

THE FORT OF BARD

At the southern limit of Aosta Valley, a rocky prominence dominates the landscape. On this prominence the house of savoy built the Bard Fort.

The imposing Bard Fort became famous for having slowed the rapid advance of Napoleon's huge troops for 14 days during the second campaign of Italy, and it represents one of the best examples of a barrage stronghold; it has remained almost intact since its reconstruction in 1830/38. It was reopened to the public in 2006 following a huge recovery intervention.

The stronghold consists of five buildings, oriented towards the north for defensive purposes and arranged at different levels, from the lowest one called the Opera Ferdinando to the highest one called the Opera Carlo Alberto.

The top of the rocky prominence is easily reachable thanks to the glass bubbles of the futuristic panoramic elevators that easily allow you to overcome the 100-meter difference in height from the river to the quadrangular and arcaded Arms Square, where there are the exhibition spaces of the Museum of the Alps, the Cannoneer, and the Cellars.

Then in the Prisons, a multimedia path tells the story of the fortress and in the adjacent Gola courtyard there is a café-restaurant, a bookshop and the Hotel Cavour et des Officiers.

The Fort is however also served on the south side by an external panoramic road, and along the north slope by an internal road over a kilometer in length, which, with narrow hairpin bends, supported by mighty walls, finally leads to the courtyard of the Stables.

Both streets are pedestrianized and join in a ring in the square of the medieval village, headquarters of the town hall and the parish church.

The village is longitudinally crossed by a single narrow road on the sides of which there are significant buildings that bear witness to past centuries.

Continuing south, the road meets the smooth Eneolithic archaeological park on the right and joins the stretch, paved with massive stone blocks, of the Roman consular road of the Via della Gallie towards the village of Donnas.

Along the way, numerous poles illustrate the surrounding landscape, the anthropic and natural context rich in geological, floral and faunal peculiarities.

From the summit, you can admire the central valley, shaped by the glacier, on the Champorcher Valley and the Corma di Machaby, that follows the sinuous path of the Dora Baltea, the waterfalls and the lateral tributaries, up to get lost towards the cultivated fields of Hone one and Arnad and the characteristic terraced vineyards.

Therefore the Bard Fort is a small universe that crosses time and space.