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The sailing copies

Ottar, the Sea Stallion, Roar Ege and Estrid Byrding, Helge Ask, Kraka Fyr and Skjoldungen.

Typographic only. No photographs inside. Reconstruction measurements are not treated as figures for the wrecks. Official wording re-opened 18 November 2026.

Copy	Official wording
Ottar	Work began in 1999 on a reconstruction of Skuldelev 1, the large ocean-going cargo ship from western Norway. During the building process the boatbuilder found some unusual and unidentifiable axe marks on a biti.
The Sea Stallion from Glendalough	The reconstruction of Skuldelev 2. The reconstructions page describes a design heavy and strong enough to carry its 112 m² sail, and sufficiently light and long to be rowed by a crew of 60. Those figures are from the reconstruction listing, not a wreck facts table. The wreck page itself gives a crew of 65-70 men and a manning of 60 oars.
Roar Ege and Estrid Byrding	Reconstructions of Skuldelev 3, the best preserved of the five, with 75 % of the hull intact. The reconstructions page says Roar Ege, as the first reconstruction, was built in 1983, and later that the ship has been reconstructed two times — Roar Ege in 1982 and Estrid Byrding in 2017. Both dates stay.
Helge Ask	Built by the museum in 1990-91 of oak, pine and ash; the same page lists the year of construction as 1991. About 65% of the original is preserved. Reconstruction figures (including width 2.70 meter and displacement 5,5 tons) are not treated as the wreck's facts-table figures (breadth 2.5 metres, displacement 7.8 tons).
Kraka Fyr and Skjoldungen	Skuldelev 6 has been reconstructed two times, first in 1998 and in 2010. Kraka Fyr is, at the moment, a reconstruction of the ship in its original fishing-boat shape, not yet converted into a "byrding".
Method	The reconstructions are not definitive truths. They represent suggestions on how the ships may have looked 1,000 years ago. The process is called experimental archaeology. From 1 May to 30 September, visitors can sail on Roskilde Fjord in a Nordic wooden boat, a descendant of the Viking ships, not in the wrecks themselves.

A short quiz

1. Which two official years does the reconstructions page give for Roar Ege?
2. Should Helge Ask's displacement of 5,5 tons be used as the wreck figure?
3. What does the museum say the reconstructions are?

Answers. 1983, and 1982. No: the wreck facts table gives 7.8 tons. Not definitive truths, but suggestions.

Wording from the Viking Ship Museum's reconstructions page and the Helge Ask and Kraka Fyr collection pages, re-opened 18 November 2026. viking-ships.nautical.im is independent of the museum. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.