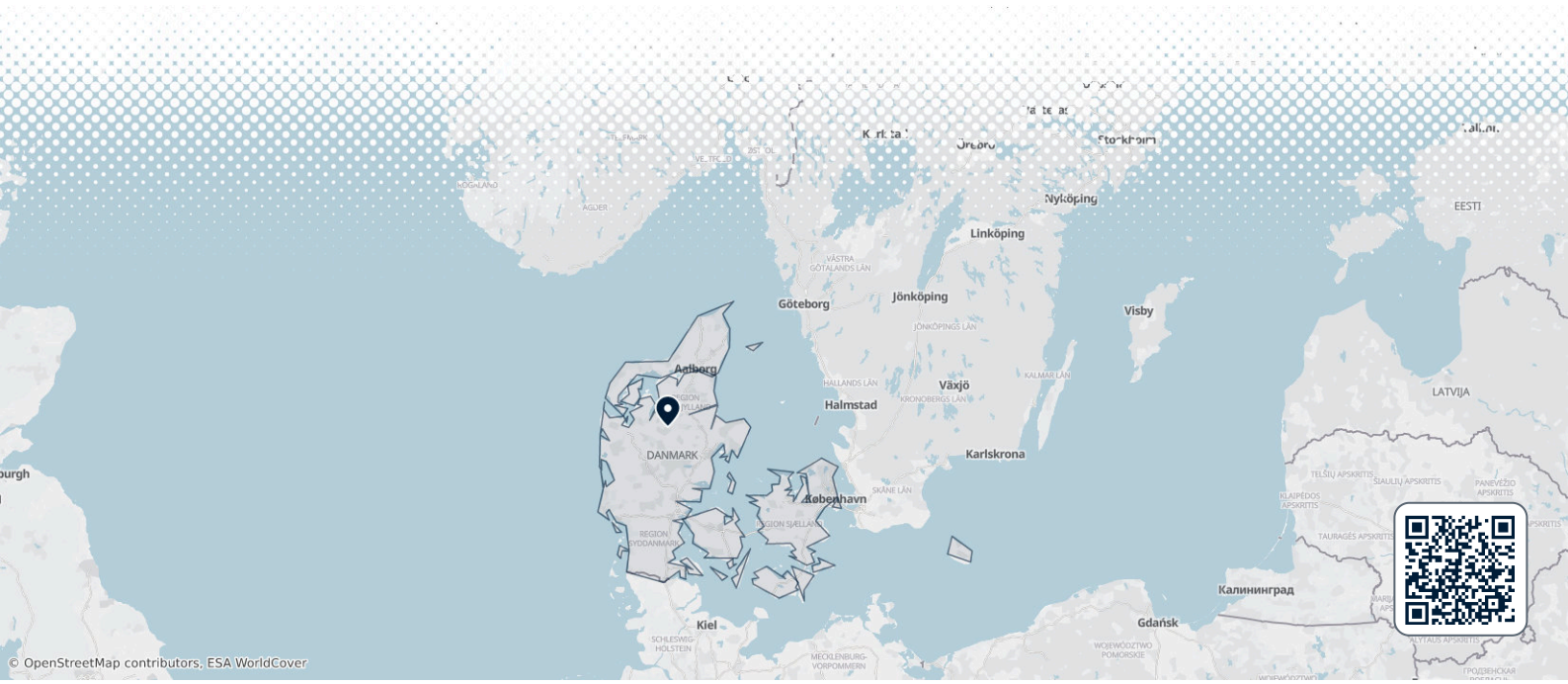


Viborg

Central Denmark Region · Denmark

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Viborg is one of Denmark's oldest towns, set on a hill above two lakes in the middle of Jutland. For centuries it was the religious and legal centre of the peninsula. Danish kings were acclaimed here, and the twin towers of the cathedral still dominate the skyline.

Today it is a calm, green town that suits two or three nights. The compact old centre has cobbled streets, the cathedral and a fine small art museum. Just outside town you find deep lakes, oak woods, open heath and old limestone mines with bats. It suits travellers who like history, art and easy walks more than nightlife.

When to visit

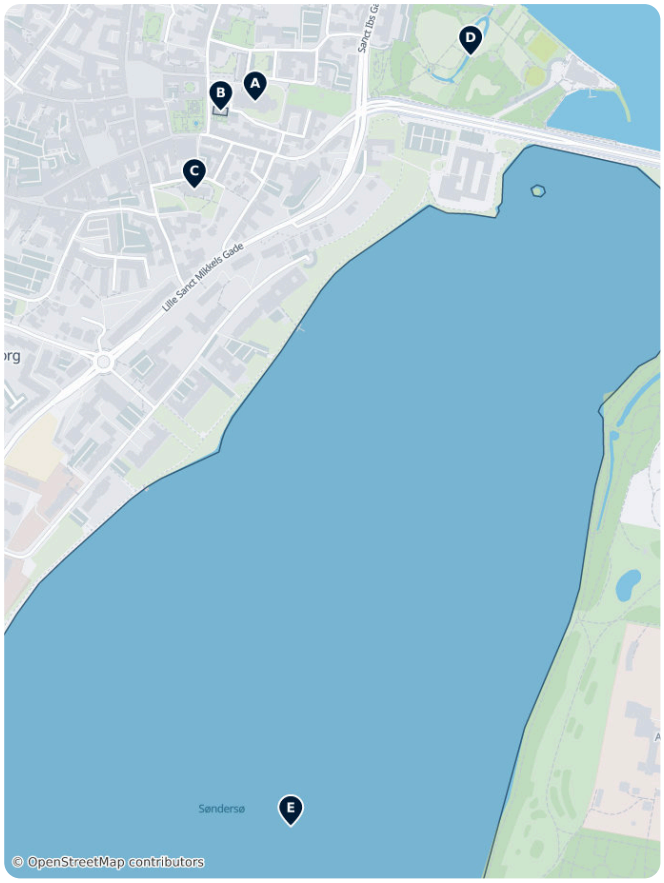
May to September is the best time, with long days, mild weather and the limestone mines open. Spring and autumn are cool and often wet but good for forest walks around Hald Sø. Winter is dark, cold and quiet, and **Mønsted's mines close for the winter**.

The biggest yearly event is the **Viborg Animation Festival**, Denmark's largest animation festival, held over a week each September. It fills the town with screenings, workshops and outdoor projections, and many events are free.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 8° Feels like -4°	-1° / -9°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 8° Feels like -3°	-1° / -9°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 12° Feels like 0°	0° / -6°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 17° Feels like 6°	3° / -2°	Dry air
May	Good Good for hiking	15° / 22° Feels like 11°	7° / 2°	12 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good Good for hiking	18° / 24° Feels like 15°	10° / 7°	12 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	12° / 9°	15 rainy days
August	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 25°	13° / 9°	15 rainy days
September	Good Good for hiking	17° / 22° Feels like 14°	10° / 6°	13 rainy days · Dry air
October	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 16° Feels like 8°	6° / 1°	16 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 12° Feels like 2°	3° / -3°	16 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 9° Feels like -2°	0° / -8°	16 rainy days · Dry air

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Viborg Domkirke is the town's landmark. A church has stood here since about 1130, but the present twin-towered building dates from 1876 and copies the Romanesque style of Lund Cathedral. Inside, *Joakim Skovgaard* covered the walls with huge Bible paintings between 1897 and 1913. Go down to the crypt, the only part left from the medieval church.

B Skovgaard Museet sits next to the cathedral in the old town hall, built after the great fire of 1726. It shows four generations of the Skovgaard family of artists, and it is the best place to understand the paintings in the cathedral.

C Sortebrødre Kirke was built by Dominican monks around 1250. It is one of the few medieval churches left in a town that once had about a dozen.

Sankt Mogens Gade, just north of the cathedral, is the most charming street of the old town. It keeps a row of houses from the 1500s, including Den Hauchske Gård and the old vicarage.

D Borgvold is Viborg's oldest park, laid out on the rampart of the old castle by the lakes. It also holds the small Bible Garden.

E Søndersø and its northern twin Nørresø frame the town on the east side. A footpath follows the shore, and boat trips on both lakes leave from the bridge by Golf Salonen.

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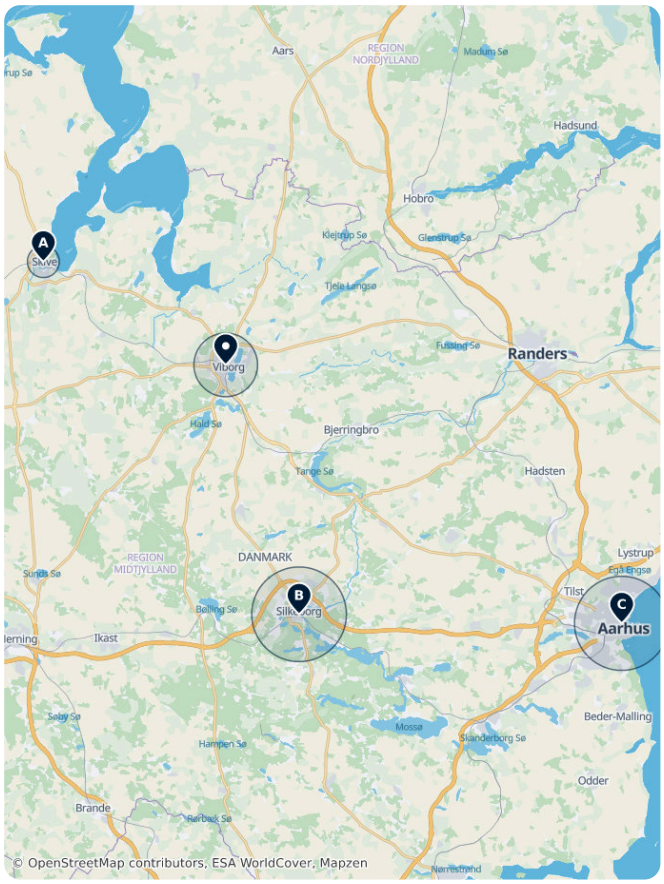
What to experience

Viborg's best moments are on the lakes, in the hills and on its festival streets.

- **Take the lake boat**: the old tour boat Margrethe I, built in 1935, sails on Søndersø and Nørresø. Check the current sailing times before you go.
- **Walk the Hald Sø trail**: the marked 12.5 km loop climbs the steep hills of Dollerup Bakker, with wide views over the lake. Wear sturdy shoes.
- **Join the Animation Festival**: see When to visit.
- **Follow the Hærvejen**: the ancient north–south route through Jutland passes Viborg. Walk or cycle a stretch of the marked route south towards Hald.

Day trips

Some of Viborg's best sights lie in the countryside just outside town. A car or bike makes most of them easy.



- Hald Sø (≈8 km southwest, 15 min by car): one of Denmark's deepest lakes, ringed by the oak woods of Hald Ege and steep hills. Its shores hold the ruins of medieval castles and the Hald manor estate.
- Dollerup Bakker (next to Hald Sø): steep, heather-covered hills shaped by the Ice Age, with views over the lake. A marked 12.5 km trail starts by Niels Bugges Kro.
- Mønsted Kalkgruber (≈15 km west, 20 min by car): a former limestone mine with about 60 km of tunnels. About 2 km of them are lit for visitors. Thousands of bats spend the winter here. It stays about 8 °C all year, so bring a sweater. It is closed in winter.
- Daugbjerg Kalkgruber (near Mønsted, about 15 km west of Viborg): another old limestone mine and winter home for bats.
- Kongenshus Memorial Park (≈18 km southwest, 25 min by car): a wide, open heath that honours the farmers who turned Jutland's moorland into fields. About 1,200 of their names are carved in stones in a quiet valley. Entry is free.
- Ⓐ Skive (≈25 min by train): a small harbour town on the Limfjord.
- Fyrkat (≈30 km northeast, near Hobro, ≈35 min by car): a Viking ring fortress from around 980, part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, with a reconstructed longhouse.
- Ⓑ Silkeborg (≈35 min by car, ≈1 h by bus): the heart of Denmark's lake district, with river and lake boats.
- Ⓒ Aarhus (≈1 h by train): Denmark's second city, with the ARoS art museum and the Old Town open-air museum.

Where to explore

Viborg sits in the middle of Jutland, so several good next stops are close.

To the north-west, Skive lies on the Limfjord, and Holstebro is a small art town further west.

To the south and east, the lake district around Silkeborg and the city of Aarhus are each about an hour away.

Getting there

- **By air**: Karup Airport, about 25 km southwest, has scheduled flights to Copenhagen only. A pre-booked Flexbus links it with Viborg; pay the driver in cash (Danish kroner only). Most international visitors land at Copenhagen Airport, Billund Airport or Aarhus Airport and continue by train or bus.
- **By train**: Viborg is on the Langå–Struer line. Trains reach Aarhus in about 1 hour and Skive in about 25 minutes. Copenhagen is about 4 hours away. Book with DSB.
- **By bus**: Regional buses leave from Viborg's bus station near the train station. Bus 60 reaches Silkeborg in about 1 hour.

Getting around

- **Public transport**: Midttrafik runs the town and regional buses. Buy tickets in the Rejsebillet app, or pay the driver in cash in Danish kroner (exact change helps; euros are not accepted). See Midttrafik single tickets.
- **On foot**: The cathedral, old town, pedestrian streets and lakes are all within a 15-minute walk of each other. The old town sits on a hill, so expect some climbs.
- **Cycling**: Paths follow the lakes, and cycling is a good way to reach Hald Sø. The hills around town make longer rides harder work.
- **Countryside sights**: Buses to Mønsted, Hald and Kongenshus are infrequent, so a car or bike is the practical choice.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The cathedral, old town, pedestrian streets and lakes are all within a 15-minute walk, with some climbs up the old town hill.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Lakeside paths and the ride to Hald Sø are pleasant, but the hills around town make longer rides demanding.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town itself, which is compact and easy on foot. A car is the best tool for Hald Sø, Mønsted, Kongenshus and Fyrkat.
- **Parking**: Most central car parks require a **parking disc** set to your arrival time, and some have time limits. Others use parking apps or a machine; check the sign at each car park.
- **Height limits**: Most covered car parks have a 2 m clearance. Campervans should use outdoor spaces.

Food & drink

Eating in Viborg centres on the pedestrian streets around Sankt Mathias Gade and the square Nytorv, with cafés, bakeries and lunch places serving smørrebrød. In summer, the lakeside terraces are pleasant for a drink with a view of Søndersø.

Out at Hald Sø, the old inn Niels Bugges Kro is a traditional stop for coffee or a meal after the lake walk.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Smørrebrød
Open-faced rye bread sandwiches with toppings such as pickled herring, roast beef, shrimp, or liver pâté.

Smoked Herring · Røget sild
Cold-smoked herring, a Bornholm speciality, traditionally served on dark bread with raw onion and chives.

DINNER

Frikadeller
Pan-fried patties of ground pork and veal, seasoned with onion and nutmeg, served with potatoes and gravy.

Roast Pork with Crackling · Flæskesteg
Slow-roasted pork with crisp crackling, typically served with braised red cabbage and potatoes.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Rye Bread · Rugbrød
Dense, dark sourdough rye bread — the cornerstone of Danish everyday eating, used as the base for smørrebrød.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Danish Pastry · Wienerbrød
Buttery, laminated pastry in many shapes — the local name literally means Vienna bread. Found in every bakery.

Cinnamon Roll · Kanelsnegle
A buttery, swirled cinnamon bun popular at bakeries across the country.

DRINKS

Carlsberg / Tuborg · Øl
The two dominant Danish lager brands, both originating in Copenhagen and served on draught throughout the country.

Akvavit · Snaps
A caraway- or dill-flavoured spirit served ice-cold in a shot glass, traditionally accompanying festive meals.

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Safety & health

Viborg is a very safe town, and crime against visitors is rare. Use normal care with bags at busy events such as the festival.

The main risks are outdoors. The Hald Sø trail has a few very steep, slippery sections after rain. The limestone mines are cold and damp all year, so bring a warm layer and good shoes. Tap water is safe to drink.

History

Viborg grew from a Viking-age settlement of the 700s. Its name joins old Danish words for "holy place" and "hill". The town became a bishop's seat around 1060, and by the late Middle Ages it had five monasteries and about a dozen churches. Sortebrødre Kirke is one of the few that survive.

For centuries Viborg's assembly, the Landsting, was the court and parliament of Jutland. Danish kings were acclaimed here by the people of Jutland. The custom ended with absolute monarchy in 1660. The Western High Court for Jutland still sits in Viborg today.

A great fire in 1726 destroyed much of the town and left the cathedral a shell. The church was later rebuilt from the ground up. It reopened in 1876, and *Joakim Skovgaard*'s paintings followed in the early 1900s. Today they fill Viborg Domkirke with colour from floor to ceiling.

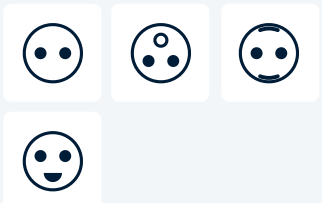
Country facts

Quick practical facts for Denmark at a glance:

CURRENCY
DKK kr

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

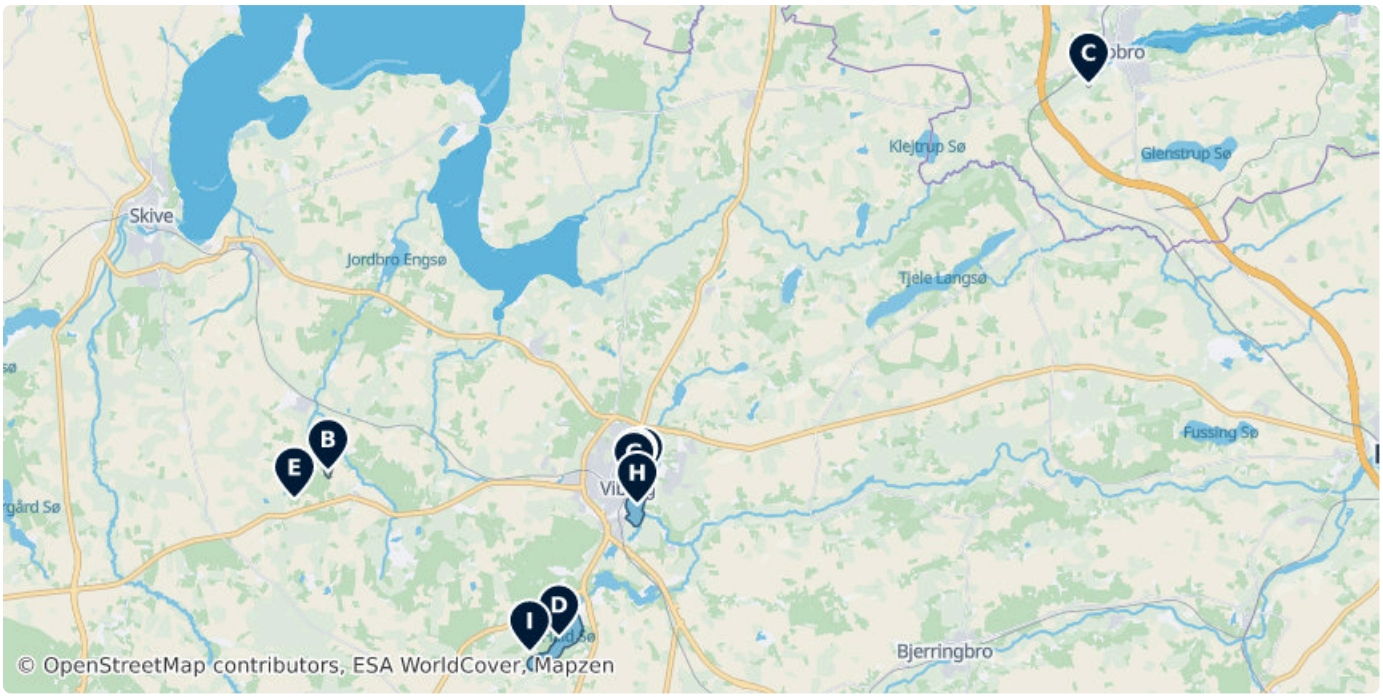


Type C / Type E / Type F / Type K
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Danish

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Viborg Cathedral

Viborg Cathedral, Our Lady Cathedral is the site of one of Denmark's most important historic churches located in the town of Viborg in...

6 Domkirkestræde, Viborg 8800, Denmark (56.45053, 9.41252)

viborgdomkirke.dk



B Mønsted Limestone Mine

Former limestone mine with about 60 km of galleries on up to six levels, now a show mine and Europe's key winter roost for bats. Around 2 km of passages are lit for self-guided visits.

8800, Denmark (56.45486, 9.16891)

Apr-Oct Mo–Su	10:00–16:00
Jun-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–17:00
Nov-Mar Mo–Su	Closed

monsted-kalkgruber.dk, +45 86 64 60 11



C Vikingeborgen Fyrkat

Fyrkat is a former Viking ring castle in Denmark, dating from c. 980 AD.

9500, Denmark (56.62323, 9.77050)



D Hald Lake

Protected lake south of Viborg, 31 m deep and the third deepest in Denmark, with steep slopes, medieval castle remains and a marked hiking trail.

69 Ravnsbjergvej, 8800, Denmark (56.38243, 9.35159)



E Daugbjerg Kalkgruber

18C Dybdalsvej, 8800, Denmark (56.44262, 9.14235)

Jun Mo–Su	10:00–16:00
Jul 01-Aug 15 Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Aug 16-Oct 31 Mo–Su	11:00–16:00

daugbjergkalkgruber.dk, +45 97548333



F Borgvold

1B Hans Tausens Alle, Viborg 8800, Denmark (56.45118, 9.41807)

oplevelser.viborg.dk/Natur/Parker-og-skove/ParkerViborg...



G Dominican Priory, Viborg

The Dominican Priory, Viborg, or Blackfriars was an important Dominican monastery in Viborg, Denmark, during the Middle Ages.

2 Sortebrødre Kirke Stræde, Viborg 8800, Denmark (56.44928, 9.41095)



H Søndersø

8800, Denmark (56.44021, 9.41343)



I Dollerup Bakker

63 Ravnsbjergvej, 8800, Denmark (56.37558, 9.32843)



J Skovgaard Museum

Art museum in Viborg's former town hall from 1728, beside the cathedral, with works by four generations of the Skovgaard artist family.

2 Domkirkestræde, Viborg 8800, Denmark (56.45040, 9.41163)

skovgaardmuseet.dk, +45 86 62 39 75

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- Daugbjerg Kalkgruber — "Kove i Daugbjerg Kalkgrube-Hans Smidt" by da:Hans Smidth 1838-1917, pd
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