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Nordic Heritage Museum Hosts Final Viking Days Festival in Current Location

August 16, 2017 | Seattle, WA—The Vikings are coming to Ballard this weekend, August 19 and 20, for the Nordic Heritage Museum’s annual summer festival, Viking Days! At this free two-day event, the Museum grounds will be transformed into an all-ages festival featuring Nordic food, folk music, fun demonstrations, and even a full-scale Viking encampment.

“This year marks the Museum’s 34th Viking Days festival, and the last one in this location,” said Eric Nelson, Nordic Heritage Museum CEO. “We have a great time hosting it every year. Whether you’re Nordic or not, it’s an excellent opportunity for the community to come together, eat delicious food, and take part in ‘Viking traditions.’ There’s even a special Viking-themed craft area for kids.”

Perhaps the greatest highlight of the event will be the Viking encampment. There, visitors will learn what a day in the life of a Viking was really like—and have the opportunity to participate in demonstrations of weaving, woodcarving, weapon-forging, games, and more.

The festival begins at 10 a.m. and is open until 5 p.m. both days. It will be held at the Museum’s current location, 3014 NW 67th Street.

Delicacies from each of the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden) will be available throughout the festival, including æbleskiver, Swedish meatballs, vinarterta, and more. There will also be a Swedish Pancake Breakfast from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Visitors can enjoy grilled sausages and salmon burgers all weekend at the Viking Grill, as well as Krogstad aquavit and craft beer from Odin Brewing Company in the Valhalla Beer Garden. An afternoon Salmon Bake is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday.

Traditional music groups will perform on three different stages, local artisans will sell handcrafted items, and crafts will be set up for children. Attendees will also be able to purchase tickets for the annual Viking Days raffle; prizes include a weeklong stay at Eagle Crest Resort (April 8–15, 2018), a new Museum naming plaque, a Mariners package, and more.

In December, the Nordic Heritage Museum will begin its move to a new facility on Market Street. To celebrate the last Viking Days in the current building, docents will lead tours of the Museum’s original core exhibition, *The Dream of America*, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day, as well as of its brand-new visiting exhibition, *The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad*, at 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission to the Museum will be free all weekend.

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About the Nordic Heritage Museum

With more than 65,000 visitors annually, the Nordic Heritage Museum is a cultural treasure in the Pacific Northwest. It is the only museum in the United States that represents the rich heritage of all five Nordic

countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The Museum's mission is to share Nordic culture with people of all ages and backgrounds by exhibiting art and objects, preserving collections, providing educational and cultural experiences, and serving as a community gathering place. The Nordic Heritage Museum presents a wide range of vibrant programs including contemporary art exhibitions, outstanding concerts, lectures, and films, as well as a variety of special events throughout the year.

Nordic Heritage Museum is currently located at 3014 NW 67th Street, Seattle, WA 98117.

Museum hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday noon to 4 p.m.; closed Monday

Admission: Free throughout Viking Days festival. \$8 general; \$7 seniors & college students;

\$6 children 5 and older; FREE for children under 5 and Museum members;

free 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on first Thursday