

The fort on the sea, known by its Turkish name "Bourtzi." meaning tower, has become Nafplio's trademark. On this small island, which is in the middle of the city's harbor, there was once Byzantine church . The Venetians, having understood the strategic importance of this site for the protection of the port, built a tower on the rock in the 14th century.

The fort was designed to fit the narrow shape of the island. The center is taken up by a tower with cannon positions on either side. The interior of the castle has three floors which were connected by moveable stairs for reasons of safety. Water was supplied from a large circular water tank that was located in the cellar, under the tower.

A small harbor was created on the north-eastern side to enable safer access to the fort . Between the fort and the sea wall there was a narrow passage, which could be closed with a chain to protect the port from Enemy ships . The fort bears the signs of many alterations and repairs from different times .

The Turks surrounded the fort with the so-called "porporella" in other words an undersea barricade of stones to make it impossible for large ships to approach.

In the 18th century the Venetians proceeded with additions to the Bourtzi. They raised the height of the central tower and almost the entire island was covered with defensive positions. It was an active fort until 1865. It then became the place of residence for the executioners who carried out the death sentences on the prisoners in the Palamidi. In 1935 it was turned into a hotel.

Nowadays it is an archaeological site.