

Denmark is without a doubt one of the world's most overlooked diving spots.

Admittedly, visibility and water temperature are rarely exactly what you might hope to find in the tropics, but Denmark boasts such a variety of marine life that even experienced divers can be amazed time and again.

There are hundreds of good diving spots in Denmark; you will find a short description of some of them below.

For beginners, it is advisable to contact a local club in the area in which you wish to dive. You may be able to go out diving with the club.

Oresund (the Sound)

In the Oresund the waters of the Kattegat and the Baltic Sea mingle, and this is one of the reasons why the Sound has so much to offer divers. The waters of the Kattegat in the north are much saltier than those that flow in from the Baltic in the south.

For this very reason, many different types of animal have found a home in the Oresund, which is a popular spot for divers.

There are a relatively large number of shipwrecks in the Oresund, which are agreeably easy to reach by boat from the beach.

Anholt

In the very centre of the Kattegat lies the sandy island of Anholt, affectionately known by the title of 'Kattegat's oasis'.

The waters around Anholt are full of wrecks dating back to the war, as well as more recent ones. All of them are at about the same depth (25-40 metres) and visibility is usually around 10-30 metres, which are optimal conditions in Denmark.

Whether your ambition involves shipwreck diving, night diving or beach diving, you will find Anholt a fine place to fulfil it.

Fornæs Fyr

Fornæs Fyr is found at the easternmost point of Djursland, just ten minutes' drive north of Grenå. Even on a poor day, visibility is decent (4-6 metres), and the amount of life in the water is always fascinating.

Helgenæs

Helgenæs is the southernmost part of Djursland, and the southernmost point of it is called Sletterhage. The water tends to be clear, and there is a lot of sea-life there. Be aware, however, that the water gets deep quite quickly, and that there is a fair amount of boat and ferry traffic in the area.

The Little Belt

Diving in the Little Belt is an experience you won't want to miss. You will have the option of beautiful beach dives, deep dives and dives in a strong current.

It is important, however, to take the Little Belt seriously. On a good day, it is such an uncomplicated diving spot that classes for complete beginners can be held in its waters, but on a bad day it would be very irresponsible even for the most experienced of divers to dive there.

Svendborg Sund

Southern Funen hides a little gem of a diving place. Svendborg Sound has a characteristically high rate of water exchange, which is the reason behind the great number of organisms that thrive here.

You will often come across mussels, crabs, fish and starfish. There is access to many beaches in the area, so it is possible to dive from your car as well as from a boat. In the middle of the sound there is heavy sea-trade. Try to avoid diving in the navigation channel.

Bornholm

Bornholm is an exciting place for divers. It is one of very few places in Denmark where you will find underwater cliffs.

Around Hammershus you can dive in the caves. The seawater around the island is very low in salt content, which makes diving here rather different from many other places. The water is often both deep and clear, with a great wealth of animal life.

Ship wreck diving in Denmark

Danish waters are studded with wrecks.

Our Danish waters were the scene of many battles during WWII.

Not long after the occupation of Denmark by the Germans, all the passages between the Baltic and the Kattegat were mined, and this, combined with a number of other factors, resulted in the enormous number of shipwrecks that can currently be found in Denmark's coastal waters.

Figures suggest that there are over 10,000 shipwrecks here.

For divers, these wrecks are a Promised Land, full of potential for exciting experiences.

Fighter-bombers, Russian U-boats, minesweepers, torpedo boats, frigates, hospital ships, barges laden with weapons, coasters - all of these are accessible in Denmark, where deep water is very rarely a problem.

Many of the wrecks have an exciting story, while others are a complete mystery. There are many good homepages on the Internet providing information about individual wrecks (see links below).

Risks pertaining to shipwreck diving

Wreck diving demands different skills from most other types of diving, so you must be especially careful when diving a shipwreck.

This type of diving often starts at around 15-20 metres depth, and only later will you move on to 30 and then 40 metres. Diving in deep water requires experience, training and good planning.

The most obvious risk for wreck-divers is posed by sharp pieces of metal or broken surfaces, which you could get scratched by. They can cut through breathing tubes and make holes in your gear. After just a few months on the bottom of the sea, pretty much every type of metal is full of rust. You can easily recognise a wreck-diver's gear, because, unlike normal divers' gear, it is full of scratches and rust stains.

If the wreck is very old, it is generally not advisable to get too close. The sea rapidly corrodes metal and other weight-bearing elements in the wreck, which can collapse without warning.

Wreck diving needs to be taken seriously, but is incredibly rewarding if you know how to take the proper precautions.

Here we should note that there is a legal obligation for divers in Denmark to mark the wreck.

Divers must also make sure to take note when they are on private or public areas in the water.

Never dive alone and remember that safe diving is good diving.