

Treasures of the Viking Age: The Galloway Hoard

Social Story

I am going to the *Treasures of the Viking Age: The Galloway Hoard* exhibition at Melbourne Museum.

The ***Treasures of the Viking Age: The Galloway Hoard*** is an exhibition from the National Museums of Scotland.



A **hoard** is a collection of valuable objects that have been buried in the ground.

The Galloway Hoard was discovered in 2014 and is believed to have been buried around the year 900. These treasures were hidden, and buried, for over a thousand years!

I am going to see the Galloway Hoard in the exhibition.



I will need to buy a ticket for this exhibition.

I can buy a ticket from the Melbourne Museum website online, or at the Melbourne Museum on the day of my visit.

I might need to line up to buy a ticket from the Melbourne Museum ticket desk.



***The Treasures of the
Viking Age: The
Galloway Hoard***

exhibition is located on the first floor of the Melbourne Museum.

To get up to the first floor, I can take the escalators, use an elevator, or follow the ramp next to the Forest Gallery.



I will show my ticket to
the Museum Staff at the
entrance to the
***Treasures of the Viking
Age: The Galloway
Hoard*** exhibition before I
enter.



The lighting in the exhibition will be quite low and it will be a little dark inside.

This helps protect the objects from the Galloway Hoard which are very special and fragile.



I will see written text,
maps and
photographs on the
walls of the
exhibition.

I can read this
information to learn
more about the
Galloway Hoard
objects and the Viking
Age.



A fresh influx of silver

In the 9th century CE, Scandinavian connections across the North Sea brought warfare, trade and settlement to Britain and Ireland. Scandinavian dynasties and their war-bands began to control territories from centres in Dublin and York, disrupting existing kingdoms and politics.

A fresh influx of silver is one of the best archaeological indicators of these new influences. Silver arm-rings, like those in the Galloway Hoard, are mostly found in Ireland and in hoards of silver bullion discovered around the Irish Sea, in north Wales and northern England.

Galloway was in an ambiguous position, located at the western limit of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria, but also connected to this Irish Sea zone. The Galloway Hoard is Scotland's earliest Viking-age hoard, buried near the village of Balmaghie sometime before 900 CE.

Credit: BBC History Magazine
With thanks to Dr. Jane Karlsen and John Sheehan



There are interesting and informative videos I can watch to understand more about the Galloway Hoard and the Viking Age.



I will see small and unique objects made from silver and gold and other materials.

Most of the objects here are the real objects that were found in the Galloway Hoard.

The objects are kept behind glass to keep them safe.



Two objects in the exhibition are replicas.

The crystal rock jar and the lidded vessel are exact copies of the real objects that were found.

The real objects were too fragile to bring to Melbourne; they are kept in Scotland and England.



Replica of the rock crystal jar

This is a 3D-printed exact copy of the rock crystal jar found wrapped in a silk-lined leather pouch.

The crystal was originally carved hundreds of years earlier in the Roman Empire and had been transformed into a jar and covered with elaborate goldwork in the 6th century. The hollow centre would have contained a precious substance—holy oil or wine, or perhaps a reli-

On the base, golden letters spell out "HYGMALD 22-1111-1111" meaning "Bishop Hygmald had this made".



There are some
touchscreens in the
exhibition. I can use
these to see details of
some of the objects
more closely.



I can leave the exhibition whenever I want to.

If I need to take a short break or go to the bathroom, I can leave the exhibition and return when I feel ready. I will need to show my ticket to the Museum Staff member outside the exhibition again before I re-enter.



There is a lot to read, see, watch and learn in ***Treasures of the Viking Age: The Galloway Hoard*** exhibition.

I can visit exhibitions and galleries if I want to and have enough time before leaving the Melbourne Museum.



