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## VIKINGS: BEYOND THE LEGEND

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### 32-FOOT-LONG REPLICA VIKING SHIP SUSPENDED FROM THE ATRIUM OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE TO MARK THE START OF INSTALLATION

**PHILADELPHIA September 27, 2018**—A 32-foot-long replica Viking ship—*Eik Sande*—arrived at The Franklin Institute Wednesday night marking the start of installation for “Vikings: Beyond the Legend.” Exhibitors carried the 1100-pound ship up the main stairs of The Franklin Institute, through the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, and suspended it from the Atrium ceiling—where it will remain for the duration of the exhibit. The *Eik Sande* is one of three full-size reconstructed Viking ships featured in “Vikings: Beyond the Legend,” opening Saturday, October 13 at The Franklin Institute.

[Viking Ship Installation Photos | September 26, 2018](#)

The reconstructions come from the Viking Ship Museum’s boatyard in Roskilde, Denmark. All materials were chosen according to the original boat, and the replica boats were built with the same techniques that were used in the Viking Age boatbuilding, without the use of a saw. Oak trees measuring more than 1 meter in diameter were radically cleaved into halves, quarters, eights, and finally shaped into planks using replicas of Viking tools.

No sails have survived from Viking times. Information comes from images on carved stones, fragments of [woolen](#) fabric and experiments with sails on reconstructed ships. The sails for the reconstruction of the boats were made of wool in a weaving technique common for the early Viking Age. The sails are treated with tallow and ochre.

“*Vikings: Beyond the Legend*” explores the people, traditions, and influence of the legendary Viking Age. The exhibition reveals fresh insights through the latest archaeological discoveries that show the evolution of Vikings, providing a more accurate portrayal of them as skilled artisans, farmers, traders, and explorers who made a significant impact on our modern world.

The North American premiere features more than 600 treasured artifacts on loan from the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen and never before on display in the U.S., plus three dramatic ship reconstructions, interactive experiences, striking multimedia, and augmented reality. The exhibit is designed to go beyond the legend to convey the true story of the voyagers who set sail from Scandinavia centuries ago.

The exhibit is comprised of seven sections featuring exquisite artifacts balanced with interactive technology and immersive environments, including:

- 600 archaeological finds on loan from the National Museum of Denmark, never before on display in North America.

- A reconstruction of the *Roskilde 6* surrounded by a multimedia light and sound show.
- The full-size 21-foot replica ship *Joanna*, meticulously reconstructed by skilled curators using the same shipbuilding techniques and materials used in the Viking Age.
- A “ghost ship” represented by a sculpture of hanging iron replica rivets from a burial ship, on display to show how archeologists were able to discern the shape/size of the ship from the rivets found during the excavations.
- A full-scale replica of the Jelling Rune Stone often called Denmark’s birth certificate.
- Elaborate jewelry and coins
- Unique artifacts like “Thor’s hammer,” Ulfberht swords, the Hevring Flak rudder—and other striking examples of the work of highly skilled craftspeople who creatively used textiles, wood, metal, bone, leather, glass, and ceramics to create pieces for domestic life, ornamentation, and battle.
- Hands-on activities about everyday life, traditional clothing, the rune alphabet, and Viking games.
- Interactive components including an opportunity to pick up a precise replica of a Viking Age sword to feel its weight and balance, and all new for Philadelphia—an augmented reality rowing experience where visitors use a physical replica oar and test their ability to maintain the rowing cadence necessary to move a Viking ship.

*Vikings: Beyond the Legend* is a joint venture between and produced by The National Museum of Denmark and MuseumsPartner in Austria. The Franklin Institute is proud to present *Vikings: Beyond the Legend* in the Nicholas and Athena Karabots Pavilion and in the Mandell Center from October 13 through March 3, 2019.

**Notes to Editors:**

- High-resolution photos are available at the [press site](#) on The Franklin Institute’s website.
- **Exclusive Media Preview of *Vikings: Beyond the Legend* on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 11:00 am.**

**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**

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