

Forte di Fenestrelle



(1728 – 1850)

1,145 metres above sea level

Conceived in the autumn of 1727 by the engineer Ignazio Bertola, who designed it on the basis of the will and indications expressed by King Vittorio Amedeo II, the Forte di Fenestrelle knew the beginning of its construction work in the spring of 1728, with the last construction site dismantled only in 1850. Built along the ridge of the mountain for over 3 kilometres, the structure occupies a total area of 1,350,000 square metres and a difference in height between the first and last building of almost 700 metres. Impressive measures that still make it the largest Alpine fortress in Europe today.

To discover the most hidden corners, then, it is possible to go along the so-called "Royal Walk", a hiking route that leads from Forte San Carlo to the 1,800 metres above sea level of Forte delle Valli, with special stops at the small towns of Santa Barbara, the Gates, the Hospital and the most characteristic sections of the "Covered Staircase" of 4,000 steps.

Finally, among the famous people who have celebrated the Forte di Fenestrelle over the years, there was also Edmondo De Amicis, known all over the world for the novel "Cuore". The Ligurian writer probably visited the structure in 1883 during one of his frequent stays in Pinerola and described it with plenty of emotions and details in the work "Alle porte dell'Italia".

