## **Route description**

**Starting from Piazza Castello** (Castle Square), adorned by the splendid façade of the Residence of the counts Amico. The foundations of the ricetto and the fortress date back to the late 1200s, while the seventeenth century fortified house was transformed into a Baroque residence in 1730, designed by Benedetto Alfieri.

Since 1905 the castle has housed the local council offices. On the nobles' floor the red room and green room are worth visiting.

In the cellars the **Ethnographic Museum 'L Ciar** is open to the public, displaying reproductions of typical lower class environments.

Moving on from the parish church of Santi Pietro e Paolo, the walk continues along the level Via De Rolandis, named after the first martyr of the Risorgimento and inventor of the tricolour Italian flag, who lived here at number 5.

Proceeding amidst the houses, the route turns left into the cobbled Via Vittorio Veneto, where to the right there is a spectacular view across the surrounding hills.

Then the route goes down the steps of Via Nazario Sauro, as far as Piazza Giuseppe Mazzini; after crossing the square follow Via Conte Amico down the hill.

Take Via Moriasco to the left, which narrows and bends to the left as it runs down to the bottom of the valley, on paved road.

At the crossroads proceed straight on up the hill to a T-junction, turning left on to the road to Fabiano; this road goes slightly uphill, between fields, to the village of Moncucco, with its little church dedicated to **San Giovanni Battista**.

The walk continues uphill on a track between hazelnut and olive plantations and open fields. At the top, a level stretch continues through a more wooded area, before descending sharply. At the crossroads go straight on to reach the Romanesque church dedicated to the Madonna della Neve, which has a handy picnic area nearby.

Return to the crossroads and take the right, downhill on the tarmac road, to the T-junction at the bottom of the valley, then take the left, on the level.

After about 500 m, on the left, there is the centre of the Associazione Val di Treu, a group running the **Museo delle Memorie Contadine**; a countryside museum, open to the public, displaying a collection of tools, memorabilia and machinery once used in country life.

Shortly after, the route takes a right and after 100 m keep right again, beside a house and a track climbs back into the woods.

At the junction of the road SP88 Via Pastrone, take the left tarmac road passing between the first houses of the village. Walk past the cemetery and keep left at the junction, along Via Alessandro Manzoni, with a stretch of balcony on the left, to the parish church, back in Piazza Castello.



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The Romanesque Hills Route promotes knowledge and use of the romanesque heritage of the local areas between the river Po and Monferrato.

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## Romanesque walk

Castell'Alfero

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