

Location: Via Benedetto Croce, city of l'Aquila.

Description: Fortezza Spagnola (Spanish Fort) is a medieval castle made of masonry and was erected in 1534 by the Spanish viceroy Don Pedro de Toledo. It is currently hosting the National Museum of Abruzzo. Damage was observed at the front side of the castle, where the highest part of the wall, connected with the inclined roof, collapsed in the direction perpendicular to the wall plane.



Fig. 1 Location of the Spanish Fort [source: Google Maps]

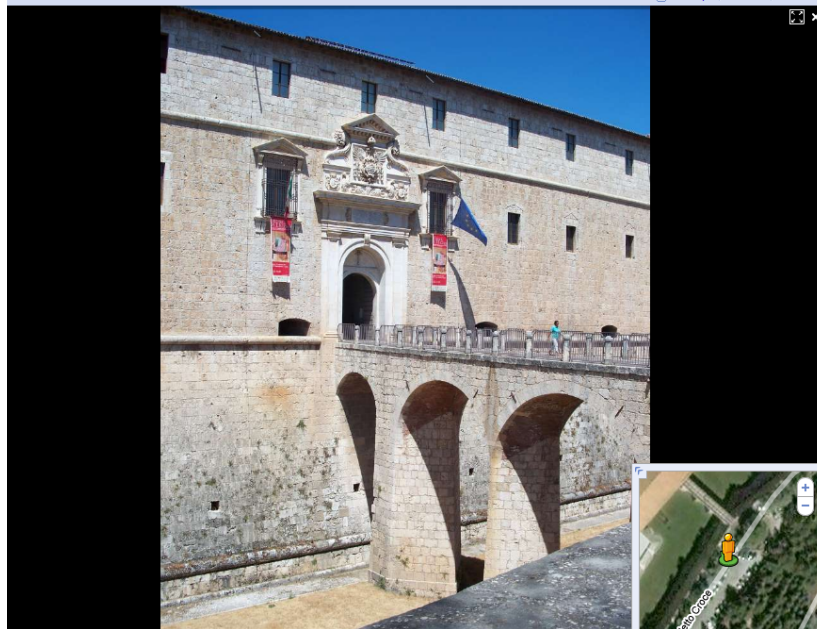


Fig. 2 Photo of the front view of Fortezza Spagnola before the earthquake [photo credit: Luigi Milani; source: Google Maps]



Fig. 3 Front view of the Fortezza Spagnola after the earthquake; central part (left) and right part (right). The upper part of the wall has failed at several locations. More severe damage is observed at the centre, above the main entrance, where the upper end of the wall, supporting the roof, has collapsed. As a result, the roof has sustained significant damage as well



Fig. 4 Close-up views of the central part of the front side of Fortezza Spagnola



Fig. 5 Fallen rocks in the ditch surrounding the fort on the left side of the entrance (left) and on the right side of the entrance (right)