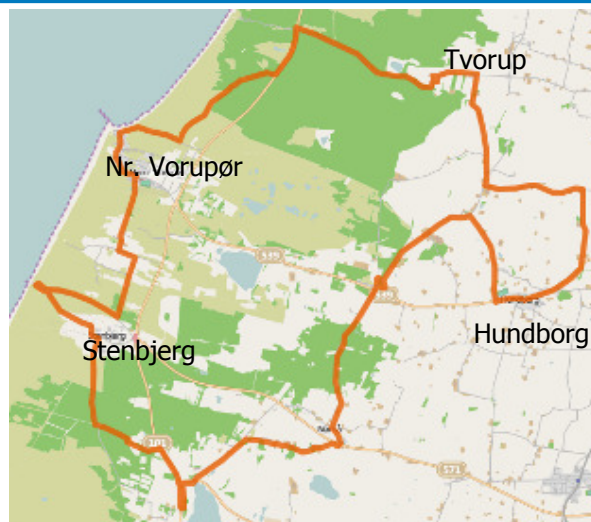




The Animal Paradise route is one of 25 panoramic routes along the Danish coastline. Panorama Routes are premium cycle routes offering places to eat, accommodation and entertaining experiences. The routes provide spectacular views, but also secret hideaways with space for quiet contemplation. The Panorama routes are part of the Powered by Cycling: Panorama project supported by the European Regional Development Fund.



Cycle Route, 44 km Animal Paradise

A fan of contrast? If so, this is the cycle route for you. It takes you across Ice Age hills and down to lake plains, through quiet plantations and out to the raging sea. Take your time to spot the tracks left by the animals living here today as well as those left from the Ice Age.

Where the route takes you...

The route can be started anywhere, but this guide uses Nørre Vorupør as its starting point. Prepare for your trip in Nr. Vorupør with its grocery shops and eateries or visit museums and specialist shops. Take Vestkyststruten (West Coast Route), National Route 1, which is part of the 6000-kilometre-long North Sea Cycle and EuroVelo Routes.

The tales of the gravestones

The churchyard in Vorupør **(1)** is a history book of the harsh realities of life. Cycle south from Vorupør towards Stenbjerg. On the road north of Stenbjerg through the dunes, you pass the well-known artist Jens Søndergaard's holiday home **(2)** with its characteristic figurehead. At the landing stage in Stenbjerg **(3)** you will find the Nationalpark Thy information centre. Drop in for more information about the animals and plants in the region. The painter Käte Lassen's holiday home **(4)** houses an exhibition about Stenbjerg artists. Stenbjerg also has a WW2 bunker designed as an observation post **(5)** across some of Nationalpark Thy's sprawling moors. On your way through the plantation, you pass a rare high Embak dune **(6)** with a lake to the west. The dune and lake represent a fine example of a parabolic dune.

Lake of otters

The route continues to the southeast to the 7-kilometre-long Ove sø **(7)** (Ove Lake). A viewing tower at the north end of the lake offers a great view of the birds living on the lake and in the surrounding meadows. You may be lucky enough to see both cranes and otters as well as many other birds and animals. Remember that the more quiet and careful you are, the greater your chance of experiencing rare animals. The animals are also more active at dusk and dawn than in the middle of the day. Look north to see steep chalk slopes near Kalkværksvej **(8)**. This is what the coastline looked like in the Stone Age. The chalk in the slopes is made up of trillions of sea shells and visible evidence that most of Danish history has been played out under water. On the way towards Nørhå, look across the valley to the south to see farms called 'højremshuse'. These houses are built on principles known since the Stone Age: living quarters at the east end of the building, stables in the middle and a barn in the west. Faddersbøl boasts a fine mill **(9)** with a small exhibition about the nature and culture of the area.

Sjørring Lake - the drained lake

Onward towards Jannerup and Hundborg. The hills offer

Facts about the route:

44 km, of which 34 km paved and 10 km gravel (paths, forest tracks etc.) Effective cycling time at 16 km/h: 2 hours and 37 min. Highest point: 55 metres above sea level. Max. 6% slopes. Difficulty: medium (quite a few hills, but moderate slopes). Road safety: the route runs mainly along paths and roads with only light traffic. Main road intersections in six places. Shortcuts/detours: the route can be shortened by turning off through Stenbjerg Dunes on Tyskebakken or by continuing straight on along Jannerupvej and skipping Hundborgbakken.

fantastic panoramic views in all directions. In Hundborg, you will find a ceramics workshop (Finn Bukhave), **(10)** and a grocery shop. The route turns north, down to a large flat area. From the top of the hill **(11)** enjoy the view across the plain of Sjørring Lake—once a lake of eight square kilometres. Now the lake has been drained of water through the canal you crossed at Faddersbøl.

Tvorup - the birthplace of plantations

The route now runs across the lake towards Tvorup. Tvorup has a handful of houses and a jewellery shop **(12)**. The ruin of Tvorup Kirke **(13)** (Tvorup Church) is a memorial to the forces of sand drift. This was once a thriving community, but sand drifted in and ruined its existence. In 1794, the Romanesque church was torn down, and the stones used for Vang Church and surrounding farms. Tvorup Dune Plantation was established approx. 500 metres to the south of the ruins. Here is the 'Hollow' **(14)**: a small indentation in the landscape which passionate planters in the 1850s attempted to fill with trees such as silver fir, Scots pine and mountain pine. They finally succeeded in making the trees grow. Thagaard's Plantation **(15)** is also famous. The remains of the first unsuccessful attempt to make trees grow in the dunes can be seen here. The attempt took place in the 19th century and it took 50 years before the 'Hollow' was a greening success.

Dance of cranes

The route now turns south. To meet cranes and see their characteristic dance, head to the bird tower in the northern part of Ålvand Klithede **(16)** (Ålvand Dunes). Back to Vorupør for sea birds. Ornithologists have spotted the rare Sabine's gull here, as well as the Sooty Shearwater, the Arctic Skua and many other birds on their way through Europe.



Animal Paradise Cycle Route, 44 km

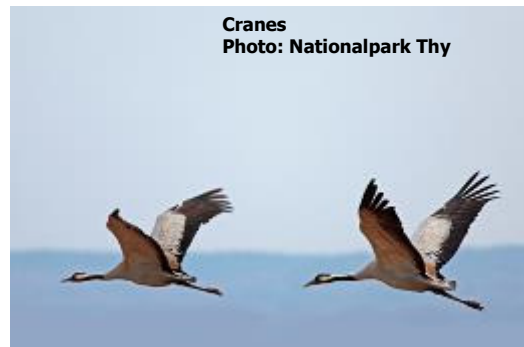
Start here....



This road can be difficult to find as it has no name. Cycle along the paved road. When two gravel roads cross the paved road and the gravel road to the west shows a shelter sign, turn east.



Fish drying
Photo: VisitThy



Cranes
Photo: Nationalpark Thy

Services and experiences along the way

Places to eat and shopping for groceries

Grocery shops, restaurants and specialty shops in Nr. Vorupør. Inn at Stenbjerg, Brugs supermarket in Hundborg.

Museums and art

Museum and North Sea Aquarium in Nr. Vorupør
Nationalpark Thy information centre at Stenbjerg landing stage.
Ceramics in Hundborg, jewellery in Tvorup

Links:

www.visitthy.dk
www.danmarksnationalparker.dk/Thy
www.udinaturen.dk (hiking and cycling)
www.fugleognatur.dk (animals, plants, fungi)
www.jenssoendergaard.dk (about the museum near Lemvig, but also tells the story of the artist's life)

Ceramics from Hundborg Photo: VisitDenmark



Thy - helt naturligt 
www.visitthy.dk

This cycle route was created in a partnership between VisitThy and the Panorama cycle project under the management of the Danish Cyclist Association. Find out more about cycling experiences, accommodation, activities, attractions and services at www.visitthy.dk.