

# Bat Trip to Daugbjerg Kalkgruber, Denmark on February 15, 2026

Morten Kattenhøj & Mogens Trolle

Lime pits – limestone mines or caves known as *kalkgruber* in Danish – are very important winter roosting sites for bats in Denmark. *Mønsted Kalkgruber*, the largest lime pits in the world, are the most famous and visited of those but are closed to the public during wintertime (November-March). However, the nearby ***Daugbjerg Kalkgruber*** are open during the Danish winter holidays in Week 7 and this site is a real gem. They house the largest colonies of roosting bats in Denmark, numbering 17-20,000 individuals. If winter and early spring have not been very mild, you can also see the bats as they leave their winter roosts when the pits open for the summer season around April 1.

Out of the 22 km of tunnels at Daugbjerg, 900 meters are accessible to visitors. They are the oldest hand-excavated lime pits of Scandinavia and the tunnels are much lower than the tunnels of Mønsted Kalkgruber, so you can observe the bats at extremely close range.

During our visit on 15 February 2026, we observed four species of bats, all of which we had fantastic views of:

- **Pond Bat** | *Myotis dasycneme* | Damflagermus (numerous)
- **Daubenton's Bat** | *Myotis daubentonii* | Vandflagermus (numerous)
- **Natterer's Bat** | *Myotis natterei* | Frynseflagermus
- **Brandt's Bat** | *Myotis brandtii* | Brandts flagermus

Another two bat species have been recorded inside Daugbjerg Kalkgruber: **Brown Long-eared Bat**, *Plecotus auritus*, a few individuals every winter, and **Greater Mouse-eared Bat**, *Myotis myotis*. A single individual of Greater Mouse-eared Bat was discovered in the pits a few winters ago. This was to be the first observation of a living individual of the species in Denmark. According to the very knowledgeable caretaker of Daugbjerg Kalkgruber, this individual possibly roosts further north in Jutland this winter.

In addition, a few hundred **Soprano Pipistrelle** (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) roost hidden inside the roof of the visitor centre by the lime pits and are usually not seen during winter.

## Practical information

**Daugbjerg Kalkgruber** are located less than 20 km to the west of the city of Viborg in Jutland.

**Address:** Dybdalsvej 18c, Daugbjerg, 8800 Viborg. [Google Maps](#)

**Homepage** (in Danish): [www.daugbjergkalkgruber.dk](http://www.daugbjergkalkgruber.dk)

Here are photos of the four observed species with IDs (to the best of our abilities).



Pond Bat (left), 2 Daubenton's Bats (right)



Pond Bats



Brandt's Bat



Natterer's Bat