

ENCAMPMENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

The spirit and life of the renaissance is best experienced in our Living History Encampments that feature experts in various aspects of renaissance life, arts, crafts and sciences. Stop by for stimulating, informative conversation and entertaining demonstrations.

THE MERCHANTS OF BRITTANY: Enter and immerse yourselves in the headquarters area of a working merchant caravan! This caravan travels through Brittany and France, and also routinely meets with other caravans such as the Hanseatic League from Germany. Its members represent a variety of different merchants, artisans, crafters, performers, and travelers who are traversing between fairs and cities across the countryside. Most tents are open, displaying living conditions on the road. There are also daily ongoing demonstrations of renaissance cooking and crafting. The level of knowledge, skills, and labors that the members of these caravans possessed and used in their daily lives was amazing. Care to join them for a trip?

H. M. ROYAL ARTILLERY: This singular collection of individuals, recreate the local militia and professional knight attendants providing protection and security for the Royalty and Village. They are also our artillery training school. They will host an artillery training demonstration at 12:30 where they will prepare the cannons. Period cannon demonstration daily at 1:30.

GUILD MASTERS OF THE COMPASS ROSE: The Compass Rose Encampment is populated by the guild masters of the various trade and service collectives, referred to as “guilds” which are well represented within our village. The Guild exists to share ideas, settle disputes, build business connections, and socialize with masters of equal calling. Each Guild has its own meeting house with an elected “master” to oversee all aspects of the guild, its members, journeymen and apprentices. The Compass Rose is a Grange, an area within the village set apart, where village business is discussed and apprentices present themselves and are assisted to finding their livelihoods. All village guilds are represented within the grange. The Village of Kimmendale have guilds for Innkeepers, Physicians, Merchants, Blacksmithing, Weaving, Tailoring and garment making specializing in wool, silk and leather. During the time of Festival, the guild masters would meet and talk to all the village children to discover talents and interests that could assist them in finding suitable employment and training. Within our encampment, we like to reward such interest and courtesy with a small gift worthy of trade to teach the arts and skills of diplomacy, barter, value, and gratitude.

HISTORY OF CHIVALRY: History of Chivalry is our living history encampment dedicated to the preservation and demonstration of the arts and skills of the warrior knight. Twice daily our members will display combat fighting with live steel. An exciting blend of adventure and danger, experience the excitement of yesteryear. Watch their demonstrations in the jousting arena at 1:30 and 3:30.

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE: During the 16th and 17th centuries, at the height of its power under the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Empire was a multinational, multilingual empire controlling much of Southeast Europe, parts of Central Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa. With Constantinople as its capital and control of lands around the Mediterranean basin, the Ottoman Empire was at the centre of interactions between the Eastern and Western worlds for six centuries. During various conflicts throughout Europe, great capitols rose and fell often loosing great libraries and other repositories of knowledge and cultural histories, leading to the period known as “The Dark Ages”. The Ottomans held and protected the accumulated knowledge of the greater world for centuries. As Europe entered into the Renaissance the Ottoman Empire began to share the arts, sciences and histories which they had so carefully maintained. It was through their influence that much of the cultural histories of great countries remain. The Ottomans were artists, scholars and philosophers of the highest calibre, generous with their knowledge and diplomatic with their strength.

THE HIGHLAND TRADING COMPANY: Enter a world of skilled craftsmen and tradespeople creating and producing goods for commercial trade with communities across the seas and as close as within The Highland Trading Company encampment itself. The Highland Trading Company is an interactive working encampment with opportunities to engage with the tradespeople and learn the history of various skills such as sewing, spinning, embroidery; as well as trades such as blacksmithing, leather working and woodworking. Listen to stories and tales as the encampment members, like all good Highlanders are great yarn-spinners. And be sure to look out for the giant red Rocking Dragon and catch a ride.

THE ANGER OF THE MISTRESS: Located Lakeside, beyond the Jousting arena, this encampment displays the large siege weapons known as the Trebuchet. Watch these magnificent machines fling heavy objects long distances at 12:00 and 3:00.