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Vom Winde verweht

The famous bathing huts on the sandy beach at Blokhus are either at the beginning or at the end of the Kystsporet cycle path

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On the **NORTH SEA COAST OF JUTLAND,** Denmark is exactly how you imagine it to be: authentic and wild, restful and deeply relaxed. Our author has cycled the Kystsporet, a cycling and walking route that stretches 157 kilometers through beautiful coastal nature from Nørre Vorupør to Blokhus.

TEXT & PHOTOS: **ANJA KOCHERSCHEIDT**

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Vorupör: das Lokal D."Vesterhavscafeen"

Popular address overlooking the harbour and beach of No.

Denmark's extreme northwest is rough, stormy and untamed. For centuries, people have made their living from fishing here, which has given way to tourism to this day most important sources of income. This wild solitude draws me magically - that's why I want to explore northern Jutland by bike for four days.
The “Kystsporet”, in plain English “coastal route”, suits me just fine. The 157-kilometre, well-signposted route leads from Nørre Vorupør to Blokhus on largely flat terrain. In order to have the strong breeze at my back as often as possible, I cycle from south to north - a wise decision, as it turns out.

My starting point in Nørre Vorupør is in the middle of Denmark's largest wilderness, Thy National Park. In 2008, 244 square kilometers of dune landscape with cranes, red deer and historic lighthouses were placed under protection. In the National Park Center, which is worth a visit for its modern architecture alone, a volunteer points out to me with unmistakable pride that the renowned New York Times newspaper last year included Thy National Park in its list of “52 Places for a Chan ged World”. were awarded Destinations where ecotourism and slow travel are very important.

I'm happy for him, and yet I'm drawn to the fresh, salty air of the national park.
The Kystsporet leads me through hilly dunes, overgrown with blueberries, cranberries and cranberries. Nobody far and wide. Just the sea, the grass and me. Small forest sections with crooked Pine trees now and then offer a bit of shelter from the steady westerly wind that blows in my side. Everything around me shines silver, green, moss grey, sand and brown - I can hardly get enough of this one very special light. Now and then I rest on soft moss next to grasshoppers and buttercups, watch the clouds for a while and chew on a blade of grass.
And grin from ear to ear - because my everyday stressed soul just takes a break.

Surfing like in Hawaii

Around noon I reach Klitmøller, the secret capital of the stretch of coast between Agger and Hanstholm known as “Cold Hawaii”. The approximately 55-kilometer section is considered one of the best surfing spots in Europe. I park my bike, sit on the beach and watch the hustle and bustle. In addition to windsurfers and surfers, the many are striking

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wing surfer. You stand on a small board that is attached to a long fin, allowing you to whiz over the waves without direct contact with the water. In the

They hold two inflatable, symmetrical wings in their hands, with which they catch the wind and give their board propulsion. It looks incredibly light – like colorful butterflies dancing over the Skagerrak. A wing surfer emerges from the sea and beams at me: "The ultimate feeling of freedom!" Despite the sunshine, it's not very special

warm. But who lives in Klitmøller or surfs here

comes here, undauntedly wearing shorts and a T-shirt. Four Danish girls come towards me, their boards under their arms, their hair still wet from the salt water. A torrent of endorphins slosh up at me – when I asked about the water temperature, they just casually shrugged their shoulders: “Oh, it’s not that cold.”

OK, I get it. Nevertheless, I am happy that I can find a cozy spot in front of the large glass windows inside Klitmøller Røgeri. I order freshly made fish cakes with fries

and remoulade, plus a regional Thy-Pilsener. Splendid. The fish restaurant's blue and turquoise tones reflect the sky and sea, and the cheerful blonde waitresses remind me that I

For the intrepid: the Danish one stretch of coast "Cold Hawaii" is considered one of the best Surfspots in Europa

not in a French Atlantic resort, but in Scandinavia.

Fishing on the "cream front" Strengthened, we continue in the direction of Hanstholm, today's stage destination. Here you will find Northern Europe's largest fortifications from the Second World War. The defiant bunkers hidden in the dunes stare at me like deep-set black eyes. In the exhibition rooms of the Bunker Museum I get an impression of the everyday life of the soldiers stationed here and of the living conditions of the Danish civilian population in the shadow of the fortifications. This section of the Atlantic Wall was also known as the “cream front” because of the comparatively good supply situation, which meant that some soldiers hoarded goods to be able to send goods to their families in Germany.

Today, what really catches the eye on Hanstholm is its huge harbour. It gives the place its typically industrial charm. Here fishermen work with their hands

as big as crabs and with a backbone that defies even the highest waves. But the archaic appearance

deceptive, because Hanstholm is not only Europe's largest fishing port, it also wants to become the first CO2-neutral one. And at the same time houses one of the leading fish auction

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ons of the continent: up to 450 tons of fish come here every day under the hammer.

And nowhere else is it prepared in such a creative way as in the “Medvind” restaurant. Located directly opposite the auction hall, its daily changing menu is inspired by what local producers harvest and what the fishing boats bring in. “Sea to Table” is the name of Chef Emilie Qvist Kjærgaard's promising concept.

I follow the recommendation of a charming waitress and choose lots of little delicacies that end up on my table one after the other: strawberries and radishes on cream cheese with balsamic vinegar and fresh herbs, grilled green asparagus with rye bread crumbs, salmon skin chips with a salt and vinegar crust, cooked hake with lemon and tomato dip, chickpea fries with sour cream and – my personal highlight – tara masalata, originally from Greece en Fish roe mayonnaise with rye bread chips.

I return to my accommodation, La Ola Guesthouse, with a full stomach and fall asleep immediately.

In the morning, Fernando, the owner, welcomes me for breakfast. He is one of eleven children of Chilean parents hikers who had fled to Denmark from the dictatorship of Pinochet in the 1980s. Although his parents are long back in Chile - the Nordic Kli ma was just too inhospitable for them – but Fernando stayed because of his love for his Danish wife Inge. And because of the fantastic windsurfing conditions in Hanstholm.

Simply casual and so good: In Thorupstrand's Fiskehus, fish comes from fresh on the local cutters Table

Birds, bunkers and wild solitude

I say goodbye to Fernando and leave Direction Bulbjerg, today's destination. Up to Frøstrup, the gravel road runs on slightly hilly terrain, with the sea always in sight. The wind comes from behind and blows me forward quickly. In Vigsø Strand, about halfway, there are about 20 more German bunkers from the second half in the water, half in the sand world war. But the massive concrete monsters have lost much of their horror: in the last 80 years the sea has moved inland by a good 140 meters and has also swallowed up most of the bunkers gen.

We continue on the well signposted Kystsporet through mixed forests and wild solitude. The sky closes, not a soul far and wide. In the late afternoon a fox crosses my path, looks at me in amazement and then slowly disappears into the undergrowth. Just before it starts to rain, I arrive at Lildgaard, a thatched farm in the middle of the Lild dune plantation. Host Mike has different

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dene apartments lovingly furnished together with his wife and will only open in spring 2022. "Most of our guests are self-catering and bring their own horses," says Mike. "They can graze on our pastures or stand in our stables."

Before dinner I go for a walk to the beach, two kilometers away. The mighty Bulbjerg rock, which I can make out in the distance, towers almost 50 meters above Jammer Bay and offers hundreds of kittiwakes in its craggy limestone wall a breeding ground. The beach is littered with empty ones

Contemporary witnesses made of concrete, beautified with art and graffiti: the sea is slowly swallowing up the bunkers from the second World War

Curious fur noses am wayside

Crab shells - a foretaste of dinner, because Mike announced Stjerneskud, which means shooting star in English. This Danish cuisine classic consists of a rye bread topped with lettuce, breaded plaice, crayfish, shrimp and smoked salmon, garnished with dill, lemon and cocktail sauce. You can't put more sea on a plate!

Well rested, following a tip from the host, I head into the mixed forest behind the house the following morning: Peace embraces me like an embrace, soft mosses invite me to rest. Is that what is meant by forest bathing? In any case, it feels good, and I then tackle the steep, steep ascent to Bulbjerg with my left hand. Around noon I reach Thorupstrand with its picturesque fishing boats.

Bare feet in the sand, I take a seat at one of the Fiskehus tables and enjoy fish and chips. What sounds mundane tastes like a five-star dish against this backdrop – freshly caught and prepared according to the house recipe.

The last part of the stage to Slettestrand initially runs through the landscape like a kilometer-long swath. Left and right forest: "Now just don't get a flat tire," I think to myself. Then it gets hilly, I drive through the green landscape of Svinkløv Plantage with breathtaking views over the North Sea.

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Passing Denmark's largest wooden building, the Svinkløv Badehotel, which burned down completely in 2016 and was subsequently rebuilt, I reach the elegant Hotel Nor, also located on a hill. I feel a little underdressed in my sweaty cycling gear, but given the relaxed crowd, I quickly get over my initial discomfort.
From the comfortable deck chair, I enjoy the sunset and the phenomenal view over the Skagerrak.

Eccentric garden art The fourth and last stage to Blokhus is almost entirely gravel and therefore difficult to drive. With a mountain bike you are clearly in the Advantage. At noon I reach Hune, a neighboring town of Blokhus. Here the eccentric artist Anne Just has created a huge garden oasis in which floral art and architecture enter into an interesting liaison. Just like the fun-loving painter who died in 2009 with her husband, the architect Claus Bonderup. Since 1991, the illustrious couple has gradually transformed the former dune plantation into a colour-coded flower labyrinth. It opened to visitors in 1995 and quickly became one of North Jutland's most important tourist attractions. An employee, Annes Mann Claus Bon who took care of up until his death in May 2022, gives me an on in vivid anecdotes pressure from the nature of the artists.

The Kystsporet is mostly gravel and leads by light Ter rain – in Süd-Nord direction even partially tailwind

garden artist Anne Just and her man, the architect Claus Bonderup, have one in Hune create a green oasis

For example, Claus had a beautiful summer house in the dunes of Blokhus. The design jewel can still be found today and bears the meaningful name "Øjne i Natten" (in English: "Eyes in the night") because of its two huge glass fronts facing the sea. But Anne couldn't get anything out of the house, because nothing grew in the sand. So she bought a plot of land for her monumental garden further inland – after all, she needed Vor Lay living flowers while painting and pottery. And of course Claus went with him. Anne was also relentless when it came to his passion for taxidermy. It was only after her death that he acquired a large collection of exotic animals that “decorated” his home, which can still be visited today: a lion, two giraffes, a brown bear and a zebra, to name just a few examples.

After this excursion into the world of eccentrics, my tour ends with a really down-to-earth trip: I stop for dinner at the thatched restaurant Haw'et in Blokhus. The card is for The majority consists of a wide variety of smørrebrød variations with fish, meat, cheese or vegetarian. The main thing - and that's where it shines through again, the North Jutland straightness - everything is self-made. Just like grandmother used to do, but with a modern twist. After four days on the Kystsporet one thing is clear to me: it is precisely this no-bullshit mentality that is rampant in Denmark's wild people and nature makes the West so likeable.

Conclusion by Anja Kocherscheidt: "Clear recommendation for everyone who is looking for a little break from everyday hustle and bustle, who loves the magical light of the north, the rough nature, the sound of the sea and solitude."

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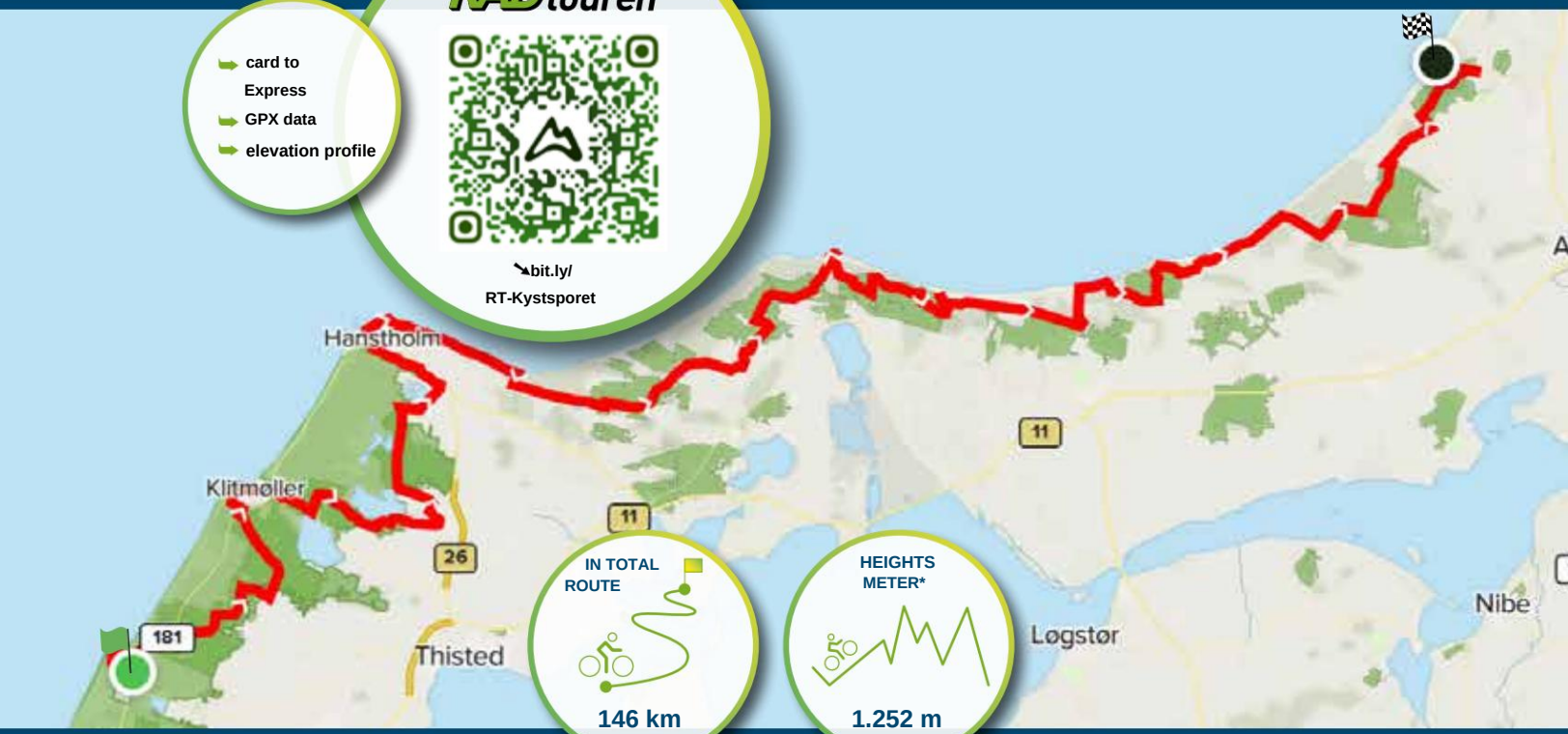
- card to Express
- GPX data
- elevation profile

RADtouren

↘bit.ly/RT-Kystsporet



DENMARK

JUTLAND / KYSTSPORET

TOUR DESCRIPTION

The well-signposted Kystsporet runs between Nr. Vorupør and Blokhus along Denmark's north-west coast. The mostly gravel route is characterized by dune landscapes, mixed forests and magnificent sea views. Relics from the Second World War, historic lighthouses, the surfer scene in Cold Hawaii, the Bulbjerg bird cliff or Anne Just's garden oasis are worthwhile stops. Accommodation for every budget makes it easy to break down into individual stages.

Fitness	●●○○○
cultural	●●●●○
Nature	●●●●●
path quality	●●●●○
Family	●●●●○

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

A car is recommended to get to Nr. Vorupør. From the 2.9°E state border in Flensburg you can reach 0 0 0 0 town in around three and a half hours via the

E45 and Route 18. Return to starting point 1/9/2023 private transfer through by bus or bike rental company.

OVERNIGHT Ütland • Bed & Breakfast

Villa Toos is situated in a small forest on the outskirts of Vorupør.
Owners Nils and Mette offer next to egg a nice room also a ride bike rental and transfers.
↘ÿtoosvilla@gmail.com

• Occasional wine tastings, live music and Chilean wine await guests in the **La Ola Guesthouse** in Hanstholm.
↘ÿlaola.nu

• Self-caterers will find one as well modern and cozy accommodation in the thatched **horse farm Lildgaard** in Frøstrup, near the Bulbjerg Vogel 5 0 0 0 0 0 5 MI 10 rock. lildgaard.dk

• Dignified ambience, a fine restaurant 15 awaits guests at the **Badehotel** a hill above Slettestrand.
↘ÿhotelnor.dk

• In the middle of the huge garden of flower artist Anne Just, **Anne Just's Have garden hotel,** cyclists spend the night in former studios or workshops. The garden can be used around the clock, for example for a glass of wine in the evening. annejust.dk

TO EAT AND DRINK

• **Klitmøller Røgeri** offers a variety of fish specialties – plus organic ice cream in unusual flavors such as sea buckthorn, gooseberries and currants.
klitmollerrogeri.dk

• In **Restaurant Medvind** in Hanstholm the young team around Emilie Qvist Kjærgaard conjures up a new, creative menu every day from everything that land and sea have to offer.
medvindhanstholm.dk • Possibly Denmark's best fish meatballs are on the beach at Fjerrits lev at **Thorupstrand Fiskehus** thorupstrandfiskehus.dk

• At the historic **Haw'et** in restaurant Blokhus shows the otherwise mundane smørre brød with fine toppings from avocado to caviar, what's in it.
hawet.de

Gain: 1252 m Loss: 1263 m

LITERATURE AND MAPS

ADFC cycle tour map **Denmark/Jutland** North, 1:150,000

FURTHER INFORMATION

↘ÿvisitnordvestkysten.de/kystsporet
↘ÿvisitdenmark.de