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**TOWN GUIDE  
KOTKA**



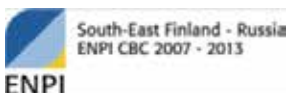
## Stone Town Guide Kotka

Text and layout : Ilkka Paajanen,  
Senior Lecturer, Saimaa University of Applied Sciences  
Photos: Yrjö Utti,  
Lecturer, Saimaa University of Applied Sciences  
Translation: Miia Virtanen, Lingo

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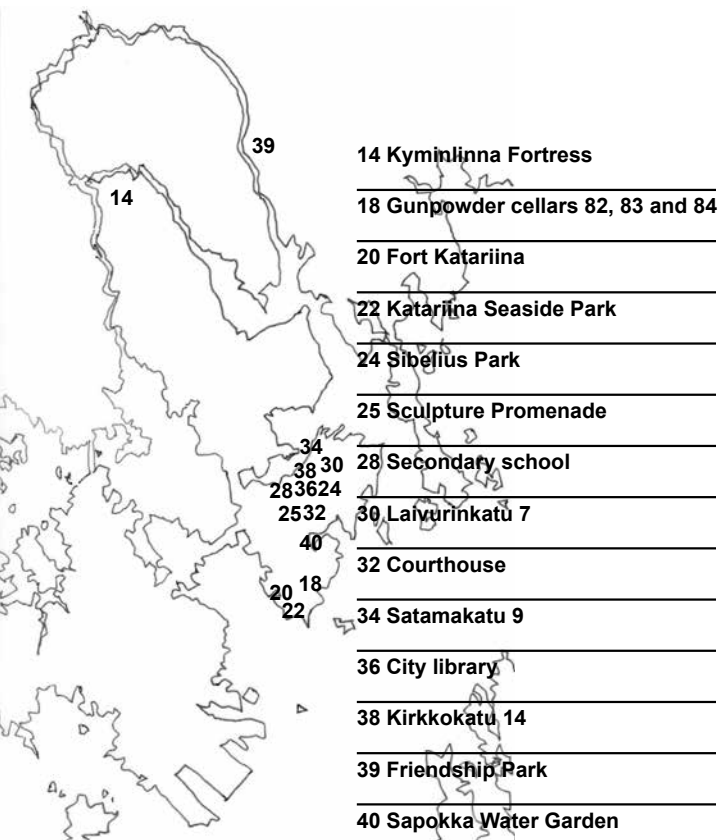


# **STONE**

## **TOWN GUIDE**

### **KOTKA**







Habitation in the Kotka area became established at the beginning of the second millennium. At least since the 1500s, Kotkansaari has been known as meadow and pasture lands of Kymi Manor, and it has been used for slash-burning and acquisition of timber. The first inhabitant of the croft of Kotka, located at the southern end of the island, was mentioned by name at the end of the 17th century.

Two big naval battles were fought between Russia and Sweden in Ruotsinsalmi, in 1789 and 1790. The name Ruotsinsalmi derives from the waterway in front of the city of Kotka. The waterway was located between the islands north of the Kuutsalo island and it was called Ruotsinsalmi. After the naval battles, Catherine, the Empress of Russia, started to fortify south-western Finland, which belonged to Russia at the time.



Olavinlinna

General Aleksandr Suvorov led fortification operations in south-eastern Finland and the whole chain of fortresses is now called the fortress chain of Suvorov. This fortress chain extended from the current-day Kotka area to Olavinlinna (located in Savonlinna), including in the current-day Kotka area the fortresses of Ruotsinsalmi (built in 1790-1808) and Kymnlinna (built in 1791-1792 and the first years of the 19th century), Hamina fortresses (built in 1722-1809), fortresses of Liikkala (built in 1791 and 1804-1805), Utti (built in 1791-1792), Taavetti (built in 1773-1781 and 1791-1796), Järvi Taipale (built in 1791-1792) and Kärnäkoski (completed in 1793), the fortification of the Lappeenranta fortress (built at the beginning of the 1790s), the new parts of Olavinlinna (built in 1791-1807) as well as Suvorov's canals, located in the Saimaa lake district: Kutvele, Käyhkää, Kukonharju and Telaitaipale (built in the 1790s).





Utti  
Taavetti



Utti  
Taavetti



Kärnäkoski  
Kärnäkoski





Fort Katariina

The fortress built in the area of the current Kotka was called **Ruotsinsalmi fortress**. Fortification of the Ruotsinsalmi fortress began in the 1790s. Some of the structures were located on the current Kotkansaari (the Isle of Kotka) and some were located on the nearby islands of Kukouri, Tiutinen, Varissaari and some other nearby islands. The constructions included the circular Fort Slava on the Kukouri island, several redoubts in Tiutinen and Fort Elisabeth in Varissaari. The main fortress of Kotkansaari, Fort Katariina, and the adjoining barracks were built in Katariinanniemi, at the southern end of the island, and the redoubt Kotka, several batteries and their gun powder cellars were built in the other parts of the island. The naval port was placed in Portunlahti and the immediate vicinity of the port was the location for the construction of barracks and other buildings serving the port. In addition to the actual fortress systems, a complete garrison city was built in Kotkansaari, resulting in the number of inhabitants increasing to almost 10,000 prior to the War of Finland. The number of inhabitants decreased considerably after the war.



Gunpowder cellar 84  
Gunpowder cellar 83



During the Crimean War, fought in 1853-1856, another war called the War of Åland was fought in Finland in 1854 and 1855, during which an Anglo-French fleet destroyed fortresses along the Gulf of Finland. In June 1855, the Anglo-French fleet destroyed the fortress of Ruotsinsalmi almost completely. The few remaining structures are an Orthodox church, a few gunpowder cellars and parts of the fortress structures, for example the ruins of the Kukouri and Varissaari fortresses. Finland's National Board of Antiquities, the City of Kotka and the Ministry of Employment have renovated for example Fort Slava, Fort Elisabeth, the redoubt of Kotka and parts of Fort Katariina structures.

The purpose of the **Kyminlinna** fortress was to block the road following the coastline so that the enemy would not have a chance to advance toward St. Petersburg. The first parts were built in the 1790s. At the beginning of the 19th century, the fortress was enlarged into a bastion fortress according to the fortress building theories of the era, and the older fortress was demolished at that time. However, there was not enough time to complete all the parts of the fortress before Finland became a part of Russia and the fortresses in south-eastern Finland lost their strategic significance as border fortresses. Kyminlinna was removed from the list of fortresses in 1819 and it became a depot. In the mid-19th century, wooden buildings were erected in the depot area. The purpose was to build several new buildings in the area at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century but these construction projects were largely abandoned. After Finland became independent, Kyminlinna served as a training centre for the Red Guards as well as a gathering camp and the only fight in the Kyminlinna history, between the Germans and the Red Guards, took place at this time. The fortress served as a refugee centre for Karelians and Ingrians in 1922-1939. As of 1925, the hospital also housed an epidemic hospital's pulmonary tuberculosis department as well as civil guard activities. From the time of the Winter War all the way until 2005, Kyminlinna was controlled by the defence forces, the military district and the coast guard used it during the war and it was used as the defence forces' depot after the war. The fortress area has been empty since 2005. Finland's National Board of Antiquities, City of Kotka and the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment have performed extensive restorations on the fortress.

Kyminlinna fortress was built according to the fortress building theories of the era and it consists of bastions, curtain walls between bastions, ravelins and other fortress structures to form a regular earthwork that has a natural stone wall in front of it. Bricks were used for example in the gate structures of fortresses. During different eras, both brick and wooden buildings were erected in the barracks area of the fortress, some of which survive today.





# KYMINLINNA FORTRESS







The extensive concentration of the lumber industry in the Kotka area during the latter part of the 19th century led to a strong population growth and to the founding of the city of Kotka in 1879. Industry and port activities have characterised the cityscape.

There are very few actual natural stone buildings among the newer stock of buildings. There are bases made of natural stones in the buildings constructed at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century but these buildings are not included in this report. Despite the small number of buildings with natural stone façades, almost all eras from the early 20th century Art Nouveau till today are represented.







Gunpowder cellar 84

# GUNPOWDER CELLARS



Gunpowder cellar 82





Gunpowder cellar 84

## 82, 83 and 84

The most important surviving fortress structures are located at the southern end of Kotkansaari, such as **gunpowder cellars 82, 83 and 84**. Of these gunpowder cellars, number 84 has survived best. This gunpowder cellar is located on the south side of the Puistokatu and Urheilijankatu intersection. Gunpowder cellars 82 and 83 are located in the black alder area. These gunpowder cellars are in a very bad condition, almost completely in ruins and overtaken by nature.





# FORT KATARIINA







The oil port, located in Katariinanpuisto in the 20th century, destroyed some of the fortress structures in this area. After the port activities were moved to Mussalo, the wall structures were renovated and reconstructed.





# **KATARIINA SEASIDE PARK**



At the beginning of the 21st century, the extensive **Katariinanpuisto** (Katariina Seaside Park) was built in the area, and natural stone has been used in a very creative manner in several different kinds of structures.





## SIBELIUS PARK



On the north-western side of **Sibeliuksen puisto** (Sibelius Park), next to the Kirkkokatu wall, it is possible to see pavement stones dating from the times of the Ruotsinsalmi garrison city. Sibeliuksen puisto connects to Kotka city centre's **Sculpture Promenade**, and there are several natural stone statues in the area, located between Keskuskatu and Mariankatu.





# SCULPTURE PROMENADE

Olavi Mantere:  
Ovidiuksen tanssi (Dance of Ovidius)

Matti Nurminen:  
Ahdas portti (Difficult Gate)





Markku Hirvelä:  
Yökulkijat (Night Wanderers)  
Heikki Laaksonen:  
Suppilovahverot (Funnel Chanterelles)  
Matti Peltokangas:  
Tarrautuminen (Clinging)





## SCULPTURE PROMENADE





## SECONDARY SCHOOL



**Kotkan lyseo** (Kotka secondary school) at **Kirkkokatu 15** was completed in 1905. The building was designed by architects Usko Nyström, Albert Petrelius and Vilho Penttilä, and the extension from 1947 was designed by architect Väinö Vähäkallio. The building represents Art Nouveau, which is evident in the whole architectural entity as well as the numerous details. The extension joins the architecture of the oldest part in a stylish manner. Natural stone has been used, above all, in the façade of the first floor as a mixed wall, also known as rubble wall. The fitted extension is in harmony with the original architecture. The building was renovated beautifully at the beginning of the 2010s.







# LAIVURINKATU 7





**The police station's license office**, originally Pohjoismaiden Osakepankki, later the port office, at **Laivurinkatu 7**. The oldest part of the building was completed in 1908, and the stone part in 1914. The construction entity has been designed by architects Esaias Hänninen (1908) and Waldemar Aspelin (1914). The almost castle-like structure represents Art Nouveau. The façade on the street side has been built completely of natural stone using the mixed wall technique, also known as rubble wall technique.



# COURTHOUSE

**Kotka courthouse**, originally Bank of Finland, at **Keskuskatu 19**, was completed in 1909. The building was designed by architect Gustaf Nyström. The old part of the building represents Art Nouveau, evident for example in the several beautiful details, which are typical to the era. The façade on the street side is made completely of natural stone. A modern extension was constructed behind the building at a later time. The building was renovated at the beginning of the 2010s and it is now a court house.







**SATAMAKATU 9**





The residential and commercial building known as **Tukkukau-pantalo** (The Wholesaler's House) at **Satamakatu 9** was completed in 1910 (or in 1912, according to some sources). The building was designed by architect Vilho Penttilä. The building represents Art Nouveau. There is natural stone in the façade and in the decorations on the first floor but the other floors have been roughcast. There are several nature-themed decorations near the entrances, which are typical to Art Nouveau.





# CITY LIBRARY

**City library at Kirkkokatu 24** was completed in 1978. The building was designed by architects Lauri Heinänen, Mikael Enegren and Juho Rouhiainen. The building also houses the Music Institute of Kotka and the archives of the City of Kotka. Architecturally, the building represents simplified modernism, typical of the era of construction. Simply put, the building is a box. There are only thin natural stone plates on the first floor level of the building and the rest of the façade consists of ceramic plates.





Arvo Siikamäki:  
Tahdon voima (The Power of Will)

The plaza in front of the library as well as the plaza between the library and the church have been built using paving stones and stone sculptures.







## KIRKKOKATU 14

The commercial and residential building of **Osuuspankki** (Cooperative Bank) at **Kirkkokatu 14** was completed in 2010. The building was designed by the architect office Andersson & Co. There is natural stone on the first floor of the building's façade and the façades on the other floors have insulated render. Typical of the era, there are only thin natural stone plates, which are attached using brackets.





# JOKIPUISTO



**Jokipuisto** (River Park) is located in the outskirts of the centre of Karhula, on the shores of Kymi-joki River's Korkeakoskenhaara. The park is the newest and the smallest of the parks in the city of Kotka. Again, natural stone has been used in a very creative manner.



# SAPOKKA GARDEN







**Sapokka Water Garden** is located on the eastern shore of Kotkansaari, almost in Sapokka Bay, which pushes into the centre of the island.





# SAPOKKA GARDEN

In terms of natural stone usage, this park is the most versatile out of the several new parks in Kotka, as stone has been used in its all forms and in very innovative ways. The by-product stone left over after quarrying, which would otherwise not be utilised, has been used to a great extent. Stone has been used to make different kinds of walls, pavements, bridges, water pools, etc. A set of sculptures compiled of different types of natural stones has been erected on top of the rock. It displays types of Finnish stones and the various ways of giving stones a finish (cut, segmented, polished, smoothed, etc.) are portrayed with models, texts and maps. Therefore, the park is also a very fine destination for educational and informative purposes.







# SAIPOKKA GARDEN







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