

The sea

by Sweden

The Vikings

In our modern times, the entire population during the period, both peaceful traveling families like colonizers and farmers, has been called Vikings, although the word actually only described the small group who went out "viking" and engaged in trade and robbery (plunderage). For most Scandinavians the farm was the center of life.



Even as navigators, the Vikings were skilled. They were able to carry out long journeys on the open sea, for instance by studying the positions of the stars and celestial bodies in the sky as well as the movement patterns of the waves and the winds.

The Viking era was nevertheless a period of transition and the contact with the outside world fundamentally changed the whole society.

The first invasion of Vikings in England took place at Dorchester sometime between the years 786 and 796.

The Viking ships were sleek, fast and safe. The construction enabled them to withstand long sea voyages while being suitable as landing vessels because of they could sail on very shallow waters.



Treasures found in Vårby, Huddinge, Södermanland



Years and routes for some important Viking trips.

Trading accelerated, great treasure finds like the one from Vårby shows that. The treasure contained jewelry and costumes from both Russia and the Muslim Empire, the Caliphate.

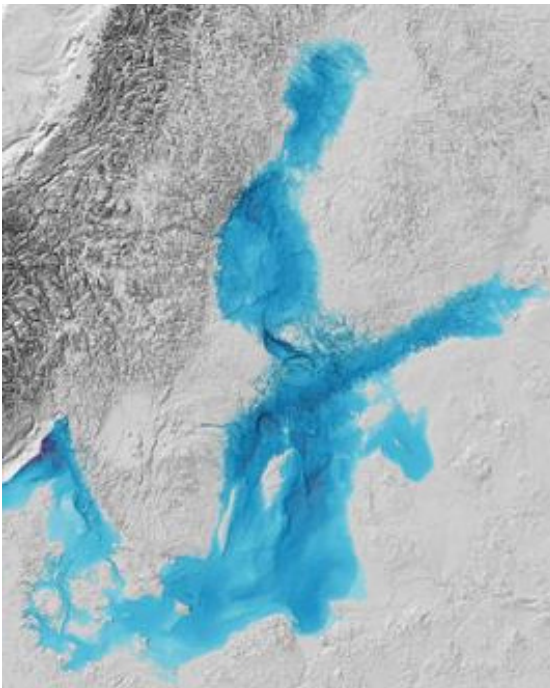


The sea

by Sweden

The Baltic sea

The Baltic Sea has at all times been an important transport route between the surrounding land areas, which are thereby linked culturally, economically and at times even politically.



The Baltic sea

The largest cities on the Baltic coast are Saint Petersburg (Russia), Stockholm, (Sweden), Helsinki (Finland), Kiel, Rostock (Germany), Gdańsk (Poland), Riga (Latvia), Szczecin, Gdynia (Poland), Kaliningrad (Russia), Tallinn (Estonia) and Klaipėda (Lithuania).

The ongoing land rise reduces the Baltic Sea's water volume by 1–2 km³ per year.

Save the Baltic sea

We have not treated the Baltic sea very well. Fishes in the Baltic sea is poisonous that can be dangerous to eat. This is bad because a lot of people have been dependent upon the fish from the Baltic sea. The codfishes are disturbingly small. Poisonous algae are blooming all along the coast in the summers. This is because we have let out an excess of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus in the sea. The emissions from agriculture, sewage treatment plants, individual sewers, traffic and industries must be reduced even more to avoid these algae blooms, oxygen deprivation and sediment death.



Algae blooming

But we have done progress:

- We have more sewage plant
- Better washing-up-liquid and better laundry detergent
- The salmon are getting better
- The sea eagle are flying again
- Teamwork over the land borders

