



Southern Jutland

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

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Why Go?

Southern Jutland gets its inspiration from a few sources – from the North Sea, naturally, but also a little from the south. This is the only part of Denmark connected to mainland Europe (by a 68km-long border), and in some places you can feel the historic ties with Germany.

This is a region of salty offshore islands, understated royal palaces and character-filled historic towns, with unexpectedly modern treats in the form of edgy art and architecture, and offbeat design museums. The jewel in the crown is Ribe, the country's oldest town, and historic Denmark at its most photogenic. The islands of Als, Fanø and Rømø have clear-cut appeal for beach-going holiday-makers, and birdwatchers also love this region. The tidal rhythms of the Wadden Sea bring an abundance of feathered friends (and their fanciers). An eclectic mix of royal-watchers, castle-collectors and design-enthusiasts will also be ticking must-sees off their list.

When to Go

If it's sunshine and beaches you're after, June to August is the obvious time to join the crowds on islands such as Rømø, Fanø and Als. The region's biggest festival (Tønder Festival) farewells summer in style in late August.

Ribe charms at any time of year – December is delightful, with a Christmas market and festivities that make the atmosphere extra-*hyggelig* (cosy). The attractions of larger towns (Kolding, Esbjerg, Sønderborg, Tønder) are also year-round. Note that in spring (March to April) and autumn (mid-September to October) there's some unique bird-watching by the Wadden Sea.



Southern Jutland Highlights

- 1 Join the night-watchman on an evening walk through historic **Ribe** (p194)
- 2 Dial the cuteness factor up to 11 in fairytale **Møgeltønder** (p202)
- 3 Head from modern, Esbjerg to salty-dog **Fanø** (p191) in only 12 minutes
- 4 Envy **Kolding** (p186) its appealing mix of the old and the new
- 5 Check out the wind-driven blokarts and kitebuggies at Sønderstrand on **Rømø** (p198)
- 6 See birds 'dance' during the 'Sort Sol' in the **Wadden Sea National Park** (p198)

Kolding

POP 58,000

Kolding is an eminently likeable mid-sized town with a crowd-pleasing mix of old and new, encapsulated in one of its major drawcards, the hilltop castle Koldinghus. After a stroll through the town's old quarters, head to Trapholt to admire the modern furniture design for which Denmark is renowned.

Sights

Koldinghus

CASTLE, MUSEUM

(www.koldinghus.dk; Markdanersgade; adult/child Dkr80/free; ☉ 10am-5pm) Koldinghus is the town's extravagant showpiece, with the requisite turbulent history. A fortress occupied the land in 1268, while parts of the castle you see today can be traced to the mid-15th century. After a huge fire in 1808, the prevailing school of thought was that the castle would be left in ruins (at the time, the Danish state was at war and bankrupt). Now,