The Pajauta valley provides favourable conditions for the preservation of organic material, resulting in the recovery of an impressive number of wood, leather, bone, horn, and birch bark artifacts. The Kernave collection of birch bark artifacts is in fact unique among museums in Eastern Europe. Five households have been excavated in the lower town in Pajauta valley. One represents that of a craftsman who worked with bone, the other a jeweller. Local blacksmiths produced complex utensils for different functions, as well as some ceremonial household equipment. Full-time craft specialization existed. Artifacts testify to the high skills of the craftsmen.

Kernave was noted for its trade and industry. Most of the products of local craftsmen were intended for regional exchange. Kernave also participated, however, in long distance trade networks with Livonia, central and western Europe, Kievan Russia and the Near East. Many imported objects have been found, including III and XIII cent. glass beaker fragments, jewelry from the Near East, Kievan Russia and western Europe. The numismatic collection of the museum includes all of the primary types of the early Lithuanian coins. Fourteenth century Kernave represented one of the most important defensive outposts in Lithuania. Together with Medininkai and Trakai it formed part of the defensive system protecting Vilnius. After its devastation by the Teutonic Order in 1390, however, Kernave lost its strategic status. This was largely due to the rapid growth of Vilnius and Trakai. In 1396-1392, Kernave still had regional significance, but later it represented merely a small fort on the route to Vilnius. After the battle of Zalgiris (1382), Kernave was only an average manor in the Grand Duchy. The fourteenth century town moved to another place - on the edge of the upper terrace of the Neris, where the present town is located.

Archaeological excavations encompassed not only old Kernave, but the existing town as well. The site of the old Kernave church was investigated (i.e. its location in 1430 as well as the XV - XVIII cent. cemetery near the church. In addition, excavations were carried out at the old Kernave estate and in other areas of the town were the XV cent. layer continued.

Old Trakai is now a small settlement with no remains of a former castle visible in its southern edge. The place in which the castle once stood is an almost rectangular, level plot some 140 x 150 m in area surrounded by an impressively made up to 40 m wide and 8 m deep. The buildings of the former monastery (now it is a pantheon) and church stand in the north-western part of the castle area.

Archaeological investigations in Old Trakai have been conducted since 1994. They are organized and carried out by the Historical National Park of Trakai and the Chair of Archaeology at Vilnius University, Dr. A. Kuncavicius is in charge of the expedition. A negligible part (some 400 square m) of the former castle area has been investigated to date. The investigations are being conducted in the southern, south-western and eastern edges of the castle area, where the defensive wall once stood, and in the former courtyard of the castle, not far away from the entrance to it.

The investigations have revealed that the castle was surrounded by a solid parapet wall whose remains have been found throughout the perimeter of the castle area. The parapet is approximately 1 m down from the present ground level, the remaining wall is some 2 m thick and up to 4 m high. On one side, the wall was built of coarse stone and on the other side of brick (in the western edge of the castle area the bricks are on the outer side, and in the eastern edge they are on the inner side). This is the so-called shell type of masonry, characteristic of the oldest masonry structures. The Baltic pattern was used for bonding bricks, i.e. two long bricks were followed by a short one. This brick-laying technique, the oldest in our country, was widely used in late 13th-early 14th c. The analysis of the wall and mortar used for its construction shows that the bricks (25-33 c.c. the analysis of the wall and mortar used for its construction shows that the bricks and the composition are identical to those of the Upper Castle of Vilnius. However, differently from other defensive walls (in Kaunas, Kėdainiai, Lithuania and Medininkai), the exterior outer line is not of the old Trakai castle but of the medieval town's outer line. The wall of the Old Trakai castle was built of brick, whereas in other Lithuanian castles brick was only used for approximately 2 m-thick and several m-high portion of the walls. The parapetial castle of New Trakai was almost completely built of stone. The defensive walls of this castle and, probably, the monastic buildings inside the court-yard were roofed with so-called nuns, i.e. trough-shaped tiles. The archaeological investigations corroborate the vague statement found in the annals that the castle was built on an uninhabited hill grown over with forest, which was further confirmed by palaeobotanic evidence. Incidentally, the name of the Trakai originates from the word trakai, meaning a small or burnt-out clearing in a forest.

The burnt castle of Old Trakai has never been rebuilt. Meanwhile, the castle of New Trakai has risen. It is not known why the old castle was abandoned and a new one was built in an uninhabited forest area.