

1

The tour starts in front of the **railway station** in Ribe. At the traffic lights turn to the right down **Tangevej**. Here stand institutions such as *Ribelund, with garden nursery and pet zoo*, the Police Station and Ribe municipal offices (one of several departments). We ride out of the town towards the east where the *nature playground* is located. Notice the change from flat marshland to slightly more undulating terrain.

2

Where the road divides, turn right into **Skydebanevej**. This area is known as *Tange Bakker* (hills) and is made up of old *migrating dunes*. Ride past the *rifle range, the dog training centre*, taking the small path on the *dike* which was built for protection against floods from *Ribe Å* (river). After the dike, continue along the gravel road, cross **Ribe Å** to get to **Varming Vesterby**.

3

The tour runs through **Varming**, a quaint little village with several thatched houses and farms.

4

From Varming, follow **Stavnagervej** to **Obbekær**. The road twists and turns through the fields and crosses **Ribe Å** once more.

5

Obbekær Church, built in 1885, can be visited. From Obbekær follow the **Obbekærvej/Ribevej** - at times quite busy - towards Rødding. After about 3 km turn to the right along **Harrebyvej** towards **Harreby**. It can now be plainly seen that the area around Ribe is not just marshes.

6

In Harreby, turn right onto **Årupvej** and towards **Gelsbro**. On the way down the hill, on the righthand side of the road, there is a *Stone Age burial place* from ca 3000 BC. Get off your cycle for a moment and sense the history of the place. A *stone cist grave* opened in the 1930s revealed two earthenware vessels and two amber beads.

7

Continue now towards the south along **Årupvej** and through the *Fladså area*. Here it can be a good idea to leave the bike, take the

lunch pack and explore the *inland dunes* - an area marked by large vistas of varied *moraine hills and open heaths*. After the last Ice Age several glacial lakes appeared, but when these dried out the west wind blew the sand around into the forms that can be seen today. The strong roots of the heather now binds most of the sand. Take a break and enjoy beautiful nature. Further on to the right there are picnic tables and benches.

8

Turn left at the end of **Årupvej** and follow **Gelså** (small river). *Gelsbro* is one of the historic points on the old border of South Jutland. A frontier crossing point existed here from 1864 to 1920.

9

From **Gelsbro** proceed left down the busy main road 24, **Haderslevvej**. After about 500 metres turn to the right and take the gravel road at *Gelsådalens Hytte- og Bondegårdsferie* (Gels River Valley Chalet and Farm Holiday) and stop at the right-hand sign "*Aftægten*". Now walk down to "*Aftægten*". It is said that in the old days people got rid of "*aftægtsfolk*" (people with a right to support in the form of a

pension, a house, etc.) by strapping them between two wagon wheels and then rolling them down the slope into the river. They were either killed by the rolling or drowned in the water....

10

Ride further down into the valley to the small village of **Enderupskov** and turn right along **Stensbækvej** which runs over *Gels Å* (there is a layby with toilet here). A little further on turn right again along **Mølbyvej** and follow the gravel roads through a part of *Stensbæk Plantation* and its very different sections of trees. Things now go quickly: right on **Varminglundvej**, right on **Sjapmosevej**, left on **Ungarervej** and finally left again. The area you have been driving round is *Åskov Hede* - a special area with several *inland dunes*. It is a favourite spot for red deer, so keep a lookout.

11

Turn right onto **Varminglundvej**. A little further on, just before the give-way-to-approaching-traffic sign, turn left into **Snepsgårdevej** and a very uneven forest path.

12

At the end of **Snepsgårdevej** turn right. If you feel the need for a walk, there is a *ramblers' path* to the left. The undulating terrain continues, but suddenly a T-junction will appear. Turn left here. You are now on the grounds of the **AMU Center**, with asphalt under your tyres once more.

13

The AMU Center lies next to *Ribe Golf Course* on **Snepsgårdevej**. Here too are marked paths for people who like to ramble through nature. Ride along the golf course and turn right towards Ribe. On the right you will pass *Munkesø*, the home of a large colony of gulls.

14

You are now back again on main road 24, **Haderslevvej**. There are two further possibilities:

a) Cross the road and continue along **Varmingvej** through **Seem** and then back to **Varming**. The tour now follows the same route as is started with: across **Ribe Å**, along the dike, along **Skydebanevej** and out onto **Tangevej**.

b) Ride to the left along the cycle path on **Haderslevvej** and follow it through **Seem**, passing *Seem Church* (ca 1170) on the right. Go through **Damhus** back to Ribe town along **Haulundvej** and continue into town.

Remember to bring lunch, water and field glasses.

Enjoy the tour!

Cycle tour east of Ribe



Route: Ribe - Tange - Varming - Obbekær - Harreby - Gelsbro - Enderupskov - Stensbæk Plantage - Varming Hede - Snepsgårde - Munkesø - Skallebæk - *and either* Varming - Ribe *or* Seem - Damhus - Ribe.

Length: Approx. 40 km

Road surface: Asphalt, gravel and unpaved

Time: About 3-4 hours without pauses. The tour is very suitable for a whole-day excursion with pauses, and lunch in the open air.

Ribe Turistbureau 2006.

Subject to alterations