

Destination Viking - Saga Lands



Sagas and storytelling are unique cultural features of the Northern Periphery. The stories contain embedded information about former land-use and historic events related to the landscape, and they have been a means for people in the Northern Periphery to maintain their history and traditions. With modernisation and urbanisation taking over from traditional ways of subsistence, much of the knowledge of these non-visible cultural elements of the landscapes is now being lost. The Destination Viking - Saga Lands project will revive the transfer of knowledge of cultural elements, with regard to the landscapes, and relate this to modern ways of life. As well as securing transfer from generation to generation locally, the stories and events conveyed in the sagas and stories can attract tourists to certain landscapes. A major element of the project is the establishment of a number of Saga Trails. The project also aims to revive the tradition of saga and storytelling, and to make information and events from the sagas and stories visible and accessible to the general public. Farmers and other local people will be involved as guides, maintainers and storytellers. The project will also promote community development, social inclusion and add value to cultural landscape management.



Objectives

The main objectives are:

- to encourage the transfer of saga knowledge to new generations
- to maintain the landscapes in which important saga and story events took place and make this a viable base for future tourism development

Project activities

The project is divided into 6 project periods, each of which will have a primary focus, as follows:

- The Saga and Storytelling Tradition - establishing the project, update on saga and storytelling traditions of each country
- The Saga and Storyteller - transfer of saga and storytelling traditions, training of guides, establishment of re-enactment groups
- The Saga Trail - establishment of saga trails/footpath routes, including systems for information dissemination (live guiding, signboards, brochures and books, GPS system, web-sites etc.)
- From Tradition to Tourism – linking in with the tourism developers and the industry
- Sagas and Sailing – developing sailing opportunities linked to saga events, and also museum presentations of saga-narrated sea voyages
- The Saga | – concluding the project and preparing for the future: working together to further exploit the potential of the unique saga and storytelling tradition of the Northern Periphery

Expected results

Partners will re-establish links between countries based on saga events. The project expects to make a number of selected saga stories visible in the landscapes where they once happened. This will be done by creating saga routes with storytellers, signboards, brochures, guidebooks etc. This will bring information on saga events directly to the public on-site. Being such a unique feature of the cultural history and the living culture of the programme region, the sagas and storytelling represent a huge potential for future community development with associated economic development primarily based on increased tourism interest.

Partners

Grettistak ses - Iceland
Dalabyggð Municipality - Iceland
Westfjords Development Agency (AtWest) - Iceland
Reykjanes bær Municipality - Iceland
Borgarfjörður Cultural Centre - Iceland
Skeiða- and Gnúpverjahreppur Municipality - Iceland
Orkney Islands Council - Scotland
Shetland Amenity Trust, Shetland Islands - Scotland
Gene Prehistoric Village, Västernorrland County - Sweden
Narsaq Museum - Greenland
National Museum of the Faroe Islands - Faroe Islands
The Faroe Islands Tourist Board - Faroe Islands
Lofotr as - Vikingmuseet at Borg, Nordland County - Norway
Troms County - Norway
Associated partner: Karmøy Municipality, Rogaland County - Norway
Trondernes Museum - Norway
Viking Trail Tourism Association - Canada

Project website

<http://www.sagalands.org>

Measure

1.2

Total Budget

1 001 123

NPP Award

600 000

Project Period

01/01/2003 – 31/12/2005

Countries Involved

Iceland, Scotland, Sweden,
Greenland, Faroe Islands,
Norway

Lead Partner

Organisation

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Development in Iceland
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Project leader

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