

# Welcome to the Fortress

## Trails at Fredriksten Fortress

**Fredriksten is the largest and most important of Norway's border fortresses.**

The construction started in 1661, only three years after the former Norwegian region of Bohuslän was lost to Sweden, and Halden became the new frontier. Halden was attacked in six different Swedish campaigns; three in the period of 1658-1660, and 3 after the completion of the new fortress. Most famous is the siege of 1718 when the Swedish king Charles XII was killed here. Fredriksten also played a major national role in the Norwegian war of independence of 1814 and the peaceful dissolution of the Union with Sweden in 1905. It was decommissioned as an operational fortress in 1905.

Fredriksten comprises the main fortress and three advanced forts towards the east front, known as Gyldenløve, Stortårnet and Overberget. Facing the town is the Citizen Fortification. This was a defence installation where the citizens of the town could seek refuge. The total area covers about 600,000 square metres – approximately 150 acres. You will find more than eight kilometres of roads and footpaths crisscrossing the precincts. This map has been prepared as an introduction to sections of the spacious outer area and the hiking opportunities here. It also outlines major historical events and gives more detailed information on the fortifications.

Three routes are marked out, with supplementary information provided in the form of signs and information boards, monuments and lookout points. The route description also contains some information in brief on the major features. Have a pleasant walk!



**Three historical walks on footpaths and roads in the outer grounds of Fredriksten Fortress.**  
All three tours start and end at the Tourist Information Centre in the Main Fortress..

**Tour 1 (red) Main Subjects: The front of Fredriksten Fortress, Gyldenløve fort and the siege and subsequent death of Swedish King Charles XII in 1718.**  
A short walk - approximately 1.2 km in fairly flat terrain

**1 A SIGNBOARD PROVIDING A BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND ATTRACTIVE AT THE FORTRESS**

**2 OHMES MONUMENT**

General Johan von Ohme was the Commandant of Fredriksten during the Swedish siege in August 1814. Despite being surrounded and highly outnumbered by overwhelming Swedish forces, Commandant Ohme refused to surrender the fortress. A peace treaty between the two countries was signed in Moss on 14 August, known as the Convention of Moss. This marked the end of hostilities, and Norway entered into a union with Sweden. The 1814 campaign was the last battle at Fredriksten. It was never conquered in war.

**3 THE COMMANDANT'S NEW RESIDENCE AND GARDEN (SIGN)**

**4 A SIGNBOARD ABOUT THE FORMER MONUMENTS TO KING CHARLES XII**

**5 THE PRESENT MONUMENT TO KING CHARLES XII**

**6 THE BOUNDARY STONE OF THE SWEDISH 1718 TRENCH (STONE WITH TEXT)**

**7 SIGNBOARD AT GYLDENLØVE FORT ("THE GOLDEN LION FORT")**

**8 THE VIEWPOINT ON TOP OF THE FORT**

From the top of the fort you can see the two other advanced forts; the large Overberget ("The Upper Rock fort") to the south, and the small Stortårnet ("The Great Tower fort") to the southwest. Gyldenløve fort is the only part of Fredriksten that was captured by the Swedish troops. That happened in 1718. The fort has undergone several extensive modifications, the last one in 1906.

**9 THE CAPONIERE (SIGN)**

**10 THE WATER BASIN (SIGN)**

**11 THE OBSTRUCTING WALL (SIGN)**

**12 AN ADVANCED DEFENSIVE POSITION**

**13 THE ORDNANCE DEPOT**

**14 MANSBACH'S BURIAL MONUMENT**

General Johan Friederich von Mansbach was Commandant of Fredriksten from 1790 to his death in 1803. His burial monument was relocated here after the burial site in the town was removed in 1881. Mansbach purchased large land properties to the south and east of Fredriksten in 1793. These properties are now administered by a foundation that carries Mansbach's name, which helps fund the maintenance of the fortress through annual contributions.

**15 GERMAN MACHINEGUN POSITION FROM WW2 (SIGN)**

**16 PLACE D'ARMES (SIGN)**



**Tour 2 (blue)** Main Subjects: The Advanced Forts, and the 1660 ramparts. Long walk – around 3 km, some steep parts.

Tour 2 takes you to the southern and south-western part of Fredriksten, partly on roads and partly on constructed footpaths. We recommend good walking shoes.  
You will first visit the advanced forts Stortårnet (The Great Tower) and Overberget (The Upper Rock). You will then go back in history to the dramatic year of 1660 when there were bloody battles at the Braadland and Roland ramparts in January and February. These events led to the construction of the Fredriksten Fortress which started in 1661. There are many shortcuts to make the round trip shorter, but we recommend doing the whole of the Normand path, starting at the information board by the white bridge crossing the duck ponds and to the Roland ramparts.

- 1
- STORTÅRNET FORT (THE GREAT TOWER FORT) (SIGN)
- 2
- THE SOUTHERN TENNAILE (DEFENSIVE WALL) OF OVERBERGET FORT (THE UPPER ROCK FORT) (SIGN)
- 3
- THE SOUTHERN POINT OF OVERBERGET (SIGN)
- 4
- BARBED WIRE FROM 1905 (SIGN)
- 5
- REMAINS OF AN ADVANCED DEFENSIVE WALL (SIGN)
- 6
- ABOUT OVERBERGET FORT (SIGN)
- 7
- THE EASTERN TENNAILE (SIGN)
- 8
- A SIGNBOARD ABOUT THE NORMAND PATH
- 9
- A SIGNBOARD ABOUT THE BRAADLAND RAMPART
- 10
- THE MEMORIAL STONE AT BRAADLAND
- 11
- THE NEW BARRACK (SIGN)
- 12
- A SIGNBOARD ABOUT THE ROLAND RAMPART
- 13
- THE MEMORIAL STONE AT ROLAND
- 14
- GERMAN WW2 ANTI AIRCRAFT MACHINE GUN POSITION
- 15
- A SIGNBOARD ABOUT THE CHRISTIANOPEL RAMPART
- 16
- THE MEMORIAL STONE AT CHRISTIANOPEL
- In this area you will see remnants of German WW2 trenches and bunkers. They have all been demolished and filled in.
- 17
- AN INFORMATION SIGNBOARD ABOUT THE KING’S ROAD
- 18
- THE EDUCATION AREA (SIGN)
- 19
- THE TOWN GATE (SIGN)

**Tour 3 (yellow)** Main subjects: The Advanced and Inner Citizen Fortifications and the Swedish 1716 attack. Medium length tour, around 1.8 km. The last part is a steep, cobblestone road.

(The first part of Tour 3 follows the same track as the last part of Tour 1. If you do not want to do Tour 1, it is still informative to read the signboards you are passing. See Tour 1, point nos. 11, 12, 13, and 16)

Tour 3 goes through the north-western part of Fredriksten. You will descend towards the town on a widely used footpath called “Slyngveien” (The Winding Road). The historical focal point of this tour is the lower part of the Advanced Citizen Fortification and the gate to the Inner Citizen Fortification. A dramatic battle took place here on the night of 4 July 1716. You will find a number of memorial stones and signboards.

- 1
- THE PALISADE AT THE ADVANCED CITIZEN FORTIFICATION, THE BOUNDARY STONES. (SIGN)
- 2
- THE MEMORIAL STONE FOR THE 1716 BATTLE
- 3
- AN INFORMATION SIGNBOARD ABOUT THE 1716 BATTLE
- 4
- THE MARKING STONE FOR THE PALISADE GATE (STONE BEARING INSCRIPTION)
- 5
- THE MARKING STONE FOR THE CANNON EMPLACEMENT (STONE BEARING INSCRIPTION)
- 6
- THE GATE TO THE INNER CITIZEN FORTIFICATION. A SIGNBOARD AND A MEMORIAL PLATE
- 7
- THE DRILL HOUSE (SIGN)
- 8
- A SIGNBOARD ABOUT THE FORMER GREAT BARRACK
- 9
- THE MONUMENT TO GENERAL HUITFELDT
- 10
- HUITFELDT’S GUN BATTERY (SIGN)
- 11
- THE FORMER LOWER BARRACK (SIGN)
- 12
- AN INFORMATION SIGNBOARD PROVIDING A BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND THINGS TO SEE AT THE FORTRESS.

The tour now continues up to and through the Citadel back to the Tourist Information Centre, where there is a lot to see and learn about the Main fortress. We therefore recommend that you rent an Audio guide from the Information Centre and follow the route to 25 interesting objects here. This will be like a Tour number 4 !

**Rules of conduct**  
This fortress is one of fourteen national fortifications in Norway, and a national monument which we have been entrusted to preserve for future generations. We kindly request that all visitors show due respect for the buildings, walls and the grounds, show caution when you move about the various parts and adhere to the rules of conduct. This way, you help ensure that all visitors get a chance to enjoy the fortress. The experience of visiting a place as unique as Fredriksten Fortress could easily be spoiled by litter and unintended damage to the site. We therefore have an all-year ban on open fires. This also pertains to disposable BBQs. There is a picnic area by the Gyldenløve fort where barbequing is permitted. Dogs must be kept on a leash inside the grounds year-round. Remember to use poop scoop bags. Please throw all waste in the litter bins. The removal of any parts of the buildings, bricks, wood or other loose objects from the fortress is strictly prohibited.

**Caution:** The fortress have many high walls and steep precipices with no extra security measures. Children must therefore be kept under adult supervision

**Fredriksten Fortress today**  
The fortress is a very popular tourist attraction, with many activities taking place here throughout the year.

The fortress is an excellent venue for larger meetings and gatherings, concerts and opera performances. The popular TV programme, Singing on the Border is recorded here.

There is an excellent choice of food and refreshments at the fortress, ranging from a simple cup of coffee to an exquisite dinner.

There is the Museum Halden Historical Collections to visit, and they also conduct guided tours of the fortress and grounds



## National Fortifications Heritage

The National Fortifications Heritage of the Norwegian Defence Estates Agency have been entrusted with the management of fourteen fortresses which have been classified as National Fortifications. The fortresses will be preserved as national heritage sites, and adapted to new and existing uses and activities. The National Fortifications Heritage will bring the fortresses into a new era, and preserve their character and history by developing the fortifications into attractive arenas for culture, business and events, in cooperation with other interested parties.

For further information, please visit [www.nasjonalefestningsverk.no](http://www.nasjonalefestningsverk.no)

## The Fortress Trails at Fredriksten Fortress

