

CITY PROMENADE

LUXEMBOURG-CENTRE,
OLD TOWN, FORTRESS WALLS
AND BEST VIEWS



luxembourg
my city • ma ville • meng stad



HISTORIC SURVEY

In 963, the Count Siegfried of the Ardennes built his fortified castle on the Bock promontory, and it became the cradle of the city of Luxembourg. The first markets were held in front of Saint Michael's Church, surrounded by a simple fortification.

Across the centuries, a second and then a third wall were erected on the Western side, while the rocks of the Alzette and Pétrusse valleys served as a natural defence. Nevertheless, these strong fortified structures did not prevent Burgundians from taking over the city in 1443, a city which beyond any doubt was to own a major strategic position on the European chessboard.

For over four centuries, the best military engineers from Burgundy, Spain, France, Austria and the German Confederation ended up turning it into one of the most fortified places on earth, the so-called "Gibraltar of the North". The strength of its defence stemmed from its three fortified belts, the first of which was composed of bastions, the second of 15 forts and the third, being the outside wall, was composed of 9 forts, all of which were carved into the rock. An extraordinary 14.2 mile-network of underground galleries – the famous Casemates – and more than



40,000 square meters of bomb-shelters were lodged in the city's rocks. They could shelter not only thousands of defenders, including their horses and equipment, but also artillery and weapon workshops, kitchens, bakeries, slaughterhouses, and so forth.

While the city per se, made up of lowland towns only covered an area of 120 hectares, the fortifications spread across an area of 180 hectares. The structures were dismantled following the Treaty of London which was signed between the Superpowers on 11th May 1867, and only 10% of the structures remain visible nowadays. The bastions as well as the Old Town – which also has a very significant historical value – are world-renowned gems, and in 1994, UNESCO inscribed them both on the World Heritage List.



Walking tour “City Promenade”

① **Place Guillaume II:** named after William II, King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg. Seat of the Luxembourg City Tourist Office. ② **Town Hall:** built 1830-1838 in neoclassical style, site of the former Franciscan convent. ③ **Michel Rodange Monument, “De Fiischen”:** in honour of the famous Luxembourgish writer (1827-1876). ④ **Equestrian Statue of William II:** designed by Mercié (1884), erected in the honour of the King and Grand Duke William II of Orange-Nassau (he ruled from 1840 to 1849 and granted the Grand Duchy its first parliamentary constitution).

Cross the rue du Fossé and follow the rue de la Reine.

⑤ **Grand Ducal Palace:** the older Renaissance part dates from 1572, the middle part from 1741-43, in Baroque style but transformed into Renaissance style in 1890. Restored thoroughly from 1992 to 1995. ⑥ **Parliament:** adjoined to the Palace in 1859.

Pass the Palace and turn left into the rue du Curé.

⑦ **Cercle Cité:** administrative building “Cercle” with several festival halls, connected to “Le Cité” by a bridge. ⑧ **Place d’Armes:** also named “Parlour of the City”, completed in 1671, renewed in 1986.



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9 **Dicks-Lentz Monument:** erected in 1903 to pay homage to the two national poets Dicks and Lentz.

From the square, turn into the rue Chimay and cross the boulevard Roosevelt.

10 **Place de la Constitution:** put up on the ancient Beck bastion (1644, 1685). Superb view over the Petrusse Valley and the Adolphe bridge. 11 **"Gëlle Fra" Memorial:** erected in 1923, in memory of the Luxembourgish soldiers who fell during the two World Wars and the Korean War, today it symbolises freedom and resistance for the Luxembourg people. 12 **Pétrusse Casemates:** underground defence works, built during the Spanish, French and Austrian dominations.

Continue on boulevard Roosevelt.

13 **National Library** (since 1970), formerly the "Collège des Jésuites" (Jesuit College, 1606-1611). 14 **Cathedral to the Blessed Virgin** (1613): late Gothic style, various components and ornaments inspired by Renaissance style, raised to Cathedral in 1870, choir (1935).

A bit further you turn left into the rue de la Congrégation.

15 **Congregation Church:** built 1739-1742, richly decorated portal of Baroque style.



16 Place de Clairefontaine: redesigned at the end of the 80s, in the middle of the Government District. **17 Grand Duchess Charlotte Memorial:** erected in honour of Grand Duchess Charlotte (1896-1985), designed by the Parisian sculptor Jean Cardot.

Turn off to the rue du Saint-Esprit and then follow to the chemin de la Corniche.

XS Possible shortcut:

From the rue du Saint-Esprit, cross the Plateau du Saint-Esprit with the Cité Judiciaire, heart of the Luxembourg Justice, and take the elevator down to the Grund. From here you turn right into the rue Saint-Ulric and go towards the Saint Quirin Chapel **27**.

18 National Archives: inaugurated in 1967 in the former Prussian military hospital (1862).

Follow the chemin de la Corniche.

19 Corniche: the “most beautiful balcony of Europe”. Splendid views over the Holy Ghost Citadel with the Cité Judiciaire (2008), heart of the Luxembourg Justice, and over the lower town of Grund with the Saint John’s Church, the National Museum for Natural History, Neimënster cultural centre (formerly Neumünster Abbey) and the signposted “Wenzel” walk.



Imprint

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20 Lëtzebuerg City Museum: reflects the urbanistic and architectural development of the city since its creation.

Follow the chemin de la Corniche.

21 Bock Promontory: cradle of the city of Luxembourg, linked to the city by the castle bridge (1735). On the "Bock" are situated the uncovered foundation walls of the first stronghold belonging to the Luxembourg Counts and Dukes, converted into Monument of the Millennium in 1963. Incomparable panorama of the European Centre of Kirchberg, the Philharmony, the MUDAM (Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean), the Lower Towns of Grund, Clausen, Pfaffenthal, the Wenzel Wall, the Neimënster Cultural Exchange Center, the Rham Plateau with the barracks built by Vauban (1685), the semicircular towers (remains of the Wenzel Wall, about 1390). In the distance, to the left, are the powder magazine of the Rubamprèz Fort (1847) and the redoubt of the Rumigny Fort (Vauban, 1688). Behind is the National Sports Institute, and, higher up, the remains of the old Dumoulin Fort (1836). Starting point of the two beautiful signposted cultural walks "Wenzel" and "Vauban" on the ramparts of the fortress.



22 Bock Casemates & Archeological Crypt: underground defence works, built in the Spanish era (1745/46). The archeological crypt, antechamber of the Bock Casemates, houses the origins of the city. **23 Goethe Monument:** in commemoration of Goethe's stay in Luxembourg (1792).

Walk towards the Marché-aux-Poissons and pass the State Council (building with arcades).

24 Saint Michael's Church (987): oldest shrine in the city.

25 Marché-aux-Poissons: historical centre of the Old Town, former crossroads between two Roman roads.

26 National Museum of History and Art: testimonies of the history of the city and the Grand Duchy.

Follow the rue Large downhill to the Lower Town of Grund.

XS Possible shortcut:

After you went the rue Large downhill, you enter the small tunnel on the right side of the street. Here you'll find the lift which takes you back to the Plateau du Saint-Esprit in the Upper Town.

Continue along rue Saint-Ulric, with its beautifully restored buildings, such as the old prison (1807) on the right. After passing the Pétrusse Bridge, take the first road on the right.



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27 Saint Quirin Chapel: early Christian sanctuary (Antiquity and 14th century).

Pass beneath the viaduct.

28 Viaduct/Passerelle: mighty bridge with 24 arches, built 1859-1861. **29 Pétrusse Valley:** forms a natural dividing line between the Upper Town and the Plateau Bourbon, the Louis (1685) and Beck Bastion (1644, 1685) on the right-hand side.

Pass under the Adolphe bridge.

30 Adolphe bridge: erected 1900-1903, bridge with the biggest arch stone in the world at that time (span of 85 m), recently restored. A passerelle for cyclists has been integrated.

Climb the zigzag path to the Upper Town. Continue on the boulevard Roosevelt, until the **31 Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'art contemporain:** built in 1882, nowadays Forum of Contemporary Art.

If you decide to finish your walk, go on straight. Once you arrive at the Place de la Constitution, turn left into the rue Chimay and then right into the rue Notre-Dame and take the stairs on the left side to return to the point of departure at Place Guillaume II.



XL Possible extension:

If you want to discover the district around the railway station, cross the Adolphe bridge.

32 Place de Metz, with the National State and Savings-bank BCEE “Banque et Caisse d’Epargne de l’Etat” (1913).

Follow the avenue de la Liberté.

33 19 Liberté, administrative building of BCEE (1922): initially built as administrative seat for the Luxembourgish steelworks ARBED, later headquarter of the steel company ArcelorMittal, today owned by the National State and Savingsbank BCEE. **34 Place de Paris**: transformed into a pedestrian zone in 1986. **35 Railway Station** (1907-1913): since 2007 main station of the fast train TGV-Est.

Follow the avenue de la Gare to reach the city centre. Pass the viaduct on the left side.

On the right, view on the National Monument of Luxembourg Solidarity which commemorates the victims of the Second World War and recalls the resistance and the solidarity during the Nazi occupation.

On Place de la Constitution, turn right into the rue Chimay and then right into the rue Notre-Dame and take the stairs on the left side to return to the point of departure at Place Guillaume II.

PERMANENT

EXHIBITION



The Luxembourg Story

MORE THAN 1000 YEARS

OF URBAN HISTORY

<LÉTZEBUERG>

CITY MUSEUM>

14, RUE DU SAINT-ESPRIT

L-2090 LUXEMBOURG

WWW.CITYMUSEUM.LU

TUE-SUN 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.

THU 10 A.M. - 8 P.M.

CLOSED ON MONDAYS



multiplicity

Michiel Engels (1851 - 1901): Bilder aus der Luxemburger Sage und Geschichte. Die Lützelburg auf dem Bockfelsen, 963 - 1543 (Detail), around 1880

luxembourg

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WALKING TOUR CITY PROMENADE

Highlights	The most beautiful attractions and viewpoints in the city centre, the old town, around the fortifications and in the Gare neighbourhood.
Visit	On foot.
Duration & length	2 hours, 4 km. Extension to station district: 2 km.
Regular guided tours	Information: Luxembourg City Tourist Office 30 place Guillaume II L-1648 Luxembourg Tel.: (+352) 22 28 09 www.luxembourg-city.com Reservation and tickets on www.luxembourg-city.com
Guided tours with your personal guide	For individuals and groups up to 25 people. Booking and information: Luxembourg City Tourist Office, tel.: (+352) 4796 2709, guides@lcto.lu, www.luxembourg-city.com