



The construction of the Kadriorg Palace was started by Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, in 1718. It was named Kadriorg in honour of his wife Catherine I. The palace was designed by the Italian architect Nicola Michetti and its abundantly decorated main hall is one of the most exquisite examples of baroque architecture both in Estonia and in northern Europe. Most of the Russian rulers visited the imperial summer residence. Great changes in the life and in the interior of the palace occurred in the first half of the 19th century, when Tallinn, which had become a fashionable holiday resort, was often visited by Nicholas I and his family.



Unknown artist, after G. Ch. Grooth. Portrait of Empress Catherine I on Horseback. Mid-18th c. Art Museum of Estonia

The palace served as the main building of the Art Museum of Estonia in the 1920s, and again in 1946–1991. In the 1930s, it was the residence of the Head of State of the Estonian Republic. During that period, extensions to palace were added – the banquet hall and orangery; many rooms were redecorated. In 2000, the palace was opened as the Kadriorg Art Museum. The permanent exhibition includes western European and Russian paintings, graphic arts, sculpture and applied arts from the 16th to the 20th century.



EESTI KUNSTIMUUSEUM
KADRIORG

KADRIORG ART MUSEUM

Weizenbergi 37, Tallinn, Estonia
kadriorumuuseum.ekm.ee

Museum hours:
Tue, Thu–Sun 10am–6pm
Wed 10am–8pm

Registration for guided tours
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**Your Guide
at the
Kadriorg
Art Museum**

The Great Hall

The story of the hunter Actaeon and Diana, the goddess of the hunt, is depicted on the ceiling of the Great Hall, the palace's largest and most splendid room. Diana, the goddess of the hunt, loved to go swimming with her companions. One beautiful day, Actaeon happened to be hunting in the same forest. Walking around the forest, Actaeon happened upon Diana swimming in the nude. This made Diana very angry and she decided to use her special powers to punish him. She changed the hunter into a deer. Actaeon's hunting dogs no longer recognised their master and started chasing him.



DID YOU KNOW?

Initially, there was a black-and-white stone tile floor in the Great Hall of Kadriorg Palace. If you want to see what the floor looked like originally, take a peek under a stove.

Official Portrait of Peter the Great

Unknown artist

Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, is an important man for Kadriorg Palace, because he decided to build an imperial summer residence here in 1718.

In the official portrait, Peter the Great is wearing a splendid suit of armour, although armour was not worn in his day. The artist wants to tell us that Peter the Great was a great warrior. Look at what is on the table and under the table. On the table we see the royal orb, the sceptre and crown, which indicate that the man in the painting is the ruler. An eagle, which is the symbol of the Russian state, is peering out from under the table. Do you see the sea and ships in the background? This means that Peter thought it was very important for his large empire to have a sea border and a powerful navy.



Port of Tallinn. Morning

Alexey Bogolyubov

Before becoming a painter, Alexey Bogolyubov was a seaman. He travelled a lot and later, as a painter, painted many seascapes from memory. *Port of Tallinn. Morning* is one of those works. You can check to see if everything is depicted correctly, but remember that many new buildings have been built in Tallinn in the meanwhile.



DID YOU KNOW?

The original dark blue wall paint has been discovered and restored on the third floor of the seaside wing.

Can you tell from which direction the wind is blowing in the painting?

Stove

In addition to lovely paintings, sculptures and rooms, there are also beautiful and interesting stoves in Kadriorg Palace. Masters painted all the stove tiles by hand and no two tiles are identical. There are lots of interesting characters on the stoves.



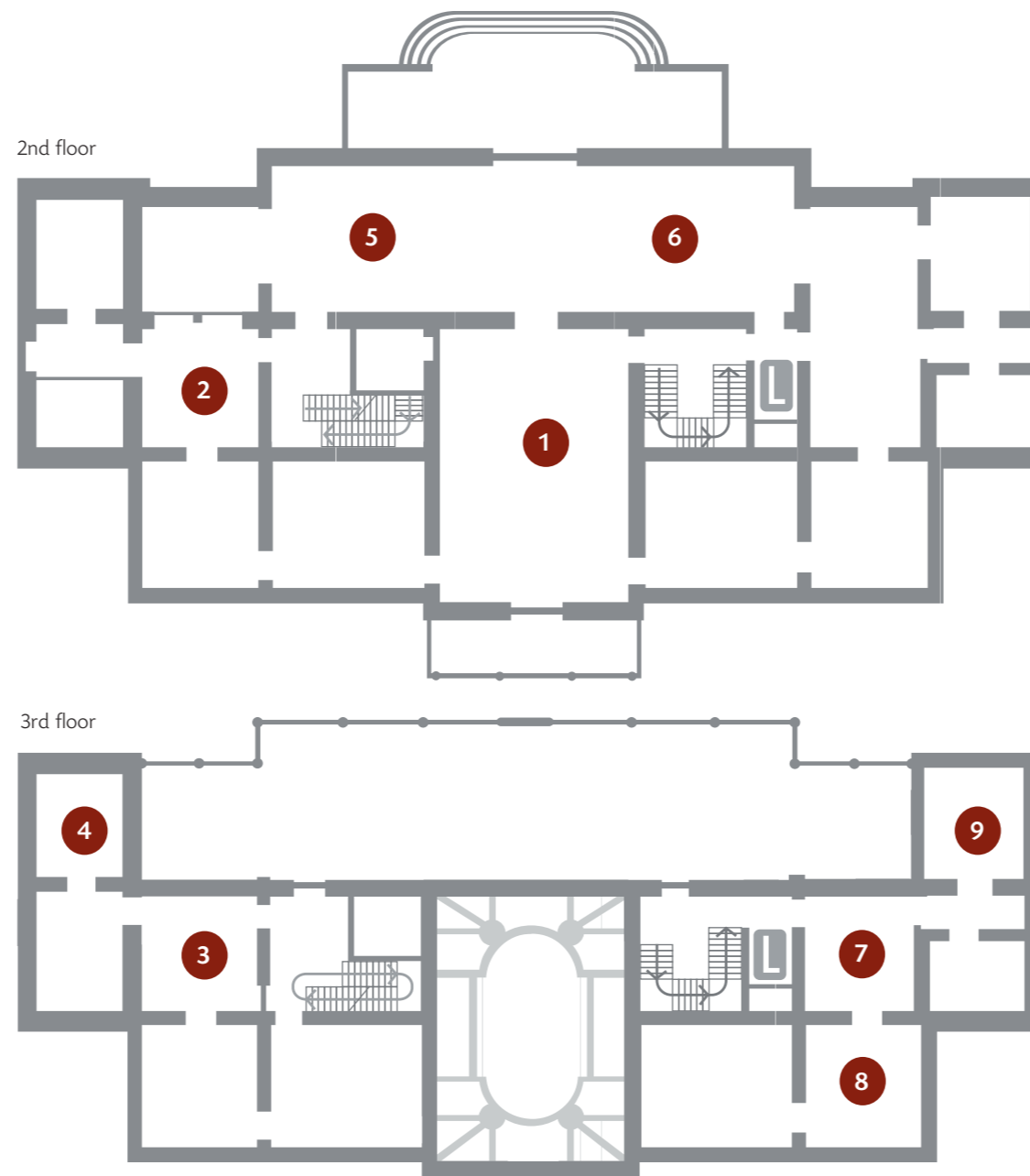
DID YOU KNOW?

The stoves in rulers' palaces were usually heated from hidden passages, but the stoves in Kadriorg Palace are heated from the front. The reason is that the rulers only visited Kadriorg Palace in the summer, when the stoves did not need to be heated.

Find an animal like this on a stove. What animal is it?

START HERE

USE MUSEUM FLOOR PLANS FOR ORIENTATION



Banqueting Hall

From 1929 to 1940, the palace served as the residence for the Estonian head of state. Initially, the palace had only one large formal room, the Great Hall. But this became too small for the president's formal receptions and in the 1930s the Banqueting Hall was built as an extension of the palace.

Which Estonian president was in office when the Banqueting Hall was built?

Lennart Meri
Kaarel Kadalipp
Konstantin Päts



DID YOU KNOW?

Ordinary Estonian potatoes and tomatoes are depicted on the ceiling of the Banqueting Hall, along with exotic fruits.

Portrait of Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna

Vasily Bovin after Christina Robertson
Grand Duchess

Maria Nikolaevna was the daughter of Nicholas I, Tsar of Russia. Maria had four brothers and two sisters, and they often visited the summer residence in Kadriorg.

Look at the painting and try to guess what kind of person Maria Nikolaevna was. Was she compassionate, but lazy and careless? Or passionate and energetic? Or maybe she loved music and was courteous and polite to her friends? What do you think?



Journey to Noah's Ark

Lambert de Hondt

The painting depicts the Bible story of Noah, who was commanded by God to build a ship to save his family and a pair of animals from every species from the flood sent to punish humankind. In the work, we do not see the ship, but the journey toward it. The artist has depicted animals and birds from the world as it was known at that time. Unlike today's artists, Lambert de Hondt had not seen all the animals and therefore some are not portrayed correctly. One of them is even a fairytale animal!

Which animals are they? Look at the picture carefully. Solve these word games for clues.

1. OLIN
2. ERHORCOSIN
3. COUNIRN



Boy with a Goose

Jacob Gerritsz Cuyyp

In the painting called *Boy with a Goose*, the boy is holding a piece of paper on which a sentence in French is written, along with the artist's name. The more educated people of the day could understand the sentence. It can be translated in three ways.

What do you think the artist meant?

1. My goose does everything.
2. Money does everything.
3. My eye does everything.

Try it – move around in the room and see if the boy with the goose and the girl with the rooster follow you the entire time!



DID YOU KNOW?

The pair of paintings called *Boy with a Goose* and *Girl with a Rooster* are versions of *Boy Holding a Goose* and *Girl with an Egg Basket* at the world-famous Louvre Museum in Paris.

Intarsia

The room that was once used as Konstantin Päts's library is decorated with views of Tallinn's Old Town executed in the intarsia technique. Intarsia is a mosaic created of various pieces of coloured wood.

Do you know Tallinn well enough to be able to tell which building no longer exists and which church was not depicted by the artist?



DID YOU KNOW?

There is a bomb shelter under the Banqueting Hall and Flower Garden, which was built at the time that Konstantin Päts transformed Kadriorg Palace into the presidential residence.

Answers:
5) Konstantin Päts
7) the weigh-house no longer exists on Town Hall Square and the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral is not depicted
9) lion, rhinoceros and unicorn