

GeoCenter Møns Klint

GeoCenter Møns Klint is located right by the edge of the cliff. The Center disseminates information about the nature and countryside at Møns Klint on behalf of the Danish Nature Agency through the school services, guided tours, and a large exhibition. The GeoCenter's exhibition offers many activities, with further information about the cliff. You may experience life in the chalky ocean, walk through a glacier in the ice age, participate in activities, and see the ideas of five of Denmark's best artists of what the geological creation of Møns Klint looked like. The GeoCenter is closed for the winter in the period from 1 November until Easter.

Contact the Center on telephone: +45 55 86 36 00 or by e-mail: geocenter@moensklint.dk. For more information about GeoCenter Møns Klint (in Danish) visit www.moensklint.dk.

Information

At the GeoCenter, you will also find the tourist agency for the island of Møn. Here you can search for information on other sights, staying overnight, eating places, etc. In the "Orchid" shop at the GeoCenter you can buy folders, brochures and books about the nature at Møns Klint.

Outdoor activities

At Høje Møn you can engage in many types of outdoor activities. However, please remember to consider animals, plants and other guests when travelling on the cliff and in the surrounding area! Here is an extract of your options:

- Walking routes everywhere, for instance on marked paths
- Riding on bridleways
- Biking on roads and pathways, for instance "the chalky pathway" (Kridtstien) between the camp site and the GeoCenter
- Cycling on the mountain bike route (see special folder)
- Barbecue, bonfire and play at the picnic site at Havrelukke
- Staying the night at primitive shelters and camp sites. Read below about "Activities, requiring special permits"
- Slow driving with motorised vehicles and mopeds on the large unsurfaced road through the forest Klinteskov
- If your dog is on a leash you may take it for a walk here

Activities, requiring special permits

If you are planning to do one of the following activities at Høje Møn, make sure you obtain a permit first:

- Staying the night at shelter sites south of the big cliff Storeklint and Mandemarke Haver
- Staying the night at primitive campsites at Lille Ørnebjerg
- Any type of commercial activity
- All nocturnal activities
- All orienteering races and similar
- Other activities with more than 50 participants

Submit application (in Denmark) at www.naturstyrelsen.dk. If you wish to visit the private part of the forest submit your application by e-mail to: klintholm@klintholm.dk. If you have questions, contact the Danish Nature Agency or GeoCenter Møns Klint.



Welcome to Møns Klint

Møns Klint is a unique natural area; not merely in Denmark but also in a worldwide context. This folder will provide you with general information about the cliff (Møns Klint), and the beautiful landscape of Høje Møn behind it. In addition, you will be given an overview of the many opportunities for experiencing nature's attractions. The Danish Nature Agency and GeoCenter Møns Klint wish you a pleasant tour!

Høje Møn preservation

In 1983 the whole of Møns Klint and the areas behind the cliff were listed as protected areas. The objective of preservation is to protect the great natural value of the area, and ensure that visitors have access to nature. The most tangible condition of the preservation is that you are not permitted to pick the flowers. The objective is to prevent people from picking the many rare plants.

Natura 2000

All EU Member States have identified a wide range of nature areas for special protection of rare nature types and species. Møns Klint and Høje Møn are designated as such Natura 2000 areas.

The most important nature types and species that require protection are:

- Cliffs or rocks near the coast
- Pastures and scrubland in more or less chalky soil (important orchid localities)
- Beech forests in chalky soil
- Peregrine falcons

Read more about Natura 2000 (in Danish) at www.vandognatur.dk.

WARNING - DANGER OF LANDSLIDE

Møns Klint is a piece of living nature. Landslides and rock falls may occur all over the cliff - all year round, but especially in periods of sudden thaw, during major precipitation and following long spells of drought. Accordingly, it can be extremely dangerous to walk on top of the cliff, near the edge of the cliff, and on the beach underneath the cliff. Not only is it prohibited - it can also mean great danger to your life and the life of others

- to climb on top of the cliff outside the perimeter of the stairs and pathways
- to throw rocks and other objects off the cliff

Always respect the cordoned off areas! All use of this area is at your own risk!



The "Nature Trails" series of leaflets covers selected nature areas. They are available at libraries, tourist information offices and at the entrances to many of the areas. See also www.nst.dk.



www.moensklint.dk



Ministry of Environment
and Food of Denmark
Nature Agency

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Møns Klint and Klintholm



**Peregrine falcon
- the world's fastest animals**



At Møns Klint you may be fortunate enough to see the world's fastest animal - the peregrine falcon. It lives exclusively on the birds that it catches in mid-air, often pigeons and starlings. It hunts its prey at up to 180 km/hour and strikes with massive speed. The peregrine falcon can fly more than 300 km/hour when it plunges down, making it the world's fastest animal. After having vanished from Denmark for 30 years, the peregrine falcon is again breeding at Møns Klint as one of the few places in Denmark. It uses a natural cave or point on the steep chalky cliffs facing the Baltic Sea as a nesting site. Ask GeoCenter Møns Klint about the best places to observe the bird.

Timmesøbjerg

The oldest beech trees in Denmark grow at Timmesøbjerg - some are more than 400 years old. However, Timmesøbjerg also conceals something far older. Attentive people will notice an embankment on the north and

western sides of "the mountain". The south and east sides are so steep that historically they have acted as defensive mounds without the need to make defensive mounds.

Timmesøbjerg is assumed to have been a place of refuge from the last part of the Iron Age; 400 to 800 years AD - the period also known as the Era of the Great Migration. At this time, tribes travelled around Europe, and on route they often went on expeditions. When strangers arrived from the Baltic Sea, people at the east side of the island of Møn were likely to have sought refuge at Timmesøbjerg.



Orchids/flowers

Møns Klint is one of the best places in Denmark to experience the greatest variety of plants. Out of Denmark's about 45 wild types of orchids you can enjoy the sight of 18 different ones right here. The high content of limestone in the soil is the reason why today you can see these fascinating and often beautiful plants in this area. They are mostly found on the pastures Høvblege and Jydelejet as well as the Klinteskoven forest. All plants at Møns Klint are protected. You are not allowed to pick or dig up the plants. Just enjoy the sight of the orchids and all the other rare plants. Several folders and pamphlets about orchids on the island of Møn have been published. These can be acquired from GeoCenter Møns Klint.



Black-spotted blue butterfly

Høvblege is the only place in Denmark where you might catch sight of the black-spotted blue butterfly. This butterfly is extremely fastidious about its choice of habitat, and is therefore extinct in the rest of Denmark. The female deposits its eggs on herbs; either thyme or marjoram. The eggs hatch and the caterpillar feeds off the plant's small buds for the first few weeks. The caterpillar subsequently falls to the ground. Here it lies in wait for a red ant to find it. The caterpillar releases a scent to lure the ants to take it to the anthill. Here the caterpillar is left alone because it releases a sugary juice from the hind part of its body. It sucks up the ants in the same way as it does with green-flies. The caterpillar will live in the anthill through the remainder of the summer, autumn, winter and spring, getting fat on the ants and the ants' own caterpillars. In the end, it will pass into the chrysalis stage and crawl out of the anthill in July as an adult butterfly. It now has just a very short time to swarm, mate, deposit its eggs and die before life goes on to the next generation.

Geology

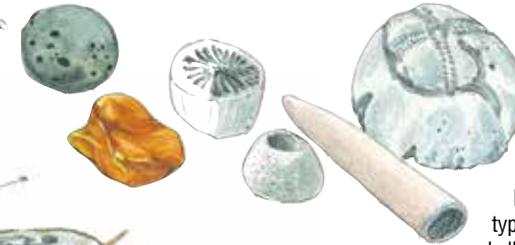
About 70 million years ago, Denmark was covered by the ocean. The ocean was lukewarm and many different animals and microscopic algae lived in the water. Many of the algae had a shell of limestone. Throughout millions of years the shells were deposited to a thick layer of chalk on the bottom of the ocean. For the next many years life in the chalky ocean waned, the dinosaurs became extinct, the continents were raised, and mountains emerged. The ancient chalky ocean floor was raised above sea level before the last ice age reached Denmark about 12,000 years ago. The ice that covered Denmark during the last ice age peeled off enormous flakes of the ancient chalky ocean floor. The flakes were up to 50 metres thick and were folded and pushed together, and through these a gigantic multiple collision formed Høje Møn. In the chalky layers there were black strips of flint stones. These strips indicate how the layers were folded under the enormous pressure of the ice.

After the ice melted away, there have been larger or smaller collapses and landslides, forming the cliff as we know it today. On average about 2-4 cm of the cliff will vanish every year, resulting in complete erosion of all of Høje Møn in about 50,000 years.

Fossils

The chalk on Møns Klint is ancient skeleton remains from life in the ocean about 70 million years ago. The ocean was inhabited by cuttlefish, sea urchins, mussels, algae and many other animals. Many of the species are now extinct, but in the chalk and on the beach, you may find fossilized remains of the animal life from 70 million years ago. The most common finds include belemnites and sea urchins.

Belemnites are part of the back shell of a cuttlefish. Sea urchins are typically found with body and spikes separated. Most fossils are found in chalk, but they also occur in flint.



Landslides

Møns Klint is a dynamic coastal area which is affected by wind and weather all year round. All the Danish coasts are constantly transforming, and are exposed to the forces and erosion of the ocean. This also applies to Møns Klint. Landslides are often triggered after large rainfall or because of frost erosion. At Møns Klint the highest probability of landslide is in the winter and spring months. However, landslides may occur all year round. Cliff collapses occur either when blocks of chalk are loosened and fall, or when large quantities of rainwater wash mud, clay, chalk etc. out into the ocean. Both types of collapse occur annually in smaller quantities and every few years there are major collapses.

In January 2007, the point Store Taler fell into the ocean and created a peninsula jutting more than 300 metres into the ocean. A collapse of such magnitude does not occur very often, whereas smaller collapses falling 30 or 50 metres into the water are not unusual. The peninsulas formed through cliff collapses are washed away by the waves of the ocean and the current.

As always in nature, walking along the cliff is at your own risk. Therefore, use your common sense and enjoy this spectacular world-class natural phenomenon.

