

From Tolve (Medieval Town Walls) to Cancellara (Ancient Quarter “U Lammard”)

A moderately challenging itinerary, 11.6 kilometres long, with 500 metres of ascent and 320 metres of descent, taking around three and a half hours to complete. The route links the medieval town walls of Tolve to the evocative ancient quarter of Cancellara, located in the oldest part of the village and known in the local dialect as “*U Lammard*” (“the Lombard”).

The path winds through gentle hills and ancient rural roads—the grassy tracks once used by shepherds during transhumance—offering striking rural views that reflect the deep harmony between people and landscape in medieval Basilicata.

In Tolve, the medieval walls are among the oldest surviving testimonies of the fortified settlement, built to defend the settlement and the castle that once dominated the hilltop. Even today, well-preserved stretches of curtain walls and watchtowers outline the original perimeter of the fortifications, revealing the site’s strategic importance in controlling the surrounding territory. Walking along these remains, the view opens out over valleys and woodland that once formed the first natural line of defence for the village.



Figure 1. Medieval Town Walls of Tolve

The route then continues towards Cancellara, where the “*U Lammard*” quarter, located in the northern part of the village, forms the oldest nucleus of the settlement. Its origins are likely Lombard, as suggested by the name itself.

With its stone alleyways, arches, stairways and closely clustered houses, the quarter offers a fascinating example of medieval urban layout, shaped by the natural contours of the terrain and still preserving the compact, defensive character typical of early hilltop villages.

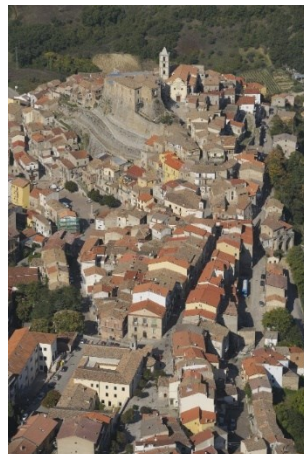


Figure 2. “U Lammard” Quarter of Cancellara

Dominating the quarter is the imposing baronial castle, dating back to the Norman period and remodelled between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries, which retains its characteristic spindle-shaped feudal layout. Its towers, inner courtyards and surviving sections of defensive walls make it the true symbol of Cancellara and a prominent visual landmark across the surrounding countryside.

The itinerary from Tolve to Cancellara is a journey into the historical memory of Basilicata, passing through stone-built villages, ancient routes and silent hills. It offers the chance to rediscover a deep Lucanian identity shaped by history, devotion and a long-standing harmony between people and nature.