



# Northern Jutland

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Klitmøller Røgeri (p280)
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- » Jensens Fiskerestaurant, Sæby (p270)
- » Skagens Museum Cafe (p274)
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## Best Places to Stay

- » Villa Vendel, Løkken (p278)
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- » Aahøj, Sæby (p270)
- » Badepension Marienlund, Skagen (p273)

## Why Go?

Northern Jutland, split from the rest of Jutland by the Limfjord, will enthral you with its magnificent light and intimidate and beautiful barren landscapes of shifting sands. The region is promoted as 'Lysets Land', or the Land of Light, and if you witness the soft blue nuances by the water as day turns into night, you'll understand how the name came about (and begin to comprehend the region's appeal to artists).

But it's not just painters who flock here. Windsurfers and beach-goers make a beeline for the north the minute the weather turns kind. Families head off to the zoos, aquariums and funparks, and seafood-lovers rejoice in the fresh-off-the-boat catch.

The area's most coveted tourist destination is Skagen, at Denmark's northern tip. It's both a civilised place of chichi restaurants and art museums, and a wild place where nature calls the shots – which sums up the entire region, really.

## When to Go

Summer is prime time to visit the north. The beaches, theme parks, festivals and activities are in full swing in July and August, when accommodation prices hit their peak.

That said, Aalborg has year-round attractions, and there's some appeal to the notion of rugging up and braving the cooler weather someplace such as Skagen, where you can admire the turbulent tides and shifting sands without the summer crowds and high-season prices. Winter is better for the Danish art of *hygge* (cosiness), after all.



## Northern Jutland Highlights

- 1** Stand in the meeting place of two seas at Denmark's northernmost point, **Grenen** (p271)
- 2** Find inspiration in the treasured artworks of **Skagens Museum** (p271)
- 3** Discover the new, improved appeal of **Aalborg** (p260)
- 4** Let the wind take you places at **Klitmøller** (p280)
- 5** Step back in time on low-key **Læsø** (p269)
- 6** Loll about on lovely **Løkken beach** (p278) or **Torby Strand** (p276)
- 7** Play amid Mother Nature's sandcastles at **Rubjerg Knude** (p279) and **Råbjerg Mile** (p275)

## Aalborg

POP 103,600

Things are on the way up for Aalborg, Denmark's fourth-largest city. It sits at the narrowest point of the Limfjord (the long body of water that slices Jutland in two), and recent developments have seen the waterfront become the focal point of the town. A concerted effort has been made to rejuvenate the central industrial areas and turn neglected spaces into something far more appealing, and authorities are wooing tourists with free city bikes and a free summertime city-circle bus.

Traditionally Aalborg has flown under the traveller's radar, but that could easily change. There are enough low-key diversions here to occupy a few days for most visitors, from architecture fans to families, party animals to history buffs.

### Sights & Activities

#### Utzon Center

(www.utzoncenter.dk; Slotspladsen 4; adult/child 60kr/free; ☎10am-5pm Tue-Sun) An impressive

ARCHITECTURE

700-sq-metre design and architecture space, the Utzon Center, with its distinctive silver roofscape, sits pretty on the waterfront. It bills itself as 'a dynamic and experimental centre of culture and knowledge' and is the last building designed by celebrated Danish architect, Jørn Utzon (1918-2008). Utzon famously designed the Sydney Opera House; he grew up in Aalborg and died shortly after the eponymous centre was finished. It hosts a changing program of exhibitions on architecture, design and art; there's also a high-quality restaurant here. Note that a ticket to allows free same-day entrance to Kunsten art museum.

#### Waterfront

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The Aalborg waterfront promenade, between Limfjordsbroen and the Utzon Center, is a good example of urban regeneration, taking what was a scruffy dockside area and opening it up to locals. Here you'll find restaurants, a park, playground, basketball courts and moored boats (including an old ice-breaker) serving as restaurants and bars. One of the nicest features is the brand-new