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Panoramarute

This 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.

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Cycle Route, 41 km Where Birds of Prey Rule the Skies

This cycle route lets you reach for the skies. You get a very close look at Denmark's largest migrating dune. You circle the 'the green lake', Gårdbogård Lake, which was drained of water to make room for cattle and farming.

Where the route takes you...

The route starts in Hulsig in a 'anti-clockwise' direction. This provides you with the shelter of trees on part of the route where the west wind may otherwise make cycling hard.

Hulsig - an oasis in the dune desert

Hulsig means 'damp hollow'. From the Middle Ages, the town was an oasis in a sandy dune landscape. In the old days, Hulsig and Skagen were small 'islands' cut off from their surroundings without roads or railways. Transport to and from the area was either by sea or on foot along the beach. In the 19th century, modernity came to Hulsig: first a road and then a railway to Skagen which brought tourism as a 'passenger' of progress. During the 20th century, holiday homes and hotels sprang up along the railway line. In 1894, Hulsig got its own church (1). A small detour to Kandestederne (2) and the small museum in the emergency station will give you an insight into the early history of tourism in the area.

A sky full of birds of prey

Along the route, and especially over the dunes, don't forget to look at the sky. Skagen is one of the best places in Europe for birds of prey. Migrating birds of prey follow land as far as possible before they fly out across the sea. It is not unusual to see up to 20 species on a spring day in the Skagen area. The route continues south through the plantation. You cycle along Vestkyststruten (the West Coast Route), National Route 1, which is also part of the 6000-kilometre-long North Sea Cycle and EuroVelo Routes. Thousands of cyclists from many countries cycle this route every year.

A landscape in motion

The route continues to Råbjerg Mile (3), Denmark's largest migrating dune. Enjoy the experience of walking barefoot in the fine, heavy sand. As you cycle south, through the dunes, you often see small hollows with water in the landscape. The hollows are created when the sand blows up over the dunes. These water holes are vital to both small and large animals in the often dry dunes. Maybe an eagle is circling above you - ready to pounce on a drinking animal. Råbjerg Kirke (4) (Råbjerg Church) is a small village church abandoned by its village. In the 17th century, the village became a victim of sand drift, but the church remained. The singer Aksel Schiøtz is buried here.

Facts about the route:

41 km, of which approx. 33 km paved and 8 km gravel (paths, forest tracks etc.). Effective cycling time at 16 km/h: 2 hours and 30 min. Highest point: 22 metres above sea level. Max. 1% slopes. Difficulty: easy (very few hills). Road safety: the route runs mainly along paths and roads with only light traffic. Main intersections in three places. Shortcuts/detours: the route can be shortened by following the main road from Tuen to Ålbæk and avoiding the circle around Gårdbogård Lake.

The eagle sanctuary

The route now turns west and then south to Tuen. Follow the Main Road 597 from Tuen approx. 2 km to the east to the Ørnresevatet (5) (Eagle Sanctuary) inhabited by eagles from Scandinavia, Africa, Asia and Siberia. The eagle sanctuary is internationally famous and offers a wealth of ornithological expertise.

The drained lake

From Tuen, the route runs east towards Gårdbø Sø (6) (Gårdbø Lake). 130 years ago, this was the largest lake in North Jutland. Now the lake bottom you are cycling on is some of the best arable land in Denmark. Built in 1893, Gårdbogård Gods (7) (Gårdbogård Manor) with its characteristic Dutch-inspired architecture can be found to the northeast. On these fields you may be able to make out the elevations and hollows of the Stone Age washboard landscape which is a very rare geological phenomenon and characteristic of Gårdbø Lake.

Ålbæk - animal farm and harbour atmosphere

The route continues east and north towards the edge of Ålbæk Dune Plantation. Just south of the town is Farm Fun, an animal and playground park (8). Ålbæk was originally a fishing village. Experience one of Denmark's largest ship's wharfs for wooden ships in the harbour (9) or simply enjoy the atmosphere of this popular yacht and fishing harbour. Ålbæk is also known for its excellent butchers whose delicacies can be taken down to the harbour to be enjoyed. The route continues north along the coast for the next approx. 6 km back to Hulsig along Østkyststruten (East Coast Route), which is National Cycle Route no. 5. Note the plantation. 140 years ago there was hardly no a trees here, but through the planting of mountain pine from Continental Europe shelter was created for people, animals and plants.



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Cycle paths: Naviki and OpenStreetMap

Trains (bicycles permitted)

Skagensbanen has stations/stops in Hulsig, Bunken and Ålbæk.

Bicycle hire and repairs

Bicycle hire in Skagen and Hulsig. See more at www.skagen.dk

Links

www.skagen-tourist.dk

www.eagleworld.dk (eagle sanctuary)

Toppen af Danmark 
Lysets Land

This cycle route was created in a partnership between Toppen af Danmark and the Panorama cycle project. Find out more about cycling experiences, accommodation, activities, attractions and services at www.skagen-tourist.dk.



Ålbæk Harbour

Photo: www.skagen-tourist.dk