

Rambling – Experience unforgettable moments.

Danish Ramblers Association (Dansk Vandrelaug) is Denmark's largest organisation for active ramblers with 9500 members (mid 2017). Over 500 volunteers arrange over 2000 rambles annually mostly within Denmark but also abroad.

The rambles are open to guests so that they can see if our wide range of rambles is something for them before actually joining.

We have a very wide range of rambles from short (4-10 km), ideal for novices, to marathon distances (42.2 km up to 100 km) in 24 hours. Most rambles are between 10 and 20 km.

Most rambles are out in nature, in the forests and along the coastline or on footpaths through interesting country and summerhouse areas. Other rambles are in towns, often with a special theme such that they are a combination of culture, motion and pleasant company with other enthusiastic ramblers.

The tour programme can be found in our members magazine, Vandreliv, or on our website [www.dvl.dk](http://www.dvl.dk). For most rambles you just meet at the designated starting point without previous registration. A few rambles require registration and the ramble description will say so. Participation in most events costs DKK 10-15 for members. All rambles have one or two tour leaders to guide you safely through the ramble.

if you like the experience of rambling with us then you might also consider a rambling holiday. Our tour leaders arrange 40-50 rambling holidays per year both within and outside of Denmark. During the Ascension Day holiday a ramblers meet over several days is arranged somewhere in Denmark.

Occasionally there are larger arrangements. In 2014 we ran a campaign 'On foot through Denmark' a series of rambles and events throughout the country from the South East to the North West over a period of 6 months, and in 2018 we focus on maritime rambles.

#### *About us:*

Danish Ramblers Association was founded 18 May 1930 with the aim of giving the young a chance to enjoy the natural environment. During the first 30 years we established and ran a number of Youth Hostels and issuing Youth Hostel membership cards was a significant part of our work. From 1950 and for the next 40 years we ran a travel agency to provide low cost travel opportunities for groups of ramblers. The increasing wealth and welfare has changed society to where cost is not the deciding factor rather health, motion, content and social atmosphere.

#### *Structure:*

There are 20 local branches that each arrange their own programme. The National Executive has overall control and organizes both national events and coordinates the many functions that are beyond the remit of the local branches. This is often done through a committee. Some of the major committees are: Media Committee, Footpath Committee, Training Committee.

The members magazine, our website [www.dvl.dk](http://www.dvl.dk) and Facebook are primary information sources for both members and others. Danish Ramblers also publish brochures and other material including the brochure 'Healthy rambling with Danish Ramblers Association', Press releases and participation in holiday and health exhibitions. All this is the responsibility of the Media Committee.

A footpath Committee is responsible for improved and connected footpaths throughout the country. In the last few years they have worked on the Danish sections of the European Long-distance paths

E1 and E6. Today the committee maintains these paths. In 2011 a route from Roskilde to Helsingør was planned as an enhancement to the E6 long-distance path. Signposting the route started in 2014. The committee cooperates closely with local authorities about footpaths. Finally, they have a project to create a 'Quality footpath' in the South of Jutland. This was finally approved and registered with local authorities and international bodies in May 2015.

A training committee leads training of tour leaders and provides courses to improve the pleasure of rambles for all members. They include GPS use, Correct posture when walking, Photo, and edible nature about edible plants you can meet on a tour and the cooking of them.

*External relations:*

Danish Ramblers Association is a very active member of the NGO – Danish Open-Air Council. Over 40 of our members serve on the Council in various local branches. They also participate in the Councils Ad-hoc focus projects such as Access to nature, National open-air policy, Schools open air policy and many more.

We are also a member of the Army Road hostels group.

Danish Ramblers Association is a member of ERA – European Ramblers Association an umbrella organization for rambling groups throughout Europe. In 2009 one of our members was elected President for ERA and has just stepped down after 8 years in the chair.

During Eurorando years we arrange a series of Eurorando walks. Eurorando is a European rambling event every five years organised by ERA (European Ramblers Association). In 2011 there were many rambles under the twin themes of Water and Long Distance paths culminating in a rambling festival. Fifty Danish members participated in the final week in Andalusia, Spain. In 2016 the theme was Energy and the final week in Southern Sweden attended by rambles from all over Europe including a group of our members, and a number of our volunteers took part as walk guides and hosts.