

THE ANHOLT LANDSCAPE

The island can be divided into three areas, each with their own type of landscape: Vesterlandet (the western land), Flakket (coastal headland) and Ørkenen ("The Desert" – dunes/heath)

VESTERLANDET

The western part mainly consists of moraine hills, which surround a damp meadow and bog area. Here, the fantastic viewpoints, the hiking opportunities, the fishing waters and the bird life are the most important attractions.

Until the mid-eighteenth century, this area was a lake, which is now partly drained with ditches, which have their outfall at Vesterstrand south of Dræthøj.

In this part of the island, the best feature is the striking views from both Nordbjerg and Sønderbjerg. In clear weather you can see both Djursland and Sweden. In the summer, many wind and kite surfers can be seen on the beaches near the harbour.

If you want to take a break from the activity for a while, take a walk around Sønderbjerg, where you can find fossils, such as belemnites and sea urchins.

There are also great opportunities, if you want to fish. The best places on the coast are by Sønderbjerg, on the north side of the harbour, and at the centre of Nordstrand.



The large sand dunes east of Indien.



Thus far and no further – the seal sanctuary has been marked.

THE SEALS

In the period 2005-2011, National Environmental Research Institute of Denmark attached satellite transmitters to 27 harbour seals. The information gathered has informed us about the seals' movement patterns, e.g. that they can dive down 60 metres and hold their breath for 15 minutes. By the lighthouse on Anholt's easternmost point, there is an observation shelter containing a telescope with a very strong zoom, so visitors have an opportunity to see the seals up close in their natural habitat.

In earlier times, the seals were an important resource for Anholt's residents. They extracted seal oil themselves for lamps and heating, and the blubber could be sold in Grenaa or traded for grain.

Today, Anholt is the only place in Denmark where the seals can be easily observed from land.

Since 1977, all Danish seals have been totally protected, and in 1982 the seal sanctuary on Anholt's eastern point (Totten) was created. As the breeding season unfortunately coincides with the tourist season, one of the sanctuary's most important functions is to ensure that the seals have peace to give birth to and nurse their young. The harbour seal and the grey seal breed at Totten.

If the seals are disturbed in this period, they flee out into sea and the young risk losing contact with their mothers and thus may die of hunger. Outside the tourist season, the seals also reside along



Sailing and summer atmosphere at Anholt Harbour.

When angling, please be aware that there is no backup on the island and that the weather changes quickly. From early May to mid-June, the garfish come close to the shore. In addition, there are good chances of catching sea trout, flounders, dabs, eels, weevers and even turbot. There is a growing interest for catching flatfish with harpoon.

In Wilhelminelyst and the surrounding, moist meadow areas west of the town, heron and geese can be seen, and nightjars and nightingales can be heard. At the harbour, you can see little auks, and there are breeding black guillemot. During spring and autumn, you may see large flocks of migratory birds from the viewpoints of Nordbjerg and Sønderbjerg.

FLAKKET

Flakket, northeast of the harbour, is an area that formed after the harbour was built 1899-1902. It consists of beach ridges, low salt marshes with reeds, small and large brackish and freshwater lakes and wetlands.

There are good chances to see seals on the beach at Flakket and along Nordstrand, except during the summer months.

East of the road towards Nordstrand, past the anchor, there are wet areas where many interesting plants can be found. These include sundew, orchids, winter green, club moss, and cranberries.

ØRKENEN

The Short Trip (Smutturen)

Ørkenen is a unique place in the Danish nature and among the most beautiful nature attractions in Denmark. The organisations Realdania, Dansk Kyst- og Naturturisme, the Danish Nature



The cement cross at Vesterstrand.

the whole length of Nordstrand, and when you walk on the beach, you often are followed by curious seals in the water.

Leave the seal pup be

You do more harm than good touching a seal lying on the beach. It can be difficult to close one's ears to a crying baby seal lying on the beach. Nevertheless, this is exactly what you have to do. Because often the seals can quite easily take care of themselves.

During breeding season, you may be fortunate to experience a seal pup on the beach. The Danish Nature Agency urges you to leave it be – it will be just fine.

Read more on seal pups on the beach on the Danish Nature Agency's website.

THE SEA TAKES, AND THE SEA GIVES

Strandings, shipwrecks and accidents at and by the sea have affected life on Anholt.

Historically, fishery and strandings have provided the residents on Anholt their livelihood. Today, tourism is the most important source of income for the island. Materials from wrecks can be seen utilised in the old Anholt houses, which are long, low timber-framed houses with mud-built walls, and many have a wood construction made from driftwood.



Ørkenen – as far as the eye can see.

Agency, and VisitDenmark have selected Ørkenen as one of the 50 Smutture, i.e. "Short Trips", in Denmark in a national guide for inspiration to nearby destinations and adventure trips – www.smutturen.dk

Ørkenen, "The Desert", has been created by materials from the moraines in the west, pushed by wind and currents and deposited on the sheltered side of the high ground, at the same time as the Stone Age sea has retreated. Thus, the landscape is ancient seabed with beach ridges and large and small inland dunes.

In the area along the bay Pakhusbugten, where there is no shelter from the west winds, the dunes have migrated northeast and thus left behind large and small wet areas, Porsemosen and Indien. East of Indien, the dunes are still migrating.

The area of Ørkenen is protected.



Red-fruited pixie cup (*Cladonia pleurota*) - one of the many lichens in Ørkenen.

The first rescue station on Anholt was started in 1878 at the lighthouse, but was closed down later, just as the rescue house in town.

Over the years, the rescue service has obtained many provisions as well as cash for the island through salvage operations, and there are many exciting stories of dramatic rescue missions.

Today, Anholt Emergency Rescue Service, Anholt RTS, is one of 21 rescue stations in the Danish Coastal Rescue Service. The station is equipped with the boats MRB 34, LRB 21, a dinghy, a rescue truck, and employs 15 persons.

Monuments tell the history

Around the island, you can find many monuments, e.g.:

The Anchor at Nordstrandvejen on the way down to Flakket was put to commemorate the many fishers and sailors who have lost their lives at sea.

The cement cross at Vesterklit towards the beach was put in memory of the daughter of doctor August Thierry and her friend. The two young girls both drowned during a swim in August 1891.

The Jutlandia monument, in a small park at Sønderstrandvejen between the town and the beach, was erected after a mine explosion, which in June 1945 killed six residents in their fishing boat, as they were about to take in tow a colleague from Bornholm with engine trouble.

The English Monument in Anholt town was erected in 1905 in the honour of the Danes who fell fighting the English in the battle on Anholt 1811 during the Napoleonic Wars.



The Church of Anholt.



The sand earwig (*Labidura riparia*) – one of the rare insects on Anholt.

Berries, plants and flowers

The landscape is an experience in itself. The scattered dunes are overgrown with marram, common juniper, sand sedge, crowberry bushes, violets, and wild pansy. In the flat open areas grow grey hair grass, sand sedge, sheep's sorrel, and heather, and they give a colourful display. The moist depressions have birch, aspen, creeping willow, heather, cross-leaved heather, bog myrtle, bog bilberry, orchids, and cranberries. On a quiet spring day, the scents are wonderful.

You can pick berries from junipers as well as crowberry, bog bilberry, cranberry bushes and a sprig of bog myrtle to flavour your home-made snaps or aquavit. Ørkenen also has wintergreen, various orchids and several species of club moss. In spring, you may see pearlwort spurrey near the airport.

Birds and insects

There are myriad butterflies, mostly grayling, fritillary and common blue. Among the rarer insects, there are sand earwigs and the early blister beetle.

Many birds breed in Ørkenen. There are colonies of lesser black-backed gulls, European herring gulls, and common gulls. Here and there also breed the great black-backed gull, common eider, tern, woodcock, tawny pipit, and whimbrel. In the seal sanctuary and in other locations, there are tern colonies with little terns, among others. Along the coasts, oyster-catchers, dunlin, gannets, and many other seabirds are seen.

At the easternmost point at the lighthouse, there is a great opportunity to see seals. It may be a tough trip to walk to the lighthouse, 2-3 hours each way, so remember drinks and suitable clothing and, not least, good footwear.



Anholt Lighthouse – built 1785-1788 and heightened 1881.

Please note:

On Anholt there are rules concerning behavior in public space and in traffic. Please read the bulletins and note the text on the boards placed around the island.

Please be aware:

- There is no access to the seal sanctuary. There is a large telescope at the foot of the lighthouse.
- The only access to 'Flakket' is along the beach.
- Always keep a distance from breeding birds and seals, particularly seal pups.
- Always bring your waste back and put it into a trash can. Cigarette butts are also waste.
- Cars, bicycles, and golf carts are not allowed in 'Ørkenen', which is protected by Naturstyrelsen, the Danish Nature Agency.
- Camping is only allowed on the designated campsite.

Fire hazard - Good advice:

- All use of open flames and fireworks is prohibited, all year round!
- A wildfire on Anholt can develop into a disaster!
- Use designated pitches at the campsite and on the harbor if you wish to grill. Gas and electric grills are allowed.
- Use tobacco, machinery, and power tools wisely – a few sparks can start a fire.
- Do not leave any kind of glass in the sun. It can ignite the dry vegetation.
- Call 1-1-2 in case of emergency.



Anholt

- an island paradise in the brisk waves of the Kattegat



The island is always worth a visit. At any time of year, nature lovers will find countless opportunities for having great experiences.

Anholt is a special island. With its 25 km long coastline, its peace and quiet and its cosy environment, it attracts guests from both Denmark and abroad. Outside of season, the island is inhabited by only 130 residents.

Most of the island is protected. That goes for Ørkenen (heath) and the little brackish lake on Flakket. Anholt has a rich animal and plant life, best-known for its colony of harbour seals.

The first thing you notice when approaching Anholt, whether by boat or plane, is the crystal-clear sea. Even where the sea is many metres deep, stones and seaweed at the bottom can easily be seen.

By day the light is remarkably bright, and at night there are vast numbers of stars in the sky.

A small island and a big gem of nature

The island has some of Denmark's best beaches. Some even say that they are the best. Even during high season when many tourists are visiting, it's easy to find a private spot on the beach that you can enjoy undisturbed.

However, Anholt is much more than sun and beach: there are also good opportunities for angling and for making memorable trips on foot and by bicycle.

Sense: the Smell – the Air – the Sea



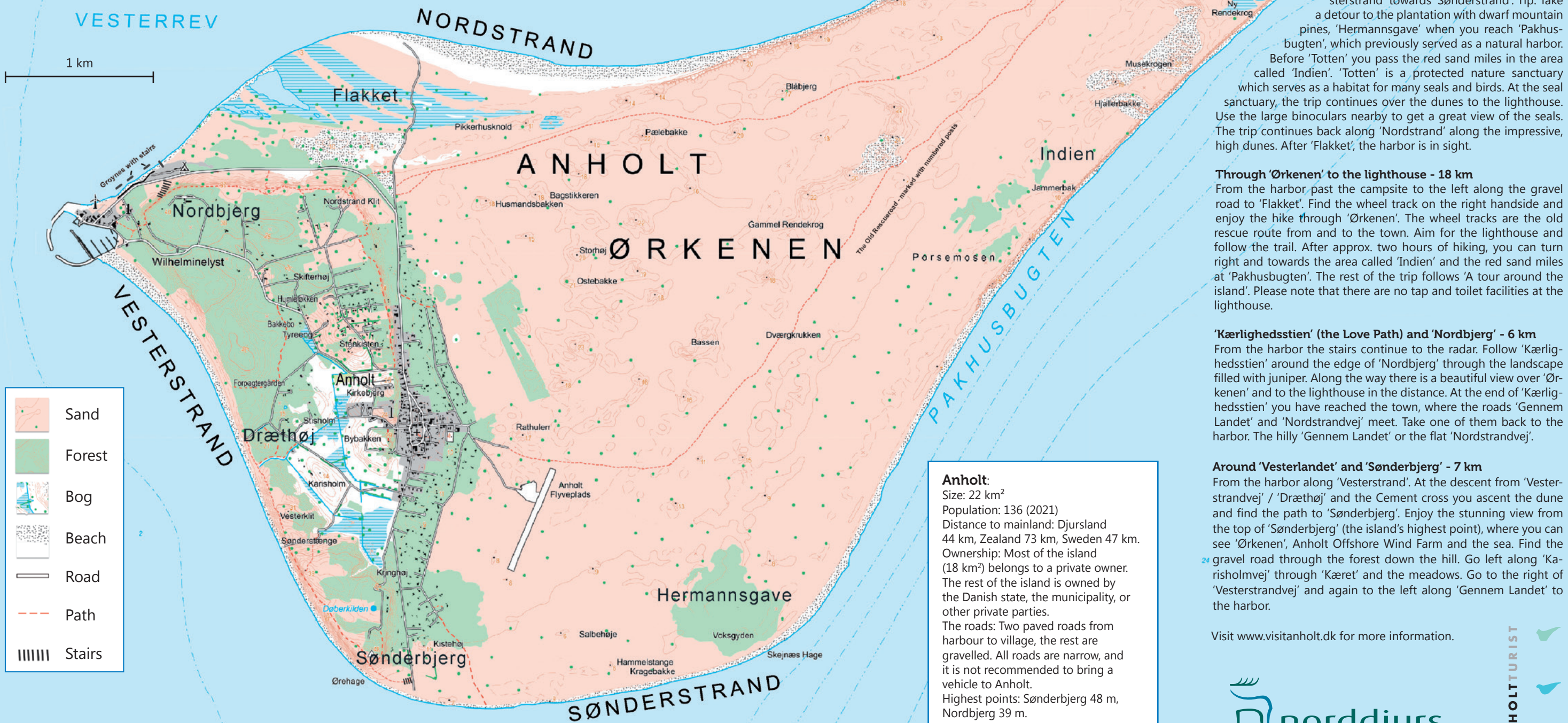
When visiting Anholt, do not miss to see:

'Ørkenen', 'Nordbjerg', 'Sønderbjerg', the lighthouse and 'Totten'. Look for seals, birds, plants, insects, mosses and lichens, rocks, fossils and much, much more. Or experience the amazing tranquility that prevails, only a short distance from the town and the harbor.

Hiking

The harbor is the starting point of all trips, but you can start the tour anywhere you want.

Bring food and plenty to drink; especially for the tours "A tour around the Island" and "Through 'Ørkenen' to the lighthouse" - there are no shopping opportunities or water tap. Remember to collect ALL your waste and bring it back. If the trips are too long, you can always turn around. The way back will often be a different experience. All trips are in sandy terrain and not suitable for prams etc. Cars, golf carts or bikes are not allowed in 'Ørkenen'.



A tour around the island - 25 km

From the harbor along the coast at 'Vesterstrand' towards 'Sønderstrand'. Tip: Take a detour to the plantation with dwarf mountain pines, 'Hermannsgave' when you reach 'Pakhusbugten', which previously served as a natural harbor. Before 'Totten' you pass the red sand miles in the area called 'Indien'. 'Totten' is a protected nature sanctuary which serves as a habitat for many seals and birds. At the seal sanctuary, the trip continues over the dunes to the lighthouse. Use the large binoculars nearby to get a great view of the seals. The trip continues back along 'Nordstrand' along the impressive, high dunes. After 'Flakket', the harbor is in sight.

Through 'Ørkenen' to the lighthouse - 18 km

From the harbor past the campsite to the left along the gravel road to 'Flakket'. Find the wheel track on the right handside and enjoy the hike through 'Ørkenen'. The wheel tracks are the old rescue route from and to the town. Aim for the lighthouse and follow the trail. After approx. two hours of hiking, you can turn right and towards the area called 'Indien' and the red sand miles at 'Pakhusbugten'. The rest of the trip follows 'A tour around the island'. Please note that there are no tap and toilet facilities at the lighthouse.

'Kærlighedsstien' (the Love Path) and 'Nordbjerg' - 6 km

From the harbor the stairs continue to the radar. Follow 'Kærlighedsstien' around the edge of 'Nordbjerg' through the landscape filled with juniper. Along the way there is a beautiful view over 'Ørkenen' and to the lighthouse in the distance. At the end of 'Kærlighedsstien' you have reached the town, where the roads 'Gennem Landet' and 'Nordstrandvej' meet. Take one of them back to the harbor. The hilly 'Gennem Landet' or the flat 'Nordstrandvej'.

Around 'Vesterlandet' and 'Sønderbjerg' - 7 km

From the harbor along 'Vesterstrand'. At the descent from 'Vesterstrandvej' / 'Dræthøj' and the Cement cross you ascent the dune and find the path to 'Sønderbjerg'. Enjoy the stunning view from the top of 'Sønderbjerg' (the island's highest point), where you can see 'Ørkenen', Anholt Offshore Wind Farm and the sea. Find the gravel road through the forest down the hill. Go left along 'Kærholmvej' through 'Kæret' and the meadows. Go to the right of 'Vesterstrandvej' and again to the left along 'Gennem Landet' to the harbor.

Anholt:

Size: 22 km²
 Population: 136 (2021)
 Distance to mainland: Djursland 44 km, Zealand 73 km, Sweden 47 km.
 Ownership: Most of the island (18 km²) belongs to a private owner. The rest of the island is owned by the Danish state, the municipality, or other private parties.
 The roads: Two paved roads from harbour to village, the rest are gravelled. All roads are narrow, and it is not recommended to bring a vehicle to Anholt.
 Highest points: Sønderbjerg 48 m, Nordbjerg 39 m.
 Position: 11° 34' E - 56° 42' N

Visit www.visitanholt.dk for more information.



ANHOLTURIST