



Navnet KonTiki, stammer fra den norske eventyrer, Thor Heyerdahl. Han stod i 1947 i spidsen for en 6 mands stor besætning, der alene ved vind og strøm, beviste at en simpel tømmerflåde, lavet af balsa-træ, kunne sejle de 8000 km fra Peru til Polynesien. Denne tømmerflåde blev døbt Kon-Tiki, efter en 1500 år gammel solkonge. Blandt storme, hajer og mange andre farer, lykkedes rejsen på 101 dage. Den originale Kon-Tiki flåde, er i dag udstillet i Norge på [Kon-Tiki museet](#).

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### **The Kon-Tiki Expedition**

The balsawood raft Kon-Tiki was built in Peru in 1947 using long logs from Equador. A crew of six sailed her from Callào in Peru to the island of Raroia in Polynesia. In 101 days the Kon-Tiki put behind her around 5,000 miles of the Pasific Ocean. The trip proved that Polynesia was indeed within the range of balsawood rafts from South America. A documentary of the voyage won an Oscar in 1951, and the book about the expedition has been translated into no fewer than 66 languages.



Fig. 1. Kon-Tiki raft, showing its large, curved sails and the crew members on board.