



## **Wikinger Museum Haithabu**

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## **Dear Reenactors, dear market participants, dear friends!**

This kit guide is a small 'What's What in Hedeby' and is intended to clarify both organisational and content-related questions concerning revivals and reenactments in Hedeby. It is intended to help the museum and the reenactment scene to jointly meet the responsibilities of the cultural and historical heritage around Hedeby.

## **What are the houses in the Viking Museum Hedeby?**

- The house reconstructions built on the historical site of Hedeby from 2005-2008 are part of the exhibition of the Viking Museum Hedeby. They are an extension of the classic exhibition in the museum building to make the Viking Age "tangible" in the truest sense of the word.
- The houses were reconstructed according to the findings in Hedeby. The course of the stream and the boardwalk parallel to the Noor as well as house 5 (the hall) were built exactly on the site of the finds. The other houses originally stood in other places.
- With a few exceptions, only the area of the barrack, the houses and the jetty in the harbour has been archaeologically investigated (about 5-6 % of the area within the semicircular rampart). The market meadow south of the houses, for example, has not yet been excavated.
- With the houses, we are in the middle of one of the most important sites of the Early Middle Ages, most of which has not yet been excavated. This accounts for a large part of the fascination of Hedeby, but it is also a great responsibility for all of us!
- Since 2018, Hedeby has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site together with the Danewerk. This title confirms the enormous scientific and cultural significance of Hedeby, but it also sets clear limits to our development (both the museum and the reenactment scene) and obliges us to act responsibly.
- The Viking Houses are more than "just" an open-air museum: they are the exhibition space and exhibit of an important museum, part of the UNESCO World Heritage and located in the middle of the historical finding site. Therefore, we do not have as much freedom as other archaeological parks and have to follow some rules. On the other hand, we can spread knowledge and fascination about the Vikings at the historical location as part of an archaeological museum.
- Please show understanding and consideration for the great responsibility we all have for the museum, the site and its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## **Rules of conduct at the Viking Houses Hedeby**

- Please always follow the instructions of the staff!
- Right-wing extremist or 'völkisch' symbols are prohibited! This applies, for example, to the Black Sun or the Kolovrat as well as swastikas, even if they are replicas of a find. The 'Irmensul' is also not allowed: it was an emblem of the SS-Ahnenerbe and symbolises the political abuse of Hedeby. Please pay attention to this! It is our responsibility to prevent the Viking Age from being appropriated by the right-wing scene and/or associated with right-wing extremism by the public.
- Sharp weapons (swords, saxes, knives, axes, spears, etc.) may be carried by registered performers at the Viking Houses. However, please secure sharp weapons with a leather strap or similar to prevent them from being accidentally pulled out or dropped. Outside the grounds, the current weapons law applies. Please take this into account when shopping, walking or visiting the exhibition. There is a general ban on weapons in the Viking Museum itself.
- No alcoholic beverages may be consumed during opening hours. Separate arrangements can be made with us for show purposes. Drugs are prohibited!
- Due to the risk of fire, smoking is prohibited on the premises and especially inside the houses. A smoking corner is located behind the excavation hut.
- Please keep your dogs tethered at the back of tents or houses during opening hours. Dogs must also be kept on a lead during walks and outside opening hours as we are in a nature reserve.
- Please do not feed chickens, cattle or any other animals!
- Reenactment fencing is possible outside opening hours. Please wear protective clothing and fence responsibly. You are welcome to present weapons/armour for display purposes, but please do not leave weapons unattended. Fencing or fighting demonstrations during opening hours are not permitted.
- You are welcome to display and sell goods. The focus should be on home-made products. Modern or historicised goods are not allowed. The same applies to modern packaging: if glass or foil packaging is necessary, e.g. for foods for hygienic reasons, please pack them additionally, e.g. in cloth bags.
- Please do not leave early or close your stands without talking to us first. We announce your actions online in our programme and it is a pity for our visitors if they are then faced with closed tents or empty houses.
- After hours, no visitors can be invited onto the site for insurance reasons. Only registered participants are allowed on the site. Justified exceptions must be agreed with us in advance.
- You are most welcome to visit the museum in detail. Please pick up a guest card at the Viking Houses.
- Please note that you enter the grounds at your own risk. The Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen accepts no liability.
- Please treat each other with respect and consideration! We are all united by our passion for Hedeby and the Viking Age and we all contribute to the smooth running of the Viking Houses Hedeby.

## **Arrival/Departure and Parking**

- Arrival and departure must take place outside the museum's opening hours, i.e. before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m.
- Access is only permitted via the south gate from Wedelspang. The entrance is on the K1 in Selk, on the left before the small car park with the rune stone.
- Cars are not allowed to park at the Viking houses. Instead, please use the parking area at the North Gate or, in the case of markets, the designated parking areas. You will receive a parking permit from us for the car park at the North Gate. As parking spaces there are limited, larger groups may have to use the regular museum car park.
- The forest path between the Viking Museum Hedeby and the parking lot at the North Gate may not be used by car!
- Please drive carefully inside and around the semicircular rampart and show consideration for visitors and residents.
- Overnight staying in camper vans/caravans is not permitted in the surrounding car parks. The police control and will impose fines. Please arrange a regular parking space in advance if you wish to use camper vans or caravans.

## **Excavation hut and Sanitary facilities**

- Toilets and showers are available in two containers behind the excavation hut. Please take bathroom utensils and towels back each time after use and report any damage or problems to the staff.
- As many staff members use the excavation hut and space is very limited, we ask you to keep use during opening hours to a necessary minimum.
- Upon request, you can receive a guest key for the gate to the grounds and the excavation hut. They can be returned to the museum staff during opening hours or to the gatekeeper at Schloss Gottorf after work.
- Please take care of the guest keys and make sure the gate and barracks are always locked outside opening hours.
- Private luggage and valuables cannot be stored in the hut, as many colleagues come in and out to work here and space is very limited.
- Using the kitchen during opening hours is only possible in exceptional cases and by prior arrangement with the staff on site. You will find a sink for dishes at the back of the excavation hut.
- The kitchen in the excavation hut must be cleaned after each use (including the cooker and oven). Please take all food back with you before you leave.
- Between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., the excavation hut cannot be used, as the rooms are being cleaned during this time.

## **Inside the houses**

- Set-up must take place outside opening hours before 9:00 am/after 5:00 pm.
- Smoking is prohibited inside the houses!
- Fires for cooking/heating are only allowed on the existing fireplaces in the houses. Firewood is available, the staff will show you where. Please only use the firewood provided; coniferous wood leads to increased flying sparks. Please pay attention to the following instructions:
  - There must always be an adult supervisor at the fire.
  - Please keep the flames low (max. 20-25 cm).
  - Please ensure that there is a filled water bucket next to the fireplace and a modern fire extinguisher nearby. To extinguish the fire, shovel the embers into a zinc bucket filled with water.
  - In strong winds, fire should be avoided.
  - For the safety of the residents, all fires (remaining embers, candles, oil lamps, etc.) must be extinguished at night.
  - In the ovens of houses 1 and 7, the fire must also be kept small. The ovens must heat up slowly (approx. 3-4 hrs.), otherwise the clay shell will crack.
  - Visitors are to be kept away from the fire, modern textiles are highly inflammable.
  - You will receive a short fire briefing from our staff on arrival.
- Please do not throw any rubbish (cigarette ends, crown caps etc.) into the fireplaces!
- The swallows are protected by law and their nests must not be removed. We try to protect areas that are particularly heavily contaminated by swallow droppings with false ceilings. Please report such places to us.
- Parallel to the revivals, guided tours and educational offers take place. Therefore, the houses must be accessible and able to be used for a short time by arrangement. For this, we ask you to cooperate with the management staff, facilitators and employees.
- Please always keep the houses open to the public. You can close off the sleeping areas by arrangement.
- Each house has everyday tasks that are necessary for care and maintenance and at the same time give the impression of a living environment. You will receive information about the house-specific tasks from our staff. If you live in a house, we ask you to take responsibility for these everyday tasks and to include them in your living. General tasks are e.g:
  - Removing cobwebs
  - Chopping firewood and restocking firewood supplies
  - Shaking out the sheepskins
  - Removing dust from surfaces
  - Sweeping floors
  - Cleaning fireplaces
  - Removing overgrowth around the houses
  - Reporting damages

- The inventory of each house represents a specific trade or craft theme. You are welcome to play on these themes and, after consultation, also use the inventory/furniture for this purpose.

### **FAQ – Reenactment**

- As one of the most important museums on the Viking Age, the Viking Museum Hedeby must meet high scientific standards. For this reason, it is essential that all the performers present the Viking Age to our visitors as correctly as possible within the framework of a museum, based on the current state of archaeological knowledge.
- During opening hours, only equipment appropriate to the Viking Age may be visible. All modern items (e.g. mobile phones, modern toys etc.) must be hidden.
- This also applies to food packaging. Please pack or fill food and drinks into authentic containers before they are visible to visitors. Please also close your tents if modern objects are visible inside or conceal them, e.g. with linen cloths or bags.
- Please do not use modern tools such as scissors or pliers with plastic handles, modern measuring tapes, needles with plastic heads, etc. in front of visitors.
- Clearly visible modern features (brightly coloured hair, painted fingernails, tattoos, piercings, modern jewellery, hair clips and elastics) must be covered/hidden during opening hours.
- The only exceptions are medically necessary aids such as glasses or hearing aids. But again, please try to avoid obviously modern items as much as possible, for example by wearing contact lenses.
- With small children, occasional exceptions are necessary. However, please make sure that Viking clothes are worn over the modern clothes, that no colourful shoes are sticking out and that no modern toys are lying around.
- Please dry your modern towels out of sight. Towels made of (undyed) linen are a good alternative.
- Please do not use modern leashes or collars for dogs.
- Prams and modern means of transport for children are not permitted. Wheelbarrows, sack barrows and other modern means of transport are only permitted for set-up and dismantling. We have a handcart that you can borrow from the staff for transport during opening hours if necessary.
- Please do not openly carry your shopping in modern packaging or bags around the grounds during opening hours. You can borrow the museum's handcart and use it to transport your purchases covered (e.g. under blankets or skins).
- Please answer visitors' questions only if you are completely sure. In all other cases, it is better to refer to the museum, catalogues and specialist literature. You do not need to know everything about the Viking Age or Hedeby.
- Please base your clothing and equipment on the current state of archaeological knowledge. If you are unsure about something, please leave it out and, if in doubt, choose a simpler representation. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. You can find an overview of the most important points here:
  - Please always choose a simpler representation first, which you can then develop further over time. This prevents mistakes and leads to a coherent presentation.

- Think about who and what you want to represent! Origin, profession, status, dating? A simple craftsman in Hedeby in the 9th century was dressed differently from a merchant from Kievan Rus' in the 11th century.
- Use mainly wool. Undyed linen or linen dyed in muted natural colours can be used for undergarments and as lining fabric. Silk should be reserved for very rich representations in thin strips as appliqué. Diamond twill is only attested in women.
- Linen can hardly be dyed. Therefore, ideally, do not use dyed linen. Wool fabric can be dyed in almost any colour imaginable. However, take into account the exclusivity of dyes. Natural dyes are suitable for all social classes, red and blue shades are reserved for rich representations.
- There are a number of good patterns for Viking clothing. Please use these patterns for your clothing and avoid clichés such as large cut-outs, wide straps for apron dresses, aprons that consist of only two cloth flaps or short sleeves for men's tunics.
- Embroidery and passementarie should be used very cautiously. Passementarie and gold or silver brocaded borders belong to the courtly milieu.
- Tablet-woven borders are occasionally found, especially in tombs of the 'better middle class' or upper class. However, be cautious here too and use, for example, different coloured fabric appliqués (no industrial synthetic borders!) to decorate the clothing.
- Belt buckles in women's graves are extremely rare, leather belts were obviously not part of women's costume. Therefore, please refrain from using leather belts (and also belt pouches). Instead, use tablet-woven bands as textile belts.
- Men's jewellery consists mainly of leather belts with buckles (in richer presentations also with metal belt studs). In addition, there are fibulae, e.g. a small penannular brooch for the neckline of the tunic and a larger penannular brooch or a ringed pin for the coat (trefoil fibulae are not documented from men's graves!). Other possible jewellery are bracelets and pendants, e.g., Thors hammers (about half of the Thors hammers come from men's graves!) or crosses. Extensive pearl necklaces are reserved for women, in men's graves a maximum of 3-4 pearls occur.
- Women's jewellery can be more extensive, but please make sure that jewellery, clothing and the role portrayed match. If there is a lot of jewellery, the clothing must also be elaborate; a simple maid in a plain linen dress did not wear oval brooches. Also make sure that the fibula shapes match in time and region and are used correctly (trefoil fibulae, for example, were only ever worn individually as fibulae for the neckline, a shawl or a cloak and never in pairs on the straps of an apron dress).
- Please wear turnshoes or go barefoot. In very bad weather, clogs are acceptable as an emergency solution (clogs are only documented in the Middle Ages).
- Please refrain from using rawhide lanterns ("Visby lanterns") during opening hours. These are modern and not documented for the Viking Age. In the evening, you can use rawhide lanterns as relatively fire-safe lighting. Documented are only tallow lamps (fire hazard!). Beeswax candles were known in the Viking Age, but were very expensive and limited to the ecclesiastical context.

## **Recommended literature on clothing and traditional costume**

- Arwidsson, Greta (Hrsg.), Birka II:1–3. Systematische Analysen der Gräberfunde (Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell 1984–1989).
- Capelle, Thorsten, Die Textiltrachten und der Trachtenschmuck von Haithabu, in: Jankuhn, Herbert; Schietzel, Kurt; Reichstein, Hans (Hrsg.) Archäologische und naturwissenschaftliche Untersuchungen an ländlichen und frühstädtischen Siedlungen im deutschen Küstengebiet. Band 2. Handelsplätze des frühen und hohen Mittelalters (Weinheim: Acta Humaniora 1984), S. 312–321.
- Eving, Thor, Viking Clothing (Stroud: The History Press 2006).
- Geijer, Agnes, Birka III. Die Textilfunde aus den Gräbern (Uppsala: Almqvist & Wiksell 1938).
- Glæsel, Nill, Viking Dress Clothing Garment (Createspace Independent Publishing Platform 2010).
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- Groenman-van Waateringe, Willy, Die Lederfunde von Haithabu. Berichte über die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu 21 (Neumünster: Wachholtz 1984).
- Hägg, Inga, Einige Beobachtungen über die Birkatracht, in: Jørgensen, Lise Bender; Tidow, Klaus (Hrsg.), Textilsymposium Neumünster. Archäologische Textilfunde. NESAT I (Neumünster: Textilmuseum Neumünster 1982), S. 249–265.
- Hägg, Inga, Die Tracht, in: Arwidsson, Greta (Hrsg.), Birka II:2. Systematische Analysen der Gräberfunde (Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell 1986), S. 51–72.
- Hägg, Inga, Die Textilfunde aus dem Hafen von Haithabu. Berichte über die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu 20 (Neumünster: Wachholtz 1984).
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- Hägg, Inga, Textilien und Tracht in Haithabu und Schleswig. Die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu 18 (Neumünster: Wachholtz 2016).
- Hedeager Krag, Anne, Reconstruction of a Viking Magnate Dress, in: Jaacks, Gisela; Tidow, Klaus (Hrsg.), Textilsymposium Neumünster, Archäologische Textilfunde. NESAT V (Neumünster: Textilmuseum Neumünster 1994), S. 114–119.
- Hedeager Krag, Anne, Fränkisch-byzantinische Trachteinflüsse in drei dänischen Grabfunden des 10. Jahrhunderts, in: Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt 29 (1999), S. 425–444.
- Hedeager Krag, Anne, Dress and Power in Prehistoric Scandinavia c. 550–1050 A.D., in: Jørgensen, Lise Bender; Rinaldo, Christina (Hrsg.), Textiles in European Archaeology. NESAT VI (Göteborg: Göteborg University Department of Archaeology 1998), S. 125–129.
- Hedeager Krag, Anne, Denmark – Europe: Dress and Fashion in Denmark’s Viking Age, in: Pritchard, Frances; Wild, John Peter (Hrsg.) Northern Archaeological Textiles. NESAT VII (Oxford 2005). S. 29–35.

- Jørgensen, Lise Bender, *North European Textiles until AD 1000* (Aarhus: Aarhus University Press 1992).
- Pierot, Pieter Jacobus, *Viking Age Costume Guide* (Szczecin: Triglav Books 2013).
- Toplak, Matthias, *Kleidung und Tracht in der altnordischen Sagaliteratur und im archäologischen Fundkontext* (Marburg: Tectum 2011).

### **Recommended literature on the Viking Age**

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- Simek, Rudolf, *Die Wikinger* (München: C. H. Beck 2016).
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- Staecker, Jörn; Toplak, Matthias (Hrsg.), *Die Wikinger. Entdecker und Eroberer* (Propyläen: Berlin 2021).
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