

Denmark definitely delivers amazing wind conditions – the north-western section* has the highest wind stats of the entire Northern European continent – and it gets great waves, too.

Else Marie Lehman is our guide...

COLD HAWAII...

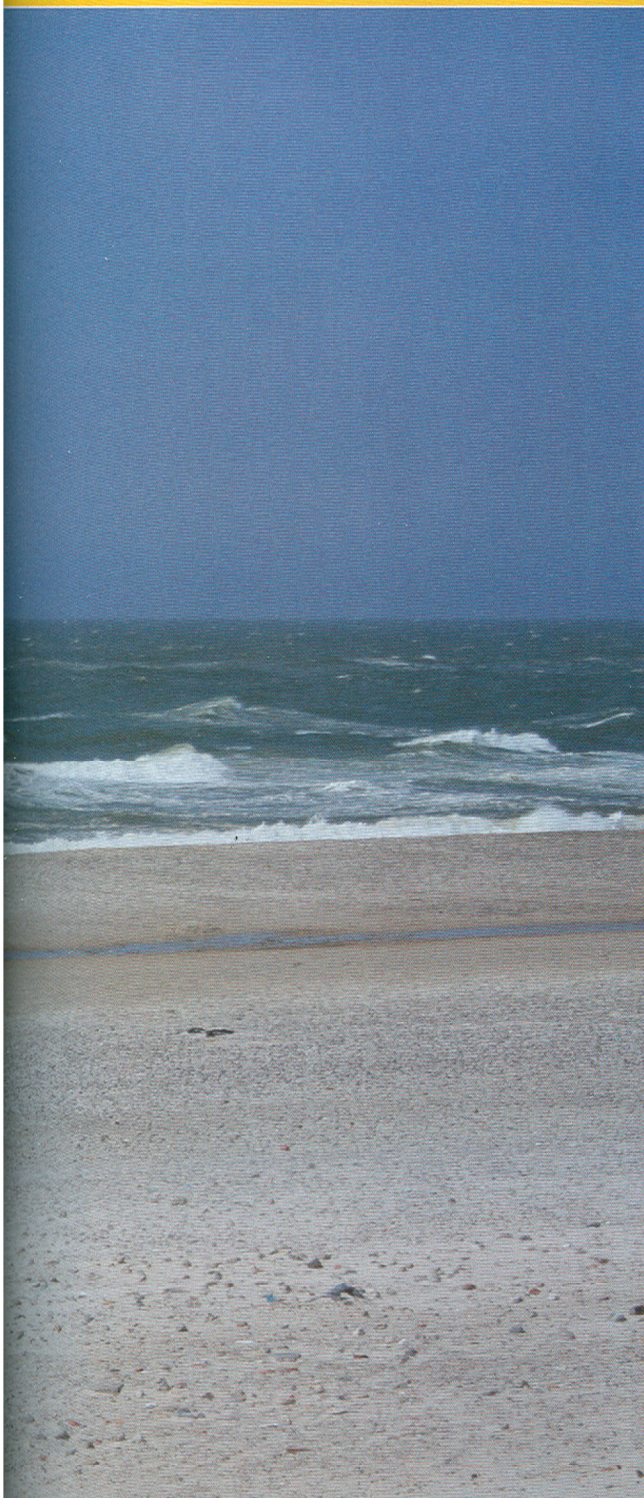
"...because Denmark is such a small country you will always be close to a place with perfect wind for your needs, whether it's at an east, west, north or south-facing beach."



They say size doesn't matter, but they're wrong. Denmark may well be one of Europe's most diminutive domains, but it boasts a *BIG* shoreline. A quite remarkable 4,600 miles of it, in fact. And, true to Scandinavian geological form, this crenellated coastline is crammed with beaches of every conceivable shape and size, offering something for all windsurfing tastes, no matter how refined or discerning. The sailing areas are spacious, too, so there's plenty of room to stretch out, and crowds are not a problem. As for the windsurfing, well, let's just say that conditions are so good here that many locals refer to the area as "Cold Hawaii"...

The Winds of Change

The Danish windsurfing season starts in April / May and runs until September / October, with winds ranging from very light to occasional storm-force. Varying wind conditions are a characteristic of Denmark and Northern Europe – wind speed and direction can change fast, and there will rarely be two days the same. But because Denmark is such a small country you will always be close to a place with perfect wind for your needs, whether it's at an east, west, north or south-facing beach. The closest coast will always be less than an hour away, regardless of where you are in the country, which adds up to minimum time on the road and maximum time on the water.



Wave Lovers Rejoice

Although most Danish waves are wind-blown, groundswell is also frequent; either way, there's always a good wavesailing session to be had.

The number one area for wave lovers is the west coast in Jutland (Jylland) and the neighbouring North Sea. From Vejers in the south to Hirtshals up north, great spots proliferate, and you're spoilt for choice.

The pros and more experienced windsurfers flock to Klitmøller in the northern part of the west coast. (There are several beaches in this area, but Klitmøller Bay is the main one for windsurfers.) Wave conditions are incredibly varied up here as they are so wind-dependent,

and every day will be a new – and fun – experience. You'll need to be careful of the currents though, as they can be treacherous.

Klitmøller hosts several competitions and get-togethers for wave lovers. For anyone who's anything in the business it's *THE* place to be.

Challenges at All Levels

If you're travelling with a group of mixed ability windsurfers the best area to head for is Hvide Sande. For experienced sailors it offers huge fun and great challenges on the North Sea side, where you'll find some of the hardest shorebreaks in the country, while the less experienced (or less brave!) will enjoy the shallower and quieter waters of Ringkøbing

Fjord next door. The Fjord is also great for freestylers, freeriders and speedsailors. All-in-one – and then some.

Teaching New (& Older) Dogs Tricks

Denmark isn't just for seasoned hard-core windsurfers seeking surf and high wind action. If you're just getting started in the sport there are plenty of perfect places for you as well.

There are windsurfing schools all over the country, so if you're in the early learning stages, or maybe a bit rusty after some time off the water, you'll have no problems finding tuition to meet your requirements. Prices depend on the number of days / hours and level of course, so check with the various schools to find what seems best for you – and your wallet. If you're way past the basics and just need to fine-tune your technique a bit, private tuition can also be arranged.

Metro Surf

Windsurfing in Denmark can easily be combined with a little metropolitan excitement. The closest spot to the capital city of Copenhagen is the recently established Amager Strandpark, which works best when →

COLD HAWAII....



DENMARK FAX

Population: 5,447,084 (www.dst.dk)

Area: 43,094km²

State: Kingdom (HRM Queen Margrethe II)

Capital: Copenhagen (1,636,749 inhabitants)

Language: Danish

Currency: Kroner (DKK or Kr) and øre. 1 GBP equals around 11 DKK.

More Info

www.riders.dk – Danish surfing site

www.xboard.dk – Danish boardsports site

www.westwind.dk – windsurf shops and schools in Jutland

www.kyst.dk – wind / weather conditions (Danish coastal authority)

www.dmi.dk – wind / weather conditions (Danish Meteorological Institute)

www.windfinder.com/forecasts/wind_denmark18.htm – wind forecast

www.visitdenmark.dk – Danish tourist site

www.klitmoller.com – info on Klitmøller

www.campingdanmark.dk – Danish campsites

winds are between north-east and south-east. It's a good spot for beginners and intermediates. Other places for those staying at Sealand (Sjælland) are Ishøj and Lynæs.

If you're looking for wave spots head either north to Liseleje and Gilleleje, or south to picturesque Møn. The water in the Møn area has a unique colour thanks to the amount of chalk from the surrounding cliffs.

The Smallprint (and a Little Motherly Advice)

The bottom line is that windsurfing is allowed at most places – sea and inlets – in Denmark. It's only prohibited in a few protected wildlife breeding grounds, which is cool with windsurfers because they're a pretty environmentally aware bunch anyway. Danes in particular are considerate people, and they always appreciate visitors who follow suit –

whether the courtesy is extended to animals and nature, or to each other.

Denmark has numerous high quality campsites where you can stay at very affordable prices and have full access to all basic necessities. Camping on beaches, in fields or in parking areas isn't allowed, so even though you may be willing to forgo campsite conveniences, it's best avoided as it tends to result in fines, upset locals and unpleasant hassle.

B&Bs and hostels are easy to come by too, and bills aren't too scary, but unless your visit is completely off-season a reservation is highly recommended.

So, what are you waiting for? Check out some of the links here for more info, and get yourself over for some superb windsurfing, Danish style. We look forward to seeing you soon! Bon voyage – or “god tur”, as Danes would put it. ☺