers over Langelandsbælt. In 1975, the route was changed back to Tårns, which halved the sailing time. The hamlet of Tårns has a beautiful location along a little inlet with salt meadows. It is a reminder of times gone by, enjoying an atmosphere of being undisturbed and of time having stood still for 50 years. The present encroaches though, when the powerful ferries of today swing outside the nearby ferry harbour.

1 TÅRNS



Nakskov Harbour

Detailed regulations regarding the game reserve can be downloaded from www.skovognatur.dk.

Nakskov Fjord is a designated Natura 2000 area, ensuring its value as part of an international, organic network for protected natural areas. Natura 2000 areas form part of the EU's work to realize the objective of stopping decreases in the biodiversity by 2010. In Denmark 82 species of birds are covered, as well as other fauna and unique natural features of the countryside.

Nakskov Vilddresservat is one of 51 game reserves in Denmark, ensuring sanctuaries for water birds to rest and breed. From 15th March to 15th July, there is no admittance to the northernmost part of Enehøje, the outermost part of Alben, on the islands Rommerholm, Smedeholm and Dueholm, and the dikes west of Nakskov Indrefjord. There are restrictions concerning the use of motor boats and shooting, which cover large parts of Nakskov Fjord.

Similarly, www.turistollland.dk. Excellent introduction to other special attractions in the area. The folder "West Lolland - a multitude of choices" gives an property can be seen at www.skovognatur.dk/udfaerdsej.

ing in the area. Regulations concerning admittance to private areas show consideration for private property when wandering in the area. www.nakskovfjord.dk, tel. +45 54951004 or +45 206392209.

Another unique thing to do is to walk the 5 km along Alben with Postbåden. An overnight stay in the Pilot's House can be arranged by contacting Naturvejledningen (the Nature Interpretation Service) for Nakskov Fjord (turists@nakskov.dk, tel. +45 54922172, e-mail turists@nakskov.dk).

One really good way of experiencing the inlet's atmosphere is to sail with the post boat Postbåden, or with Gåla. Information about planned trips can be found at Nakskov Tourist Information Centre, tel. +45 54922172, e-mail turists@nakskov.dk.

The wide open expanses and the inlet's special light and hues make it perfect for unique experiences in nature.

Nakskov Fjord is known as Denmark's inlet with the most islands. Welcome to Nakskov Fjord

5 THE LOST KINGDOM OF ISLANDS

Around Nakskov Fjord there are several reclaimed areas, particularly at the southern end of the inlet. Stubbeland, Mellemland, Færgeland, Stensø, Store and Lille Vejle, Bondeholm, Bogo, Ydø and Langø are all names on the local map that were previously 10 islands in the southern part of Nakskov Fjord. After the storm flood in 1872, national support was given to build dikes and at the same time good agricultural land was reclaimed. This was post 1864 war, when Schleswig was lost to Germany: The saying then was "What is lost to the outside, must be won from inside."



Whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) on the fields of the Lost kingdom of islands

Today, the Lost kingdom of islands can be considered a culture-historical monument to the living conditions and the abilities of those who lived 135 years ago; they were determined to, and indeed did, change the landscape. Now the "in thing" is often to revert to nature's earlier state.

Outside the breeding season, geese and swans can be seen in huge flocks enjoying winter green crops on the now cultivated sea bed. Morning and evening there is busy bird traffic between the Fjord's waters, the safe place of the night, and the plentiful larder of the fields.

6 LANGØ

Langø was a 170 ha. island until 1878 when dikes were built, joining it to Lolland. It was not until 1900 that Langø got its own church, and in 1909 a proper harbour was built. The harbour was enlarged in 1938 because the fishing industry was still good, and



Langø Harbour – fascinating fishing environment

again in 1991 in order to make room for pleasure boats. Today, Langø is a pleasant harbour environment with drying grounds, fish market and small paths between the old buildings.

7 ALBUEN

Despite its present day isolation and distant location, Albuen was previously an important place for shipping and fishing, because at that time most of Denmark's communication was by sea.

Finds of coins bear witness to beliefs that there was considerable activity from around 1430 until about 1460. It is thought that Albuen had an annual autumn fish market where the local population traded with travelling tradesmen, thus avoiding the regulations of the market town (Nakskov).

Erik of Pomerania (1412-1439) used Albuen as a base during Denmark's attempts to gain power over the Duchy of Schleswig, and Christian IV (1588-1644) used Albuen as a naval port in the battle with Sweden for supremacy of the Baltic. This failed with the defeat of the Danish army in 1626 in Lutter am Barenberg (mid Germany) during the 30 year war. When the Danish navy in 1644 was finally destroyed by the Swedish-Dutch navy which was greatly superior in number, the dreams of being a super power were over.



Thrift (*Statice armeria*) at Albuen

Since about 1530, Albuen has been a fishing hamlet with houses. The remaining buildings can be seen as cultural monuments to over 100 years of human activity. The oldest remaining building is the Pilot's House from 1873. The Pilot's House has been renovated and returned to the appearance it had in 1930. It is now used as a base for nature interpretation in Nakskov Fjord, with the possibility of shelter for visitors, and as a living museum where information about previous living conditions is conveyed. This is an important part of maintaining Albuen as a cultural environment.

Official functions associated with Albuen were lighthouse, pilot and coastguard. The population topped in 1916 with 41 Albuen-inhabitants. Work requiring personnel no longer exists at Albuen, the coastguard having disappeared from Albuen in 1999.

Albuen has been made by currents and storms moving gravel and sand along the south coast of Lolland. Geologically, it is described as a curved spit with a broad sandy beach on the windward side and deposits of materials on the lee side. These

deposits depend on the moods of nature and are therefore uneven, forming a landscape of low banks and shallow lakes.

The lakes are called "brooks" locally, and have varying levels of salinity in the water. Some of them are breeding grounds for natterjacks (*Bufo calamita*), one of east Denmark's best populations being here, well away from human influence in the form of drainage and cultivation. Natterjacks are best heard in the spring (April-May) when on mild, still nights the croaking of the males sounds like a rolling, husky snarl.

One characteristic plant of Albuen is thrift (*Statice armeria*) which in early summer colours the salt meadows pink. Locally, it is called "bread flower" because of its slightly sour smell of newly baked rye bread.

8 ENEHØJE

Enehøje island is almost 100 ha. and offers beautiful views over Nakskov Fjord and Langelandsbælt with its – for the Lolland area – unusual height. A couple of lagoons have been allowed to spread over previous farming land at the north end of the island.

The island has been inhabited since about 1500, but is best known for the period 1926-1940 when the polar explorer and author, Peter Freuchen, owned it. Dating from that time is a portal feature made of whale jaws, a kind of folly built on Enehøje's highest point (16 m). Enehøje was farmed until 1999, though the last few years it was left fallow.

Enehøje is owned by Skov- og Naturstyrelsen (the Danish Forest and Nature Agency) which works to create a landscape of open grazing/grassland. The most recent initiative has been to release fallow deer (*Dama dama*). If the island is not grazed, it will be taken over by hawthorn (*Crataegus*) and brambles (*Rubus*). This is preferably to be avoided because Enehøje is an important habitat for waders and toads etc. that do not thrive in scrub. In successful breeding years, newly metamorphosized



Cat's ear (*Hypochaeris*) in bloom on Enehøje

small green toads (*Bufo viridis*) can be seen in the late summer when they crawl around trying out their camouflage coats! Some years white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) pairs have practiced building nests, but to date without breeding.

