



Northern Jutland

Northern Jutland, split from the rest of Jutland by the Limfjord, will enthrall you with its magnificent light, intimidate you with its barrenly beautiful landscapes and charm you with its bluntly infectious characters. The tourist boards promote this region as 'Lysets Land', or the Land of Light, and if you have the opportunity to admire the soft blue hues by the water as day turns into night, you'll certainly understand how the name came about (and you'll begin to comprehend the appeal of the region to artists).

But it's not just artists who flock here. Windsurfers and beach-goers make a beeline for the north the minute the weather turns kind. The tourist literature makes much of the fact that this region enjoys the most hours of summer sunshine in the country thanks to its latitude (let's conveniently overlook the fact that this also means the fewest hours of daylight in winter!). So sun-lovers get their fix of vitamin D, families head off to the zoos, aquariums and fun parks, and seafood-lovers rejoice in the fresh-off-the-boat catch.

The region's 'capital' is Aalborg, Denmark's fourth-largest city and place that's flown under the traveller's radar for some time. It's worth a visit for its wealth of cultural attractions, as well as Denmark's most recognisable party street, Jomfru Ane Gade, and an abundance of great eateries. Further north is the area's most coveted tourist destination, Skagen. This treasure lies at Denmark's northern tip and acts as a magnet for most of Denmark each summer, when the town is full to capacity but still manages to charm. It's both a civilised place of upmarket restaurants and art museums, and a wild place where nature calls the shots (witness the turbulent tides of Grenen or the shifting sands of Råbjerg Mile) – which neatly sums up the entire region, really.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Standing with one foot in the seas of Kattegat and Skagerrak at Denmark's northernmost point, **Grenen** (p305)
- Finding inspiration in the artworks of **Skagens Museum** (p304)
- Discovering the culinary and cultural treasures of **Aalborg** (p294)
- Letting the wind take you places at **Klitmøller** (p313)
- Stepping back in time on low-key **Læsø** (p302)
- Lolling about on lovely **Løkken beach** (p311) or **Tornby Strand** (p309)



AALBORG

pop 100,600

We found it hard to get a handle on Aalborg, sitting at the narrowest point of the Limfjord (the long body of water that slices Jutland in two). It's Denmark's fourth-largest city but feels somehow larger, more industrial and more impersonal than Århus (strange, given that Århus is more than double its size). Aalborg has lost chunks of its historical quaintness to industrial and commercial development, although the centre contains enough ancient half-timbered buildings to give you an idea of the kind of affluence its Renaissance merchants enjoyed. Aalborg is certainly handsome in parts, but it seems to lack a city heart, and the long-awaited waterfront rejuvenation is slow in coming. Meanwhile, tourism authorities are shining the spotlight on Aalborg's 'lifestyle attractions' (shopping and dining), and indeed its restaurants are one of its best features. Sadly the accommodation doesn't match up, and the city is crying out for a swish boutique crash-pad to woo the city-breakers. All in all, Aalborg's a mixed bag but shows loads of potential. Traditionally it's been ignored by foreign travellers, but there are enough diversions here to occupy a day or two for most visitors, from families to foodies, party animals to history boffins.

Orientation

Aalborg spreads along both sides of the Limfjord, with its two halves linked by bridge and

tunnel. The business, shopping and dining hub and most traveller amenities are on the southern side, including the tourist office, about 750m north of the train and bus stations (follow Boulevarden and it becomes Østerågade).

Information

BOOKSHOPS

Arnold Busck Boghandel (✉ 98 13 21 44; Bispegade 10) Sells a wide selection of maps and guides.

EMERGENCY

Police/ambulance (✉ 112)

Police station (✉ 96 30 14 48; Jyllandsgade 27)

INTERNET ACCESS

Boombtown (✉ 98 78 09 62; Nytorv 18; per 30 min 20kr, per hr 30kr; ✉ 11am-1am Mon-Thu, 11am-8am Fri & Sat, 8am-midnight Sun)

In-The-Matrix (✉ 98 12 20 98; JF Kennedys Plads 1F; per hr 30kr; ✉ noon-late)

Public library (✉ 99 31 43 00; Rendsburgsgade 2; admission free) Enter from Nørregade.

LAUNDRY

Laundry (cnr Christiansgade & Rantzausgade; ✉ 8am-8pm) On the southern edge of town.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Aalborg Sygehus Syd (Hospital; ✉ 99 32 11 11; Hobrovej 18-22) South of town, with a 24-hour emergency ward.

Budolfi Apotek (✉ 98 12 06 77; cnr Vesterbro & Algade; ✉ 24hr) 24-hour pharmacy.

