

Møn, Falster & Lolland



Denmark's 'South Sea Islands', Møn, Falster and Lolland, may lack the coconut palms and hula skirts usually associated with that phrase, but they *do* offer a fine glimpse of rural Scandinavian island life: rolling wheat fields, Neolithic tombs, sandy beaches, rustic manor houses and amazing medieval artwork. They're easily accessed by road bridges from southern Zealand.

Of the three, Møn deserves the most attention. It's perfectly sized – small enough for you to explore every corner at your leisure, large enough not to feel suffocated by a shrunken horizon and encroaching sea. It also has something very unusual for Denmark – cliffs! Møns Klint, the chalky crags at the easternmost extreme of the island, mesmerise Danes and foreigners alike with their vertical whiteness, and enrapture small children with abundant fossils. Four churches exhibit wondrous and often quite funny frescoes, from recognised masterpieces to primitive daubs. Add in golden sandy beaches, countryside made for cycling, and a chirpy main town of half-timbered houses filled with interesting independent shops and cafés, and you've got the perfect place for a laid-back break.

The other two islands feel more like extensions of rural Zealand to the north than individual places in their own right. On Falster, the beach at Marielyst attracts Danish sun worshippers – that rare breed seen in captivity for only a few weeks each summer. It's one of the few seaside places that actually has the feel of a cheap-and-cheerful holiday town – must be all those pizza takeaways and shops selling flip-flops and buckets and spades.

Lolland, the largest of the three islands, has a few scattered sights. Lakeside Maribo is a tranquil town ideal for recharging your batteries. The rest of the island's attractions are probably of most interest to families with their own transport. Just across the bridge from Falster is the excellent medieval centre, with regular jousts and working trebuchets. Waterbabies will be wowed by the Lalandia waterpark in the south of Lolland, while Knuthenborg Safari Park is in the north.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Search for 70-million-year-old squid in the gleaming chalk cliffs at **Møns Klint** (p171)
- Gorge on ice cream at **Marielyst** (p175), Falster's premier summer beach resort
- Take a boat ride on the gorgeous **Søndersø** (p178) in the pretty town of Maribo
- Monkey around at the drive-through **Knuthenborg Safari Park** (p180)
- Get medieval at the **Middelaldercentret** (p174), just outside Nykøbing F



MØN

pop 11,572

A thoroughly appealing island, Møn is best known for its spectacular white cliffs, Møns Klint. The scenery is dramatic, and there's a brilliant new geological centre on the cliff top.

Møn has good beaches, from popular sandy expanses regularly brushed clean of seaweed to small secret coves that take some seeking out. It also has haunting Neolithic graves and medieval churches with fabulous cartoon-like frescoes. Møn's rich clay soil draws potters to the area: 'keramik' signs are commonplace along its country roads.

A private car or bicycle is useful on Møn: the island has no trains and the bus service is sketchy.

Getting There & Away

Route 59 connects southern Zealand with the island of Møn. Visitors need to take the train to Vordingborg in southern Zealand then switch to a bus. Trains from Copenhagen to Vordingborg (108kr, 1½ hours) leave at least hourly until around midnight.

Bus 62 (occasionally 64) from Vordingborg to Stege (39kr, 45 minutes), on Møn, connects with train arrivals, leaving Vordingborg about once an hour; there's a fuller service during weekday rush hours and a lighter service on weekends.

Bus 50 runs between Stege and Nykøbing F (52kr, 55 minutes), on Falster, with around seven buses in either direction daily.

Getting Around

Route 287, which cuts across the centre of the island from east to west, is Møn's main road. Numerous rural roads branch off it – they can be slow-going but fun to explore.

Bus

Møn's bus station is in Stege, the departure point for all buses. Fares depend on the number of zones travelled, with the highest fare between any two places on Møn being 26kr. Frequency of service varies with the day of the week and the season.

The most frequent service is bus 52, which goes from Stege to Klintholm Havn (26kr, 45 minutes) via Keldby, Elmelunde and Magleby. It runs about hourly on weekdays and every couple of hours on weekends.

From late June to mid-August a seasonal bus (632) runs from Stege to Møns Klint (26kr, 35 minutes) four to five times daily.

Bicycle

There's a signposted cycle path running between Stege and Møns Klint, and in the other direction from Stege to Bogø. Møns Turistbureau in Stege sells a Danish pamphlet called *Cykelture – Møn, Bogø & Nyord* (40kr). It maps out seven cycling tours, taking in the island's major sights.

For bike hire in Stege, see p169. Most of the camping grounds on Møn hire out bikes, as does Pension Elmehøj (p170) in Elmelunde.

Taxi

For taxis, call **Møns Taxi** (☎ 55 81 54 58) or **Stege Taxi** (☎ 55 81 48 90).

STEGE

pop 4043

Hooray for Stege, Møn's main town and a charming destination. Its single narrow main street contains good cafés, small independent shops, a cinema and a microbrewery – who could ask for more? The island is so small that wherever you are, it's only a short drive back here to stock up on supplies.

During the Middle Ages, Stege was one of Denmark's wealthiest provincial towns, thanks to its lucrative herring industry. The entire town was fortified until 1534, when the castle walls were torn down – by citizens who supported a mutinous attacking army. Pieces of the rampart remain here and there (for example, near the camping ground).

Information

Library (☎ 55 81 43 54; Møllebrøndstræde 12; ☎ 11am–5pm Mon–Fri, 10am–1pm Sat) Free internet access.

Møns Turistbureau (☎ 55 86 04 00; www.visitmoen.com; Storegade 2; ☎ 9.30am–4pm Mon–Fri, 9am–noon Sat; 📄) Has information about the entire island. Internet access costs 10kr per 15 minutes.

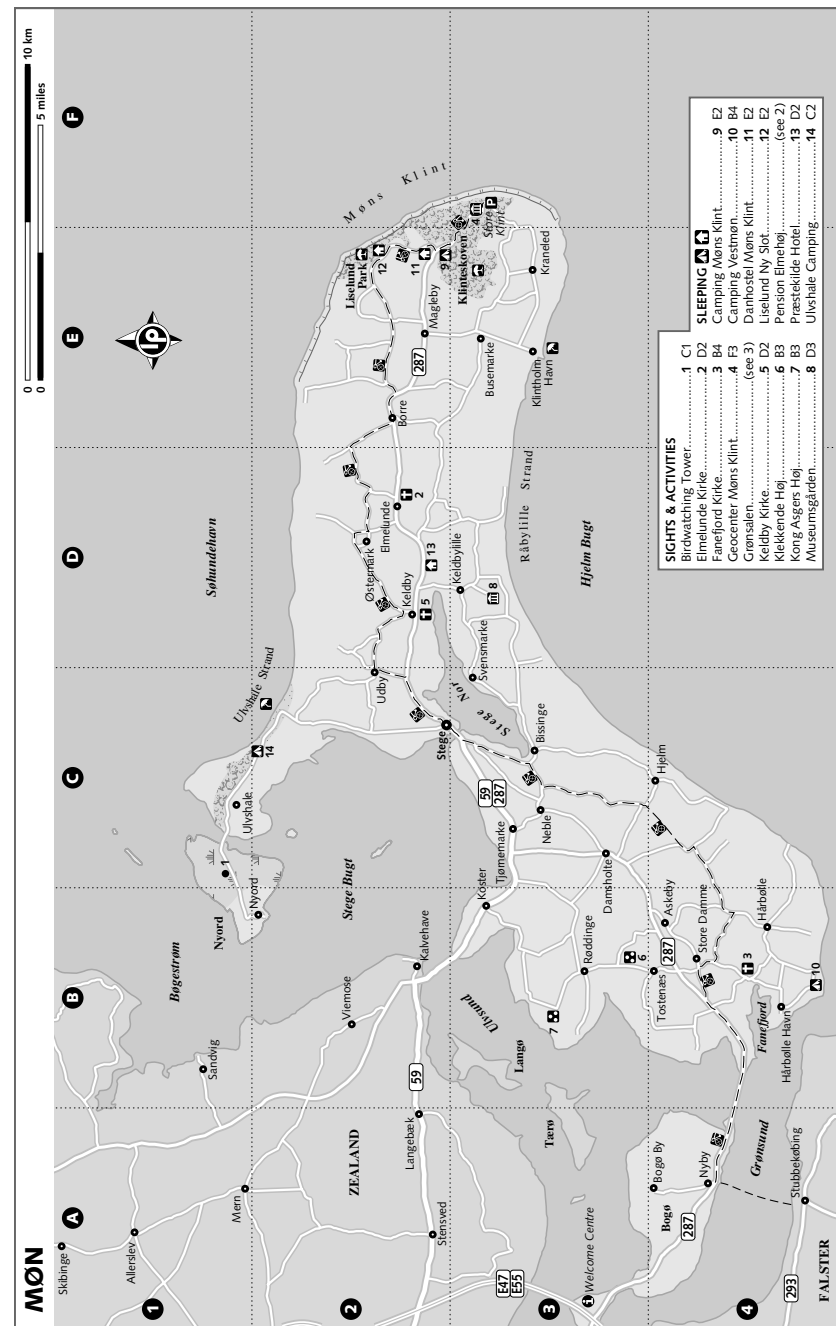
Nordea (☎ 55 81 11 11; Storegade 23) One of three banks in central Stege with an ATM. All open 9.30am to 4pm Monday to Friday (to 6pm Thursday).

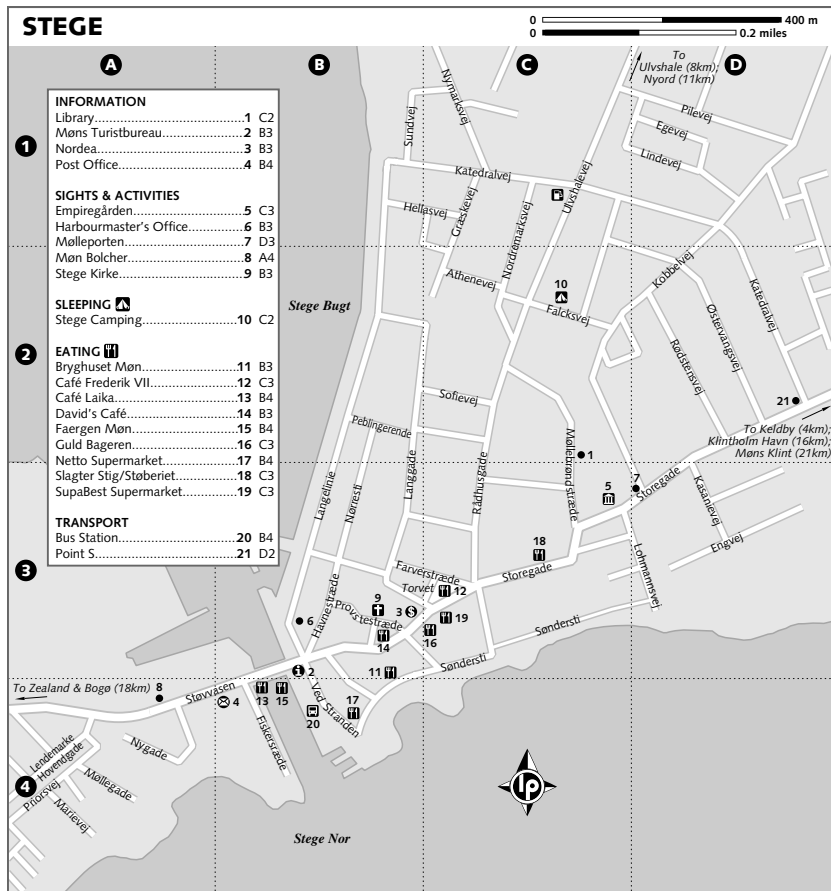
Post office (☎ 80 20 70 30; Støvvasen 3; ☎ 11am–5pm Mon–Fri, 10am–noon Sat) Inside Super Brugsen supermarket.

Sights & Activities

STEGE KIRKE

It looks as though a demented nine-year-old has been let loose inside **Stege Kirke** (☎ 55 81 43 35;





Kirkepladsen 1; admission free; ☎ 9am–5pm Tue–Sun Apr–Sep, to 1pm Oct–Mar), built in the 13th century by one of the powerful Hvide family. Walls and ceiling are covered in endearingly naive 14th- and 15th-century frescoes in red and black paint: monkey-like faces sprout from branches, a hunter chases unidentifiable animals, and a sorrowful man is covered in big red blobs...measles?

The church has a splendidly carved pulpit dating from 1630, featuring biblical reliefs, plus grotesque faces to remind the less virtuous of what's in store.

EMPIREGÅRDEN

Part of Møn Museum, **Empiregården** (☎ 55 81 40 67; Storegade 75; adult/child 30kr/free; ☎ 10am–4pm Tue–Sun) covers local cultural history, with archaeo-

logical finds from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages (look out for Rasmus, the creepy skeleton), displays of 19th-century house interiors, toys, coins, pottery and a showcase dedicated to two unusual local men. Around a third is covered by English explanations.

MØLLEPORTEN

Of the three medieval gates that once allowed entry into the town, Mølleporten (Mill Gate) on Storegade is the only one still standing. It's one of the best-preserved town gates in Denmark.

MØN BOLCHER

Kids may appreciate the Willy Wonka undertones of the **Møn Bolcher** (☎ 55 81 01 01; www

.mønbolcher.dk; Kostervej 2; ☎ 10am–4pm Mon–Sat) sweet factory, where you can watch traditional boiled sweets being made.

BICYCLE & CANOE HIRE

Bicycles can be rented at **Point S** (☎ 55 81 42 49; Storegade 91; ☎ 7.30am–5pm Mon–Fri, 9am–noon Sat) for 75kr per day, or in summer from the **harbourmaster's office** (☎ 55 81 55 25; Stege Havn; ☎ 7.30–8.30am & 5–8pm May–Sep). You can paddle about in the relatively sheltered waters of Stege Bay in a canoe from Café Laika (below), costing 100/150/200kr per one hour/half day/full day.

Sleeping

The best option for staying anywhere on Møn is to book a room in a private home at the tourist office (no booking fee). Singles/doubles average 300/400kr.

Stege Camping (☎ 55 81 84 04; Falcksvej 5; site per person 47kr; ☎ Easter–mid-Sep) This small municipal camping ground is a 10-minute walk north of Torvet. Facilities are basic – stretching to a tiny kitchen and washing machine – but the site is quiet, leafy and central.

Eating

Ourpick Slagter Stig/Støberiet (☎ 55 81 42 67; Storegade 59; sandwiches 35kr, dinner mains from 70kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) A combination butcher shop and restaurant selling everything from smørrebrød and deli salads to salmon fillets and wine. There's a good-value hot-and-cold buffet (lunch/dinner 54/64kr), the dining area is a charming glass-covered old home stocked with quaint furnishings, and there's a garden hidden away at the back.

Café Laika (☎ 55 81 46 07; Havnen 1; light meals 60–90kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) Laika has a casual air, with lots of seating in open decked areas and a pub-like atmosphere. Meals include fish of the day, omelettes, sandwiches, salads, pastas and burgers. There's usually a DJ on Friday night. If you don't have your own boat, you can hire one of the café's canoes (see above).

David's Café (☎ 33 13 80 57; Storegade 11; light lunches 65–80kr; ☎ 10am–5pm Mon–Fri, to 4pm Sat) David's is decorated with modern artwork and has a shining tiled floor and high glass ceiling. It serves sandwiches, salads and quiches, and coffee in cute multicoloured glasses. There's a sunny garden out the back. In July, it opens on Friday and Saturday evening. Free wi-fi.

Faergen Møn (☎ 20 94 40 48; Stege Harbor; lunch mains 69kr; ☎ lunch & dinner Jun–Aug) In summer,

Denmark's oldest preserved ferry becomes a restaurant. At the time of writing, it had just been taken over by a new owner who intends to offer lunchtime smørrebrød and an evening buffet.

Bryghuset Møn (☎ 55 81 20 00; www.bryghusetmøn.dk; Luffes Gård, Storegade 18; lunch/dinner mains 70/150kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) There's a café inside Luffes Gård courtyard, serving burgers, omelettes, quiches and sandwiches, and a few fishy and steaky mains at night, but the chief draw is beer brewed in Stege's microbrewery. Go right through the courtyard to admire its shining copper vats.

Café Frederik VII (☎ 55 81 59 58; www.cafefrederikvii.dk; Torvet 1; mains around 80kr; ☎ 11am–9pm) This new all-glass café, in the middle of Torvet, has swallowed up the square's bust of Frederik VII, which now glowers over diners! Food comprises sandwiches and massive plates of fried things – burgers, fish and chips and the like. On Saturday night in summer, there's live jazz.

There's a great bakery, **Guld Bageren** (Storegade 36; ☎ 5am–5pm Mon–Fri, 6am–3pm Sat & Sun), and several large supermarkets. The most central supermarkets are **Netto** (Ved Stranden 32; ☎ 9am–8pm Mon–Fri, 8am–4pm Sat) and **SupaBest** (Storegade; ☎ 9am–7pm Mon–Fri, 8am–3pm Sat, 10am–4pm Sun).

ULVSHALE & NYORD

Møn's best beach, **Ulvshale Strand**, sprawls along Ulvshale peninsula, 6km north of Stege. This pristine stretch of gently sloping white sand is created by pieces of cliff washing around the coast from Møn's Klint. The beach is popular with windsurfers, has received its Blue-Flag award (an international eco-label for the sustainable development of beaches and marinas) and is accessible to people in wheelchairs. It's easy to get to – the 'main road', Ulvshalevej, runs alongside – and it's edged by one of the few virgin woods left in Denmark (look out for adders). The forest extends to the end of the peninsula, where there's a narrow bridge to the island of Nyord.

Nyord has only been connected to the Møn mainland since 1968. Its former isolation safeguarded it from development, and today the sole village (also named Nyord) is a perfect cluster of 19th-century thatched cottages, surrounded by idyllic gardens thick with roses, poppies, lupins and irises. Cars are banned (there's a car park outside), so the loudest sound is the chattering of swallows.

Much of the 5-sq-km island, particularly the east, is given over to marshland and salt meadows. There's a **bird-watching tower** about 1km west of the bridge – you can't miss it in this flat landscape. Birds include osprey, kestrel, rough-legged hawk, snow bunting, ruff, avocet, swan, black-tailed godwit, arctic tern, curlew and various ducks.

Sleeping & Eating

Ulvshale Camping (☎ 55 81 53 25; www.ulvscamp.dk; Ulvshalevej 236; site per person 62kr, per small/large tent 10/20kr; ☞ Apr-Sep; 📶) This two-star municipal camping ground is by the beach. The complex includes a shop selling freshly baked goods and groceries, and geared/gearless bicycles are available for hire for 45/35kr per day (85kr for a tandem). Wi-fi available.

Strand Cafeen (☎ 55 81 85 03; Ulvshalevej 151; sandwiches 35-65kr; ☞ lunch & dinner) On the main road running past Ulvshale Strand, this café is the only eating place by the beach. It offers cheap-and-cheerful, I'm-on-holiday-so-the-calories-don't-count beer, sandwiches, burgers, ice cream, hot dogs and chips.

Lolles Gård (☎ 55 81 86 81; Hyldevej 1, Nyord; mains 50-140kr; ☞ lunch & dinner Easter-Sep) Lolles Gård, in Nyord, has a traditional all-blue dining room and an air of old-fashioned civility. Its speciality dish is fried eels with new potatoes and parsley sauce (150kr), with salads, omelettes and other light meals also on the menu. Coffee is served in proper coffee pots, large enough to keep you jittery for days.

KELDBY

The Keldby area, about 5km east of Stege, is notable mainly for the superb frescoes in its roadside church. There's also a small farm museum a few kilometres south of Rte 287.

Sights

KELDBY KIRKE

Some of Denmark's most splendid frescoes are splashed across the walls and ceiling of Keldby's 13th-century brick church (Rte 287; admission free; ☞ 8am-4pm). The oldest (1275) decorate the chancel walls. An impressive Judgement Day scene, where the saved join the saints and the damned descend into a devil-filled hell, dates from around 100 years later. It's a theme also visited by the 15th-century 'Elmelunde master' (see boxed text, opposite), whose cool-faced figures are found all over the soaring arches. There are too many wonderful scenes

to describe here, but some quirky Elmelunde touches include Joseph making gruel for baby Jesus, and a warning against vanity – a monkey with a mirror.

MUSEUMSGÅRDEN

A typical Møn farmhouse shelters this low-key museum (☎ 55 81 30 80; Skullebjergvej 15; adult/under 18 30kr/free; ☞ 10am-4pm Tue-Sun May-Sep), 3km south of Keldby. Its dim, musty-smelling rooms, centred around a courtyard, are decorated with 19th-century furniture, and there are hens and rabbits in the pretty grounds. You can pitch a tent (20kr) in the garden.

Sleeping & Eating

Præstekilde Hotel (☎ 55 86 87 88; www.praestekilde.dk; Klintevej 116; s/d incl breakfast 860/1075kr; 📶) One of Møn's few hotels is this modern four-star bungalow affair on the edge of Keldby village. The 46 rooms are done out in cool white with touches of chintz. There's a quality restaurant, popular with golfers from the adjoining golf course. Other facilities include an indoor swimming pool, sauna and solarium.

ELMELUNDE

Ancient fresco-filled churches are a recurring theme in this part of the world. However, the church in this rural hamlet, halfway between Stege and Møns Klint, is the one after which the most renowned fresco painter was named. Bus 52 stops in front, and there's an appealing guesthouse-café next door.

Elmelunde Kirke

One of Denmark's oldest stone churches, **Elmelunde Kirke** (Kirkebakken 41; admission free; ☞ 8am-4pm Mon-Sat) dates back to 1080. The vaults were painted by the 'Elmelunde master' (see boxed text, opposite). His awesome frescoes span everything from the Creation to Christ in judgement. There's a splendid serpent in the Garden of Eden, with a snakelike body and human head; Herod's soldiers dressed in medieval armour; a devil leading the damned into the monstrous mouth of hell; and several hunting scenes, reminders of the shortness of human life. Go and gape. There's a service held each Sunday, after which the church is closed.

Sleeping & Eating

Pension Elmehøj (☎ 55 81 35 35; www.elmehoj.dk; Kirkebakken 39, 4780 Stege; s/d incl breakfast 350/490kr; ☞ closed

THE ELMELUNDE FRESCOS

Several of Møn's churches are covered in beautiful frescoes, so rich and abundant that the churches can be likened to medieval art galleries. These frescoes were a means of describing the Bible to illiterate peasants, and their cartoon-like clarity still gets the stories across today. Scenes run the gamut from light-hearted frolics in the Garden of Eden to depictions of grotesque demons and the yawning mouth of hell.

After visiting a couple of these churches, you may get a sense of *déjà vu*. This is because most of the loveliest 15th-century frescoes were painted by the same artist, whose exact identity is a mystery but who is known as Elmelundemesteren (the Elmelunde master) after the church of the same name. His people have calm emotionless faces, the artwork is given room to breathe by lots of balancing white space, and the master's palette is one of distinctive warm earth tones: russet, mustard, sienna, brick red, chestnut brown and pale aqua.

Møn's church frescoes, created by painting with watercolours on newly plastered, still-wet walls or ceilings, are some of the best-preserved in Denmark, although their survival is a lucky fluke. Lutheran ministers thought the frescoes too Catholic and whitewashed over them in the 17th century. Ironically, this preserved the medieval artwork from soiling and fading, thanks to a protective layer of dust that separated the frescoes from the whitewash. The whitewash wasn't removed until the 20th century, when the paintings were restored by artists under the auspices of Denmark's national museum.

Jan; 📶) Situated next door to Elmelunde Kirke, this *pension* has 23 pleasant sky-blue bedrooms, all of which have shared toilets and showers. Guests have access to a shared kitchen and cosy TV lounge. In the high season, a basement café sells cakes and sandwiches, which you can enjoy in the large green garden, complete with children's playground. Good access for people in wheelchairs.

MØNS KLINT & AROUND

Sometimes it's a wonder that the whole island doesn't tilt eastwards with the weight of visitors coming to admire the gleaming white cliffs of Møns Klint. In Denmark's rather dull flat landscape, these striking chalk cliffs, rising sharply above a jade-green sea, are worth putting on a postcard.

The main visitor area, Store Klint, has a car park (25kr) and a new GeoCenter and cafeteria. Don't lose the car park ticket – you need to blip the barcode to get out.

Sights & Activities

THE CLIFFS

The 128m-high chalk cliffs are one of Denmark's most famous landmarks, although how long they'll be here is anyone's guess. In 2007, the country was shocked when, after the wettest winter since records began, two huge cliff-falls dumped well over half a million tonnes of chalk, clay and uprooted beech trees into the sea. For the first time ever, the staircases that

lead down the cliff face to the beaches below were closed for fear of more avalanches.

At the time of writing, access was again possible in most places, including at **Store Klint**. Here, a near-vertical flight of wooden stairs leads down to the beach (unsuitable for swimming because of strong tides and rocks).

Strangely, the closer you get to the cliffs, the less white they become – up close, there are shades of orange, grey and purple, and layers of grey-black flint. Keep an eye out for peregrine falcons on the cliffs, the only place in Denmark where they nest.

At the bottom, keep your eyes peeled for Cretaceous-period **fossils** – we found a good handful of 65-million-year-old sea lilies, oysters and belemnites in a half-hour mooch. Take your chalky treasures to the GeoCenter (below) to be identified by experts.

You can walk along the shoreline and then loop back up through a thick forest of wind-gnarled beech trees for a harder walk lasting about 1½ hours. You needn't limit your hiking to the coast: **Klinteskov** (Klinte Forest), the woodland that extends 3km inland from the cliffs, has an extensive network of footpaths and horse trails.

GEOCENTER MØNS KLINT

The brand-new high-tech **GeoCenter Møns Klint** (☎ 55 86 36 00; www.moensklint.dk; Stengårdsvej 8; adult/child 3-11/family 100/60/275kr; ☞ 10am-5pm May-Oct; 📶), located at Store Klint, is a place of

wonders. Imaginative displays (in Danish, German and English) explain how the cliffs were formed, show off an orderly fossil collection and bring alien-looking Cretaceous sea creatures to life. Kids absolutely love the inventive hands-on nature centre. There are also roaming experts to answer any questions. Upstairs is a flash-looking café, selling coffee, cakes and open sandwiches. Access for people in wheelchairs is excellent.

LISELUND

The ultimate romantic gift, the beautiful garden Liselund was built by Antoine de la Calmette in the late 1700s as a present for his wife (the name means 'Lise's Grove'). Paths wind their way under spreading chestnut trees, by waterfalls, streams and ponds, up to a viewpoint on the sea cliffs, and past buildings designed to invoke exotic destinations – a Chinese pavilion with jingling bells, Greek 'ruins', an Egyptian pyramid. It's a blissful vision, disrupted occasionally by the raucous shriek of wandering peacocks.

The thatched **manor house** (☎ bookings 55 81 21 78 btwn noon & 12.30pm; ☎ tours 10.30am, 11am, 1.30pm & 2pm Wed-Sun) is open to visitors from May to September by guided tour only.

Sleeping & Eating

Our pick **Camping Møns Klint** (☎ 55 81 20 25; www.campingmoensklint.dk; Klintevej 544; site per person 72kr; ☎ Apr-Oct; 🚻 🚰) Named Danish Campsite of the Year 2006, this is a massive, family-friendly, three-star site about 3km northwest of Møns Klint. Despite its size, the hilly wooded layout gives a sense of privacy. The camping ground has amazing facilities: a 25m outdoor swimming pool, guest kitchen, coin laundry, tennis court, mini-golf, bike hire (50kr per day), boat hire (50kr per hour), internet café and a shop. In high summer, there

are guided kayak tours (350kr) and nature workshops in English, German and Danish.

Danhostel Møns Klint (☎ 55 81 20 30; www.danhostel.dk/moen; Langebjergvej 1; dm/r shared bathroom 150/300kr; ☎ May-Aug; 📍) With lots of shady trees and scurrying hares, this hostel has a pleasant lakeside location 3km northwest of Møns Klint. There are 29 rooms, cosy seating areas and plenty of kids' toys. However, the hostel was badly let down by its plumbing system and showers when we visited. From late June to mid-August, take bus 632 from Stege; during the rest of the year bus 52 drops you off in Magleby, 2.75km west of the hostel.

Liselund Ny Slot (☎ 55 81 20 81; www.liselundslot.dk; Langebjergvej 6; s/d incl breakfast 900/1250kr; 📍) If you require luxury, there are 17 rooms in this upmarket 19th-century manor house in the midst of Liselund. The ornate restaurant (mains from 80kr) is worth a visit even if you don't stay the night, with first-class service, emphasis on local organic ingredients and delicious food – Danish lamb, Baltic fish, steaks and Asian dishes. There's also a summer café with lawn seating.

KLINTHOLM HAVN

This sleepy one-road village wakes up in summer, when the large harbourside holiday resort throws open its doors, German tourist yachts mingle with the Klintholm fishing boats and sunseekers flock to the long sandy beach. The eastern section is particularly pristine, with light grey sand backed by low dunes and the best surf. The safest swimming is on the stretch west of Klintholm.

A novel way to experience the white cliffs of Møns Klint is on a two-hour **boat trip** (☎ 21 40 41 81; www.sejlkutteren-discovery.dk; adult/child 3-11 120/70kr) from Klintholm Havn, at 10am, noon, 2pm or 4pm in the high season. People in wheelchairs can get aboard.

You can hire bikes from the **Spar supermarket** (☎ 55 81 91 09; Thyravej 6; ☎ 7am-8pm Jul, 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat & Sun Aug-Jun) for 70kr per day.

Sleeping & Eating

Danlands Feriecenter Klintholm Marinapark (☎ 55 81 90 55; www.danland.dk; Klintholm Havn, 4791 Borre; apt per day/wk from 1118/6866kr; 📍 🚻) A modern apartment resort, Klintholm Marinapark is spread between the two harbours. Inside, the two-bedroom units are spic-and-span, and the resort's facilities include a pool, sauna, restaurant, coin laundrette, trampoline, table tennis and *boules*. Cut costs by bringing your own towels and bed linen.

Portofino (☎ 55 85 51 81; Thyravej 4A; pizzas 60-80kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) The peeling paint and slight air of neglect at this Italian restaurant may lead you to expect little, but actually the grub is tasty. There are good salads at lunchtime, and pizzas to take away.

Klintholm Røgeri (☎ 55 81 92 90; Margrethevej 14; fish buffet 115kr; ☎ 10am-5pm) For excellent value, walk 250m along the coastal road east of the fishing harbour to Klintholm Røgeri. At this smokehouse, you can buy fish by the piece and enjoy it at a picnic table. In the high season, the neat restaurant, with simple white-wood furniture and nautical paintings, opens from 6pm for a big fish buffet.

WESTERN MØN

You'll see more pheasants than people on the narrow country lanes at the western end of Møn: such tourist-free ruralism is very restful. There are a few worthwhile historic sights, but you'll need your own transport as public buses primarily serve Rte 287.

Sights

PASSAGE GRAVES

There are an incredible 119 megalithic tombs on Møn, dating from 4000 to 1800 BC. Two of the best-known passage graves (*jættestuer*, or 'giants' rooms') are Kong Asgers Høj and Klekkende Høj, quite close to each other about 2km from the village of Røddinge.

Kong Asgers Høj (Kong Asgersvej) is northwest of Røddinge, just by the roadside – there's nowhere to park. This is Denmark's largest passage grave, with a burial chamber 10m long and more than 2m wide. Bring a torch (flashlight) and watch your head.

Klekkende Høj, southeast of Røddinge, is the only double passage grave on Møn: two

side-by-side entrances each lead to a 7m-long chamber. The grave, lit by a faint electric light, is 400m away from a tiny car park through a farmer's field. The setting adds drama to the visit – it's an indescribable relief to crawl out of a cold tomb into a field of sunlight and waving corn.

FANEFJORD KIRKE

Another fascinating Møn church, 13th-century **Fanefjord Kirke** (Fanefjordvej; admission free; ☎ 8am-4pm Mon-Sat, to 6pm Jun-Aug) is adorned with superb frescoes. The oldest, from 1350, depicts St Christopher carrying Christ across a ford, but most of the vaults are covered with a cartoon-like 'paupers' Bible' by the 'Elmelunde master' (see boxed text, p171). Unique images include a gruesome one of Judas, with two devils pulling out his soul; Mary on doomsday, tipping the judgement scales in humanity's favour; and a gleeful horny-kneed demon listening to two women gossiping! You can see the master's signature (which resembles a stick man with rabbit ears) on an altar-facing rib in the northeastern vault.

GRØNSALEN

A short walk down the road from Fanefjord Kirke (turn left out of the church driveway) is one of Denmark's longest megalithic barrows, Grønsalen. You can't go inside, but you can admire its scale – it's 102m long and surrounded by 145 huge blocks of sparkling, pinkish-coloured rock.

Sleeping

Camping Vestmøn (☎ 55 81 75 95; www.camping-vestmoen.dk; Hårbøllevej 87; site per person 70kr; ☎ May-mid-Sep) If you enjoy evening strolls on deserted beaches, you'll love this quiet well-run camping ground directly on Hårbølle Strand. It's possible to rent bicycles, the best way to experience western Møn's slow charm.

BOGØ

The island of Bogø, west of Møn, is somewhere you pass through on the way to somewhere else. It's connected to Møn by a causeway, and to Zealand and Falster via the impressive Farø bridges.

Bicycles are not allowed on the Farø bridges so cyclists will need to take the summer-only **car ferry** (☎ 30 53 24 28; www.idas-venner.dk in Danish; adult/child 4-16 15/10kr, car/bicycle 55/10kr; ☎ mid-May-early Sep) that shuttles between southern

MØNS KLINT'S UNUSUAL FLORA

Wild orchids are strewn throughout Klinteskov, the wood behind Møns Klint. In fact there are 18 species, the greatest variety anywhere in Denmark, which all thrive thanks to the soil's high chalk content. Many of the flowers are rare, and all are protected. The pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), with a mounded, multi-blossomed pink head, and the dark red helleborine (*Epipactis atrorubens*), with an oval leaf, tall stem and numerous crimson flowers, are particularly beautiful. The best time to see them is from May to August.

You might notice that the leaves on the coastal beech trees are an unnaturally fresh green. Again, it's thanks to the chalky soil, which inhibits the trees' intake of iron and magnesium, elements that cause leaves to darken.

Bogø and Stubbekøbing in Falster. Ferries run from Bogø hourly between 9.15am and 6.15pm, and from Stubbekøbing between 9am and 6pm.

FALSTER

pop 43,000

The southeastern coast of Falster is a summer haven where white-sand beaches act as a magnet for German and Danish holidaymakers. Marielyst in particular is a popular family seaside destination, with the emphasis on gentle activity holidays. A short drive away, Nykøbing's Middelaldercentret is another winner with the kids, where they can spend

a pleasant half day watching giant catapults being fired, cheering on jousting knights, and exploring the medieval town.

You might fancy a car or bike ride through Falster's rather repetitious agricultural interior to the tip of the island, where Denmark's most southerly point is acknowledged by Sydstenen (The South Stone), a big rock with a bench in front of it.

NYKØBING F

pop 16,590

Falster's only large town is sprawling Nykøbing F, which straggles over the Frederick IX bridge and onto the island of Lolland. The best thing about it is its Medieval Centre, complete with jousting knights, which makes a very entertaining family day out. Otherwise, Nykøbing F is predominantly a modern town with few tourist attractions.

The 'F', incidentally, stands for Falster and is used to differentiate the town from Denmark's two other Nykøbings.

Torvet, the town centre, is a 10-minute walk west of the train station. **Nykøbing F Tourism Information** (☎ 54 85 13 03; www.tinf.dk; Østergågade 7; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Thu, to 6pm Fri, to 2pm Sat) is round the corner from the square. Check emails at the **library** (☎ 54 73 16 00; Rosenvænget 17; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat; free), a few minutes' walk northeast of Torvet.

Sights

The area's most popular attraction is **Middelaldercentret** (Medieval Centre; ☎ 54 86 19 34; www.middelaldercentret.dk; Ved Hamborgskoven 2, Sundby L; adult/child 4-14/family 90/45/260kr; ☎ 10am-4pm Jun-Aug & Tue-Sun May & Sep), which recreates an early-15th-century medieval village – great fun, especially if you have kids. The site includes four brutal-looking siege engines (fired off at noon), a merchant's house with its own harbour and boats, a marketplace surrounded by craft workshops, and a cool playground with medieval-inspired play equipment.

Costumed interpreters weave cloth, cut shoe leather and hammer metal in the forge: if the smith isn't busy, kids can make their own pewter pendant (20kr) or knife (35kr). A good time to visit is during the knights' tournaments, which occur at 2pm daily from July to mid-August (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday outside those months).

The Medieval Centre is on the outskirts of Nykøbing F, across the bridge on Lolland.

Bus 2 runs from Nykøbing F train station roughly hourly.

Museet Falsters Minder (☎ 54 85 26 71; Langgade 2; admission 20kr; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Fri, 11am-3pm Sat, 2-4pm Sun May–mid-Sep, 2-4pm Tue-Fri & Sun, 11am-3pm Sat mid-Sep–Apr) is a nicely presented local history museum, occupying one of Nykøbing F's oldest houses. It includes costumes, toys, reconstructed 19th-century rooms, china and glass (look out for the bottle with the devil in the bottom!). Downstairs are older archaeological finds, including a Viking torque and arm rings. Most labelling is in Danish. One street over is an old **watertower** (Hollands Gaard; adult/child 30/10kr; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) that you can climb for views.

You might consider taking kids to the **Folkepark Zoo** (☎ 54 85 20 76; Østre Allé 97; adult/child 3-11/family 50/25/100kr; ☎ 9am-6pm mid-Apr–late Oct, 10am-4pm late Oct–mid-Apr), near the hostel. It contains llamas, deer, rabbits, donkeys, mongoose, birds, monkeys and a tiger called Luna. We just wish the birds and monkeys had more space.

Sleeping

The tourist office keeps a list of rooms available in private homes; prices start at 150kr per person, with a 35kr booking fee.

Falster City Camping (☎ 54 85 45 45; www.fc-camp.dk in Danish; Østre Allé 112; site per person 68kr, huts 160kr; ☎ Easter-Sep; 🚲) A very nonurban city camping ground, this two-star place is down a quiet tree-lined lane, near the hostel and Nykøbing's excellent swimming pool. There are small red huts for rent, a playground with bouncy pillow and free wi-fi. Bike hire costs 50kr per day.

Danhostel Nykøbing F (☎ 54 85 66 99; www.danhostel.dk/nykoebingfalster; Østre Allé 110; s & d 520kr; ☎ mid-Jan–mid-Dec; 📍) Probably one of the few hostels in the world where you can hear the rusty belch of tigers, this modern 94-bed place is near the zoo, 1km east of the centre. An overhanging roof makes rooms quite dark, but all have private bathrooms, and facilities include a washing machine and basement TV lounge. Take bus 42 (13kr) from Nykøbing F train station.

Hotel Falster (☎ 54 85 93 93; www.hotel-falster.dk; Skovalléen 2; s/d incl breakfast 685/835kr; 📍) Hotel Falster is a family-run place with 68 comfortable modern rooms and friendly management, although its location just off a busy main road is not appealing. The hotel's restaurant serves

appetising dishes such as whole roasted partridge, and smoked haunch of venison with cranberries.

Eating

Bjørnebageren (☎ 54 85 58 77; Torvet 2; pastries & desserts 15-40kr; ☎ 6.30am-5pm Mon-Thu, to 6pm Fri, to 2pm Sat) The Bear Bakery sells sandwiches and squidgy pastries, and has plenty of outdoor seating right on Torvet.

Restaurant Italy (☎ 54 82 55 05; Langgade 23; pizzas 60kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) A standard Italian restaurant, a block from Torvet, with large portions of freshly made pasta and large personal pizzas.

Czarens Hus (☎ 54 85 28 29; Langgade 2; sandwiches 60kr, mains 200kr; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) Perhaps Nykøbing's most upmarket option is this classic wood-panelled dining room. Its antique furnishings are original – from the days when it was a guesthouse (where tsar Peter the Great once stayed) 200 years ago. The steak specials are particularly filling.

Getting There & Around

Nykøbing F is 128km southwest of Copenhagen. The north-south E55 highway goes directly through Nykøbing F, while Rte 9 connects Nykøbing F with Lolland via the Frederik IX bridge.

Trains leave Copenhagen hourly for Nykøbing F (135kr, two hours).

Buses leave just south of the train station. Buses 40, 42 and 43 run frequently to Marielyst (26kr, 25 minutes), particularly on weekdays.

For information on ferries from Gedser (26km south of Nykøbing F) to Rostock in Germany, see p330. Bus 45 runs frequently to Gedser (26kr, 39 minutes).

MARIELYST

With its glorious stretch of beach, Marielyst is one of Denmark's prime vacation areas. There are a holiday-tastic 6000 summer cottages here, and more being built all the time. Thankfully, the beach is long enough to absorb the crowds, and you should be able to find a relatively private patch of your own. Follow the main street until it dead-ends for the most convenient parking.

The town itself is one long, long street of bucket-and-spade shops, bars, pizza places and ice-cream kiosks running perpendicularly down towards the beach. In the high season,



there are loads of different activities to try around Marielyst, from windsurfing classes to paintballing.

Information

Marielyst Turistbureau (☎ 54 13 62 98; www.visitmarielyst.com; Marielyst Strandpark 3; ☎ 9am-4pm Mon-Sat, 10am-2pm Sun mid-Jun-Aug, 9am to 4pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat Sep-mid-Jun; 📄) By the bowling alley on the outskirts of town. Internet access costs 15kr per half an hour.
Nordea (☎ 54 13 60 85; Marielyst Strandvej 54; ☎ 10am-3pm Mon-Fri Jun-Sep, 10am-12.30pm Tue-Fri Oct-May) With ATM.

Activities

There's currently a hearty attempt to market Marielyst as a family-orientated 'activity town'. You can buy comprehensive activity packages from www.marielyst-adventure.dk (in Danish).

Aquasyd Dykker & Vandsportscenter (☎ 54 13 13 60; www.aquasyd.dk; Marielyst Strandvej 27; ☎ noon-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat) can arrange dives all over the south to submerged Stone Age villages and shipwrecks for around 360kr per dive, plus equipment hire. You can also go waterskiing,

banana boating and sea kayaking – contact Aquasyd for details.

If you already know how to windsurf, you can hire equipment from **Surfcenter Falster** (☎ 23 60 30 26, 23 24 05 54; www.surfcenterfalster.dk; Marielyst Torv); otherwise you can take windsurfing or kite surfing classes.

Kids may enjoy **Superbowling** (☎ 54 13 19 19; www.superbowling.dk; Marielyst Strandpark 1; per hr from 120kr; ☎ 11am-10pm Sun-Thu, to midnight Fri & Sat mid-Jun-Aug, 2-10pm Tue-Fri, 11am-1pm Sat & Sun Sep-mid-Jun), a 10-lane bowling alley about 700m east of Marielyst centre, near the tourist office.

Sleeping

The tourist office can book rooms in private homes (singles/doubles 350/410kr), small apartments (about 2000kr per week) and summer houses (from 4800kr per week).

Marielyst Camping (☎ 54 13 53 07; www.marielyst-camping.dk in Danish; Marielyst Strandvej 36; site per person 70kr; ☎ Apr-Sep; 📄) This centrally located camping ground is off the main road. Hedges break up the pitches, but also make it feel slightly cramped. Wi-fi access costs 20kr per 30 minutes.

Kjørupskro Hotel (☎ 40 59 02 78; www.kjørupskro.dk; Bøto Møllevej 2; s/d incl breakfast 450/650kr; ☎ mid-May-Sep; 📄) A few kilometres south of town, but still close to the beach, this hotel has small, recently renovated rooms, each with an outdoor seating space. There are special deals for longer stays, and there's a café-restaurant attached.

Hotel Nørrevang (☎ 54 13 62 62; www.norrevang.dk; Marielyst Strandvej 32; s/d incl breakfast 795/995kr, bungalows 1200kr; 📄) Marielyst's most upmarket hotel looks like a low-slung Swiss chalet. Standard rooms have bathroom, phone, satellite TV and free wireless internet. There are 57 bungalows and apartments with kitchens that can accommodate from two to six people.

Eating

Many of Marielyst's eating places are closed for lunch and on Mondays out of season. On the corner of Bøtøvej and Marielyst Strandvej you'll find several ice-cream and hot-dog kiosks. Larsen's Bakery is just west of the bus station.

Tannhäuser (☎ 54 13 11 23; nr Bøtøvej & Marielyst Strandvej; pizzas around 60kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) This cheapie pizza place is a takeaway with tables, full of sunburned families on a budget. Other bad-for-you items on the menu include kebabs and burgers.

Restaurant Candlelight (☎ 54 13 62 62; Hotel Nørrevang, Marielyst Strandvej 32; dinner buffet 125kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) An attractive restaurant attached to Hotel Nørrevang with several vine-covered dining areas, some outside in a pleasant courtyard and garden. Candlelight's menu stresses seasonal ingredients.

Schous Kød (☎ 54 13 64 69; Bøtøvej 12; mains 130-200kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) A short walk down Bøtøvej, Schous Kød offers a good alternative to junk food. It's attached to a busy butcher/deli (open 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday, to 2pm Sunday), which might explain why the meals are traditional meaty affairs – boeuf Béarnaise, T-bone steaks and lobster soup. It makes an effort for veggies too – tortilla wrap or stuffed aubergine when we visited.

Larsen's Plads (☎ 54 13 21 70; Marielyst Strandvej 53; mains 140-165kr; ☎ lunch & dinner) 'My wife left me for my best friend. God, I miss him.' If you find that funny, there are plenty more jokes plastering the walls of idiosyncratic Larsen's Plads. It offers hearty beef, chicken and fish

dishes, several vegetarian offerings, a big Sunday brunch, a good-value dish of the day (59kr) and takeaway pizzas.

Getting There & Around

From Nykøbing F train station it's a 25-minute bus ride to Marielyst (26kr). Buses are frequent, particularly on weekdays; catch bus 40, 42 or 43.

Bicycles can be hired from the tourist information office for 40kr per day.

LOLLAND

pop 48,634

Lolland's flat farmland is enlivened by a smattering of family-friendly attractions – Mums and Dads with their own transport should take the kids to see monkeys and tigers at Knuthenborg Safari Park; to the vast, slide-filled waterpark of Lalandia; or maybe to inspect one of Europe's largest collections of vintage cars, at Aalholm Automobil Museum in the southeast. Far and away the most appealing of Lolland's towns is Maribo, nestled on the shores of a bird-filled lake: spend a day enjoying its relaxed, small-town charm.

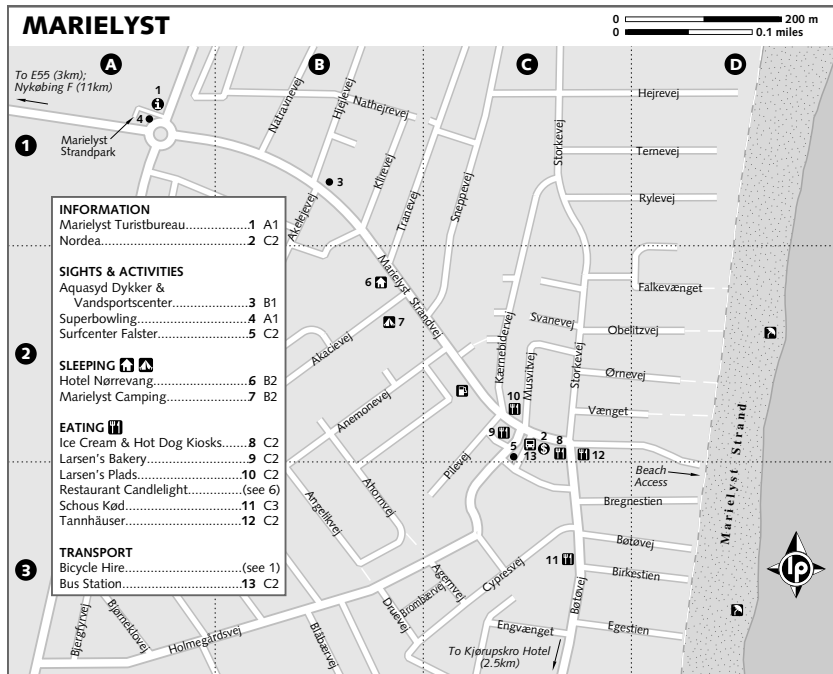
There's a direct ferry service to Puttgarden (Germany) from Rødbyhavn, a small harbourside town in the south. It provides the link in the inter-Europe E47 highway between Germany and Denmark.

Getting There & Around

The island has a limited bus service. The most useful route (47) connects Nykøbing F with Nakskov (65kr, one hour 10 minutes).

The main east-west railway line runs between Nykøbing F and Nakskov (65kr, 45 minutes), with hourly trains during the week (less frequent on weekends). The other railway line runs between Nykøbing F and the Rødby ferry (52kr, 23 minutes). Trains leave Rødbyhavn several times a day in conjunction with the ferry service from Puttgarden, Germany; most of the trains continue on from Nykøbing F to Copenhagen. For information about the ferry itself, see p330.

Scandlines (☎ 33 15 15 15; www.scandlines.dk) runs a car ferry between Tårs (in the far west of Lolland) and Spodsbjerg (in Langeland; 230kr per car) about once every 30 minutes during the day, and hourly in the early morning and late evening.



MARIBO

pop 5573

Maribo is easily the most agreeable of Lolland's towns, with a choice setting on the shores of a large inland lake, **Søndersø**. Its historic cathedral, thick beech woods, waterside walking paths and a few small museums are the main attractions – it's really a place for slow strolling, breathing deeply and letting all that tension slide away. The four-day **Maribo Jazz Festival** (www.maribojazz.dk) adds to the laid-back ambience on the third weekend in July.

The neoclassical 19th-century town hall, in the centre of the open town square, Torvet, contains **Maribo Turistbureau** (☎ 54 78 04 96; www.turistlolland.dk; Rådhuset, Torvet; ☹ 10am–4pm Mon–Fri, to noon Sat; ☹), with information on all of Lolland, and on three tiny islands off its north coast: Askø, Fejø and Femø. The train/bus station is north of Torvet, about a five-minute walk via Jernbanegade.

Sights & Activities

MARIBO DOMKIRKE

Maribo's striking lakeside **cathedral** (admission free; ☹ 8am–6pm Apr–Oct, to 4pm Nov–Mar) is strangely

white and wide inside – its unusual appearance is caused by the nave and aisles being spanned by a single roof.

The cathedral, founded in the 15th century, was once part of a larger monastery/convent complex. Countess Leonora Christine, daughter of Christian IV, joined the convent in 1685 after she was released from a 22-year imprisonment in Copenhagen Castle. She lived the rest of her life here, editing the prison journals that record her tribulations – rat infestations, a flea-infested cell, a randy jailer and the vindictiveness of the queen, Sophia Amelia. Leonora Christine's crypt is in the cathedral, marked by a plainly lettered tombstone.

ANEMONEN

The good ship **Anemonen** (☎ 54 78 04 96; adult/child under 16 return ticket to Borgø 60/20kr) sails on Maribo's rush-filled, island-dotted lake in summer. Some of the trips stop at Borgø, which hides the ruins of an 11th-century fortress destroyed by a medieval peasants' uprising. Trips run from the jetty outside the cathedral from mid-June to mid-September, at least twice weekly (increasing to seven times weekly from early

July to mid-August). Contact the boat or tourist office for the latest sailing schedule.

FRILANDSMUSEET MARIBO

A postcard-perfect outdoor museum, **Frilandsmuseet Maribo** (☎ 72 40 16 20; Meinckvej 5; adult/child under 18 30kr/free, incl admission to Storstrøms Kunstmuseum & Lolland-Falsters Stiftsmuseum; ☹ 10am–4pm Tue–Sun May–Oct) is made up of buildings (farm, fire station, windmill, dairy, schoolhouse, smithy etc) plucked from elsewhere in Denmark. Old-fashioned games are scattered about the gardens – who could resist a round of *Poke Out Palle's Eye*? The museum is 1km from Torvet, close to the camping ground.

LOLLAND-FALSTERS STIFTMUSEUM & STORSTRØMS KUNSTMUSEUM

These two small museums (☎ 54 78 11 01; Jernbaneplassen; adult/child under 18 30kr/free, incl admission to Frilandsmuseet Maribo; ☹ noon–4pm Tue–Sun) share a building beside the train station. Stiftsmuseet contains Stone Age arrowheads, Viking combs, Iron Age glass-bead necklaces, and clothes, toys and furniture. Most of the information is in Danish and German. On the ground floor, the Kunstmuseum features regional art from the 18th to the 20th centuries: if you want to put a face to Leonora Christine's tombstone (see Maribo Domkirke, opposite), there's a wonderfully melodramatic 19th-century painting of the countess on her deathbed.

Sleeping

The well organised tourist office can book single/double rooms in private homes for around 300/500kr, plus a 25kr booking fee.

Maribo Sø Camping (☎ 54 78 00 71; www.maribocamping.dk; Bangshavevej 25; site per person 70kr; ☹ Apr–mid-Oct; ♿) This smart three-star camping ground has a prime position on Søndersø, with arresting views of the cathedral across the water. It's very well equipped, with shop, kitchen, laundry and TV lounge, and it's accessible to people in wheelchairs. The camping ground is 500m southwest of town, by Restaurant Bangs Have.

Danhostel Maribo (☎ 54 78 33 14; www.danhostel-maribo.dk; Søndre Blvd 82B; dm/r 130/350kr; ☹ Feb–mid-Dec; ♿) About 2km southeast of Torvet, this modern hostel near Søndersø has 96 beds. There's a lakeside trail to town, and you can hire bicycles (60kr per day) to get you about. Internet access costs 10kr per 20 minutes.

Ebsens Hotel (☎ 54 78 10 44; www.ebsens-hotel.dk; Vestergade 32; s/d incl breakfast 595/795kr; ♿) Rooms at Ebsens are small and straightforward, but it's a friendly family-run place and relatively good value, especially the five cheaper rooms without bathrooms. Two apartments with mini-kitchens are perfect for young families. The hotel has a restaurant and wi-fi coverage.

Hotel Maribo Søpark (☎ 54 78 10 11; www.maribosoepark.dk; Vestergade 27; s/d incl breakfast 695/895kr, with views 895/1095kr; ♿) Across the road from Ebsens is this large lakeside hotel, the best place to stay in Maribo. Premium rooms with balconies are in the older building, facing the lake – 20 have been renovated to incorporate spotlit spa baths. Facilities include a small outdoor swimming pool, good restaurant and wellness centre for pampering. Wi-fi access.

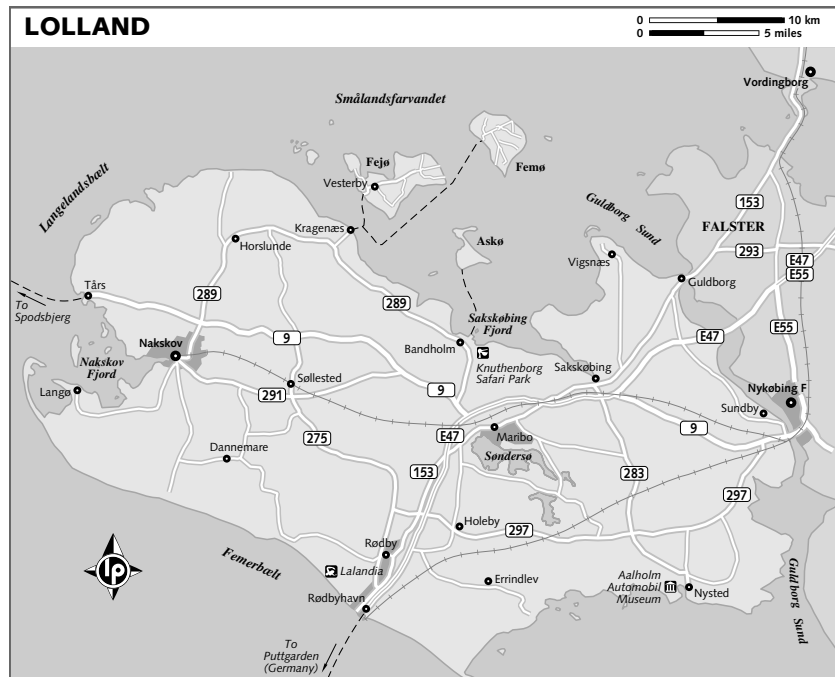
Eating

Blaa Fiske (☎ 25 85 19 58; Østergade 12; ☹ 10am–6pm Mon–Thu, to 10pm Fri, to 2pm Sat) Maribo has a shortage of nice cafés, but at least it has the Blaa Fiske – where 'blues brothers meet their jazz sisters'. The menu includes omelettes, spicy meatballs, soups and stews, however the kitchen closes at 2.30pm (9pm Friday). There's local beer on tap and frequent live music.

Byfogeden Cafeteria (☎ 54 78 04 78; Lollands Centret, Østergade; lunches 40–80kr) In a small modern shopping centre, this is a basic café-pub serving light lunches in a rather ugly courtyard. At least there's a choice – herring, potato salad, steaks, pork cutlets, lasagne, leek tart, fried chicken, burgers and sandwiches when we visited.

Café Xanthos (☎ 54 75 77 78; Østergade 33; mains 60–100kr; ☹ 11am–10pm Mon–Sat, noon–10pm Sun) Close to Byfogeden, Xanthos has a similar fried-food menu, plus a pizza selection.

Restaurant Bangs Have (☎ 54 78 19 11; Bangshavevej 23; lunch mains 90kr, dinner mains 130–170kr; ☹ lunch & dinner) People are drawn to Bangs Have by its deliciously sunny terrace and views of Maribo Domkirke across the water. The lunch menu features light meals such as herring, seafood salad, a sausage platter, and plaice with pear chutney (not totally convincing), while the evening menu has a short selection of fish and meat, plus one vegetarian dish. The best deal is the Thursday- and Friday-night buffet (165kr).



AROUND LOLLAND

Drive-through **Knuthenborg Safari Park** (☎ 54 78 80 89; www.knuthenborg.dk in Danish; Knuthenborg Allé, Bandholm; adult/child 3-11 130/75kr; 🕒 10am-5pm May-Sep), 7km north of Maribo via Rte 289, has free-roaming zebras, antelopes, giraffes, rhinoceroses, camels and other exotic creatures. The park occupies what was once Denmark's largest private estate and has an arboretum, aviary, enclosed tiger section and a big adventure playground for your own little monkeys. The savannah is off limits to anyone not inside a vehicle, but you can cycle round most of the grounds – rent bikes for 50kr per day.

Lalandia

Denmark's largest swimming area, **Lalandia** (☎ 54 61 05 00; www.lalandia.dk; adult/child under 12 110/60kr; 🕒 waterpark 1-8pm) really undersells itself using the term waterpark. It does have three covered pools, water slides, Jacuzzis and a wave machine, but there are also all kinds of other satellite attractions: a Blue-Flag beach, golf courses, pitch and field sports, a skating rink, five different restaurants, the indoor playground Monkey Tonky Land, and children's shows and discos. Most people come on an accommodation

package, with a minimum two-night stay (from around 2000kr in the high season). 'Residents' get in free to the waterpark and indoor playground, and enjoy priority hours. Lalandia is 5km northwest of the small port of Rødbyhavn, in the south of the island.

Aalholm Automobil Museum

Vintage car lovers will be in seventh heaven at the **Aalholm Automobil Museum** (☎ 54 87 19 11; www.aalholm.dk; Aalholm Parkvej 17, Nysted; adult/child 90/70kr; 🕒 11am-5pm Tue-Sun Jun-Aug), which contains one of Europe's largest collections of antique cars. Rare models include an 1899 Daimler, a 1900 Decauville, 1903 Ford Model A, 1905 Cadillac, 1911 Rolls Royce and a 1931 Bugatti. Those clueless about old vehicles might be impressed by the supercute pink-and-purple Heinkel, a car straight from a cartoon, or Professor Fate's wacky Hannibal Twin-8, from the film *The Great Race*. The museum is in the grounds of the 12th-century **Aalholm Slot**, one of northern Europe's oldest inhabited castles (closed to the public).

The museum is west of Nysted, connected to Nykøbing F via Rte 297 and to Sakskøbing via Rte 283.