

Solius Castle

Dating from the 15th century, it is probable that some type of fort existed here in the 12th-13th century. Only the artificial recesses made in the rock remain from the medieval period. On the rock next to the castle we find the Cova dels Moros or Cova del Forn, where consists of a small cave cut into the rock which is believed to be from prehistoric times and which was used as a shelter for years and seems to also have been used as a crematorium a long time ago. Under the rock there is the Solius castle spring. The panorama from both rocks is excellent.

On the other side it is possible to see a hill standing out from among the green of the trees which is half covered and crowned by many ruined walls: this is Solius Castle. The current condition of the castle is limited to the ruins of the walls, which have been eroded by the rain, wind, and the passing of time. A path leads us to the castle. A fortified wall, which is the wall in the best condition, has a rounded door that gives us access to the ascending staircase; many of the stairs are cut out of the rock. Around the whole castle there are round holes that formerly were used to hold sticks and close the access to the castle. Halfway up the mountain there is a cistern or water collector made from stones and half covered by the thickness of the woods.



As it is a strategic location and according to the archaeological remains found there, it was inhabited a long time before the start of historical documentation, which dates back to the 11th century. The foundations of Rock Castle, to give it its former name, date back to the aforementioned 11th century.

It was a normal room and, due to the danger of war, also a fort, as some of the people of Solius were obliged to defend it, as they belonged to the Girona guard who had to "guard this castle and personnel making barriers and barbicans". Remains of this have been found all over the rock in the form of multiple holes and clearings.

It lost importance over time as it was difficult to maintain. The owner of Can Dalmau carried out building work in 1830, in the Carlist period. The work was not done with his own money but using money, which came from the Soc de Sant Baldiri.

The work was done with little solidity and has barely reached our own times. The part which remained, in the South east, was pulled down altogether by a strong *tramuntanada* (Northerly wind), on 9th September 1969. In order to perpetuate its memory, monsignor Josep Maria Cervera Berta composed a *sardana* (Catalan popular dance) entitled "El Castell de Solius".