



Gustav Vasa already had an armoury in the old Three Crowns Castle. There he kept his weapons, armours and the latest in technology and mechanics. He often took his friends to see what was in the armoury, and he started a fencing school for his own sons and for those of the nobility.

## In the footsteps of Gustav Vasa

### A ROUND TOUR

In 1523 Gustav Eriksson was elected King of Sweden. The name Gustav Vasa only began to be used following Gustav III's drama *Gustaf Wasa* in 1786. The story of Gustav Eriksson's rise to power is based very much on the *Chronicle of Peder Swart*, which was written in Gustav's lifetime. Probably the King helped to decide what went into it and how we should remember him.

Gustav Vasa is referred to as Builder of the Kingdom and Father of the Nation. There were a lot of changes in Sweden during his reign:

- Sweden became a separate country, and we developed a national Swedish identity.
- Stockholm became the capital of the Swedish kingdom.
- The Reformation was introduced, making us Protestants instead of Catholics.
- The monarchy became hereditary, with the throne passing to the King's eldest son.

New ideas came to Sweden through Gustav Vasa and his sons. Skilled workers and craftsmen came here from the Continent. It was important to the King and his sons to dress and comport themselves correctly, so as to resemble the European royal families.

Gustav Vasa died in 1560. He lay abed for over a month and suffered great pain, partly from inflammations of the jawbone.

p.t.o.



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## ROOM A

### Gustav Vasa's crowned helmet

This helmet was ordered in South Germany in 1540 and was perhaps made by the master armourer Kunz Lochner. It is a steel helmet, etched and gilded, with a gilded crown in the middle, at an angle from the right eye. It used to have a visor (face shield) which could be buttoned or hooked on at the sides. It was carried as a regal symbol in Gustav's funeral procession in 1560.

## ROOM C

### Gustav Vasa's armour

Use of armour in war was old-fashioned by Gustav Vasa's time. Armour was worn for parades and ceremonies. This armour was made in Nuremberg in 1540 and is of steel, etched and decorated with gold. It weighs between 25 and 30 kg and shows Gustav Vasa to have been about 180 cm tall. The waist measurement is 90 cm.

### Round shield

This shield was made in South Germany in 1540 and is of steel, etched and decorated with gold. In the middle is the Swedish national crest – the King's own coat of arms. There is a bullet hole in the shield, from test firing. This type of shield was no longer modern in the mid-1570s, and it was used instead in the King's kitchen, as a saucepan lid.

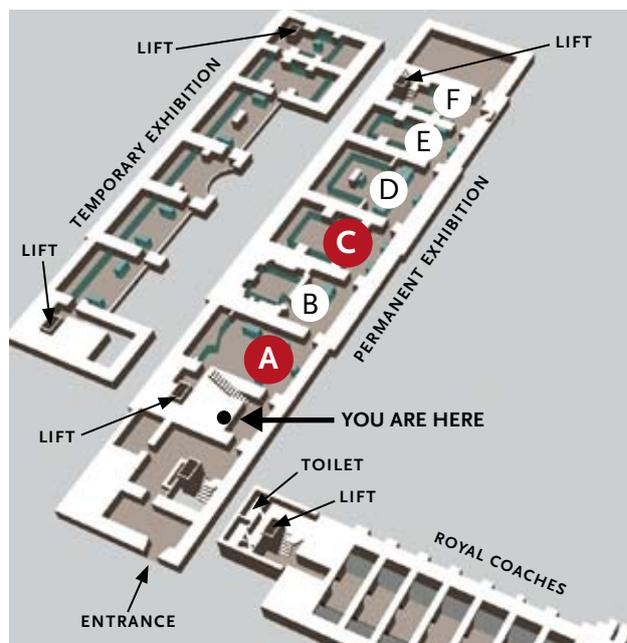
### Sword

This sword dates from the mid-16th century and is of silvergilt steel.

Gustav Vasa decided that instead of just importing things from abroad, we must learn to make our own. And so he started Sweden's first national arms factory in Arboga, and this may have been one of the first swords to be made there.

### Stick

This mid-16th century stick is made from a branch of a cinnamon tree. It was probably straight when Gustav Vasa was using it. The knob at the top is of silver, gilded



and engraved with the King's initials: G(ustavus) R(ex), i.e. King Gustav. Perhaps it was the King's walking stick.

### Dual weapons: pistol/war hammer

The weapon is made of steel, wood and bone. The staff is of steel, with strips of bone let into the handle of the pistol part. To fire the pistol, the "beak" and the muzzle plug had to be removed first. The ramrod is concealed behind the ferrule. This was probably a very expensive weapon at the time.



*Gustav Vasa's crowned helmet.*