

SYV KILOMETER
UDE I KATTEGAT
SEVEN KILOMETRES
OUT IN THE KATTEGAT

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Syv kilometer ude i Kattegat

Hirsholmene ligner ikke rigtig resten af Danmark. Ingen bøgeskove, ingen marker. De gule huse og bygninger af kampesten ligger spredt her på hovedøen, og et stisystem forbinder husene med hinanden og molen, der udgør havnen. Overalt har vores forfædre bygget stendiger. Selv om denne ø ikke ligner resten af Danmark, er den dansk, og man kan benytte et af de vigtigste ord i det danske sprog til at beskrive stedet: Hyggelig!

Over alt på øen ser vi kampesten. Stenene stammer fra den sidste istid i Danmark: Kampesten, revet løs af isen og efterladt, da isen for tusinder af år siden trak sig tilbage og lettede sit tryk på landet under sig. De fleste steder er stenene dækket af et spinkelt lag muld. Muld, der er dannet af rådrende tang, dyr og mennesker igennem tusinder af år.

Hirsholmene er ikke klippeøer. Holmene ligger på et lavvandet flak i Kattegat nordøst for Frederikshavn. Undergrunden består af ler og grus fra tidligere istider.

Hirsholmene har været beboet i omkring fem hundrede år. Befolkningen var størst i slutningen af 1800-tallet, hvor over to hundrede mennesker levede af at hugge sten til havne anlæg andre steder i landet. Senere overtog det smukke fyr rollen som øens vigtigste beskæftigelse. Fyret blev automatiseret i 1995 og op til i dag var der kun én beboer på øen. I dag har øen ingen fastboende, men husene udlejes af staten som sommerhuse.

Hirsholmene blev fredet i 1938 og fremstår i dag som en kombination af de smukke gamle huse og så tusindvis af ynglende fugle.

Det er en særlig oplevelse at bevæge sig rundt et sted, hvor havet er synligt og dominerer til alle sider. Holmene ligger syv kilometer fra fastlandet. Den lille båd, der udgør færgen til øerne, bruger 45 minutter fra Frederikshavn til molen på den største ø med de smukke, gamle huse.

Fotografierne fra Hirsholmene er fra august 2026.

Seven Kilometres out in the Kattegat

The islands, Hirsholmene, do not look like the rest of Denmark. There are no beech forests, no fields. The yellow houses and buildings made of fieldstone are scattered across the main island, and a network of paths connects the houses with one another and with the pier that serves as the harbour. Everywhere, our ancestors have built stone walls. Although this island does not look like the rest of Denmark, it is Danish, and one of the most important words in the Danish language can be used to describe the place: *hygge*!

Everywhere on the island we see fieldstones. The stones date from the last Ice Age in Denmark: boulders torn loose by the ice and left behind when the ice retreated thousands of years ago, releasing the pressure it had exerted on the land beneath it. In most places, the stones are covered by a thin layer of topsoil—a layer formed by decaying seaweed, animals and humans over thousands of years.

Hirsholmene are not rocky islands. The islets lie on a shallow shoal in the Kattegat, north-east of Frederikshavn. The underlying geology consists of clay and gravel from earlier Ice Ages.

Hirsholmene has been inhabited for around five hundred years. The population was at its largest at the end of the 19th century, when more than two hundred people made a living quarrying stone for harbour construction elsewhere in the country. Later, the beautiful lighthouse became the island's main source of employment. The lighthouse was automated in 1995, and until recently there was only one resident on the island. Today, the island has no permanent residents, but the houses are rented out by the state as holiday homes.

Hirsholmene was designated a protected area in 1938 and today consists of a combination of beautiful old houses and thousands of breeding birds.

It is a special experience to move around a place where the sea is visible and dominates in every direction. The islets lie seven kilometres from the mainland. The small boat that serves as the ferry to the islands takes 45 minutes from Frederikshavn to the pier on the largest island, with its beautiful old houses.

The photographs from Hirsholmene are from August 2026.



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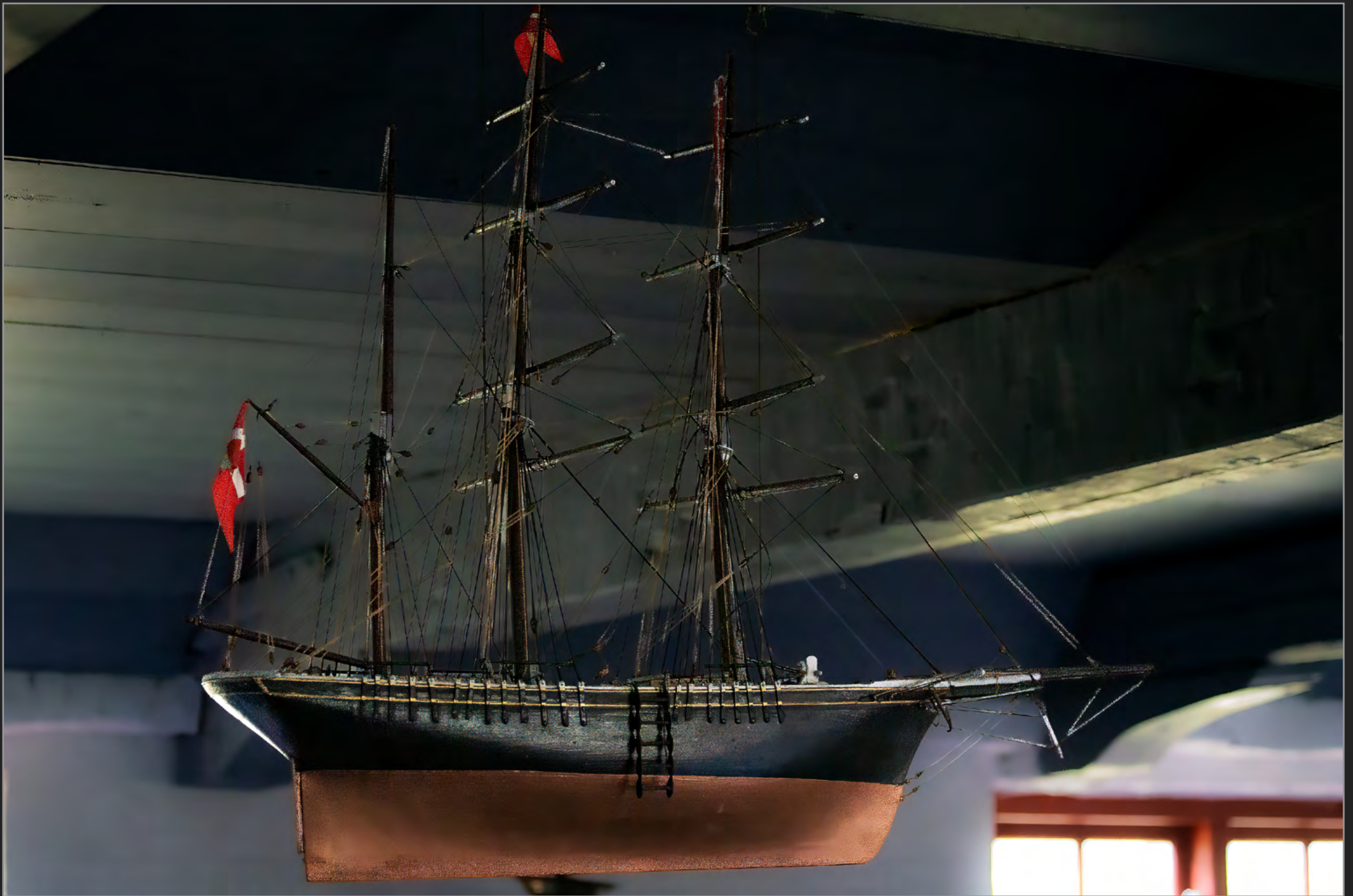
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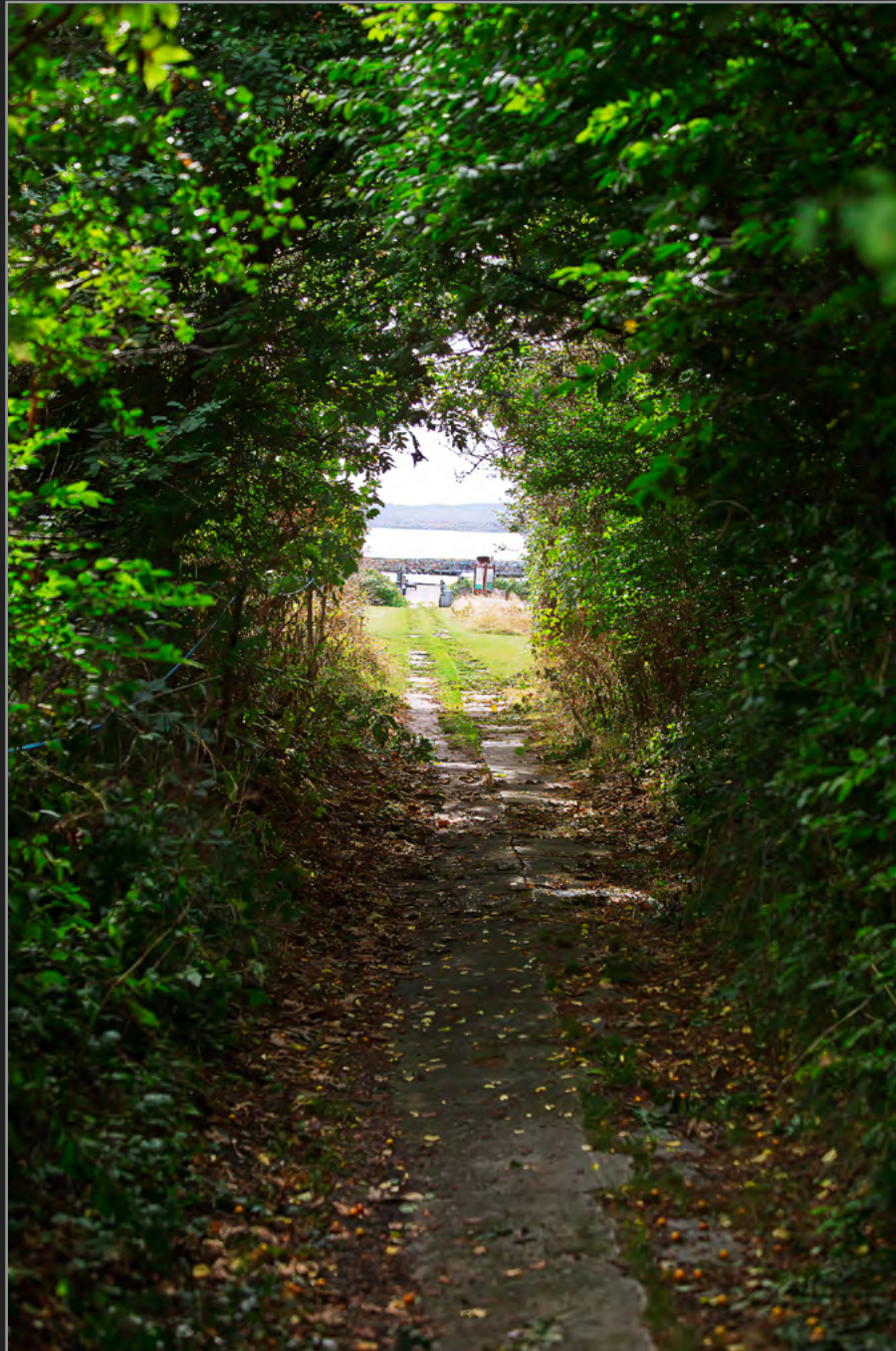
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KOLOFON

Ugens foto: Syv kilometer ude i Kattegat
Af Keld Jensen

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COLOPHON

Photo of the week: Seven Kilometres out in the Kattegat
By Keld Jensen

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