



The Historical Museum

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 stave church portals, encounter the Egyptian mummies, and gain an insight into the world's cultural diversity in our ethnographic exhibitions. The museum building from 1904 is itself a magnificent example of Art Nouveau architecture and the rich embellishments have a rare mix of Norwegian and international elements.



Exhibitions

Collapse – people in an unpredictable world

The exhibition shows how nature disrupts human cultures, bringing about both collapse and new development. Discover the challenges faced by the first Stone Age people to settle around the Oslo Fjord and see how the population of Polynesia learned to live with the violent and unpredictable forces of nature.

Transformation – faith and sacred objects in the Middle Ages

Exceptional art from Norwegian stave churches. Our new exhibition shows, among other things, how wooden figures became sacred objects. You can also see the Ål ceiling, the only major preserved room decoration dating back to the Norwegian Middle Ages.



Norwegian Middle Ages

This major exhibition on the Middle Ages hosts Norway's largest collection of stave church portals and art treasures from churches around Norway. You can also see objects from both everyday life and celebrations.

Stave church doorway from Hyllestad with scenes by Sigurd Favnesebane
Photo: KHM, Ove Holst



VIKINGR

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 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 changed during the Viking era. The exhibition was developed as a collaboration between the Museum of Cultural History and Snøhetta.



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

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.



The approximately 2,700 year old mummy case of the Temple Guard's daughter, Dismutenibites
Photo: KHM, Ellen C. Holte and Lill-Ann Chepstow-Lusty

America – present – past – identity.

This exhibit shows how indigenous people and minorities form their identity and traditions in encounters with the wider world. Here you will find masks, wood carvings, beaded embroideries, and costumes. Experience the Hopi potter Nampeyo's innovative designs, beautiful feather art from the Amazon, and a religious Santeria altar from Cuba.



Kachina doll from Hopi, Arizona, USA | Photo: KHM, Ann Christine Eek

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 arts and crafts 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 1903 and 1906.



Shaman costume of the Tuvan people
All of the textiles in the costume demonstrate the shaman's power and strength
Photo: KHM, Ann Christine Eek

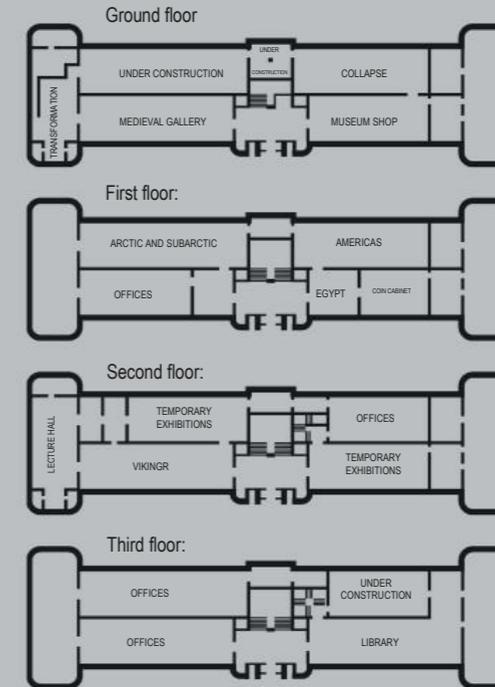
Worth its weight in gold – when coins become history

This is Norway's largest coin collection, and contains gold coins spanning 2,600 years. Among other things, you can study the world's first coin. You can also see the treasure trove that was evacuated when German Nazi troops occupied Norway on 9 April 1940, as well as Fridtjof Nansen's and Roald Amundsen's extensive collection of orders and gold medals.



From the Coin Cabinet's anniversary exhibition | Photo: KHM, Ellen C. Holte

Map of the exhibitions in the Historical Museum



Street address: Frederiks gate 2, 0164 Oslo

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Sunday 1 May – 30 September: 10am – 5pm
1 October – 30 April: 11am – 4pm

Closed: 1 and 17 May, 24, 25, 26 and 31 December, and 1 January

Getting there: Train or metro to the Nationaltheatret station.

Tram: see ruter.no

Bus No. 30 runs between Nationaltheatret and Vikingskiphuset

Tel: (+47) 22 85 19 00

Email: postmottak@khm.uio.no

Guided tours: See www.khm.uio.no

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 Viking Ship Museum within 48 hours

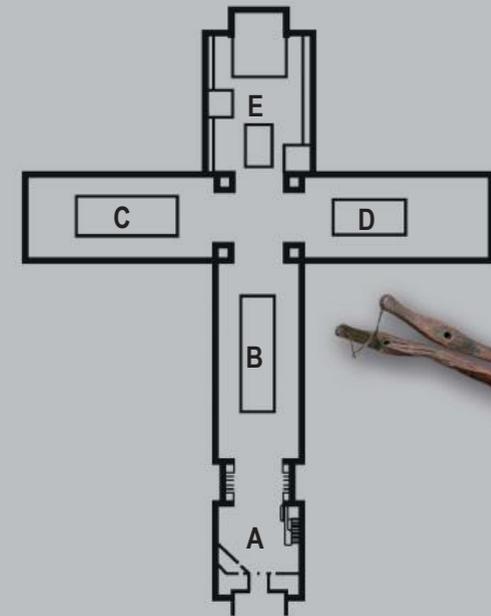
The Historical Museum and the Viking Ship Museum



UiO Museum of Cultural History



Floor plan of the exhibits in the Viking Ship Museum



A: Vestibule/Shop, B: The Oseberg Ship, C: The Gokstad ship
D: The Tune Ship, E: The display wing with the wooden cart, sleighs, and carved animal heads from the Oseberg find

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 runs between Nationaltheatret and Vikingskiphuset
Ferry from Rådhuskaia to Dronningen (only in the summer).

Tel: (+47) 22135280

Email: postmottak@khm.uio.no

Guided tours: See www.khm.uio.no

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The Viking Ship Museum

See the richest 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. They crossed the seas before becoming the final resting places of their wealthy owners. You can also see amazing wood carvings, mysterious skeletal remains, and an absorbing film that takes you back to the Viking era.



Wooden cart from the Oseberg Ship | Photo: KHM, Eirik Irgens Johnsen



The new interactive film in the Viking Ship Museum takes the public on a unique visual journey into the history of a Viking ship. From the construction of the ships, through their use in fjords and oceans, and finally as burial ships for a king or a queen.
Photo: KHM, Mårten Teigen



The Oseberg Ship | Photo: KHM, Lill-Ann Chepstow-Lusty



The Gokstad Ship | Photo: KHM, Lill-Ann Chepstow-Lusty



The Tune Ship | Photo: KHM, Lill-Ann Chepstow-Lusty

THE OSEBERG SHIP was built around the year 820 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 two women were given a rich collection of burial gifts; three elaborate sleighs, a wooden cart, five carved animal head posts, five beds and the skeletons of 15 horses, six dogs and two cows. Most of the grave goods are on display in the Viking Ship Museum.

THE GOKSTAD SHIP was built around the year 900 and some 10 years later became a burial ship for a powerful man. 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. The finds included a game board with game pieces, kitchen utensils, six beds, a tent, a sleigh and three small boats, as well as a harness fitting of iron, lead, and gilded bronze.

Also buried in the grave were 12 horses, eight dogs, two peacocks and two goshawks. On display in the museum, you will also find bedposts, a harness fitting, and several small boats from the grave.

THE TUNE SHIP was discovered as early as 1867, making it the first Viking ship to be excavated and preserved in modern times.

The Tune ship was probably a fast, ocean-going vessel and has been dated to about the year 900. 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 have unfortunately not been preserved.

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 by the ravages of time, and the ship itself is not preserved. Nonetheless, the surviving artefacts show that this grave for a man of importance was well prepared for the afterlife.

To the right: Animal head posts from the Oseberg find
Photo: KHM, Kirsten Jensen Helgeland



A NEW VIKING AGE MUSEUM in Bygdøy is being planned. The vision for the new museum is to create a world-leading centre for the dissemination of knowledge about the Viking Age. The Vikings' burial ships and their riches will be exhibited with an extensive selection of artefacts from the museum's other Viking era treasures.



Illustration: Aart Architects

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 have Norway's largest collection of historical objects, from the Stone Age up to modern times.

The museum's main tasks are to research, manage and exhibit our shared history. The exhibitions in the museums reflects our expertise within areas such as archaeology, ethnography, and numismatics.



The Historical Museum | Photo: KHM, Nina Wallin Hansen



The Viking Ship Museum | Photo: KHM, Eirik Irgens Johnsen

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