



## IN LILLEBÆLT, YOU FIND THE MOST CONCENTRATED POPULATION OF HARBOUR PORPOISE IN THE WORLD

The unique conditions in Lillebælt's geology provide the right conditions for the many harbour porpoises and exactly therefore, harbour porpoises are the symbol of Nature Park Lillebælt. The narrow belt makes it easy to catch a glimpse of the porpoises.

The harbour porpoise is the only breeding whale in the inner Danish waters and one of the world's smallest whales. In Lillebælt there are about 3000 harbour porpoises due to an easy access to food for them to feed on. On the stone reefs, the harbour porpoises can catch black goby and small cods hiding between rocks and seaweed. In the open water, the harbour porpoises catch herring and mackerel.

The harbour porpoise mostly lives alone. When you see them in smaller groups, they are hunting the same shoal of fish. When the feast is over, they swim off separately again. The harbour porpoise is at the top of food chain and they only have competition when the somewhat larger dolphin, the bottlenose occasionally visits.

## THE WATERS WITH STRONG CURRENTS

The distinctive sea area contains low and deep waters, which to the north narrows to a river-like channel with the strongest current in Danish waters. The current creates, together with the water depths of up to 80 meters, unique conditions for fauna and flora, which does not exist anywhere else anywhere else in inner Danish waters.

## WELCOME TO DENMARK'S LARGEST NATURE PARK

Nature Park Lillebælt is a marine nature park, which has the flowing belt at its centre, surrounded by beautiful coasts and coastal landscapes. In the Nature Park, the small whales, harbour porpoises, frolic in the forever-flowing water. The Nature Park is a fantastic place with a unique natural environment. There are hundreds of natural treasures and you will meet cultural history everywhere.

Go out by yourself or join one of the many events held during the year. There are adventures on land, on water and in the air.

Make sure to stay updated on our events by visiting the Nature Park's website [www.naturparklillebaelt.dk](http://www.naturparklillebaelt.dk). Here you can also read more about the Nature Park's natural values, wildlife and interesting cultural heritage.

**Book your adventures at [lillebaelt-waters.dk/en/naturparken](http://lillebaelt-waters.dk/en/naturparken)**

Alternatively, visit us on Facebook  
- [www.facebook.com/naturparklillebaelt](https://www.facebook.com/naturparklillebaelt)

**naturpark**  
**LILLEBÆLT**  
– a sea of adventures





Kayakers between Søbadet and Gals Cliff

## CLOSE TO THE OUTDOORS

### A SEA OF ADVENTURES

With the area's many natural and cultural history treasures, there are many opportunities for adventure, play and reflection. Lillebælt Nature Park has plenty of space and great conditions for outdoor activities. Many forms of outdoor activities take place by the coast, by and in the water.

**Diving** in one of Northern Europe's best diving areas. The variation under the surface in Lillebælt is unique, offering the opportunity for vertical dives, drift dives and deep dives directly from the beach. You can also dive by the pillars of the old Lillebælt Bridge.

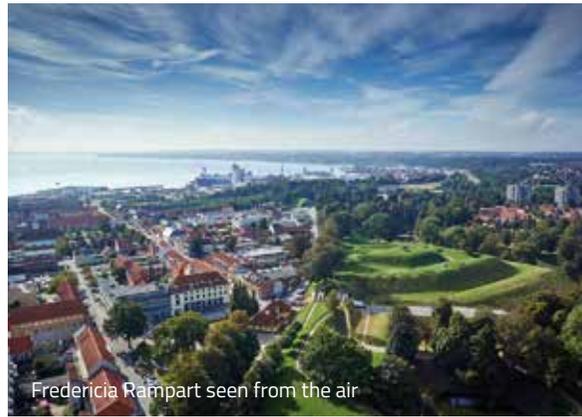
**Diving trails**, which lead snorkelers and scuba divers on an underwater journey along marked routes. The underwater trails are provided with information signs in both Danish and English, telling you what you are experiencing underway.

**Beaches for everyone** – wide beaches, narrow beaches, beaches where the water quickly becomes deep, beaches you have for yourself or beaches with many facilities.

**Angling** in Lillebælt is never boring. Lillebælt bends and alternates between deep water with strong currents and shallow coastal waters, making Lillebælt one of Denmark's best areas for angling.

**Water sport activities** for every taste. Good wind conditions, alternating currents, depths and waves provide optimal conditions for water sports.

**Canoeing and kayaking** tours allow you to get close to nature and to forget about time and place. You will find kayaking tours, which favours the quiet areas of Lillebælt but also trips that are technically difficult with changing currents.



Fredericia Rampart seen from the air

## CLOSE TO THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

### VISIBLE TRACES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Lillebælt's coastline is a cultural landscape where prehistoric farmers, men of great importance, government officials, politicians, kings and warriors have left visible physical evidence.

Water has always connected people, whereas land divided people. Lillebælt's history shows that Lillebælt did not divide Funen and Jutland, but instead tied them together.

Lillebælt and the surrounding coastal landscape is an important archaeological area and contains many ancient monuments and signs of human activity. Settlements and burial mounds show that already from the late Stone Age, Lillebælt was a favoured area to settle.

Lillebælt has been an important thoroughfare through Denmark's history. Its central location as access to and from the Baltic Sea has historically given rise to power struggles. The medieval castle buildings, the Renaissance fortress town of Fredericia and fortified positions and batteries from both the Swedish wars of the 17th century wars in the 1800s and World War II are physical traces of this.

With its function as a transport and trade route and as a hub for ferries between Fredericia and Strib, Lillebælt have also been a cultural highway through history and thus bound Funen and Jutland together both during times of peace and during war.

Lillebælt's maritime coastal culture includes, besides the Old Port of Middelfart and industrial ports, a number of small fishing communities and fisherman's huts on both sides of the belt. These tell of periods in history where there was large catches of herring, eel and porpoise hunting.



Black goby

## CLOSE TO NATURE

### NATURE YOU WILL NOT FIND ANYWHERE ELSE

Landscapes from the ice ages, eroded coastlines, coastal lagoons, shallow water coves, bays with salt marshes, deep currents and sandy beaches combined with a rich birdlife and many thousand harbour porpoises give the Nature Park a rare natural environment, which does not exist anywhere else in the world.

In Lillebælt where the salty water from Kattegat meets the brackish water from the Baltic Sea, there are unique living conditions for plants and animals. With its many good hideouts fish species including turbot, goldsinny wrasse and shorthorn sculpin favour this environment. Lots of sea sponges, sea lilies and sea anemones grow on stone reefs, seaweed and on clams.

Lillebælt is an important habitat for large numbers of swans, geese, ducks, terns, birds of prey and waders. To protect these there are a number of wildlife reserves, where the birds have peace resting and finding food. Other reserves ensure the birds peace during the breeding season. The white-tailed eagle has been breeding in the Nature Park for several years, and is often seen searching for food in the area.

In the natural areas of the coastal landscapes, there are several populations of protected orchids and other rare flora. There are also many rare insects, such as six-spot burnet, bee beetle and large scabious mining bee and several amphibians, such as european tree frog and great crested newt.

The Nature Park's natural values mostly relates to the old coastal forests including forests at Trelde Næs, the Stenderup Forests, Hindsgavl Forest and Kaslose Forest. Special habitats such as forest swaps, meadows in clearings and large old trees with lichens and mosses as well as dead trees with mushrooms and insects, which break down the dead wood, founds here.



## PLACES OF INTEREST IN NATURE PARK LILLEBÆLT



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- 1 Trelde Næs**  
Varied old forest area with unique plant- and wildlife. You will find a nature centre, shelters and a Blue Flag beach. Experience, amongst other things, landslides, plastic clay and amazing cliff formations.
- 2 Fredericia Rampart**  
Fredericia Rampart is a fortress that encircles the city. It is the city's largest green area and contains many tales about some of the wars that have influenced Denmark's history.
- 3 Østerstrand**  
Fredericia's most family friendly Blue Flag beach situated at the end of the city's main street. You will find an interesting circle bridge, exercise equipment, a volleyball pitch, a café and a campfire area.
- 4 The Hannerup and Fuglsang Forests**  
The Hannerup and Fuglsang Forests offers a recreational space with many opportunities for adventures and for exploring in the area. There are nature playgrounds, a deer park with fallow deer, mountain bike routes, signposted walking and running routes and a rich birdlife as well as symbols of the area's cultural history.
- 5 Lyngsodde**  
Lyngsødde situated near the new Lillebælt Bridge offering good conditions for divers and anglers. There is parking, picnic tables and benches, a boat ramp and a table for cleaning fish.
- 6 Skærbæk Beach Park**  
Beautiful natural area with forest and shelters as well as a grassland hill and an attractive beach. Nearby you will find the remains of the medieval castle – Høneborg.
- 7 Houens Odde**  
Houens Odde situated as a spit between Gudsø and Eltang bays. Here you can walk through the forest to the tip of the spit where there is a view over Lillebælt, the bays and Kolding Fjord.
- 8 Koldinghus**  
Koldinghus – Jutland's last royal castle - has through its more than 700-year existence played an important role in Danish history. The royal castle operates today as a museum.
- 9 Løverodde**  
At Løverodde beach there is a jetty, parking, a cafeteria and toilets, and you can enjoy your coffee and the forest playground with a view over Lillebælt.
- 10 The Stenderup Forests**  
In the Stenderup Forests, which has a rich plant- and wildlife, there are many ancient monuments, such as long barrows and ramparts from the middle ages. In the Stenderup Forests, the wide forest roads allow access for visitors with mobility difficulties and users of wheel chairs.
- 11 Skibelund and Solkær Enge**  
Skibelund is the place where the sky meets the sea. There is a nature school, recreational areas, a beach and shelters. Solkær Enge is a result of a restoration project and is today a piece of waddenzee in Eastern Jutland with a unique bird life.
- 12 Skamlingsbanken**  
With its 113 meters above sea level, Skamlingsbanken is Southern Jutland's highest point. It is also a national and public meeting place. The area holds a unique natural environment with rare plants and animals.
- 13 Hejlsminde and Hejls Nor**  
Hejlsminde, a small, cosy seaside resort between Lillebælt and Nor. Around Hejls Nor there are larger, connected unique natural areas. Go for a walk around the cove and perhaps you will spot the white-tailed eagle.
- 14 Gamborg Nor and Føns Vang Lake**  
Visit the cove traversed by Viby Å, and get close to nature by walking along the 6 km long path. The area's combination of grazed marsh, meadows and water covered reed beds create optimal habitats for many bird species.
- 15 Fænø Kalv**  
Fænø Kalv is a moraine island in Lillebælt. The island has a large line of defences in form of fortifications built by the Swedes during the war in 1658. Visitors have permission to stay 1 night on the island, which is achievable by sailboat or kayak.
- 16 The Hindsgavl Peninsula**  
Open plains, old beech forests, marshes and steep slopes. The peninsula has a large and varied population of animals and plants and the area holds many interesting stories.
- 17 Staurby Forest**  
The forest is a recreational area close to the urban environment – a place where there is space for nature. Try out the new mountain bike routes or explore the many historical monuments such as burial mounds and forest dikes.
- 18 Røje Klint**  
Røje Klint has a distinctive geology where the soil consists of plastic clay. There are grazing grassland offering good conditions for rare flora.
- 19 Kasmose Forest**  
Experience the dramatic and lush deciduous forest situated on a slope down towards Lillebælt made of plastic clay. The forest is characterised by springs and large trees, which occasionally fall into the sea.
- 20 Båring Beach**  
Enjoy walking in the fine sand along the coast or go for swim the blue sea. If you look down, you will find many interesting rocks and shells on the beach.



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