

ABOUT US

What is Kiek in de Kök Fortifications Museum?

Kiek in de Kök Fortifications Museum is a museum in Tallinn Old Town. It is one of the seven museums under Tallinn City Museum. It tells the story of how people protected and defended Tallinn from the medieval times until the modern day. The museum includes medieval towers, city walls, and underground tunnels called bastion passages.

The name **“Kiek in de Kök”** comes from Low German and means **“peek into the kitchen.”** According to legend, guards in the tall tower could look into the kitchens of nearby houses.

The entire museum is in Estonian and English.

Your visit is self-guided.

For more information, you can download our audio guides. Available in: Estonian, English, Finnish, Russian and Latvian (Kiek in de Kök Tower only). Available on the NUMU app.

MUSEUM MAP

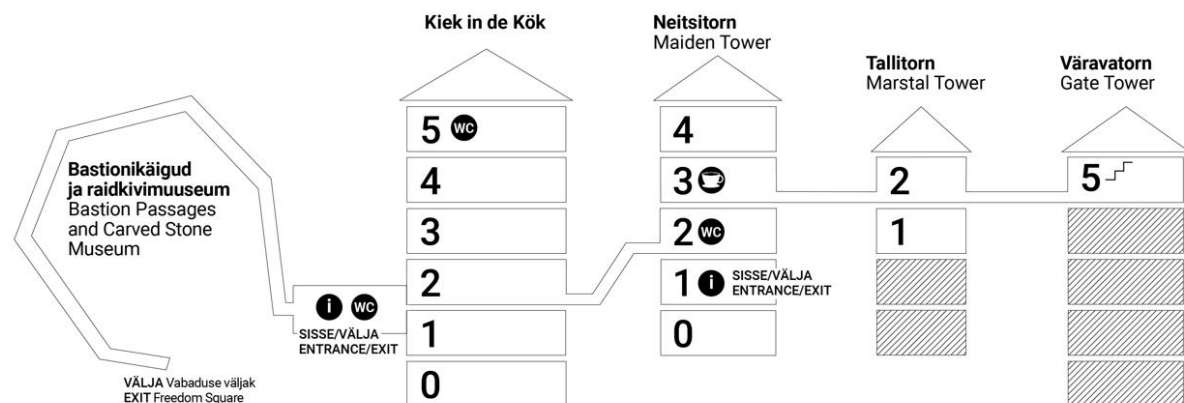
What can you see?

The museum complex is over 500 meters long and includes:

- **Kiek in de Kök** Cannon Tower
- **Neitsitorn** (Maiden Tower)
- **Tallitorn** (Marstal/Stable Tower)
- **Väravatorn** (Gate Tower)
- **Maa-alused Bastionikäigud ja Raidkivimuseum** (Underground Bastion Passages and the Carved Stone Museum)

Inside the towers, you can see:

- Activities of a medieval guild in city defence (KK)
- Models of the towers, gates and wall when they were complete (KK; NT)
- Videos explaining the local history and traditions (KK; NT, VT)
- Interactive hands-on exhibits (KK)
- Historical paintings (KK; NT)
- Historical interior (KK; NT; VT)
- Children’s activity corners (KK)
- Weaponry collection and armours (KK)
- Temporary exhibitions and city views (KK; NT, VT, TT)
- The story of the Danish flag (NT)



Inside the Bastion Passages, you can see:

- Temporary exhibition on the 'History of Estonian Civil Defence'
- 15th century merchant gate
- 320 meters (1050 feet) of underground tunnel
- Chronological view of how the passages were used throughout history
- Carved Stone Museum that has limestone carvings from the 14th century to the 18th century.

What can you do?

- Walk through medieval towers and along the historic city wall.
- Explore the underground Bastion Passages.
- Visit the Carved Stone Museum at the end of the Bastion Passages.
- Enjoy beautiful views of Tallinn Old Town from the towers and city wall.
- Join a guided tour if available. (In development)
- Experience the many exhibitions in the towers and tunnel
- Interact with the hands-on exhibits
- Visit the museum shop
- Stop at the cafe in **Neitsitorn** (Maiden Tower)

How to get here

Address: Komandandi tee 2, Tallinn.

LOCATION MAP

The museum is located in Tallinn Old Town, close to Toompea Hill and Vabaduse väljak (Freedom Square). You can reach it on foot from the city centre. The nearest public transport stop is **Vabaduse väljak**.

The museum has two entrances and three exits.

Main entrance/Exit: At the foot of Kiek in de Kök Tower; Address: **Komandandi tee 2**

Secondary entrance/Exit: On the first floor of **Neitsitorn** (Maiden Tower) in The Danish King's Garden; Address: **Lühike jalg 9A**

Exit only: Bastion Passages/Carved Stone Museum exits to **Vabaduse väljak** (Freedom Square)
Address: **Vabaduse väljak 9**

Opening hours

- **October–April:** Tuesday–Sunday, 11:00–18:00
- **May–September:** Every day, 11:00–18:00
- We stop ticket sales **30 minutes before closing**
- The last full complex ticket is sold **1,5 hours before closing**
- Closed for **national holidays**
- We close earlier **the day before a national holiday**

How much time do you need?

Most visitors spend **2–3 hours** exploring the museum, towers, and underground tunnels.

Accessibility

Getting Around the Kiek in de K k Fortifications Museum

The Kiek in de K k Fortifications Museum is located in several tall historic towers, high wall walkways, and dark underground bastion tunnels. Visitors move between different parts of the museum using **stairs, narrow passages, and historic walkways**.

Please note that:

- There are **no lifts (elevators)** in the museum.
- Movement inside the towers is by **stairs**.
- Some routes include **historic wall walkways** and **underground tunnels**.
- There are **uneven floors**, steep winding steps, low doorways, narrow spaces, and in some areas, **slippery steps** and **floors**.
- The museum is located in medieval buildings, and is inaccessible for visitors who use wheelchairs or prams (buggies), limited for walkers, or those who have difficulty climbing stairs.

Before your visit

Visitors should be prepared for:

- Walking up and down several flights of stairs.
- Spending time in dimly lit underground passages.
- Comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended.
- Children must be accompanied by adults.
- The temperature in the underground passages is around 10 C (50 F). Please bring appropriate clothing.
- Some exhibitions feature loud noises.
- The tunnel exhibition has a period featuring war and bombings.
- The city walls are in the open air. Dress for the weather.
- Visitors might see spiders! :O
- Guided tours must be booked ahead, at least 3 days before the date of the visit.

Cloakroom & Lockers

We have a cloakroom in the lobby of the main entrance. The cloakroom also has free lockers to place bags and smaller suitcases in.

Wheelchair Access

Wheelchair users can only access:

- The **Kiek in de K k entrance hall (lobby) with one accessible bathroom**.
- A **touchscreen display** with information about the Kiek in de K k Tower exhibition.
- An accessible **Prologue room**, where visitors can watch films shown as part of the museum's exhibitions.
- The **Neitsitorn (Maiden Tower) entrance hall**.

ALL exhibition areas, towers, wall walkways, and bastion tunnels **are not accessible by wheelchair because** they can only be reached by stairs.

Quiet room/Prayer room

The museum does not have a quiet room or a prayer room. At times, we are able to close the Prologue room, should no prebooked activity take place.

Autism accessibility

At times, the museum features loud noises and flashing lights. We recommend bringing noise cancelling headphones.

The summer months and December have more visitors.

For the visually disabled

We have audio guides that cover the Kiek in de K k tower and the Bastion Passages. Tactile exhibits on the 0. Floor of the Kiek in de K k tower. Bringing a person to assist your visit is recommended.

For the hearing disabled

At both entrances we have a microphone and a station you can tune your hearing aid to.

Animals

Guide dogs are allowed. Other pets are allowed only if they are carried, or in a carrier, the entire time.

Parking

There are several parking spots near the museum:

- 1) On the cross of Falgi and Toompea road:
There is a parking machine located on top of the hill near the Hermann tower. The machine accepts only Euro (€) coins from 10 cents to 2 euros. The machine will not give back change!
- 2) On the bottom of the hill around Pizza Americana (X1 Snabb parkla, Address: Kaarli pst 2a)
Via Snabb app.
- 3) Parking lot under the Freedom Square (Kaarli pst T2/Vabaduse väljak 9)
Payment via mobile phone, cash, card and parking machine.