

# Last chance to see the Vikings!



This week is your last chance to see the *Vikings!* exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland.

The National Museum of Scotland is the only UK venue for *Vikings!*, an outstanding exhibition of more than 500 objects, including jewellery, weapon fragments, carvings, precious metals and household items, from the world-renowned collections of the Swedish History Museum in Stockholm.

The exhibition brings together fascinating objects, archaeological evidence, hands-on displays and innovative interpretation. It, reveals who the Vikings really were and creates a vivid picture of how they lived more than 1,000 years ago, dispelling a number of myths in the process, not least about those famous horned helmets (which they never really wore).

The term 'Viking' is a modern invention of 19<sup>th</sup> century Scandinavian scholarship and technically should not be used to refer to a race or a people but rather to an activity. Men and perhaps even women and adolescents, would go out 'on a Viking', which could be the sort of pillaging raids that we commonly think of, but it could also refer to a more peaceful trading expedition.

Amongst the relics on display are numerous intricate pieces of jewellery including the oldest surviving Swedish crucifix, from the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD, depictions of Norse Gods such as Thor and Odin, excavations from grave sites, craftsmanship in

various forms including bone, wood and metal work and a representation of a Viking burial boat made entirely of the rivets from an original burial site.

The exhibition runs until Sunday 12 May 2013, open daily from 10am to 5pm. Admission: £9 adults, £7.50 concession, children (age 12-15) £6. Entry is free to National Museums Scotland Members and children under 12. For tickets and further information visit [www.nms.ac.uk/vikings](http://www.nms.ac.uk/vikings).

Photo courtesy of Swedish History Museum