

# Geneva Viking ship to open for tours April 15

Geneva, IL —The Viking, Geneva's life-sized replica Norwegian longship, will open for tours at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 15, at Good Templar Park, 528 East Side Drive in Geneva.

The public is invited. Guided or self-guided tours are available. A viewing platform allows visitors to see inside the uncovered ship. The ship was in storage from December through March.

Friends of the Viking Ship, a St. Charles-based nonprofit, announced the visit schedule.

Visit days are scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. on April 15, May 20, July 8 and 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16 and Oct. 21.

During Swedish Days, visit days will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 18; and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25.

During Good Templar Park's Cottages in the Woods celebration, Viking visit days will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 11-12.

Guided group tours begin every 15 minutes with the last guided tour at 3:30 p.m. Docents discuss the history of the Viking, Norwegian sailing and ship-building skills, preservation efforts and the Viking's future.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for teens. Parking is free.

Built in 1892, the vessel was sailed across the Atlantic Ocean from Bergen, Norway, to New York City and then to Chicago for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition (World's Fair).

The Viking is about 78 feet long, 17 feet wide, and 6.5 feet high from the bottom of the keel to the gunwale. Thousands of iron rivets fasten its planks.

At sea, the Viking averaged 10 knots and the hull was observed to flex with the waves.

Today's Viking is an exact copy of the Viking ship Gokstad, built about 850 and unearthed in Gokstad, Norway.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for teens. Parking is free.

Guided group tours are available by appointment. Two weeks' advance notice is required. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children with a \$50 minimum.

Call (630) 302-7338, email [viking1893@gmail.com](mailto:viking1893@gmail.com) or visit [vikingship.us](http://vikingship.us) for more information.

## PHOTO:

Visiting Viking--Aurora resident Jean Benson was among visitors last year to the Viking, a Norwegian Viking ship replica displayed at Good Templar Park in Geneva. Visit days open Saturday, April 15. (Al Benson photo)

