

GeoCenter Møns Klint

GeoCenter Møns Klint is located right by the edge of the cliff. The Center disseminates information about the nature and countryside at Møns Klint on behalf of the Danish Nature Agency through the school services, guided tours, and a large exhibition. The GeoCenter's exhibition offers many activities, with further information about the cliff. You may experience life in the chalky ocean, walk through a glacier in the ice age, participate in activities, and see the ideas of five of Denmark's best artists of what the geological creation of Møns Klint looked like. The GeoCenter is closed for the winter in the period from 1 November until Easter.

Contact the Center on telephone: +45 55 86 36 00 or by e-mail: geocenter@moensklint.dk. For more information about GeoCenter Møns Klint (in Danish) visit www.moensklint.dk.

Information

At the GeoCenter, you will also find the tourist agency for the island of Møn. Here you can search for information on other sights, staying overnight, eating places, etc. In the "Orchid" shop at the GeoCenter you can buy folders, brochures and books about the nature at Møns Klint.

Outdoor activities

At Høje Møn you can engage in many types of outdoor activities. However, please remember to consider animals, plants and other guests when travelling on the cliff and in the surrounding area! Here is an extract of your options:

- Walking routes everywhere, for instance on marked paths
- Riding on bridleways
- Biking on roads and pathways, for instance "the chalky pathway" (Kridtstien) between the camp site and the GeoCenter
- Cycling on the mountain bike route (see special folder)
- Barbecue, bonfire and play at the picnic site at Havrelukke
- Staying the night at primitive shelters and camp sites. Read below about "Activities, requiring special permits"
- Slow driving with motorised vehicles and mopeds on the large unsurfaced road through the forest Klinteskov
- If your dog is on a leash you may take it for a walk here

Activities, requiring special permits

If you are planning to do one of the following activities at Høje Møn, make sure you obtain a permit first:

- Staying the night at shelter sites south of the big cliff Storeklint and Mandemarke Haver
- Staying the night at primitive campsites at Lille Ørnebjerg
- Any type of commercial activity
- All nocturnal activities
- All orienteering races and similar
- Other activities with more than 50 participants

Submit application (in Denmark) at www.naturstyrelsen.dk. If you wish to visit the private part of the forest submit your application by e-mail to: klintholm@klintholm.dk. If you have questions, contact the Danish Nature Agency or GeoCenter Møns Klint.



Welcome to Møns Klint

Møns Klint is a unique natural area; not merely in Denmark but also in a worldwide context. This folder will provide you with general information about the cliff (Møns Klint), and the beautiful landscape of Høje Møn behind it. In addition, you will be given an overview of the many opportunities for experiencing nature's attractions. The Danish Nature Agency and GeoCenter Møns Klint wish you a pleasant tour!

Høje Møn preservation

In 1983 the whole of Møns Klint and the areas behind the cliff were listed as protected areas. The objective of preservation is to protect the great natural value of the area, and ensure that visitors have access to nature. The most tangible condition of the preservation is that you are not permitted to pick the flowers. The objective is to prevent people from picking the many rare plants.

Natura 2000

All EU Member States have identified a wide range of nature areas for special protection of rare nature types and species. Møns Klint and Høje Møn are designated as such Natura 2000 areas.

The most important nature types and species that require protection are:

- Cliffs or rocks near the coast
- Pastures and scrubland in more or less chalky soil (important orchid localities)
- Beech forests in chalky soil
- Peregrine falcons

Read more about Natura 2000 (in Danish) at www.vandognatur.dk.

WARNING - DANGER OF LANDSLIDE

Møns Klint is a piece of living nature. Landslides and rock falls may occur all over the cliff - all year round, but especially in periods of sudden thaw, during major precipitation and following long spells of drought. Accordingly, it can be extremely dangerous to walk on top of the cliff, near the edge of the cliff, and on the beach underneath the cliff. Not only is it prohibited - it can also mean great danger to your life and the life of others

- to climb on top of the cliff outside the perimeter of the stairs and pathways
- to throw rocks and other objects off the cliff

Always respect the cordoned off areas! All use of this area is at your own risk!



• Møns Klint - 53E



The Danish Ministry of the Environment owns about 510 hectares of forest and other nature areas at Høje Møn. For more information: Danish Nature Agency, Storstrøm, tel.: +45 72 54 30 00, e-mail: saf@nst.dk, www.nst.dk.

The "Nature Trails" series of leaflets covers selected nature areas. They are available at libraries, tourist information offices and at the entrances to many of the areas. See also www.nst.dk.



Danish Ministry of the Environment
Nature Agency

www.nst.dk • Tlf: +45 7254 3000



www.moensklint.dk



Danish Ministry of the Environment
Nature Agency

Møns Klint and Klintholm

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Peregrine falcon - the world's fastest animals



At Møns Klint you may be fortunate enough to see the world's fastest animal - the peregrine falcon. It lives exclusively on the birds that it catches in mid-air, often pigeons and starlings. It hunts its prey at up to 180 km/hour and strikes with massive speed. The peregrine falcon can fly more than 300 km/hour when it plummets down, making it the world's fastest animal. After having vanished from Denmark for 30 years, the peregrine falcon is again breeding at Møns Klint as one of the few places in Denmark. It uses a natural cave or point on the steep chalky cliffs facing the Baltic Sea as a nesting site. Ask GeoCenter Møns Klint about the best places to observe the bird.

Timmesøbjerg

The oldest beech trees in Denmark grow at Timmesøbjerg - some are more than 400 years old. However, Timmesøbjerg also conceals something far older. Attentive people will notice an embankment on the north and

western sides of "the mountain". The south and east sides are so steep that historically they have acted as defensive mounds without the need to make defensive mounds.

Timmesøbjerg is assumed to have been a place of refuge from the last part of the Iron Age; 400 to 800 years AD - the period also known as the Era of the Great Migration. At this time, tribes travelled around Europe, and on route they often went on expeditions. When strangers arrived from the Baltic Sea, people at the east side of the island of Møn were likely to have sought refuge at Timmesøbjerg.



Orchids/flowers

Møns Klint is one of the best places in Denmark to experience the greatest variety of plants. Out of Denmark's about 45 wild types of orchids you can enjoy the sight of 18 different ones right here. The high content of limestone in the soil is the reason why today you can see these fascinating and often beautiful plants in this area. They are mostly found on the pastures Høvblege and Jydelejet as well as the Klinteskov forest. All plants at

Møns Klint are protected. You are not allowed to pick or dig up the plants. Just enjoy the sight of the orchids and all the other rare plants. Several folders and pamphlets about orchids on the island of Møn have been published. These can be acquired from GeoCenter Møns Klint.



Black-spotted blue butterfly

Høvblege is the only place in Denmark where you might catch sight of the black-spotted blue butterfly. This butterfly is extremely fastidious about its choice of habitat, and is therefore extinct in the rest of Denmark. The female deposits its eggs on herbs; either thyme or marjoram. The eggs hatch and the caterpillar feeds off the plant's small buds for the first few weeks. The caterpillar subsequently falls to the ground. Here it lies in wait for a red ant to find it. The caterpillar releases a scent to lure the ants to take it to the anthill. Here the caterpillar is left alone because it releases a sugary juice from the hind part of its body. It sucks up the ants in the same way as it does with green-flies. The caterpillar will live in the anthill through the remainder of the summer, autumn, winter and spring, getting fat on the ants and the ants' own caterpillars. In the end, it will pass into the chrysalis stage and crawl out of the anthill in July as an adult butterfly. It now has just a very short time to swarm, mate, deposit its eggs and die before life goes on to the next generation.

Geology

About 70 million years ago, Denmark was covered by the ocean. The ocean was lukewarm and many different animals and microscopic algae lived in the water. Many of the algae had a shell of limestone. Throughout millions of years the shells were deposited to a thick layer of chalk on the bottom of the ocean. For the next many years life in the chalky ocean waned, the dinosaurs became extinct, the continents were raised, and mountains emerged. The ancient chalky ocean floor was raised above sea level before the last ice age reached Denmark about 12,000 years ago. The ice that covered Denmark during the last ice age peeled off enormous flakes of the ancient chalky ocean floor. The flakes were up to 50 metres thick and were folded and pushed together, and through these a gigantic multiple collision formed Høje Møn. In the chalky layers there were black strips of flint stones. These strips indicate how the layers were folded under the enormous pressure of the ice.

After the ice melted away, there have been larger or smaller collapses and landslide, forming the cliff as we know it today. On average about 2-4 cm of the cliff will vanish every year, resulting in complete erosion of all of Høje Møn in about 50,000 years.

Fossils

The chalk on Møns Klint is ancient skeleton remains from life in the ocean about 70 million years ago. The ocean was inhabited by cuttlefish, sea urchins, mussels, algae and many other animals. Many of the species are now extinct, but in the chalk and on the beach, you may find fossilized remains of the animal life from 70 million years ago. The most common finds include belemnites and sea urchins.

Belemnites are part of the back shell of a cuttlefish. Sea urchins are typically found with body and spikes separated. Most fossils are found in chalk, but they also occur in flint.

Landslides

Møns Klint is a dynamic costal area which is affected by wind and weather all year round. All the Danish coasts are constantly transforming, and are exposed to the forces and erosion of the ocean. This also applies to Møns Klint. Landslides are often triggered after large rainfall or because of frost erosion. At Møns Klint the highest probability of landslide is in the winter and spring months. However, landslides may occur all year round. Cliff collapses occur either when blocks of chalk are loosened and fall, or when large quantities of rainwater wash mud, clay, chalk etc. out into the ocean. Both types of collapse occur annually in smaller quantities and every few years there are major collapses.

In January 2007, the point Store Taler fell into the ocean and created a peninsula jutting more than 300 metres into the ocean. A collapse of such magnitude does not occur very often, whereas smaller collapses falling 30 or 50 metres into the water are not unusual. The peninsulas formed through cliff collapses are washed away by the waves of the ocean and the current. As always in nature, walking along the cliff is at your own risk. Therefore, use your common sense and enjoy this spectacular world-class natural phenomenon.



Walking routes

1 Liselund Park, 2.5 km

Liselund Park is a romantic garden from the end of 17th century. It was designed by Antoine de la Calmette as a token of his love for his wife, Lisa. You can sense a special atmosphere in Liselund Park. The specially refined way of laying out the garden was popular in the end of the 17th century: the fine lines, the lakes, the exotic trees, the little buildings. It is an utterly organised garden; in stark contrast to the more wild countryside at Møns Klint. Take a walk around the park, and go down to the Skriver Søen lake, up towards Kragehøj and back to the park again. If you have time, you can take the beach tour down the stairs through the canyon Djævlekloften. You can also take a conducted tour of the old manor house of Liselund Slot. On the back of the building you can find information about time and prices.

For more information (in Danish) visit www.natmus.dk/sw21310.asp or read one of the many books about Liselund.

2 Jydelejet, 3.3 km

Jydelejet north of Klinteskov is a soft and rounded valley, and with scattered groups of beech, juniper berries and other bushes it cuts through the landscape behind the cliff. Cattle have cropped the area for centuries, and thus removed nutrition and only added some again sporadically. The chalk is found right beneath the surface of the earth, meaning that there are a large number of rare plants here, e.g. orchids. Walking through Jydelejet to the edge of the cliff is a wonderful route.

Take a walk south along the edge of the cliff and enjoy a grand view from Lille Taler and the remains of Store Taler which collapsed into the ocean in January 2007. Follow the pathway past Hylledals Slugt where each year impressive quantities of clay, sand and chalk are washed away with the rain along the narrow canyon facing the beach. The walk through Klinteskov gives you the peace and quiet to absorb all these impressions. The highest point on Møn is Aborrebjerg, 143 m above the ocean. Here you can really appreciate the view. You might be fortunate enough to see all the way to Stevns in the north, and the bridges Farøbroerne and Mønsbroen to the west.

3 Havrelukke, 3.0 km

All that Møns Klint is known for can be experienced on the Havrelukke tour: the forest, the pasture, the cliff, the historical monuments, the profusion of flowers, the bird life and the tranquillity.

Begin your tour at the Havrelukke picnic site and walk down through the Grimsdalen valley. The forest here is unspoiled. Many dead trees stand or lie and are habitats for insects, moss and fungi. Already when reaching the open pastures at Havrelukke, and also in Grimsdalen, the soil is chalky, and thus fertile for rare flora such as many orchids. The cliff at Sandskredsfaldet is not as steep as many other places at Møns Klint. However, you should be able to find a place with a good view where you can sit down and enjoy life - and maybe watch the peregrine falcon fly past.

When you reach Svantestenen you might wonder about how this huge stone landed here. Legend says that a Swedish sorceress was furious that Christianity was spreading in the north, and she therefore took a Swedish granite stone, and with her garter, she catapulted it all the way to the church of Magleby. The stone hit the church tower, fell back and landed in the Klinteskov forest. And that's a true story...

4 Møns Klint, northern circular walk, 2.7 km

Take a walk up north from GeoCenter Møns Klint to visit the highest viewpoint of the cliff with its 128 meters almost perpendicular drop down to the beach. Previously the edge of the cliff formed a cutting like a chair. Legend says that the queen of the Cliff King would sit there and survey the ocean whenever the Cliff King sailed on expeditions - giving it the name Dronningestolen (the queen's chair). Continue up north a few hundred metres until you reach "Forchhammers Pynt". The view from up here is spectacular. In the north you will see the folds of chalk in the flint layers as proof of the upward thrust of the cliff during the ice age.

Walk 100 metres north and look at the face of Cliff King profiled in the cliff - 10 metres high. On your way up the stairs to Røde Udfald, enjoy the forest and the many marvellous viewpoints. On your way back to the beach under the cliff you will be walking on great banks of alluvial flint stone. These have all washed off the cliff through time and are now transported by the water and current north around the island of Møn. On the beach you will have an obvious opportunity to look for fossils and various stones.

5 Møns Klint, southern circular walk, 2.3 km

If you wish to see a little more of Møns Klint on top as well as on the beach, taking a walk past Gråryg is a grand idea. From GeoCenter you walk south up the cliff path, past the remains of Freuchens Pynt, which fell into the ocean in 1998. Once you reach Sandfaldet and Sommerspirspynten, enjoy the view, the grandeur and the tranquillity before you continue on your way. Sommerspiret fell into the ocean in 1988 but the point is still worth noticing as the peregrine falcons often sit here and keep look-out.

On the beach between stairways of Grårygtrappen and Maglevandstrappen there are parts with flint stone, mixed erratic boulders, fossils and sandy beaches. Make sure you have enough time to look for fossils, enjoy the view and climb the stairs with 468 and 494 steps, respectively.

6 The estate Klintholm Gods and Klinteskov, 9.0 km

The tour around the private part of Klinteskov stretches far, and is filled with major natural and cultural sights. You may choose to shorten the tour by cutting across. See the map.

The tour around Klinteskov is characterised by varying forests of deciduous and coniferous trees. The hard terrain always provides for new adventures, and there is ample opportunity to study the profusion of flowers and bird life.

Remember that in the private forest you are only permitted to travel on roads and pathways! And only from 6 a.m. until sunset.

Klintholm Gods has been in the possession of the Scavenius family since 1798. Also Møns Klint and the eastern part of Klinteskov belonged to Klintholm Gods until the area was sold to the state in 1980.

7 Høvblege, 2.2 km

Høvblege is a wonderful area for anyone who appreciates flowers and butterflies. On the sunny southern slopes, the chalk is close to the surface of the earth. This means that you can find the most diverse and rare plants in Denmark, including orchids. The black-spotted blue butterfly lives here - the only place in Denmark.

Take the walk north from the car park. At the top you can enjoy the view of the Baltic Sea. Continue on through the gate in the fence and give yourself plenty of time. During spring and summer, orchids and a multitude of other beautiful flowers blossom. Enjoy the close atmosphere between the old mulberry bushes on the tour past Kongens Køkken and up to Kongsbjerg, which at 135 metres above the ocean offers a formidable view.

Kridtstien

Cycling and hiking paths between Camping Møns Klint and GeoCenter Møns Klint provide for a pleasant trip through Klinteskov - free from cars and noise.



DANGER! LANDSLIDES!
WALKING IN THE CLIFF AREA IS AT YOUR OWN RISK.
Landslides occur mostly in winter and spring, but can occur all year round.

PROTECT the forest and its assets
BE AWARE of the risk of fire
DO NOT drop litter
DO NOT pick or dig up plants

Legend

- Public road
- Forest road, motor vehicles permitted
- Forest road, motor vehicles not permitted
- Forest path
- Bridle path
- Dikes
- Barrow
- Deciduous trees
- Coniferous trees
- Fields
- Meadow, marsh
- Commons
- Urban area, garden

Light shaded areas are privately owned. Dark shaded areas are owned by the Ministry of the Environment.

- Information
- Toilets
- Parking area
- Restaurant
- Picnic area
- Campsite with shelter
- Simple camping area
- Viewing spot
- Marked cycle routes
- Chalk path, Cycle- and walking path

