

PRESS RELEASE

17 March 2017

Møn and Nyord are Scandinavia's first Dark Sky area

Light in darkness on Møn. Working with Vordingborg Municipality, local companies and citizens on the islands of Møn and Nyord are now reaping the rewards of four years of hard work. Møn and Nyord have become the first Dark Sky areas in Scandinavia. This is the world's first twin Dark Sky designation.

The International Dark-Sky Association, IDA, has announced that Møn and Nyord are now Scandinavia's first International Dark Sky Park and International Dark Sky Community. The Dark Sky Park even has Gold Tier status.

Dark-Sky designation confirms that Møn and Nyord are one of the world's best stargazing locations. The designation also recognizes the importance of persistent local efforts to avoid light wastage and preserve the dark night skies in this area.

There are 14 Dark Sky communities across the globe and only three of these are in Europe – in Scotland, on the Hebrides and British Channel Islands. A Dark Sky Community is defined as a community that has exceptional dedication to preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of a quality outdoor lighting ordinance – and setting an example for other communities to follow.

A Dark Sky Park is an area with extraordinarily clear night skies and natural darkness that is a valuable and publicly accessible scientific, natural, educational and cultural resource. There are Dark Sky Parks at 44 locations across the globe, although only nine in Europe.

Møn and Nyord is the first place in the world to become both a Dark Sky Community and a Dark Sky Park. The Park area comprises the eastern side of Møn and State-owned parcels of land on Nyord.

Executive Director of IDA, J. Scott Feierabend, congratulates Møn and Nyord. "The islands of Møn and Nyord have achieved something truly unique in the history of the IDA International Dark Sky Places Program. Møn and Nyord is the first IDA Dark Sky certified area in Scandinavia and the first area in the world to receive certification as both a Dark Sky Community and a Dark Sky Park. The nomination reflects a globally unprecedented protection of the natural night habitat. We hope that other areas, in Denmark and elsewhere, will regard the islands as a shining example of what can be achieved by a local population and organizations' working together to create positive change in outdoor lighting and improve public awareness of the value of dark sky preservation" says J. Scott Feierabend.

Mayor Knud Larsen expressed his praise for collective efforts that led to certification.

"With a group of local citizens and companies, we have worked towards Dark Sky certification for four years. The group of local players are enthusiastic about preserving the dark skies over Møn and Nyord through installing intelligent lighting, spreading the word, and creating more memorable experiences for visitors and the local community. This is an impressive piece of work that also demonstrates how dark skies can become a lever for growth. We see Møns Klint as our beacon and we believe our potential lies in local values. From Copenhagen, you can see approximately 100 stars. From Møn and Nyord, we can see more than 5,000 stars in our uniquely dark skies. Let's get out there and enjoy them – they have been ours to enjoy for the past 70 million years. It takes only about 90 minutes to drive to Møn from Copenhagen," says Knud Larsen.

The Dark Sky certificates will be celebrated at a major event to be held in August 2017.

Read more (in Danish) at: www.darksky-moen.dk.

For further information, please contact:

Mayor Knud Larsen, tel.: +45 55 36 27 05 93, cell phone: +45 21 27 21 58