

 Round trip: Fortress Mountaineering

## Fortress Giants in the Alpine Landscape of Piedmont

Monuments at high mountain peaks - in deep canyons - at steep slopes



Fortress Bard



Eiserne Maske

### Our Travel Recommendation

The marvellous Alpine region in northwest of Italy is a place for everyone and has much to offer. It is a journey for nature lovers into rich natural resources spoiling with clean water, pure air and beautiful surroundings. It is a journey for sport enthusiasts sliding slopes downhill in the winter or a journey for mountaineers in the summer going up to almost inaccessible paths.

Embedded in the extraordinary alpine region of north-west Italy, there are impressive and mighty fortified titans that wait to be discovered by **fortress climbers** and **fortress mountaineers**. It is also a journey into ancient history reflecting culture, society and old traditions.

The alpine fortress mountaineering roundtrip starts with the **fortified castle of Verrès** dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In the next alpine location, the **mighty fortress of Bard** can be conquered by climbing up to the three defence stations positioned at different levels upon a high imposing rock spur, the lowest at 400m above ground and the highest at 467m.

Less challenging to climb but to hike, is the **Fortified Ideal City Turin**, representing a perfect example of fortification and regular town planning. Museums and the **old gates** will help visitors to discover more about Turin's fortification history.

The **fortress system Fenestrelle** in the Piedmont region is the biggest European fortress system. With a surface area of 1.3 million m<sup>2</sup> and altitudes of 1,100 to 1,800 meters, it is the most challenging part of the route for fortress mountaineers.

The small alpine location Exilles has another **imposing fort** dating back at least to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is linked to the **famous story of the Man in the Iron Mask**. The trip uphill to the fort will be awarded with a visit in integrated the museum informing about the region's history.

The Italian Alpine fortress route, will stop in Susa. Here, visitors can experience a magical atmosphere where time stands still. The impressive **fortress Brunetta** is one of the most remarkable examples of the 18<sup>th</sup> century fortifications. The ruins are accessible and host local events, weddings and cuisine for brave fortress climbers and mountaineers.



European Culture Route  
Fortified Monuments

[www.forte-cultura.eu](http://www.forte-cultura.eu)



Fortified Castle in Verres



Former Fortified Ideal City Turin

*Monuments of Power - full of Life*

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 <b>Verres</b> Fortified Castle	<p>The <b>Verrès Castle</b> is one of the most impressive buildings from the Middle Ages in that area. The fortified castle from the 14<sup>th</sup> century has a large tower which is three stories tall. Fortress climbers will have a wonderful view over the commune that lies below on one side and the castle courtyard on the other side. From Verrès, several other mountaineering tours such as to the Castle Issogne or the Castle Villa can be undertaken.</p> <p><a href="http://www.comune.verres.ao.it">www.comune.verres.ao.it</a></p>
 <b>Bard</b> Fortress	<p>With its numerous well-preserved buildings, the <b>alpine town Bard</b> still spreads the charme of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The main attraction thrones high above the small town. The today's <b>multimedia and multipurpose fortress of Bard</b> was a former military stronghold of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Fortress climbers can climb three main defence stations at altitudes of 400m or up to 467m. Today, the fortress is a place for educational workshops, hosts a highly interactive museum for children and is a place for events and exhibitions.</p> <p><a href="http://www.fortedibard.com">www.fortedibard.com</a> <a href="http://www.comune.bard.ao.it">www.comune.bard.ao.it</a></p>
 <b>Turin</b> Fortified Ideal City	<p>Turin, known for its delicious chocolate, is an outstanding example of fortification. The <b>Fortified Ideal City</b> was built by Francesco Paciotto in 1564 on the order of the duke of Savoy. Today, the fortification history can be discovered in the <b>National Museum of Artillery</b> which is located in the former citadel of Turin. Moreover, there are four gates of the fortified town that can be visited: <b>Porta di Po, Porta Nuova, Porta Segusina and Porta di Dora</b>. Turin is also well known for its Savoy Residences that were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.</p> <p><a href="http://www.artiglieria.org">www.artiglieria.org</a> <a href="http://www.comune.torino.it">www.comune.torino.it</a></p>
 <b>Fenestrelle</b> Major Fortress System	<p>The municipality Fenestrelle is home to the <b>famous Fenestrelle fortification system</b>, also known as the '<b>Great Wall of the Alps</b>'. It is the biggest European fortress system with a surface area of 1.3 million m<sup>2</sup>, standing at altitudes between 1,100 and 1,800 meters. The fortress system was built by Savoy between 1728 and 1850 following the design of architect Ignazio Bertola. Tourists can enjoy the beautiful alpine countryside by hiking to the many lovely villages representing typical alpine architecture such as Chambons or Mentoulles.</p> <p><a href="http://www.fortedifenestrelle.com">www.fortedifenestrelle.com</a></p>
 <b>Exilles</b> Mountain Fortress	<p>Exilles is best known for its <b>imposing fort</b> whose origins are ancient, dating back at least to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is linked to the <b>famous story of the Man in the Iron Mask</b>. Today, it is a small village still conserving the rural alpine way of life. The <b>Exilles Fort</b> was rebuilt between 1818 and 1829 by the King of Sardinia. Today, the Exilles Fort has become a museum and exhibits parts of the military collection from Turin's Museum of the Mountain with military uniforms from the alpine troops, maps and images.</p> <p><a href="http://www.fortediexilles.it">www.fortediexilles.it</a> <a href="http://www.comune.exilles.it">www.comune.exilles.it</a></p>
 <b>Susa</b> Fortress	<p>The Susa Valley welcomes tourists to actively discover the region by finding traces of history of the area. A magical atmosphere where time stands still. The impressive <b>fortress Brunetta</b> is one remarkable examples of the 18<sup>th</sup> century fortifications, built in 1709 and later demolished by the orders of Napoleon. Today, the ruins of the Brunetta fortress host <b>a location for events and catering</b>.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ilfordellabrunetta.it">www.ilfordellabrunetta.it</a> <a href="http://www.vallesusa-tesori.it">www.vallesusa-tesori.it</a></p>



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Mighty multipurpose and multimedia fortress in Bard



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Porta di Po in Turin, tasty high quality cuisine in a fortified scenery



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Fortress line of Fenestrelle



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Fort of Exilles



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Dining and culinary events in the ruins of the former fortress Brunetta in Susa

## Monuments of Power - full of Life