

THE ISLAND THAT CHANGED HISTORY

www.visitsaaremaa.ee/en/island-of-vikings



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE VIKINGS

The Vikings have become more and more of a talking point on Saaremaa in the last 10 or so years, and we are proud to declare Saaremaa the Island of the Vikings, where you can experience the Viking era first-hand.

Memorable sea voyages, the medieval way of life and work processes, boat-building and much more awaits. The first (and for the moment only) Viking market will take place in Salme. Where, when and what Viking experiences Saaremaa has to offer can be found online at

www.visitsaaremaa.ee/en/viking-experiences/



GREETINGS FROM THE ISLAND OF VIKINGS

visit
saaremaa

The name Viking did not imply one's ethnicity, but rather their profession — any freeman could become a Viking, be it their wish or out of necessity, and subsequently climb the social ladder, gather a fortune and so on.

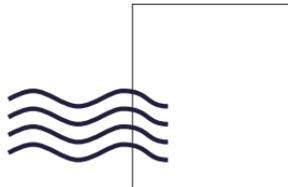
The word for Viking comes from Old Norse *víkingr* meaning seafarer. They were sly merchants, seasoned sailors and masterful craftsmen and shipbuilders.

The naval might of Saaremaa grew to be immensely strong, attested by Henry of Latvia in his Livonian Chronicle stating that the navies of Saaremaa and Courland are the most feared naval forces on the Baltic Sea.





www.visitsaaremaa.ee



SAAREMAA AND THE VIKINGS

About ten years ago two prehistoric shipwrecks were discovered during construction work in Salme on the island of Saaremaa. It became apparent that these were Viking ships, which, after further research, completely rewrote the history of Vikings in Europe.

The ship burials from the years 730-750 gives the reason why the cradle of the Viking era should be moved to Saaremaa.



This is Viking!

Viking came to conquer Saaremaa.

His remains were found in **Salme** and his belongings are now on exhibition at **Saaremaa Museum**.

Hospitality of the islanders has improved over the years and it is now safe to **Visit Saaremaa**.

Come to Saaremaa!

Be like a Viking!



THE CRADLE OF VIKINGS - SALME

Although the exact location of the battle site and the military strength of both forces are unknown, assumptions can be made from grave goods.

The findings unearthed from the ships — Norse swords, whalebone game pieces, remains of shields, spearheads and so on, buried alongside the dead — are extraordinary in the context of Estonia and neighbouring regions.

Today tourists can visit the locations of the ships, which have been fitted with a concrete sculpture and an information board.

An international conference „Vikings before the Vikings“ will take place in Kuressaare on the 6.-7th of May 2022. More information: www.saaremaamuuseum.ee

visit
saaremaa

EXHIBITION

VIKINGS BEFORE VIKINGS

The ship burials in Salme are scientifically unique. These findings are unique for the large number of the buried (a total of 41 fallen warriors) and the lavish grave goods.

Since May 2021, the discoveries from the Salme ships have been on display as part of an exhibition entitled 'The Vikings before the Vikings' at Saaremaa Museum. In addition to the ship findings, visitors can admire detailed models of Viking ships, experience the Battle of Salme via a true-to-life four-minute animation and meet the interactive Viking King.

www.saaremaamuuseum.ee

The exhibition will be opened until **31.08.2022**

Find information about all the nice Saaremaa events at www.saare.events

