

TOUR DESCRIPTION

Tour Facts:

- Individual tour (24GEN)
- Length: 5 days
- Date: 01/04 – 31/10
- Difficulty grade: 1-2
- Accommodation grade: 1-3
- Hiking with transportation of luggage.
- Price per person based on 2 people travelling together.
Solo surcharge for single tour participant.
- Price: 3500



Walk in the footsteps of the Gendarmes along the beautiful Flensburg fjord and get an insight into an exciting cultural history, as well as the amazing and distinctive nature. The trip starts in the cozy and beautifully located Sønderborg city on the island of Als, to the east of the Jutland peninsular. The 74-kilometer-long coastal hiking route curves along the fjord from Als towards the southwest to Padborg close to the border with Germany. The hiking route offers a varied and sometimes hilly landscape. There is ample opportunity to experience rare plants and animals as well as many interesting habitats and landscapes - from orchids, frogs and birds, to glacial tunnels, cliffs and stone reefs. At the same time, you can discover the history attached to the Gendarme Path and the borderland.

Along the way you will stay at cozy hotels and Bed and Breakfast. Your luggage will be taken to the next accommodation, so you can enjoy the walks.

- Experience South Jutland's amazing scenery, rich wildlife and exciting history
- Hike along the beautiful Flensburg Fjord
- The Gendarme Path is Denmark's first certified hiking trail
- Enjoy the walk while your luggage is driven to the next place of accommodation
- Immerse yourself in the history of 1864 and experience Dybbøl Bank and Dybbøl Mill
- Stay in cozy accommodations - in the middle of the beautiful landscape
- Enjoy the views of Sønderborg Bay, Flensburg Fjord, Germany and the Okseø Islands



Sønderborg

DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM

Day 1: Arrival in Sønderborg (optional hiking)

The trip starts in Sønderborg, where you will check in to your accommodation. If you come early you can either go for a walk in the beautiful city or go for a short walk on the Gendarme Path (7 km).

If you choose the walk: You get to the starting point of the hike by taking the bus to Høruphav. From there you follow the coast through Lambjerg and the beautiful Sønderkov on to Sønderborg. (-/-/-)

The code above in parentheses shows the meals that are included (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner), (-) is not included.

Day 2: Sønderborg to Folekobbøl at Broager

The day's hiking starts after a good breakfast. The route begins on the coast and leads through Sønderborg town, past Sønderborg Castle, across Als Strait and towards Dybbøl-bank, which in April 1864 was the scene of the battle of Dybbøl. The battle at Dybbøl was catastrophic for Denmark. If you have the courage to dive deeper into history, you will find at the top of Dybbøl Bank 'Historiecenteret 1864' where you can read about the history of the war between the Danes and the Prussians.

From Dybbøl Mark you continue along the coast towards Vemmingbund and Gammelmark, where the route offers beautiful views over Sønderborg Bay. Transfer from Folekobbøl to your accommodation at Broagerland. (Approx.16 km) (B/-/D)

The code above in parentheses shows the meals that are included (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner), (-) is not included.



The Gendarme Path: From Sønderborg to Padborg, 5 days



VAGABOND TOURS

Day 3: From Folekobbel to Iller

The day starts with a short transfer from your place of accommodation, back to Folekobbel, where you continue your walk on the Gendarme Path.

Today's stage offers exciting coastlines with steep slopes, beautiful beech forests, small villages and an insight into the history of the many brickworks which previously lay in Broager cove. In Skelde Kobbelskov you will pass well-preserved round and long stone dolmens (megalithic tombs), where remains of skeletons, flint axes and amber jewelry was found in the tombs. People have lived on this coast, for more than 4,500 years. The lush land gave plenty of food and the rich wildlife of the forest made it easy to hunt. In the slopes along the coast you may be lucky to find fossils of earlier marine life. Accommodation in Iller. (Approx. 18 km) (B/-/D)



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Day 4: From Iller to Sandager

From your overnight accommodation, you carry on along the Gendarme Path towards Broager. This area was formerly the heart of Denmark's brickwork industry, and at Cathrinesminde brickwork today there is a museum, where you can get a good insight into the brickwork's history and the lives of the workers. The brickwork factory was in operation from 1732 to 1968.

The route continues through Broager, Rendbjerg and Egersund, whose beautiful red seaman's church is directly opposite Flensburg fjord and is naturally built of bricks from the area. You cross the Egersund bridge and continue along the coast towards Rinkenæs and Sandager. Overnight stay in Rinkenæs Overby. (Approx. 16 km) (B/-/D)

The code above in parentheses shows the meals that are included (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner), as (-) is not included.



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Day 5: From Sandager to Padborg

You have now reached the final phase, on this hiking tour on the Gendarme Path. From Rinckenæs Overby you go to Sandager and continue southwards on the Gendarme Path towards Sønderhav. On this stretch you will pass several houses that were built as homes for the Gendarme Border Patrol. The Gendarmes have for the most part lived a peaceful life, but there were dangers too, especially during World War II. During the occupation in 1944, all police officers were arrested, 291 Gendarme Border Patrol were sent to Frøslev camp. 141 were sent to the KZ camp Neuengamme and 36 of them died during their stay.

Next to Sønderhav lies the two small islands, Lille and Store Okseø. According to legend, Queen Margrethe I died here in 1412 on her way home from peace talks in Flensburg. The route continues towards Kollund and through the beautiful hilly coastal forest to Kruså. In the borderland north of Padborg, the Gendarme Path crosses The Ancient Road 'Hærvejen', which forms part of a longer pilgrimage route from Trondheim in the north to Rome in the south. Carry on along the Gendarme Path through Oldemorstoft and past Niehuusøen to Padborg. From Padborg, take the bus back to Sønderborg, where you find your luggage. (approx.22 km) (B/-/-)

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ACCOMMODATION

During the trip you will stay at a different place of accommodation each day. (however, 2 nights you will stay overnight in the same location, with a transfer to and from the route). You will stay in a double room at local hotels, inns and bed and breakfasts (B&B). Single rooms can be booked for an additional fee.

Accommodations vary by default as you stay overnight at a combination of B&B's and Hotels. In some places, the room is of a high standard and with private bathroom and toilet, other places of lower standard, with shared bathroom and toilet. We have endeavored to choose good places close to Gendarme Path. Common to all accommodations is the good host, who will do their best for you to have a good stay.

CATERING

The tour includes breakfast and dinner except for the first day in Sønderborg. Packed lunches for the day's hiking can be booked (the day before) and paid at the accommodation. There is a single place of accommodation where you must make your own lunch pack.

It is stipulated in the daily program which meals are included or not included in the price of the trip. (Breakfast/Lunch /Dinner).

WALKS

The day trips are between 16 and 22 km (plus an optional 7-km hike on the day of arrival). The day-to-day program indicates the number of kilometers per day. This is an approx. indication as the number of kilometers per day depends on which accommodation is reserved for you and how close to / far from the route it is. Your luggage will be driven to the next accommodation, so you only carry a small backpack with the items you need in today's race, such as lunch package, rainwear, camera etc.

HOW TO GET THERE

The tour starts in Sønderborg (Railway town). You must make sure to get to the starting point of the trip (by public transport or private car). The Gendarme Path runs along the coastline (900 m from your accommodation in Sønderborg).

Start: The hike starts in Sønderborg. You can arrive at any time of the day. First day is an arrival day (however, the possibility of a 7 km optional walk on the Gendarme Path). There are trains to Sønderborg from all over the country. See www.rejseplanen.dk

End: The tour ends at the end of the afternoon in Sønderborg (after about 22 km of hiking, take the bus back to Sønderborg from Padborg). See www.rejseplanen.dk.

Optional extra night in Sønderborg can be booked.



THE GENDARME PATH

The word "gendarme" is derived from the French "gens d'armes" and means "men-at-arms". The French gendarme were elite soldiers and served in the 1400's as guardians of the king. Since then, their tasks were expanded to include assistance to the police in critical situations. The Danish Border Gendarmerie was formed in 1839 to protect customs officials at the Duchy's border along the River Elbe.

After the defeat in 1864, the Danish border moved north to Kongeåen and in 1866 the gendarmes moved there too. After the reunification in 1920, the regiment moved south again, and patrolled along the current Danish-German border from the Wadden Sea to the west to Als' southern point to the east. The Gendarme Path has come from these Gendarmes who have walked back and forth along the borderland to look for smugglers who tried to bring goods in or out of the country without paying the customs duty, which for centuries was Denmark's main source of income. The police took over the border control in 1958 and the gendarmerie corps was disbanded after than 100 years of service. Fragment of the path were still in remain, and in the 1980s one really began to realize its amazing course and recreational values.

Today, the Gendarme Path stretches 84 kilometers from Skovby on Als, through Høruphav, Sønderborg, past Dybbøl and Vemmingbund, around Broagerland, Rinkenæs, Kollund and to the Danish-German border at Padborg.

You follow the coast most of the way, walking through a beautiful and varied landscape with forests, fields, marshes, meadows and impressive coastlines with magnificent views. The Gendarme Path was included on the coveted list of Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe, the highest certification we have in Europe. This means, among other things, that it is very well signposted, and that accessibility is well maintained.



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VAGABOND TOURS

INFORMATION ABOUT PRICE

INCLUDED

- Accommodation at hotels, inns and B&B's
- Breakfast all days
- Dinner all days (except for day of arrival "Day 1")
- Transportation of luggage (1 per person, max 15 kg) between the accommodations
- Hiking map (1 set per couple / group)
- Information, recommendations and practical tips
- Product liability insurance
- Fee for travel guarantee fund

EXCLUDED

- Transport to the start and end of the tour
- Dinner (Day 1)
- Beverages
- Packed lunches can be ordered from the place of accommodation the night before
- Extra set of hiking maps (can be ordered, DKK 200)
- Supplement for single room accommodation DKK 850
- Baggage surcharge for solo traveler DKK 150.
- Cancellation insurance, 6% of the price of the trip (can be ordered)
- Booking fee DKK 145



Foto: Michael Fenech-Andersen (hejosnderborg.dk)