



NATIONALPARK MOLLS BJERGE



DESTINATIONS





Mols Bjerger National Park- for the benefit of nature and the pleasure of people

To the west are majestic forests that form a scenic backdrop to Kalø Castle Ruins. To the east lies Jernhatten, a small hill from the top of which the isle of Hjelm can be spotted further out in the Kattegat. The coastline curves and bends to the south in sharp contrast to the flat outwash plains towards the north; and in the heart of it all lie the swelling hills of Mols Bjerger, with their natural viewpoints and their kettle holes.

Mols Bjerger National Park encompasses 180 square kilometres of diverse and rare landscape with unique geological features. The park is a popular destination for excursions, rich with heritage such as the medieval Kalø Castle Ruins, the old market town of Ebeltoft, several bronze-age burial mounds and the nationally famous Molbo stories that make gentle fun of the inhabitants of Mols.

Mols Bjerger National Park offers adventures that will make for a memorable holiday. You can combine your adventures with museum visits, shopping for local crafts and foods, as well as with carefree days of swimming and walking barefoot along the beach.

Welcome to Mols Bjerger National Park.

Where the ice once stopped

Enormous forces of gigantic ice tongues and massive volumes of water created the landscape of Mols Bjerge National Park over a period of millions of years. For the past 2.5 million years, cold glacial periods have interchanged with warmer interglacial periods. During the glacial periods, the ice sheets in the Scandinavian highlands grew and extended to lower-lying areas such as Denmark. At one point the ice stopped its advance at what today is the National Park.

At the end of the last glacial period (called the Weichselian), the ice sheet extended from north-east all the way to central Jutland. An impressive ice front towered on top of the Helgenæs peninsular, Mols Bjerge and the town of Rønde.

Along the ice fringe were hills, called terminal moraines, which were formed from the debris that had been pushed in front of the advancing Ice. Remnants of these hills can be seen as NE-SW elongated hills in the landscape in Mols Bjerge.

About 18,000 years ago, the ice returned, initially passing Denmark by, but then arriving again; this time from the south-east rather than the north. This ice advance from the Baltic left its mark on the landscape in the form of the characteristic terminal moraines that curve around the inlets of Kalø and Ebeltoft today.

The ice also left behind numerous rocks. These are rocks that tell a fascinating tale about how they arrived here from near and far. Kinne-diabases, rhomb-porphyrries and larvikites from the north and the north-east. Baltic Sea



Chert and limestone from northern Djursland.



Larvikite, rhomb porphyry and Kinne-diabase from Norway and Sweden.



quartz-porphyrries and sandstone from the east and the south-east, as well as limestone from the northern part of Djursland. The ice retreat was also a violent process. Huge blocks of ice broke off and became dead ice which took millennia to melt. They formed depressions in the terrain known as kettle holes, an example of which is Tinghulen in Mols Bjerger.



Sandstone and Baltic Sea quartz-porphyrries from east and south-east of Denmark.

The weight of the kilometre-thick ice sheet was massive; and the enormous amounts of water were unfathomable. About 8,000 years ago during the Stone Age, the sea was three to four metres above today's level, and cut huge fjords and inlets into the land. However, once rid of the weight of the ice, the land rose again and the sea level dropped, resulting in the coastline we know today. Mols Bjerger National Park contains many former coastal cliffs inland that can be recognised on their flat foreland. The land beneath us is still rebounding from the pressure of the ice.



Coastal cliff near Ebeltoft Ferry Harbour.

Red kite soaring

A red kite hovers far above the grazing cattle in Mols Bjerger. It ascends on winds above the coast where the cormorants stand as pitch-black silhouettes against the glass-like water. It glides across the beach forest out towards Kalø Castle Ruins. Nature at Mols Bjerger National Park is extremely diverse.

The EU has composed a list of about 200 conservation-worthy natural habitat types; habitats that are home to plant and animal wildlife. About 60 of these habitat types are represented in Denmark, and no less than 40 of them can be found in Mols Bjerger National Park. Denmark has designated specific natural areas as best examples of areas worthy of conservation. These areas account for no less than 35 per cent of the area of Mols Bjerger National Park. The hills known as Mols Bjerger constitute a large continuous habitat site, including open grasslands and nutrient-poor

soils which allow space for rare plants, insects and spiders.

A warm spot at the forest's edge is the only place in Jutland you can see the crested cow-wheat, dressed in its reddish-yellow attire; the charpentier grasshopper industriously laying its eggs in the sandy hills; and the beautiful silver-studded blue butterfly fluttering by on your walk. There are also other wildlife habitats, for example near Kalø and Stubbe Sø (lake) and including marine and coastal areas, and far above them all, the red kite soars with its characteristic forked tale.

The red kite is growing in numbers and has several breeding places, along with the about 100 other bird species represented, many of which are few in number or even rare, such as the white-tailed eagle, the honey buzzard, the red-backed shrike and the wood lark. Use and enjoy nature- but take care of it as well.

Learn about the red kite:

An elegant bird of prey. It has a narrow forked tale and long narrow wings. It feeds on almost anything, including amphibians, reptiles, small rodents and birds - and even carrion. It prefers to breed in areas with cultivated soil and copses. It builds its nest in tall trees and hunts for food in the open land. It was previously a common breeding bird in Denmark, however it disappeared and did not return until the 1970s. There are now more than 100 breeding pairs in Denmark today.



Crested cow-wheat



Red kite

A display of power

The mist lifts from the inlet to reveal the red ruins of a distant past. Kalø Castle Ruins are the most popular attraction in Mols Bjerger National Park. This is perhaps because of the dramatic history linked to the about 700-year-old castle. It began with a peasants' revolt, which led King Erik Menved to have four castles built in Jutland, the largest of which was Kalø. The King forced the defeated peasants to build the castle, which served as the perfect vantage point from which to keep an eye on the local population. This was indeed a display of power.

But the King also had the power to do good. In the year 1301, the town of Ebeltoft was granted a municipal charter by King Erik Menved. Cobblestone roads, half-timbered buildings and peonies fit nicely with the nationally renowned town hall, The Old Town Hall, which looks so miniaturesque that it

might have stood in Gulliver's Lilliput. The National Park is rich in cultural history. Here are dolmens, passage graves and stately Bronze Age mounds, where you can stand on top of ancient secrets that the archaeologists have yet to excavate.

The more than 300-year-old ridge and furrow fields pay witness to the technological evolution that has taken place within agriculture. Large plantations stand green on the meagre soils. It was the Danish Land Development Service that took the lead in recovering arable land to replace what was lost when Denmark lost Slesvig in 1864. The National Park also boasts a town called Femmøller (five mills), which used to hold five mills.

There are churches with artworks from then and now. Furthermore, the region is rich in popular tales of dramatic everyday life as well as more exotic stories, e.g. about outlawed counterfeiters on the island of Hjelm.

Last but not least there are the Molbo stories that make gentle fun of the inhabitants of Mols. Welcome to a time travel in Danish cultural history, from the most distant past and up to today.

Learn about the town of Ebeltoft:

Oddly enough, times of hardship are the reason Ebeltoft today has a beautifully preserved town centre, which exerts an almost magnetic force on tourists. The town is an old seaport. It was granted a municipal charter in 1301 by King Erik Menved. Ebeltoft quickly outgrew the seaport of Dråby, where the port later sanded up. Wars, looting and the plague came and went, but the town also enjoyed good times. After 1870, Ebeltoft lost pace with development, and progress came to a halt. Not until tourists started to show interest in the town in the 1930s, and 1960s in particular, did the lack of a more modern city centre turn into an asset.



With a guide in your pocket

The wind tears at your clothes as you ascend the hill of Trehøje. A lone cyclist pedals by. A birdwatcher looks out from a hide tower. There is ample opportunity to enjoy recreational activities in Mols Bjerge National Park, and we are constantly working to offer new and improved opportunity for recreation. For example, you can go on a tour with your own guide in your pocket.

We have designed a Mols Bjerge National Park mobile app, which is available via App Store or Google Play. Or you can scan the QR code here. This app will suggest a number of tours and routes in the National Park- on foot, by bike, on horseback or behind the wheel. The app also includes information about the length, degree of difficulty of tours, as well as the attractions along the way. You can also do a quiz, go treasure hunting or collect points to earn medals, and the GPS function will always tell you where you are.

The Park has a network of cycle paths that was recently expanded with a path through Mols Bjerge. The coastline offers opportunities for bathing, diving, kayaking and fishing, as well as kite-surfing and windsurfing. The undulating glacial landscape is a popular destination for mountain bikers, ultra-runners and paragliders. Only the imagination, and respect for nature and traffic regulations set the limits for the recreational activities offered by the Park. Please read through the rules on the back page.



Snorkelling



Learning about nature



Biking

Strandkærgårdene, Mols Bjerger



Learn about Mols Bjerge National Park:

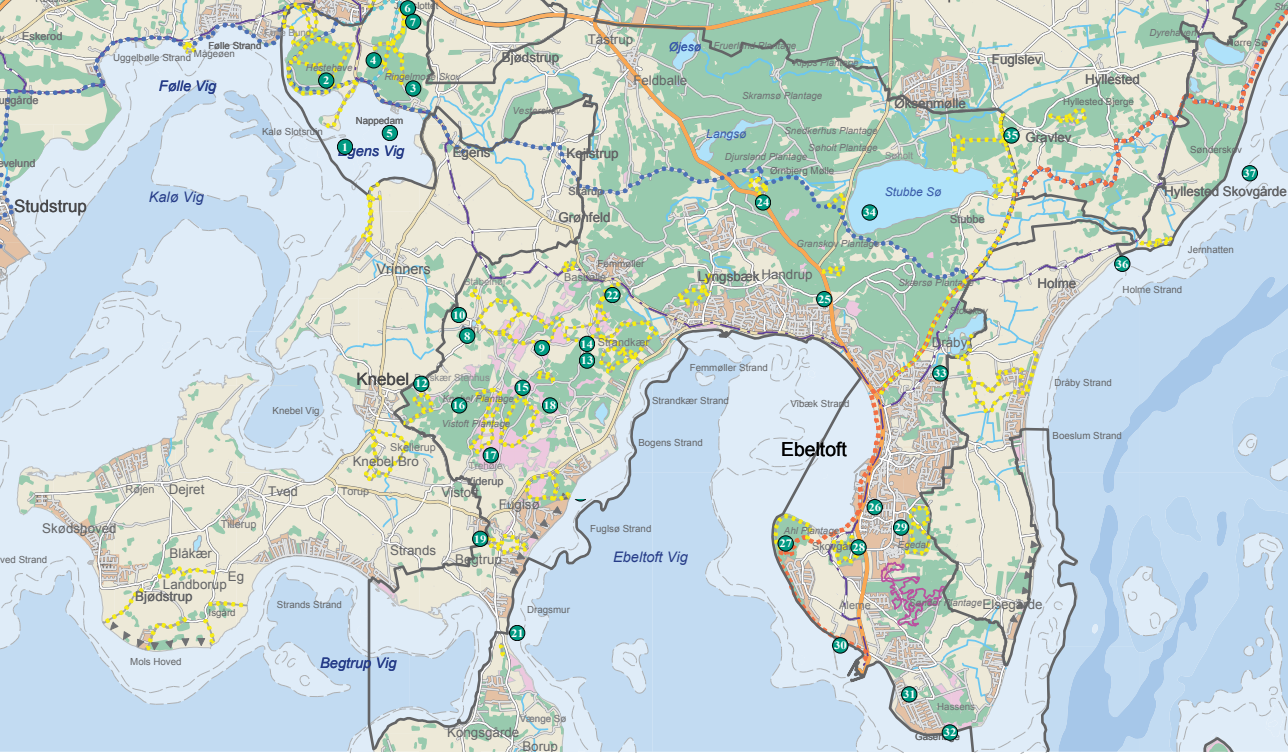
The National Park was inaugurated on 29 August 2009 by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II. Thy National Park was the first national park to be designated in Denmark.

The Wadden Sea National Park is the most recent and was inaugurated in 2010. Denmark therefore today has three national parks.

The objective of the national parks is to conserve and enhance nature as well as landscape and geological and heritage values. Furthermore, the objective is to enhance possibilities for outdoor recreation, nature and heritage experience, as well as research and teaching. Finally, they aim to support local sustainable development, including business development.

Kalø Castle Ruins	Page14
Hestehave Skov	16
Ringelmosé Skov	16
Bregnet Church	17
Nappedam	17
Visitors Center Karlsladen	18
Jagtslottet	18
Agri Bavnehøj	20
Aarhus Plantage	21
Stabelhøjene	21
Naturcenter Syddjurs	22
Porskær Stenhus	23
Molslaboratoriet	23
Visitors Center Øvre Strandkær	24
Tremosegård	24
Tinghulen	25
Trehøje	26
Skovbjerg	26
DGI Karpenhøj	28

Fuglsø Strand	Page 30
Dragsmur	31
Femmøller By	32
Egil Fischer's holiday village.....	33
Ørnbjerg Mølle	34
Egsmark Plantage	35
Ebeltoft Town.....	36
Ahl Hage	38
Tolløkke Skov	38
Bjørndal / Egedal Skovene	39
Dråby Church.....	39
Ebeltoft Ferry Harbour.....	40
Gåsehage	41
Øer Havn	41
Stubbe Sø	43
Gravlevstien	45
Jernhatten	45
Rugård Klint.....	47
Passage and use	48



- 1 Kalø Slotsruin
- 2 Hestehave Skov
- 3 Ringelmose Skov
- 4 Bregnet Kirke
- 5 Nappedam Lystbådehavn
- 6 Besøgscenter Karlsladen
- 7 Jagtslottet
- 8 Agri Bavnehøj
- 9 Aarhus Plantage
- 10 Stabelhøjene
- 11 Naturcenter Syddjurs
- 12 Porskær Stenhus
- 13 Molslaboratoriet
- 14 Besøgscenter Øvre Strandkær
- 15 Tremosegård
- 16 Tinghulen
- 17 Trehøje
- 18 Skovbjerg
- 19 DGI Karpenhøj
- 20 Fuglsø Strand
- 21 Dragsmur
- 22 Femmøller By
- 23 Egil Fichers Ferieby
- 24 Ørnbjerg Mølle
- 25 Egsmark Plantage
- 26 Ebeltøft og omegn
- 27 Ahl Hage
- 28 Tolløkke Skov
- 29 Bjørnkær/Egedal Skov
- 30 Ebeltøft Færgenhavn
- 31 Gåsehage og Hassensør
- 32 Øer Havn
- 33 Dråby Kirke
- 34 Stubbe Sø
- 35 Gravlevstien
- 36 Jernhatten
- 37 Rugård Klint

Kalø Castle Ruins

As you travel the half-kilometre distance along the dam to Kalø Castle Ruins you are also travelling 700 years back in time. Arriving at the end of the longest medieval road in Denmark, which was constructed at the same time as the castle, you can easily imagine the life that went on behind the castle walls. King Erik Menved (1274-1319) had the castle built after he had defeated a Jutland peasants' revolt in 1313.

The castle is quite modern, e.g. with a flanking tower; the first of its kind in Denmark. Kalø Castle was impressive and nearly impregnable. However, in reality, the castle was built to keep domestic enemies under control, i.e. peasants led by noblemen; the selfsame people the King had forced to build

the castle for him in the first place. The most famous prisoner held at the castle was Gustav Vasa, who was imprisoned here from 1518 to 1519, when he escaped. Gustav Vasa was later to become the King of Sweden. Until the introduction of an absolute monarchy in 1660, Kalø Castle served as the manor for all of Djursland. When the castle was demolished, the stones were spread throughout Denmark and reused e.g. to build Charlottenborg Palace in Copenhagen.

The forests around Kalø Vig include the forest of Hestehave, which offers a view of the castle ruins and the less well-known forest of Ringelmose on the other side of the Molsvej road. The entire area is situated beneath moraines that were formed during the Young Baltic advance. The landscape around the inlet seems almost to form an amphitheatre, with seats up on the hills near Rønde town and the inlet

and the castle ruins forming the stage. The picturesque Mols Bjerger is the backdrop. This is how author and local historian Vilfred Friberg Hansen describes the scene in his book *Kalø Slottet og Godset i 700 år* (Kalø Castle and Manor during 700 years)

Practical information: Molsvej 31. Leaflets available at car park. During school holidays, national park guides will be available here for guidance and guided tours for visitors.

Learn about Kalø's medicinal herbs.

Poison hemlock and henbane black mullein with clusters of yellow flowers. Exotic names such as hound's-tongue and catmint, motherwort and wild teasel. All are plants that were previously used as medicinal herbs. You can find them around the castle ruin, just as you may find them around most other castles, fortresses and monasteries, which used to have their own medieval herb gardens.



Kalø Castle Ruins



Hestehave Skov

A mesh-work of paths will lead you around the forest of Hestehave.

Here are coastal cliffs with crooked beech trees stretching their troll-like limbs towards Kalø Vig. These cliffs were formed during the Stone Age when the land rebounded from the pressure of the ice during the glacial period. Hesthave Skov used to belong to Kalø Gods (manor). Thyrahytten, a hunting and bathing cottage from 1905, bears witness to this. The cottage was named after Baroness Thyra von Jenisch.

To the west, a route traced with yellow dots leads on to a hide tower from which you can observe the many meadow and wading birds at Følle Bund. At the centre of the forest you will find Store Stenhøj long barrow, which has been dated to the early neolithic period (4000-2800 B.C.)

Ringelmose Skov

The water table beneath the beech is placid, but from it springs the Tobisë well. Tradition had it that water from the well could cure eye diseases. From medieval times, people travelled to the holy well on Walpurgis night; the only night the water had a healing effect.

Ringelmose Skov extends from the manor of Kalø down to the coast. The livestock from the manor would have to walk this way to reach the coastal meadows for pasture.

They were herded via Fægyden passage, the tall embankments of which prevented the cattle from running off into the woods.

See the artificial Ringelmose Dam (pond) and the memorial stone to the last of the Jenisch family at Kalø.

National park guides will be available at car park by Kalø Castle Ruins for guidance and guided tours for visitors

Bregnet Church

Once there was a hamlet here, with a Romanesque church as front row seat to oversee construction of Kalø Castle.

The current church was built in the 1400s. The modern alter-piece was painted by Danish painter Arne Haugen Sørensen.

Nappedam

From 1874-1935 ships sailed between Aarhus and Ebeltoft.

There were many small piers on Mols and Helgenæs, e.g. one called Nappedam. Beside the pier to the west is a small beach with a bathing jetty.





Karlsrudden Visitors Centre

Look above you. The old timber structure under the roof of Karlsrudden Visitors Centre is quite impressive. Karlsrudden is a part of the modern Kalø Gods (manor) near Rønne. Today, this barn serves as the Danish Nature Agency's visitors centre, housing an exhibition about the nature and culture of the area, with special emphasis on prehistoric Denmark and the history of Kalø.

The barn was designed with gates on either side so that carriages could be driven into barn to unload and then out again on the other side. Oak wood structures have been preserved in the original three storeys as they were built in 1727.

Fascinatingly, there is a straight line from the castle ruins by the inlet to the manor near Rønne. This link is obvious. The manor was established as farm buildings for Kalø Castle. Kalø was transferred to the King's bastard

son, Ulrik Frederik Gyldenløve, in 1661. It was during Gyldenløve's possession that the run-down castle fell to ruin.

The most renowned period in the history of the manor came after 1825, when the manor came in the possession of the Holstein von Jenisch family. After the German occupation of Denmark in 1945, the manor was confiscated by the Danish State because of the family's affiliation with Germany.

Jagtslottet

From the stone bench at the back of Jagtslottet (the hunting lodge) is a view of the Ringelmose forest and Kalø Castle Ruins. This is the perfect starting point for a hike followed by a rest and a hot drink on the bench.

The lodge is on the side of the road opposite Karlsrudden Visitors Centre. It was built in 1898-99 for Martin Johan Jenisch, when he

visited from Germany with his family, guests and servants. The architect behind the lodge was the famous Hack Kampmann, who collaborated with painter and interior decorator Carl Hansen Reistrup.

They collaborated on several other famous buildings in Denmark, such as Marselisborg Palace and Aarhus Theatre in Aarhus.

Today, the Jagtslottet is home to the Mols Bjerger National Park Secretariat.

Karlsladen Visitors Centre and the Jagtslottet:
Car park on Grenåvej 14, 8410 Rønde.
Karlsladen Visitors Centre is open daily from 9:00 am- 9:00 pm. Free entrance.
Jagtslottet can be visited if any of the National Park Secretariat staff is at work in the building.



Learn about the Jagtslottet in the postwar years:

A national Danish newspaper on 26 December 1946 stated: “No hostility towards the Jenisch family to be felt”. Such were the words of the newspaper’s correspondent for the area, Eric Boesgaard.

The Second World War had come to an end. The German Jenisch family was popular among the local population, however the Danish State did not hesitate to act. Denmark’s claim for war reparations was DKK 11.6 billion, so German-owned properties were confiscated.

The Jenisch family had owned the castle since 1825.

MOLS COUNTRY

Agri Bavnehøj

A skylark sings from the highest point at Mols Bjerger, Agri Bavnehøj (beacon), situated 137 meters above sea level.

From here you overlook an undulating dead-ice topography, Trehøje with its three humps, and Tirstrup Hedeslette (outwash plain) with dense conifer stands growing where meltwater from the ice once deposited large quantities of sand and gravel.

In ancient times, Agri Bavnehøj was where a bonfire was lighted to warn of approaching enemies. Later the hill became important in connection with land surveying.

The monument at the top of the hill served as a measuring station and trig point; an instrument with an arrow pointing to points on the horizon such as the Cathedral of Aar-
20

hus 21.8 kilometres away. At the foot of Agri Bavnehøj is a sheltered picnic area.

Practical Information: Car park on Agri Bavnehøjvej, Agri, 8420 Knebel.

Learn about the adder:

The only venomous snake in Scandinavia. Most adders have a zigzag pattern on their backs. They are easy to tell apart from the grass snake which has whitish yellow spots on the back of its head.

The population of adders has fallen considerably. Protected since 1981. Typical habitats include heaths, dunes and nutrient-poor bogs. The adder waits for its prey or follows a scent trail, e.g. of mice.



Adder



Aarhus Plantage

The walk along the road from Strandkær to Agri will bring you past several pronounced kettle holes. This is where impressive blocks of dead ice ripped off from glaciers lay buried in sand and gravel while slowly melting over several millennia. Large parts of the coniferous forest growth in the plantation have been felled during recent years.

Stabelhøjene

The winds tear at the two naked hills called Stabelhøjene. The trip here is by footpaths across fields.

The hills lie in an open landscape and may not look much, but from their respective tops 133 and 135 metres above sea level, there is an amazing view.

The moraine stretches around Kalø Vig are clearly visible from up here, testifying to the

fact that the ice stopped its advance here during the most recent glacial period.

About one kilometre to the south-east is Agri Bavnehøj, the highest point in Mols Bjerge.

You are standing on top of a mystery. According to legend, these large mounds from the Bronze Age were home to subterranean spirits.

Furthermore, it is likely that these mounds also contain several graves, because it was custom to add more graves to the same mound over time.

Practical information: Car park at Stabelhøjene on Dybdalvej, Agri, 8420 Knebel

Syddjurs Nature Centre

The smell of pancakes. At Syddjurs Nature Centre, making pancakes over open fire is a popular family activity. Other popular activities include guided tours on mountain bikes and trips to shallow water coastlines to learn about shallow water wildlife.

Syddjurs Nature Centre is open several days a week offering many opportunities to experience nature. During unstaffed hours, you can still access the Centre's "sensuous garden" with an insect hotel, forest paths and sheltered bonfire place.

The Centre also offers a new activity for families, called "On the trail of Mols Bjerge National Park", with quizzes and tools to go adventure hunting as nature detectives in the area. The centre is the perfect start point for biking or hiking tours, e.g. to the protected areas around Agri Bavnehøj.

Practical information: Mols Bjergevej 8, 8400 Ebeltøft. Drinking water available at the sheltered bonfire place. More information: www.naturcentersyddjurs.dk.



Summer activities



Mols Bjerge

Porskær Stenhus

“In the name of the King and the Law, stop what you’re doing!” It is said that a stonemason from Aarhus bought the dolmen Porskær Stenhus in the 1890s. As he began to break down the dolmen to produce rock, the locals, headed by the parish bailiff from Agri, confronted him at the dolmen with these words. The dolmen was saved! Already in 1859, another local landowner planned to break down the dolmen to produce rock. This led to a local uprising and an agreement to preserve the dolmen in 1860.

Porskær Stenhus is the largest dolmen in Denmark from the Bronze Age, about 3,300 B.C. It has an 11.5-tonne cleaved capstone, the remaining half of which weighs 19 tonnes and serves as the capstone on another local dolmen named Grovlegård dyssen. Mols Bjerger became a protected area in 1994. At that time, the county bought the dolmen.

Practical Information: Poskærvej 10, 8420 Knebel.

Molslaboratoriet

Glow-worms try to outshine the moth-attracting light bulb. Only around Midsummer Day does the female glow-worm glow to attract a mate. The bulb that lures moths in the garden of Mols Laboratory, however, can be turned on year-round.

Here are picnic tables where you can enjoy a hot night-time drink while you observe the moths. Mols Laboratory, originally Nedre Strandkær farm, is owned by Aarhus Natural History Museum and serves as a field laboratory for researchers and students from universities etc.

One of Mols Bjerger’s famous routes springs from here, “The Italian Path”, named so

because of the Mediterranean vistas it offers and its tall cypress-like junipers.

Here are also year-round activities such as free guided tours. There is also the family activity kit “On the trail of Mols Bjerger National Park”, with quizzes and tools for adventures as nature detectives.

Learn about Nedre Strandkær:

Ellen Dahl, born Dinesen, sibling to the writers Thomas Dinesen and Karen Blixen, bought the Nedre Strandkær farm in 1924 from the architect Egil Fischer. In 1941, Ellen Dahl allowed the area to be listed and donated the farm and 1.5 square kilometres of land to Aarhus Natural Museum, which today is home to Mols Laboratory.

Øvre Strandkær Visitors Centre

A cow chews the cud out in the distance. At the entrance to the Danish Nature Agency's visitors centre at Mols Bjerge the landscape undulates upwards, so the cows on the hill stand above the house. The cows belong to livestock that the Agency set loose to graze the sunny grasslands.

Inside the visitors centre is an exhibition on the nature and cultural heritage of the area, e.g. its geology and animal and plant life. There is also a family activity kit called "On the trail of Mols Bjerge National Park", similar to the one at Mols Laboratory, as well as an indoor picnic area.

Øvre Strandkær Visitors Centre and Mols Laboratory: Strandkærvej, 8400 Ebeltøft. Several picnic tables. Øvre Strandkær Visitors Centre is open week days 9:00 am - 9:00 pm. Free entrance.

During school holidays, National Park guides are available at Mols Laboratory to guide visitors and give free guided tours. Read about Mols Laboratory: www.naturhistorisk-museum.dk/molslaboratoriet



Sand lizard

Tremosegård

Happy voices ascend from below. Tremosegård is a kettle hole with water at the bottom. It is a perfect spot for picnicking outdoors with shelter from the wind and weather. There is room for everyone and many picnic tables.

The outlying farm called Suder-hullet used to be here. The name was later changed to Tremosegård. The outlying farm was linked to the nearby Tøgerbo; a hamlet with small farms. Farming was hard work on these meagre soils.

Around 1900, much of the land was sold off and planted with forest, and in around 1950, the farms were abandoned altogether. Mols Bjerge is known for its well-preserved ridge and furrow landscape. This landscape tells the story of the fields that until around 1800 were ploughed by wheel ploughs.



Near Tinghulen

Tinghulen

Quiet contemplation at the edge of the 30-35 meters deep crater-like hole. Tinghulen is one of the largest dry kettle holes in Mols Bjerge. A large hump of ice lay buried here in sand and gravel after the ice retreated.

The hump of dead ice took several thousand years to melt and it created this fascinating kettle hole.

The location is a popular destination today. In previous times, it served as the court meeting place for three parishes, the borders of which met right here.

Practical information: Car park on Molsbjergevej, Mols Bjerge.

Learn about butterflies:

Group of insects rich in species. The amazing metamorphosis of the caterpillar into a butterfly has always fascinated people. Mols is one of the best places in Denmark to observe butterflies.

Glanville fritillary is one the rare species that live on dry lands rich in flora. The caterpillar overwinters in small sibling groups in their own net on the plants off which they feed.



Glanville fritillary



Trehøje

The three Bronze Age mounds Trehøje, 127 metres above sea level, offers a panorama view from Aarhus to Ebeltoft, including four inlets: Kalø, Begtrup, Knebel and Ebeltoft.

From up here you can see the National Park's border to the south west, where fertile clay once deposited by the ice means the land is intensely farmed, as opposed to the nutrient-poor sand left by the ice on the hills and on the coastline along Ebeltoft Vig.

There are around 11 additional Bronze Age mounds in the area. There are also distinct ridge and furrow fields, preserved from medieval times.

Cattle have grazed these nutrient-poor hills for many years. Sloe, rose and juniper bushes resistant to grazing dominate the

landscape even today. During the boom in agricultural cooperatives in Denmark, the hills were planted with conifers that continue to characterise the landscape today.

Several yellow-dot routes start from here.

Skovbjerg

Primeval forest. Not quite, but almost. A hike along the yellow-dot route through Skovbjerg almost brings you back to the forests of the past.

Skovbjerg has never been subject to cultivation. It contains old oak forest which grew on top of the original oak underwood .

Today, the forest is managed as natural forest to the benefit of cave-dwelling birds, insects and fungi.

Learn about Skovbjerg's memorial stone:

There is a memorial stone in Skovbjerg, which reveals some of the story behind the conservation of Mols Bjerge as a valuable natural asset.

The A.P.Møller and Chastine McKinney Foundation sold the Skovbjerg lands to the Danish state in 1971.

The Foundation's purchase and later sale of the area to the state saved it from being developed.

The Danish state subsequently purchased and listed more land. Today, large parts of Mols Bjerge are state-owned and subject to protection.



Hiking in Mols Bjerge

DGI Karpenhøj

A kestrel hovers in the air. At the nature and outdoor learning centre DGI Karpenhøj, you may glimpse kestrels in the nest box.

The centre's land is open to the public. There are four picnic areas: Trampermosen, Sommerfuglehaven with bonfire place, Overdrevet and Skoleskoven.

There are posters with suggestions for activities; you can borrow/rent recreational equipment, including mountain bikes and sea kayaks; and there is a "sensuous garden", as well as mythological sculptures. There is also an exercise course called "The wall around Asgard".

Finally, there are many public events. Visit DGI Karpenhøj for its view of Fuglsø Strand beach, with paragliders floating above the cliffs.

Practical information: Dragsmurvej 12, 8420 Knebel. Information: www.karpenhoej.dgi.dk.

Learn about glacial striations:

Distinct parallel scour-marks across the surface of a rock may be glacial striations. These glacial grooves can occur in many different ways, but most often they are caused by moving glaciers.

The striations bear witness to the rock's journey with the ice from distant regions. The ice dragged the rock across other loose rocks and rock masses; a journey that leaves its mark. Fuglsø Strand is a good place to look for stones and rocks with glacial striations.



Paraglider above
Fuglsø Strand



Fuglsø Strand

A paraglider floats off the cliff above sun-bathing guests on the beach below. Divers snorkel out at sea, a kayak passes, while children collect pebbles along the beach.

Fuglsø Strand is a very popular destination for active people who enjoy walks or far more challenging physical activities, such as paragliding. At the same time, it is a perfect place for quite relaxation under the shelter of the impressive cliffs.

The sandy bottom soon becomes deep water. Surrounded by the ocean, hills and dry grass vegetation, grow edible sea-kale and thistle-like sea holly, but also maiden pink, orpine and harebell.

The cliffs are habitat for butterflies, grasshoppers, sand lizards and adders. There is a yellow-dot route from the coast to Store Jættehøj (hill) and onward to DGI Karpenhøj.



Out in the water is the first underwater recreation “course” to test snorkellers and swimmers e.g. playing underwater noughts and crosses. Buoys indicate the location of the underwater course, and there is an anchored float for the more playful.

Practical information: Car park on Fuglsø Strandvej, 8420 Knebel.

Dragsmur

A kayak slipping across calm water. Dragsmur is the perfect place of departure for a kayak trip along the coast. There is excellent access to the sea, and the characteristic hills and the flat salt meadows offer adventures for hikers and kayakers. Dragsmur probably got its name because the Vikings used to pull their ships across the narrow isthmus to avoid having to navigate around the Helgenæs peninsular.



Dragsmur

FEMMØLLER

Femmøller Town

From whichever direction you arrive, it is obvious that Femmøller Town (five mills town) lies in a gorge. A real mill town used to be situated here by a lively stream, the Mølleåen (mill stream), which ran through the gorge. The town was previously called Essendrup, but around 1790, Femmøller became the predominant name, even though one of the five mills had by then burned down. All five mills can be dated back to the 1500s. The mills were powered by water from the same stream, which caused problems whenever there was a lack of water. In the early 1900s, the mills ceased operation and the mill works disappeared. However, many of the buildings as well as four of the mill ponds have been preserved. The gorge opens out to a broad valley which ends down by the coast at the beach town of Femmøller Strand. From Femmøller a yellow-dot route leads on to Mols Bjerger.



Egil Fischer's holiday village

Femmøller Strand is a genuine beach town, attracting people from near and far. Mols Bjerger and Ebeltøft have always had a special attraction for people from the larger city of Aarhus some 40 kilometres to the south-west. This was also the case in the early 1900s; a period of considerable significance for the area, with holiday and scout camps springing up so that the city people could visit the countryside. It was also during this period that a seaside hotel was built at Femmøller (1909) and land was parcelled out for holiday homes in the areas closest to the coast.

Architect Egil Fischer (1878-1963) was among the people who saw opportunity in the sandy hills. In the years 1922-23, he bought the area and designed a complete holiday village with roads and avenues, land plots, green areas and a sports ground at the centre. The village stretches all the way to the water. He

planned two squares. On one of the squares, he built an inn, Molskroen, which stood complete in 1924. Around 200 houses of considerable preservation value remain in the area today, including the eight houses that Egil Fischer finished designing and building. That was all he managed to complete in the

Learn about Kirkebakken in Egil Fischer's holiday village:

Kirkebakken (church hill) at the end of the green axis in Egil Fischer's holiday village offers a beautiful view. But where is the church? It only exists on paper.

Egil Fischer planned construction of a church on Kirkebakken, but his plan was never realised. Instead, the hill is adorned by a small memorial stone with a bust. This memorial was erected by Ebeltøft Municipality after Egil Fischer's death in 1963.

20 years of construction up to the Second World War. In 1957, he donated the entire area to Ebeltøft Municipality, which sold off the individual land plots.



THE NORTHERN PLANTATIONS

Ørnbjerg Mølle

Cars rush by on the Ebeltoft-Feldballe main road. Not far from here, there is peace and quiet.

A hiking trip along the yellow-dot route runs from the lay-by on the main road to Ørnbjerg Mølle (mill) through forest plantations and past the deep ravines to the peaceful spot by the mill. A mill has stood here on the hill since the 1500s. The current building is from 1833 and was used to grain mill up to the end of the 1950s. Today, a voluntary association, Ørnbjerg Møllelaug, and the Danish Nature Agency manage the restoration and operation of the mill.

A yellow-dot route leads from the mill along the stream to the lake, Stubbe Sø. There is an exhibition by the mill. There is also a primitive camp site.

Practical information: Stubbevej 2a, 8410 Rønde.

A hand-painted sign indicates the road to the mill from the main road.



Egsmark Plantage

The view at the bottom of the planted forest Egsmark Plantage takes you by surprise. You arrive there via a path that penetrates the entire plantation. There is a bench from where you can enjoy the front-seat view of the coastal cliffs left behind in the landscape when the Stone Age sea retreated to the coastline we know today. You can also see Stubbe Sø (lake) from here.

The plantation is a reminder of the time when the Jutland heathland was planted with trees. Take a walk in woods and learn about history at the same time. The tree planting association Djurslands Plantningsforening bought Egsmark Plantage in 1929 and today they provide information about the history of the “forest planting project” in the enormous plantation. Visitors can read posters about the history of the association and signs showing the species of trees, including lodgepole pine, Korean pine, thuja, wild cherry,

Scotch pine, beech, lark and sitka spruce. QR codes are available, so that visitors can retrieve more information via their smartphone.

Practical information: The plantation is situated by the lay-by on the corner of the Ebeltoft-Feldballe main road by the turn-off to Tistrup. More information: www.egsmark-plantage.dk.



Learn about the forest planting project:

The forest planting project is an important part of Danish cultural heritage. With extensive planting of trees on meagre soils, the project has left a clear mark on the National Park.

The forest planting project prospered after Denmark's loss of Slesvig in 1864, in particular in Jutland. "What has been lost externally, must be regained internally," said the current manager of the Danish Land Development Service, E.M. Dalgas. He then set about cultivating the Danish heath.

The forest planting project gained in scope with more than a hundred local forest planting associations and districts making Denmark richer in trees and forest cover.

EBELTOFT AND ENVIRONS

Ebeltoft Town

Half-timbered buildings, hollyhocks and cobblestones. The market town of Ebeltoft is part of the National Park.

The main street in well-preserved downtown Ebeltoft is Adelgade. It runs parallel to the coast and opens out to a square at its southern end. Here stands The Old Town Hall, which is renowned far and wide. It was built in 1789 and was in use as a town hall up to 1840.

Today, it houses part of the Museum of East Jutland. Adelgade and its extensions after the square, Overgade and Nedergade, offer the best routes for discovering old buildings. Adelgade also offers speciality shops and restaurants. Jernbanegade (railroad street)

intersects with Adelgade. From 1901 to 1968, the railroad stopped at Ebeltoft.

There are several interesting museums in the town:

The Museum of East Jutland in The Old Town Hall and the building behind it, as well as Farvergården, Adelgade 15. Furthermore, Fregatten Jylland (the frigate Jutland) and Glasmuseet Ebeltoft (glass museum) are on the waterfront.

Ebeltoft boasts an authentic and lively harbour area. The area is divided into several small harbours stretching around 2.5 kilometres from the beaches to the north to the yachting harbour, Skudehavnen, to the south.

The harbour area also contains speciality shops, restaurants and cafés. There is a bathing jetty at the yacht harbour.

Learn about seaweed dykes:

There are remains of seaweed dykes built in the early 1700s along the coastal road through Ebeltoft.

The dykes were built to protect fields and vegetable gardens from flooding. They were made from layers of eelgrass with sand and gravel mixed in. The preserved parts of the dykes were listed in 1957.



Adelgade, Ebeltoft



The fishing harbour, Ebeltoft

Ahl Hage

Sand and shallow water make Ahl Hage (spit) south of Ebeltoft a popular destination for families with children.

A quiet walk on the flat spit is spiced up with the vista of Mols Bjerger across the water. A yellow-dot route will take you through the landscape along the shallow water that attracts foraging wading birds and ducks hunting for lugworms and mussels.

The flat area east of the forest includes salt meadows with large humps: the ant hills of the yellow meadow ant. These ants keep aphids as livestock. They move the aphids from plant root to plant root and milk them for honeydew. From old times, farms of the town grazed their cattle and swine on the spit.

Practical information: Car park on Ahlvej, 8400 Ebeltoft. Disabled-friendly route

Tolløkke Skov

The blooming anemones dress the forest of Tolløkke Skov.

Tolløkke Skov is an old forest which still has its original growth of mixed deciduous trees.

Here stand hundred-year-old beech trees with graffiti carved by young lovers many years ago.

The forest offers opportunities for hiking tours close to the city along a 2-kilometre yellow-dot route through a forest floor of blooming anemones.

Bjørnkjær/Egedal Skovene

Young forests Bjørnkjær/Egedal Skovene are replanted forests where the original forests had been entirely cut down in around 1690.

The forests were restored during the Second

World War in 1940-45 in connection with an unemployment project.

The forests are very popular among dogs and their owners. There is a fenced-in off-leash dog park. Furthermore, there is a 3.5-kilometre yellow-dot route through hilly terrain.

Leaflets about the history of the forests are available at the site.

Learn about the great spotted woodpecker:

Most common woodpecker species in Denmark. Strong-built, with white, red and black plumage. The male has a red spot on the back of his head, while young birds have a red crown.

When it forages, it pecks in a slow drum rhythm which is intensified when it pecks to make a nest or impress its mate. The woodpecker makes a new nest every year.



Great spotted woodpecker



Dråby Church

“The Cathedral of Mols Country”, is the popular nickname given to the small church of Dråby Kirke, which measures no more than 35 meters in length.

Draaby more or less means “the town by the isthmus”. The narrow land between Ebeltoft Vig and the Kattegat used to be much narrower, and Draaby then had easy access to the Kattegat and therefore the town grew. All the way up to the 1500s, in terms of churches,

Ebeltoft was a minor parish compared to Dråby. The oldest parts of the church building are from the 1200s.

Ebeltoft Ferry Harbour

Coastal cliffs laid bare in Mols Bjerge National Park. Northwest of Ebeltoft Ferry Harbour is a

coastal cliff that offers a glimpse back in time. Towards the bottom of the cliff is grey and brown moraine clay, which has been folded

and compressed by the last ice advance in the area.

Towards the top of the cliff, the ice has deposited brown moraine clay. Moraine deposits are typically composed of different granular sizes, from clay to stone and large rocks, which protrude from the sea-washed cliff face.

The beach contains some of the indicator stones that have travelled here from other places, where they formed part of the solid bedrock. These stones have eroded from the cliff face.

There are rhomb-porphyrries, Kinne-diabases and laurvikites from earlier ice advances from Norway and Sweden, as well as the red Baltic Sea quartz-porphyrries and sandstones from the Young Baltic advance .



Ebeltoft Ferry Harbour

Gåsehage

Black dots of cormorants against a silver sea. The southern-most tip of the Hasnæs peninsular, also known as Ebeltoft peninsular, is called Gåsehage (goose spit).

This tip of the peninsular is covered in heath areas rich on flora and insects and famous for abundant birdlife. The shallow waters around Øer Maritime Ferieby (a marine holiday village), the sluice and the Ferry Harbour are a genuine Eldorado for seabirds, wading and migratory birds. The sandpiper, the oyster-catcher and the curlew explore the shallow waters for worms and crustaceans, fluttering wings, shrill calls and long legs and beaks. During spring and autumn many migratory birds pass the area.

Common eider, sea gulls and cormorants flock around the ferry terminal. North of Øer Havn (harbour), are coastal cliffs formed by the Stone Age sea. The landscape was diffe-

rent then. The sea reached to the top of the cliffs and the beach stretched from here, past the forest and on towards the beach at Elsegårde. When the sea level fell, the water left behind sandy and nutrient-poor soil where mussels are easy to find.

The beach contains cherts and limestone that were carried here from northern Djursland, where the limestone cliffs have been laid bare.

Øer Havn

Mols Bjerger National Park stretches out into the sea, encompassing five marine areas. However, Øer Havn (harbour) was built on an artificial lake where quarrying used to take place.

It is the only harbour in Denmark that is accessed through a sluice. The sluice leads to a 700-meter fairway and a 220-meter channel.

Learn about the movements of the sand:

The beaches on either side of the Ebeltoft ferry terminal are growing. There used to be a cableway for shipping out gravel and pebbles, until the 1970s when the ferry terminal was established.

This changed the currents in the area and the sand from other cliffs along the coast now ends up here.

Here lies the modern holiday village designed by Danish architects Friis & Moltke, which stood ready for use in 1988.

The village comprises houses in small groups placed on islands in the artificial lake. It is a perfect place for a quiet walk along the water's edge.



Birdwatchers, Øer

STUBBE SØ AND ENVIRONS

Stubbe Sø

If you are lucky you might spot the white-tailed eagle in the sky above the lake Stubbe Sø. There is only poor lakeside access, however this makes the lake an undisturbed place so wildlife can be enjoyed from the large hide tower. The tower provides a view of part of the lake and environs.

Because the lake is surrounded by forest and nutrient-poor sandy soils, the water in the lake is clear and clean, and the lake is rich in water plants and fish.

Otter, white-tailed eagle, osprey and kingfisher frequent the area, accompanied by greylag geese, grebe and water rail.

Stubbe Sø is a water-filled kettle hole. When the ice of the most recent ice advance stag-

nated on top of the southern part of Djursland, it left a large section of ice where the lake is today. This ice melted slowly, leaving a depression in the landscape.

During the Stone Age, the kettle hole made up the innermost part of a small fjord which stretched from the coast south of Jernhatten to the present Stubbe Sø.

The route to the lake goes via Stubbe Søvej. You drive off immediately east of the bridge over Havmølle Å.

There is a sign saying “Stubbe Sø”. From the car park, the trip continues on foot.

After about 100 meters, an arrow points west to the hide tower. You can also take the footpath from Gravlev. It is a 30-minute, or so, trip.



Stubbe Sø

Skylark



Learn about the skylark:

Many people recognise the sentimental song of the skylark, sung from high above during the period from January to August.

However, few people will recognise its speckled, brown plumage. It is the third-most common bird in Denmark, however in many European countries its number is diminishing.

The footpath from Gravlev

Was that a giraffe? From the footpath from Gravlev (in Danish: Gravlevstien), you can catch a view of exotic savannah landscapes with animals such as giraffe, zebra, gnus and ostriches. This is because the around eight-kilometre long footpath between Ebeltoft and Gravlev passes by a zoo, Ree Park – Ebeltoft Safari. The footpath follows the former Ebeltoft-Trustrup railway. The landscape is varied, and the footpath takes you through willow marshes rich in tits and warblers, into silent halls of beeches, across open landscape and past lakes, meadows and fields featuring skylarks, lapwings, ducks and geese. The ditches have peat soil, as evidence of the former bog landscape, and to the north the footpath crosses Havmølle Å (stream) and the road, Stubbe Søvej.

Around 500 meters before Gravlev, a marked path leads away to Stubbe Sø.

Jernhatten

Jernhatten hill descends steeply down onto a white beach. An isolated hill, Jernhatten reaches 49 metres above sea level.

The ascent to the top takes you past troll-shaped beech trees, blankets of dark-green ivy and, possibly, hepatica, all the while you can enjoy the view of the island of Hjelm out in the Kattegat.

Just north and south of Jernhatten are depressions in the landscape which were covered by the sea during the Stone Age, when this landscape was very different.

The beach is a perfect starting point for snorkel trips to the “Blak” stone situated like a big tortoise shell about 150 metres from land.

The seabed here is varied with many seaweed species, such as sea lace, sweet tangle



Sandwich tern

and red algae, as well as eelgrass; the only seed plant in Danish waters.

Out in the Kattegat lies the island of Hjelm, the history of which will surely spark your imagination. The small island, which is privately owned, was the haunt of Marsk Stig and his followers.

Marsk Stig was outlawed for the murder of King Erik Klipping in 1286, an event known in Danish history as “the murder in Finnerup Lade”. He fortified Hjelm and from here he and his outlawed men ran a counterfeiting business.

Marsk Stig died in 1293. Doubt has since been thrown on his conviction for the murder. However, the story about Marsk Stig and the outlaws has fascinated many throughout time, and it has provided material for folk ballads, plays, an opera and several novels.



Hjelm, Kattegat

Learn about Kerteminde Marl:

Jernhatten consists of glacial depositions including flakes of the calcareous Kerteminde Marl. In Denmark, this marl typically lays 30 meters below sea level, but here the ice has pushed it up. The marl has its name from Kerteminde on Funen, where the ice has also pushed up deposits. Local farmers used to dig marl to spread across their fields from a small marl pit to the west.

Rugård Klint

The eye never lies. Rugård Klint (sea cliff), running along the forest called Sønderskoven, is slowly sliding, transporting lumps of green forest bed with anemones and trees towards the sea.

The landslide is particularly evident in the area known as “Hullerne” (the holes), where it stretches several hundred meters inland.

Here, the trees lean in against the centre of the landslide.

They look as if they are stretching to avoid falling over. Eventually, however, they will end up as bleached logs on the beach. The trees grow in moraine soil.

The moraine lies on top of plastic clay and it therefore slides. The cliff face reveals the dark-grey plastic clay at the bottom and the moraine layer at the top.

Most of the rocks on the beach are cherts that arrived here with ice and meltwater from northern Djursland where the limestone lies immediately below the soil surface.

You may even be lucky enough to find a 70-million-year old fossilized sea urchin.

Porpoises often hunt for small fish close to land.



Rugård Strand



NATIONALPARK MOLS BJERGE



DESTINATIONS

PASSAGE AND USE:

You should be aware that Mols Bjerge National Park includes both privately and publicly owned land, the rules for passage and use of which differ. You are a welcome guest, but in some places passage is not allowed.

The general rules for passage and use are as follows:

PUBLIC AREAS.

- Passage and use allowed day and night.

PRIVATE AREAS FROM 6.00am TO SUNSET.

- Passage and use on foot and by bike are allowed on roads and on clear paths.
- Mountain biking is only allowed where travel by ordinary bike is possible.
- Passage and use are allowed on uncultivated areas.
- Passage and use are not allowed on cultivated areas with e.g. cereals, grass, maize, or that have been ploughed or harvested.
- Passage and use on fenced-in areas are generally not allowed. If the gate is open, or if the fence has e.g. a stile, passage and use are allowed.
- Passage and use on foot are allowed on the beach.

If you are in doubt, keep to the roads and clear paths, or ask. A friendly inquiry of the landowner will often yield a positive result.

For more information about rules of access, refer to the Danish Nature Agency's guidance (in Danish) at www.naturstyrelsen.dk/Naturoplevelser/adgang.

Consider nature and landowners. Passage and use with courtesy and consideration will benefit all.

Nationalpark Mols Bjerge
Secretariat, Jagtslottet,
Grenåvej 12, 8410 Rønde
www.nationalparkmolsbjerg.dk