

BORGO ITINERARY

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Departure itinerary: Piazza del Sedile



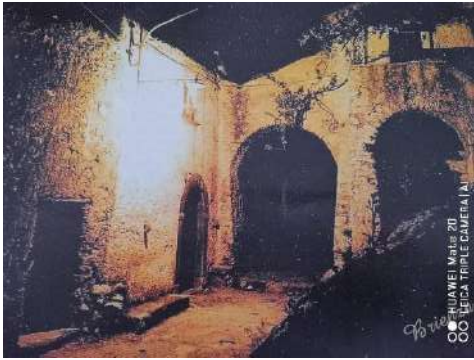
2 stage: Chazzillo – Piazza del Sedile, known as Piazza vecchia–



The square takes its name from a seat, that came back until the nineteenth century, these institutions, whose offices were elective but reserved for the highest social classes present in many Italian states and contributed to the city administration.

The eighteenth-century Colangelo palace keeps the attention for its balcony, named “Chiazzillo” because it forms almost a small square that is in a raised position with respect to the square in front of the seat. The palace boasts a beautiful arched entrance portal made of stone and consisting of bas-relief decoration in the cons, where on the left you can see a hunting scene, on the right a fisherman and in the center the date 1713 and the letter "M", (the latter date and letter) no longer present today. In the keystone there is an apotropaic mask that had the function of protecting the house by removing, with its monstrous appearance, evil spirits. In the forms present at the base of the predictors is depicted the image of a dove that holds a snake in its beak, it is a symbology typical of the Christianity of the origins, that is the good (the dove) that prevails over the evil (the snake).

Stage 3: Via Archi



The street owes its name to the presence of three round arches, the last of which (lower six) was obtained by digging into the rock, in this ward there were some churches that no longer exist today and instead the religious building that housed the wheel of the exposed has arrived in our days. The nuns who managed this structure belonged to one of the numerous convents present in Brienza since ancient times.



Stage 4: church of Santa Maria Assunta

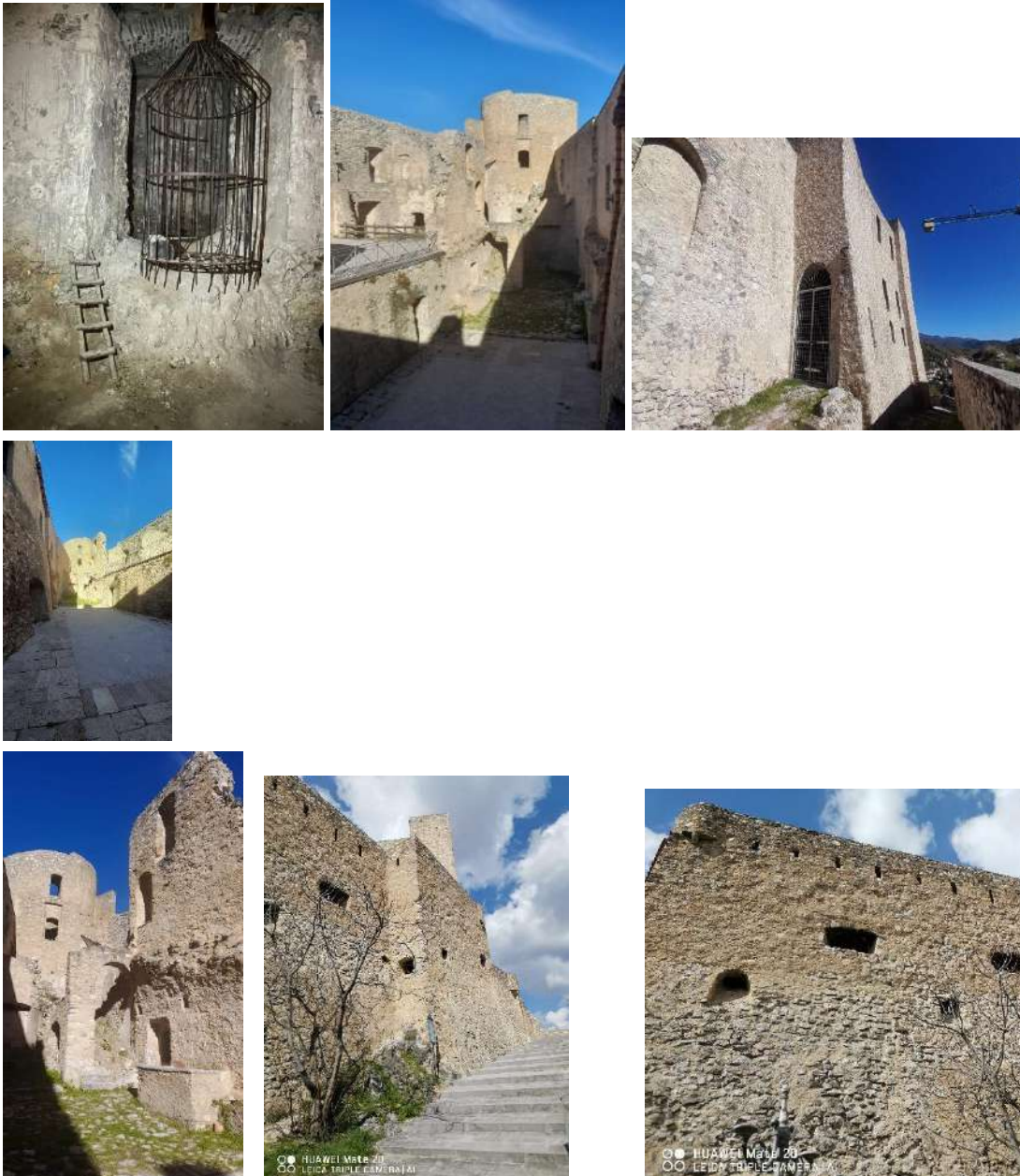


The church dedicated to the Virgin Assumption in Heaven was built between the XI / XII century, in Romanesque style with the adjacent bell tower overlooking the main facade. The church has three naves and a presbyterial area bordered by an eighteenth-century balustrade. In the first half of the eighteenth century the church, while maintaining the same system, was enlarged and on that occasion the bell tower was merged with the main building. Inside there is a very precious wooden altar on the occasion of the expansion works, just as in that same period was built the wooden choir loft above the main entrance. The church houses in addition to some statues and some paintings of fine workmanship. The building is spread over several levels, the first of which houses the holy lands, the second a small church with an adjoining chapel, which according to some historians was the previous church, the third the church dedicated to Santa Maria Assunta.

5 stage: governor's palace

The building also built in 1700 was the house the governor of the Caracciolo fief, subsequently it had several functions and finally was destined for the hospice. Its main entrance is located in front of the thirteenth-century stone portal that gave access to the castle at that time.

6 stage: Caracciolo castle



The Ministry of Cultural and Environmental Heritage, with its own Decree of April 28, 1993, declared the castle and the entire village of particularly important interest within the meaning of Law 1089/1939.

Towards the end of the last century, complex restoration work was undertaken that is still ongoing. Thanks to a document from 1097 we discovered that there was a *Castrum Burgentiae*, so a clear idea about our castle of Norman origin. In the Norman era (10th century), at the time of Guglielmo d'Altavilla, it began to be built (in stone) incorporating the pre-existing keep (in wood) the castle today called Castel Caracciolo.

First Lord of the Fief and the *Oppidum Burgentium* (late 11th century) was a certain Aronne.

Subsequently we received a document of this Guillelmo De Saponara the Elder, from which it is clear that in 1097 there was a Castrum Burgentiae where he resided.

In the time of Frederick II of the house of Hohenstaufen, the castle and the fief were held by the noble Gentile of Petruo, who was deprived of it following the Ghibelline insurrection. Subsequently the fief was assigned by Frederick II of Swabia (stupor mundi) to the noble Gentile da Preturo and in the thirteenth century by the Angevins to the de Pancellis, thus becoming part of the Principality of Citra. On November 2, 1428 Queen Joan II sold the land of Brienza to the nobleman Petraccone Caracciolo for 1000 ounces of gold.

The manor, from that moment, takes its name from the Caracciolo family, who were feudal lords (marches) of Burgentia until 1875, the year in which Giulia, not having heirs, donated it to her nephew Luigi Barracco.

The Angevins first and the Caracciolo then expanded the Norman manor and gave it its current shape and size.

The west-facing side has a series of windows arranged on two floors, on the opposite side (levant) you can see the three towers: the circular one located to the north-east -where presumably stood the Lombard keeper-, the semicircular one in the center of the walls and the square one, from the Norman era, located further south almost close to the main entrance above and guarding the square.

Progressively it took on a more articulated form, lost its peculiar defensive character and accentuated that of stately residence.

In the sixteenth century the "Mastio", at the behest of Marcantonio Caracciolo, was transformed into a prison.

A substantial renovation was commissioned by the patron Marquis Don Litterio Caracciolo in the eighteenth century. Although legend attributes three hundred and sixty-five rooms to the castle, the actual rooms were about forty divided into three levels and two aee. The apartment of the Marquis Litterio was placed on the second level of the east wing, while the rooms of the level overlooking the court were used for warehouses. The west wing saw the presence of semi-terrund rooms, one of which is currently visible. While the rooms placed on the upper level were divided into a large hall for the reunions and spaces for the kitchens. Finally, the second level was divided into various small rooms that housed the easement and the small garrison of the castle.

The manor was partially destroyed by the earthquake of December 16, 1857 and, after the Barracco, in the following decades it had various owners. At the beginning of the twentieth century, given the state of neglect that has now occurred, the castle began to be used as a real quarry from which to obtain useful material for other purposes.

7 stage: Ancient settlement area



In this area located in the current medieval village stand the ruins of the first settlement of Brienza dating back to the sixth / seventh century A.D., this slope of the hill exposed at noon offered an ideal position for a human settlement in fact it was hidden from the sight of those who passed through the valley below, which opens at the foot of the other side of the hill, well sheltered from the winds and naturally defended by the Pergola stream that flows at the foot of the hill and from the steep and wooded wall of the mountain overlooking the opposite bank of the stream. Here also stand the ruins of the birthplace of the illustrious jurist and hero of the Neapolitan republic Francesco Mario Pagano. After the eleventh century due to the considerable increase in population, the settlement also moved to the opposite side of the hill.

8th stage: San Martino church- contrada Trucedda



In the area currently called Trucedda, the first nucleus of the ancient settlement arised, as also evidenced by finds that came to light following some archaeological excavations carried out in the area. In the VIII/IX century A.D. the church dedicated to San Martino was built in this area. Only the perimeter walls and the bell tower have come to us from this church, because if the structure had remained intact after the violent earthquake of 1857 that almost completely destroyed the surrounding houses, the church was destroyed by a fire caused by a lightning bolt from the bell tower that also caused a death and very serious burns to the people present during the Sunday celebration of the mass in the year 1942. The 1980 earthquake caused further damage and collapses, giving the structure its current appearance. Because of these mournful events the church, or rather what was left of it, was deconsecrated and abandoned. Below the church pavement are housed the holy lands (cemetery graves) that still house many human remains. Going back to the medieval period, the church presents the typical east-west orientation. In the space in front of the entrance to the church, a market for agricultural tools and products took place until the 1940s.

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