

WELCOME TO HIKING-TRAIL AT DRÅBY

START

The hiking-trail at Dråby is a primitive trail, occasionally marked with unpainted 4by4 inch posts with yellow arrow-icons (cf. map). It starts at Dråby Beach Camping and runs (south) along the public Dråby Beach, bends 90° inland (west) and shortly after runs in agricultural field margins along a deep drainage ditch (Purbækken). Later, the trail bends 90° away from the ditch, climbing uphill towards view point at hill top (Karlsbjerg). Then it continues on to beautiful Lake Dråby. Returning to the asphalt road, it runs along Dråby Strandvej until first right hand dirt road. Catch first left hand dirt road - through summer house area, back to the beach and to the starting point (total length 9.6 km). You may shorten the trip continuing along the asphalt road back to the beach and the starting point.

Points of Interest (POI) along the tour (nos. on map):

1 DRÅBY BEACH - RISEN OUT OF THE SEA

Around 200 m inland from and parallel to the beach there are steep vegetated cliffs. In Djursland, the land has slowly risen 4.2 m relative to sealevel since the enormous weight of Iceage-glaciers melted away 12,000 yrs ago. These inland cliffs show where sea-waves eroded the old Stoneage-shores. The wide and flat beaches are sand, gravel and stones deposited by recent seas. Therefore, the beach is dry and poor in nutrients, an important precondition for the beautiful flora and fauna, rich in flowers and insects. Until recently, it was grazed by sheep, an important nature conservation measure, but chasing from many unleashed dogs unfortunately put an end to that. Therefore, trees, bushes and high weeds now establish themselves on the beach and especially on the cliffs. The sandy beach and the shallow sea bottom is an excellent place for swimming – however always mind wind, currents, water temperature, as well as own health and skills.

Follow trail marked on the map, as it is not marked along the beach.

2 BOESLUM GUNGER – AN OLD SEA FIORD

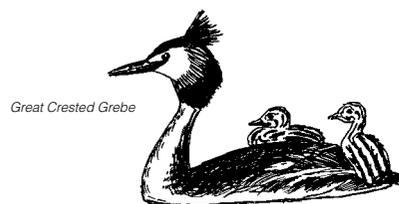
At the water pump station (small red brick building), you encounter the running water (Purbækken), which is a deep straight ditch used for draining the otherwise moist meadows (Boeslum Gunger). From here, the drainage water is pumped through a pipe to the sea. In the soil from ditch maintenance, you may often find sea mussels and snails, in particular Common Cockle and Common Periwinkle. These are several thousand years old and show the area's past as a saltwater fiord in the Stoneage-sea. Later, the fiord became a fresh water lake, where dead plant

material were deposited, gradually building growing layers of peat, and gradually elevated and became marsh land (in many places you may feel the peaty soil bouncing when you jump). In 1954, the pumping station was built to allow further drainage and agriculture. Today, the peaty soil is sinking, and before long, agriculture may not be possible anymore, and some areas are already left unfarmed. Here, there are scattered Grey Willow, Common Reed, Willowherb and other marsh plants. Often, you will see Skylark, Lapwing, Common Redshank, Oystercatcher and Grey Heron.

3 NEW DECIDUOUS HEDGEROW AND GAME MANAGEMENT

Modern hedgerows are 3-row mixed deciduous tree/bush hedgerows – here with Maple, Oak, Rowan and Ash. When digging plant holes, archaeologists found a “kitchen midden” (garbage heap) from Stoneage-hunter culture “Ertebølle-Ellerbek” (c. 4,000 BC) with plenty of sea shells, fish and game bones and flint tools. New hedgerows, ponds and coniferous plantations are established to benefit game species and show the land owner's large interest in hunting. Here, you may often see Red Deer.

!! Don't leave the trail and keep (as always on private land) dogs leashed!!



Great Crested Grebe



Look for the yellow leaflet box - here the tour starts



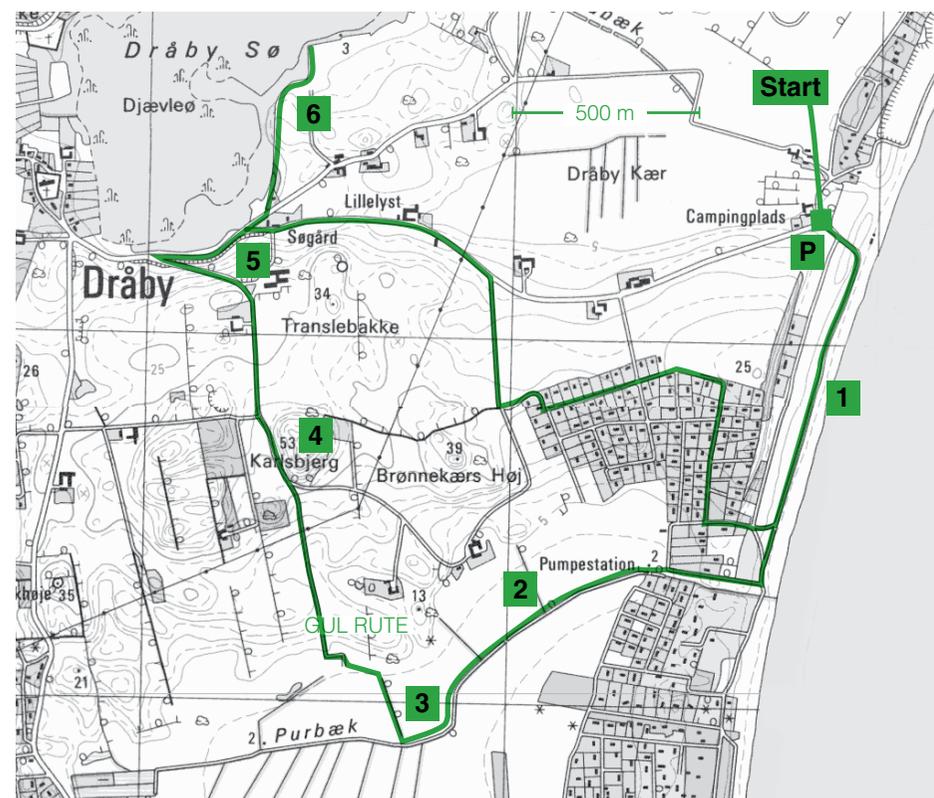
The tour is marked with yellow triangles on poles

4 RARE WILD FLOWERS AND GREAT VIEW FROM KARLSBJERG HILL

The trail passes through large fields with intensive plant production (rape and cereals). The hilltop and view point (Karlsbjerg) is the highest peak (53 m) locally. The pasture around Karlsbjerg is an old and species-rich unfertilized grassland – e.g. with the rare Peachleaved Bellflower. At the hilltop, there are two lesser Bronze Age burial mounds along with small heaps of stones being removed from previous farmlands. Nowadays, cattle are well-fed and can afford to be fussy, and cannot keep the thorny bushes (Hawthorne, Sloe and Rose) down, so flowers and insects may disappear.

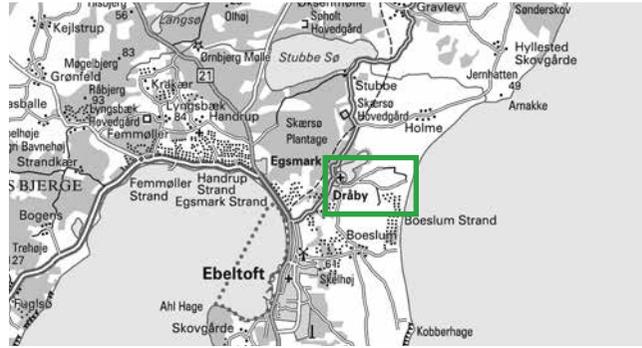
5 LAST FULL-TIME FARM IN THE AREA

The original “Søgård”-farm still lies downhill at Dråby Strandvej-road. The new “Søgård” was built after a fire in 1961, and is the last full-time professional farm in the area, based on pig and plant production. Crops are the “normal” ones (Barley, Wheat and Rape), but grassland areas are grazed by Hereford cattle. Here, farming is squeezed by Ebeltoft town, by coastal summer house development and conservation concerns in surrounding wetlands.



6 DRÅBY LAKE – AN OLD SEA PORT AND ELDER SWAMP

Until c. 1200, Dråby may have been the leading town and port in SE-Djursland, as still indicated by the strangely large church, also dedicated to Saint Nicolaus (the patron saint of sailors). The general land rise (4.5 m) since the Ice Age also “lifted” the previous Dråby Fiord out of the sea, leaving only the deeper parts as today’s lake. The path leads into an adventurous old elder swamp with scattered lake views. Previously, the elder-trees were cut down at 20-40 years’ intervals and used for timber and fire wood but, shooting vigorously from cut down trunks, the elder trees grew into forest again. Here, you may find a rich flora of forest bottom flowers, incl. European and Yellow Woodland Anemone, Herb Paris, Water Avens etc. as well as a rich bird fauna, incl. Great Crested Grebe and Western Marsh Harrier. Dråby Lake is clean with clear water and hence bottom water plants. Visitors may considerately use jetty, benches and fireplace at the lakeside.



LOCATION (CF. MAP)

The trail is located SE of Dråby, NE of Ebeltoft. From Ebeltoft you drive towards Dråby, where you turn right (pass the church) towards Dråby Beach. Dråby Strandvej-road meets the beach at Dråby Strand Camping, where you may park and find Danish leaflet-guide across from the kiosk. GPS coordinates for the starting point: 56.22184°, 10.73781°.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:



On the trail you are a visitor on the private estates of seven landowners – and are welcome on foot. Dogs must be leashed (wildlife, game and livestock). You will be safe among fenced cattle (at your own risk), but go around and not between cattle.

In the valley, the trail follows the drainage ditch Purbækken at a field crop margin. Here, the trail is only managed by trampling and, at times, you may need boots and determination to get through. Generally, the trail is not suited for smaller children, physically disabled or strollers.

The project „Trails in the Landscape“ opens marked trails all over Denmark

The project has the following partners:
 Danmarks Naturfredningsforening • Dansk Skovforening
 Friluftsrådet • Kommunernes Landsfor. • Landbrug & Fødevarer
 Landdistrikternes Fællesråd • Naturstyrelsen
 Støttet med tilskud fra tips- og lottomidler til friluftslivet

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The hiking-trail at Dråby



MAP SIGNATURES

	Hedgerow		Bank
	Railway		Path
	Road		Farm road
	Yellow route		
	Reference to explanation		



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