



Experience the Force of Nature 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, 43 km Experience the Forces of Nature

**This cycle route is challenging. You pit yourself against the forces of nature in the form of Ice Age hills, sand drift and the west wind. But a tailwind will also help you through historic villages and green fields. Find out how people by the sea have defied the forces of nature and created a good life in idyllic surroundings.**

### Where the route takes you...

The route can be started anywhere, but The Black Houses in Agger (1) are the starting point for this guide. The black houses surrounded by white sand tell the story of coastal protection. Here, at the beginning of the 20th century, men fought valiantly to prevent the sea from eating its way inland. With breakwaters of boulders they managed to mitigate the force of the waves - a force which in just a few hundred years had moved the coast several kilometres inland and buried villages and churches in sand and foam. The route runs north along a narrow isthmus with a view of both the North Sea and Flade Sø. Deep sand may force you off your bicycle in places. Sand drift continues to be a challenge in many places - even on roads and cycle paths in the dunes. Alternatively, take the paved Lodbjergvej between Flade Sø and Ørum Sø (see map).

### The lighthouse and the church

The trip up to Lodbjerg Fyr (2) (Lodbjerg Lighthouse) runs through the plantation established to limit the sand drift. The lighthouse offers an open garden, shelters and barbecue area. Walk the 133 steps up the tower and enjoy a fantastic view. North of the lighthouse, a large migrating dune (3) is slowly, but surely moving east and swallowing the dunes metre by metre every year. To the south of the plantation lies the small Lodbjerg Kirke (4) (Lodbjerg Church), Denmark's second smallest church (floor area only 122 m<sup>2</sup>) with only 37 souls to its congregation.

### Hills and valleys

The route continues into farmland through the village of Ørum. You are now on Vestkyststruten (West Coast Route), National Route 1, which is part of the 6000-kilometre-long North Sea Cycle and EuroVelo Routes. If you are hungry for more sights, visit the village of Svankjær (5) 3 km to the north. The village boasts a bonbon museum, sawmill with wood carvings, sculpture gardens as well as vegetables and honey from Nationalpark Thy. Up to Morup Mill. The village with playground (6) lies snugly on Hvidbjerg River which winds through the village. The route continues on paved roads in a hilly landscape towards Bedsted. Rønhede Plantation (7) is a child-friendly plantation with playhouse and barbecues, burial mounds and fruit trees.

### Facts about the route:

43 km, of which approx. 35 km paved and 8 km gravel (paths, forest tracks etc.). Effective cycling time at 16 km/h: 2 hours and 40 min. Highest point: 94 metres above sea level. Max. 6% slopes. Difficulty: medium (some hills, but with moderate slopes). Road safety: the route runs mainly along paths and roads with light traffic. Some main road intersections. Shortcuts/detours: avoid cycling all the way to Hurup and instead south of Bedsted on small roads towards Ashøj or Vestervig.

### Hurup - the capital of Sydthy

Onwards along narrow, hilly paved roads through farmland down to Hurup - the 'capital' of Sydthy. Approx. 2 km south of Hurup, drop into a farm, Aagaards Tekstiler, with its exhibition of knitwear and sale of yarn (8). Save your energy for Ashøj (9), the highest point in Thy, 94 metres above sea level. It is worth it. The view is outstanding and the facilities include barbecue hut, toilets etc. Historically, Ashøj has been a gathering place and political and other meetings are still held here. On your way down from Ashøj, you go through Hennings Plantation and along narrow, winding roads through the agricultural landscape with the fjord and sea as your backdrop.

### Vestervig - the giant church and the tiny village

Even from a distance, Vestervig Kirke (10) (Vestervig Church) looks too big for its village. Originally a monastery, it was also an episcopal residence for the whole of North Jutland. The monastery burnt down, but the church remained. Liden Kirsten and Prins Buris are buried in the churchyard. She was the sister of King Valdemar (1131-1182) and danced herself to death - because her king forced her to. The reason was an unhappy love story with Prins Buris. Today, brides traditionally lay a bouquet on Liden Kirsten's grave. The church is also known for its concerts and outstanding acoustics. Visit Klosterparken in the middle of town with its covered tables and benches, hiking path and the sound of a babbling brook. Vestervig also includes Thinghuset - a cultural centre with art exhibitions, concerts and a new, small prison museum.

### Fjord and sea in sight

From Vestervig, the route runs along good paved roads with a fantastic view of fjord and sea down past Æ Beeshus (exhibition about agriculture in the Middle Ages) and a historic mill (11) and churchyard complete with holy spring. Cycle on to Krik Vig where river and fjord meet. Kulhuset (12) is a village hall available to anyone. It includes a toilet, showers and outdoor sink. The route ends in Agger, where a grocery shop, café and hotel can be found on the high street in this previously very active fishing village.



## Services and sights along the route

### Places to eat and groceries

Grocery shops, eateries and specialty shops in Agger and Hurup and Bedsted.

### Museums, exhibitions and art

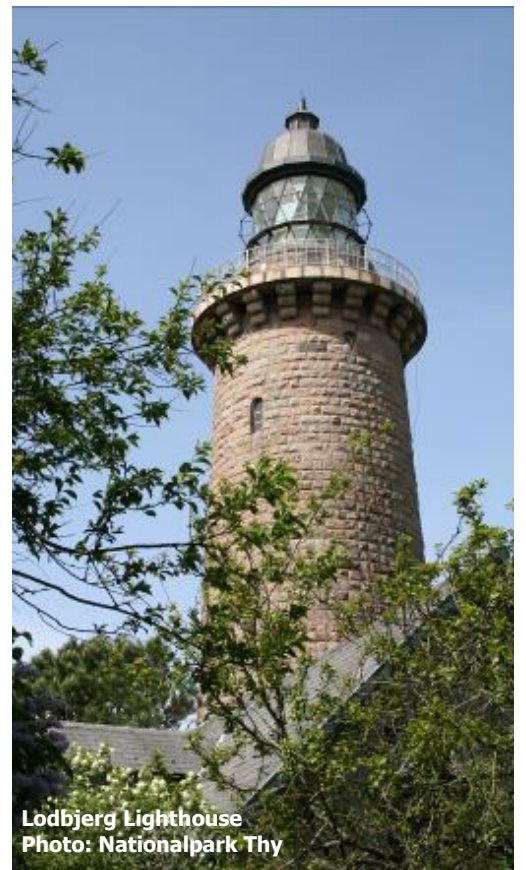
Museum in Heltborg near Hurup  
 Yarn and textiles: [www.aagaard-tekstil.dk](http://www.aagaard-tekstil.dk)  
 Museum and sculpture garden in Svankjær.

### Public transport:

Train station in Hurup and Bedsted.  
 Bus to Agger (Bus 321)

### Links:

[www.visitthy.dk](http://www.visitthy.dk)  
[www.danmarksnationalparker.dk/Thy](http://www.danmarksnationalparker.dk/Thy)  
[www.udinaturen.dk](http://www.udinaturen.dk) (hiking and cycling)



Thy - helt naturligt  
[www.visitthy.dk](http://www.visitthy.dk)

This cycle route was created in a partnership between VisitThy and the Panorama cycle project. Find out more about cycle experiences, accommodation, activities, attractions and services at [www.visitthy.dk](http://www.visitthy.dk).