

Extract from the foreword:

## WELCOME TO THE TRAIL

This book is intended as a helping hand to visitors to Southern Greenland's Norse areas - either when planning their visit or when actually standing on the ruin sites. What was it really like back then when Norse farmers and hunters lived here? How and where did they build their houses, how were they fitted out - for everyday life and for special occasions? What do the sagas tell us and what can archaeologists reveal? Often the remains from the past appear incomprehensible, the ruins inconceivable and incoherent and the historic reality hazy or obscured.

It is therefore with great pleasure that the three local museums in Southern Greenland, in Nanortalik, Qaqortoq and Narsaq, are able to present this book. Here the experienced and knowledgeable archaeologist Jette Arneborg tells of the large classic Norse sites in our area: Brattahlid, where Erik the Red settled with his family at the end of the 980s; Gardar, where the Norsemen's bishop lived; Hvalsey Fjord's Farm and Church, where the latter is one of the best preserved Norse ruins in Greenland; and finally Herjolfsnes, with its very different location compared to the other sites. An account is given of the links between the sites and the saga texts and the history of the archaeological excavations. The individual ruins are dealt with one by one - and then the whole is placed in the context of the broader Norse history, as can only be done by someone who has immersed themselves in the subject, both in theory and practice, for many years.

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It is our wish that this book will enlighten and inform - and at the same time stimulate an appetite for further visits to the many attractions in the landscape. Let Southern Greenland's history show the way in the cultural landscape, out in the terrain, along the fjords and paths in the footsteps of the past. The old folk - both Norse and Inuit - have left their mark almost everywhere in this magnificent country and there is plenty to look for. Here is an opportunity for the total immersion that more and more town dwellers are willing to travel far and wide in search of. Here you can wander as a pilgrim within yourself. Many themes and aspects can be incorporated and combined into a cultural journey. The possibilities are legion when you follow the saga trail.....

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