PANORAMA ROUTE
HIGH ABOVE THE SEA - VENDSYSSEL

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Photo: VisitNordjylland
High above the Sea is a cycle route crossing Vendsyssel’s highest hilltops with impressive views across land and sea. For centuries, these spectacular landscapes and the light from the sea have attracted artists to Vendsyssel from near and far. You will find this route breathtaking in more ways than one.

Where the route takes you...

The route can be started anywhere, but this guide takes Hirtshals Hostel near the harbour as its starting point.

**Tornby Mountain**

The route begins in the Emmersbæk quarter heading towards the small village of Horne and its medieval church high on the top of a hill. Further south comes the next hilltop, Tornby Mountain (approx. 84 metres above sea level). Your reward is a magnificent view of large swathes of Vendsyssel and Skagerrak. In Tornby, you will find Tornby Gl. Købmandsgård (Old Merchant’s House), a grocery shop as it would have looked in the 1860s. Above the shop is a café, exhibition (local history and exhibition of local schnapps) and a working smithy. Close to the grocery shop is a 5000-year-old dolmen. Tornby also has a modern supermarket if you should need provisions for a picnic break in Tornby Dunes just west of the town.

**Hills, valleys - and art**

The route then takes you east towards Bjergby (Mountain Town) – a town whose name you will do well to take seriously! Up here is a curious collection of animal sculptures. The route goes up hills and down into valleys with views of fields and meadows. In Mygdal you will find Odden Herregård (Odden Manor) - an impressive historical building which is also a museum to the artist J.F. Willumsen. The Manor’s old kitchen is now a café. The next arduous ‘mountain’ is Hellehøj, 89 m above sea level. How many steeples can you see? How many ships? What colour is the sky? To the north? To the south?… Notice the light which has always been an inspiration to artists.

**Medieval fortress**

As you cycle north along Hellehøjvej, you will see a deep moat. It is part of the Asdal Moat System. Originally, Asdal Manor was a turreted medieval fortress. In the event of enemy threat, the moats and meadows around the Manor could quickly be flooded. From Asdal, the route takes you down through Åbyen and onwards into the western part of Uggerby Dune Plantation. The dunes offer several excellent picnic areas with benches and tables for visitors to enjoy the plantation air, the smell of fir and sea, and listen to the birds seeking shelter here.

**A break on the beach?**

Take a quick detour to Kjul Strand (Kjul Beach) for a dip. The Blue Flag flutters above beach right next to an area of holiday homes. Towards Hirtshals, you cycle on Vestkystruten (West Coast Route), National Route 1. Vestkystruten is part of the 6000-kilometre-long North Sea Cycle and EuroVelo Routes.

**Hirtshals**

The North Sea Oceanarium boasts Northern Europe’s largest aquarium with fish from the North Sea. Hirtshals is a young and dynamic town, founded in 1919. The town is Jutland’s gateway to Norway and the Faroe Islands, and the harbour is a fascinating display of huge ferries and fishing boats of all sizes. Hirtshals has many great restaurants and seafood is a menu favourite. Buy fish to enjoy al fresco—as you enjoy the view of the harbour.

You cycle along the harbour and coast back to Hirtshals Hostel where the route ends.

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**Services and experiences along the way**

**Places to eat and shopping:** Hirtshals, grocery shop in Horne and Åbyen

**Bicycle hire and repairs:** Hirtshals.

**Museums and art:** Købmandsgården (Tornby). Odden art exhibition, ceramist and amber workshop (Mygdal)


**Links**

www.visithirtshals.dk, www.nordsoenceanarium.dk
Facts about the route:
44 km, of which approx. 42 km paved and 2 km gravel (paths, forest tracks etc.)
Effective cycling time at 16 km/h: 2 hours and 44 min.
Highest point: 93 metres above sea level. Max. 12% slopes.
Difficulty: demanding route with some hills (using low gears may be a significant advantage along the route).
Road safety: route runs mainly along minor roads, but approx. 10 km of the route is along relatively busy roads. Main road intersections in four places.
Health: calories burnt at 16 km/h: 931 cal. (at body weight 90 kg).
Shortcuts/detours: the route can be shortened by eliminating Tornby or Mygdal.

This cycle route was created in a partnership between Toppen af Danmark and the Panorama cycle project. Find out more about cycling experiences, accommodation, activities, attractions and services at www.toppenafdanmark.dk.