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VIBORG DIOCESE

TO BE A PILGRIM IN VIBORG DIOCESE

We wish you a good tour

WELCOME AS A PILGRIM IN VIBORG DIOCESE

Here we have gathered some of the many possibilities of going on pilgrimage – or of visiting a church en route on your hiking or cycling tour in Viborg Diocese. The routes are both short and long, and they are an inspiration for one or more hours on your own or in the company of others. The diocese is geographically large and offers varied landscapes and beautiful scenery.

You do not have to walk far to go on pilgrimage – your hiking tour begins with the first step. You can go on your own or share your tour and thoughts with others. Common for all pilgrims is the spiritual seek for answers – perhaps to daily problems, perhaps to life, and perhaps whilst walking with God.

The Viborg Diocese Pilgrim Committee.

THE LONG ROUTES

Several routes are so long that you can hike or cycle for more than one day. We show a selection of them in this leaflet. On the Internet and at your local tourist office it is also possible to find many regional and national cycling routes, which offer rich possibilities of both discovering the landscape and visiting churches on the way.

In this folder we have marked a starting point for each route, but naturally you have the possibility of designing your own tour. Find the many maps and folders of the routes on the Internet and discover the many exciting possibilities of a good pilgrimage tour.

Hiking and cycling routes in Viborg Diocese where you can visit a church on the way.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

In this leaflet we have chosen to present a selection of hiking routes, where it is possible to visit a church on the way. Not all churches are located directly on the proposed tours, but on a small detour. On the mentioned homepages you can find folders and maps of the various tours.

You can find more information on the various churches, their addresses and opening hours on the homepage of the church in question.

To the extent possible, the presented routes are marked.

HOW TO READ THIS LEAFLET

The icons tell where you can hike, cycle or ride. Each route has a number, which at the same time is marked on the map at the location, where the route starts. Some routes have many possible starting points, so it is necessary to check the local folder material to which we refer. Here you can also read if the tour is suitable for people who have walking difficulties, or if it is possible to hike in the wet periods of the year.

Cycle

Ride

Churches

Churches marked with a number are presented in this folder.

F1: Several paths to choose between

Hiking route on the ancient road Hærvejen

Cycling route on the ancient road Hærvejen

The Danish Monastic Route

DEAR PILGRIMS, HIKERS AND CYCLISTS!

Welcome to Viborg Diocese!

- to the ancient road Hærvejen, the Danish Monastic Route or one of our other hiking routes.

We look forward to sharing a part of your life path and to presenting a selection of our beautiful churches and landscapes.

“I have conceived my best thoughts by walking. I do not know any thought so heavy that it is not possible to walk away from it” (Søren Kierkegaard).

When hiking and going on pilgrimage, our pace slows down. Our senses for the beauty of life will open and our thoughts will ripen.

I wish you an inspiring and stimulating hiking tour!

See you in Viborg.

Henrik Stubkjær, Bishop

WELCOME TO VIBORG DIOCESE

In this overview map we present a small selection of the many churches you can visit in Viborg Diocese. The churches have been selected according to their location near a hiking path. In the table on the map page you will, moreover, find a wide selection of the paths and routes in Viborg Diocese where it is possible to visit a church on the way.

With this material we hope to present some of the many possibilities of going on short or long pilgrimage tours in Viborg Diocese – or of combining the visit to a church with a walking tour.

If you wish to go on pilgrimage we have gathered a selection of pilgrimage words in this leaflet, which may be good food for thought on the tour. On www.viborgstift.dk/pilgrim we have, moreover, gathered additional materials – words for walking, pieces of text and psalms, which we hope you can use as inspiration on a pilgrimage tour.

GOING ON PILGRIMAGE

A pilgrimage tour is both an inner and outer journey. The pilgrim moves his feet and experiences the needs and limits of the body on the way.

A common feature for pilgrimage hikers is the wish to get new experience. We walk to get a break from our everyday life, to get an insight, to catch sight of God's presence in our life. An inner journey if you like, which starts with the first step. It can last less than one hour or more than a month. The hiking tour becomes a pilgrimage tour when you seek answers.

Many people combine their hiking tour with a cultural and historical interest and visit monasteries, churches and special historical sites on their way. We hope that you will find inspiration for your own pilgrimage tour in this material – alone or in the company of others.

DO YOU WISH TO KNOW MORE?

In the Facebook group “Pilgrim Viborg Stift – forum for vandring, stilhed og meditation” you can currently follow the pilgrim activities in the diocese. On www.viborgstift.dk we have, besides news and inspiration for pilgrims, also gathered information about the many pilgrim associations in Denmark and the North, which arrange many activities all year round.

VIBORG CATHEDRAL

Viborg Cathedral has a long and tumultuous history. For centuries, fires and rebuildings have devastated the church, which had to close down its decaying buildings in 1862. A new, large rebuilding was intended to recreate the original church. The building was thoroughly stripped for almost all of its history, but as the church stands now, it is a clear example of a large church in the ideal Romanesque style. Since then Joakim Skovgaard’s frescoes have been added as a magnificent protestant picture bible, which has turned the church into a tourist site and a place of pilgrimage.

THE HIDDEN CHURCH

Bishop Eskild’s crypt “The Powerful Church” or “The Hidden Church” is still situated under the church: The oldest Romanesque room in Denmark. The vaults are carried by six columns. www.viborgdomkirke.dk

The pilgrim’s seven key words

Among pilgrims seven key words have been conceived as a way of understanding how it is to be a pilgrim: slowness, freedom, simplicity, carelessness, silence, community and spirituality. In this material priests from Viborg Diocese have interpreted these seven key words. Each of the words provides the possibility of dwelling on their importance, both as a pilgrim on the tour itself and in life.

Silence

Many of us experience that we get caught in the rat race of life. Perhaps we feel that we must contribute something to be good enough. We have created a society where growth equals the health of the society. Are we working ourselves to death? We need to withdraw for a little while to regain strength to return to the pulsating everyday life. We need the curing silence.

Community

To go on pilgrimage is to hike together with others. The differences of the everyday are wiped out and become unimportant. Instead you share everything with your co-hikers: life stories, prayers, food, water and sore feet.

Freedom

You hike in the scenery far away from the time control of the everyday and the demands of the calendar – an inner and an outer journey during which you experience freedom: Freedom to walk where you like and think as you please.

Carelessness

Worries, worries, worries. This is the way life can be felt as a grown-up. It is part of being a human being. Nevertheless the key words encourage us to carefree being, because worries can paint the whole surface black and prevent pleasure and freedom. Therefore: give yourself times when you do not worry.

Slowness

Everything goes faster and faster in society, and we keep up. However, are there not areas in our life, which deserve something else? Do you not think that we can grow by slowing down and imitating the slow growth of the cereal plant and the oak tree? Practise slowness, while you walk, and feel what it does to you when all life is about is to set one foot in front of the other.

Simplicity

As life goes by, simplicity is often experienced more clearly – and it becomes a comfort! On a pilgrimage tour simplicity becomes crystal clear. You carry the necessary things on your shoulders; a freedom from the daily life and what is superfluous and unnecessary; a freedom where the necessities of life are in your rucksack, in your singing, in the people you meet, in the horizon connecting heaven and earth.

A tour out into the world

To go on pilgrimage is not a hiking tour out of the world but into the world. A hiking tour which leads you to live a more complete human life in harmony with God, fellow beings and the creation, which we are all part of.

Spirituality

Spirituality is daring to open up for something, which is bigger than us. Open up without having to perform but to receive instead. We do not have to act, but to be. Spirituality is a conversation with God, during which we have the possibility of putting forward everything we are thinking of. Therefore it is also a place where we get hold of our thoughts. Spirituality is to get a larger perspective of our life. In our spiritual existence we always have a co-hiker.

CHURCHES IN VIBORG DIOCESE

Viborg Diocese has more than 300 churches, and they are worthwhile a visit. In time they range from Denmark's oldest dated village church in Gjellerup from 1140 to the newest church buildings.

A visit to the churches is at the same time an exciting dive into the past thousand years of Denmark's religious and cultural history. The artistic ornaments of the churches are numerous and inspiring. Not the least you will find room in the church for contemplation and presence – and perhaps light a candle and let your thoughts find peace.

If you wish to know more about the various churches, addresses, opening hours and information about history and ornamentation are often found on the homepages of the churches. Here you will also find more information about the exciting concerts and church activities, which are going on every day in the diocese. For all old churches the year of building is approximate.

VENØ CHURCH

www.sognekirke.dk/veno

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: Hiking Tours Venø and a cycling tour (tour lengths: 5-20 km)

Built: around 1536

According to the National Museum of Denmark, Venø Church is Denmark's smallest church as it only measures 9.8 x 4.2 metres. In previous times it was even smaller, but rebuildings have added a couple of meters to the church room and a porch. Inside the church was restored in 2016. The church room appears simple and whitewashed and creates the background for the preserved old elements, font, pulpit, frescoes and priests' boards. New altar ornament (stone picture by Knud Agger).

GLYNGØRE CHURCH

www.glyngorekirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTION: Nautrup (17 km)

Built: 1919

Glyngøre Church is the youngest church in Salling. When the Skive-Salling railway line got its terminus in Glyngøre, a town grew up around the station on the isthmus, and naturally it had to have its own church. The church is light and simply furnished. The altarpiece with the motif of the good shepherd was painted by Peter Skovgaard.

RESEN CHURCH

www.rhb.dk

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: Kilen, Resenborg and Hornet (14 km)

Built: 1100-1200

The original part of the church has the simple layout of the early churches with choir and nave. According to the custom of previous times it is equipped with two entrances: one for men and one for women. Today the entrance to the church is through the original women's door. In front of the entrance a porch was added in the late Middle Ages.

The Communion table of the church has a built-in stone with two hollows; it is the original reliquary from the original Catholic altar. The font is also the original from the building time of the church. A carved-out

wood figure also originates from the Catholic time. Besides this the church shows traces of the rich interior furnishings of later times. The tower was built in 1792.

LUNDØ CHURCH

www.hdl-kirker.dk

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: Jelse Odde and Termø (several route lengths: 4-7 km)

Built: presumably in the 1300s

A copy of a rare copper crucifix from around 1100-1150 with a figure of Christ stands on the altar of the church. A beautiful Archangel Michael as a dragon killer has been engraved on the backside of the crucifix. Formerly the original was in Lundø Church, but today it is in the National Museum of Denmark. A Madonna figure in oak tree from the end-1400s of a high artistic quality also hangs in the church (today another 5 figures are in the National Museum). Moreover, a votive ship was hung up in 2016 – a model of a “Limfjord pencil box” from 1926.

HEM CHURCH

www.hhd-kirker.dk

TOUR SUGGESTION: West Salling Path (25 km)

Built: 1100-1200

The tower and porch of Hem Church date from the end-1300s and are today the oldest unchanged building parts of the church. In the late Middle Ages, the choir and the nave in Hem Church were extended with new gables built in large medieval bricks and ornamented with blind arcades. During a rather rough restoration in the 1800s the original ashlar of the church were collected in the lower part of the masonry of the church, whereas the walls were built in small red bricks. The tower has one of the oldest bells in the country from the time just before 1200. Outside the church a cross has been erected made by stone carver Jacob Vestergaard, Grønning. Another sculpture made by him represents a man and a woman on their bench during a service. The churchyard is a luxuriant oasis where it is possible to find peace to think. A small park with trees and benches in the shadow is situated right outside the churchyard.

RIND CHURCH

www.rindsogn.dk

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: Rind and Arnborg church paths (13 km)

Built: presumably in the mid-1100s

At that time Rind Church was erected in a simple Romanesque style probably by the same builder, who also constructed Gjellerup Church – the oldest dated church in the country. Originally Rind Church consisted of a nave and a choir presumably built by local stone carvers and artisans supervised by a builder. In the 1500s the tower was added. Rind Church was originally the mother church of Herning, but over a century ago Herning was separated from Rind parish. Rind Church was thoroughly restored in 1994.

ARNBORG CHURCH

www.sogn.dk/arnborg

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: Rind and Arnborg church paths (13 km)

Built: 1150-1200

A small Romanesque church, which has undergone few changes since it was built 800 years ago. The church is beautifully situated on a slope right in the middle of the many mounds of Arnborg Parish facing a wide valley, where the rivers Skjern Å and Rind Å meet. The church has a lead roof, was built in granite ashlar, and in the north wall the original small window openings have been preserved. A very old, ironbound oak tree door still connects the porch to the church room. Romanesque font. A deep cleft dividing the churchyard was created by a large landslide in the mid-1800s, and it is said that parts of the churchyard with coffins drifted into the strong current of Rind River.

ENGESVANG CHURCH

www.engesvangkirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTION: Bølling Lake (12 km)

Built: 1895-97

Originally a medieval church perhaps from the 1200s. Erected at the ancient road Hærvejen with its travelling robbers, warriors, and ravaging diseases. This probably contributed to the fact that the parish became extinct in the 1400s, and the church deteriorated. Stones from the church were used to build other houses in the region, among others the porch of the neighbouring church in Kragelund. When a new church was built in 1895-97, some granite ashlar were still left on the location, and some of them were used to build the altar of the new church. The church was built like the other heath churches of that time, but during a renovation in 1966 the interior of the church was made simple and light, so that the ornamentation was limited to a large crucifix of oak tree on the altar.

BRANDE CHURCH

www.brandekirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTION: Brandlund (several route lengths: 1-8 km)

Built: the 1100s

The church is a Romanesque village church situated right at the main street of Brande. Tower and porch are from the 1300s, whereas the pulpit and the altarpiece date from the 1600s, carved in oak tree with scenes from the Old and the New Testament. The town grew around the church, and in 1939 the church was renovated and extended with tree aisles, a room for parents and children in connection with christenings and a sacristy.

MEJDAL CHURCH

www.mejdalkirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTION: a walk around the Vandkraft Lake (7 km)

Built: 1982

The round shape of Mejdal Church is centred around the bell tower. The circular altar, which carries a small gold-laid cross, is centrally situated in the church room itself. The top of the tower also carries a gold-laid cross. Based on the statement "In the beginning was the Word" the artist Berit Hjelholt decorated the pulpit with pictorial weaving. Two of the walls of the church room are decorated with a frieze by Edvard Jensen. The church is situated in a suburb of Holstebro down to the Vandkraft Lake. The architect Holger

Jensen has succeeded in creating a fine connection between the church, the quarter and the green areas down to the lake.

SEVEL CHURCH

www.sevelkirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: Hiking tours Stubbergård Lake (several route lengths: 14-20 km)

Built: around 1200

Sevel Church is a Romanesque church built of ashlar – a part of the church and the tower were built of materials from a torn-down church in Trandum. The rich family Juul's impact on the church can be seen in the pulpit, the nobility chairs, the gallery, the tombstones as well as the epitaph. The Communion table has been built in stone and has a reliquary as tradition prescribed in the Catholic time.

VIND CHURCH

www.vindkirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: hiking tours around Trehøje, Sørvad West route (29 km)

Built: 1200s

Vind Church is simple and lightly furnished. After a restoration in 1974 a new floor, benches in oak tree and a new altar were inserted. The Romanesque granite font is the oldest interior furnishings in the church. The church has no tower, but certain traces in the architecture of the church indicate that maybe there was a tower in previous times. The figure of Christ on the cross gable was made of cast iron by sculptor Erik Heide.

SUNDS CHURCH

www.sundskirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: The scenery at Sunds Lake (several route lengths: 5 km)

Built: 1897

A small ashlar church without a tower, which was originally located here, was torn down when the present church was built. Both the pulpit and the font are from the old church. The font is the treasure of the church and was made by stone master Horder around year 1200. The painting of the pulpit is inspired by the altar picture of the church, which was painted by the Faroese artist Torbjørn Olsen in 2006.

LYSGÅRD CHURCH

www.lysgaardkirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTION: Lysgård Church to Vium Church (7 km)

Built: 1100s

The church has no tower, and it was built in a poor parish with heather as far as the eye reached. The red-lilac, green and brown colours of the church room reflect the colours of the landscape around the church. The font is from the 1200s. The Danish writer St. St. Blicher was a vicar in the church from 1819-1825. One of his famous short stories "E Bindstouw" takes place in the old school room in Lysgård. Therefore "E Bindstouw" has been converted into a memorial house for St. St. Blicher near the stone wall of the churchyard.

DOLLERUP CHURCH

www.ravnstrupkirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: Hald Ege and Dollerup Hills. Please notice that it is possible to hike from Hald Ege Church along the ancient road Hærvejen, along local paths and to Finderup Church (several route lengths)

Built: 1200s

Between the far-reaching heather hills the small church without a tower lifts its grey walls above the corn fields and the wide boulder walls of the churchyard. The church dates from the beginning of the 1200s and stands in granite ashlar found in the fields of the region. The north side of the church and the choir stands almost untouched from the first time of the church; here the only preserved window is situated. It has, however, been walled up. The porch is from the beginning of the 1600s.

KARUP CHURCH

www.karupkirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTION: Alhede path (49 km)

Built: 1400s

Karup Church is situated on a hill. South east of the church, today in a private garden, a "sacred spring" is located, where a small chapel was built in the 1470s. In the time when the pilgrim flow was large, the chapel soon got too small, and instead Karup Church was built. With its original 26-m-high tower and 7 vaults, the local people called the church "The Cathedral of the Heath". The sacred spring and a Virgin Mary figure in the church attracted pilgrims and sick people, who sought a cure, from all over the country. Up to the Reformation in 1536 pilgrims stopped coming, and the church, which was situated in a poor heather region, decayed. In the long run it only helped a little on the attraction of pilgrims that according to the legend the vicar poured water onto the head of the Virgin Mary figure to make her cry real tears. In 1714 a lightning in the tower delivered the final blow to the church. The church remained a ruin until it was bought at an auction in 1743. The aisles, the tower and the apse were torn down and the church was restored.

Pilgrimage seal cast in lead. Found at an excavation of Karup Church. Pilgrimage seals from the various places of pilgrimage were popular souvenirs with the pilgrims, perhaps as proof that the pilgrims had reached their destination. Photo of the mould in which a contemporary copy has been cast.

ULBJERG CHURCH

www.sogn.dk/ulbjerg

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: Welcome to Ulbjerg-Sundstrup (several lengths: 2-35 km)

Built: 1100-1150

Ulbjerg Church stands high on a hill, very visible in the beautiful landscape. The door is old, made of solid oak planks with heavy iron hoops and with Jesus' own words carved into the planks. Above, inside the church, another message in Latin can be seen on the wall: Peace on those who enter, salvation to those who leave. Through the windows the light pours into the church, which since a renovation in 2000-01 has been painted in the colours of the sun: yellow and orange.

LOUNS CHURCH

www.3-kirker.dk

TOUR SUGGESTION: Round Lovns peninsular (32 km)

Built: 1300s

Louns Church stands high in the hilly West Himmerland landscape. From the church it is possible to see far out over Lovns Broad and enjoy the nearby Louns Lake. The church was built in the 1300s, even though its simple construction resembles that of the early Romanesque churches. On the other hand, its slightly pointed chancel arch reveals that the church is early Gothic.

VILSTED CHURCH

www.de12kirker.dk

TOUR SUGGESTION: Vilsted Lake (20 km)

Built: 1100-1200

With its porch in rococo style and its peculiar stilt tower Vilsted Church can be detected already at a distance. Near the churchyard a medieval thing stead is marked. In the masonry of the porch tomb stones have been placed, which were previously situated in the floor inside the church. The crucifix of the church, the epitaph and the panels of the pulpit have recently been renovated. Carved into two of the ashlar of the south wall two chess game boards can be seen: stones with the quadrangular patterns of a chessboard. This custom is especially known in North Jutland and in Germany – its purpose, however, is unknown. Inside the church the pulpit has carved heads of angels, human beings and devils. The fine crucifix of the church dates from approx. 1475.

KREJBJERG CHURCH

www.bvook.dk

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: Krejbjerg, Hjerck Cove, Hjertholm (17 km)

Built: 1100-1200

Krejbjerg Church is a Romanesque church built in granite ashlar. Originally the church consisted of apse, choir and nave, and a tower and a porch were added in the late Middle Ages. The church underwent a large renovation in 1974-76. The Romanesque font is from the oldest time of the church. The altarpiece is a painting by Niels Bjerre from 1905: "Christ preaches to the people".

GUDUM CHURCH

www.gudumkirke.dk

TOUR SUGGESTION: The Gudum paths (various route lengths: 2-13 km)

Built: 1100-1200

Previously the church was the church of Gudum Monastery. As a result of the elevation to a monastery church the church was built higher; therefore several traces of the rebuildings can be seen in the masonry and in the former door and window openings. Later renovations have since added an aisle and a tower to the church. Colourful late Gothic altarpiece from 1640.

LEMVIG CHURCH

www.lemvigkirkerne.dk

TOUR SUGGESTIONS: Planet Path, Heart Path, Lemvig Lake Valley, the Kabbel Preservation Area (several route lengths)

Built: 1200-1250

Lemvig Church is situated in the square in the middle of the busy life of the town, and here it has been located for 800 years. The artist Bodil Kaalund has decorated the altarpiece, the pulpit, the gallery and the parish clerk's seat. Gothic reconstructions of the former Romanesque church added the large chapels, so that the church became a cruciform church. The church has a rich rococo furnishing. In 1933-35 the church was extended and equipped with stepped gables, and the tower got an onion-shaped dome. Daily carillon.