

1

The tour starts at the roundabout on **Haulundvej** in the southern part of Ribe. Turn off towards main roads 11 (Tøndervej) and 24 (Haderslevvej). Pass main road 24 and continue down **Haulundvej**, past *Storkesøen* - a large recreation area with several *lakes for anglers*. At the next crossroads keep straight on.

A suggestion: Turning left here onto **Roagervej** will, within about 1 km, bring you to the *Ribe Viking Centre* where all through the summer you can see life as it was in Viking times.

2

Follow **Skovbryder** up to the very busy **Tøndervej**. Cross over and drive down **Øster Vedstedvej**, through the village, *Øster Vedsted*, and then along **Sdr. Farupvej**. This takes you through the small village of *Sdr. Farup* and shortly afterwards to *Vester Vedsted*. The road, now **Vester Vedsted Byvej**, finishes in a **T-junction** giving two possibilities: 3a and 3b.

Vester Vedsted has several attractive thatched houses and old farms. There is also a *tufa stone church* from around 1250 which can be visited outside church service hours by arrangement with the rectory.

3a

If the tour is to be shortened turn right along **Sdr. Kirkevej** and follow the road past Vester Vedsted church. Continue to the next **T-junction**. Turn left along **Mandøvej** until you reach the *Wadden Sea and Mandø Ebbevej*. Suggestion: visit the *Wadden Sea Centre* just along **Okholmvej** on the right, the centre shows many facets of

Wadden Sea nature. The Wadden Sea Centre has a small café and souvenirshop.

On arrival at Mandø Ebbevej, rejoin the tour at **point 9**.

3b

Turn left at the **T-junction** along **Vester Vedstedvej** and shortly after right along **Sprækvej** (which becomes *Enderupvej*). On the way to **Enderup** you will pass *Grænsebækken* - marking the border between Denmark and Germany until the Reunification in 1920.

A little about the marshland: The marshland is grassed over and its upper layer of about 1 metre - consisting of clay, silt and sand (or warp) - was formed at the end of the last Ice Age almost 3000 years ago. In the Middle Ages the marshland parishes with their very fertile soil were richer than the inland parishes, as is indicated by the presence of so many churches along the coast. The churches were also vital markers for ships that navigated the narrow channels of the Wadden Sea.

4

Continue south, to the right, along **Gadefennevej** to the village of *Råhede*. In **Råhede** turn right again and follow **Hviding Kirkevej** to the relatively isolated *Hviding Church*. The church is from the 13th century, but has a *Catholic altarpiece* from the 1520s. For visits outside church services, see the church notice board at the church and the sign at the churchyard gate.

5

Continue south along **Hviding Kirkevej**, which finishes at a T-junction in the village **Gl. Hviding**. Turn right along **Gl. Hvidingvej** towards the *dike*. After about 1 km turn

right along **Hviding Nørrerampe** and continue as far as the *dike*. Now follow the dike north until **Kammerslusen** - unless you want to make a small excursion to the south.

6

Go about 2 km **along the dike** until **Rejsby Sluse**. Here stands a *stone in memory* of 19 young men who while building the dike were overwhelmed by the flood of 30 August 1923.
Note! When riding along the dike please make sure you close sheep fold gates after you.

7

North along the dike shows a beautiful and unique *Wadden Sea* scenery. Among other interesting sights is *Råhede Vade*, a *marshland island* surrounded by channels and trenches. Silt trenches cut through this marsh island and its vegetation, reminding the visitor that land reclamation is in progress. The dikes outside Ribe were begun in 1911 after several severe floods. The *flood column* on Skibbroen in Ribe gives an idea of the flood water levels the town has seen.

8

While proceeding north, you will pass *Fløjdiget* (wing dike) at the **Vester Vedsted floodgate**. This was the extent of the Ribe dike built in 1911. After the Reunification a start was made on *Rejsby Dike*. Until then the wing dike was the only protection against high water from the south.

9

The first “road” to the north is *Mandø Ebbevej*. It is now closed to normal traffic, but is still marked with willow

brooms. Take off your shoes and paddle out in the Wadden Sea - but *Be ware of the tide*.

The island of Mandø can be seen from Mandø Ebbevej. This small island is only about 8 km from the mainland and the only time there is a connection is at low tide. On some days storms can isolate the island completely.

10

Shortly after Mandø Ebbevej is *Låningsvejen*, a 70 cm high causeway built in 1979. This road links Mandø with the mainland and is accessible during ebb tides. Further details of tides can be obtained from Ribe Turistbureau or *Wadden sea Center*, where the brochure “Mandø - an island in the Wadden Sea” can also be purchased.

Looking inland you will see the *Mandø Bus* stop and the Wadden Sea Centre (where nature guides are available). The Mandø Bus runs every day from period May to September. A timetable is also available from Ribe Turistbureau or the Wadden Sea center.

11

The tour continues **along the dike**. Enjoy the stillness, the scenery and grazing sheep.

12

About 5 km farther to the north the **Kammerslusen** (lock) is located. This was built in 1911 after a violent flood left Ribe’s streets under water. It was built as a lock for Ribe Å (river) to remain navigable. It also meant that Ribe could maintain its status as a market town. Until 1992 it was still possible to sail the special flat-bottomed Wadden Sea boat, the Evert, along the river, but in the latter years trips for tourists were their only trade. The lock was last reconditioned in 1978-1980. Buy an ice cream at the kiosk and have a closer look at the lock and the view. Or perhaps order

the speciality of Restaurant Kammerslusen, fried eel, and let the weather decide if you dine inside or outside.

There is a difference between a floodgate (frisluse/Vester Vedsted) and a lock (kammersluse). As its name implies, a floodgate is just one gate that opens according to the build-up of water. If the sea water level exceeds river water level, the gate remains closed. Therefore, it is only possible to sail through when water levels are equalised, i.e. at low tide. A lock has two gates, thus making it possible for boats to pass through even at high tide.

13

Feeling tired? Just take the flat and direct route into Ribe along **Bjerrumvej**, passing the loop in Ribe River on your way. The area around the loop is called *Ribe Holme* and under nature protection. Previously, it was divided into 150 small fields. When you come to **Ringvejen**, cross it and from there **Holmevej** will take you back into town.

14

The **bridge** at Kammerslusen is an alternative. Ride over it and take the first turning to the right. This is **Kammerslusevej** that takes you through flat fields. The *Commoners' Tower* on Ribe Cathedral can be seen on the horizon the whole way.

15

After about 4 km the road goes through the village of **Nørre Farup**. Turn right onto **Nørre Farupvej**. At the end of this road there is yet another turn to the right along **Farupvej** and a cycle path

into Ribe. Ride past Ribe Camping and then on to the traffic lights. Carry straight on until you reach the roundabout and take the first exit road. Follow the cycle path to the traffic lights. You are now back in Ribe.

Remember to bring
lunch, water and
field glasses.

Enjoy the tour

Cycle tour southwest of Ribe



Route: Ribe - Øster Vedsted - Sdr. Farup - Vester Vedsted - Enderup - Råhede - Gl. Hviding - Rejsby - Mandø Ebbevej - Kammerslusen - Nørre Farup - Farup - Ribe

Length: Approx. 40 km

Road surface: Asphalt

Time: 3 hours, depending on breaks, etc. The tour is very suitable for a whole-day excursion with pauses, and lunch in the open air.

*Ribe Turistbureau 2006.
Subject to alterations.*