



## MILL ROUTES IN EUROPE

Europe is home to many splendid mills – historic monuments that you can discover along the Via Molina routes.

The walking, cycling and car routes take you through beautiful landscapes and into hidden places in Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands. Along the way you will discover not just mills, but many more aspects of cultural heritage. You will also expand your knowledge of the landscape and history.

Via Molina is still being developed. We are starting with routes in The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, but more countries will soon follow. So keep an eye on [viamolina.eu](http://viamolina.eu) to find out about free walking, cycling and car routes in Europe.



Nørholm Mølle, Denmark



VIA MOLINA  
THE EUROPEAN  
MILL ROUTE

## CONTACT

Via Molina  
Zeeburgerdijk 139  
1095 AA Amsterdam  
T +3120 623 87 03  
E [info@viamolina.eu](mailto:info@viamolina.eu)



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[VIAMOLINA.EU](http://VIAMOLINA.EU)



WALKING ROUTES



CYCLING ROUTES



CAR ROUTES



# ABOUT

Lille Molle, Denmark

## VIA MOLINA

As cultural icons in the European landscape, mills deserve our attention. That is why the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark have joined forces in the Via Molina project. We invite everyone to follow scenic Via Molina walking, cycling and car routes to discover the mills of Europe.

**“Via Molina brings people and cultures closer together.”**

## MILLS AS MACHINES

Mills have been helping people with heavy work for centuries. Traditionally, they were used for grinding corn and later also for sawing timber, pressing precious oil from seeds, fulling wool or draining land. There were once thousands of mills across Europe, but these ‘machines’ have since been overtaken by industrial mechanization. Fortunately, many mills have been preserved. They are impressive monuments that take us back to bygone days.

Maria Luggau, Austria

# MILLS

Gotland, Sweden

## VARIETY OF MILLS

Mills come in all shapes and sizes and driven by wind, water or animal power. Follow the Via Molina routes to discover the different mills for yourself.

## WATERMILLS

Watermills utilise the power of running water. They are found high in the mountains, in river valleys, close to big cities and in hidden places in the forest. Thousands of watermills were once dotted across Europe. Watermills are driven by a horizontal or vertical water wheel or a modern turbine.

Ave river, Portugal

## WINDMILLS

Windmills have existed in Europe for hundreds of years. The sails capture the wind and use that energy to drive the grinding machinery. There are many different types of windmills. On the Via Molina routes you will find small village mills as well as fascinating, sophisticated industrial mills.

## HANDMILLS

Handmills date back to prehistoric times. They often involved no more than two grinding stones that were used to finely grind a wide variety of materials. Later handmills consisted of a pair of small circular stones, or querns.

## DONKEY MILLS

Donkeys or horses were not the only animals used to power these mills. Any animal with enough strength was put to use. Dogs, for example, did light churning-work on farms, while stronger animals – such as oxen – did all the heavier grinding work. Donkey mills were either separate buildings or were incorporated into a farmhouse or urban dwelling. Donkey mills can still be seen in various places in Europe.

## DID YOU KNOW...

- ❓ The ancient Greeks and Romans used primitive watermills for grinding grain.
- ❓ The first windmills appeared in about AD 1000. They were introduced in Normandy, Flanders and southern England and then spread rapidly throughout Europe.
- ❓ A mill can have many functions. There are mills that grind grain into flour or drain water from polders. There are also many kinds of industrial mills, such as sawmills, oil mills, paper mills and dye-stuff mills.