

EXPLANATIONS:

- VISITING ROUTE
- REHABILITATED BUILDINGS
- CABLE CABIN ARRIVAL STATION
- TOURISTS ACCESS POINTS IN THE FORTRESS
- BALUSTRADE FOR PROTECTION

NAME OF VISITING TOURIST ATTRACTIONS:

PRECINCT 3:

1. Gate 1 - Access to the fortress/precinct 3
2. Enclosure wall 3 and connecting ladder to gunner platforms
3. Partially restored wooden guardrail
4. Gate 2
5. Semicircular staircase - access to precinct 2
6. Eastern trapezoidal bastion - tourists' reception point
7. Artillery platforms
8. Gunners' room
9. Restored wooden bridge - access to precinct 2
10. Gate 3 - access to precinct 2
- T. Cable cabin arrival station

PRECINCT 2:

11. Furnace building
12. Partially restored wooden guardrail
13. Annex room semicircular staircase - access to precinct 2
14. Zwinger precinct 2 south
15. Bethlen bastion

PRECINCT 1:

16. Gate tower - access to precinct 1
17. North side platform and reinforcement metal structure - contemporary implant
18. West tower
19. Cistern
20. Princely palace area and cellars
21. Belvedere platform
22. Multifunctional hall - contemporary implant
23. Decanter
24. Arms store and belvedere platform

1269 - 2024

PROJECT TITLE:

THE REHABILITATION OF THE URBAN AREA "DEALUL CETATII" (FORTRESS HILL) DEVA, A NATURAL AND HISTORICAL MONUMENT OF HIGH TOURISM VALUE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DEVA, REFUNCTIONALIZATION OF THE PRECINCT I

EDITOR OF THE CONTENT:

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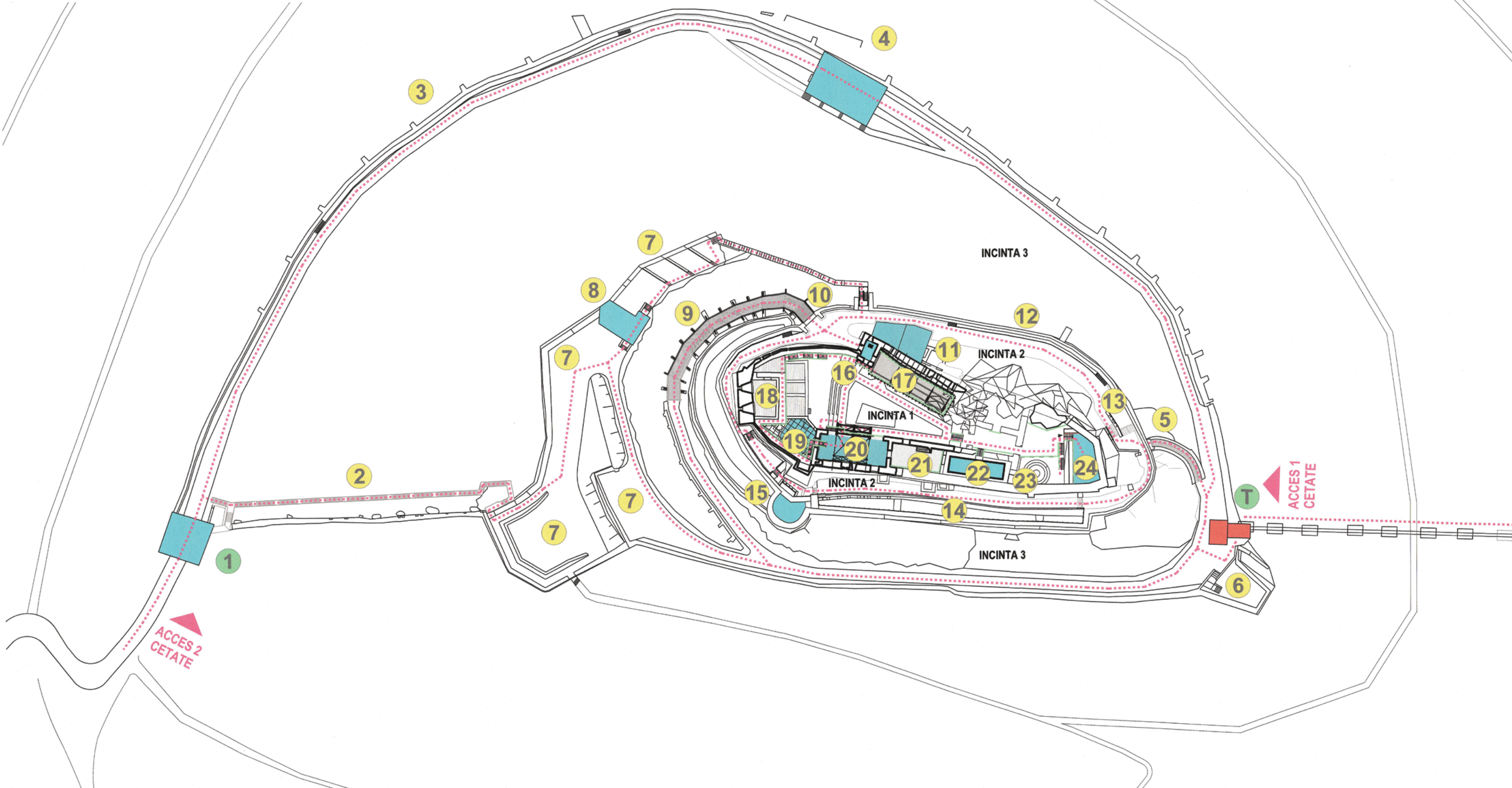
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ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL UNIT
DEVA MUNICIPALITY

DEVA MEDIEVAL FORTRESS



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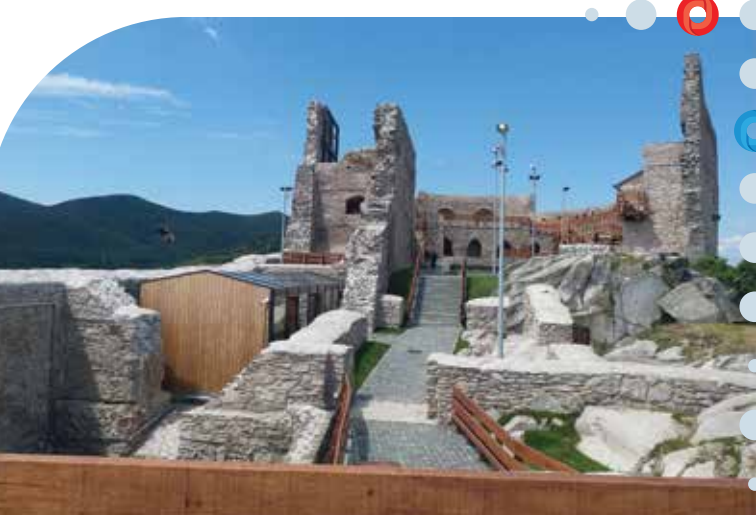


Brief history of Deva Fortress

Deva Fortress is included in the list of historical monuments and is located in the suburbs of Deva municipality, on the left bank of the Mureș River, totalling an area of approximately 30 ha. The fortress is located on a volcanic structure, which detaches from the Poiana Ruscăi massif, constituting the highest point to the north, with an altitude of 378 meters above sea level and 184 m above the city. The medieval fortress of Deva guarded the entrance and exit to Transylvania, on the Mureș valley, for centuries. Traces of Neolithic and Bronze Age habitation were discovered here, and the presence of carved stone blocks, with the characteristics of a dovetail cut, proves that there was also a Dacian fortification in this place.



The beginning of the 16th century also represented the expansion of the fortification. Now the second precinct is being built. There were also significant changes at the level of the first precinct. The second precinct also has an ovoidal route, determined by the shape of the first precinct and the terrain configuration. Near the south-west corner is the semi-circular bastion of Bethlen. On the north side, the courtyard is doubled by a wall forming a zwinger. In the west end, a main road entrance gate was set up that enters the premises, which is well preserved. The gate was fronted by seven low piers, built of stone and brick, arranged radially on which rested a girder bridge interrupted by a riser in front of the gate. The gate has a semi-circular frame with a bevelled edge finished with a bias towards the base, which belongs to the transition period from Gothic to Renaissance. At the base, in the extremities, the gate is provided with stone blocks having carved semicircular troughs in which the cranes of the drawbridge moved. In the upper part you can see the holes for the passage of the two chains that raised the bridge.



The fortress was built between the years 1250 and 1260, it existed in 1264 when we have information about a battle that took place at the foot of the fortress by the commander Petre Csák of the Duke of Transylvania, Ștefan, against the Cumans led by Ladislau Kán, during the second civil war between Ștefan and his father Bela IV, the king of Hungary. This information comes from a document from the year 1273, but the first mention of the fortress dates from 1269, when the fortress was donated by Duke Ștefan to the nobleman Chyl from Călnic.

At the end of the 17th century, the fortress came into the possession of the House of Habsburg, together with the fiscal properties of the principality. In 1711, after the peace of Satu Mare, the independent Principality of Transylvania ceases to exist. From this year, the new governor Johann Steinville begins works to transform the fortress into a bastion fortification, including the land at the base of the fortress. A number of buildings have been restored inside the first precinct, but perhaps the most important construction of this period is the existing cistern, based on a system for collecting rainwater from part of the roofs.



In the first phase, the fortress consisted of a Precinct - the core of the fortification, which includes the top of the hill, adapted to the configuration of the land and had an ovoid shape. The walls were placed directly on the rock. The entrance to the fortress was on the north side of the Precinct. At the eastern and western ends there were two towers, one circular in the eastern part, and one rectangular in the western part. The representative one-story building on the south side also dates from this period. It shows architectural elements that belong to the period of the appearance of Gothic in Transylvania, that is, in the last decades of the 13th century.

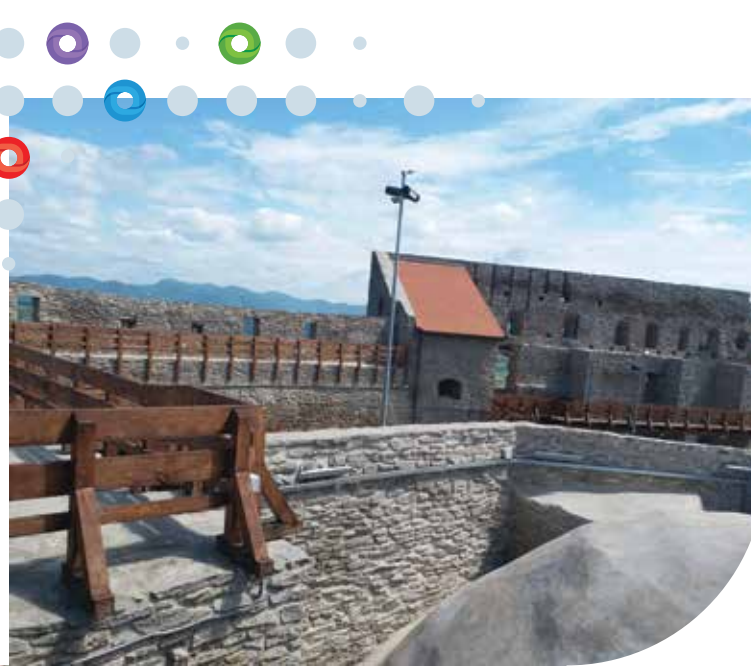
At the end of the 13th century, the fortress became the residence of voivodes Roland Borșa and Ladislau Kán, from where they exercised their authority over the voivodship, which was only formally dependent on the Kingdom of Hungary. The Deva Court of voivode Ladislau Kán registers a remarkable qualitative leap compared to previous periods. Historical sources confirm the existence of a Jude of the voivode's Court and a Stolnic, dignitaries that constitute an innovation of the era of Ladislau Kán and prove the existence of an administrative system that took over the functions of the royal power.



The 3rd precinct with an appreciable area of land, mainly protects the access road to the main precincts on the top of the cliff. The entrance is made through a gate located on the north side, from which the precinct wall with guard road starts. 180 m to the northwest is the second gate, from where the courtyard turns south, reaching the vicinity of the second precinct. At the easternmost point the courtyard forms a rectangular route in the shape of a bastion, filled with soil and provided with ramparts for firing light weapons. The south-west part of this courtyard is more complex, here the terrain being less rugged allowed the construction of three triangular-shaped bastion terraces with double walls, filled with soil, forming platforms with crossbeams for artillery specific to the 18th century.



In 1444, Ladislav Vth donated the fortress and its domain to Ioan of Hunedoara, the voivode of Transylvania, by royal donation, as a reward for his victories against the Turks. With his death, in 1456, the Fortress belonged to Matia Corvin and remained in the family property through Ioan Corvin, Matia's natural son, until his death in 1504. After the end of the Huniads, the Fortress became the property of the state again, until Vladislav II pledges it together with the domain of some nobles from Transylvania. From 1530 the fortress came under the possession of voivode Ioan Zápolya. After the death of the voivode in 1540 and the expulsion of his wife, Queen Isabella, in 1550, Transylvania came under the rule of Austria.



In 1731, Iulius Visconti received the fortress as a donation from Charles II, from whom Count Ioan Haller, the military commander of Transylvania, bought it in 1743. In 1752, Count Miksa Ullisses Braun, commander of Transylvania, carried out repairs to the fortress. The importance of the Deva fortress gradually decreased, and according to the notes of Andrei Huszti, it was only used to suppress possible uprisings. At the proposal of Count Mitrovsky, the commander of the army corps in Transylvania established in 1800, the fortress ceases to be used for military purposes. The abandoned fortress was saved by King Francis I who was impressed by it during a visit to Transylvania in 1817. The repair of the fortress took 12 months.

The fortress was permanently destroyed during the revolution of 1848-1849. During this period the Deva fortress was occupied by an Austrian unit. In 1849, General Czeck attacks the fortress and after 8 weeks of siege it surrendered on 27th of May. On 13th of August 1849, in the Deva Fortress, the ammunition depot located in the eastern part of the Fortress was blown up.

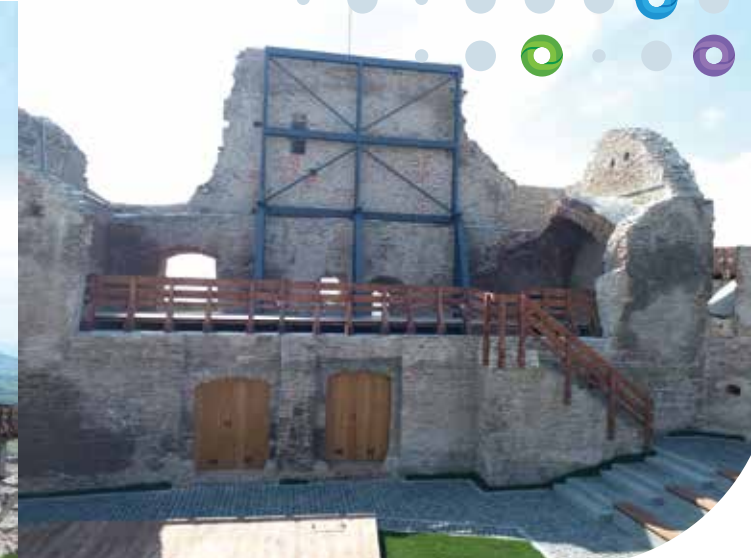


In the conditions that determined the formation of the principality, Deva turned into a border fortress meant to oversee the path of possible Turkish attacks to the interior of Transylvania. The organization of the defense of this border started back in the time of General Castaldo, who upon his settlement in the fortress in 1551 found it in ruins, without sufficient armament. The Transylvania Diet therefore ordered its fortification and arming. A military camp is set up here (mercenaries, mostly Spaniards) under the command of Castaldo.



In 1579, Francisc David, the Protestant preacher and founding bishop of the Reformed Church, later also of the Unitarian Church in Transylvania, was imprisoned and died in the Deva Fortress.

In 1581, the Deva Fortress came into the possession of Francisc Geszthy, the commander of the troops and the governor of Transylvania, through a donation from voivode Cristofor Bathory. He carried out construction work, especially in the southern part.



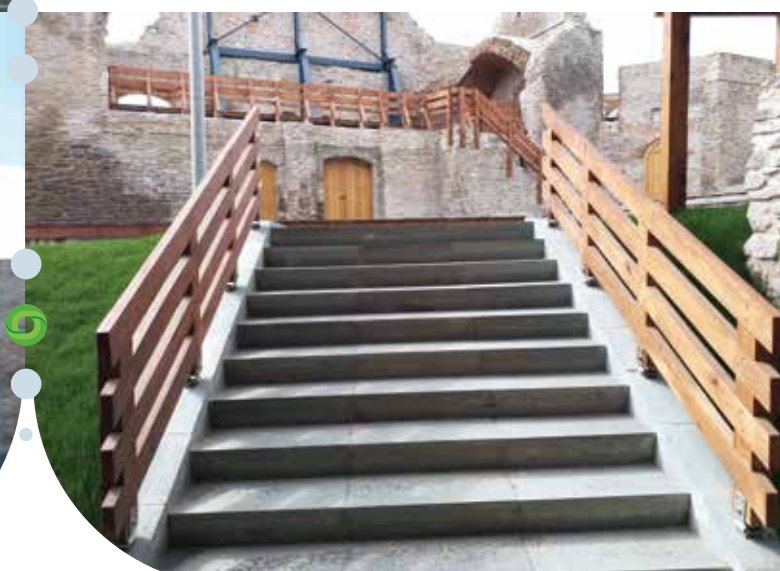
The municipality of Deva, as the owner of the Deva Fortress and the Fortress Hill, has taken several steps to rehabilitate the historical monument and introduce it to the tourist circuit.

Thus, in 2007, the elaboration of the technical-economic documentation for the re-functionalization of Precinct I was started, but the conclusions of the archaeological excavations highlighted the fact that the ruins were in an advanced state of decay, with the risk of their collapse. As a result, only the study for the safety of the ruins was developed and "Emergency Interventions" works were carried out between December 2007 and December 2011.



At the beginning of the 12th century, the fortress was the scene of disputes and fights between the main rivals to the throne of Transylvania, coming in turn under the dominion of Sigismund Bathory, Moise Secuiul and General Basta, who occupied it in 1601. Ștefan Bocskay drives the Austrian troops out of Transylvania and compels the Austrian commander of Deva, Belgioso, Basta's successor, to surrender. In 1607, the Diet of Transylvania declared the Deva Fortress a perpetual property of the Principality of Transylvania.

Under Gabriel Bethlen, the fortress enters a new phase of restoration. The prince donates the fortress to his first wife, and after her death the fortress comes into the possession of his nephew Ștefan Bethlen and his wife Maria Szechy. She sold it in 1640 to Prince Rákóczi I, keeping from that time an inventory in which parts of the fortress are mentioned, an inventory that shows the deplorable state in which the fortress had reached, it was unkempt (weak garrison, little and outdated weaponry, unrepaired rooms and fortifications for a long time). The prince orders some major repair work to be done. He also orders the large cistern for drinking water to be built and builds a large bastion that today bears the name Bethlen Bastion.



The Precincts II and III of the Deva Fortress were rehabilitated in the period 2014-2016, through a project funded by European funds within the Regional Operational Program 2007-2013, and Precinct I was rehabilitated in the period 2021-2024 through a project with financing from European funds within the Regional Operational Program 2014-2020 and the Western Regional Program 2021-2027.

