



Kajaani Castle Ruins

- Built in the 17th century
- Blown up in 1716
- Location: Linnankatu 27, Kajaani, Kainuu



Metsähallitus, area management

- Parks & Wildlife Finland, Ostrobothnia–Kainuu
- kajaani@metsa.fi
- nationalparks.fi/kajaani

Information about services around

- Kajaani Info
- Tel. +358 8 6155 2555
- kajaani.info@kajaani.fi

Kajaani Castle Ruins

Kajaani Castle was built in order to safeguard the eastern border of the Kingdom of Sweden. The castle functioned as a garrison and as an administrative centre, but also as a prison. The castle was blown up in March 1716.

In the early 17th century, Sweden strengthened its presence in the eastern parts of its kingdom by building the Oulu and Kajaani Castles. Of these, Kajaani Castle was regarded as more important because the Swedish Empire wanted to expand towards the east and the Arctic Ocean.

The construction of Kajaani Castle began in 1604. The first phase was completed in 1619. The second phase began when Per Brahe was granted Kajaani as his barony in 1650.

The sides of the castle were 39 m long, and the walls were 3.6 m thick and 9.6 m high. The castle had two turrets, i.e. round towers projecting from the wall. The tower on the upstream side was secured with two square fortifications.

The peace between Sweden and Russia was over in the early 18th century. Russia occupied southern Finland in 1714. The Russian troops burned the unmanned Oulu Castle in late winter 1715. At the time, Kajaani Castle was the only stronghold of Sweden in Finland.

In the beginning of 1716 the Russian troops attacked the castle. The 50 defenders of the castle surrendered after a siege that lasted for five weeks. The Russians blew up the castle in March 1716.

Kajaani Castle was returned to Sweden in the Treaty of Nystad in 1721. Once again, the castle gained a new master when Finland became part of Russia in 1809.

In its time, Kajaani Castle also served as a place of deportation. The most famous prisoner of the castle was Johannes Messenius, a Swedish historian, who was imprisoned here from 1616 to 1635. Another famous prisoner was poet Lars Wivalius, who sat in prison from 1634 to 1641.

There has always been a road running via the castle island. The first wooden bridge across the castle ruins was built in 1845. Motor traffic increased, and a new bridge was needed. The concrete bridge across the ruins was completed in 1937.



In Kajaani Castle Ruins, the following are

allowed

- walking on the guided pathways
- fishing in Linnanvirta: kalallakainuussa.fi/en/fishing-site/linnanvirta-section-of-the-river-kajaaninjoki/

forbidden

- climbing and walking along the castle walls
- excavating and taking stones with you (Antiquities Act 295/1963)
- littering and messing up
- damaging constructions
- letting pets run free

Please note

- Castle ruins are open all year round.
- There is no winter maintenance. Pathways may be slippery.
- A notification must be submitted to Metsähallitus of any events organised at the site.
- Research and other activities require permission.
- Emergency number 112 – know where you are calling from!

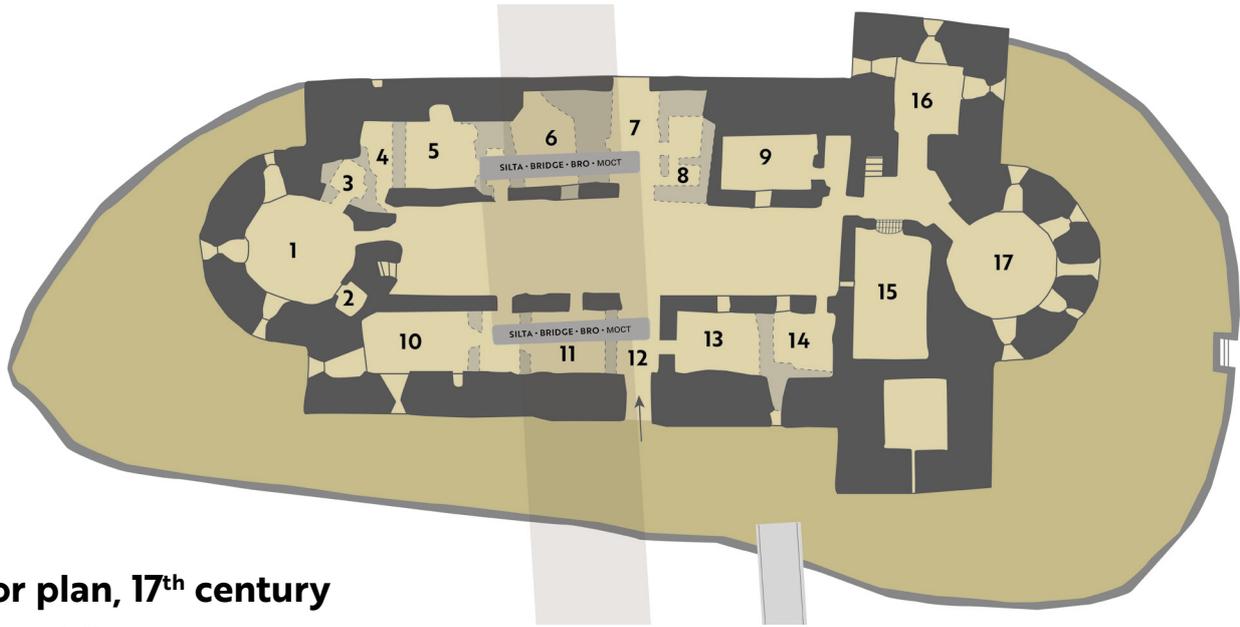


METSÄHALLITUS 3/2021
PHOTOS: MAARIT VAAHTERANOKSA



Historical Site

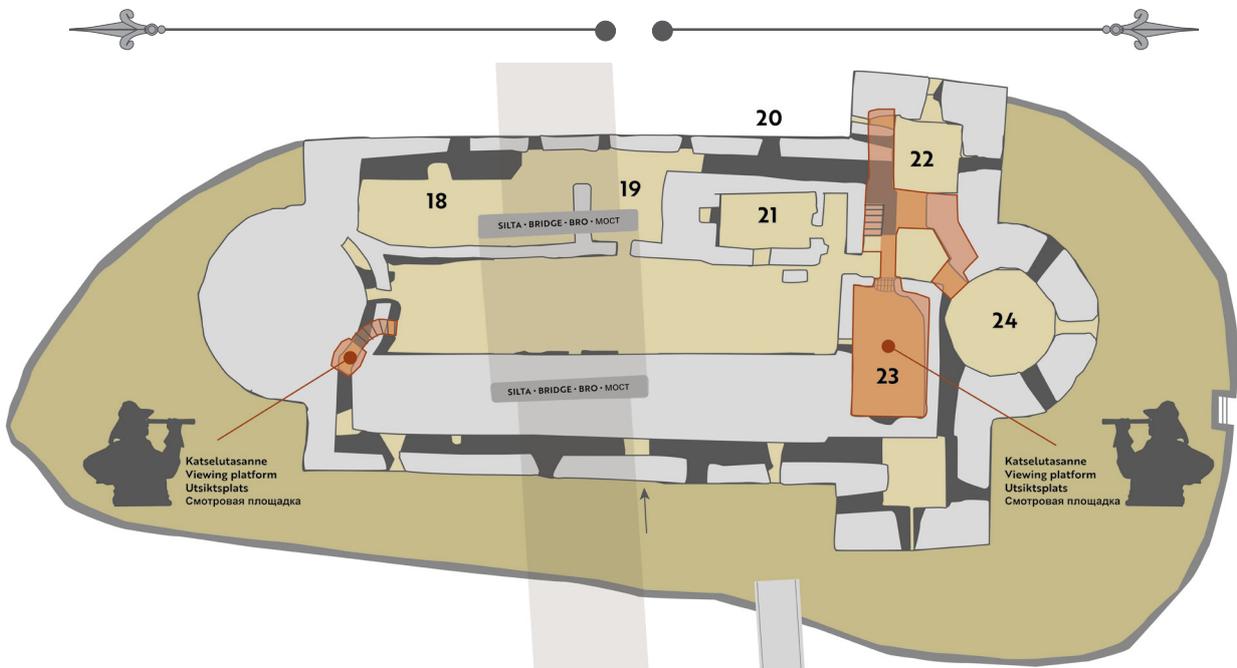
Kajaani Castle Ruins



Floor plan, 17th century

Ground floor

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Turret | 7. Entrance | 13. Chief Guard's room |
| 2. Old gunpowder store | 8. Prisoner cell | 14. Chamber |
| 3. Old gunpowder store | 9. Communal room | 15. Cellar |
| 4. Gunpowder store | 10. Chapel | 16. Lime storage tower |
| 5. Commendant's room | 11. Priest's room | 17. Turret |
| 6. Kitchen | 12. Entrance | |



Upper Floor

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 18. Room | 21. Office |
| 19. Drawbridge hoisting room
above the castle gate | 22. Square fortification |
| 20. Opening for shooting through | 23. Grand hall |
| | 24. Turret |

