

Hjarnø - Is a small community with a rich natural heritage

Landscape and geology

Hjarnø's name comes from the Old Danish "hiarni", meaning terrain elevation. Hjarnø is also a flat moraine formed during the last ice age. Since that time, the sea has moulded the coast and shaped the island.

Ancient monuments

East of the lagoon at Hjarnø Odde is a collection of 10 stone ships, burial monuments from the Viking Age. Each stone ship is made from boulders, placed so they form the outline of a ship. Legends claim that King Hjarne is buried here with his men.

Denmark's second smallest church

Visit the church and notice how the history of the Vikings is brought into the church.

Nature

The entire north shore of Hjarnø is one long coherent salt marsh. There is an interesting fauna of salt tolerant species such as Sea Aster, Sea Spurrey and Saltwort. Hjarnø is part of a large international protection area for shore birds. The salt marsh is an important rest area for large numbers of migrating ducks, terns and waders. Arctic terns, black-headed gulls and common gulls have colonies in the salt marshes during breeding season. The majority of Hjarnø Odde consists of a dry, sandy beach. East of this, and towards the lagoon, there are low-lying marshes and beaches. This is also an area of rich bird life, including a common gull colony. The rest of Hjarnø is open agricultural land with only a few fences. Hjarnø's only forest is located in the middle of the island and is only around 4 hectares.

Public use

The short distances makes Hjarnø ideal for hiking. Along the marked trails there are several places with tables and benches for a short break. Across from Hjarnø's old school there is a covered picnic shelter in the school garden. Barbecue your own food here or visit the cafe "Den Gamle Smedie" ("The old smithy"). An overnight stay at

the campsite completes your visit.

Hjarnø Odde is open for day trips, camping is not allowed. From Odde there is a wonderful view of the water and the forests of Tønballegård. There is also good swimming opportunities, but beware – the water quickly becomes deep.

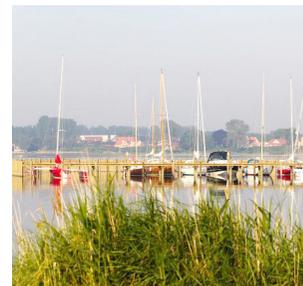
Caring conduct

Hjarnø is a small community with a rich natural heritage. Therefore please:

- Respect the residents' right to privacy
- Use the marked trails
- Avoid going through gardens, courtyards, and on farmland
- Walk around the bird colonies – not through them
- Do not go near nests or chicks
- Keep dogs on a leash

By considerate conduct, you help to protect nature for the benefit of yourself and others.

Enjoy your visit!



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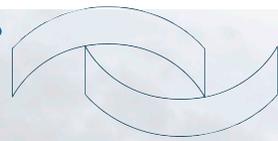
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