

## Middelfart – a charming place to live right in the middle



ANNE MARIE KLAUSEN MIDDELFART MUNICIPALITY

*“I wasn’t born in this region, but I love to live and work here in Middelfart Municipality. It’s a charming and friendly place, where you can get what you need from a big city and enjoy one of the 15 fantastic beaches at the same time. I really like to live in this small municipality, where people are very kind and where everyone wants to help everyone. The location is great, too. As the name suggests, it’s in the middle, so you can easily reach Fyn and South Jylland, as well, without driving much. Therefore, people like to live here, because they have the possibility to work both in Vejle or Odense and they still can be home early with their families.”*

This is how Anne Marie Klausen, the newcomer guide of Middelfart Municipality describes her region.

Her future picture is also very positive about the municipality. Thanks to the active and constantly developing cooperation with the local companies there are more and more work opportunities for newcomers in Middelfart and in the future, they expect an increasing number of people, who want to relocate to this area.



### **A newcomer guide with deep understanding and individual approach**

Anne Marie moved to Middelfart from Northern Denmark from a small island, decades ago, but she still remembers, how did it feel to be a newcomer in a different culture, which gives her great motivation to help both international and Danish people, who are trying to settle in the region.

*“I know how lonely can you feel in the beginning. I came to work here and it was okay during the week, but on Friday evenings, after I left my workplace I had no one to spend my time with. I had the feeling that nobody would miss me, if I disappeared - until Monday. These memories make me really passionate about giving a helping hand to people, who feel a bit lost.”* Says Anne Marie.



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### Message from Anne Marie

“Just  
be open minded and  
don't be afraid of asking for help,  
because there are a lot of people – both  
in supporting roles or just on the streets - who  
will be really happy to help you. Maybe you have to  
make the first move, but you can be sure that you will  
be responded positively by a lot of locals.”

Anne Marie has a very individual approach to newcomers. She perceives her role as coaching: she meets the newcomers in person in order to get a full picture of their situation; she is using her local network to find the right person, who can help with the problem at hand; she follows up on the cases, so no one gets lost.

She can be contacted even after working hours, as she understands well, that this time might be more suitable for those, who work full time.

*“Sometimes I meet with newcomers in the evening in a café in the city, so we have time to talk more deeply about their questions. I think it's better than to exchange short email, because we can find more details and they can also feel more secure and welcomed.”* Says Anne Marie.

She also tries to be there as a ‘familiar’ face on the events held for newcomers, so when people arrive, they already know someone in the crowd.

## CONTACT

The best way to contact Anne Marie Klausen is to call her at +45 2240 0049. She'll make sure that you get the guidance what you need.

If you want to get more information about the region and relocation to Middelfart, please visit [www.flyttilmiddelfart.dk](http://www.flyttilmiddelfart.dk) and join the group, Ny i Middelfart Kommune – Netværk for Tilflyttere on Facebook.

### Connecting Danes with internationals

Besides solving practical problems (e.g. regarding schooling, housing, free time activities for the family members, work for spouses, etc.), one of the main aims of Anne Marie is to connect people. She started a special program in Middelfart for relocating people, the Networking Café for Newcomers.

First, it started as an event organised especially for internationals, but later it turned out to be a great place, where Danish and expat newcomers can meet up, share their experiences, ask questions and make new friends. Since they face a lot of similar challenges, just like the lack of knowledge of the local possibilities, lack of network and so on, it makes great sense to connect them already in the beginning. There's also quite a lot of mixed families in the region, who find it comforting to be part of a group, where half of the people are Danes, half are internationals.



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