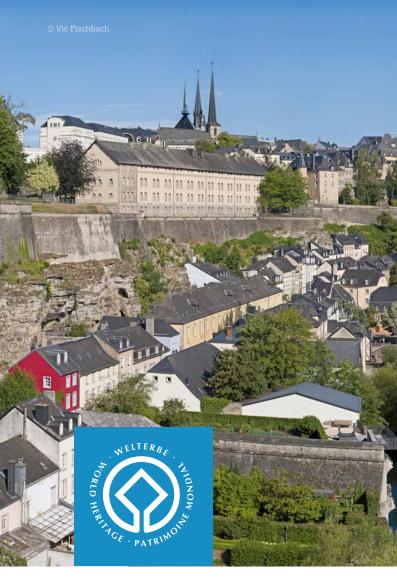
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE



WALKING THROUGH

LUXEMBOURG OLD TOWN AND FORTIFICATIONS

© Vic Fischbach



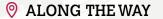
UNESCO recognized **Luxembourg City's fortifications and historical quarter** as a World Heritage Site in 1994.

Even if you only have an hour or two to spare, explore the city on foot or by bike and take in some remarkable attractions.





Medieval, classical and contemporary architectural styles mingle in Luxembourg City, in a land-scape interspersed with green valleys, rivers and streams, and numerous picturesque bridges. This striking mixture reflects the Grand Duchy's distinctive cultural diversity.



- 1) Place de la Constitution
- Petrusse Park
- Saint-Esprit Plateau
- 4 Grund Gate
- (5) Corniche
- 6 Bock Casemates
- Ramparts

- 8 Marché-aux-Poissons St Michael's Church
- Grand Ducal Palace
- Place Clairefontaine
- (1) Cathedral of Our Lady-National Library

GRAND-RUE RUE DU CURÉ PLACE D'ARMES PLACE GUILLAUME II

RUE NOTRE-DAME

SITE OR MUSEUM NEARBY

A

- A Casino Contemporary Art Forum
- B Saint Quirin Chapel
- a Natural History Museum 🚿
- Neimenster Cultural **Exchange Centre**
- ø Saint John's Church, Black Madonna
- Melusina sculpture
- Bock Casemates x²
- 0 Mansfeld Park
- Birthplace of Robert Schuman 🖈

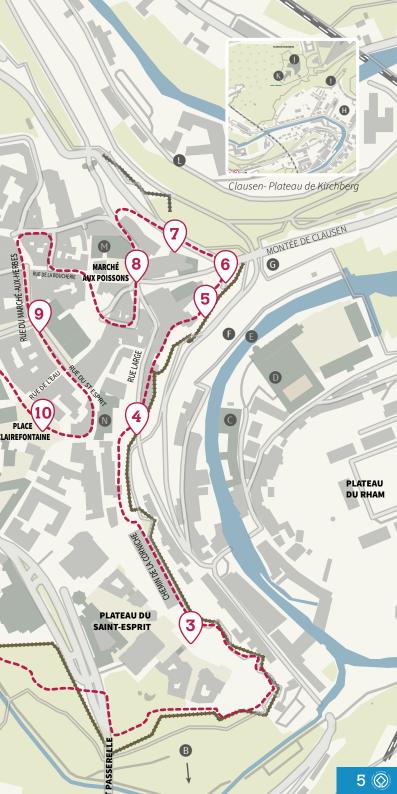
MUDAM - Grand Duke Jean Museum of Modern Art 🛪

BOULEVAROFD ROOSEVELT

- R Fort Thungen - Musée 3 Eechelen
- Muerbelsmillen
- National Art and History M Museum 🚿
- Lëtzebuerg City Museum 🖈
- Luxembourg City Tourist Office
- Cercle Cité

🖈 Open access with the Luxembourg Card

REY





The Place de la Constitution is situated on the Beck Bastion - the remains of fortifications built in 1644 and reinforced in the late 1680s by Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban, the renowned architect and military engineer of King Louis XIV of France.

From here you can enjoy spectacular views over the Petrusse valley and across

the **Adolphe** to **Bridge** Mamed after the Grand Duke of the day, the bridge is known locally as "Nei Bréck" (New Bridge) and was built between 1900 and 1903. It is based on a design by the engineer Paul Séjourné (1851-1939) and was once the longest stone arch in the world (84.55m/277ft). To get a close-up look at the beauty and ingenuity of this work

.... GËLLE FRA ▼

The "Gëlle Fra" (Golden Lady) monument - created by the Luxembourgish sculptor Claus Cito in 1923 - commemorates Luxembourgers who fought with the French army during World War I. Destroyed by the Nazi occupation force, it was restored in 1984.







 Adolphe Bridge ▲ National savings bank.

of art, take the footpath/cycle path which was added in 2017 and runs below the road surface.

A striking neo-Renaissance style building, with its distinctive pointed turret, dominates the valley, greeting visitors as they cross the bridge onto the Bourbon Plateau. This is the headquarters of the Banque et Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat (BCEE), the state savings hank

Across the bridge, on the Place de Metz, you will find the building that once housed the headquarters of the first institution of what would become the EU: the European Coal and Steel Community, created by the Treaty of Paris of 18th April 1951. The building dates back to 1911. Built by the architects Karl Jüsgen & Nicolas Petit, it originally housed the offices of the Guillaume-Luxembourg Rail Company.

Further down the elegant Avenue de la Liberté is a building which resembles a historical stately home: the former headquarters of the Luxembourgish steel firm ARBED. It was built in 1921 by the Luxembourg architect Sosthène Weis, using plans by the French architect René Théry. The building's grandeur reflects the international importance of the firm and of Luxembourg's steel industry, which powered the country's economy for a century. This prestigious building was purchased by the BCEE in 2014, and was declared a national monument in the same year.

Ancient office of the European Coal and Steel Community •





Petrusse Park @ was designed in the romantic style in the late 19th century by the French landscape architect Edouard André. He used the dramatic valley landscape, with its rock formations and ruined military fortifications, to create "the most beautiful scene in Europe". Of particular interest is the Saint Quirin chapel, which is cut into the rock face and has a 14th century façade. It is one of the oldest religious sites in the city. Nearby, close to

the viaduct, the city authorities built an extensive **skate park** (a), which fits perfectly into its surroundings.

The viaduct, known as the "Passerelle" or "Al Bréck" (old bridge), was designed by the engineers Edouard Grenier and Auguste Letellier. It was built between 1859 and 1861 and linked the railway station with the (then still fortified) city.







Around 1234, a group of nuns founded a convent on the Sain-Esprit Plateau ②. Between 1340 and 1610 the major annual "Schueberfouer" fairwas held here, before being moved outside the city walls. In the 17th century, Vauban transformed this site into an impressive fortress with several barracks and a network of underground "casemates" tunnels. One of the rotundas of the ancient citadel has been conceived as an aromatic rose-garden, remember-

ing Luxembourg's famous garden-industry of the 19th century. It is one several gardens honoring this famous past.

In the 19th century the Prussians installed a military hospital here and the building currently houses the National Archives. The "Cité judiciaire", a complex of law courts comprising six buildings, designed by the Luxembourgish architect Rob Krier, dominates the plateau.



TREATY OF LONDON



The **Treaty of London** of 11th May 1867 was signed by the great European powers and guaranteed the neutrality of the Grand Duchy. The garrison of 4,000 Prussian troops, which had been stationed in the country following the Congress of Vienna of 1815, was

withdrawn. The treaty also required the dismantling of the substantial fortifications and prohibited all reconstruction of them in the future. These major fortifications had led to Luxembourg being known as the "Gibraltar of the North". Nevertheless much of this heritage remains and can be explored by tourists. For example, the Wenzel Way signposted walk features the towers of the third ring of city walls. The Vauban Trail focuses on the fortifications and barracks created by Louis XIV's famous engineer. There are also 23km (15 miles) of "casemates" military tunnels to be visited.



The Grund Gate (also known as the Spanish Gate), was built in the 17th century and was the entrance to the upper town.

The picturesque Grund is the heart of the city's lower town, with its harmonious mixture of architecture and nature. steeped in over 1000 years of history. This was one of the earliest neighbourhoods to emerge before the 10th century, becoming a home to artisans and shopkeepers.

The ex-Benedictine Neumünster Abbey was built in 1606 and de-consecrated after Luxembourg was annexed by France in 1795. It was used as a barracks and later as a men's prison. Since 2004 it has been home to the Neimenster Cultural Exchange Centre.

The remarkable "Klouschtergaart" @, a terraced vegetable garden and vineyard on the sunny south side below the Bock, is used to cultivate, in a microclimate, rare but useful plants. It is also home to several beehives, which produce top quality honey.

The Natural History Museum's permanent and temporary exhibitions help visitors understand evolution and biodiversity. It is housed in the former Saint John Hospice, founded in 1308.





Neimënster Klouschtergaart ▶



The Corniche is the "most beautiful balcony in Europe" according to the Luxembourgish author Batty Weber. Created on ramparts built in the 17th century by the Spanish and French forces that occupied the city at the time, it overlooks the

"Grund", the lower town. It also offers a panoramic view of the Alzette valley and the Rham plateau. The buildings here are typical of the local style, with their façades featuring two, three or five bay windows and steep, four-sided roofs.







The legend of the beautiful Melusina has not only inspired artists, poets, and historians for centuries, but is an important foundation myth for Luxembourg City. According to legend, the founder of Luxembourg City, Count Sigefroi, was married to Melusina, who in secret was a mermaid. When Sigefroi broke his promise not to spy on her she was so upset by his

breach of trust that she threw herself from the castle on the Bock into the Alzette River, never to be seen again. Sigefroi is the founder of the House of Luxembourg, which during the Middle Ages produced four Holy Roman Emperors and four kings of Bohemia.

Local artist Serge Ecker created a sculpture of Melusina; it stands under the Bock from where she is said to have jumped. History and technology come together in the work, with the legendary figure represented in a sculpture created using a 3D printer, based on the scan of a live model and digital exchange. Ceramics were also used in homage to the locality's traditional pottery industry.



Next to the Corniche is the Bock, the site where the city originated, when the first counts of Luxembourg built their castle here in the 10th century. The Bock was abandoned in the 16th century, as it could no longer resist modern artillery, and was replaced with new fortifications in the 17th century. An archaeological crypt, as well as the fortified tunnels of the "casemates" , were dug in the sandstone rock during the 17th and 18th centuries. Today, these excavations are open to visitors.

Fort Thüngen is to be seen opposite the Bock on the Kirchberg plateau. Built in 1732, only the "Three

Acorns" round towers are left standing. Since 2012, these house the **Dräi Eechelen Museum**, devoted to the history of the fortress. It backs onto the **MUDAM**, the Grand Duke Jean Museum of Modern Art, designed by the celebrated Chinese - American architect leoh Ming Pei and inaugurated in 2006.

Near the Bock, as you go towards the Kirchberg plateau, is the birthplace of **Robert Schuman**, one the founders of what would become the European Union. Born in Luxembourg-Clausen in 1886, he had a successful political career and became a leading French statesman.





◆ Fort Thungen -Dräi Eechelen Museum and MUDAM



Three Towers Gate . . .





The Castle Bridge was built on two levels in 1735, linking the Bock to the upper town via four passages at different heights. It was an important part of the old fortifications. Nearby is a memorial stone from 1936, with a quotation from J.W. Goethe praising the town's beautiful landscape. Germany's national poet visited Luxembourg in 1792, accompanying his patron, the Duke of Saxe-Weimar, on the German campaign against revolutionary France.

The stone stands opposite the Conseil d'Etat (Council of State), the national legislative review body. From here we follow the 16th century rampart to the Montée du Pfaffenthal, which passes through the Three Towers Gate

. This was one of the main entrance points to the old fortified town and is a fine example of the city's medieval military architecture. Its name refers to its architectural form.





This part of the city is a journey back in time to the Middle Ages. Take a stroll through the Old Town's narrow winding streets. From the rue de la Loge, Breedewee (rue Large), rue de la Boucherie, rue de la Monnaie, to Marché-aux-Poissons square, each street is imbued with centuries of history. The house called "Ennert de Stäiler" (Under the columns), with its characteristic arches, is typical of this period, as is the turreted

... Saint Michael's Church V



building which bears Luxembourg's famous motto: "Mir wëlle bleiwe wat mir sin!" (We want to remain what we are!).

The Marché - aux - Poissons square hosts the traditional **Éimaischen** (Emmaus pottery market) every year on Easter Monday.

The origins of Saint Michael's Church go back to the 7th century. In 987, at the request of count Sigefroi, Archbishop Egbert of Trier consecrated the church in the name of the Holy Saviour. Since then it has been destroyed and rebuilt several times and dates in its current form to 1688. The cabinet-maker Barthélémy Namur designed the main altar in 1770, while the organ was built in the 17th century.





National Museum of History and Art A

The National Museum of History and Art (MNHA) @ has a varied permanent collection, including fine art and decorative art, precious coins and medals, as well as significant archaeological discoveries. The most spectacular exhibit is the unique Vichten Roman mosaic depicting the nine Muses, discovered in 1995. The building housing the Ministry of Foreign and

European Affairs is almost 500 years old and was recently restored. Built in 1545 by the king's adviser, Nicolas Greisch, it became the palace of Governor Pierre Ernest de Mansfeld (1517-1604) in 1564. It remained the palace of Luxembourg's governors until Luxembourg was absorbed into the First French Republic in 1795. Until 2008, it housed the different courts of law.

ÉIMAISCHEN [≌]





Each Easter Monday, Marché-aux-Poissons square is turned into a folklore market, selling ceramic handicrafts, in particular the traditional "Péckvillercher", bird-whistles. Couples in love generally purchase these collectable, locally produced whistles as a token of fertility. This unique Luxembourgish tradition dates from at least 1827. In 1937

local residents formed the "Alstad Committee" to revive this tradition, which is now part of Luxembourg's intangible cultural heritage.



The Grand-Ducal Palace @ is an example of the Flemish Renaissance style. The city's master architect Adam Roberti designed the building in the second half the 16th century; it served as the town hall from 1572 until the city's occupation by the French Revolutionary Army in 1795. France annexed the Duchy and made Luxembourg City the capital of the "Département des Forêts". The ancient town hall was used as the prefect's residence and offices. Following the creation of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in 1815, the palace first became the seat of government, in 1817, before being assigned to the Grand Duke's as his official residence and for his audiences in the capital, in 1890. The splendid interior is open to the public for guided tours during the summer months. After the Grand-Duchy became independent in 1839, the state assembly gathered in the government building

located in the Grand-Ducal palace. The building housing the parliament, the Chamber of Deputies, on the right-hand side of the palace, dates back to 1860, with recent extensions (19th & 20th centuries) spanning the palace courtyard.

The Lëtzebuerg City Museum traces a thousand years of the city's history. Opened in 1996, it is located in the rue du Saint-Esprit, in four renovated historical town houses, once serving as an abbot's retreat. The buildings date from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, with some vestiges going back to the Middle Ages. The museum's exhibits bear witness to the changes the city has undergone, including its socio-cultural evolution. There are also detailed wooden models, showing how the city and the fortress have expanded over the centuries.



Since 1975, the Hôtel de Bourgogne has housed state offices, an official residence of the Luxembourgish government and the seat of the Ministry of State. A document from 1447 described the building as once being the residence of the representative of Charles the Bold, duke of Burgundy.

. . . Hôtel de Bourgogne ▼



Place Clairefontaine [9], located near the cathedral and the government quarter, has only been conceived as a public square in 1935. Further changes were made half a century later as part

of a wider renovation of the old town. The centrepiece is a statue of Grand Duchess Charlotte, who reigned from 1919 to 1964. The sculpture, symbolizing resistance to Nazi occupation, was created by the Parisian artist Jean Cardot and inaugurated in 1990. The baroque St Maximin building dates from 1751 and originally served as a retreat for monks from the St Maximin abbey in Trier, Germany. After secularisation, it became the governor's residence until 1867. It was then used as a general government building, and until 2017 housed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Place Guillaume II is named after the King of the Netherlands and the second Grand Duke of Luxembourg. Locals call the square the "Knuedler" after the style

KNUEDLER



The Franciscan church was one of the largest in the capital, and contained treasures such as the tombs of former governors P.E. de Mansfeld and Jean Beck. It had also been the temporary resting-place of Count John the Blind, king of Bohemia, and Charles the Bold, duke of Burgundy. The French Revolutionary Army confiscated the friary in 1795 and suppressed the monastic

order in 1796. The building was demolished in 1827 with the aim of creating the city's largest square and making space to build a new town hall. Plans to build a palace for the fortress commander on the site were unfortunately shelved. These days the square is an important public space, with a farmers' market held here every Wednesday and Saturday morning.



Place Guillaume and town hall ▼

of dress of the Franciscans, whose friary and a church stood on this site for over 500 years from the 13th century. The friars wore their cord belts with a distinctive knot ("Knuet" in Luxembourgish). The statue of King/ Grand Duke Guillaume II of Orange-Nassau recalls the granting of the first parliamentary constitution in 1848, considered at the time to be one of the most liberal in Europe. Inaugurated in 1884, the statue is by the French artist Antonin Mercié.

The Town Hall's grand flight of steps was built between 1830 and 1838, to plans by the Belgian architect



J. E. Remont. Two bronze lions have flanked the steps since 1931. The Luxembourg Auguste Trémont artist created these two impressive works of art. The town hall also played a role in the creation of the European Union, with the treaty establishing the first European institution (the European Coal and Steel Community) being signed here on 10th August 1952.



The Cathedral of Notre was originally the church of a Jesuit monastery founded in 1613. It is a remarkable example of the late Gothic style, featuring various ornaments inspired by the Renaissance. At the end of the 18th century, the statue of Our Lady of Luxembourg, Comforter of the Afflicted. who is the patron saint of the city and the country, found a permanent home in this church. In 1879 Pope Pius IX consecrated the church as the Cathedral of the recently created local diocese (1870). Between 1935 and 1938 it was substantially enlarged. The crypts with the tombs of the Luxembourgish bishops, as well as members of the Grand-Ducal family, are worth a visit, as is the tomb of Count John the Blind, son of the Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII. John became King of Bohemia, and died a hero's death at the Battle

of Crécy after taking part in many of the great battles and campaigns of the period. He became a celebrated figure in the Middle Ages. He swore allegiance to both the Emperor and the French king, thus making him an early symbol of the idea of European community. Buildings near the cathedral and the Place de la Constitution were once Jesuit teaching colleges (1603-1773), before becoming the "Athénée grand-ducal" grammar school in the 19th century. From 1973 to 2018, this impressive building housed the National Library.



Our Lady of Luxembourg





In the Roman period, two consular roads cross what is now Luxembourg City, near the Marché-aux-Poissons square. Watch is kept from a fortified tower.

963 Count Sigefroi acquires the Bock and builds a castle on the site. This was Luxembourg City's founding act.

> 963-1354 Luxembourg is an autonomous county.

1083 Altmunster Abbey is founded next to the count's castle. The classes in Latin, German, and French dispensed by the monastery school are considered to be the beginnings of Luxembourg's tradition of multilingualism.

1244 Countess Ermesinde enfranchises the city, thus granting its citizens a number of rights and freedoms which encourage economic development.

The annual "Schueberfouer" is founded 1340 by Count John the Blind. This fair helps position the city on the burgeoning Italy-Gotthard-Flanders trade route.

1354: The county of Luxembourg becomes a duchy.

The county of Luxembourg becomes a duchy. 1354

1443 City occupied by the Burgundians.

Burgundian rule. (1443-1506)

1506	Spanish rule (1506-1684)
1554	Major gunpowder explosion and subsequent fire destroys much of the upper town.
1684	Luxembourg is conquered by the forces of Louis XIV and incorporated into France.
	Under French rule, the fortress is enlarged by Vauban. (1684-1697)
1698	Spanish rule. (1698-1700)
1701	War of the Spanish Succession. (1701-1714)
1715	Austrian rule. (1715-1795)
1795	French Revolutionary Army occupies Luxembourg and the duchy is incorporated into France as the "Forêts" department. French republican rule. (1795-1814)
1815	Luxembourg becomes a Grand Duchy, with the king of the Netherlands as grand duke. A Prussian garrison is stationed in the fortress and Luxembourg becomes part of the German Confederation.
1839	The Grand Duchy gains political independence.
1867	The Treaty of London grants Luxembourg political and military neutrality – the fortress is dismantled, and the city declared open.
1890	Reign of the House of Nassau-Weilburg. (1890 - today)
1952	Headquarters of the European Coal and Steel Community are established provisionally in Luxembourg.
1992	The Edinburgh EU summit confirms Luxembourg City as one of the headquarters of EU institutions, together with Brussels and Strasbourg.
1994	The Fortress and the old town are inscribed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites
1995	Luxembourg European City of Culture
2007	Luxembourg and greater Region, European Capital of Culture.



Site or museum nearby

Bock Casemates *



- www.luxembourg-city.lu

M National Museum of History and Art 🖈

- () tu-sun: 10-6pm, th: 10-8pm, open public holidays.
- L-2345 Luxembourg
- **3** +352 47 93 30 1
- musee@mnha.etat.lu

 musee@mnha.etat.lu
- www.mnha.lu

Grand Ducal Palace

- O Guided tours from mid-July until the end of August
- ₽ 17, rue du Marché-aux-Herbes L-1728 Luxembourg
- touristinfo@lcto.lu
- www.luxembourg-city.lu

Lëtzebuera City Museum 🚿

- U tu-su: 10-6pm, th: 10-8pm, open public holidays.
- L-2090 Luxembourg
- → +352 47 96 45 00
- mhvl@2musees.vdl.lu
 - www.citymuseum.lu

Cathedral of our Lady of Luxembourg

- no-su: 8-8^{pm}
- L-2240 Luxembourg
- **3** +352 46 20 23
- (i) www.cathol.lu

A Casino Luxembourg Contemporary Art Forum

- Mo-su: 11-5pm, th: 11-11pm Closed: tu, 1 jan, 1 nov, 25 dec
- L-2240 Luxembourg
- +352 22 50 45
- info@casino-luxembourg.lu

 info@casino-luxe
- www.casino-luxembourg.lu

National Museum of Natural History 🚿

- tu: 10-8pm, we-su: 10-6pm
- L-2160 Luxembourg
- +352 46 22 33 1
- musee-info@mnh.lu
- (i) www.mnhn.lu

Neimënster Cultural **Exchange Centre**

- o mo-fr: 8-7pm, WE: 10-8pm
- ≈ 28. rue Münster L-2160 Luxembourg
- → +352 26 20 52 1
- www.neimenster.lu

Mansfeld Park

Open: nov-feb: 7.30-6pm mars: 7.30-8pm april-sept: 7-10pm oct: 7.30-8pm

Places of the sites have a 🛛 on the map of pages 4 and 5

Site or museum nearby

MUDAM-Museum of Modern Art Grand-Duke Jean 🖈

- o mo-th & public holidays: 10-6pm, we: 10-11pm (the galleries close at 10pm), closed on monday.
- L-1499 Luxembourg
- → +352 45 37 85 960
- info@mudam.lu
- www.mudam.lu

K Fort Thungen Museum 3 Eechelen 🖈

- () tu, th su: 10-6pm, we: 10-8^{pm}
- ₹ 5, Park Dräi Eechelen L-1499 Luxembourg
- → +352 26 43 35
- info@m3e.etat.lu

 minimatical properties of the properties of
- www.m3e.lu

Old mustard factory "Muerbelsmillen"

Documentary centre

- (sa-su: 2pm-6pm
- ← 69, rue de Mohrfels L-2158 Luxembourg
- → +352 47 96 45 01
- visites@2musees.vdl.lu
- www.citymuseum.lu

P Cercle Cité

- Open: see the Agenda
- L-1136 Luxembourg Reception Cercle Cité: 2, rue Genistre L-1623 Luxembourg
- **୬** +352 47 96 51-33
- ☑ info@cerclecite.lu
- www.cerclecite.lu

The "Luxembourg Card" is ideal for culture enthusiasts. For 1, 2 or 3 days, individuals and groups of up to five can enjoy free access to more than 60 museums and tourist attractions in Luxembourg. What's more, you are not limited to the capital, with the tourist destinations included in the Luxembourg Card found throughout the Grand Duchy. This is just one of the many advantages of using this card to help you discover and explore this country's many places of interest. Moreover, it gives you free use on all public transport (bus, train and tram). Prices range from €13 to €68, including an information brochure. Visit www.visitluxembourg.com for more information, or download the Luxembourg Card App onto you mobile device.

Find out more about the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Luxembourg with the book available from the Luxembourg Tourist Office or the "Luxembourg House" (2, rue de l'Eau). Also, discover Luxembourg's heritage with guided tours: Bock Casemates, Wenzel Circuit, Mansfeld Circuit, Vauban Circuit, City Promenade.



LUXEMBOURG CARD: OPEN ACCESS TO MUSEUMS AND ATTRACTIONS

Luxembourg City **Tourist Office**

- Open:
 - oct-mars: 9-6pm apr-sept: 9-7pm
- su, holidays: 10-6pm
- L-1648 Luxemburg
- **4** +352 22 28 09
- www.luxembourg-city.lu





LE GOUVERNEMENT DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG Ministère de la Culture



LE GOUVERNEMENT DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures





Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

Commission luxembourgeoise pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO

luxembourg city tourist office













Editor: Luxembourg Commission for cooperation with UNESCO in collaboration with: City of Luxembourg, Ministère du Loulture, Ministère de la Culture, Ministère de développement durable et des infrastructures, Luxembourg City Tourist Office, Comité Alstad, Syndicat des Intérêts Locaux Pfaffenthal-Siechenhof, Syndicat des Intérêts Locaux du Stadtgrund, Les Amis du Château de Clausen, Frènn vun der Festungsgeschicht, Geschichtsfrenn St Quirinus, Patrimoine Roses pour le Luxembourg.

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