

GALLERY: Skriðuklaustur - 1550



From Top Left: 3D model of St Catherine statue; reconstructed interior of the church at Skriðuklaustur; belt clasp; site of excavated monastery foundation (Credit: Open Virtual Worlds).

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Skriðuklaustur was the last Catholic monastery to be founded in Iceland before the Reformation. In June 1500 the farm of Skriða (in the valley of Fljótsdalur in eastern Iceland) was given to a community of Augustinian canons. However, there had already been religious activity on the site for some years before the official grant.

During the mid-sixteenth century religious change was imposed on Iceland by Christian III of Denmark. The Danish government forcibly introduced Protestantism, and in 1554 the monastery at Skriðuklaustur was closed and the lands given to a Lutheran pastor. The buildings occupied by the Augustinians fell into ruins, although the church continued in use for some generations. The site was eventually deconsecrated in 1792.

In the early twentieth century the writer Gunnar Gunnarsson bought Skriðuklaustur and built a house not far from the monastic remains. Both the monastic site and the house are now part of a [cultural institute](#) which is open to the public.

Reconstruction

Skriðuklaustur Monastery – 1550 [DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4642420](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4642420)

There is a video preview of the reconstruction on [Vimeo](#).

A 360° tour of the reconstruction can be found on [Roundme](#).

This digital reconstruction shows the monastery at Skriðuklaustur just before its closure in the 1550s. Both the exterior and interior have been reconstructed, revealing the probable appearance of spaces such as the dormitory, infirmary, kitchen, store-rooms, chapter-house and church.



3D Objects

You can view 3D models of a number of objects found at Skriðuklaustur on [Sketchfab](#).

List of 3D objects

- St Barbara Statue
- St Barbara Statue high resolution
- Fragment of Coiled Ceramic Horn
- Arrowhead
- Healing Stone
- Skull with traumatic injury
- Skull with Syphilis
- Shark Bone Ring
- The Cloister Mother Mary
- Broken Bead
- Chess Piece
- Stone Dice
- Candle Holder 1
- Candle Holder 2
- Poodle Skull
- Backgammon Piece
- Sledgehammer Stone
- Pumice Stone
- Stoneware Beauvais
- Human Humerus Bone

Stone Sharpener
Metal Key
Bone Knife Handle
Knife with Wood Handle
Shovel Shoe
Knife Small
Pad Lock
Metal Pot Leg
Leg Piece of Pottery
Pottery Green Glaze Fragment
Bone Die
Metal Decoration

Associated Resources

There is an associated [app](#) for the monastery site.

A tour of the site and information on monastic life can be viewed [here](#).

The reconstruction is part of a virtual reality exhibit in the [cultural centre](#) at Skriðuklaustur.

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Date Reconstruction Published: An initial digital representation of the monastery was produced soon after the excavations were completed. A fully revised and extended reconstruction was published in 2020.

Discover More

More information about the history of the monastery and how to visit the site can be found on the Skriðuklaustur [website](#).

You can see what the monastery site looks like today on [Google Maps](#). 

Project Funding

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