VISITING STEVNS KLINT

Stevns Klint is a transient geological setting. Landslides may occur and rocks can fall to the beach all year round. Therefore, it can be morally dangerous to walk on both the edge of the cliff and the beach below the cliff.

BE CAREFUL OF YOUR OWN SAFETY AND THE CLIFF

You are welcome to collect fossils along the cliff, provided that you observe these simple rules:
1. Please do not pick, hack or chop into the cliff itself. You are welcome to do this on detached blocks however.
2. Do not disturb the Fish Clay this is a world heritage site.
3. At Højerup, you may only hunt for fossils with your hands, not with tools.

Trampsteen is a unique beaten footpath which crosses privately owned land. Please help us take good care of the path and respect the permanent residents who live here.

The path may be "ploughed up" in some places, so you will have to "trample it" yourself.

ACCESS TO THE AREA

- Only permitted on foot - please leave your bicycle behind.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times – for the sake of the wildlife.
- Respect landowners' instructions.
- Do not use any private stairs leading down to the beach.
- If you wish to stop over or spend the night, please use the sites designated for this.
- The footpath is open between sunrise and sunset.

WILDLIFE

The WILDLIFE AND GEOLOGY along Stevns Klint are unique and can be explored in many dimensions. You can travel back to a time when Denmark was submerged in seawater and shaped by the life in the Cretaceous Seas. Back then, a diversity of fascinating life forms existed here, which we can explore today in the form of fossils – from the smallest algae and moss animals to the giant mosasaurus. Together they form part of the chalk and limestone foundation now known as Stevns Klint.

The cliff layers depict how life developed on Earth, but they also show how a natural disaster led to mass extinction. The layer of Fish Clay is evidence of the mass extinction of dinosaurs 66 million years ago. But the Fish Clay is equally a story of how the mass extinction gave way to a new era in the Earth's history. In the ashes of dinosaurs, mammals suddenly had room to develop and branch off in many directions, one of which became homo sapiens.

Dinosaurs' closest relatives are now the hundreds of different bird species which can be seen at Stevns Klint. One of Denmark’s best bird-watching sites is found here, because migrating birds use the white cliff as a landmark when crossing the Øresund between Sweden and Denmark in both spring and autumn. You can fish or scuba-dive in the clear waters with unique reefs with an abundance of seafish as Seastorat, as well as seals as the biggest predators. Or enjoy the peaceful setting from a kayak.

Stevns Klint invites exploration and adventure – but also relaxation and reflection. From the calcareous grassland at the top of the cliff, you can study and become absorbed in the biodiversity of interesting and rare plants, animals and insects. There are also good places to rest here, where you can sit down and think or perhaps lie down in the grass, smell the flowers and listen to the waves rolling in to the coast like the waves of time. You decide the pace.

HISTORY

The HISTORY of Stevns Klint is more than a story about a World Heritage Site. Stevns’ inhabitants have been extracting limestone, chalk and flint from the cliff for centuries. They used limestone as building blocks and to make mortar. They turned the chalk into paint and school chalk. At several locations along the cliff, you can see angled clefts where workers have hewn building stones. You can visit the abandoned limestone and chalk quarries in Boesdal and Holtug.

In antiquity, flint from Stevns was used to make tools and weapons, and it was exported during the Stone Age. In recent times, the flint was used for purposes such as flintlock weapons, chicken feed, tinderboxes and façade. Both the old and new churches in Højerup are built of limestone from the cliff, as is St Katharina Church in Store Heddinge and many of the farmhouses and farm buildings on the Stevns peninsula.

The Øresund strait has been a strategic channel for as long as humans have been navigating it. But during the Cold War, Stevns played a particularly prominent role in the defence of Denmark and the NATO countries. The peninsula would have been on the front line if war had broken out between East and West. For this reason, the Stevnsfort fortress and several other military facilities were built along Stevns Klint, and for 40 years, the fortress was an outpost for Øresund.

It is possible to visit the Stevnsfort Cold War Museum where you can take a guided tour of the underground fortress. You can also see the remains of Cold War facilities at Stevns Lighthouse and Mandehoved.
BROGESKOV HARBOUR is situated at the north end of Stevns Klint. This small, privately owned fishing harbour and marina is a good fishing spot. You can also go for a walk in the woods with its impressive beach trees, bath from the beach, eat at the restaurant or enjoy your packed lunch in the area. Stevns Klint’s Transeparken footpath begins or ends here. It is 20 km long, extending all the way to Rødvig in the south. Follow the route along the road towards Holtug Chalk Quarry, as this section of beach is difficult to access.

The Boesdal Limestone Quarry spreads out and downward like a lunar landscape. You can still see the remains of the time when limestone was quarried and processed here. Quicklime was burnt in the two kilns at the edge of the quarry, and the quarry’s pyramids – 21 metres high and 60 metres wide – was used to store crushed and dried limestone. You can access the sea from here, and the beach is a good place to find fossils and go fishing. You can also spend the night in one of the shelters at Boesdal.

There are plans to build a large visitor’s centre for Stevns Klint and the World Heritage site at Boesdal Limestone Quarry. In summer events are sometimes held in the quarry, so it is not always open to the public. But you can always walk along Stevns Klint's ‘Trampestien’ footpath.

RØDVIK gets its name from the bay which turns completely red at sunset from being a small cluster of fisherman’s houses in the 1800s. It has developed into a cozy village budding with activity. The harbour area has small fishing vessels and a shop that is more than 100 years old. Vessels work in the houses along the waterfront which also has good eateries for both children and adults. See also the white ‘old lady’ which has become a landmark for Rødvig.

Stevns Klint towers over Rødvig, and the 20 km-long Transeparken footpath begins or ends here. You can also go for walks along the Clover Paths around fishing.