

Travel 45 Copenhagen: South Jylland

South Jylland is the land just on the north of the actual Germany, at the north of the peninsula of Anglien, (the name of England originates from here).

An extraordinary region, with an extraordinary history.

This guide conducts to the land between North Sea and the Baltic Sea, starting with the national park Vadehavet.



National park



View of Vadehavet

Before Vadehavet, visit Ribe, Tønder and Højer, that are on the route before Vadehavet.

First Ribe.

It is the oldest town of Denmark, from the years before the Viking.

Remark:

Ribe, Tønder, Højer and Ringkøbing are the only towns on the west shores of Jylland, all the other towns face to the east, towards the Baltic.

Why ?

Because strong winds from the west, push huge quantity of water towards the land and drown everything.

This happens regularly. Then people moved to the east, to the shore of the Baltic, which has less water, and less water means, that it cannot arise at such a high level as on the west side.

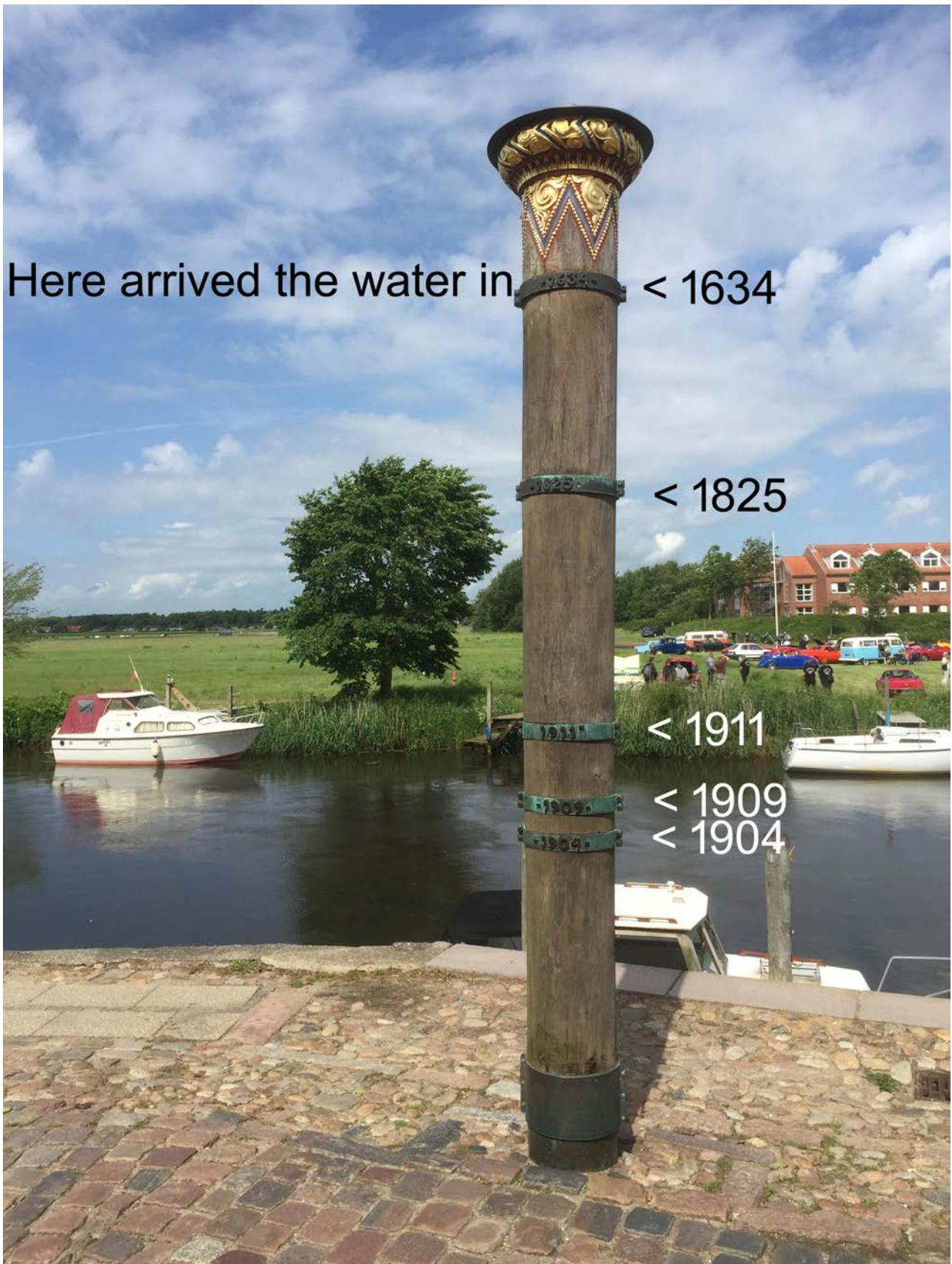
Danish language express this phenomenon perfectly:

- the North Sea is called Vesterhavet (=west sea) but the Baltic is called Østersøen (= la lake on the east), i.e. the Baltic is a lake and not a sea.

Denmark is a Baltic power, not a North Sea power, as the Viking were.



Ribe's cathedral



Sea level in Ribe during the last centuries

1634 was the worst measured catastrophic rise of water, it is called the Great Killer.

But also during the last decades, catastrophes has happened.

Water level has conducted the governments of Denmark and Germany to reinforce the barriers/dykes towards a long stretch of the North Sea, the Vadehavet.

It was done in opposition to the nature and to the birds. But the work was done well, because it lets the sea water to enter, in order to conserve the original nature.



A house door in Ribe

The region of Sønderjylland has been contended by Germany. The dispute was partially settled in 1920, with a referendum, asking where peoples wanted to belong, Denmark or Germany.

But the problem still exists, but without real problems.

In every towns of Southjylland there are a monument to remember to soldiers that died during the wars against Germany.

Here an example.



Monument to the fallen soldiers in Ribe

Monuments of fallen soldiers are very common in Sønderjylland, because on the top of the mentioned wars against Germany, there are also countless monuments for the soldiers, that was killed during the 1. World War. This region was German in 1914, and the participation to the war was compulsory, also for the Danish young men of Sønderjylland.
A misery without end!

Still about the 1. World War:

In Tønder (the next town to visit) there were a centre of war balloons, the Zeppelins, that flew to London and bombed the civilian population from the balloons.

This was in 1914-18, NOT the Blitz of 1939-45.

Do not make confusion with the bombardments of London by the Germans in 1938-45 during the 2. World War, the Blitz.

Unbelievable.

Because of the Zeppelin balloons from Tønder 1914-18, a new war technology was invented by the British army:

- The technology consisted in building a great ship, with a large platform on the top, that could both carry small flights and to be used as start lane. It was the invention of the first Hanger Ship in the military story.
- The first Hanger Ship went in action in 1917. It sailed to Lemvig in Denmark, 200 km north of Tønder, and from there the flights took off. At that time the flights didn't have the autonomy to flight directly from UK to Tønder, for bombing the Zeppelin's fabric.
- The Zeppelin's fabric was indeed bombed. The pain was, that the British pilots should have landed on the sea, near their Hanger Ship in Lemvig. But...some fall and died, many landed on the sea or on the earth and they survived.
- This action and the survived pilots was awarded by King George V.



Zeppelin balloons's fabric in Tønder, the remains from 1914



Airplane hangar



Flugzeughangar



Ago Typ CII (1915/16)



Piloten for in front of vor Albatros C.III (1916)



Kaptajnløjtnant Tønnies, tropfører i Tønder (nr. 4 fra venstre) og Hugo Eckener (nr. 5 fra venstre) med flyversoldater.

 **Capt.-Lt. Tønnies** (4th f. l.), squadron leader, and **Hugo Eckener** (5th f. l.) with pilots.

 **Kptl. Tønnies** (4.v.li.), Truppführer, und **Hugo Eckener** (5.v.li.) mit Flieger-

Med til luftskibs anlægget hørte en hangar til de flyvemaskiner, der hørte til halbeskyttelseseskadrillen. De tjente til beskyttelse af anlægget. Man regnede nemlig med gengældelsesangreb fra engelsk side, da anlægget lå tæt ved Nordsøen og der herfra blev udført mange angreb på England. Flyverhangaren var anbragt syd for luftskibshallerne, og den rummede i alt fire etsædes Fokkermaskiner, 4 Albatros D.III jagere og en AGO DD. De blev fløjet af 8 piloter, heraf fire reservepiloter. Soldaterne tilhørte 1. marine-landflyverafdeling og havde deres kvarter tæt ved hangaren. Der skete ofte uheld, når flyene skulle starte eller lande. Det skyldtes de ujævne og ofte meget fugtige start- og landingsbaner. De gjorde normal flydrift umulig. Derfor blev halbeskyttelseseskadrillen trukket bort i 1917. Derfor manglede man fly til beskyttelse, da englænderne i juli 1918 angreb anlægget med jagerfly. Flyverhangaren bliver nu benyttet som lagerrum.

Photo of 1914 about the Zeppelins



Tønder, the statue of punishment

Tønder is as beautiful as Ribe.

Take your time to visit it.

There is a curious, but frightened monument in central square, which is not a square, but a triangle indeed. It is a monument to the punishments. Very amazing.

After Tønder, visit also Møgeltønder.

It is an unbelievable cosy village, with the Castle of the earl: a breath-taking, beautiful middle-aged village. The church is also amazingly beautiful.

From Tønder drive to Højer, the capital of the marches, the town of the best sausages in Denmark, the start point for the visit of the park Vadehavet and for seeing the Black Sun.



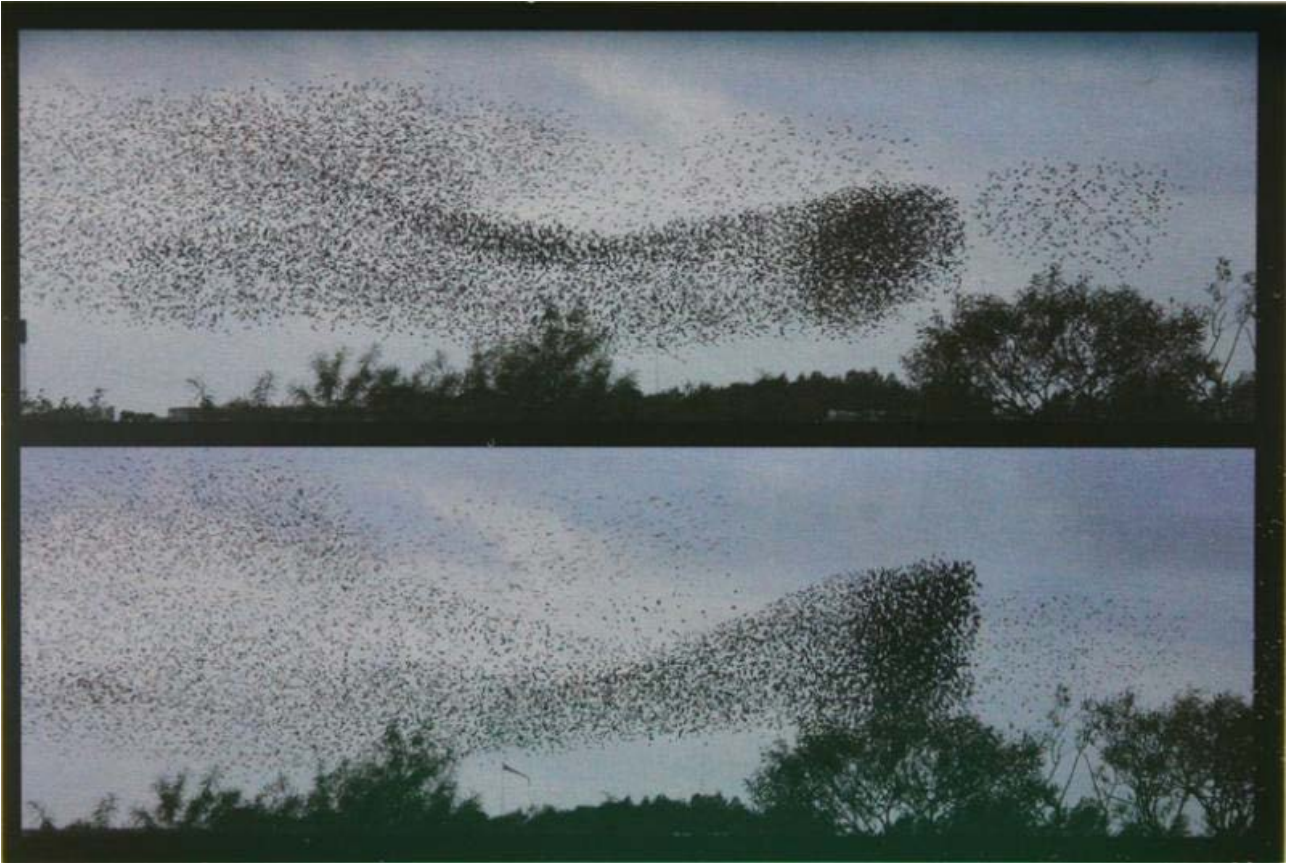
Højer

From Højer drive to the sea, to the Sluse. 2-3 km and you are at Vadehavet.



National park Vadehavet

In Spring and Autumn huge numbers of migration starlings land in the marshes at the Vadehavet, an unbelievable view.



Black Sun in Vadehavet

Then take to Rudbøl. It is the border village to Germany. Very charming.



Rudbøl

The village is composed of few houses. Houses that were used by the employees of the customs and police.
Find the landmarks of the border between Denmark and Germany, when in Rudbøl. There are two landmarks. Very touching.



The blue line is the border line between Denmark and Germany

Then turn towards Tønder, Sæd, Lidersholm, Rens, Lille Jyndeved, Frøslev and Padborg.

Find the route along the border to Germany: Grænsevej, Sofiedalvej, Pluskærvej until you arrive at Frøslev.

Frøslev has a terrible sound on Danish ears, because of the concentration camp the Germans built here during the war.

The remains of the concentration camp are now a museum, which is well visited.



Frøslev, German concentration camp



Barracks in German concentration camps in Frøslev.

Continue towards Sønderborg and stop just before, at Dybbel.

Dybbel is the “black of the black” in Danish history.

It was here that a huge part of Denmark was lost to Germany, in April 1864.

Here in the most beautiful place in the world (judge it by you self), the Danish army lost the battle to Germany’s Bismark.

It is still a chock for the Danes.



Dybbel



The battle evolved around the windmill

Dybbel is just outside the town of Sønderborg. A beautiful town, one of the major town in Denmark.



Sønderborg's harbor

Sønderborg has many interesting things to see. The museum in the old castle is to be recommended, because it contains many historical things of the region.

After Sønderborg, and, if you want, visit of island Als, take the route nr 8, the old route to Aabenraa, Haderslev and Christiansfelt. This towns are a visit worth.

Christiansfelt is listed in Unesco.

Chistiansfelt was built in 1700 by a religious groupe, the Pietists . Exactly the same town was built also in other countries.

The end of travel 45