



Press feature, August 2007

Tee-off for a memorable golfing experience

The Øresund Region is one of the best golfing destinations in Northern Europe with over 90 courses to choose from all within a travelling time of 90 minutes. A remarkable range of courses – from scenic links courses, to beautiful park and even forest courses – together with a professionally maintained range of on-site meeting and conference facilities makes for an irresistible golfing and meetings destination.

A meeting or conference combined with a golfing break is a great way to merge business, pleasure and, let's not forget, exercise. The Øresund region has one of the highest densities of golf clubs in Europe with 106 courses – 44 on the western, Danish, side and 75 on the Swedish, eastern, side – all of them within an hour of the Øresund fixed link connecting Denmark to Sweden.

Denmark and Sweden both have long golfing traditions dating back to the late 19th century (Copenhagen Golf Club was founded in 1898) and today those traditions are well maintained with some of the best – and best value – courses in Northern Europe.

Golf is a year-round past time in this part of Scandinavia as the weather is moderate, generally comparable with much of the rest of Northern Europe, and less given to extremes than Scotland, for example. And there is an added bonus: during the summer it remains light until as late as 10.30pm and many courses stay open until then during these times.

Dining is an important element of what many golf courses in the region have to offer with several offering gourmet-standard restaurants or equally high quality catering for meetings or conferences. In this part of the world we are proud of what the Danes call 'hygge', which, though ultimately untranslatable, is used to describe a cosy, convivial, welcoming atmosphere that both the Danes and Swedes set great store by. In the region's clubhouses, too, 'hygge' is an important element, fostered by elements like open fireplaces, good food and candle light which are used to create a uniquely welcoming and relaxing atmosphere.



But perhaps most appealing of all is the cost of playing golf in the Øresund region. Average green fees are €40, making this the cheapest golf destination in Northern Europe.

Because of the varied landscape around the Øresund, the region's golf courses vary greatly in style, layout and level of difficulty. You will find challenging links courses with stunning views across the Øresund Sea; lavish and beautiful park courses; as well as tees in the heart of forests.

A characteristic shared by most of the clubs in the region is their professionalism. As well as excellently maintained, modern, world class courses, the clubs themselves tend to be very well organised with booking services including bookable tee-off times; good websites; training facilities; cart, equipment and clothing hire; and top class professional instructors. The region also boasts both Northern Europe's largest pay and play course - at Smørum in Denmark - as well as its largest indoor golfing range, the Copenhagen Golf Centre, which lies close to the city centre. The centre has space for 60 golfers and a driving range of 170 metres, as well as two golf simulators and an indoor putting green (the Centre is closed from June to September).

Virtually all of these clubs welcome non-members. This openness is typical of Scandinavian clubs, setting them aside from the, dare we say, more elitist clubs elsewhere in Europe. This openness of course extends to the business community which is well catered for in terms of meetings facilities at many courses throughout the region. The Øresund's golf clubs are well experienced in tailoring services to the meetings and incentives market with many offering dedicated facilities; meetings rooms; up-to-date technology; and a flexible service to meet clients' individual needs. Meanwhile, accommodation is never a problem with a golfing-business break in the region as there is usually a wide range of hotels located close to all courses.

There are courses to suit all handicaps – from beginners to experts - in the Øresund region but among the 106 courses on offer here, 20 are of an international standard, including the renowned Barsebæk Golf and Country Club, ranked Europe's third best course, and Falsterbo, Sweden, Europe's seventh best course.

Barsebæk uniquely combines links, parkland and woodland in its 36 holes. It is rated the finest club in Sweden and is a regular host of international tournaments for both men and women – this was the scene of the 2003 victory by the European women's



team over the USA in the Solheim cup, for instance. The renowned golf course architect, Donald Steel, has been the consultant for the recent re-design of Barsebæk's original nine holes. Meanwhile, Falsterbo boasts Sweden's only 18-hole links course, comparable in style to the classic Scottish links courses.

Other notable clubs on the Swedish side of the Øresund include Båstad, one of the best parkland courses in Sweden with lovely views across the bay of Laholm and a new, challenging course designed by Tommy Nordström; Kristianstad, a park and heathland course that is one of the oldest in Sweden; and one of the most difficult courses in the region, Tomelilla, an 18-hole wood- and parkland course which has twice been host to the Swedish Matchplay Championships – its club house has a spectacular panoramic view over the course and is an excellent meetings venue.

The comparatively new Öresunds Golf Klub has a short but demanding course designed by Jan Sederholm. Its unique clubhouse was once an eel processing factory but its upper floor rooms overlooking the sea now boast a fully equipped dedicated meeting area. Meanwhile, Ljunghusen Golf Club, on the coast south of Malmö, has in recent years welcomed corporate clients including Audi/Volkswagen and Öhrlings Price Waterhouse with tailor made Golf packages for up to 100 delegates. Ljunghusen is regularly ranked among Sweden's top five courses and has a wealth of experience in organising corporate golfing events with a top class restaurant, beginner's courses and professional golf clinics.

Rya Golf Club is one of the oldest in Sweden. It is located in an area of great natural beauty around 10 km south of Helsingborg, offering stunning views of the Sound and Denmark. The course is a park and seaside course, and several of the holes are said to be among the best in the country.

On the Danish side of the Øresund some of the most popular courses include Rungsted, on the coast north of Copenhagen; Gilleleje, on the picturesque northern coast of Zealand; and Hørsholm, set in the rolling countryside of Lerbækgaard. Though the club house here is based in a beautiful thatched farm dating from the early 18th century, it boasts modern conference rooms with space for up to 100 delegates and an excellent restaurant. The club also boasts a driving range with 32 roofed tee-off mats and a three-par course. Another course with a notable club house is Asserbo. Here the 19th hole is housed in an historic, half-timbered, thatched farm house dating from 1795 with outdoor service during summer and views overlooking the course. And if you are attending meetings in or around Helsingør, the town's golf club offers a forest



and links course considered one of the finest in the country with an excellently located restaurant with a large terrace.

Øresund West

Asserbo Golf Club
Bødkergaardsvej 9, Frederiksværk
Tlf. +45 47 72 14 90
www.asserbogolfclub.dynamicweb.dk

Hornbæk
Bøtterupvej, 3100 Hornbæk
Tlf. +45 49 75 95 70 – www.hornbaekgolf.dk

Gilleleje
Ferlegård, Ferlevej, boks 60, 3250 Gilleleje.
Tlf. +45 49 71 80 56. – www.gillelejegolfklub.dk

Helsingør
Gl. Hellebækvej, 3000 Helsingør.
Tlf. +45 49 21 29 70– www.helsingorgolf.dk

Simons Golf and Country Club,
Nybrovej, 3490 Kvistgård.
Tlf. +45 49 19 13 28,– www.simonsgolf.dk

Hørsholm
Grønnegade, 2970 Hørsholm.
Tlf. +45 45 76 51 50 – www.hoersholm-golf.dk

Nivå Golf Center
Løvbjerggaardsvej 1, Nivå
Tlf: +45 49 14 88 80 – www.nivaagolf.dk

Rungsted Golfklub
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Tlf: +45 45 86 34 44 – www.rungstedgolfklub.dk

Smørum
Copenhagen Golf Center,
Skebjergvej 46, 2765 Smørum.
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Facts about Copenhagen / Øresund

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Links to our partners:
www.visitcopenhagen.com
www.visitdenmark.dk
www.malmo.se/turist
www.skane.com
www.flysas.com

