

## Karlsefni

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**Δ 49/HD04/TK:** At first they sailed up to the Western Settlement, and then they continued to the Bjarn Isles. From the Bjarn Isles, they sailed before a northerly wind for 2 days until they sighted the 1st land. It was Helluland. They rowed their boats to the shore and shortly explored it. They saw many large slabs of stones and foxes there (S p. 94).

► **63RH/HD04/TK:** First they sailed north to the Western Settlement of Greenland (later Godthåb, now Nuuk area) and then to Bjarn Isles (Bear Isles). The reason why they sailed north before sailing west seems to be the wind blowing from the north. The known part of Helluland was north-west from the Eastern Settlement of Greenland (later Julianehåb, now Qaqortoq area). They needed to get the northern wind behind their sail. Thus they sailed to the north first and from there, propelled by the northerly wind, they sailed westward to Helluland.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julianehaab>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuuk>

► **64RH/HD04/TK:** The description of many slabs of stone would fit well to Baffin Island. The mention of many foxes they saw there indicates that they landed at more habitable part of Baffin Island, perhaps Hall Peninsula.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baffin\\_Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baffin_Island)

► **65RH/HD04/TK:** It would be logical for Karlsefni to avoid Helluland and sail directly to Markland. However, his directions to Leif's base were based on the chain of the lands:

1) sighted by Bjarni in the following order: from Vinland to Markland, from Markland to Helluland, from Helluland to Greenland, and

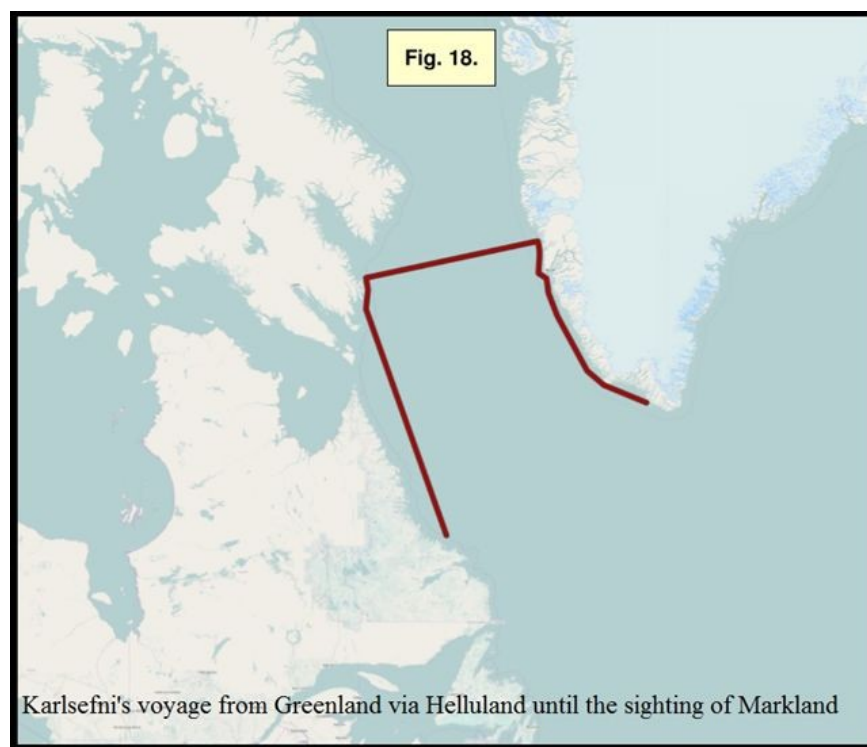
2) sighted/visited by Leif and Thorvald's crew in the following order: from Greenland to Helluland, from Helluland to Markland, from Markland to Vinland.

Detouring from these directions in unknown seas without maps and tools for precise navigation could be very dangerous. Skálholtsbók claims that Karlsefni named Helluland. However, it was Leif who named Helluland, Markland, and Vinland during his earlier expedition.

**Δ 50/MD04/TK:** Propelled by the northerly wind, they sailed from the 1st land for 2 days – first south, then south-east – until they sighted the 2nd land before them (S p. 94) (H p. 94).

► **66RH/MD04/TK:** It took Karlsefni only 2 days to sail from the 1st land (Helluland) to sighting distance of the 2nd land (Markland), while to Bjarni it took 3 days to sail from land number II (later part of Markland) to sighting distance of the high and mountainous part of land number III (later Helluland). Even if Karlsefni sailed at maximum speed, i.e., 10 knots per hour (18.5 km/h, or 11.5 mph) for 2 days (889 km, or 480 NM, or 552 miles) in south, south-east direction, he would not overcome a greater distance than the distance between Hall Peninsula in the south-east of Baffin Island (Helluland) and the north-east coast of Labrador Peninsula. Thus, the 2nd land that Karlsefni sighted was LABRADOR PENINSULA (Karlsefni's MARKLAND), while land number II from which Bjarni sailed to sighting distance of the high and mountainous part of land number III (later Helluland) was Newfoundland Island (Bjarni's Markland). Newfoundland Island was also the 2nd land that Leif sighted (Leif's Markland).

≈ Fig. 18. Karlsefni's voyage from Greenland via Helluland until the sighting of Markland (possible route)



Δ **51/MD05/TK:** The 2nd land was covered with vast, dense forests. They saw many animals there. They came upon an island south-east of the 2nd land. They explored it and saw bears there; therefore they named it Bjarn Isle. The mainland itself they named Markland (S p. 94).

► **67RH/MD05/TK:** Karlsefni built on knowledge gained from previous expeditions and added new information from his own observations. Karlsefni was the first one to observe that the Strait of Belle Isle separated the mainland (Labrador Peninsula) from a huge chunk of land (Newfoundland Island) south-east of the mainland (Labrador Peninsula). Based on sailing directions from Leif and Thorvald's crew, Karlsefni could realize this was an island. He made a stop there and gave it a name to distinguish it from the mainland. From then on the island (Newfoundland Island) was for him Bjarn Isle, or Bear Isle, while the opposite mainland (Labrador Peninsula) was Markland. It is evident that Karlsefni made stops both on Labrador Peninsula (Karlsefni's Markland) and on Newfoundland Island (Karlsefni's Bjarn Isle), and was able to observe an abundance of animals in Markland and bears on Bjarn Isle. Till today, Newfoundland Island is home to the Newfoundland black bear, which is endemic to the island.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newfoundland\\_black\\_bear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newfoundland_black_bear)

### **Still Possibly Summer, c. y. 1007 AD**

Δ **52/VD23/TK:** From there they sailed south alongside the coast (H p. 94).

Δ 53/VD24/TK: They sailed for 2 days before they sighted the 3rd land. They kept a course toward the 3rd land and came to the promontory. Then they sailed alongside the coast, with the land to starboard. The coast was open to the sea, without harbors, with long beaches and extensive sands. They sailed on the boats to the shore and found a ship's keel on the promontory. It was Kjalarness. They called the part of the coast with long beaches, Furdustrands, because it took them a long time to sail past it. Then the coastline became indented with bays (S p. 94, 95).

► **68RH/VD23/TK:** If Karlsefni sailed to Vinland (Cape Breton Island) from the 2nd land (Markland/Labrador Peninsula) alongside the south-east coast of Labrador Peninsula, then eventually he would be sailing west. If Karlsefni sailed to Vinland (Cape Breton Island) around the south-east coast of Bjarn Isle (Newfoundland Island), then eventually he would be sailing west as well. In none of these cases Karlsefni would be sailing south alongside the coast to Vinland (Cape Breton Island). Therefore, the only possible way that Karlsefni could sail to Vinland (Cape Breton Island) in a southward direction alongside the coast was by sailing alongside the west coast of Bjarn Isle (Newfoundland Island). In order to get to Bjarn Isle, he had to first sail from the 2nd land (Markland/Labrador Peninsula) through the Strait of Belle Isle. Based on his own discovery (identification of Bjarn Isle as a separate land from Markland) and information from previous expeditions (which sailed along the south-east coast of Newfoundland Island), he concluded that it was an island and decided to explore a shorter southern route to Vinland. This was a new route, and it corresponded well with the character of the sea captain Karlsefni who did not hesitate to set up a new route once he knew his whereabouts. Likewise, later Karlsefni set up a new route to Leif's base from the promontory of the 3rd land (Vinland/Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia).

► **69RH/VD23-24/TK:** There is a contradiction between Skálholtsbók and Hauksbók regarding the length of time it took Karlsefni to sail to Vinland from the previous land. While Skálholtsbók claims that the voyage took 2 days, Hauksbók claims that it took a long time (H p. 94). First of all, the distance from the tip of the promontory of Newfoundland Island to the tip of the headland of Cape Breton Island is c. 630 km, or 340 NM, or 391 miles. Karlsefni would have to sail on average c. 13 km/h, or 7 NM/h (knots), or 8 mph to overcome this distance in 2 days, which would be below the maximum speed of 10 knots = 10 NM/h = 18.5 km/h = 11.5 mph. Thus, it was possible for Karlsefni to sail this distance in 2 days. Because the definite information of 2 days in Skálholtsbók is compatible with other information about distance, the southern course of the ship, and known maximum speed of Norse ships, it is more reliable information than the indefinite expression, "a long time," in Hauksbók. It is possible that the information about the "long time" voyage was confused in the course of time and originally did not apply to the voyage from Bjarn Isle (Newfoundland Island) to the headland of Vinland (Cape Breton Island).

► **70RH/VD23-24/TK:** Hauksbók also indicates that when Karlsefni's expedition came to the headland of the 3rd land, the mainland lay to starboard (H p. 94). When Karlsefni was facing the headland of Vinland (Cape Breton Island), the mainland (New Brunswick and Gaspé Peninsula) did lay to starboard (the right side of the ship), but he could not see it across the Gulf of St. Lawrence at a distance of c. 340 km, or 183 NM, or 211 miles. Nevertheless, it is possible to conclude that Hauk Erlendsson the Lawman, in this particular instance based his account in Hauksbók on wrong information or simply made a wrong deduction that land (which Skálholtsbók claimed to be on the right side of the ship) was actually the mainland. The reason for this my conclusion is that both accounts in Skálholtsbók and Hauksbók describe the same stretch of voyage from the previous land in the north to the headland of Vinland (Cape Breton Island) in the south. And then both accounts in Skálholtsbók and Hauksbók describe the next stretch of voyage from the headland of Vinland (Cape Breton Island) to Leif's base in Vinland. While Skálholtsbók claims that on this next stretch of voyage, land (of the major headland of Cape Breton Island) was to starboard (the right side of the ship), Hauksbók indicates that mainland (New Brunswick and Gaspé Peninsula) lay to starboard (the right side of the ship). There are only 2 possible courses Karlsefni could take from the headland of Cape Breton Island. He could sail along the west coast of the headland of Cape Breton Island, but then he would not sail past the keel set up by Thorvald's men (on the east coast), and the description of the lower part of the coast, as indented with bays, would not fit to the west coast of Cape Breton Island as well. The only other route that Karlsefni could take from the headland of Cape Breton Island was along the east coast of the major headland of Cape Breton Island. In this case, the land of the major headland would be on the right side of his ships, he would sail past Furdustrands, and the coastline would become indented with bays.

≈ Fig. 19. Karlsefni's voyage from Markland via Bjarn Isle to Vinland (possible route)

