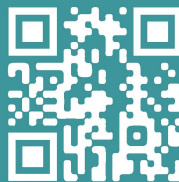


# Forti dell'Esseillon



(1817-1834)

**1,300 metres above sea level**

Known sometimes as a "barrier", the Forti dell'Esseillon consist of five different structures built between 1817 and 1834 by the then government of the Kingdom of Sardinia and today extend between the French municipalities of Aussois and Avrieux. The single Forts bear the names of the royal family of the House of Savoy (Vittorio Emanuele, Maria Teresa, Maria Cristina, Carlo Alberto and Carlo Felice) and were made on the model of Montalembert. If only traces or ruins of the Carlo Alberto and Carlo Felice forts remain, the other three structures have already been redeveloped (Forte Maria Cristina and Ridotta Maria Teresa) or are still undergoing important restoration work (Forte Vittorio Emanuele).

To experience firsthand the complexity of the manoeuvres that the military had to face in service at the fortifications of the Esseillon, it is possible to walk along the so-called "Sentier des Bâisseurs", a route suitable for the whole family that connects the Forte Carlo Alberto to the Forte Maria Cristina. Just over 6km by 500m of positive altitude difference with 11 information tables that summarise stories and environmental peculiarities of the area. Finally, the Forte Vittorio Emanuele deserves a special mention: a fort whose grandeur is evident if you look, from above, at the various structures that make up the complex, designed to accommodate up to 1,500 men: the penitentiary, the barracks, the low battery, the troop quarters, a hospital with 60 beds and a kitchen capable of baking 750 fresh loaves per day.



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