

IN KING HARALD'S KINGDOM

Vikings – talked about world celebrities surrounded by myth, with roots in the Nordic countries. In southwestern Scania and in Söderslätt there are many traces of their lives and living. What made the region around the Baltic Sea into such an important site of trade, seafaring, faith and life? What evidence of our Viking heritage can still be traced in the landscape?

Harald Bluetooth was king of Denmark around 940 – 986 AD. At the time Scania was part of Denmark and the politics and warfare of the king made the area around the Baltic Sea into a centre of power in the Viking world. Söderslätt and southwestern Scania is still characterized by history and memorials of the Viking Age, such as grave fields, fortresses and rune stones.

King Harald's fortresses

In Scania and Denmark there are traces of trelleborgs built by Harald Bluetooth in his struggle to unify the Danes. They are placed in important coastal areas. In the town Trelleborg there is a reconstruction of a trelleborg from 980 AD. This, the most south eastern fortress, was strategically placed in the landscape and had a natural harbour that at the time reached all the way up to the fortress palisade.

Barriers in the depths

Even at sea the king strove to prevent enemies from getting close to the coasts. At the mouth of Foteviken bay the king built an underwater barrier to protect the winter harbour of his fleet within the bay. The barrier consisted of stones, wooden poles and discarded Viking ships. One such ship was discovered and excavated for conservation in 1982. A full scale copy of this ship can be seen at Foteviken Museum.

Lund – The royal seat of Denmark

The ship in Foteviken is named after king Erik Emune. At the battle of Foteviken on the 4th of June 1134 Erik, aided by arch-bishop Ascer of Lund, drove the enemy away. He was then given the surname Emune, "the memorable". Erik Emune ruled between 1134 and 1137 and made Lund his royal seat of power during his regime. The Viking town at Foteviken Museum is a reconstruction of a Viking Age settlement a few years after this battle.

Taxes and riches

There is no doubt that Söderslätt was a rich and well populated area. The fertile soil, density of churches, treasures and finds of both gold and silver indicate wealth and good living. There are also several picture and rune stones in the region erected in memory of high-born women and men.



WILD VIKINGS & VIRTUOUS VALKYRIES!

Your guide to the Viking Age in Söderslätt – Southwest Scania



EXPERIENCE THE VIKING AGE!

The region around Öresund has been a centre of trade, seafaring, faith and life for more than a thousand years.

Visit Foteviken Museum and the Viking fortress Trelleborgen. We will bring you on a trip through time in King Harald Bluetooth's kingdom!



DESTINATION VIKING

Destination Viking is a concept for historical travel experiences. Partners from a number of countries have joined together to develop a boundless, high quality tourism with focus on the Viking Age. Foteviken Museum and the Trelleborg Viking Fortress are both members of this network, ensuring an authentic experience.

Learn more at www.destinationviking.com



In cooperation with:



FOTEVIKENS MUSEUM
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TRELLEBORG
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Produktion: Fotevikens Museum 05-2014

MARKETS • VIKING FIGHTS • MUSEUMS • CRAFTS • CHURCHES • RUNE STONES

THE TRELLEBORG - ONE OF HARALD BLUETOOTH'S FORTRESSES



The Trelleborg is an open air museum with a Viking fortress in the centre of the south Swedish town of Trelleborg. Here a quarter of the Viking fortress has been reconstructed. Perhaps it was once built on the order of Harald Bluetooth. The museum also contains a Viking exhibition, shop, café and a Viking farm with a longhouse, pit house and cultivations.

The first weekend in July a Viking market is held at the Trelleborg. Experience crafts, weddings, food, fighting shows, music and much more.



FOTEVIKEN MUSEUM - THE WORLD'S ONLY VIKING TOWN

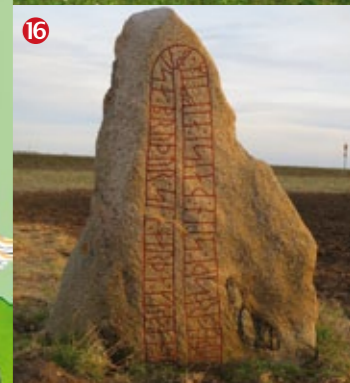


Foteviken Museum is one of the largest archaeological open air museums in Scandinavia. Here you can walk through the only reconstructed Viking town in the world! Follow the narrow streets, discover the smithy, bakery, the large feast hall, the watch tower and much more.

The week after midsummer about 400 Vikings from across the world will meet at Foteviken to participate in one of the largest Viking markets in Europe.



1. Hammarlöv church from mid 12th century with a round western tower from about 1200 AD.
2. Skanör castle ruin and church. The castle was constructed in the early 13th century. The church was built as a small chapel in the late 12th century but was later expanded.
3. Stora Hammar old church was built in the mid 12th century and is one of the best preserved early Middle Age churches in Söderslätt.
4. Maglarp old church is built in roman style and is one of the oldest brick churches in the country. The font is made of sandstone in the 13th century. The church also has one of the oldest pulpits in renaissance style in Scania.
5. Skabersjö church was built in the 12th century. It originally consisted of an apse, chancel and longhouse. The tower and annex to the north was added later.
6. Fru Alstad church is from the 12th century. It was rebuilt in the 15th century as a pilgrimage church. The large annex to the north on the women side was used to worship Virgin Mary.
7. The Tullstorp picture and rune stone is one of the most beautiful in Scandinavia from the Viking Age. Its inscription reads: "Klibbe and Åsa erected this monument in memory of Ulf".
8. Gislöv church from the 12th century is one of the oldest brick churches. It has well preserved frescoes from the 15th century and a triumph crucifix from the 13th century.
9. Western Vemmerlöv church is from the 12th century and rebuilt in the mid 19th century. It is most well known for its medieval frescoes. The font dates from the 12th century.
10. The Fosite rune stone was erected in the late 10th century by one of Harald Bluetooth's lords in the area. Earlier it stood in the centre of the village but now is found in the church yard.
11. A tall rune stone from the days of Harald Bluetooth stands by Western Nöbbelöv church. The inscription reads "Toke erected this stone after Åke his brother, a powerful man" (close to the king).
12. In Krageholm park northwest of Ystad about 50m south of the castle a rune stone and picture stone from late 10th century can be found. It depicts a man carrying a cross, likely one of the Vikings who served as bodyguard of the emperor in Constantinople.
13. In Fuglie two rune stones can be found, the first by the church, the second on a burial mound north of the church yard with the inscription "Önd erected this stone after Öde, his brother, dead on Gotland. God help his soul."
14. A rune stone stands outside the church yard of Sjörup old church. The inscription reads: "Saxe erected this stone after



- among tegnar" (the king's men).
- Near Söderslätt you may also find:**
18. The ship barrow at Southern Ugglarp is after Ale Stones the largest ship barrow in Scania from the early Iron Age. It measures 39 metres in length and 10 meters wide.
 19. Ale Stones. The ship barrow consists of 59 stones weighing about 5 tons each. It is 67 metres tall and 19 meters wide and is the largest preserved ship barrow in Sweden.
 20. Uppakra – The largest, longest lasting Iron Age town in Scandinavia with rich finds. Many of the archaeological finds can now be seen at the Museum of History in Lund.