

## PLEASE SHOW CONSIDERATION WHEN VISITING NYORD

When you visit Nyord village, you are not visiting a museum, but a living village. Noorboerne are welcoming guests, but are taking good care of their village and are in their right to a private life. Please respect the prohibition against car driving in the village and park in the parking space at the entrance to the village. Please respect the privacy of the residents.

If you need a rest, you are welcome to use the picnic areas at the parking space, the harbour and at the well.

Thank you for your understanding and have a nice day on Nyord.



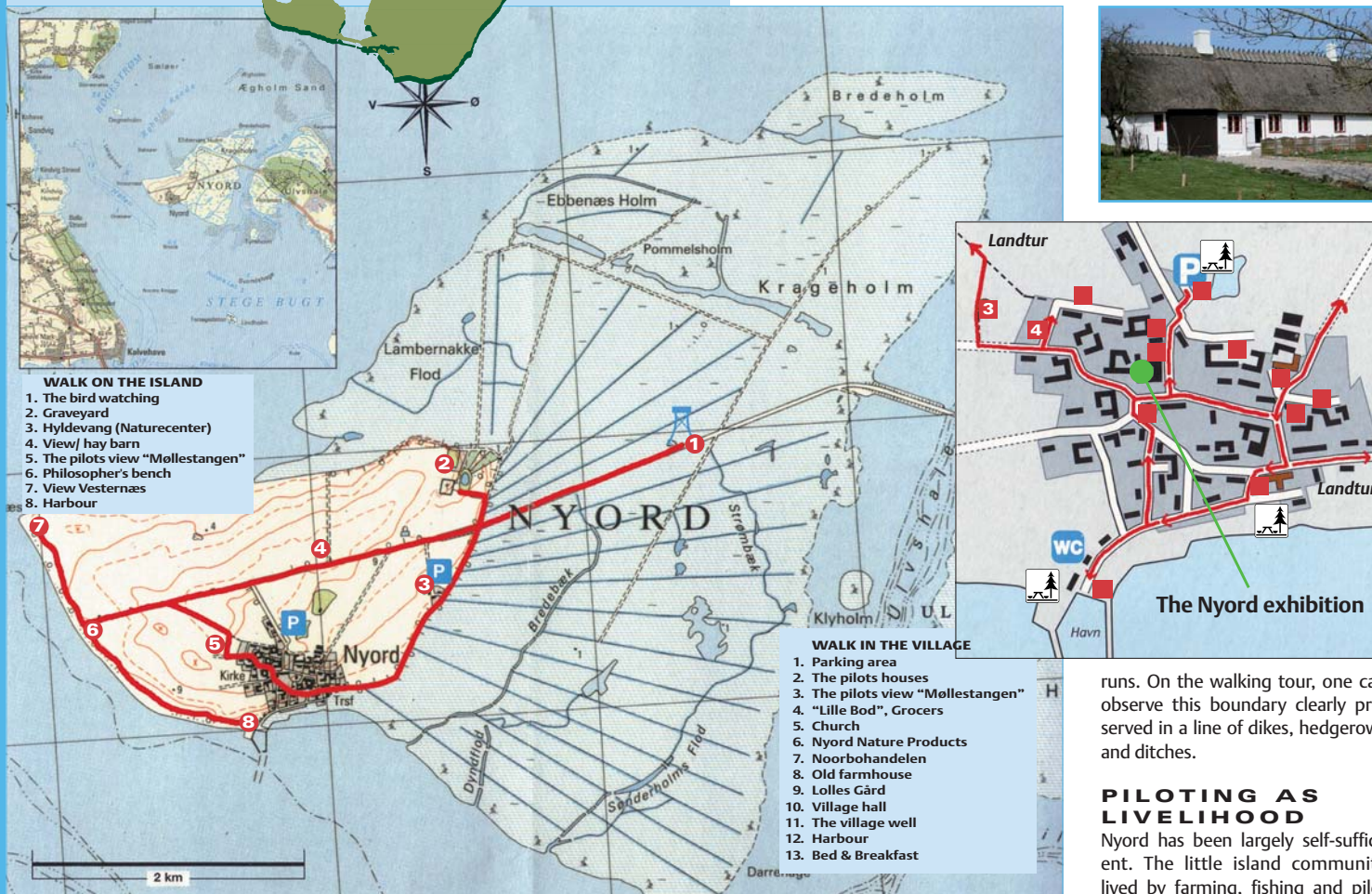
## FIELD AND SALT-MEADOW

Nyord is 5 km<sup>2</sup> in area, comprising around 120 hectares of moraine, where Nyord village and cultivated fields lie and a further 400 hectares of salt-meadow, which in winter is flooded by the sea and in summer is used to graze cattle. The salt-meadows are home to a rich plant and bird life. They offer some of the best habitat for waders and waterfowl in Denmark. The bird tower beside the road provides an excellent vantage point from which to observe the birds.

## A TRADITIONAL DANISH VILLAGE

Nyord village is one of the best-preserved farming villages in Denmark. Only

one of the original 20 farmhouses has been relocated outside the boundary since the great land reforms of the 1800's. Even the ca. 40 cottages added in the 1800's have not blurred the original sickle shape, being either built between the original farmsteads or located outside the village, on specially created garden plots down by the sea. When one strolls through the narrow streets, one can still recognize the clustered layout of a traditional village from the time when peasants tilled the land in common. There was not enough agricultural land on the island for a complete redistribution. Therefore, a dividing boundary was laid out where the main road now



ting. In 1769, the Danish king sold the former crown lands of Møn and its islands to both great landowners and local tenants. Nyord's 20 farmers bought their island for 3903 "rigsdaler" and, in return, accepted the duty to pilot ships through local waters. Between 1700 and 1879, piloting was the chief livelihood of the "Noorboerne", as they called themselves. Safe passage through the waters around Nyord was important in the region. Even in the Viking era, the major trade routes from Gotland to Hedeby went past Nyord. The main shipping lane went through the narrow Ulvshale Løb between Nyord and Ulvshale. Here, the water to either side of the channel is no more than 7m deep. It was essential to have a pilot with an intimate local knowledge. From 1721 to 1879, Nyord's 20 farmers and seven tenants had the right and duty to pilot ships. It was a hardship to set sail in storms and whirling snow in a tiny open boat to help a ship safely on its way in winter. The fees were shared between the pilot and the communal pilots' fund. In 1879, the farmers' traditional duty to act as pilots ended. Instead, the pilots became government employees. The pilots' houses, in the western part of the village, all date from this time. "Møllestangen", the little brick house with the flagpole, on the hill just west of the village, is also from this period. From here one has excellent views of the surrounding waters. The flag was hoisted to notify the pilots when a ship came in sight. In 1940, Nyord still had three pilots. By 1957, there was just one. In 1966, piloting stopped and an era came to an end.

runs. On the walking tour, one can observe this boundary clearly preserved in a line of dikes, hedgerows and ditches.

## PILOTING AS LIVELIHOOD

Nyord has been largely self-sufficient. The little island community lived by farming, fishing and pilo-





### NYORD CHURCH

By 1846, Nyord had grown so much that the islanders wanted their own church. Nyord Church, with a typical octagonal groundplan, was designed by the architect C. Glahn. The islanders themselves collected the stones for the foundations and the walls of the churchyard (sited outside the village). The village acquired its rectory and school at the same time.

### COMMERCIAL LIFE ON NYORD

Around the year 1900, Nyord had so many residents (365) that there were customers for five grocery stores. One of them was named "Sans Souci" ("No sorrows") and was, by the last owner, grocer Lilly Hansen, run for more than 50 years. Today, though Nyord only has 48 residents, there is still room for a busy commercial life on the island. The grocery is driven in Lilly's spirit from "Lillebod" on the gravel path.



The fine small business Nyord Naturprodukter is situated just across the street from the Nyord Exhibition.

The last shop with special goods came in 2007: Noorbohandelen, which is known for its spirits, sold by the piece, and a variety of local products, as e.g. Nyord mustard. Nyord also has its own inn, Lolles Gård, where the cook Anja Hansen serves up delicious meal, prepared of fresh local ingredients.



### THE SEA AS ROAD

Until 1968, when the Nyord bridge was opened, all transport to and from the island was by boat. In the first part of the twentieth century a large share of transport went on the postboat "Røret". Launched in 1902, "Røret" carried mail and passengers between Nyord and Stege for 65 years. The skipper was loathe to let unruly horses and cattle on board the little boat, so they were often "swum" over the Ulvshale Løb. Tied behind the boat and protesting loudly, they were first hauled through the shallows and then forced to swim until their feet once again found bottom on the opposite side. There were also problems with transporting machinery. It was not easy to load a combine harvester on the little boat. Sugar beet had to be shovelled by hand onto wagons, driven to the harbour and, again by hand, loaded onto the boat "Havfruen" for transport to the sugar factory in Stege. Not surprisingly, the new bridge was felt as an indescribable relief.

### THE MAIL BOAT RØRET RETURNS TO NYORD AFTER 30 YEARS

When Noorboerne, the residents on Nyord, in August 2008 were offered a chance to buy back their old mail boat "Røret", a great wish came through. After more than 30 years of being privately owned, the island's residents and the ship's circle of friends will now make an effort to take the boat back to its original state and return it to the ply between Nyord, Stege and Kalvehave. Follow the restoration of Røret and find further information on [www.Nyord.dk](http://www.Nyord.dk).



### THE NYORD EXHIBITION

The cultural historical exhibition about Nyord opened in 2004. It is made in cooperation between Møn Library and Nyord Local Historical Society. The residents of Nyord have made a great effort to preserve the unique cultural inheritance of the island and make it visible. The exhibition has its own room in the beautiful old pilot's house Nyord Bygade 1 (see map)



The exhibition is open all day on a daily base from Easter until November.

MØN TURISTBUREAU

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# NYORD

## - VILLAGE AND ISLAND



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