

H-spot: Go far Go Zero

The idea of a Hitchhiking spot was proposed from the need of reducing the CO2 levels in the region as a part of project ZERO and as an initiative to revive local outdoor attractions.

Problem formulation:

Speaking to the last generation you'll often hear that they hitchhiked when they were young, but the awareness that the internet give us we are suddenly afraid of everything that could go wrong. Without the understanding of hitchhiking and how safe it actually is the local dane does not feel safe to travel this way. We are also rich enough that we can pay our responsibility away and take a car each, no matter where we want to go. Therefore it is not uncommon for the average danish family to have an extra car.

This is strengthened by many outskirt districts losing their public transport, making it harder reach without your own car. Some of these districts whom would love visitors to come and see their local, small, but beautiful natural attractions.

While sharing cars a rising i popularity and have great benefits. They still lack in the availability and spontaneousness that we have come to love about our own cars.

It is a big leap to start hitchhiking and this report will explain how easy we can make it.

With the support of the municipality it is seems possible to greatly improve the local and national trust in the local community.

Statistic in Denmark (<http://www.hitchlog.com>):

- Test sample: 578 Rides
- Very good 13
- Good 562
- Bad 2
- Very bad 1 (Was set off on a wrong spot in spain)

Municipality gains:

- Making a trip to the countryside without a car.
- Meeting people
 - Establish local connections
 - Making international connections
 - **Building trust in the local and national community.**
- Saving CO2
- Reviving local attractions.
- Improve community.
- Green image

Local gains:

- Making a trip to the countryside without a car.
- Making a long trip with a little budget.
- Making an spontaneous trip without having a car.

- Meeting people
 - Establish local connections
 - Making international friends
 - Sharing stories of the surroundings.
 - Building trust in the local and national community.
- Saving fuel.
- Saving money.
- Relieve boredom of pendlers.
- Improve community.
- Moving personal limits (becoming less introvert)
- Spending time outside, explore the nature.
- Opportunity for youth to go on spontaneous travels.
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Issues and solutions

Normally Hitchhiking also means issues. These issues we hope to cover with our H-spot and thereby making hitchhiking a whole new experience.

- **Drivers lack seats**
 - Solutions
 - Provide reusable signs - tells how many seats you need.
 - Online guide - If you travel as a group you can split up and meet later.
- **No drivers in your direction**
 - Solutions
 - Place spots where it is likely to be picked up in the right direction.
 - Provide reusable signs - with the names of popular destinations, each with a colour/logo representing the area.
 - Provide a map Southern Denmark to provide overview of where to go and how.
- **Time to stop**
 - Solutions
 - Place spots where the driver have time to see the hitchhiker in advance and to make a decision.
- **Space to stop**
 - Solutions
 - Place or build spots where the drive have a possibility to stop the car without stopping the traffic.

- **Getting dark**
 - Solutions
 - Place a lamp that shows the hitchhiker.
 - Provide reusable signs - reflective material to be read in the dark.
 - Close the spot at night.
- **Bad weather**
 - Solutions
 - Making the place very visible to improve quick pick up.
 - Provide a roof and wind break
 - This would require a bigger construction.
 - It is not like taking the bus where you wait for the bus. Here you do not wait, but actively try to get a hitch. A big shelter is therefore not needed, but some protection from hard weather should be in place.
- **Drivers don't know where you are heading**
 - Solutions
 - Provide reusable signs - with the names of popular destinations, each with a colour/logo representing the area.
- **Spot is far away from the center**
 - Solutions
 - It needs to be far away to catch outgoing traffic.
 - Special bus prices to to the city border.
- **Being afraid of driver/hiker**
 - Solutions
 - Create a hitchhike spot that looks trustworthy.
 - Set up a guideline - Hiker could always take a picture of the licence plate and send it to a friend/app database.
 - Set up a guideline - Driver should always take a picture of the licence card and send it to a friend/app database.
 - Install camera that can take a picture of car and hitchhiker when the car stops.
 - Place a lamp that shows the hitchhiker clearly in the dark.

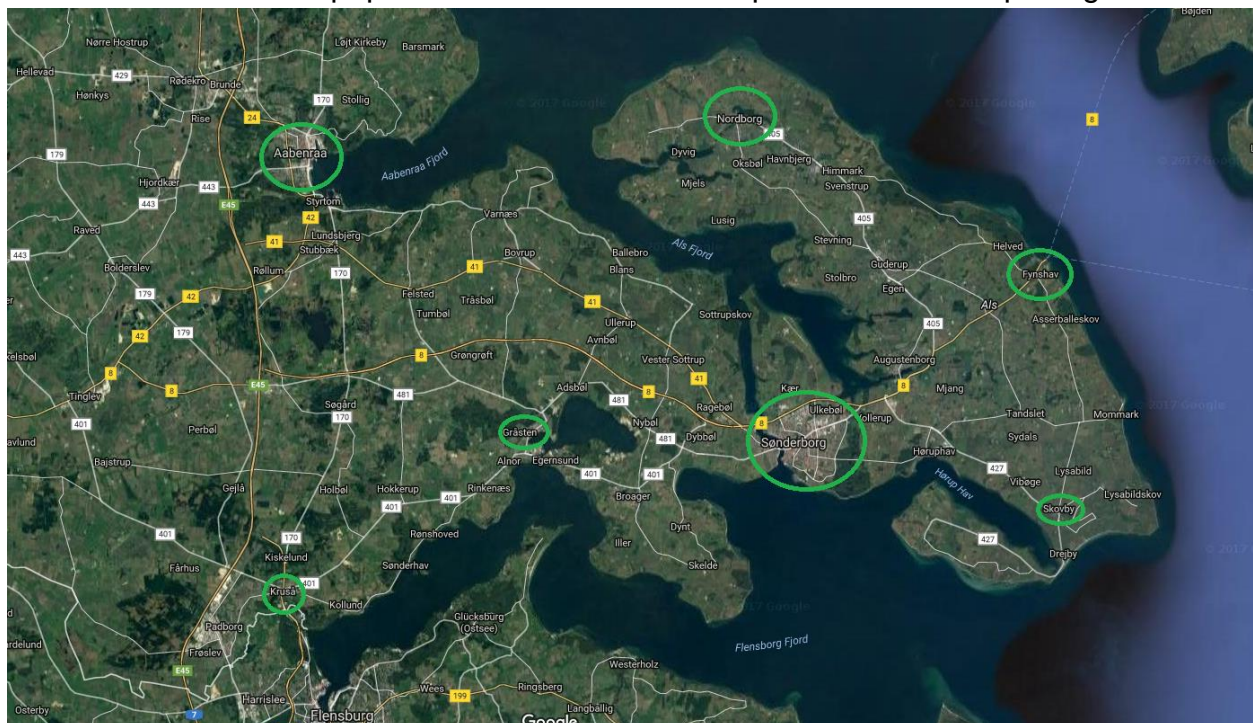
- Making an interactive screen. So you can take a picture with the driver and it saves it in the data and send it to you AND upload it to the facebook page. With direction #'s.
- **Lack of knowledge of local surroundings**
 - Solutions
 - Provide a map Southern Denmark to provide overview of where to go and how.
 - Provide tourist informations.
- **Getting set off at a bad spot**
 - Solutions
 - Include a map at the H-spot marking other h-spots and showing good and bad spots to be set off in the local area.
 - Include QR code to online forum and map with guide to the rest Denmark and the world (hitchwiki.org/ & hitchwiki.org/maps/).

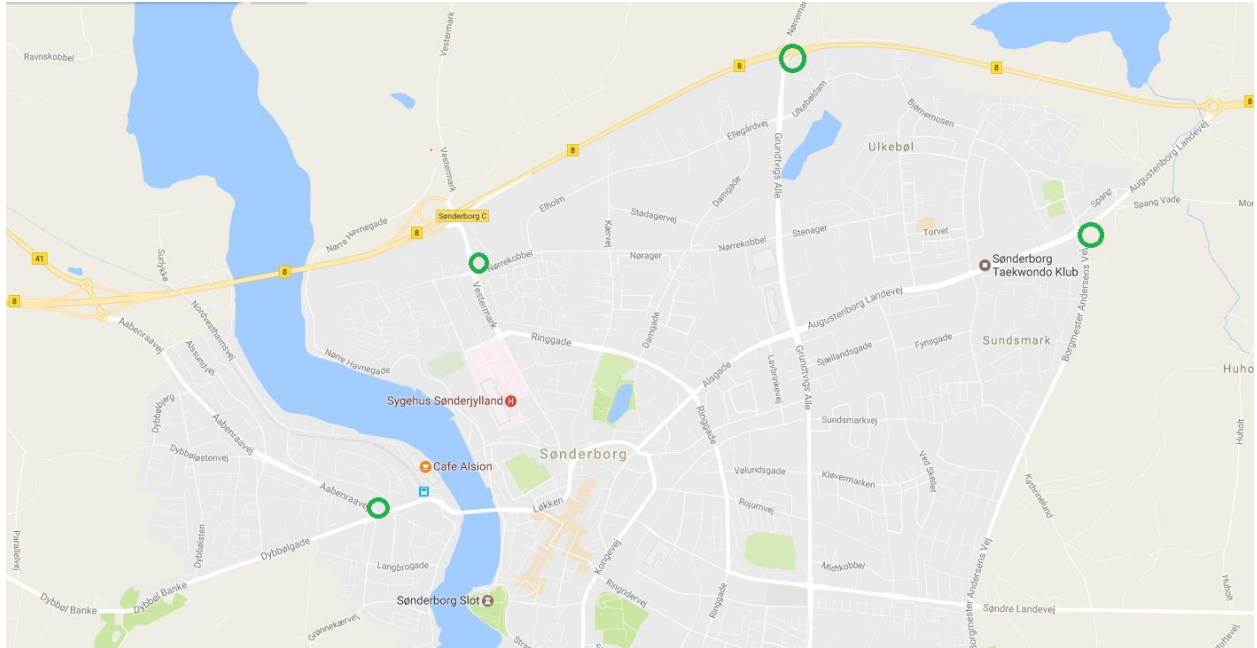
Placement

A key factor of the Hitchhiker spots are the placements.

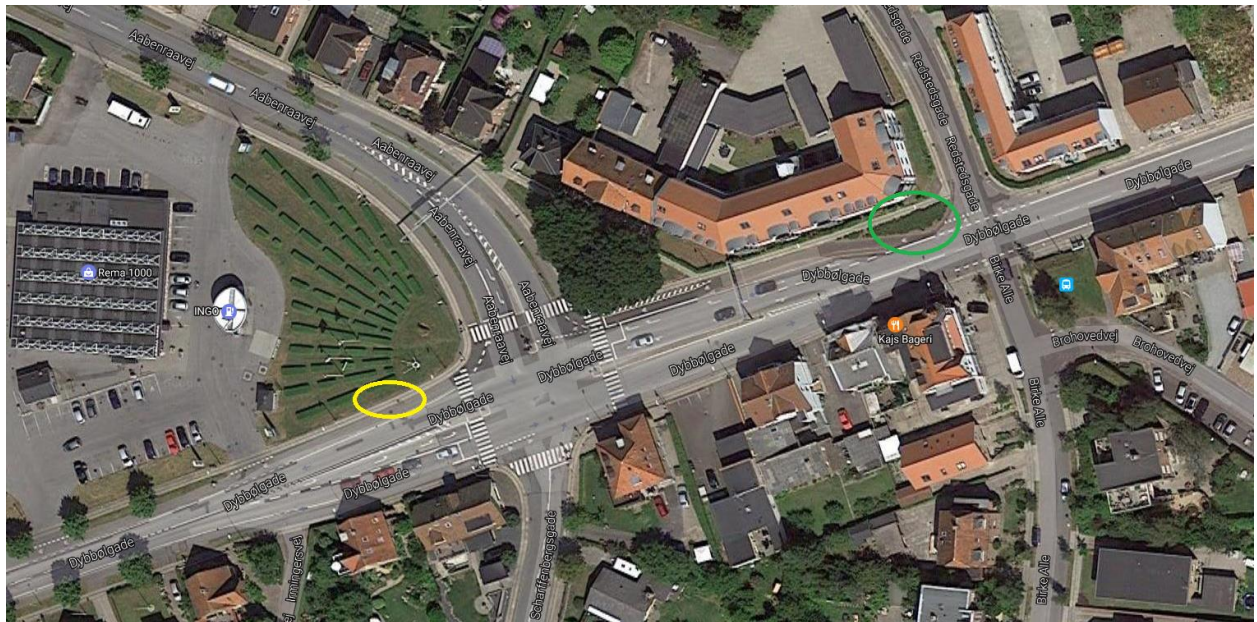
Below several key areas are noted. Only in Sonderborg is there a more detailed plan.

The areas marked are popular destinations with rich possibilities for exploring detours.

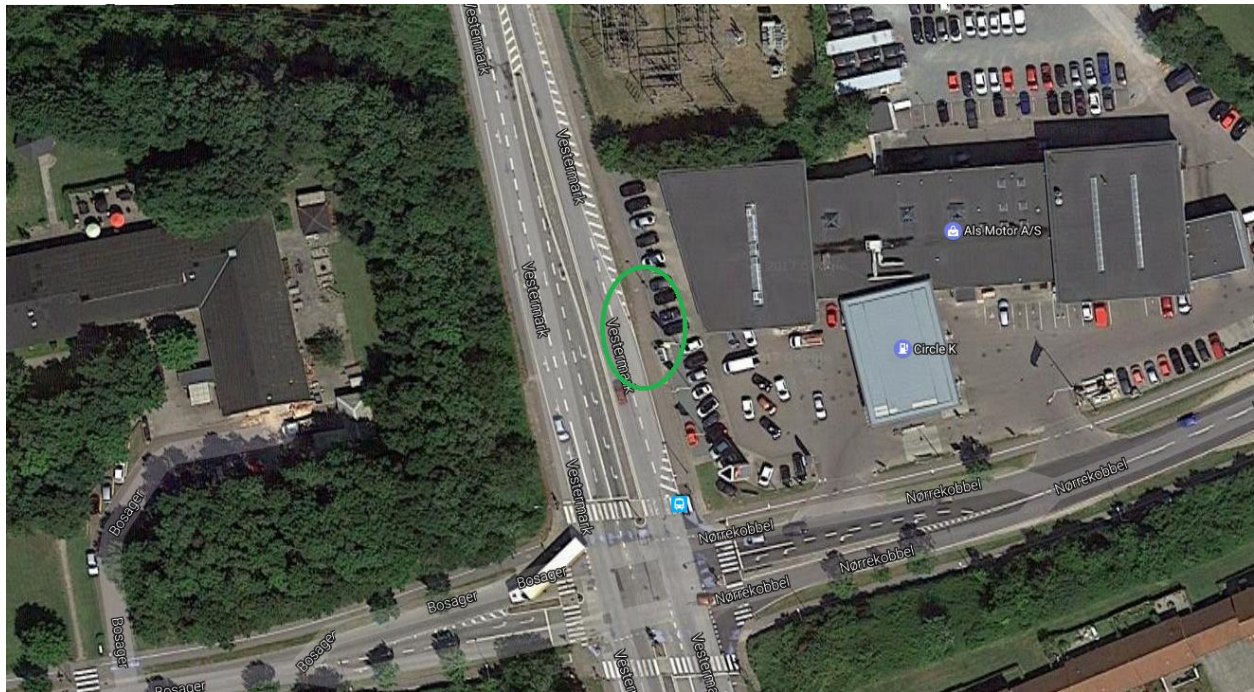




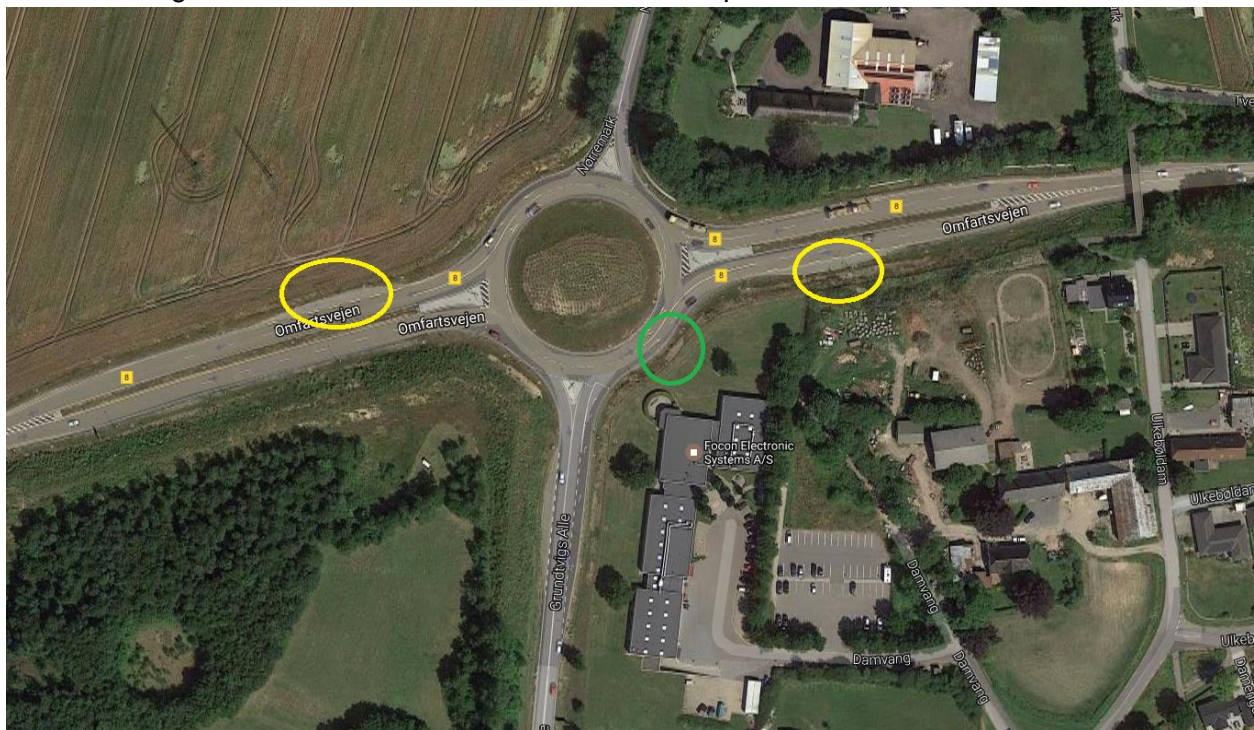
Dybbølgade/Aabenraaavej is essential to for all country traffic south. Placing it before the intersection would be optimal but require the rework of the local bushes.



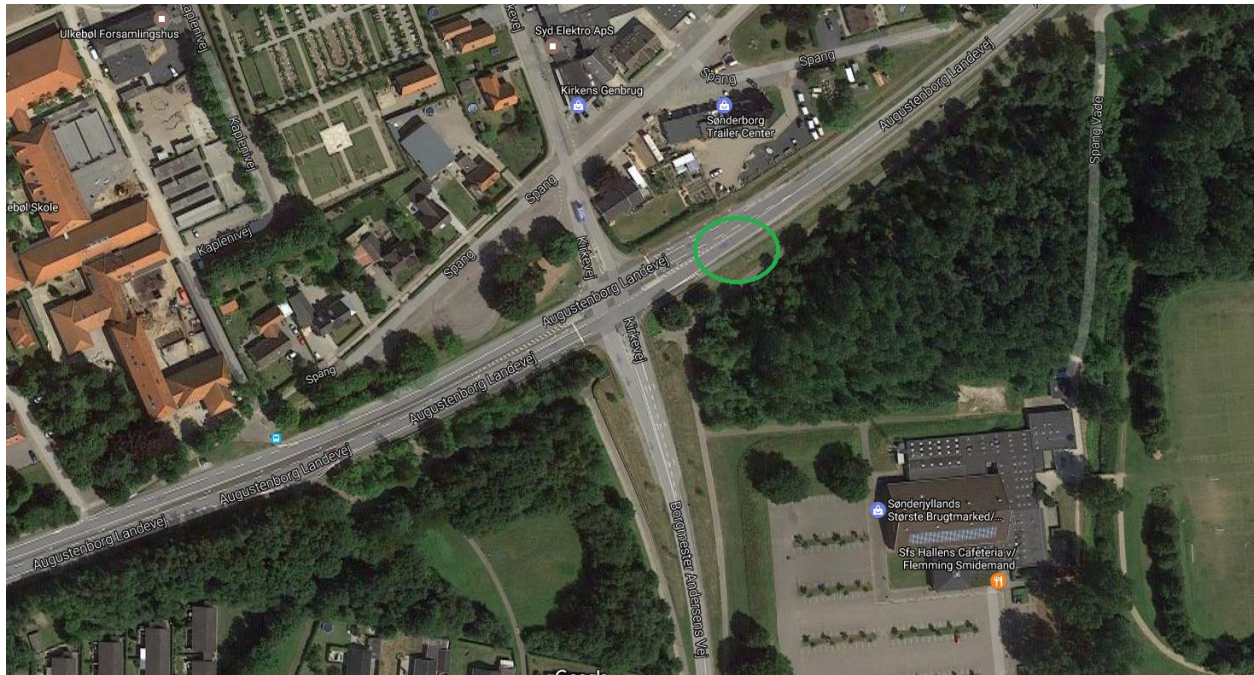
The Norrekobbel/Vestermærk intersection is essential to most of the highway traffic. Placing it after the intersections allows people to see the hiker before the gain speed.



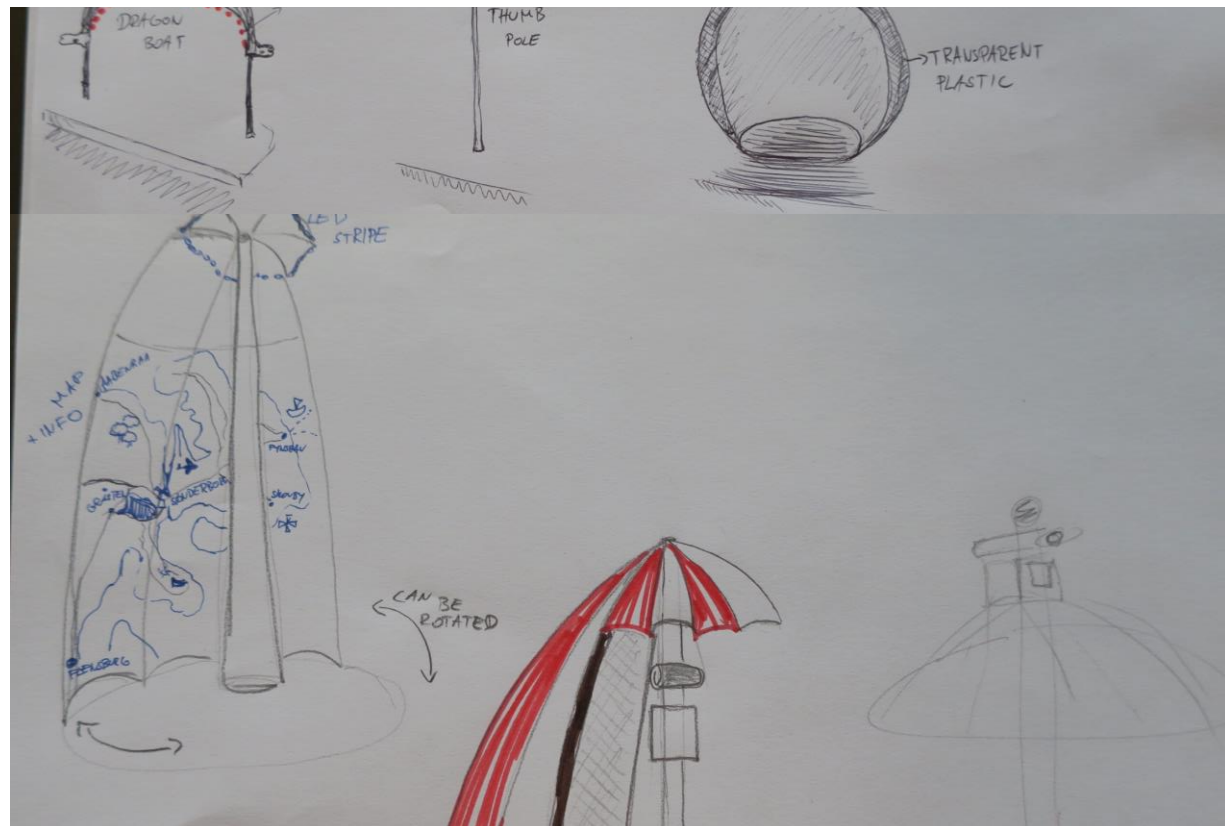
The Omfartsvej/Grundtvigs Alle roundabout is essential for all traffic going from Jutland to Als and from main Als to Jutland. Creating a stop area in the intersection would be the most optimal but else using the rest areas before and after would be possible.



The Augustenborg landevej/Kirkevej intersection is essential to most of the traffic going East out of Sonderborg.



Below are the first ideas for hitchhiker stop:



Name ideas:

1. H-spot
2. Go out go Zero (GGZ)
3. SHS - Sønderborg Hitchhiking Spot
4. CU2 Hitchhiking Spot (See you too Hitchhiking Spot)
5. Go far GoZero
 - Ha'spot
 - Spring-spot
 - Hi-ke
 - Hi-spot
 - D-Hike
 - S-Hike
 - T-Hike
 - Anywhere and nowhere
 - Go 2gether
 - Kør ud - GoZero
 - Keep it cool GoZero
 - Go 2 GoZero
 - Go x(where you are going) GoZero

Ideas and additional attributes:

- Collaboration with the Hitchwiki App
- Leave a note like a visitors book.
- White board map to leave marks on
- Space close by you can park your bike.
- Big screen that says " where do you GO?"
- Big electronic screen (or chalk wall) where you can write your own greeting.
Speech Bubble Place to hang your own cardboard sign. (gives the impression that you want to talk)
- Box for cardboard and pens.
- Pull down string to activate big wooden thump shaped sign.

Hitchhiking example - Easter break 2017

Sønderborg -> Hamborg -> 10euro plane -> Brussels -> Ghent -> Antwerp -> Rotterdam -> Utrecht -> Amsterdam -> Sønderborg -> Aarhus.

Got picked up by a:

- Average danish couple.
- Helicopter pilot.
- Elderly german camping hippies.
- Life time hitchhiking doing his first pickup.

- 10 euro plane from Hamburg to Brussels .
- Engineer who hitchhiked in Chile.
- Technician.
- Latin sisters.
- Mom with scarf and her daughter.
- Doctor.
- Accountant for Holland government.
- Sisters.
- Light show engineer. Head of the company(Awakening).
- Farmer.
- Surfer dad.
- Veterinarian lady.
- Teacher of refugees.
- Arla woman and cigarette man.
- Gymnastic girls.
- Plummer going from Sønderborg to Oslo.
- Truck artist, but bad english speaking Lithuanian.





Quotes:

- First time hitchhikers:

“Until then I actually thought it was all just a big joke, that this whole hitchhiking thing wouldn't work.”

“I was really surprised how much the trip helped me to build up self-confidence. Also the people I met at the event inspired me a lot. Most of the people who were there are very different from myself... ..people who had been traveling in that way for years on a row, without the need for some kind of security. That really is impressive.”

“...but I am also picky. I was looking for families, couples and women to hitchhike with...I actually ended up waiting at one petrol-station for some hours more as I could have, as I let a lot of cars go without talking to the drivers.” -Zoë

“...At first I felt awkward but then I started to get into the zen of the hitchhiking philosophy. I realised 'Hey it's a beautiful day and I'm enjoying it but I am still being purposeful'. I decided to kick back and enjoy the opportunity. I got chatting to this old lady about how this was my first hitch...” -Farshnuke

“I'd only managed to outline 'Peas' in my best bubble graffiti (...) when the lady who owned the garden fence popped her head round the corner; “Need a lift?” She asked”

“...I called it The Wait. 3 hours of standing on the same road, holding your sign out, with no success. It is soul destroying...” “...I caught 2 more lifts and was dropped off at my friend's doorstep! The 70

mile trip took only 5 hours. My belief in humankind had been restored and I'd arrived to brilliant sunshine and the cobbled streets of Canterbury. I knew it worked. Hitchhiking had been an adventure, different. But I now knew it was possible for someone to thumb a lift in this day and age."

-Brackers

- Hitchhiking in Denmark:

"I didn't even raise my thumb before a lifeguard on duty stopped and offered me a ride to a more busy motorway access. Nice guy who wanted to talk a lot, plus he gave me sunscreen which I forgot." -Toor Blaabjerg

"Her first time picking up a hitchhiker. Took us all the way to the Rødby ferry, even though she was not exactly going there :)". - Anton Emil

"Picked up by this guy having suits hanging all over in his car, on his way to work on Fyn (a danish island) - he was the leader of a job centre. He had a small daughter living in Aarhus, but lived on Fyn 150 km away, so every second week he lived by his daughter in Aarhus, driving all the way to Fyn to work and back again. What a love for his kid." -Patrick

"I found a danish guy who speaks german who took me towards Copenhagen. He told me about his family and that he found his brother after 67 years." Thywen

"Danish family man living in Malmo and working in Copenhagen took me across the bridge and drop me off at the airport." -Sevetseb

"Was lucky, just when i arrived to the spot a girl stopped car going in the same direction. À interesting old man that told stories about his old days by see. Unlucky he dropped us off in à smaller village just before Malmö." - Tuppen