

Travel 44

Copenhagen: Lolland, an island of fascinations.

Lolland is an island in South Denmark with an unspoiled nature, and with a lot of magnificent landscapes.

It is like to return to the passé, no industrial devastations.

Absolutely the most relaxing region, with a lot of history.



Lolland and the Polish girls, monument in Saksøbing

The island of Lolland and Falster are two near related islands on the South of Copenhagen. They have the best nature in Denmark.

Here is beautiful, quiet, clean and charming. No polluting industries. The only minus are the windmills, unfortunately!!!

You need a car. Take the direction towards Vordingborg, go over the old bridge, Storstrømbro, and find Guldborg.



Bridge to Guldborg

From Guldborg take Vignæsvej to Vignæs and Vestermark.



Vignæsvej



Vestermark with view to Vigsø

It is a pure and fascinating place. The zone is protected, because it is a bird sanctuary.



Near Vigsnaes

Then, turn back through Kirkevej.



Vigsnaes church

Take Guldstubvej, Kaløvej, then on your right Kaløgraavej, where, at its end, you can continue to the shore to see the bird sanctuary. Then turn back and take Taarsvej towards Taars and stop to see the church and the graveyard.



Taars church

Here a piece of Denmark's history:

- The church is quite huge, this means that the population was high, and that it has decreased during the centuries. It is a very beautiful and typical Danish church, both inside and outside.
- The graveyard is also beautiful and typical Danish. There are two remarkable graves: the first, on the left, are those of the local nobility, the second, on the right, is the common graves of 8 wounded soldiers from the Battle of Dybbelsbro in April 1864. They died soon after. Dybbelsbro is the worst remembrance in the entire Danish history and also for every single Dane. It was the battle against Germany's Bismark, where Denmark lost 1/3 of its territory. Still now there is not forgiveness from the Danes towards the Germans for Dybbelsbro.

Here the plate on the grave:



Grave of 8 soldiers from the battle of Dybbelsbro in April 1864.

Then continue on Skovbyvej, turn left to Laagebrovej, take right to Askealle, Orebygaard to its end. Here is a beautiful view over the small water (Fjord).

Then drive towards Sakskobing and visit the centre. It has a monument dedicated to the Polish girls.



Monument, made in 1970, to remember the Polish girls in Lolland, during the period 1880-1929.

Who were the Polish girls?

- They were the victims of the worst agrarian capitalism in the "Golden Age" 1880-1929.



Polish girls at beet harvest

- They were both women and men, that came to Denmark for working in local farms. The work was seasonal, from April to December. There were both women and men, but the greatest majority were woman.
- They came from the Austrian empire, from what now is South Poland and Ukraine.
- They were transported by ferry and then by train to Maribo, at midnight, and then, by carriages distributed to local farms, during the night. A long trip. And a hidden trip.
- Local Danish farmers had in 1880 introduced the cultivation of beet. It demanded an extraordinary number of hands to clean the fields for weeds, during the Summer, and as well during to harvest, in Autumn. Danish farmers found enough hands for this job abroad. This was in opposition the local workers, that protested and were very against the bad payments and treatments offered to the seasonal immigrants.
- These exploitation of foreign workers ends sharply in 1929. After years of protests from the Danish worker's unions side, the Danish parliament legislated that immigrant workers should have the same economical treatment as the Danish workers.
- This made an end of the need of immigrants, the need disappeared immediately. No one arrived since to cultivate beets in Denmark.



Beet cultivation in 1880-1929



Monument to the children of the Polish women in Sakskobing.

They took their children to Dk. During the field work, children stayed at the end of the beetroot rows, waiting for their mothers, if it rains they were protected with an umbrella.

What is left now from these immigrants?

- The monument in Sakskobing, and
- A house, called Polakkaserne at Hojgaardsvej, at Taagerup near Rodby.



Polakkaserne in Taagerup



Inside the museum

Locals from Lolland often say, that they are descendent from theses Polish workers, but it is not true.
Workers stayed seasonally and it was well controlled by the police.

Only few women remained in Denmark, but for a particular reason. Because of the war in 1914. When they returned home in November 1914, many were not allowed to come home, because they had to cross the wars front in Austria. They came then back to Denmark and some settled here.

A recent research study on how many Danes descend from these workers, shows, that

- they are very few,
- that only the female workers married, and only with local Danish men,
- and that no male workers, not only one, married with local Danish ladies.

Interesting, not!!!

Before visiting Polakkaserne in Taagerup, visit Maribo which is on the route after Sakskøbing.

Start to make the fantastic trip around the lakes, South of the town. It commences by taking Engetoftevej, just a mile before Maribo.



Engetoftevej

Then take Søvej on the right and continue to Røgbøllevej



A particular memorial in Røgbøllevej
*"In memory of Hunting Guard L. Hansen, who, in the execution of his deed,
 was shot at this place on the 7th of June 1916 "*

and Søholtvej.

Søholt is the name of the manor, its garden is open for visitors.



Søholdt

Continue towards Maribo to visit the town and the Cathedral.



Maribo



Maribo's cathedral

Maribos history starts in 1400 with the arrival of friars, the construction of the monastery, the church, etc.

Maribo takes a particular place in the modern Danish history, because it is the town of the great Danish man, Kaj Munk, priest and writer, who was murdered by the Germans in January 1944.

After Maribo, drive towards Bandholm and then Birket and before Kragasnæs take Ravnsborgvej on your right hand and follow it until you arrive at Glentehøjvej.

Follow it until you arrive to a fantastic panorama called Dodekalitten.

It is an amazing view and feeling.
Absolutely to be visited.



Dodekalitten at Kragenæs



One of the sculptures of the Dodekalitten

Then, drive towards Nakskov and take Hyldestræde to visit Kong Svends Høj. It is a very important grave place, from 3.200 year BC.



Kong Svends Høje near Pederstrup

Then take to Nakskov, Lollands biggest city.

It was a centre for ship and sugar industries, but as the industries moved or lost their economy, the city is a bit down.

But it is beautiful.

Take some time to see it and explore its history.



Nakskov



Nakskov centre

Nakskov means "the forest on the neck". Beautiful name.
 Now there are no forests in the neck, only boring agricultural fields on the neck. But still a lot of water to see.

From Nakskov take Maglehøjvej towards Dannemare.
 Here you will see a beautiful clean agricultural landscape. After Dannemare take right to Gloslunde Strandvej and Kramnitsevej and then towards Rødbyhavn, where you go over the motorway bridge towards Hyltoften.

After Hyldtoften find Rødbyvej and Taagerup, find Højbygaardsvej to visit the MUSEUM POLAKASERNE, as explained before.

Return to Rødbyvej. Few hundred meters on your right, find Bjernæsvej, Littesholmsvej towards Bunddragene.



Lyttesholm Naturcenter

At the end of this route, there is a long peninsula, which is protected as a bird sanctuary.

Beautiful place!

Then take the route or the routes to Handermelle and Øllebølle undtil you find Høvængevej to see Høvængetsten, which is one of the biggest stone in Danmark.



Høvængestenen

Denmark is made of mud and sand.

If you find a stone, then it came from Sweden or from Norway, at the Ice Age. The ice broke the mountains and transported the stones of the mountains to Denmark.

A long way.

But it was slowly done, it took thousands of years.

Høvængestenen is an amazing big stone.

Then drive to Nysted.

A fantastic romantic town.

Nysted is what it is nearest to a Christmas crib.



Nysted



Nysted

Nysted belonged to Ålholm , a local manor of the local nobility.

Unfortunately, the last baron of Ålholm has despoiled all the value, and finished with a failure. The castle is closed and no live at all in it, jet.

From Nysted take the direction to Nykøbing and stop at Fuglsand.



Fuglsang

Fuglsang was one of the manor of the local nobility, now is a museum.

From the museum, you can take a walk of 1 mile to see Skejten.

Skejten has the most beautiful landscape in Denmark.

It has been painted by artists. A painting of Skejten is in the Danish parliament in Copenhagen.

A landscape like just after the Ice Age.



Fuglsang, Skejten



Fuglsang, Skejten



Fuglsang, Skejten

The end of travel 44