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# Travel Guide Luxembourg

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## Quick view Luxembourg - a brief overview

Being practically pocket-sized in capital city terms, Luxembourg is on a manageable scale and never seems to be overrun, despite it being home to numerous EU institutions and the European headquarters of several multinationals. Its breathtaking strategic site around two adjoining gorges is reason enough to visit.

Get there and you'll find the UNESCO World Heritage Old Town may be small, but it still finds space for an above-average selection of designer boutiques, luxury hotels and chic restaurants amid the centuries-old architecture. And the lower town boasts enough bars and nightclubs to keep the most hardened night owl entertained.



## Luxembourg General Information

### Country overview

Luxembourg is an attractive country with a green and picturesque landscape of rolling hills and valleys, and many close-packed man-made historical sites – including a relatively large number of castles. The latter betray the country's historical importance brought about by its strategic position right at the very heart of continental Europe.

Despite its compact size, visitors may be surprised to discover it boasts an impressive variety of natural forests, vineyards and striking sandstone rock formations, all of which are conveniently located within an easy striking distance of one another.

### Geography

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg shares borders to the north and west with Belgium, to the south with France and to the east with Germany. Although similar in size to a typical English county, there are a number of distinct geographical regions. Most of the northern half of the country is made up of the high plateau of the Ardennes, carved and scarred by a network of steep-sided thickly forested river valleys. Most of this region is around 500m (1,640ft) above sea level.

The southern half – known locally the Gutland or Good Land - is gently rolling lowland, covered with woods and farmland, mostly sitting around 250m (820ft) above sea level.

There are no towns of any significant size in the north; the south is more urbanised. In the southeast is the rich wine-growing valley of the Moselle river, which enjoys a unique microclimate well-suited to the cultivation of grapes. The area around Echternach, Larochette and Beaufort is a spectacular region of narrow sandstone micro-gorges and thick forest, which was christened 'Little Switzerland' by early tourists. The capital meanwhile, Luxembourg City, is built on a rocky outcrop overlooking the two adjoining gorges of the Alzette and Pétrusse valleys.

### General knowledge

#### Key facts

Population: 514862

Population Density (per sq km): 199

Capital: Luxemburg (City).

### Language

Lëtzeburgesch, a German-Moselle-Frankish dialect, became the third officially recognised national language in 1984, joining French and German. Native-born Luxemburgers are trilingual. French and German are generally used for administrative and commercial purposes, and in the media, but many nationals will use Lëtzeburgesch at home and when socialising with one another. Reflecting the international make up of Luxemburg City and the fact that many residents are not native-born, French is the most common lingua franca in the capital. Many Luxemburgers also speak excellent English, especially in areas frequented by tourists.

### Currency

Euro (€) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents. In practice, higher denomination notes (above €100) are rarely seen in circulation; 1 and 2 cent coins are regarded as a nuisance and rarely used.

### Electricity

220 volts AC, 50Hz. European round two-pin plugs are used.

### General business opening hours

Generally Mon-Fri 0830-1200 and 1400-1800.

## Public holidays

Below are listed Public Holidays for the January 2019 – December 2020 period.

### 2019

Neijoerschdag (New Year's Day): 1 January 2019  
Ouschter (Eastern): 21 and 22 April 2019  
Dag vun der Aarbecht (Labour Day): 1 May 2019  
Christi Himmelfaart (Ascension Day): 30 May 2019  
Péngscht (Whitsun): 9 and 10 June 2019  
Lëtzebuerger Nationalfeierdag (Republic Day): 23 June 2019  
Léiffrawëschdag (Assumption Day): 15 August 2019  
Allerhellgen (All Saints' Day): 1 November 2019  
Chrëschttag (Christmas Day): 25 December 2019  
Stiefesdag (St Stephen's Day): 26 December 2019

### 2020

Neijoerschdag (New Year's Day): 1 January 2020  
Ouschter (Eastern): 12 and 13 April 2020  
Dag vun der Aarbecht (Labour Day): 1 May 2020  
Christi Himmelfaart (Ascension Day): 21 May 2020  
Péngscht (Whitsun): 31 May and 1 June 2020  
Lëtzebuerger Nationalfeierdag (Republic Day): 23 June 2020  
Léiffrawëschdag (Assumption Day): 15 August 2020  
Allerhellgen (All Saints' Day): 1 November 2020  
Chrëschttag (Christmas Day): 25 December 2020  
Stiefesdag (St Stephen's Day): 26 December 2020

All information subject to change.



## Travel etiquette

### How to fit in

#### Social Conventions

Handshaking is the normal greeting for men and women on a first meeting. Once you are familiar with a person, three kisses on alternate cheeks is the normal greeting between men and women, and between women. The code of practice for visiting someone's home is similar to that of other Western European countries: it is common practice to give a small gift or flowers if you are invited for a meal. Smart-casual or casual dress is widely acceptable, but some dining rooms, clubs and social functions will demand more formal attire.

Smoking is prohibited in most public areas, and since January 2014, the law has changed to explicitly prohibit smoking in cafés, bars and clubs. Some venues will still be able to offer separate smoking rooms. Following the trend across the rest of Western Europe and North America, the habit is also becoming less socially acceptable.



## Health

### Health

**Main emergency number:** 112

#### Food & Drink

Tap water is safe to drink everywhere in Luxembourg. Most Luxembourgers drink bottled mineral water, but this is a taste preference, and not based on any perceived medical risk. Food served in restaurants is generally prepared to exacting hygiene standards and poses no specific risks. As anywhere, travellers' diarrhoea can strike those without strong constitutions, but this can be caused by a change of water supply and is not necessarily a sign of infection. As with anywhere, shellfish can be a problem, so exercise reasonable caution, although incidences of infection are rare and isolated.

#### Other Risks

Rabies may be present in wildlife. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay. There is a slight risk of Lyme Disease (carried by deer ticks) in rural areas, but cases are exceedingly rare and normal precautions (wearing long trousers when walking through thickly forested areas) are sufficient. Avoid drinking water directly from streams. Insect bites, particularly from horseflies, can also be a factor in rural areas, but these are more of a nuisance than a serious issue, resulting in swelling and itching rather than major health problem. Consider carrying some form of anti-histamine cream as relief if you are planning on doing any hiking.



## Phone calls & Internet

### Phone calls & Internet

#### Telephone

Country code: +352

#### Mobile telephony and Internet

Since June 2017, EU citizens traveling within the EU, and also in Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein have been able to use their cell phones and surf the Net without incurring any extra charges: In other words, customers pay the same price for phone calls, text messages and data volume as they do at home. Restrictions do apply to the constant use of SIM cards abroad, however, and caps may be set on

data packages. For full details, contact your mobile telephony provider in your country. Travelers using a SIM card from a non-EU state do not benefit from the new arrangement.

Free Internet access via Wi-Fi is possible in many busy tourist spots. When using public Wi-Fi networks, it is a wise precaution to ensure encryption of all passwords, credit card details and banking TANs entered. Use of a VPN app or security software to check the safety of a hotspot is recommended.



## Top 10 sights

### Top 10 sights in Luxembourg

#### MUDAM

A symphony in polished limestone and glass, the I.M.Pei-designed Museum of Modern Art is a masterpiece of modern architecture, and the equal of the exhibits showcased within.

3 Park Dräi Eechelen  
L-1499 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg  
Tel: 453 7851

Opening times:  
Wed-Fri 1100-2000  
Sat-Mon 1100-1800

[www.mudam.lu](http://www.mudam.lu)

#### Villa Vauban

Built by a business tycoon in the mid-19th century, this grand white mansion in the city centre with its manicured lawns has been fully renovated, and in its new life is home to one of the city's best art galleries.

18 avenue Emile Reuter  
L-2420 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg  
Tel: 4796 4900

Opening times:  
Wed-Thurs and Sat-Mon 1000-1800  
Fri 1000-2100

[www.villavauban.lu](http://www.villavauban.lu)

#### Place de la Constitution

There are grand views of the city's remarkable setting from many lookouts, but few can rival those from Constitution Square, watched over by the Gëlle Fra (golden lady) monument – a national symbol of freedom.

Place de la Constitution  
Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

#### Grand-Ducal Palace

Small by European palace standards perhaps, but the Grand Duke's ceremonial home is fabulously decorated with vaulted ceilings, sweeping staircases, frescoes and glitzy chandeliers.

17 rue du Marché-aux-Herbes  
L-1728 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg  
Tel: 474 8741

Opening times:  
Guided tours Jul-Aug; buy tickets  
through city tourist office

[www.monarchie.lu](http://www.monarchie.lu)

### Bock Casemates

To defend the city in the 18th century, many kilometres of caverns were cut out of the rock below the Old Town. At their peak, this maze of rock tunnels was home to thousands of soldiers and all their equipment, and this section can be explored.

10 Montée de Clausen  
L-1343 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Opening times:  
Daily 1000-1700 (Mar-Oct)

### National Museum of History and Art

Sprawling over numerous floors that go back in time the deeper you head into the basement, this museum covers 5,000 years of history under one roof, and displays the nation's finest art collection.

Marché-aux-Poissons  
L-2345 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg  
Tel: 479 3301

Opening times:  
Tue-Wed and Fri-Sun 1000-1800  
Thurs 1000-2000

[www.mnha.lu](http://www.mnha.lu)

### Luxembourg City History Museum

Cut into rock over several subterranean levels, the museum tells the story of the city, beginning from its official founding back in AD963.

14 rue du Saint-Esprit  
L-2090 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg  
Tel: 4796 4500

Opening times:  
Tue-Wed and Fri-Sun 1000-1800  
Thurs 1000-2000

[www.mhvl.lu](http://www.mhvl.lu)

### Chemin de la Corniche

Stroll along this road overlooking the Alzette Valley, and it's easy to understand why it was once famously billed as the 'most beautiful balcony in Europe'.

Chemin de la Corniche  
L-1645 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

### Musée Dräi Eechelen

A former fort guarding the Alzette Valley, the recently restored 'Three Acorns' now houses a museum telling the story of the city fortifications.

5 Park Dräi Eechelen  
L-1499 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg  
Tel: 264 335

Opening times:  
Thurs-Mon 1000-1800  
Wed 1000-2000

[www.m3e.public.lu](http://www.m3e.public.lu)

## Casino Luxembourg

Not a place for gambling away your life savings, this former casino now hosts challenging and cutting-edge contemporary art exhibitions.

41 rue Notre-Dame  
L-2240 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg  
Tel: 225 045

Opening times:  
Mon, Wed and Fri 1100-1900  
Thurs 1100-2000  
Sat-Sun 1100-1800

[www.casino-luxembourg.lu](http://www.casino-luxembourg.lu)



## Shopping in Luxembourg Shopping in Luxembourg

### Key Areas

Upmarket designer boutiques selling watches, jewellery and high fashion line both Grand Rue and Rue Philippe II. More down to earth items are found in the streets surrounding Place d'Armes and Place Guillaume II. The high-street chains are located on and around Avenue de la Gare.

If you can't find what you need, the City Shopping info office at 2 Place d'Armes (open Tue-Sat 1100-1700) will point you in the right direction.

### Markets

For fresh local food produce and other household goods, general markets are held on Place Guillaume II and Place de Paris on both Wednesday and Saturday.

### Shopping Centres

To find all your daily needs under one giant roof, head for the Auchan Mall on the Kirchberg Plateau, which is home to more than 60 shops on two levels. Other shopping malls are generally located in the satellite towns surrounding the capital.



## Restaurants Restaurants in Luxembourg

If there's one thing Luxembourgers are more proud of than anything else, it's their food. From world-class modern innovation to hearty Germanic-style tradition, you will never go hungry here.

### Mosconi

Simply put: one of the finest Italian restaurants you'll find outside of Italy, prepared by a Michelin-starred chef.

13 rue Münster  
L-2160 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Price: Expensive

### Clairefontaine

Michelin-starred city stalwart serving refined French-influenced fare.

9 place de Clairefontaine  
L-1341 Luxembourg

Price: Expensive

Luxembourg

### Caves Gourmandes

Swanky French food served in the impressive surrounds of a medieval stone cellar.

32 rue de l'Eau  
L-1449 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Price: Moderate

### Mesa Verde

A colourfully decorated haven for vegetarians and fish lovers. Meat addicts need not apply.

11 rue du Saint Esprit  
L-1475 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Price: Moderate

### Oberweis

Multi-storey city institution with a bakery/chocolatier below and a café above serving sweet and savoury delights. Everyone comes here sooner or later.

1, rue G. Kroll  
L-1882 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Price: Budget



## Nightlife Nightlife in Luxembourg

Many bars in the upper town are filled with expats working for the many banks, multinationals and EU institutions. Locals head down to Rives de Clausen, where the focus is on loud music and dancing.

### Go Ten

Popular central bar with a Japanese tinge to the décor and the bar snacks.

10 rue du Marché-aux-Herbes  
L-1728 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

### Zanzen

Stylish modern bar, the perfect place for an aperitif.

27-29 rue Notre Dame  
L-2090 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

### Serge

Cosy cocktail bar where the music gets louder as the evening progresses.

17 Rue du Saint Esprit  
L-1475 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

## Verso

All the bars on Rives de Clausen have coloured lights and DJs cranking up the music, but insiders put this a notch above the rest.

17 Rives de Clausen  
L-2165 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

## Den Atelier

The city's principal rock music venue, with regular performances by international acts.

54 rue de Hollerich  
L-1740 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg



## Calendar of events Calendar of events

### Echternach Dancing Procession

Held each Whit Tuesday since medieval times, this is an unusual dancing procession with obscure origins, the cultural significance of which has been recognised with a UNESCO listing. Believed to pay homage to the city's founder St Willibrord, teams of dancers dressed in white and interspersed by bands, hop and skip together around the town streets and up to his tomb in the abbey basilica. Around 12,000 dancers and musicians take part. Echternach is located 30km (18 miles) northeast of Luxembourg City.

**9 June 2019**

Venue: Central Echternach

### Echternach International Festival

For six weeks in June and July, Echternach becomes the focus of attention for classical and jazz music enthusiasts, who converge on the town for a season of musical events at several venues. Many of the concerts are now performed inside a new purpose-built 650-seat arena, the Trifolion, which opened in 2010. Echternach is located 30km (18 miles) northeast of Luxembourg City.

**May - June 2019**

[www.echternachfestival.lu/](http://www.echternachfestival.lu/)

Venue: Various venues

### Summer in the City

Staged at a number of indoor and outdoor venues across the centre of Luxembourg City, this is a three-month series of musical events that take place throughout the summer. Most performances are free – for an agenda, pick up a free brochure from the Luxembourg City Tourist Office, or visit the website.

**June - September 2019**

[www.luxembourg-city.com/de/summer-in-the-city](http://www.luxembourg-city.com/de/summer-in-the-city)

Venue: Various locations, Luxembourg City

**Luxembourg National Day**

A national holiday held to celebrate the Grand Duke of Luxembourg's official birthday. The day itself is a fairly formal occasion, but parties are held across the country the evening before (22nd), lasting into the early hours. The centrepiece of the celebrations is in Luxembourg City, where a large musical firework display starts at 2330, centred on Pont Adolphe.

**22 June 2019**

Venue: Nationwide

**Wiltz Festival (Festival de Wiltz)**

Offering a mix of classical music, opera, jazz and dance featuring international artists, this has been held every July in the northern town of Wiltz (60km/37 miles north of Luxembourg City) since 1953, and became Luxembourg's biggest annual musical festival. Everything from opera and classical to jazz is represented. Performances are held on a leafy outdoor stage beside the town's castle, which acts as a floodlit backdrop. Visit the festival website or ask in the tourist office for details.

**June - July 2019**

[www.festivalwiltz.lu/](http://www.festivalwiltz.lu/)

Venue: Wiltz Castle

**Vianden Medieval Festival**

Every year, the centre of Vianden and the grounds of its castle are transformed into a large medieval market and funfair, with stalls leather goods, toy swords, jewellery and hot snacks. There are also demonstrations of weaving, a smithy, and recreations of sword and axe fights, as well as a chance to try archery. Despite the name, the festival's historical origins only stretch back one decade. Vianden is located 50km (31 miles) north of Luxembourg City.

**July 2019**

[www.castle-vianden.lu](http://www.castle-vianden.lu)

Venue: Grand Rue, Vianden & Vianden Castle

**Grevenmacher Wine Festival (Fête du Raisin et du Vin)**

One of Luxembourg's two biggest festivals to celebrate the grape harvest, stalls around Grevenmacher – capital of the Moselle region, 28km (17 miles) east of Luxembourg City – sell wine, food and other souvenirs, while marching bands play on the streets. The culmination of the Saturday evening (at 2145) is a firework display on the Moselle river. On Sunday a carnival parade begins at 1500 - people walking beside the floats dispense wine to anyone with a glass.

**September 2019**

Venue: Central Grevenmacher

**Riesling Open**

Centred in four Moselle villages within 30km (18 miles) of Luxembourg City, all the local wineries throw open their doors to celebrate the harvest, with plentiful opportunities to sample their produce. To get between each locality, a free shuttle bus runs half-hourly in each direction, while the cruise ship MV Princess Marie-Astrid also makes the same round trip at a slower pace on the Sunday, and is free for one day only.

**September 2019**

Venue: Ehnen, Wormeldange, Ahn and Machtum

**Nëssmoort (Vianden Nut Market)**

Taking place on a Sunday (usually the second) in mid-October, Vianden's festival of nuts offers a chance to try walnuts not just as whole nuts, but also in the form of bread, cakes, sausages, and a variety of liqueurs. The latter are particularly popular and things can get rowdy by early evening. Vianden is located 50km (31 miles) north of Luxembourg City.

**13 October 2019**

Venue: Grand Rue, Vianden

**Christmas markets**

Christmas markets are popular throughout the country, and take place throughout December. The largest is held on the Place d'Armes in Luxembourg City until and including Christmas Eve. It offers a good opportunity to stock up on festive decorations while enjoying warming sausage and glühwein, and is part of the city's Winter Lights festival ([www.winterlights.lu](http://www.winterlights.lu)).

**November - 24 December 2019**

Venue: Various, the largest is Place d'Armes, Luxembourg City

**Hotels****Hotels in Luxembourg**

Catering to the business crowd, Luxembourg's central hotels are often full on weekdays. Budget options are a rarity. At weekends however, room rates plummet even in the most exclusive places.

**Le Royal**

The last word in luxury, with marble everywhere, and a host of spa facilities to help you unwind.

12 boulevard Royal  
L-2449 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Category: Expensive

**Le Place d'Armes**

Luxury accommodation in a series of interconnected historic buildings, right on the

main square.

18 place d'Armes  
L-1136 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Category: Expensive

### **Simoncini**

Stylish design hotel with an art gallery annex, in the heart of the city.

6 rue Notre-Dame  
L-2240 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Category: Moderate

### **Meliá Luxembourg**

Modern and comfortable design accommodation on the Kirchberg Plateau.

10 Park Dräi Eechelen  
L-1499 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Category: Moderate

### **Bristol**

Opposite the main station, this is a rare budget hotel in the city centre.

11 rue de Strasbourg  
L-2561 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Category: Budget