

# KNIN - KNINSKA TVRĐAVA

## Knin – The fortress of Knin

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*Cultural - historical guide*

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## O prošlosti Knina

Povoljan geografski položaj, na razmeđu sjeverne i srednje Dalmacije, u okruženju brdsko-planinskog dinarskog gorja, krških zaravni i polja ispresijecanih vodenim tokovima i prometnim pravcima, omogućili su naseljavanje i život ljudima od prapovijesti do danas. Stoga ne čudi što kninsko područje obiluje prapovijesnim, antičkim i srednjovjekovnim arheološkim položajima i nalazima.

Nastao i razvio se kao utvrđenje na vrhu brda Spas, koje dominira nad okolnim prostorom Kninskog polja i šire, Knin je od svog nastanka imao izuzetan strateški značaj kontrole okolnog prostora i prometnih pravaca koji su od najranije prošlosti prolazili ovim područjem.

Takav geostrateški položaj ovog prostora uvjetovao je da Knin u ranom srednjem vijeku postaje sjelo župana, hrvatskih vojvoda, kraljeva i banova, a jedno vrijeme (od oko 1040.-1185.) i sjedište hrvatskog biskupa.

## History of Knin

*The favourable geographical position of the area has ensured the earliest settlements and existence of people from prehistory up to this day. The area situated between North and Central Dalmatia is surrounded with the mountain range of Dinara and intersected with waterflows and roads of extreme importance. Accordingly, the area of Knin abounds in prehistorical, ancient and medieval archeological locations and sites.*

*Knin has developed as a fortification at the top of Spas, which dominates the entire region of Kninsko polje. That fact enabled the town to have an extreme strategic importance in controlling the area and roads, which had been intersecting the area from the earliest times.*

*Knin was the residence of the Croatian dukes, kings, governors and in one period of the Croatian bishop (around 1040 -1185), as well. The area has even today retained its importance, which can be demonstrated by the events from the recent War of Independence.*



Panorama Knina  
City - scape

U pisanim izvorima ime Knin prvi put se javlja sredinom 10. stoljeća u ispravi kralja Krešimira I, kao *Tignino castro*, a kasnije će se javljati i drugi slični nazivi kao *Teneno*, *Teninum*, *Tnin*, *Tnenum* i slično. Sredinom 10. stoljeća pominje ga i bizantinski car i pisac Konstantin VII Porfirogenet kao centar županije Tnena, odnosno kao jedan od devet naseljenih gradova "krštene Hrvatske".

U 10. i 11. stoljeću stari grad Knin je bio jedna od povremenih prijestolnica hrvatskih vladara.

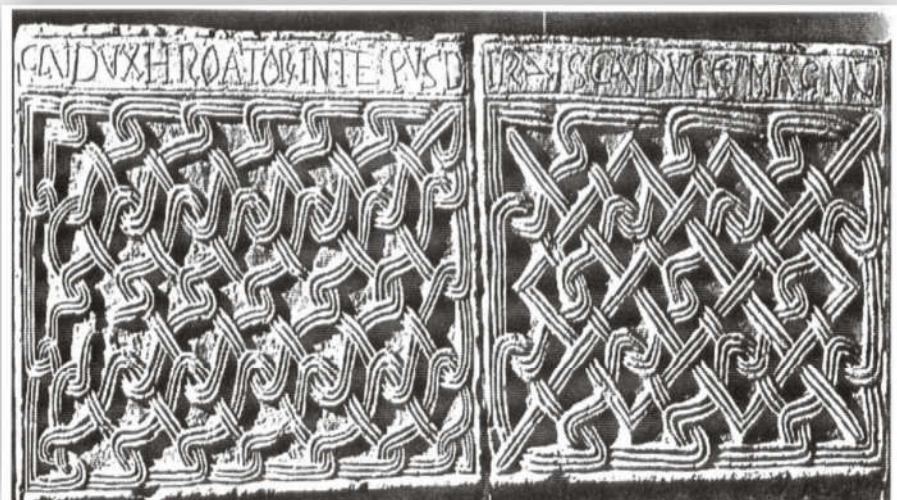
U drugoj polovici 11. stoljeća hrvatski kralj Dmitar Zvonimir učinio ga je stalnom prijestolnicom. Tako kninski kastrum-utvrda postaje upravno, administrativno i vojno središte hrvatske države, što je vrlo rano uvjetovalo izgradnju civilnog naselja podgrada s crkvenim objektima.

*In the middle of the 10th century the name Knin appeared for the first time in the written sources of king Krešimir I as Tignino castro, but was later renamed into Teneno, Teninum, Tnin, Tnenum etc. Bysantine emperor Constantin VII Porphyrogenet mentioned it in the middle of the 10th century as the centre of Tnena county or in other words as one of the nine inhabited towns of "christenised Croatia".*

*The old town Knin was one of the occasional residents of the Croatian sovereigns in the 10th century.*

*In the second half of the 11th century Croatian king Dmitar Zvonimir made it his current residence. By so doing, he turned the fortress castrum into the governing, administrative and military centre of Croatia, enabling the early development of the civil settlement with church architecture.*

Ploče ambona s imenima hrvatskih vladara Svetoslava i Držislava, 10 st. Kapitul, Knin  
*Inscription with the names of Croatian sovereigns Svetoslav and Držislav, 10th century, Kapitul, Knin*



Nedaleko kninske utvrde na lokalitetu Kapitul, najkasnije u 10. stoljeću, sagrađen je kraljevski benediktinski samostan i crkva Sv. Bartolomeja, a u obližnjoj Biskupiji, u vremenu od 9. do 11. stoljeća, sagrađeno je pet crkvenih objekata. U Kninu je i sjedište kninskog biskupa, koji je od 1040. godine do splitskog crkvenog sabora 1185. godine i hrvatski biskup, čija se crkvena vlast protezala po cijelom tadašnjem hrvatskom kraljevstvu, južno od zaleđa dalmatinskih gradova bizantskog temata (Zadra, Trogira i Splita) do rijeke Drave na sjeveru.

Posljednji hrvatski kralj Petar, koji stoluje u Kninu, u "palači" hrvatskih narodnih vladara, pogiba 1097. godine na Gvozd, u boju sa ugarskim kraljem Kolomanom. Time prestaje vladavina vladara narodne dinastije, a nakon toga, 1102. godine, Hrvatska ulazi u državnu zajednicu sa Ugarskom.

Ugarski vladari, iz dinastije Arpadovića, postaju legalnim nasljednicima vladara hrvatske narodne dinastije, grad Knin gubi status prijestolnoga grada, te uskoro i status vjerskog centra Hrvata.

Razgraničenjem posjeda Splitske nadbiskupije i župa u pojedinim biskupijama, splitskim crkvenim saborom, kninski biskup, nekadašnji prvi dvorski kraljev kancelar, postaje rezidencijalni biskup sa sjedištem u Kninu, a kninska biskupija sada obuhvaća samo četiri župe Knin, Kninsko Polje, Vrlika i Pset (Petrovac).

Tijekom 13. stoljeća Knin se ponovno afirmira kao politički, administrativno-upravni, pa i vjerski centar, kada postaje sjedište hrvatskog bana, vicebana, a nerijetko i sjedište hercega, kraljevog namjesnika hrvatskih zemalja.

*The royal Benedictine monastery and St. Batholomew's church were built not far from the fortress- on the site Kapitul in the 10 th century, whereas five churches appeared in the nearby Biskupija in the period between the 9th and 11th century. Beside its profane functions, Knin was also the residence of the bishop of Knin, who was from 1040 until the Council in Split ( 1185 ) the bishop of the entire Kingdom of Croatia as well. His jurisdiction stretched from the hinterland of Dalmatian towns of Bysantine theme ( Zadar, Trogir, Split) to the river Drava in the north.*

*Peter, the last king of Croatia, kept court in the "palace" of the Croatian national sovereigns in Knin and died at Gvozd in 1097 in the battle with Hungarian king Koloman. That event represented the end of rule of the national dynasty. Several years later in 1102 Croatia entered the union with Hungary. Hungarian rulers, the Arpad dynasty, became the legal inheritors of the Croatian throne, whereas the town of Knin lost its position of the capital and soon afterwards the status of the religious centre of Croatia.*

*The bishop of Knin, once the first court chancellor, became the residential bishop with the residence in Knin. However, the bishopric of Knin consisted of only four parishes: Knin, Kninsko Polje, Vrlika and Pset ( Petrovac ). That all happened after the Council in Split, which resulted in the boundary determination of archbishopric of Split in regard to all individual bishoprics.*

*In the course of the 13 th century Knin became again recognised as the administrative-governing and religious centre of the region. At the same time the town was the residence of the governor and vicegovernor of Croatia, as well as the residence of the duke and the regent of the Croatian countries.*

Kninsko se naselje, utvrda i podgrađe, sve više širi i izrasta u jednu veću srednjovjekovnu urbanu cjelinu, za koju će se tijekom više stoljeća boriti, ne samo ugarski vladari, koji ga žele zadržati, već i hrvatske velikaške porodice: knezovi Bribirski, Nelipići, Talovci, potom i bosanski vladari, Turci Osmanlije, Venecija, Austrija i Napoleonova Francuska.

Slabljenjem centralne državne vlasti, tijekom 13 i 14. stoljeća i na ovom području jača moć hrvatskog plemstva, posebice kneževa Bribirskih (koji će se izdići i do banske časti) i Nelipića, koji su gospodarili Kninom i koji su u njemu odsjedali. 1388. godine nakratko je Kninom zagospodario bosanski kralj Stjepan Tvrtko I.

*The settlement of Knin, its fortress and podgrađe kept expanding and eventually grew into a relatively big medieval urban centre, which later became the object of desire of many rulers ( Hungarian rulers, the Nelipić and Talovac dynasties, the rulers of Bosnia, the Ottoman Empire, Venice, Austria and Napoleon's France).*

*During the 13th and 14th centuries the central power weakened, whereas the power of the Croatian aristocracy flourished, especially the dukes of Bribir and the Nelipić dynasty, who ruled over and abode in Knin. In 1388, Bosnian king Stjepan Tvrtko I ruled over Knin.*



Pečatnjak bana Pavla I Bribirskog  
The signet-ring of the governor of Bribir, Pavao I

Padom Bosne 1463. godine, te porazom hrvatske vojske na Krbavskom polju 1493. godine, počinju pljačkaški pohodi i upadi Turaka i na kninsko područje, a 1522. godine ga konačno osvajaju. Time grad Knin definitivno gubi dotadašnji povjesni značaj u javnom i vjerskom životu Hrvatske.

Mletačka vojska pod vodstvom generalnog providura Jeronima Cornara osvaja Knin 11. studenog 1688. godine. Tada je na kninskom području uspostavljena zasebna administrativno vojna uprava s providurom na čelu.

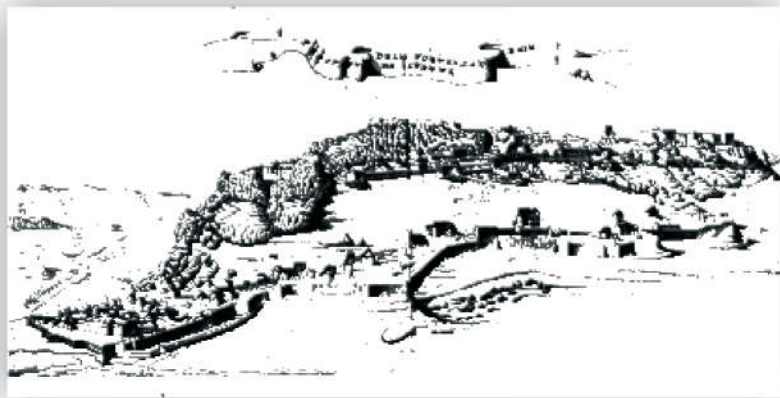
Propašću Mletačke Republike, 1797. godine dotadašnji posjedi Venecije u Dalmaciji, uključujući i Knin pripali su Austriji. Započinje razdoblje prve austrijske uprave u Dalmaciji, koje traje do 1805. Godine. Požunskim mirom 1805. godine Napoleonova Francuska je došla u posjed austrijske Dalmacije i uvela jedinstvenu upravu na čitavom području Dalmacije. Knin je sjedište kotara u šibenskom okrugu.

*The defeat of Bosnia in 1463, as well as the defeat of Croatian forces at Krbavsko polje in 1493, represent the beginning of Turkish raids into the territory of Knin. The actual conquest happened in 1522. The town lost its historical significance in the public and religious life of Croatia.*

*The Venetian army led by Jeronim Cornaro conquered Knin on September 11, 1688. The area of Knin was organized as a special military and administrative area ruled by the providur located in Knin.*

*The decline of Venice (1797) brought the earlier properties of Venice in Dalmatia (including Knin) under control of Austria. Thus began the period of the first Austrian rule in Dalmatia, which lasted until 1805.*

*Napoleon's France was given the properties of Austrian Dalmatia after the Peace Settlement in Bratislava (Pozun). Eventually, it introduced a special way of ruling into the entire territory of Dalmatia, whereas Knin became a district centre.*



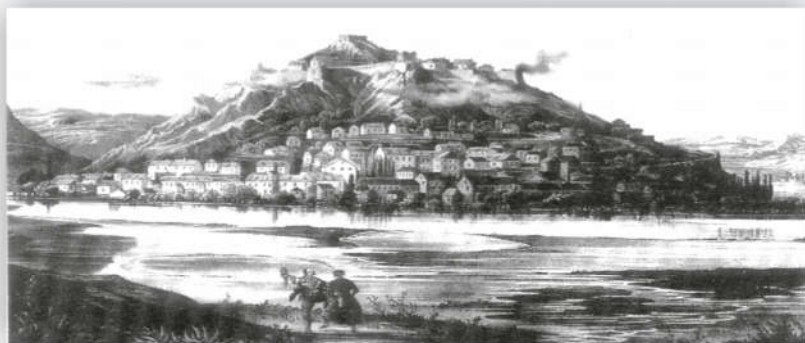
Pogled na tvrđavu s istoka, 18 stoljeće  
*The view of the fortress of Knin from the east, 18th century*

Porazom Napoleonove vojske na europskim ratištima (1813. godine) i odlukom Bečkog kongresa (1814./1815.), Austrija po drugi put dobiva u posjed Dalmaciju, koja će 1816. godine biti proglašena Kraljevinom Dalmacijom i u kojoj će biti uspostavljena jedinstvena upravna, sudska, crkvena i vojna vlast. U Kninu je 1818. godine osnovan Kotarski sud - Pretura, a od 1868. godine je i sjedište političkog kotara (distrikta) u zadarskom okrugu.

Nakon sloma Austro-Ugarske Monarhije (1918.) osnovana je Kraljevina Srba Hrvata i Slovenaca- prva jugoslavenska državna zajednica, u koju je ušla i Dalmacija. Međutim, Knin je nešto kasnije ušao u novu državotvornu zajednicu Kraljeviniu SHS jer je na osnovu tajnog Londonskog ugovora (1915.) Italiji obećano da ukoliko prijeđe na stranu sila Antante da će dobiti dio hrvatske obale i otočja. Na osnovu toga sporazuma Italija je odmah nakon završetka rata, 1918. godine, okupirala Knin. Rapalskim ugovorom 1920. godine dobila je ipak manje od obećanog, pa je 1921. godine talijanska vojska napustila Knin.

*Austria again won Dalmatia with the defeat of Napoleon's troops on all European battle-fields (in 1813), i.e. after the Conference in Vienna. In 1816, Dalmatia was renamed into the Kingdom Dalmatia (with the governing, judicial, church and military authority). In 1818, a district court Pretura was founded in Knin. In 1868, Knin became the centre of the political district, as well.*

*The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was brought into being after the decline of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The Kingdom was the first Yugoslav union that included Dalmatia. However, Knin became a part of the Kingdom several years later as a result of the Treaty of London, which promised Italy a part of the Croatian coast, on condition that it went over to the Allied troops. Consequently, Italy occupied Knin immediately after the war. However, the Treaty of Rapalo (1920) ensured Italy less territory than initially promised and therefore the Italian army retreated from Knin in 1921. The decline of the Kingdom Yugoslavia (April 1941) led to the foundation of the Independent State of Croatia, which included the territories of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.*



Knin oko 1840. godine (Saudmann, J. Högelmuller)  
City - scape of Knin around 1840 (Saudmann, J.: Högelmuller)



Raspadom Kraljevine Jugoslavije u travnju 1941. godine, na prostoru Hrvatske i Bosne i Hercegovine je uspostavljena Nezavisna Država Hrvatska. Rimskim ugovorima veliki dio Dalmacije je pripao Kraljevini Italiji. Knin je ostao u sastavu NDH i bio je sjedište župe Bribir Sidraga koja je obuhvaćala kninski, drniški i bosansko grahovski kotar. Dio kninske općine je pripao Kraljevini Italiji i tu je sve do 8. rujna 1943. godine bila stacionirana talijanska vojska, a potom je i taj dio vraćen u sastav NDH. Uskoro nakon uspostave NDH, u ljeto 1941. godine, na kninskom području se javlja srpski četnički pokret. 3. prosinca 1944. godine, partizanske jedinice su uz pomoć saveznika nakon težih borbi ušle u Knin.

Raspadom SFR Jugoslavije, na višestranačkim demokratskim izborima 1990. godine, Hrvati i drugi građani Hrvatske su se opredijelili za neovisnu, samostalnu, suverenu državu Republiku Hrvatsku.

Međutim, veći dio Srba u Hrvatskoj ne prihvaća samostalnu Hrvatsku kao svoju domovinu i pod utjecajem velikosrpske politike iz Beograda o stvaranju "Velike Srbije" izazvati će najprije pobunu u Kninu, a potom 1991. godine agresiju i odcijepljenje jednog dijela hrvatskog teritorija i stvaranja tzv. SAO Krajine sa sjedištem u Kninu.

Vojno-redarstvenom akcijom "Oluja", 5. kolovoza 1995. godine oslobođen je Knin i ostali okupirani dijelovi hrvatskog teritorija s kojih su za vrijeme okupacije Hrvati sustavno protjerivani, a njihova materijalna i kulturna dobra pljačkana, razarana, spaljivana.

Oslobođenjem se Knin i ostali akcijom "Oluja" oslobođeni dijelovi hrvatskog prostora vraćaju u ustavno pravni poredak Republike Hrvatske.

*The Treaty of Rome put a huge part of Croatia under control of the Kingdom Italy. Knin, however, remained a part of the Independent State of Croatia, and was later the centre of the parish Bribir Sidraga, which included the districts of Knin, Drniš and Bosansko Grahovo.*

*A part of the municipality of Knin was annexed to the Kingdom Italy and served as the army station until September 8, 1943. The territory was later returned to the properties of the Independent State of Croatia. Soon after the Independent State of Croatia was founded in the summer of 1941, the Serbian movement "Chetnik" appeared in the area of Knin. On December 3, 1944 the partisan troops entered into the town and finally liberated it.*

*Disintegration of Yugoslavia enabled Croats and all the other citizens of Croatia to have the first multi-party elections, and thus to choose an independent, sovereign state - the Republic of Croatia.*

*Nevertheless, the greatest part of the Serbian population refused to accept Croatia as their homeland. Influenced by the Great-Serbian politics, directed mainly from Belgrade, they first stirred up a rebellion in Knin and then started aggression against Croatia (in 1991); all that in order to found Great-Serbia and a new republic SAO Krajina with the capital Knin.*

*Knin, as well as all the other occupied territories of Croatia, was liberated during the military action « Oluja » on August 5, 1995. The Croatian population was systematically exiled during the occupation, whereas their material and cultural goods were robbed, destroyed and burnt down. Knin was reintegrated into the constitutional and legal system of the Republic of Croatia.*

## Kninska tvrđava

## The fortress of Knin

### Srednjovjekovna utvrda-starohrvatska prijestolnica

### Medieval fortress Knin-early Croatian residence

Na najvišem sjeveroistočnom platou brda Spas, najvjerojatnije, još u drugoj polovici 9. stoljeća niknula je utvrda, kastrum *castro Tignino, Tnen*, a potom i srednjovjekovno urbano naselje, jezgro kasnijeg tvrđavskog kompleksa, kao i kninskog gradskog prostora.

*The fort castro Tignino, Tnen emerged on the highest north-eastern plateau of Spas, most likely in the second half of the 9th century and later grew into the medieval urban settlement, the centre of the later fortress, as well as the town.*

Prvotni izgled utvrde, zbog nepostojanja izvorne materijalne građe, nije nam u potpunosti poznat. Analogno utvrdama toga vremena, za pretpostaviti je, da je bila opasana visokim zidinama, a uz to, gradnjom prilagođena konfiguraciji terena, na nekim mjestima i prirodno zaštićena strmim padinama.

*Due to the lack of the original material, we do not entirely know how the fortress initially looked like. According to the similar forts of the same period, we can assume that the fortress of Knin was enclosed with high walls. Being built in accordance with the demands of the terrain, it was somewhere protected with the steep slopes. The civil settlement with church architecture Borgo de Tina was founded at the foot of the fortress, the castrum of Knin. The medieval urban agglomeration was thus made. It was later turned into the governing, administrative and religious centre of Croatia.*

U utvrđi, kastrumu su se nalazile svečane dvorane, "palača" hrvatskih narodnih vladara, u kojoj su izdavali svoje isprave i boravili sa svojim dvorjanicima kada su bili u Kninu.

*The fortress consisted of festal halls and the "palace" of the Croatian national rulers, who used it to issue the documents or sojourn with their courtiers when being in Knin.*

Podno utvrde, kninskog kastruma, vrlo rano se formira i civilno naselje s crkvenim objektima - podgrađe, *borgo de Tina*. Tako je stvorena srednjovjekovna gradska aglomeracija, koja postaje upravno administrativno i vjersko središte mlade hrvatske države.

*Another smaller fort, the castle Lab (castro Lab, Labwar), which was actually the residence of the vicegovernor, was built south of the castle Tnen, probably in the 14th century on the second elevated plateau of Spas. It was only in the second half of the 14th century that it was mentioned in the written sources. The castle was known as the residence of the vicegovernor.*

Na drugom povišenom platou brda Spas, južno od utvrde Tnen, najkasnije tijekom 14. stoljeća je izgrađeno i drugo manje utvrđenje - kaštel Lab *castro Lab, Labwar* u kojem je bilo sjedište vicebana (podbana).

Naknadno, moguće u 15. stoljeću, u vrijeme sve veće opasnosti od Turaka, gradnjom ogradnog obrambenog zida, na kojem se i danas nalaze glavna ulazna vrata u tvrđavu, oba su ova utvrđenja, povezana u jedinstveni tvrđavski kompleks.

Međutim, zbog rasta, kako administrativno-upravnog značaja grada (u Kninu zasjeda banski sudbeni stol; kninski kaptol postaje *locus credibilis* mjesto vjerodostojnosti gdje se sastavljaju, izdaju, prepisuju i ovjeravaju sve važnije javne i druge isprave), tako i gospodarskog značaja (razvoj obrta, trgovine, održavanje sajмова) - od druge polovice 14. stoljeća, kninski gradski prostor se sve više širi. Stoga je moguće da je još tada postojao i neograđeni dio civilnog naselja podgrada, koji se spuštao do samog podnožja brda Spas.

*Additionally, those two forts, castles were joined together into a unique fortress-complex, probably in the 15th century, for it was the time of the rising danger of the Turkish invasion. This was accomplished by building high defense walls with the Main Gates.*

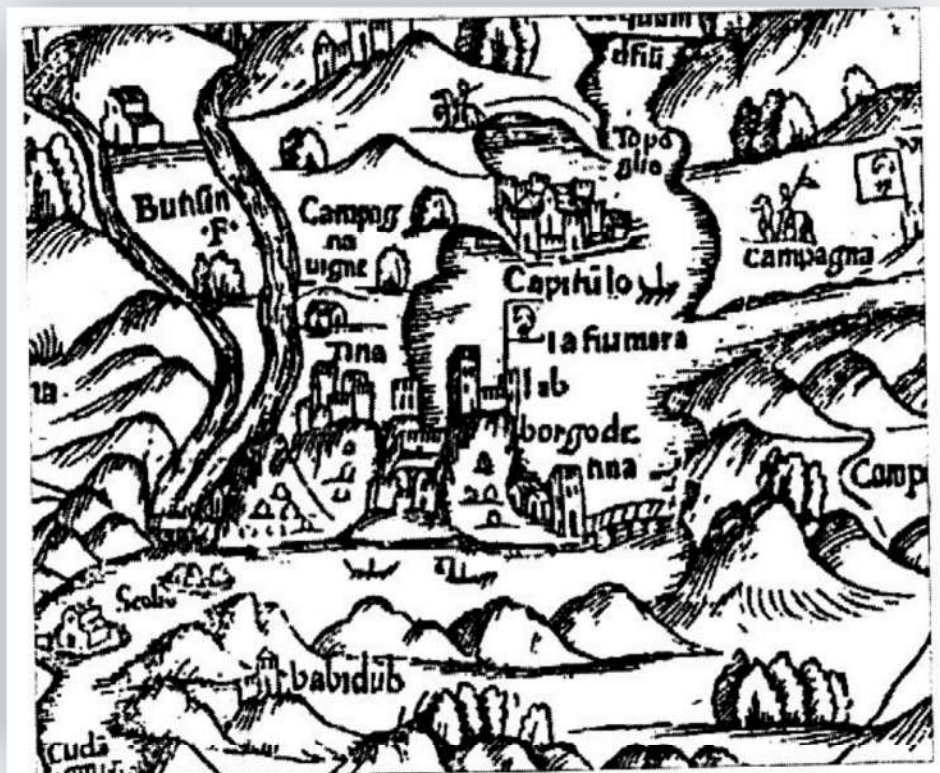
*However, the constant growth of both administrative-governing ( governor 's judicial court held sessions in Knin ) and economic importance ( development of trade, commerce, fairs ) caused the constant expansion of the urban agglomeration of Knin. The bishopric of Knin ( Kapitulum ) became locus credibilis - the place of credibility, where all the important public and other documents were issued, rewritten and notarized. It is therefore possible that there was an unenclosed urban settlement even at that time.*



Viseći voštani pečat kninskog Kaptola, 1492. godine  
*Seal of the bishop's office in Knin, 1492*

Najstariji, dosada poznat, grafički prikaz Knina zabilježen je, na karti sjeverne Dalmacije i Like mletačkog kartografa Mattea Pagana, oko 1525. godine. Premda prilično shematiziran, pokazuje tadašnja utvrđena opasana zidinama: stari kaštel Tnen, manji kaštel Lab, kninsko podgrađe Borgo de Tina, a nešto dalje i kninski Kaptol *Capitulo*.

*The oldest known graphical illustration of Knin is registered on the map of North Dalmatia and Lika- the work of the Venetian cartographer Mateo Pagani from 1525. Although rather schematic, it shows the forts of the period: the old castle Tnen, the smaller castle Lab, the settlement Borgo de Tina, as well as the wall-enclosed Capitulo.*



Kninske utvrde na karti Mattea Pagana, oko 1525. godine  
*The castle of Knin as shown on the map by Matteo Pagani, around 1525*

### Kninska tvrđava za vladavine Turaka

Za vrijeme turske vladavine (1522.-1688.), nastavljena je daljnja izgradnja tvrđave i varoši. Tada se tvrđava sastojala od dva dijela: najstarijeg na sjevernom dijelu platoa brda Spas i drugog donjeg, južnog dijela.

Najstariji sjeverni dio tvrđave nazivan Gornji kaštel, stari kaštel Tnen, za Turaka Ícizar, je imao visoke zidine s kruništima, s dvije četverokutne kule na zapadnoj strani, pokrivene šatorastim krovom. Na najkrajnjem sjevernom dijelu ovoga kaštela nalazila se četverokutna obrambena kula nasuta zemljom. Sa istočne strane ispod kaštela se nalazio lažni jarak sa vodom "falsabrag". Na kaštel se ulazilo kroz mala vrata, sa ograđenog prostora na istočnoj strani i kroz veća vrata sa južne strane.

Drugi ograđeni prostor se nalazio na donjem južnom dijelu tvrđave, taj prostor je nazivan *Garišta*. Sa istočne i zapadne strane je opasan zidinama, na južnoj strani hridinama, a na sjevernoj se spaja sa kaštelom *Ícizar*. Na najvišem položaju ovog drugog dijela tvrđave, nalazio se manji kaštel Lab, okružen zidinama bez kruništa.

U kaštel Lab se ulazilo iz pravca *Ícizara* sa donjeg nižeg nivoa. Ispod *Ícizara* sa istočne strane se nalazi okrugla kula s platoonom za topove - *Topana*. Blizu okrugle kule *Topana* počinje i zidina *Podgrađa* koja vodi do Gornjih vrata, odnosno Vrata od *Skradina* (danas *Loredanova vrata*).

### The fortress of Knin during the Turkish rule

*The fort and the settlement kept expanding even during the Turkish rule (1522-1688). The fortress consisted of two parts: the oldest in the north of the Spas plateau and the other, southern part.*

*The oldest, northern part of the fortress is known as the Upper Castle ( Gornji kaštel ). The old castle Tnen or Ícizar has high walls and two square towers covered with tent-like roof in the west. A square dirt-filled defense tower is located on the western side of the castle. There is a false water channel known as "falsabrag" in the east, situated right below the castle. The castle can be entered only from the west, through the small gate.*

*The other enclosed area Garišta - is located lower, in the south of the fortress. It is enclosed with the high walls in the east and west, but with rocks in the south. It is, however connected with the castle Ícizar in the north. The small castle Lab, enclosed with high walls, is located in the highest part of the fortress.*

*It can be entered only via Ícizar, from the lower level. Topana the circular tower with gun-plateau is located in the east, below Ícizar. The high walls of Podgrađa extend from the tower Topana and lead to the Upper Gates i.e. the Gates of Skradin, known today as the Gates of Loredano.*

Od Loredanovih vrata obrambeni zid se spušta kosom linijom do podnožja brda Spas, odnosno do korita rijeke Krke, gdje su se nalazila tzv. Vrata od Bosne kroz koja se ulazilo u Podgrađe, u kninsku Varoš, a od kojih je vodio i put za Bosnu ( *Strada di Bosnia* ). U vrijeme Mlečana ta gradska vrata su nazvana Kornarova vrata ( *Porta di Cornara* ), prema generalnom providuru Jeronimu Cornaru pod čijim je vodstvom zauzet Knin. Dalje prema jugu do mosta na Krki, odnosno Vrata od Drniša (nazvana po putu koji je od tih vratiju, preko kamenog mosta s lukovima, na Krki, vodio u pravcu Drniša ) nema zidina. Na tom dijelu gradski prostor, odnosno kninsko Podgrađe, bilo je ograđeno drvenim palisadama.

*The walls make their way from the Gates of Loredano to the foothill of Spas, or to the bed of the river Krka, where the so-called Gates of Bosnia were once situated. The Gates lead to Podgrađe, Varoš, but also to Bosnia. During the Venetian rule the City Gates were called the Gates of Cornaro, after the commander Cornaro who was leading Venetian forces that conquered Knin. Moving downwards, towards the River Krka or the Gates of Drniš, we encounter no walls. The urban area of Podgrađe is here enclosed with the wooden palisades.*



Knin za vladavine Turaka  
*The plan of the Fortress from the Turkish period*

U tursko vrijeme grad je, dakle bio opasan zidinom sa sjeverne i istočne strane, do samog podnožja brda Spasa, do rijeke Krke. Unutar toga prostora razvijalo se civilno naselje - Podgrađe u kojem su kuće prizemnice ili na kat pokrivene dvoslivnim ili šatorastim krovom. Prema nekim indicijama grad je bio zaštićen i sa zapadne strane obrambenim zidom, koji se spuštao padinom Spasa, od Kaštela Ićizara do kule Gradac iznad rijeke Krke.

### **Kninska tvrđava pod mletačkom upravom**

Osvajanjem Knina od strane Mlečana 1688. godine Knin se našao gotovo na samoj turskoj granici. Kako je to mjesto kroz koje je vodio put u pravcu sjevera i istoka, mjesto odakle se ulazilo u Dalmaciju, za Mlečane će biti izazito značajno pa će ga nazivati vratima Dalmacije i ključem Hrvatske.

Stoga će ga nastojati ne samo obnoviti nego još više učvrstiti i proširiti. Prvotna namjera im je bila izrada jake utvrde sa velikim oštrokutim bastionima za topove, ispunjenim zemljom, na svim značajnijim dijelovima zida.

Međutim, od toga se plana malo ostvarilo. Iscrpljena dugogodišnjim ratovanjem, a i zbog blizine granice s Turcima i eventualnih novih napada, Venecija nije bila u mogućnosti realizirati tako zahtjevan plan.

Stoga je najprije obnovila oštećene dijelove tvrđave, a zatečene objekte prilagodila svojim, uglavnom vojnim potrebama, a tek poslije, početkom 18. stoljeća, je započela temeljitu izgradnju i proširenje tvrđave koje je trajalo do 1713. godine.

*The town was enclosed with high walls in the north and east during the Turkish rule. The wall extended to the foot of the hill Spas and the River Krka.*

*The civil settlement, developed inside the area, was called Podgrađe. It abounded in single- and two-storey houses. According to some indications, the town was protected with high walls in the west as well. The wall extended from the castle Ićizar to the tower Gradac above Krka.*

### **The fortress of Knin under Venetian rule**

*Knin ended up almost on the Turkish border with the conquest of Venice in 1688. Due to its extreme importance, the Venetians called the place the Gates of Dalmatia and the Key of Croatia.*

*They tried, therefore, not only to reconstruct it, but also to expand it. Their initial plan was to build a strong fort with sharp-angled bastions, filled with dirt in every important part of the wall.*

*However, the plan was not realised. Exhausted with age-long warfare and afraid of the possible raids of the Turkish Empire, Venice failed to carry out the initial plan.*

*At first Venice only restored the damaged parts of the fortress and adapted the existing buildings to the military needs.*

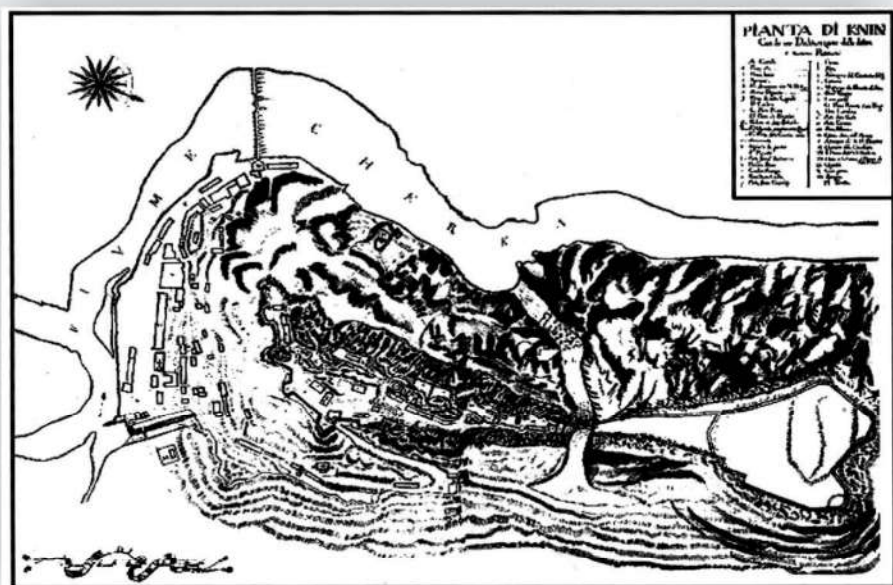
*It was not until the beginning of the 18th century that the Venetian troops began the thorough construction and expansion of the fortress, which lasted until 1713.*

1. Kazamat
2. Tamnica
3. Vojarna
4. Spremište baruta
5. Zgrada kaštelana
6. Tamnica
7. Vrata-Kaštel Knin
8. Postaja Pasqualico
9. Okrugla kula
10. Skladište baruta
11. Spremište dvopeka i opreme
12. Bastion Grimani
13. Vrata-srednji grad
14. Postaja Kandia nova
15. Skladište baruta
16. Postaja Sv. Cecilije
17. Vrata-Kaštel Lab
18. Bastion Kavalier Sveceze
19. Vojarna (danas Galerija)
20. Spomen poprsje fra Luji Marunu
21. Zgrada upravitelja oružja (danas starogradska vijećnica)
22. Stražarnica
23. Glavna ulazna vrata
24. Bastion Pisani
25. "Niska klijesta"
26. Crkva Sv. Barbare
27. Pekara
28. Kovačnica
29. Tvrđavski trg
30. Postaja Vendramin
31. Zgrada muzeja uredske prostorij
32. Postaja Emo
33. Vrata Belveder
34. Postaja Belveder
35. Vojarna (danas Muzej)
36. Bolnica (danas Muzej)



1. Casemate (a kind of dungeon)
2. Dungeon
3. The barracks
4. Powder room
5. Fortress commander's mansion
6. Dungeon
7. The Gates, The castle Knin
8. The stop Pasqualico
9. Round tower
10. Powder room
11. Bread and equipment-magazine
12. Bastion Grimani
13. The Gates The Central town
14. The stop Candia nova
15. Powder-room
16. St. Cecilia's stop
17. The Gates-The castle Lab
18. Bastion Kavalier Sveceze
19. The barracks (today the Gallery)
20. The bust of father Lujo Marun
21. Arms commander's mansion (today City hall)
22. Guard-house
23. The Main Gates
24. Bastion Pisani
25. "Low pliers"
26. Barbara's church
27. Bakery
28. Blacksmith workshop
29. The fortress square
30. The stop Vendramin
31. The Museum administration
32. The stop Emo
33. The Gates-Belveder
34. The stop Belveder
35. The barracks (today the Museum)
36. The hospital (today the Museum)





Plan Knina za vladavine Mlečana  
*The plan of Knin from the Venetian period*

Kako je tekla gradnja i kako je izgledala tvrđava nakon restauracije i izgradnje pokazuju sačuvani nacrti, planovi i gravure tvrđave.

Za vremena Mlečana svi važniji postojeći objekti, kao i novoizgrađena utvrđenja, dobili su nazive prema istaknutim venecijanskim zapovjednicima.

Gornja vrata ili Vrata od Skradina, sada se zovu Loredanova vrata prema prvom kninskom providuru Antoniu Loredanu. Lijevo od ulaza je topovska platforma, a iznad nadsvodenog prolaza smještena je stražarnica.

*There are some schemes, plans and gravings showing the course of construction and the appearance of the fortress after restoration.*

*During the rule of Venice all important forts and similar buildings were named after the renowned Venetian commanders.*

*The Upper Gates or the Gates of Skradin were renamed into the Gates of Loredano, after the first commander of Knin Antonio Loredano. The gun plateau is located left of the Main Gates, whereas the guard house is situated above the archway.*

Glavni ulaz u tvrđavu, ostao je na istom mjestu, zaštićen vanjskim zidom. Ispred samog ulaza je jarak s drvenim pokretnim mostom, a iznad ulaznih vrata nalazi se, integrirana u obrambeni bastionski zid, pokretna kamena ploča s likom krilatog lava, simbolom Republike Sv. Marka, koja se okretala u jednom i drugom smjeru, po principu otvorene i zatvorene knjige, ovisno o ratnim ili mirnodopskim prilikama.

Iznad tunelastog ulaza, odnosno s desne strane ulaza sagrađena je stražarnica, a lijevo od ulaza bastion Pisani s topovskim otvorima. Na bastion Pisani se nastavlja obrambeni zid do bastiona Vendramin, a dalje prema hridinama je niski bedem niska ili mala kliješta. Početkom 18. stoljeća je na platou nedaleko od ulaza u tvrđavu, izgrađena crkva, kasnije posvećena Sv. Barbari, zaštitnici topništva.

*The Main Gates remained in the same place, protected with the outer wall. There is a channel with the bascule bridge in front of the Gates. A movable stone board with the figure of the flying lion- the symbol of Venice- is placed above the entrance. The board used to be turned in one or the other direction, based on the open- and closed book principle. The direction depended on the situation ( war or peacetime ).*

*The guard-house was built on the right side of the Main Gates, just above the channel-like entrance, whereas the bastion Pisani with gun-holes was located on the left side. The defense wall stretched from the bastion Pisani to the bastion Vendramin and continued further to the nearby rocks. At the beginning of the 18th century a church was built on the plateau near the Main Gates. The church was dedicated to St. Barbara, the patroness of artillery.*



Loredanova vrata  
*The Gates of Loredano*

Južno od crkve su temeljni ostaci zgrade gdje su bile peći, a dalje u zaleđu na povišenom prostoru ispod hridi je zgrada zapovjedništva oružja (neko vrijeme do II svjetskog rata Muzej hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika, a potom Gradska vijećnica).

Iza stražarnice, u pravcu sjeveroistoka, nalaze se cisterne izgrađene u vrijeme mletačke obnove i izgradnje tvrđave (1688 - 1713), a kruništa na njima su postavljena 1818. godine, u vrijeme druge austrijske uprave u Dalmaciji.

Prateći dalje zid prema sjeveru dolazimo do topovske postaje *Kavalir Sveceze*.

Suprotno od postaje *Kavalir Sveceze* nalazi se zgrada koja je Mlečanima služila kao skladište hrane (do II. svjetskog rata u njoj se nalazio Muzej rimskih spomenika, a danas služi kao muzejska galerija.)

*There was a building south of the church with stoves and arms headquarters in the back. The headquarters later became The Museum of Croatian Monuments and the building was turned into City Hall on the eve of the Second World War:*

*The tanks, located behind the guard-house, were built in the period of the Venetian construction and reconstruction (1688 1713). Following the walls further to the north, we reach the gun-stop *Kavalir Sveceze*.*

*The building located opposite to the *Kavalir Sveceze* stop was previously used as the warehouse. However, during the Second World War it was turned into a kind of gallery, where all the important Roman monuments were kept. The mansion has retained its function up to this day.*



Zgrada upravitelja oružja (danas starogradska vijećnica)  
*Arms commander's mansion (today City Hall)*



Stražarnica i glavni ulaz  
*Guard-house with the Main Gates*



Crkva Sv. Barbare, 18 st.  
*St. Barbara's church, 18 th century*



Cisterne i galerija  
*Tanks and the Gallery*

Ulazna vrata u Srednji grad, sa istočne strane, štite bedemi s puškarnicama, a lijevo od ulaza nalazi se topovska postaja *Candia nova*, odakle se stepenicama pokraj Barutane (poligonalna građevina) dolazi do drvenog mosta.

*The walls with loop-holes protect the Central town from the east and the gun-stop Candia nova is located left of the Main Gates. The stairs located near Barutana lead to the wooden bridge.*



Srednji grad - ulazna vrata  
*Central town - the Main Gates*

Nasuprot ulaza u Srednji grad nalaze se u nizu dvije ruševne zgrade koje su Mlečanima služile kao skladište dvopeka, opreme i naoružanja.

Desno od ulaza u Srednji grad idući uz obrambeni zid dolazimo do okrugle topovske postaje - Topane, koja je postojala i u tursko vrijeme i do podnožja zidina Gornjeg grada (za Turaka *Ićizar*), koji se sada zove Kaštel - Kaštel Knin (ili pak Fortica 1708.g.). To je najstariji dio tvrđave, gdje se nalazila stara srednjovjekovna utvrda, *castrum Tnen* iz vremena hrvatskih narodnih vladara.

*Two dilapidated buildings, which primarily served as bread-, arms- and equipment warehouse are situated opposite to the Central-town entrance.*

*Right of the entrance into Central town, moving along the defence walls, we reach the circular gun-stop Topana, which existed during the Turkish occupation as well, and which extends toward the foothill of the Upper Town walls ( *Ićizar* ). It is nowadays called Kaštel-Kaštel Knin or Fortica (in 1708). Fortica is the oldest part of the fortress and a former site of the medieval castle ( *castrum* ), *castrum Tnen* from the period of the Croatian national sovereigns.*

Ulazna vrata su ostala na istom mjestu kao prije, na južnoj strani Kaštela, a do njih se dolazilo preko pokretnog mosta. Sa istočne strane Kaštel štiti obrambeni zid sa puškarnicama.

Između Kaštela i obrambenog zida je prolaz, odnosno druga mala ulazna vrata kroz koja se dolazi do tunelastih prolaza i kazamata, vertikalno i horizontalno povezanih i do topovskih platformi terasasto postavljenih jedna iznad druge u najsjevernijem dijelu tvrđave. Na najvišem platou Kaštela nalazi se ruševna zgrada koja je služila kao stan kaštelana, koji je vodio brigu o tvrđavi. Tu su i cisterne za vodu, a malo južnije vojarna i zgrada za spremište baruta.

Na sjeverozapadnoj strani, na zidu nasuprot zgrade kaštelana, nalazi se niz otvora koji su služili kao klozeti ( latrine ).

Između Kaštela Knin i Kaštela Lab ( za Mlečana *Korlat* ) nalazi se prostor koji je sada povezan obrambenim zidom i topovskim bastionima - zvanim postaja Sv. Cecilije.

*The Main Gates are still located in the same place, in the south of the Castle ( Kaštel ) and can be accessed only via basculed bridge. The Gates are protected with the defense walls with loop-holes in the east.*

*There is a passage between the Castle and the walls. It is actually the small gate leading to the tunnel-like passages and casemate. If you take this passage and move horizontally and vertically through the tunnel-dungeons, you can come to the gun-platforms, which are located one above the other in a terraced way in the north of the fortress.*

*A dilapidated building, used primarily as the castellan's apartment, occupies the highest plateau of the Castle. The castellan was in charge of the whole fortress at the time. There is a water-tank nearby and a gunpowder-warehouse in the south. Several holes used as toilets are located exactly opposite the castellan's mansion. St. Cecilia's stop an area connected with the defense walls and gun bastions can be seen between the Castles Knin and Lab.*



Pogled na Kaštel Knin  
*The view of the Castle Knin*



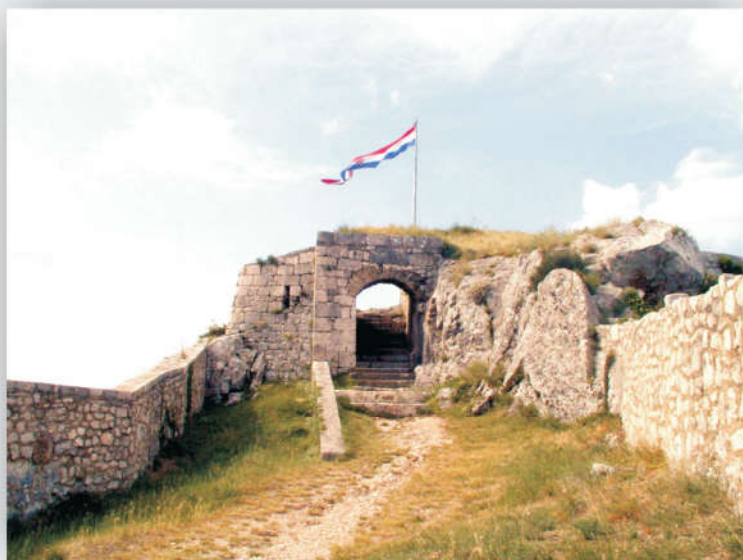


Gornji grad - Kaštel Knin  
*The Northern city - the Castle Knin*



Najviša platforma sa tunelastim  
prolazom na bastione - topovske postaje  
*The Castle Knin (the highest plateau with  
entrance into the tunnel-like passages)*





Kaštel Lab - Bandijera  
*The Castle Lab - Bandijera,*

Drugi utvrđeni grad, srednjovjekovni Lab, u vrijeme Mlečana nazivan Korlat, opasan je zidinama sa sve četiri strane. Zid sa sjeverne strane imao je tri velika topovska otvora. U Korlat se ulazi sa iste sjeverne strane kao i ranije, ali sada kroz nadsvođeni prolaz iznad kojeg stoji do danas sačuvan ugrađeni natpis na kamenoj ploči sa godinom 1711. kada je u vrijeme Carla Pisana, generalnog providura Dalmacije i Epira započela velika izgradnja tvrđave.

Na platou Laba, Korlata, kasnije nazivan Bandijera, nalazila se cisterna za vodu i zgrada (danas se tu vijori hrvatski stijeg).

S platforme se kroz mala vrata, na suprotnoj strani stepenicama silazi do manje topovske postaje - *Emo* ( naziv po Angelu Emu), a malo niže do postaje *Belveder*.

*The other fortified town, the medieval Lab, known also as Korlat is enclosed with walls in all directions. The wall in the north has three gun-holes. Korlat can be entered from the same northern direction as before, but now through the archway as well. The archway is renowned for the in-built inscription from 1711, when the building of the fortress actually began ( during the rule of Carlo Pisani, the general commander of Dalmatia ).*

*The water-tank, as well as the building, was located on the plateau Korlat, later renamed into Bandijera. The plateau is probably best known as the location where the Croatian flag waves.*

*The small gates on the opposite side lead from the plateau to the smaller bastion Emo ( named after Angelo Emo ). The stop Belveder*

Postaja *Belveder* ( danas zvana i Južni grad ) najnoviji je dio kninske Tvrđave, izgrađen na platou strmih nepristupačnih hridi, vjerojatno u vrijeme mletačke tkz. velike gradnje, od 1711 - 1713. godine. Na *Belvederu* je cisterna i tri zgrade. Prva zgrada do ulaza u početku je bila tvrđavska bolnica, a potom vojarna, danas zgrade postava Kninskog muzeja.

*Belveder, known as the South town, is the most recent part of the fortress. It was built in the area of steep, inaccessible rocks, probably during the period of the Great Venetian building ( 1711-1713 ). The stop consists of the tank and three buildings. The first building was initially the hospital, then the barracks and finally a part of the Museum of Knin*



Ulazna vrata sa pokretnim mostom na postaju Belveder  
*The bascule bridge and the entrance into Belveder*

Južni grad - postaja Belveder, 18 stoljeće  
South town - the stop Belveder, 18 th century



U vrijeme druge austrijske uprave Kninno tvrđava uglavnom služi za smještaj vojske, pa su postojeći objekti i dobili tu namjenu, a neki dijelovi obrambenog zida su naknadno dograđeni. Okupacijom Bosne i Hercegovine tvrđava gubi vojni značaj, a 1889. je napušta austrijska vojska. Tvrđavu su austrijske vlasti dale na prodaju u vidu građevinskog materijala. Fra Lujo Marun otkupljuje tvrđavu, novcem prikupljenim od imućnijih kninskih obitelji.

Godine 1887. u Kninu je osnovano Kninsko starinarско društvo, a 1893. preimenovano u Hrvatsko starinarско društvo, kada je otvoren i Prvi muzej hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika. Muzej je u Kninu djelovao do 1942., zatim, zbog sigurnosnih razloga, premješten u Sinj, potom u Split (danas Muzej hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika).

*During the second Austrian rule the fortress served as the military barracks, so that most of the buildings were used for that purpose. Some parts of the defense walls were added afterwards. The fortress of Knin lost the military importance with the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the Austrians then decided to sell the fortress (like construction material). Father Lujo Marun bought it with the money donated by the wealthy families of Knin.*

*The Association of Antiquities was founded in 1887 and was renamed into The Croatian Association of Antiquities in Knin several years later (in 1893). The Museum of Croatian Monuments was founded in the same year, but was relocated for security reasons first to Sinj and then to Split. Nowadays it is known as The Museum of Croatian National Monuments.*



Plan Knina za vrijeme austrijske uprave 1845. godine  
*The plan of Knin from the Austrian period, 1845*



Fra Lujo Marun u Muzeju hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika u Kninu  
(iz knjige Lujo Marun, Starinarski dnevnici, Split, 1998.)  
*Father Lujo Marun in the first museum of the Croatian Monuments in Knin  
(from Lujo Marun, Starinarski dnevnici, Split, 1998)*

Današnji Kninski muzej započeo je s radom 1969. s ciljem istraživanja, prikupljanja, čuvanja, obrade, zaštite i prezentacije kulturnih dobara kninskog područja. Osim stalnih muzejskih izložbi u južnom dijelu tvrđave, u prostorijama Galerije i crkve Sv. Barbare vrlo često se postavljaju i povremene izložbe. Uz navedeno Muzej danas brine i o povijesnoj cjelini Tvrđavi, te Podgrađu sa brdom Spas.

*The present Museum of Knin started working in 1969 in order to research, collect, preserve, process, protect and present the cultural inheritance of the area. Besides current museum exhibitions in the southern part of the fortress, occasional exhibitions take place in the Gallery and St. Barbara's church. The museum is responsible for the historical community Tvrđava ( Fortress ), but also for Podgrađe with the hill Spas.*



Stalni muzejski postav  
*Current Museum exhibitions*





Povremene muzejske izložbe  
*The place of occasional exhibitions*



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