The museum is home to exhibitions on Norwegian history ranging from the Stone Age to the Viking era and Middle Ages. Explore our rich collection of over 200,000 artefacts, including the Norwegian ship, and many more. Learn about the world’s largest hoard of Viking gold, magnificent swords, the world’s best preserved Viking helmet, and much more. Enjoy a visit to the Oslo Fjord and see how the population of Polynesia learned to live with the violent and unpredictable forces of nature.

The exhibition shows how nature disrupts human cultures, and how people can adapt to changes. The exhibition contains some of the most exquisite objects that have been found from the Norwegian Viking Age. You can see the world’s only preserved Viking helmet, magnificent swords, the largest hoard of gold found in Norway, and much more. Learn about the Viking's warrior culture and their voyages, and see how society developed during the Viking age. The exhibition was developed as a collaboration between the Museum of Cultural History and Snøhetta.

The exhibition shows, among other things, how wooden figures became religious objects. You can also see the Ål ceiling, the only major preserved room decoration dating back to the Norwegian Middle Ages.

The world’s best preserved Viking helmet from Gjermundbu. Photo: KHM, Ellen C. Holte

EXHIBITIONS | Photo: KHM, Eirik Irgens Johnsen

III. From the Coin Cabinet's anniversary exhibition – Memories of the World "Gold and Power" to Postmodernism. All of the textiles in the costume demonstrate the shaman's power and strength. Photo: KHM, Ellen C. Holte and Lill-Ann Chepstow-Lusty

The world's largest hoard of Viking gold from Gjermundbu. Photo: KHM, Eirik Irgens Johnsen

The world's best preserved Viking helmet. Photo: KHM, Ellen C. Holte

Norwegian Middle Ages

This major exhibition on the Middle Ages holds Norway’s largest collection of sacred objects and artefacts from churches around Norway. You can also see objects from both everyday life and craftsmanship.

The exhibition shows how society in the Middle Ages was dominated by faith and sacred objects. You can also see the Ål ceiling, the only major preserved room decoration dating back to the Norwegian Middle Ages.

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Arctic and subarctic

What do the people and cultures north of the Arctic Circle have in common, and what distinguishes them? This exhibition shows, among other things, how wooden figures became religious objects. You can also see the Ål ceiling, the only major preserved room decoration dating back to the Norwegian Middle Ages.

From the Coin Cabinet's anniversary exhibition – Memories of the World "Gold and Power" to Postmodernism. All of the textiles in the costume demonstrate the shaman's power and strength. Photo: KHM, Ellen C. Holte

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The world's best preserved Viking helmet from Gjermundbu. Photo: KHM, Ellen C. Holte

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Middle Ages

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The Exhibition Museum is itself a magnificent example of Art Nouveau architecture and the rich embellishments have a rare mix of Norwegian and international elements.

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The Viking Ship Museum

The Viking Ship Museum houses the world's best preserved Viking ships, found in burial mounds around the Oslo fjord. They crossed the seas before becoming the final resting places of their wealthy owners. You can also see artefacts such as animal heads from the Oseberg find, a game board with game pieces, and an absorbing film that takes you back to the Viking age.

THE GOKSTAD SHIP

was built around the year 820 and is richly suited for voyages across the open sea. The Gokstad ship was discovered as early as 1867, making it the first Viking ship to be found in modern times. The ship was seaworthy and well-suited for voyages. The ship was used as a burial ship for a powerful man. The grave had already been plundered in the Viking Age, which may explain why no weapons or jewellery were found among the burial gifts. The boat consisted of a pine based with pine, ash, birch, oak, beech, maple and elm. The grave ship was preserved in modern times. The ship was probably a fast, ocean-going vessel and had been dated to about 900 AD. The discovery included remnants of weapons and mail armour, a die, parts of a ski, and the skeleton of a horse, indicating that this was a wealthy man's grave. However, these items were unfortunately not preserved.

THE TUNE SHIP

was built around the year 900 and is fully decorated with ornamental carvings. In 960 AD, the ship was used as a burial ship for a powerful lady. The grave ship was found in the centre of the mound, with two women given a rich collection of burial gifts. Today, visitors can see an exact replica of the ship shown in a 3D interactive film. The ship and its grave ship were well preserved in modern times, making it possible for visitors to experience a unique visual journey into the history of a Viking ship. From the construction of the ships, through their journey into the history of a Viking ship, to the grave goods and artefacts found in the graves.

THE OSEBERG SHIP

was built around the year 900 and is fully decorated with ornamental carvings. In 900 AD, the ship was used as a burial ship for a powerful lady. The grave ship was found in the centre of the mound, with two women given a rich collection of burial gifts. Today, visitors can see an exact replica of the ship shown in a 3D interactive film. The ship and its grave ship were well preserved in modern times, making it possible for visitors to experience a unique visual journey into the history of a Viking ship. From the construction of the ships, through their journey into the history of a Viking ship, to the grave goods and artefacts found in the graves.

THE BORRE FIND

consists of goods from a large burial ship dated to about 900 AD. The contents of the grave had been almost completely destroyed in the voyage of the ship, and the ship itself is not preserved. Nonetheless, the surviving artefacts show that this grave was for a man of importance who was prepared for the afterlife.

A NEW VIKING AGE MUSEUM is being planned. The venue for the new museum, in the area of the island where the museums used to be, is the site of the old Viking Age settlement known as Viking town. The new museum will house the richest treasures of the Viking Age.

The museum makes it possible to research, change and exhibit our shared history. The exhibitions in the museum reflect our museum's focus areas such as archaeology, ethnography, and numismatics.

GETTING THERE:
You can use the same ticket for the Historical Museum within 48 hours.