The Museum is home to the Norwegian history exhibitions ranging from the Stone Age to the Viking Age and the Middle Ages. Experience our rich collection of stone age artifacts, see the Egyptian mummies, and get an insight into the world's cultural diversity with our ethnographic exhibitions. The museum building from 1904 is itself a magnificent example of Art Nouveau architecture, and its rich exhibitions have a rare mix of Norwegian and international elements.

Exhibitions:
Collapses – people in an unpredictable world
The exhibition shows how nature disrupts human cultures, bringing about both collapse and new development. Discover the challenges facing the first stone age people who lived around the Oslo Fjord and see how the population of Polynesian feather art, and a religious Santeria altar from Cuba.

The Medieval Gallery
This exhibit shows how wooden figures became sacred objects. You can also see the ceiling from Ål Stave Church, the only large-scale decoration of a room preserved from the Middle Ages.

The Arctic and Subarctic
What do the people and cultures north of the Arctic Circle have in common, and what distinguishes them? This exhibition displays traditional clothing, tools, and art works from Greenland, Siberia, Northern Canada, Alaska and Sápmi (the Sámi areas). Don't miss the unique collection of artefacts from Roald Amundsen's expedition through the Northwest Passage between 1913 and 1915.

Good as gold – coins are history
This is Norway's largest coin collection, containing a range of gold coins spanning 2600 years. Among other things, you can see the world's first coin. You can also see the gold treasure that was evacuated when German Nazi troops occupied Norway on 9 April 1940, as well as Fridtjof Nansen's treasure that was evacuated when German Nazi troops occupied Norway on 9 April 1940, as well as Fridtjof Nansen's extensive collections of medals.

The Historical Museum
The museum building from 1904 is itself a magnificent example of Art Nouveau architecture, and its rich exhibitions have a rare mix of Norwegian and international elements.

Visitors:
This exhibition contains some of the most exquisite objects that have been found from the Norwegian Viking era. You can see the world’s only preserved Viking helmet, magnificent sarcophagi, the largest hoard of gold found in Norway, and much more. Learn about the Viking’s warrior culture and their voyage, and how society changed during the Viking era. The exhibition was developed in collaboration between the Museums of Cultural History and Ethnography.

Ancient Egypt
Here you can see sarcophagi, mummies, and funerary gifts from Ancient Egypt. The sarcophagi are from three different dynasties during the Age of the Pharaohs. Many of the artefacts in the Egyptian collection were donated to the museum back in the 19th century.

Overseas
From Collapse
Transformation – faith and sacred objects in the Middle Ages
Exceptional art from Norwegian stone churches. Our new exhibition shows how wooden figures became sacred objects. You can also see the ceiling from Ål Stave Church, the only large-scale decoration of a room preserved from the Middle Ages.

Options:
Two museums on one ticket:
Book on our website.
Guided tours for school classes are free of charge.
Guided tour for school classes are free of charge.

Getting there:
Train or metro to the National Theatre station
Trams 11, 17 and 18 to Tullinløkka
Bus No. 30 runs between Nationaltheatret and Vikingskiphuset
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Map of the exhibitions in the Historical Museum

VIKINGR
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Welcome to the Museum of Cultural History

The Historical Museum and the Viking Ship Museum are part of the Museum of Cultural History, which is itself part of the University of Oslo. We house Norway’s largest collection of historical artefacts, from the Stone Age up to modern times.

The main tasks of the museum are to research, manage and convey our shared history. The exhibitions in the museums reflect our expertise in fields such as archaeology, ethnography and numismatics, among others.

The Viking Ship Museum

See the greatest treasures of the Viking era up close. The Viking Ship Museum houses the world’s best preserved Viking ships, found in burial mounds around the Oslo fjord. The ships crossed the seas before becoming the final resting place of their wealthy owners. You can see amazing wood carvings, mysterious skeletal remains, and an absorbing film that takes you back to the Viking era.

The Oseberg Viking Ship

The ship was built around the year 820 AD and is richly decorated with detailed carvings. In 834 AD, the ship was used as a burial ship for two powerful women. On their final journey to the realm of the dead, the women were accompanied by a rich collection of burial gifts. These included three elaborate sledges, a weatherboard, two carved posts in the shape of animal heads, the beds and the skeletons of 15 horses, six dogs and two cows. Most of the burial artefacts are on display in the Viking Ship Museums.

The Gokstad Viking Ship

The ship was built around the year 900 AD and became a burial ship for a powerful man approximately 10 years later. The ship was seaworthy and well-suited for voyages across the open sea. The grave had already been plundered in the Viking Age, which may explain why no weapons or jewellery were found among the burial gifts. Found in the grave was a game board with game pieces, kitchen utensils, six beds, a bed, a sledge and three small boats, as well as a hammer, shoe, boot and gilded bronze. Also part of the burial were 12 horses, eight dogs, two peacocks, and two northern goshawks. You will also find bedposts, a harness fitting, and several small boats from the burial on display in the museum.

The Tune Viking Ship

The ship was discovered as early as 1867, making it the first Viking ship to be excavated and preserved in modern times. The ship was probably a fast, ocean-going vessel and has been dated to about the year 900. The discovery included remnants of weapons and chain mail, dice, parts of a sled, and the skeleton of a horse, indicating that this was a wealthy man’s grave. Unfortunately, those items have not been preserved.

THE NEW VIKING AGE MUSEUM at Bygdøy is being planned. The new museum’s vision is to create a world-leading centre for the dissemination of knowledge about the Viking Age. Its first building will be created in 2022. The project is expected to be completed by 2025. The new museum will be open to the public in 2026.

Map of the exhibitions in the Viking Ship Museum

The Historical Museum

The building houses the world’s largest collection of historical artefacts, from the Stone Age up to modern times.

Street address: Huk aveny 35, 0287 Oslo

Opening hours: 1 May to 30 September: 9am – 6pm
1 October to 30 April: 10am – 4pm

Getting there: Bus No. 30 to Bygdøy (leaves from Oslo City Hall, as well as from other stops) / Ferry from Oslo City Hall pier in Drammen to Bygdøy (returns to Drammen pier, at no extra cost) / Tåg from Drammen to Bygdøy (red route)

Tel: (+47) 22135280
E-mail: postmottak@khm.uio.no

Guided tours:
Guided tours for school classes are free of charge. Book on our website.

Two museums on one ticket:
You can use the same ticket for the Historical Museum within 48 hours.

All photos: Museum of Cultural History (KHM), University of Oslo

A new building in the Viking Ship Museum will be constructed as part of the museum’s expansion. It will be the new home of the New Viking Age Museum. The building will be located at Bygdøy, facing the Botnelva River and the Oslo Fjord. It will also house the Viking Ship Museums.

THE NEW VIKING AGE MUSEUM is currently under construction at Bygdøy and will open in 2022. The museum’s vision is to create a world-leading centre for the dissemination of knowledge about the Viking Age. The project is expected to be completed by 2025. The new museum will be open to the public in 2026.

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