

WENZEL CIRCULAR WALK

1000 YEARS OF HISTORY
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE
FORTRESS WALLS AND OLD TOWN

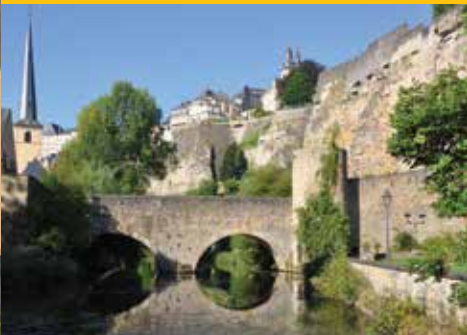
luxembourg
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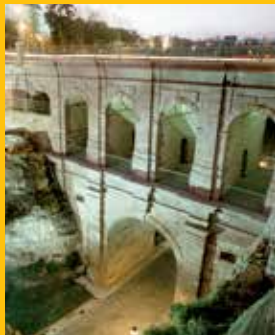
A JOURNEY THROUGH 1000 YEARS OF CITY HISTORY

The “Wenzel Walk” guides the visitor through the millennial history of the city of Luxembourg. Its name pays tribute to Wenceslas II, Duke of Luxembourg between 1383 and 1419 during whose rule a part of the third ring, the so-called Wenzel wall, was erected. A lot of additional background facts will be provided about it during the walk.

The cultural and historical “Wenzel Walk” guides us through the oldest quarters of the city of Luxembourg, as we pass a great many historically outstanding and architecturally compelling edifices. In 1994, the historical core of the old town – as well as some of the fortress works which are still in good condition – was declared World Heritage by UNESCO. One of the singularities of Luxembourg is the way in which such small space reveals such a blend of contrasting styles of architecture: this mixture steadily developed in the last five centuries under the influence of the forever alternating foreign dominations. On the ground, the Wenzel Walk is signposted. A large array of information boards posted along the way supply further details about the most important sights and the history of the city of Luxembourg. The nature trail coupled with the “Wenzel Walk” focuses mainly on the topics of geology and nature in specific relation to the topology of the former fortified city.



1 Bock Promontory / Bock Casemates



2 Castle Bridge

Our promenade starts on the very 1 **Bock Promontory**, the cradle of the city.

In the year 963, Siegfried, Count of the Ardennes, came into possession of the rock through bartering with the Abbey of St Maximin in Trier. For ages, this rocky ledge, on which Count Siegfried was to set up his castle, had been playing a strategically crucial role. As it was surrounded on three sides by the Alzette valley and only accessible from the west, defending it was quite easy. From this vantage point we look out on a magnificent panorama of the Alzette valley with the suburbs of Grund, Clausen and Pfaffenthal. Below the street the archeological crypt and the **Bock Casemates** are hewn into the rock. The longest casemates of the world are Luxembourg City's tourist top attraction. Their underground galleries carved into the rock were part of the fortress' defence system and can be visited from mid february until the beginning of november. Information about the opening hours can be found on www.lcto.lu.

The 2 **Castle Bridge** was built out of red sandstone in 1735, replacing a wooden construction with a drawbridge in use till then. Its peculiarity resides in the fact that it connected the Upper Town and the Bock Promontory in several manners both on the surface and underground. In 1992/93 the bridge was entirely restored.



3 Corniche

4 Grund Gate

Our walk continues via the so-called **3 “Corniche”** (Chemin de la Corniche).

Set up by the Spaniards in the 17th century and fortified by Vauban later on, this defence wall provides the visitor with a breathtaking view on the Alzette valley with the suburb of Grund and the Rham Plateau opposite. The Corniche is lined by some remarkable houses such as the “Maison de Cassal” and a few noble dwellings from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries alongside a picturesque row of houses. From here we also get a glance of the rear front of the Lëtzebuerg City Museum.

As we continue our way further downwards, we pass the bastioned gate built by the Spaniards in 1632, named second Grundberg Gate or **4 Grund Gate**.

We turn left, follow the meanders further down towards the bottom of the vale and reach a stone footbridge, called “Stierchen”.

This part of the city ring wall functioned as defence for the inhabitants of the valley and is called **5 Wenzel wall** in the vernacular. It linked the so-called Upper Town and the Rham Plateau with its higher location into the framework of the defence ring of the city. Originally 875 meters long, the wall comprises 37 towers and 15 gates. Wander back and



5 Stone footbridge "Stierchen" and Wenzel wall

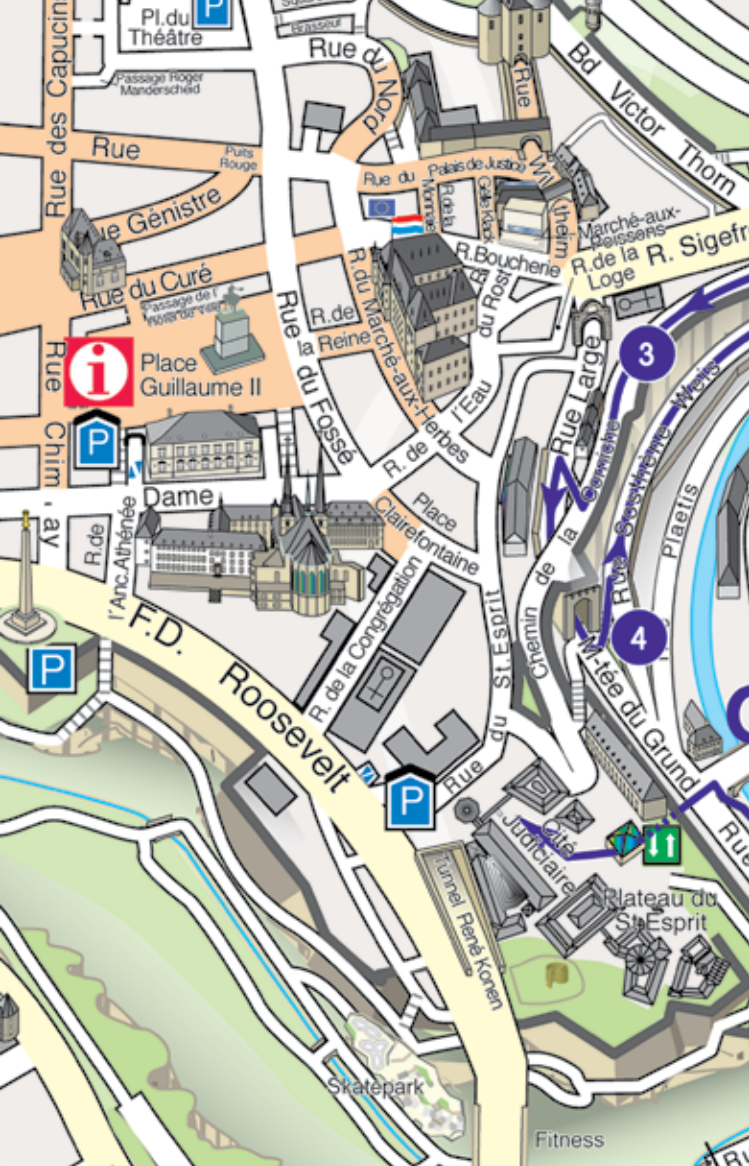
forth until you reach the riverbank, through the medieval tower of the "Stierchen", for an extra muros view of part of the ring wall.

The 6 Moat in front of the Wenzel wall was uncovered by archaeologists in 1992/93. Among other things they disclosed the very well-kept foundations of a medieval wooden bridge, which was part of the first highway to Trier, as a continuation of the "Krudelspuert" (cf. 7). Furthermore, two exterior moat walls were brought to light, the one medieval and the other one dating back to the Spanish domination which has been reconstructed. These discoveries are all the more remarkable as they clearly illustrate the various stages of the construction of the so-called Wenzel wall.

Crossing the sentry walk of the battlements fitted out with loopholes, we pass the Robert Krieps hall ("Tutesall") where we find further remains of the Wenzel wall.

Glancing through a window in this building we catch sight of the previously mentioned 7 "Krudelspuert". The first reference of its existence goes back to 1395; up to the 17th century it linked the city districts of Grund and Clausen.

The "Tutesall" is part of the complex of buildings forming the 8 Cultural meeting place of "Neimënster".



Impressum

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8 Cultural meeting place of "Neimënster"

10 Jacob Tower

After the first Neumünster Abbey was destroyed on Altmünster Plateau nearby, the Benedictine monks settled in what was then St John's Hospital in 1547 and put up several new buildings to found the Neumünster Abbey. In 1796 they were driven out in the aftermath of the French Revolution and the cloister was used as a prison. In 1815 it underwent alterations so that it could be used as a military hospital up to 1867. As a consequence of the signing of the treaty of London in 1867, Luxembourg became a neutral state. Henceforth the buildings of the former Neumünster Abbey became State property and from 1869 to 1984 they were put to use as prison for male inmates. After extensive renovation, the whole complex is now used as a major venue for social and cultural events and named "Neimënster".

Ascending a staircase we arrive at the 9 **Second Gate of Trier** which was built in 1590. A bridge leads across the road to the Rham Plateau.



Plateau Rham

12 Defensive bridge "Maierchen"

On the way we pass a bigger gate, the **10 Dinselpuert**, or **Jacob Tower** also named "old Gate of Trier". From April to October, the film "The birth and the significance of the city walls in the Middle Ages" is presented here. This gate of the Wenzel wall, with its square ground plan, used to have a drawbridge, a moat in front of the gate and a cannon casemate in the top floor. The "Dinselpuert" was constructed in the 15th century.

On the Plateau du Rham, you can discover defensive installations from several eras, namely the medieval era of the 1st French occupation (**11 Ravelin Vauban**) and the Prussian era (battery on the track). Further on, you reach a panoramic point and a tower of the "Wenzel" wall.

Alongside the imposing barracks built by Vauban, you descend slowly to the Alzette, which you cross via an old **12 defensive bridge** called "**Maierchen**".

Arriving at the popular district of Grund, walk along the Alzette and finish your journey at the bridge surrounded by cafes and restaurants. Easy return to the city center is possible by public elevator.





luxembourg

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WENZEL WALK AT A GLANCE

Highlights	A time travel with breathtaking panoramic views over the Luxembourg fortress.
Tour	On foot. Steep circuit with stairways and climbs. Certain parts are not passable with strollers and wheel chairs.
Duration & length	3 hours & 5.5 km
On your own	See leaflet and signs on-site.
Guided tours on fixed times	Information: Luxembourg City Tourist Office 30 place Guillaume II L-1648 Luxembourg Tel.: (+352) 22 28 09 Tickets can be booked online on www.lcto.lu
Guided tours with your personal guide	For individuals and groups until 25 people. Booking and information: Luxembourg City Tourist Office Tel.: (+352) 4796 2709 guides@lcto.lu , or on www.lcto.lu