



2022  
**EXPAT HUB**  
*Magazine*  
by **LUXEMBOURG TIMES**





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not shareholders.**

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# YOUR GUIDE TO LUXEMBOURG

Welcome to the first edition of the Expat Hub Magazine.

Foreign residents make up half of the Grand Duchy's population, and as an expat myself, I can remember the process I had to go through when I arrived to find a home, register my residency, and get to know the capital and the rest of Luxembourg.

Navigating a new country can be confusing and stressful, which is one of the reasons why, when I took over editorship of the Luxembourg Times, I launched the Expat Hub section, to help those who have just arrived to settle in.

Today it has grown into so much more than a guide for new arrivals, and is read by expats and Luxembourgers, with sections on travel in the region and further afield, suggestions on where to try different cuisines, leisure activities such as hiking, cycling, or swimming, and helpful articles on Luxembourg's traditions, including the Schueberfouer fair that brings every summer to a close.

Life plans don't go on hold when you move to a new country, so our Hub section has guides to help those getting married, buying a house, looking for a new job or starting a business, and for families to find the right school.

The first edition of this magazine aims to give you a quick reference guide on life as an expat in Luxembourg, but also to invite you to check out the Expat Hub online for more "how to" guides, leisure and dining suggestions, and to read our regular columnists who write about gardening, education, and life as an expat.

And of course, for top-quality journalism and the latest news in Luxembourg, Europe and the world, you can download the Lux Times app, or visit us online or via your favourite social media platform.

**Douwe Miedema**  
Editor-in-Chief  
Luxembourg Times



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## LUXEMBOURG TIMES

More Expat hub articles? Scan me:



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**Luxembourg has followed its path that has shaped our uniqueness.**

HRH Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, National Day speech 23 June 2015

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# WELCOME TO LUXEMBOURG DID YOU KNOW?

Small but significant, Luxembourg statistics

Source: STATEC



Mikael Kristenson (unsplash.com)

## TOP 5 EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

- 1 Wholesale and Retail
- 2 Financial Services
- 3 Human health and social work
- 4 Construction
- 5 Professional, science and technical

## LUXEMBOURG 5<sup>TH</sup> MOST GLOBAL ECONOMY in the world

<https://www.tradeandinvest.lu/news/luxembourg-worlds-5th-most-global-economy/>

## 7<sup>TH</sup> IN LEGATUM PROSPERITY INDEX 2021 (and 3<sup>rd</sup> globally for safety and security)

<https://www.prosperity.com/globe/luxembourg>

## UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG

3<sup>rd</sup> for international outlook in the world university ranking 2022.

[https://www.uni.lu/layout/set/print/universite/presentation/rankings\\_accreditations](https://www.uni.lu/layout/set/print/universite/presentation/rankings_accreditations)

## JUNE 2021, COST OF LIVING (AVE PRICE)

- ➔ Loaf of bread EUR 2,98
- ➔ Litre of milk EUR 1,49
- ➔ Dozen eggs EUR 3,74
- ➔ Kilo of apples EUR 3,00



Sigmund (unsplash.com)



Sacha Freemind (unsplash.com)

## 8<sup>TH</sup> HAPPIEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

by GDP, social support, life expectancy, freedom in life choices, and corruption.

<https://logistics.public.lu/en/actualites/2021/Luxembourg-8th-world-happiness-report.html>

## GOOD COUNTRY INDEX PUTS GRAND DUCHY 12<sup>TH</sup> IN THE WORLD

for its contribution to global culture, prosperity, equality, health and wellbeing.

<https://index.goodcountry.org/>

## AVERAGE DISPOSABLE INCOME PER HOUSEHOLD in 2019 6475 €

MINIMUM WAGE SKILLED WORKER €2776,05

## LUXEMBOURG RANKS 6<sup>TH</sup> IN THE WORLD FOR INTERNET QUALITY

<https://itone.lu/news/luxembourg-ranks-15th-in-the-world-in-digital-quality-of-life-index-2021>

## LUXEMBOURG 2<sup>ND</sup> HIGHEST IN EUROPE and 5<sup>th</sup> in the world for green financial credentials.

<https://www.luxembourgforfinance.com/news/luxembourg-moves-up-the-ranking-in-latest-global-green-financial-index-ggfi-8/>



# LUXEMBOURG CITY IN FIGURES

\*as at 31 December 2021 source VdL



**1,000 RETAILERS  
& CRAFTSPEOPLE  
& MODERN BOUTIQUES  
OR SPECIALIST SHOPS**  
*HIGHEST CONCENTRATION  
OF MICHELIN STARS  
PER RESIDENT IN EUROPE*



### EU NATIONALITIES LIVING IN THE CITY

1. Luxembourgish
2. French
3. Portuguese
4. Italian
5. Spanish
6. Belgian
7. German
8. Romanian
9. Greek
10. Polish

**167 nationalities**  
**115,237 Europeans**  
**6,645 Asians**  
**3,426 Africans**  
**2,997 Americans**

**128,541  
inhabitants**

**29.6% Luxembourgers**  
**70.4% foreign residents**

**24 districts  
in the city**

**LARGEST  
(BY POPULATION)**

1. Bonnevoie South
2. Belair
3. Gare

**SMALLEST  
(BY POPULATION)**

1. Pulvermuehl
2. Grund
3. Clausen



**963 COUNT SIEGFRIED BUILDS HIS CASTLE  
ON THE BOCK PROMONTORY**

**1244 THE COUNTESS ERMESINDE  
GIVES THE TOWN CITY STATUS**

**1320 JOHN THE BLIND OF BOHEMIA  
BUILDS NEW FORTIFICATIONS**

**1354 LUXEMBOURG BECOMES A DUCHY**

**Size: 51.73km<sup>2</sup>    22% forest    20% buildings    8.7% squares and streets**



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 **Swissquote**

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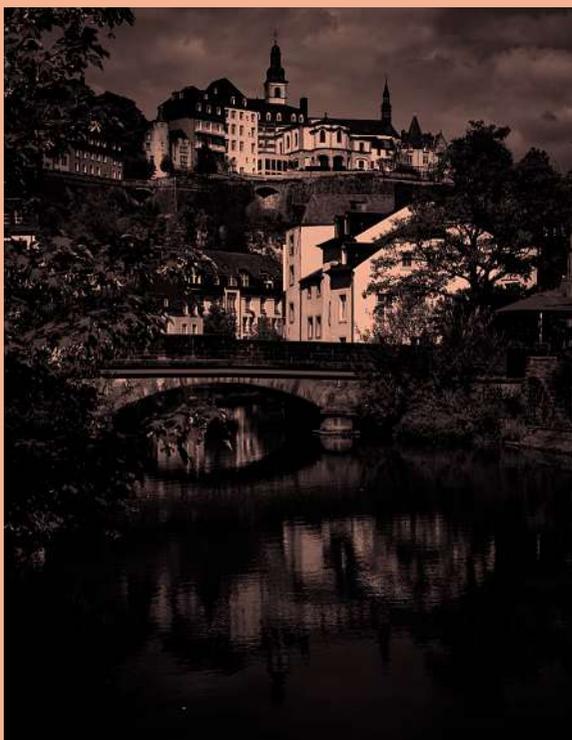
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# ESSENTIALS



## A CHECK- LIST FOR ARRIVALS



“

**Wéi wunnt et sech sou  
heemlech dran,  
Wéi as 't sou gutt doheem!**

*How good 'tis here to live,  
How good 'tis to be home!*

Ons Heemecht, Michel Lentz, 1859

”

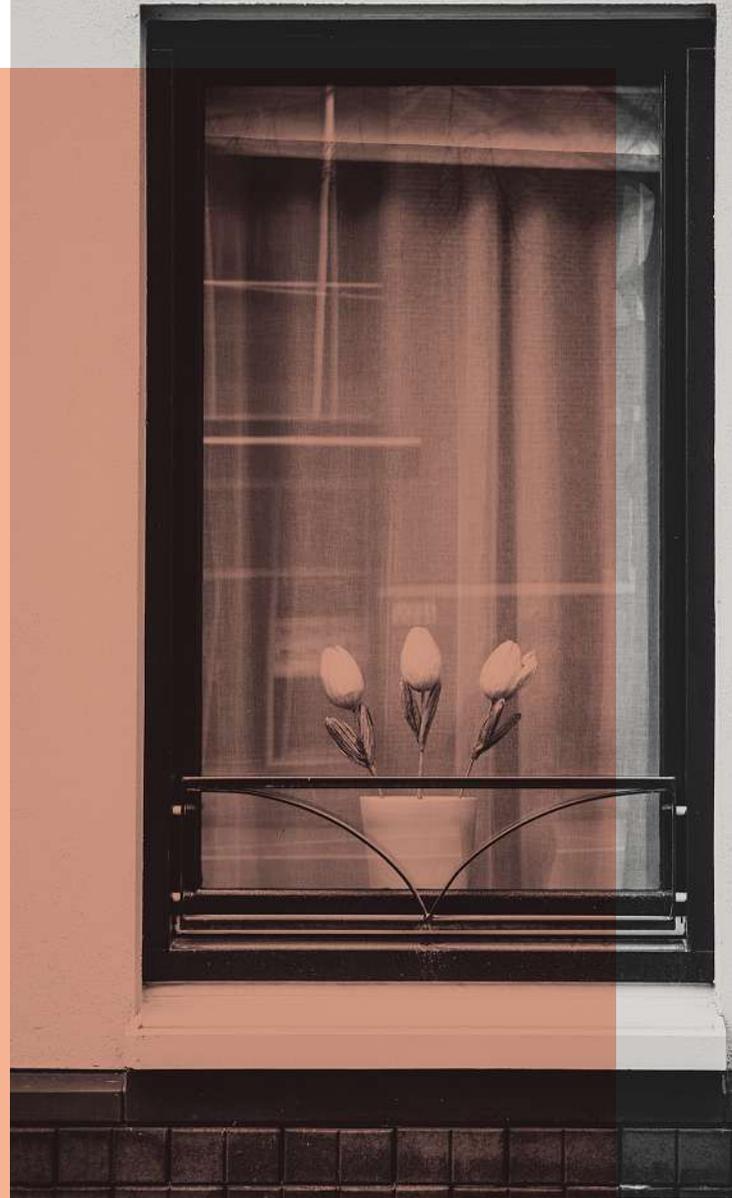
Welcome to Luxembourg. If you ask any resident expat, they'll tell you that as exciting as it is to discover the sights, your first few days and weeks will often be spent filling out administration forms, finding somewhere to live, and navigating your way to work or school.

That's why the first section of this magazine is dedicated to the *Essentials*. We'll take you step-by-step through everything you need to do when you first arrive.

We start with registering your residency, applying for a residence permit if you plan to stay for more than a few months, or applying for work permits. Other essentials include opening a bank account, an overview of the free public transport system, or how to register or exchange your driving licence.

Everyone needs a place to call home, so we've also covered where to find temporary furnished accommodation and how to set up utilities such as the internet or a mobile phone. And, of course, there's a section on meeting people, although we recommend you look through our pages in the *Leisure* section for further inspiration.

Each article includes website or address details, where you can find more information or download relevant forms.



## WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY?

We sincerely hope that you won't need urgent help, but in case you do, the *Essentials* section has an article on What to do in an emergency, not only for you or your family, but also your pets.

 [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com), Adobe Stock

# REGISTERING YOUR RESIDENCY

If you plan to stay for more than 90 days in Luxembourg you must register your residency within **8 days of arriving** in the country, or **3 working days** if you are a third country national (*that is, you don't have an EU/EEA passport*).



Annicka Gordon (unsplash.com)

You can do this at the municipal offices of your local commune, or for city locations, at the Bierger-Center at Place Guillaume.

### WHAT YOU NEED

- ➔ Valid ID card or passport.
- ➔ If you are registering a spouse or partner, or have children, bring your marriage certificate or registered partnership, and children's birth certificates, or family notebook.
- ➔ Proof of residence – this can be your rental lease contract or for a temporary residence, such as a hotel, you can use an accommodation form.
- ➔ Third country nationals need to show proof of authorisation to stay (*autorisation de sejour*) issued before your arrival, or your visa, or a residence permit issued by a member state of the Schengen Area.

All documents will need to be in English, German or French. You can have documents translated by a sworn translator in advance of your arrival.

You will receive by post a **declaration of arrival** which will include a **13-digit personal identification number** or *matricule*, which will also be your tax and social security number.

### APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT

If you want a residence permit or *carte de sejour* you must apply within 3 months of your arrival. The form should be submitted to the Immigration Directorate with a copy of a valid ID or passport, and other documents that will be different depending on whether you are employed, self-employed, a student or a family member of an EU citizen.

Third country nationals applying for a residence permit must undergo a medical exam and submit their medical certificate with their application, together with the declaration of arrival, authorisation to stay, and a copy of their visa.

### LEGITIMATION CARD

If you have come to work for an EU institution you will be issued with a legitimation card, or *carte de legitimation* by your HR department (*you must make an appointment*), so you do not need to register for a residence permit. This can be applied to your family members.

### UK NATIONALS

Under certain conditions, family members of a British national who settled in Luxembourg before 1 January 2021 can get the right to residency. This applies to partners, spouses, children and parents. Applications must be sent with supporting documents to the Immigration Directorate within 3 months of arrival, and you will be invited for a biometric screening before your residency card is issued. **◀**

**i** Immigration Directorate – Department for foreigners  
 26 route d'Arlon  
 Luxembourg L-1140  
 ✉ B. P. 752, L-2017 Luxembourg  
 ☎ (+352) 247 84040 | 09:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00

**i ON REGISTRATION AND IMMIGRATION:**  
 🌐 <https://guichet.public.lu/en/Citoyens/immigration.html>  
 Sworn translators: 🌐 [www.traducteurs-interpretes.lu/en/annuaire/](http://www.traducteurs-interpretes.lu/en/annuaire/)



# WORK PERMIT, VISA AND AUTHORISATION TO STAY

The good news is that **EU citizens** can live and work in Luxembourg without a visa. However, you will need to prove your employment, self-employment, registration at an educational institution, or that you have financial means to support yourself. This includes family members such as spouses, partners, children and parents.



© Ael Chukanov (unsplash.com)

If you are a **third country national**, you will need to apply for a work permit, an authorisation to stay and possibly a visa. You won't need a work permit if you are a family member of an EU citizen.

## WHAT YOUR EMPLOYER MUST DO FIRST

Your employer will need to show that your job was available with Luxembourg's employment agency ADEM for 3 weeks and could not be filled by an EU applicant. They will then be allowed to hire a third country national.

Then, you must sign and date your work contract, giving a start date subject to getting a work permit. Your employer must either send you the original ADEM certificate which you will submit with your work permit application, or get your power of attorney to apply for a work permit on your behalf. It can take up to 3 months to receive a work permit.

After you start work in Luxembourg, your employer must keep a copy of your work permit and notify the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs at least three working days before you are due to start your job.

## WORK PERMIT – DOCUMENTS

Your application should include your names, your current address, and the following documents:

- ➔ A copy of all the pages in your passport
- ➔ A CV
- ➔ A copy of your professional qualifications
- ➔ A copy of your employment contract

The original certificate from ADEM granting your employer the right to hire a third country national.

All documents must be in English, German or French or translated by a sworn translator.

## AUTHORISATION TO STAY OR TYPE D VISA

Before you come to Luxembourg, if you plan to work, you will need a temporary authorisation to stay and in some circumstances, a type D visa, from the Immigration Directorate.

All third country nationals must apply for a temporary authorisation to stay. You must submit these documents either directly to the Immigration Directorate or the embassy or consular in your home country. Include with your application:

- ➔ A copy of all pages of your passport
- ➔ An extract of your criminal records in your country of residence
- ➔ A CV
- ➔ A copy of your professional qualifications
- ➔ A copy of your employment contract signed and dated by both parties.
- ➔ The original certificate from ADEM granting your employer the right to hire a third country national.

This process can take 2-3 months after which you'll be granted a temporary authorisation to stay for 90 days. When you arrive you either apply for a visa or if you don't need this (*for example you are married to an EU national*) you must register your arrival with your commune.

To apply for a type D visa, you need your temporary authorisation to stay, which you submit with your visa application, in person, at an embassy or consulate in your country of residence. The application must include 2 recent identical ID photos and a valid passport. You'll get a stamp or vignette which will be valid for a period of 90 days up to a maximum of 1 year. Visa applications take 1-4 weeks.

After you enter Luxembourg, you make a declaration of arrival and undergo a medical exam. You can then submit an application for a residence permit. **❏**

# OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

Access to your money, and debit and credit cards, will be a priority when you arrive in Luxembourg.

You can open a bank account in person or online, although you may need a LuxTrust token to verify an online contract.

You'll need a valid ID such as a passport or EU driver's licence (*other bank cards with no photo are not usually acceptable*). Bring with you proof of address such as a housing contract or residency certificate. Some banks will ask for a copy of your employment contract or a letter of employment.

If you will be working in Luxembourg but plan to live in a neighbouring country you can still open an account, but you'll need to provide proof of address.

US citizens have come across the stumbling block of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (*FACTA*), which requires that foreign financial institutions report on foreign assets held by US account holders. Smaller banks may not be willing to set up an account because of the administration involved, but US residents in Luxembourg say they have had no problems with the main banks listed.

## PACKAGES AND CHARGES

Banks offer different packages depending on the level of support you need. These include statements, access and transac-

tions, online and electronic banking, bank and credit cards, access to loans, investments, insurance and securities accounts.

Check each package to see the banking fees you will pay, credit or debit card limits, or a limit on the number of transactions you can make per month. You may also be charged for withdrawing cash from an ATM operated by a different bank, as not all banks work in partnership.

If you regularly transfer money from one country or currency to another, consider the online, mobile-app banks such as Revolut, Monese and Bunq, that have lower currency transfer fees. However not all banks can offer you a mortgage or personal loan for a car, so consider this too.

## WHAT YOU GET

V-Pay/Visa Debit is the European debit card system and you can use it for cash withdrawals, and payment in shops and restaurants, including contactless payment. You can also apply for a Mastercard or Visa credit card.

Most banks offer online and mobile app banking so you can transfer funds on the go. They supply you with or ask you to use a LuxTrust token which provides an OTP or one-time, six digit number, to ensure transactions are secure. This token can also be used on the government portal MyGuichet, where you can download Covid tests and vaccinations, request criminal records and file your tax returns. **1**

## BANKS IN LUXEMBOURG

### Spuerkeess/BCEE (*state bank*)

www.bcee.lu

### Bank Internationale à Luxembourg

www.bil.lu

### BGL BNP Paribas

www.bgl.lu

### Post Luxembourg

www.post.lu

### ING

www.ing.lu

### Raiffeisen

www.raiffeisen.lu

### The Association of Bankers of Luxembourg

www.abbl.lu



Jean Carlo Emer (unsplash.com)

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3) No bank foreign exchange fees for any transactions between 01/06/2022 and 31/08/2022 using Mastercard Gold, Platinum and Elite.

BGL BNP PARIBAS S.A. – 50, avenue J.F. Kennedy L-2951 Luxembourg, R.C.S. Luxembourg : B 6481 – Communication Marketing mai 2022

# FINDING A TEMPORARY HOME



Mike Phan (unsplash.com)



Nathan Oakley (unsplash.com)



Somnie Hiles (unsplash.com)

If you've just arrived in the Grand Duchy, you might need temporary furnished accommodation for a few weeks or months whilst you find a more permanent base or wait for your shipped furniture to arrive. There are plenty of options for an interim home for all budgets.

## BED & BREAKFAST OR AIRBNB

If Bed & Breakfast conjures up the image of creaky beds and dank shared bathrooms, fear not, there are several apartments and rooms offered B&B style in Luxembourg. There are also a number of Airbnb offerings – renting anything from a private room for €36 a night to a two-bedroom apartment for €110 a night.

Both are ideal for very short-term rental requirements – days or a week rather than a few months. If you're on a shoestring budget, then the Luxembourg City Youth Hostel has a bed with ensuite bath and breakfast for €26,50 with membership. Couchsurfing.com will also help you find a spare sofa if you just need somewhere to sleep for a few nights.

## FURNISHED ROOMS AND SHORT-TERM LETS

If you need furnished accommodation for more than a few weeks it will be cheaper to take a short-term let or furnished room, with prices starting at €600 per month.

Furnished.lu and Vauban & Fort both offer furnished bedrooms for anywhere between 15 days to one year. An all-inclusive package means your rent includes the cost of utilities, internet, and insurance. Most give you access to kitchen and laundry facilities and some offer an LCD TV, plus free social events organised year round.

Online estate agencies atHome and FMI list furnished apartments, whilst Luxfriends and Appartager have house and flat-shares.

## APARTHOTELS AND TEMPORARY RESIDENCES

Aparthotels are ideal if you need to rent somewhere for a few months, but can be expensive unless your company is paying. Most come with basic furniture, including a sofa, dining table and TV, and usually include a kitchenette so you can prepare simple meals. Cleaning services, internet,

and breakfast are sometimes included in the cost.

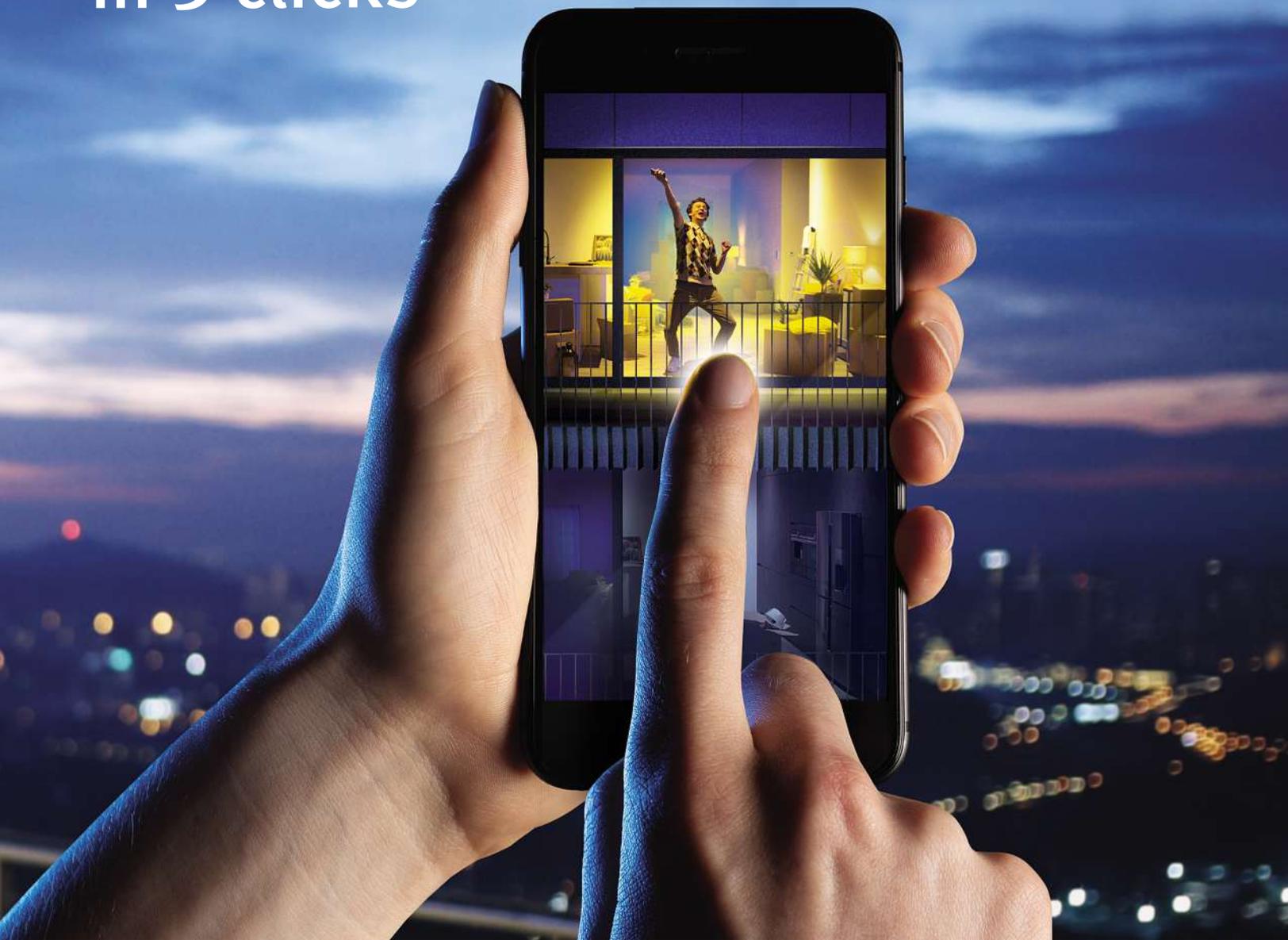
If you want a city location, The Central has 30 designer apartments in the city and a Smart Aparthotel has 86 apartments in the financial and EU institution district of Kirchberg. Vistay has apartments, some with a terrace or balcony, whilst Empire Hotels has two centrally-located aparthotels with duplexes. The Queen has several villas, whilst MG Hotels has five serviced apartments including one in Bertrange. If you like to share your space with designer furniture and local artwork, try the apartments and duplexes of Cab ap'art. 1

## SHORT-TERM ACCOMODATION

- www.bedandbreakfast.eu
- www.youthhostels.lu
- www.airbnb.com/luxembourg
- www.furnished.lu/
- www.vaubanfort.lu/
- www.luxembourgexpats.lu/real-estate
- www.athome.lu
- www.thecentral.lu
- www.thequeen.lu
- www.vistay.lu
- www.empire.lu
- www.mghotels.lu
- www.cabaparts.eu
- www.couchsurfing.com
- www.fmi.lu
- www.appartager.lu
- www.luxfriends.eu



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# GETTING UTILITIES CONNECTED

If you're moving to long-term rental accommodation or have bought a new home, you'll need to get your utilities connected and manage waste disposal.

If the property to which you are moving has tenants or owners who are moving out, it will be easiest to have existing connections for gas, electricity and water transferred to your name. This can be done by you, the current tenant, or the landlord or seller, by telephone or online. You will need to provide a meter reading on the day you move in.

## GAS & ELECTRICITY

Creos is the country's network manager for gas, electricity, pipe maintenance, meter installation and readings. Most residential properties have smart meters, but you can also send a reading to Creos.

Enovos is the main gas and electricity supplier for the country but there are also regional and green energy suppliers. You can use a price comparison calculator like Calculix to review your best options.

Standard electrical sockets are 220 volts AC and use the European two-pin plug. If you bring items with you, check the voltage to ensure you don't cause burnout.

## MAZOUT OIL

Natural gas is not available at every residence, particularly in rural areas, so you might find your home uses Mazout oil for heating. There are several suppliers so you should search for a local one.

Check the level of your tank and fill it before it's empty to avoid damage to your heating system, but try not to fill up too frequently as the price per litre for Mazout decreases the more litres you order at one time.

## WATER

Water is supplied by your commune's *Service des Eaux*. You will be charged on a quarterly basis together with your waste disposal. If you live in the city, you can register a new connection or disconnect if you are moving out, via the Ville de Luxembourg or VdL.

☞ <https://www.vdl.lu/en/living/your-home/water-connecting-your-home>

**ENERGY PROVIDERS**

- ☞ [www.creos-net.lu](http://www.creos-net.lu)
- ☞ [www.enovos.lu](http://www.enovos.lu)
- ☞ [www.eida.lu](http://www.eida.lu)
- ☞ [www.electris.lu](http://www.electris.lu)
- ☞ [www.leoenergy.lu](http://www.leoenergy.lu)
- ☞ [www.sudenergie.lu](http://www.sudenergie.lu)
- ☞ [www.nordenergie.lu](http://www.nordenergie.lu)
- ☞ [www.steinerger.lu](http://www.steinerger.lu)
- ☞ [www.sudstrom.lu](http://www.sudstrom.lu)
- ☞ [www.calculix.lu](http://www.calculix.lu)

## WASTE DISPOSAL

Order bins from your local commune or the VdL. The black bin is for general waste, the blue bin for paper, whilst the yellow (*or green bin in the city*) is for glass. Different green bins can also be used for garden waste and organic matter.

Costs are billed quarterly and will depend on the frequency the bin is emptied and the weight of its contents. You can also order blue/green bags from Valorlux or pick them up at your commune. These are for recycling materials such as plastic bottles and bags, metal and tin containers, cans, jar lids and plastic corks.

You can find a timetable for bin and bag collection dates on the VdL website for city addresses, or your commune website.

There are several recycling centres in Luxembourg where you can dispose of bigger items, electrical goods, paint tins and paper or plastic recyclable goods, and bottles if you prefer not to get a green or yellow bin. The VdL or your commune can organise kerbside pick-up of bigger items such as beds or sofas. Supermarkets and some petrol stations also have recycling points, and there are 57 located in the city.

## INTERNET AND LANDLINE

Call or book online ahead of your moving in date to be sure you can get an installation appointment. There are numerous internet providers. Post & Telecom Luxembourg is the national carrier, but depending on your location you can shop around for suppliers, particularly in the city.

Several suppliers offer a monthly package which includes internet, mobile, TV and landline. Choose wisely as disconnecting and reconnecting with another supplier can be a costly and a slow process. ☞

**INTERNET PROVIDERS**

- ☞ [www.post.lu](http://www.post.lu)
- ☞ [www.orange.lu](http://www.orange.lu)
- ☞ [www.tango.lu](http://www.tango.lu)
- ☞ [www.internet.lu](http://www.internet.lu)
- ☞ [www.vo.lu](http://www.vo.lu)
- ☞ [www.eltrona.lu](http://www.eltrona.lu)
- ☞ [www.five.lu](http://www.five.lu)
- ☞ [www.sudstrom.lu](http://www.sudstrom.lu)
- ☞ [www.telewaller.lu](http://www.telewaller.lu)



# welcome to Luxembourg

*- your energy partner -*



As Luxembourg's main energy supplier, Enovos provides electricity, natural gas and renewable energy to a wide range of private households and businesses. **naturstrom**, our standard green electricity, is produced from 100% renewable energy sources and by using [my.enovos.lu](https://my.enovos.lu), you can save money by conveniently managing your energy transactions online.

Energy for today. Caring for tomorrow.

[enovos.lu](https://enovos.lu)

Adobe Stock



# GETTING A MOBILE

If you've come from an EU country, you should benefit from free network roaming at no additional cost, but check your contract in advance. If you've come from outside the EU, your smartphone may connect, but you will pay higher charges.

If you're staying for longer than a few months, it will be worth getting a Luxembourg SIM or phone and SIM package. Most of the country has 4G, 4G+ or 5G connectivity, but coverage tends to be best in the cities. Free WiFi is available in places such as Luxembourg City on [citywifi.lu](http://citywifi.lu)

Mobile operators offer monthly plans and it's worth comparing prices for the best deal. You can sign up to a basic contract for calls, texts and a small amount of data for as little as €5. If you plan to rent a property which will require an internet connection, consider a package for TV, mobile, landline and broadband. Post & Telecom Luxembourg has the widest network, but Orange and Tango also have networks.

You can compare mobile and internet plans on [www.letzcompare.lu](http://www.letzcompare.lu)

Luxembourg mobile numbers have nine digits that start with a six – so for Post it's 621, for Tango, 691. If you're using a phone you've brought from another country, don't forget to affix +352 if you're dialling a Luxembourg number (*you don't need to do this if you have a local SIM card*).

### CONTRACTS OR PRE-PAID SIM

You need to be registered as a resident in Luxembourg to get a mobile contract, but not if you want a pre-paid SIM card. You can use the latter if you already have a phone, but want a local number.

Mobile contracts can be SIM-only or include a smartphone, and generally last for 12-24 months. It is possible to get a contract where you pay on a month-by-month basis, but most plans charge a standard monthly rate.

Monthly fees are usually paid by direct debit so you will need a bank account. You can sign a contract online (you'll receive your SIM and phone by post) or instore. You'll need a valid ID such as a passport, proof of residence, and your bank account IBAN.

Pre-paid SIM cards are available online, instore and at the airport. You must show a form of ID when you buy one. Once you've activated it, you can top up online, instore, at Kiosk shops and supermarket checkouts, or even via your phone. **1**



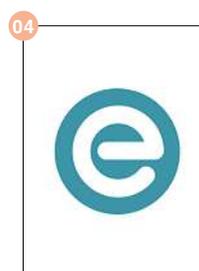
**01**  
**POST**  
www.post.lu  
8002 8004



**02**  
**TANGO**  
www.tango.lu  
8007 7777



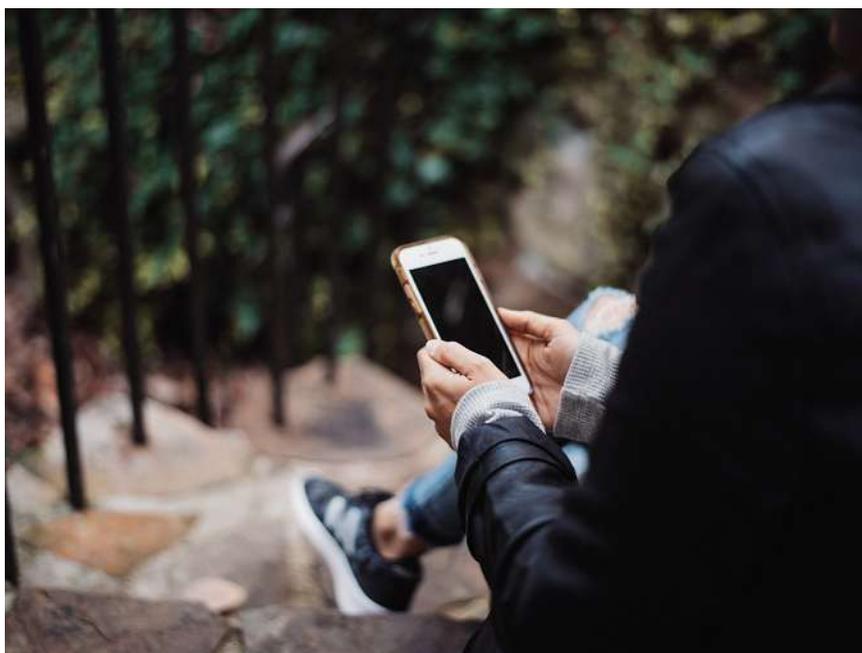
**03**  
**ORANGE**  
www.orange.lu  
800 61 606



**04**  
**ELTRONA**  
www.eltrona.lu  
49 94 66 888



**05**  
**LOL**  
www.internet.lu  
2799 0000



Chad Madden (unsplash.com)



# INTERNET LANDLINE TV



Packs to get informed, for teleworking,  
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Order online on

**BAMBOO.lu**



# WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

Here's what to do if you need an ambulance, or for a fire, a car accident, sick pet or gas leak.

Zhen Hu (unsplash.com)



## WHEN TO DIAL 112

You can dial this number 24/7 for:

- Medical emergencies
- Fire
- Rescue – including car accidents where you are trapped inside your vehicle
- On-duty hospitals, pharmacies, doctors, dentists and vets
- Breakdown – if you don't have cover
- Emergency locksmith

Most operators speak English but try to speak clearly, as they may not be native speakers. You'll be asked to give your name, contact number, exact location details, the nature of the emergency, and the number of people involved.

Always keep a copy of your social security card or national ID number, your European Health Insurance Card or private insurance details with you.

## AMBULANCE SERVICES

Not all ambulances are staffed by qualified medics, so if you think the emergency is serious, specify "Le Service d'Aide Médicale Urgent" or SAMU when you call 112.

## ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY – HOSPITALS

On duty hospitals for accidents and emergencies are published daily on

☞ [www.112.public.lu](http://www.112.public.lu)

For children under 14 years, the Kanerlinik at the Central Hospital operates a 24/7 emergency department, and the

Bohler Clinic takes emergencies by appointment.

For gynaecological and obstetrical emergencies go to the Maternity Hospital Grand Duchess Charlotte or the Bohler Clinic.

## EMERGENCY DOCTORS

Medical centres in Luxembourg City, Ettelbruck and Belval have emergency doctors on call on weekdays from 20.00 to midnight and at weekends and public holidays from 8.00 to midnight. You can go to the City and Belval centres without an appointment, but should call **20 333 111** to make an appointment at Ettelbruck.

## EMERGENCY DENTISTS

In an emergency you can go to the Central Hospital. The dental centres listed also operate emergency out-of-hours dentist appointments.

## GOUVALERT

This mobile app broadcasts alerts on major incidents that occur on a national scale such as serious accidents, dangerous weather conditions, flooding, fires and energy disruption. App users can also contact emergency services directly and will be geolocated if they are injured or need immediate assistance.

## EMERGENCY VETS

If your pet needs urgent assistance at home check SOS vets or the list of on-duty vets at the Association of Vets in Luxembourg.

## POLICE DIAL 113

For thefts, burglaries, assaults or to report suspicious behaviour, contact the police on 113.

## GAS, ELECTRICITY OR WATER

If you smell gas, or have a problem with your electricity supply you should call Creos on their emergency numbers, available 24/7.

For water, dial 112 and switch off your water at the mains tap (*often located in the garage or the basement of the house usually near to the water meter*). ☑

## 🏥 MEDICAL CENTRES

### CITY

📍 23, Val Fleuri  
☎ (+352) 2033 3111

### BELVAL

📍 3-4 Avenue du Swing  
☎ (+352) 2033 3111

### ETTELBRUCK

📍 110 Avenue Lucien Salentyne  
☎ (+352) 2033 3111

🌐 [www.sante.lu](http://www.sante.lu)

## 🦷 DENTISTS

### DENTAL CENTRE BONNEVOIE

DESKTOP [www.centremedicodentaireluxembourg.lu](http://www.centremedicodentaireluxembourg.lu)  
☎ (+352) 4957 99

### DENTAL CENTRE BERTRANGE

🌐 [www.centremedicodentairebertrange.lu](http://www.centremedicodentairebertrange.lu)  
☎ (+352) 2775 0550

### DENTAL CENTRES IN STRASSEN AND ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE

🌐 [www.centredentaireluxembourg.lu](http://www.centredentaireluxembourg.lu)  
☎ (+352) 2739 7141 (Strassen)  
☎ (+352) 2880 4555 (Esch-sur-Alzette)

## 🐾 VETS

🌐 [www.sosvet.lu](http://www.sosvet.lu)  
☎ (+352) 2751 0112

🌐 [www.lak.lu](http://www.lak.lu)

## ⚡ GAS & ELECTRICITY

☎ Gas: 8007 3001  
☎ Electricity 8002 9900



**DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!  
BECOME A MEMBER TODAY**



**THANKS TO YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP**

**YOU BENEFIT**

from free worldwide repatriation

**YOU SUPPORT**

air rescue in Luxembourg  
and the Greater Region

**YOU HELP**

save lives, maybe even yours one day

**We fly for *your* life**



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# FINDING A DOCTOR, DENTIST OR SPECIALIST

Fingers crossed that you don't get ill when you arrive, but it's best to register with a doctor or dentist as soon as possible, just in case.



Annie Spratt (unsplash.com)

You can find doctors, dentists and medical specialists by languages spoken on the Doctena.lu website, which also allows you to search by location. In some cases you can book an appointment online, or contact and address details are given. You can also look up paediatricians, pharmacists, and specialists registered in Luxembourg on the Medical College Lists.

## REGISTERING WITH A DOCTOR

You'll need to bring your 13-digit ID number which will be on your registration documents or your social security card. If you have private healthcare insurance you can bring this too, and any medical records or vaccination cards.

The doctor will ask you to fill out a form on your general state of health, any medication you take, and any ongoing conditions. If you have a chronic condition, your doctor will be responsible for your long-term care and prescribe medication. You pay the doctor before you leave and you should keep the receipt for reimbursement.

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**Mueresstonn huet  
Gold am Mond.**  
*An hour in the morning  
before breakfast, is worth  
two all the rest of the day.*

Luxembourgish proverb

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## VISITING A DENTIST

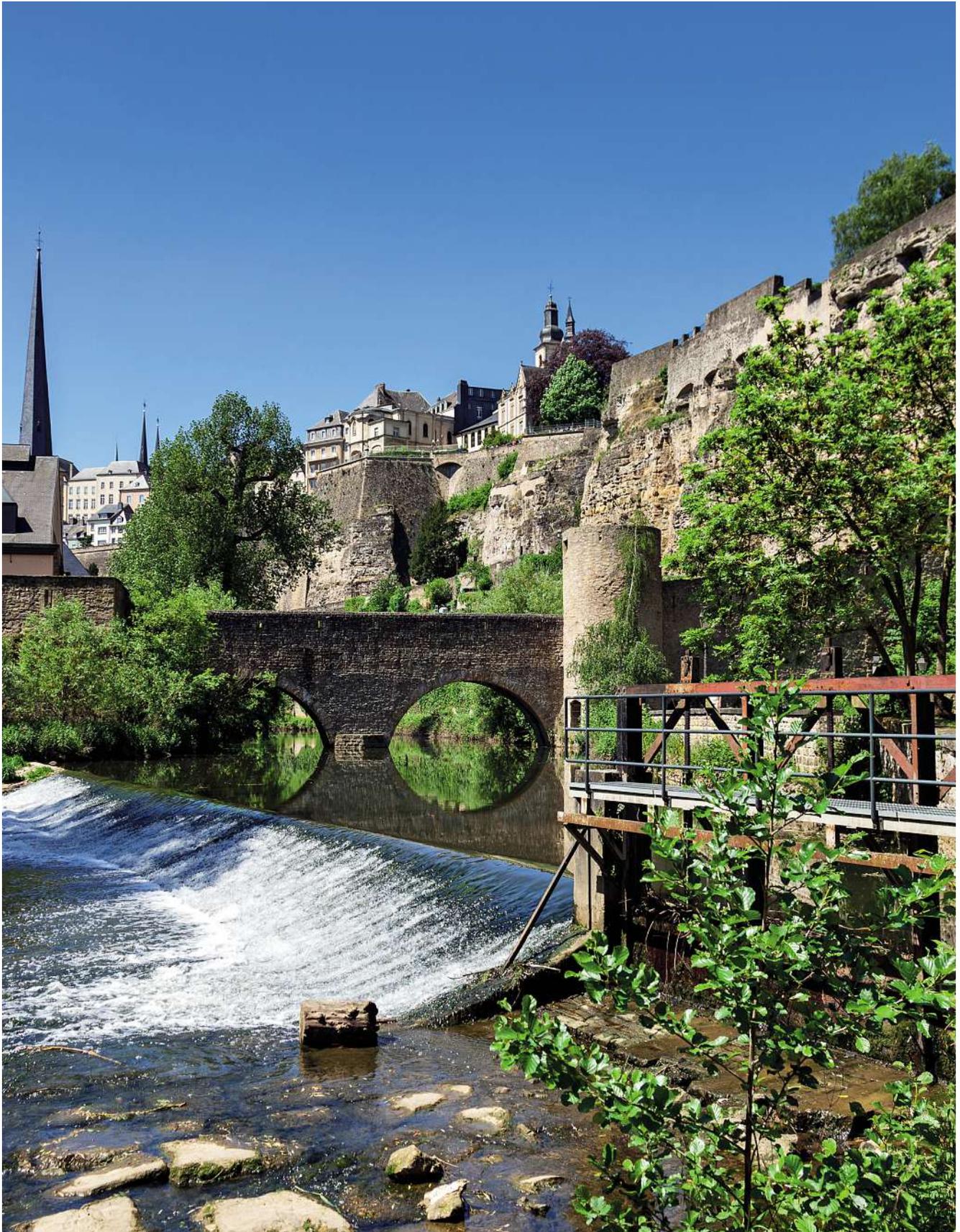
You can use the Doctena platform to find a dentist, but check that they are registered with the *Caisse de Maladie* if you want reimbursement through your social security cover.

Dentists must inform you if your treatment will be covered and how much you will get back, or what is an additional cost, but in practise this doesn't happen for minor treatment such as check ups or teeth cleaning. Again, you pay for treatment upfront and then claim for reimbursement. Major dental work such as fitting a bridge will require pre-approval from the National Health Fund (CNS) or your private insurer.

## SPECIALISTS

You can book an appointment with a specialist without referral, including gynaecologists, dermatologists and oncologists. Check they are registered with the CNS if you want to get reimbursed, and be aware that some disciplines such as psychology, are not reimbursed. Fees are set by the government, so specialists usually charge a standard amount.

For emergency or out of hours doctors and dentists, refer to our article on What to do in an emergency. **1**



# GETTING AROUND

Don't worry about having the right change, Luxembourg was the first country in the world to make all public transport free of charge in 2020.

Most villages in rural areas are served by bus, and the country has a rail network, whilst the capital has a tram system. You'll only need a ticket if you're travelling first class on a train or if your journey will cross a border into Germany, France or Belgium.

## BUS

Buses are the most common way to get about, with buses 1-32 run by the state, and the rest by private providers. Buses 6, 16 and 29 go to the airport, but you can find a comprehensive list of bus routes and timetables on the Mobiliteit.lu website.

A number of night buses run through the early hours of the morning on Saturdays and Sundays if you plan to have a late night out. Many municipalities also run a mini-bus service that will collect you from your home and drop you at key local destinations including shopping centres. You must book these in advance.

## TRAIN

Train services to Arlon in Belgium, Trier in Germany and Metz in France will connect you to other destinations in these countries. Local services run to Rodange, Waserbilling, Wiltz and Troisvierges, Esch-sur-Alzette, Dudelange, Rumelange, Pétange, and Kleinbettingen, stopping at destinations along the way. A non-stop fast train from the Central Station will have you in Paris in 2 hours and 15 minutes.

You can download mobile app "m-shop" to pay for journeys on Regio-Zone cross-border networks via your phone. There are sales centres at the Central Railway Station in the city and the Belval University Station.

## TRAM

A simple and easy way to get around the city is Luxembourg's electric tram system which, when completed, will link the airport to the city and on to Cloche d'Or. For now, the tram runs from the Central Railway Station (*Gare*) to LuxExpo in Kirchberg and serves 15 stops.

## TAXI

Taxis are notoriously expensive in Luxembourg where Uber is yet to get a foothold. It's slightly cheaper to order a Webtaxi, or if you are travelling in a large group, you can consider the Nightrider bus. For an annual membership fee the latter can also be used on a regular basis.

## BICYCLE

If the traffic's bad and the sun is out, you might prefer to take a Vel'oh bicycle. Each is equipped with electric assistance, and there are more than 100 stations in the city where you can pick up or drop off your bike. Some municipalities including Strassen, Bertrange, Mamer and Niederanven also have Vel'oh stations. A one-year subscription costs €18. With it, the first half hour of your journey is free, or you can rent the bike for the day for €2. 

Johnny Goerend (unsplash.com)



Adobe Stock



Matthew Henry (unsplash.com)

# REGISTERING OR EXCHANGING A DRIVING LICENCE

You may need to register or exchange your driving licence, even if you come to Luxembourg from another EU/EEA country. All licences are issued by the SNCA, the **Société Nationale de Circulation Automobile**.

## EU/EEA DRIVING LICENCE

It's optional to register your licence but advised that you do as the SNCA can provide a duplicate licence if yours gets lost or is stolen. Without registration you will need a certificate of authenticity from the country that issued your licence, stating the validity and vehicle categories.

Registration is free of charge, and you fill out a form and take it in person or post it to the SNCA office at Sandweiler or to the Guichet reception desk at 11 rue Notre Dame in Luxembourg City. You'll need to attach a copy of both sides of your licence and one of a valid ID.

Exchange is only mandatory if you commit an offence resulting in the restriction, cancellation, suspension or loss of points on

your licence. Some countries will only allow you to renew your licence if you are resident for 180 days, in which case you'll need to exchange yours for a Luxembourgish licence.

To exchange it, you'll need to fill out a form, attach a recent photo measuring 45 x 35mm, provide a copy of your ID and of both sides of your current licence, and a criminal record extract less than three months old (*you can order this via MyGuichet or from the Ministry of Justice*).

The fee to exchange is €30, and you must surrender your original driving licence when you collect your new one.

## NON-EU DRIVING LICENCE

If you come from a country outside the EU/EEA, including the UK, you must convert

your licence to a Luxembourgish one within a year of residence in the country. You can apply as soon as you arrive, but it will only be converted once you have lived here for 185 days. You can still drive with your foreign licence for your first year of residence.

If you don't convert your licence within a year, you will have to pass a driving test (*both practical and theory*), and your foreign licence will cease to be valid.

To convert your licence, you fill in a form and hand it in with a recent photo, a medical certificate from your GP, and criminal record extracts from both Luxembourg and your home country, all less than 3 months old. You'll also need a copy of your ID and both sides of your existing licence, and it will cost you €30. Again, you'll surrender your foreign licence. **1**

# MEETING PEOPLE

The Grand Duchy is unique in that some 50% of its population comprises foreign residents from some 170 countries. There are plenty of forums, clubs, language classes or shared interest groups to meet people from Luxembourg and around the world.

## LUXEMBOURG MEETUP

If you want to join a hiking or running group, take a trip in the region, try out a new restaurant, or practise your language skills, this online forum is a good starting point. It's free to join, and you can receive regular emails to match your interests.

📄 [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

## INTERNATIONS

A dedicated and free resource to support expats, InterNations provides guides on job hunting, learning languages, and a social forum with groups and events you can join.

📄 [www.internations.org/luxembourg-expats](http://www.internations.org/luxembourg-expats)

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**There's a surprising number of stylish places to stay, eat and party**

The Guardian

”

## EVENTBRITE

A great website listing professional, business, creative and social events including ones on health, sport and family. It lists free events if you have a tight budget.

📄 [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

## FACEBOOK GROUPS

You can join a number of Facebook groups that are helpful forums for advice, information about events, services and items for sale. Expats de Lux is managed by InterNations, whilst Ladies of Luxembourg (*and Gentlemen of Luxembourg*) are gender specific forums where you can ask for advice or recommendations.

Luxembourg Parents is a great group to ask school or parenting questions, whilst Events in Luxembourg lists comedy nights, festivals and DJs, bands and pop-up markets.

## LGBTIQ+

Luxembourg's Pride Week usually takes place in July, with week-long celebrations including live music, DJs, drag acts, discussions, art and cinema.

The Rosa Lëtzebuerg Association defends and promotes LGBTIQ rights and equality, and organises events and regular meet ups such as Pink Ladies and Pink Gents, whilst Woof Luxembourg and Bear Dukes Luxembourg organise events for men only, and LadyLike hosts nights for women only.

## EXPAT ASSOCIATIONS & EVENTS

The British Ladies Club organise social gatherings, classes, talks and playgroups for parents. The American Women's Club Luxembourg also offers activities for all ages at its Clubhouse. Many other nationalities have associations and groups that organise events, and language classes.

Each November the Bazar Internationale at Lux Expo hosts numerous nationalities that live in Luxembourg. You can try the cuisine and purchase products.

## FEELING LONELY?

If you feel overwhelmed or depressed about your move to Luxembourg, contact SOS Détresse on either 45 45 45 or in English online at 📄 [www.454545.lu](http://www.454545.lu)

## WELCOME AND INTEGRATION CONTRACT (CAI)

- Orientation day
- Discounts on language courses
- Free citizenship classes

📄 <https://forum-cai.lu/>



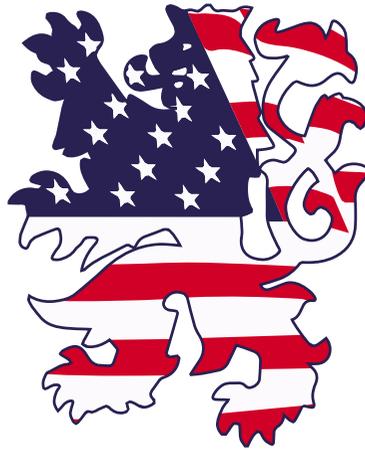
# A M C H A M LUXEMBOURG

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN LUXEMBOURG A.S.B.L.

**The American Chamber of Commerce in Luxembourg**, (AMCHAM.lu), is Luxembourg's largest private Chamber of Commerce. We hold the US Chamber of Commerce's franchise to be their affiliate in Luxembourg (think of us as being like a McDonald's hamburger restaurant franchise!). We are an active member of the Federation of American Chambers of Commerce in Europe (which gives us a pan European network of partner organizations). At the same time, we are a local Luxembourg non-profit organization led by a local board of Directors chosen from among our Luxembourg Charter members.

**We exist to provide the following four services:**

1. Networking in English
2. Information about how Luxembourg works
3. Problem-solving (when our members see a need for improvements in local practices and policies)
4. Communication and advocacy with government decision-makers to ensure the needs of our members are given appropriate consideration when policy decisions are made.



We provide these services through 17 committees, digital webinars, a weekly digital newsletter, Social media, our [www.amcham.lu](http://www.amcham.lu) website, our comprehensive **Doing Business in Luxembourg** book (now in its 4th edition), monthly ABAL lunches, evening cocktail seminars, large social events (like Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, Summer BBQ, Carnival party, New Year's Reception...), and most recently, Saturday Newcomer orientation courses. Communication is critical to us, and we couldn't do it without the help of great partners like the Luxembourg Times.

Our membership includes a significant number of Luxembourg's most successful and respected companies. We are very proud to be a multi-national melting pot organization with 30% companies of US origin, 20% companies of Luxembourg

Heritage and with the remaining 50% being companies from all over the world. We accept and welcome members with all passports and are fully committed to treating all members equally and always providing the highest quality services and support. Please contact [info@amcham.lu](mailto:info@amcham.lu) to discuss joining our family of great members!

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# LIVING IN LUXEMBOURG



If you plan to stay for a few years, it's cheaper to rent an unfurnished property. We take a look at popular city neighbourhoods, and give you the lowdown on property prices, transport links, cultural attractions and places to dine or grab a beer. We'll also guide you through the rental process, including the contract, inventory and your responsibilities as a tenant.

Luxembourg's healthcare system ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the world, so if you do need treatment or you plan to have a baby, you know you're in safe hands. Our guide to hospitals, healthcare and the National Health Fund (*CNS*), which covers some of the cost of treatment and medication if you pay social security contributions, explains where to go, and how the *CNS* system works.

If you're working, you may benefit from filing a tax return, so it's good to know deadlines, tax classes and allowances for mortgage or pension payments. If you came with your spouse or partner and don't have a job yet, read our article on

searching for one, with tips on where to look and how to format your CV, or find out what support you can get to start your own business.

This section also includes a guide to buying a car, and an article on which insurance cover is compulsory.





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**Mir wëlle bleiwe  
wat mir sinn.**

*We will remain  
what we are.*

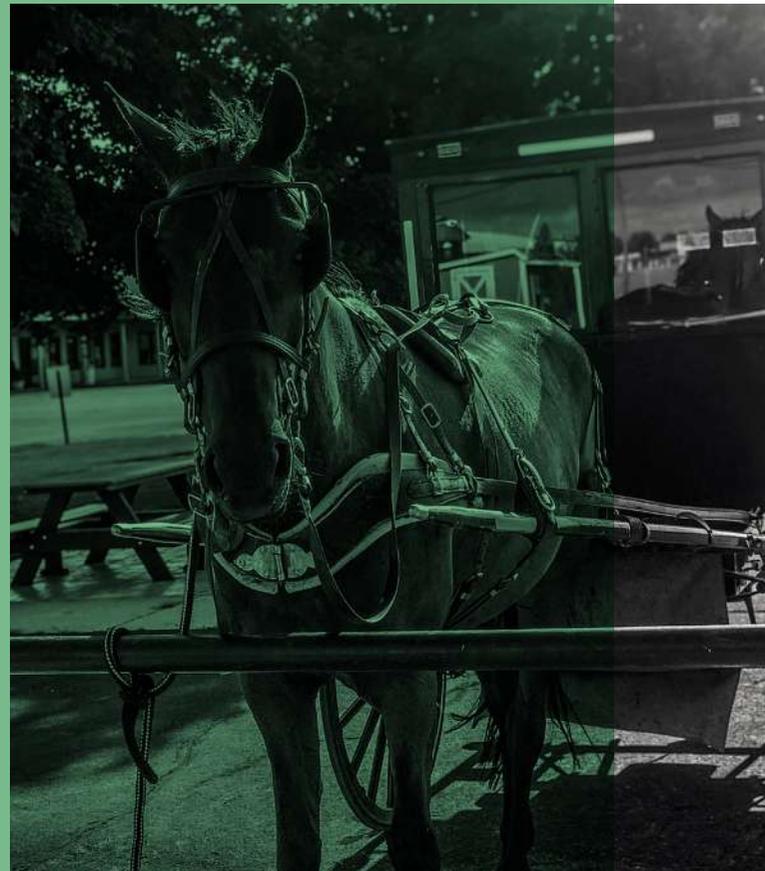
Luxembourg's official motto

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## UNIQUE TRADITIONS

One way to meet Luxembourgers is to get involved with their unique traditions, from Buergbrennen, or bonfire night, to the country's Schueberfouer fairground and festivities. Learn a little about the traditions, and join in with friends and neighbours.

 [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com), Adobe Stock



# CITY NEIGHBOURHOODS

Luxembourg City has 24 districts, many of which are largely residential. If you want to know what the central neighbourhoods have to offer in terms of entertainment, facilities, transport, and property prices – read on.

© Zoë Mondloch (all)



## VILLE HAUTE AND GARE

### GARE

- 👤 11,713
- 🏠 €11-13,000 per sqm
- 🚊 2, 4, 9, 10, 14, 18-20, 22, 23, 27-29

### VILLE HAUTE

- 👤 3,490
- 🏠 €11-15,000 per sqm
- 🚊 2-4, 6, 8-12, 14-16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 31

If you want to walk to work, or be close to restaurants and nightlife, these two districts are an attractive option. Ville Haute comprises the streets around Place d'Armes and Place Guillaume II, and the Saint Esprit Plateau, whilst Gare is the area from the train station to the Bourbon Plateau. They are separated by the Pétrusse valley, and both are on the tram

line. The Central Railway Station has trains to destinations in Luxembourg, France, Belgium and Germany.

There are supermarkets by the station and at Hamilius, but you'll also find shops selling Russian, Asian, Indian and African foodstuff. Fresh fish is brought in daily from Paris at Kraken. Ville Haute is home to the Bierger-Center, the city library, and a small theatre.

For greenery there's Edmond Klein Park, including the pirate ship playground, Pescatore Park with its fountains and lawns, and a glass elevator that takes you to Clausen. Kinekswiss hosts open-air concerts and children's events and fairs. You can swim or take a sauna at Badanstalt. For culture vultures the old town is home to the National Museum of History and Art, galleries Villa Vauban and Casino Luxembourg, and cultural centre Altrimenti. For live music head to De Gudde Wëllen or den Atelier. The streets in both districts are filled with restaurants and bars, serving food from around the globe. 📍



© Jared Lisak (unsplash.com)



GRUND AND CLAUSEN

CLAUSEN

- 👤 1,012
- 🏠
- 🚊 9, 23, CN1

GRUND

- 👤 977
- 🏠
- 🚊 20, 23

Flanking the River Alzette, these are two of the city's oldest neighbourhoods. Grund dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and you can see remnants of fortifications, towers and an old fort. Today, both neighbourhoods are where you'll find much of the nightlife, from Scott's Pub with its picturesque terrace, to Irish pub The Pygmalion, and the Britannia, located not far from the many bars and restaurants on Rives de Clausen. In Grund, you'll find the Natural History Museum, and Neimënster Abbey, now a cultural centre that hosts exhibitions, theatre, live music and open-air festivals. By the river, sits a statue of Melusina, the famed mermaid wife of Count Siegfried. In Clausen, you'll see the vestiges of a chateau built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. You can walk by the river from one district to the other.



LIMPERTSBERG

LIMPERTSBERG

- 👤 11,195
- 🏠 €13-17,000 per sqm
- 🚊 2, 4, 8, 19, 30, CN1, CN7

The former rose-growing district remains a leafy corner in the north-west of the city, filled with art nouveau houses. Glacis serves as a venue for the annual Schueberfouer fair, the advent circus, and a monthly market. Nearby is the Luxembourg Institute of Languages (*INL*), and the area has three grocery stores, two tram stops, and a medical centre and pharmacy.

Several secondary schools are located in Limpertsberg including the International Lycée Michel Lucius and the Waldorf School. The rose gardens have gone, but you can still admire the flowerbeds and redwood trees in Tony Neuman Park, which also boasts sculptures by local artists and a kid's playground.

Tramschapp cultural centre hosts events and exhibitions, including Art Week in November, and the city's Grand Theatre lies on its borders. Arthouse Ciné Utopia screens independent productions. For coffee there's Ready?! and for beer Café des Tramways. There are several restaurants including Chiche, where you can sample Syrian food, and La Taperia for Basque-style tapas.



KIRCHBERG AND WEIMERSKIRCH

KIRCHBERG

- 👤 7,620
- 🏠 €11-13,500 per sqm
- 🚊 6, 7, 16, 18, 21, 25, 30, 32, CN4, CN5

WEIMERSKIRCH

- 👤 2,370
- 🏠 €11-16,000 per sqm
- 🚊 25, 30, CN5

The EU and business district, and a fast-growing residential area, Kirchberg is flanked by Weimerskirch. Kirchberg plateau is home to several EU institutions, banks and accountancy firms, and their award-winning glass and steel architecture dominates the skyline. It's also where you'll find the Luxembourg Philharmonie, and the MUDAM contemporary art gallery.

There are two shopping centres, the bigger one housing a supermarket. Next door to it, is a multi-screen cinema and the country's biggest exhibition space Lux Expo. There's a hospital with a maternity unit and pharmacy in Kirchberg, plus the national library, and the main boulevard is served by several tram stops. The Pffafenthal Kirchberg rail station has lines running north.

One of the EU institution's schools is based here, as is private French school Sainte-Sophie. There's a botanical arboretum, and the central park has a playground and ornamental lake, whilst in Weimerskirch, Laval Park has a multisport ground. You can swim or try the climbing wall at national sports centre D'Coque, and you'll be spoilt for choice when dining, with several restaurants, and the lovely Weimerskirch-located literary Café le Bovary.



**BONNEVOIE**

**BONNEVOIE**

👤 17,773

🏠 €12,000 per sqm

🚌 3, 5, 9, 28, 29, CN3

If you're looking for a bohemian atmosphere, Bonnevoie in the southeast of the city fits the bill. A melting pot of nationalities it's home to many specialty food shops from Portugal, Italy, Greece, India and South America. There are two grocery shops, and a halal butcher, plus an organic food store, Alavita.

The quarter is home to Racing FC Union and the space-themed Kaltries park, which boasts a rocket ship playground, giant chessboard, table tennis and a bowling alley. It also has a swimming pool, and you can take the Godchaux walking circuit to discover its textile history. Housed in a former rail engine workshop, Rotondes hosts live bands, theatre, workshops and festivals, and there are two theatres within its borders.

For Sunday brunch, Bouneweger Stuff is recommended, whilst for classic French food there's Le Laboratoire, and for something spicy, the Bay of Bengal, Peppermint or Simply Thai. Cake-lovers can head to Hoffmann patisserie, whilst Glow serves up vegetarian fare.



**CENTS & HAMM**

**CENTS**

👤 6,389

🏠 €8-12,500 per sqm

🚌 Buses 7, 9, 14, 15, 25, 29, CN1

**HAMM**

👤 1,519

🏠 €10-12,500 per sqm

🚌 9, 15, 25

In the eastern corner of the city, these neighbourhoods are close to the airport, Kirchberg, and the nightlife in Clausen and the Grund. Hamm is also home to the St George's International School, and the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, the final resting place for 5,000 servicemen including General Patton.

Both neighbourhoods have grocery stores, share a butchers, and have patisserie-coffee shops Fischer and Namur. Cents has a medical centre and pharmacy, a local primary school, and an airport-themed wood playground complete with an aeroplane, check in, baggage trolleys, a slide and sandpit. It's neighbour is home to FC Hamm Benfica.

For classy dining try Centser Roud Haus, for family eats there is Brasserie du Cents, and for a beer try Beim Zeutzius, or Irish country pub, The Black Stuff. For international cuisine, Jade Village offers Chinese cuisine, Il Piccolo, Italian fare, and njÖrd Kitchen serves up Smørrebrød.



**BELAIR**

**BELAIR**

👤 12,139

🏠 €12,500-14,500 per sqm

🚌 8, 12, 13, 15, CN7

In the west, the expensive residential neighbourhood, Belair, is filled with grand villas from the 1920s, now mostly divided into apartments. Despite being bordered by two main roads to the city – route d'Arlon and route de Longwy, it remains calm.

It has a supermarket, and a bio butchers and deli, Niessen, two pharmacies, and two flower shops. It's home to the National Theatre of Luxembourg and the Central Hospital, and private international school Over the Rainbow. The swimming pool is open at weekends, and there's a cute castle playground with swings, and another with a helicopter. For a game of ten pin, there's Um Staminet, and for a beer, the popular Pacha, and you can buy authentic Japanese ramen kits from Mansoku. Of the many restaurants, Pablito serves ceviche.





# Four key points for an efficient property search!

That's it! The decision has been made. You're moving to Luxembourg! Whether it's for a few months, a year or maybe even a lifetime, our little country has many attractive features that are sure to please. The date has been set, you've made work and school arrangements, but still the question of where you will live remains open. As ever, finding the perfect new home (maybe

with a breathtaking view, an ideal garden and special amenities) can be a little difficult. But as a leading specialist in Luxembourg real estate, Immotop.lu has a few secrets to share to help you in your search.

## **Opt for efficiency**

These days, the internet is without doubt the most efficient and speedy way to

find a property that suits. Accessible at any time from anywhere, our platform centralises all available property advertisements and contacts related to real estate in Luxembourg.

More than 600 real estate agencies use Immotop.lu, as well as a good number of private individuals. We thus communicate more than 30,000 ads.

To facilitate your research our site is available in four languages (including English), which enables you to navigate in the one that suits you best.

Being responsive to properties that come on the purchase and rental markets is also an essential element for a successful search. Our real time email and mobile alert system sends you

targeted ads as soon as they are online, according to your predefined criteria.

Sometimes you will find a property that suits you, but you can't call immediately. Just fill in a few details and your request for a physical or online visit will be made!

### Set your search criteria

Our platform has been designed with the user in mind, to help you optimise your search. Simple and uncluttered, it focuses on the user's needs and your property search.

A search form on the Immotop.lu home page makes things easier. Accessible from your computer, your tablet or your mobile, four different search methods allow you to set your criteria as closely as possible.

You can select using a map, the name of a location, a map on which you can draw, and even **by travel time since Immotop.lu is the first marketplace in Luxembourg to provide this new feature.** In a few clicks the list of properties that match your wishes appears.

Search terms that can be defined include the geographical location, the surface area, the number of rooms, the outdoor spaces or other elements specific to your needs.

Immotop.lu can be used seamlessly across numerous devices. You can switch

between your computer and your mobile, with all information saved. The history of your search steps remains visible and is synchronised, and you can create an account which allows you to save your searches and ads!

### Knowing the market

Also, by setting your budget on the system you avoid the disappointment of finding out that a property you have fallen in love with is beyond your means, or is out of line with market valuations. Here again, we are the ideal reference point to help you understand how prices are moving. We track the market

in each of the country's local authority areas (communes), so you can view trends in real time.

As proof of the reliability of our price data, they are used by the Ministry of Housing to draw up national housing statistics.

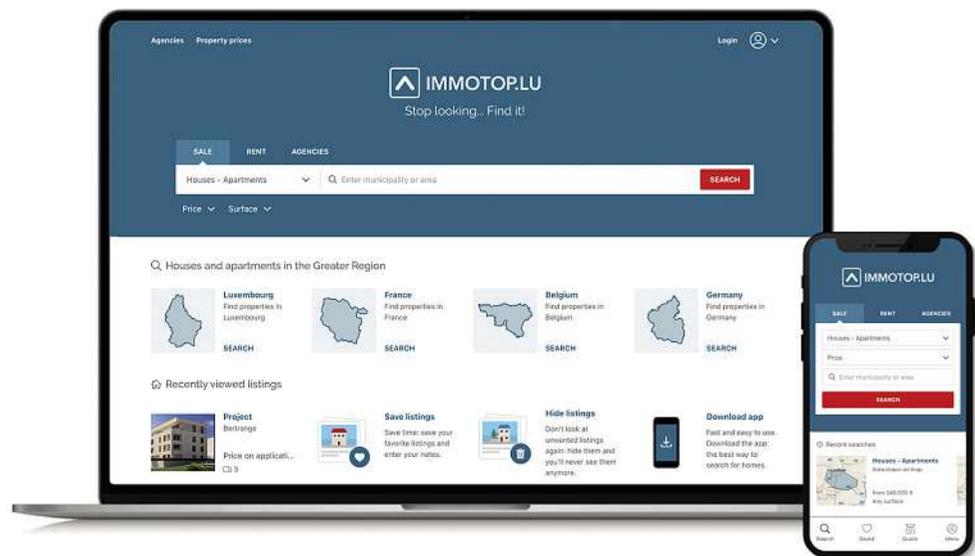
### Making it easier to settle in

Finding reliable suppliers is also important when you are looking to settle in, but it can be difficult to choose from the multitude of providers. We have selected some leading, trusted professionals who will meet all your needs.

If you are already thinking about making a purchase, you can use our website to make a loan simulation in a few minutes with our banking partner Spuerkeess.

As for insurance, you can use a simulator provided in cooperation with Lalux to give you an initial estimate of the cost of covering the basics.

Telephony and internet with Orange, removals with Vaglio, furniture with La Roche Bobois, Enovos for your electricity are leading suppliers who can provide information f your needs via our contact forms.



# A GUIDE TO RENTING

A high demand and a low supply means finding a longer-term rental home can be difficult. Here's our guide to finding the right place and signing the contract.

## WHICH LOCATION?

Work and school are the two biggest factors in deciding where to rent. Rush hour traffic can make even short journeys time-consuming, so check public and school transport options.

The average monthly rental cost for an apartment was €1,519 and for a house was €3,126 in 2021, and about €100 and €1,000 more respectively for Luxembourg City. House rental is cheaper in the suburbs, whilst the city lends itself more to apartments.



Corina Rainer (unsplash.com)

## FINDING A PLACE

Notice periods for rental properties can be 2-3 months, so start your search in plenty of time. Register with local agents or search by location on aggregator websites. Agency fees are usually a month's rent plus VAT. Check social media groups and noticeboards at work for private rentals that avoid this fee.

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

House rentals don't include gas, electricity, internet, rubbish collection or water rates. Some apartments will have an additional monthly fee that includes these services, but landlords have the right to reconcile costs at the end of the year which may result in an extra charge.

You may also be responsible for general maintenance including an annual boiler service or keeping the garden hedges trimmed. And, most properties come unfurnished (*and with no lights or curtains*) so expect to budget for house furnishings.

## THE CONTRACT

Known here as a *Contrat de bail à loyer*, most rental contracts are for a standard 1-2 years with a diplomatic clause, should your employment require that you leave the country. Whilst you might be responsible for general maintenance and cleaning, it's worth adding a clause that states your landlord must repair or replace essentials such as the heating, dishwasher or oven, within a time limit.

## DEPOSIT

The *Dépôt de garantie* or deposit is usually provided via a bank guarantee, in which the money is paid into an account in your name but needs authorisation from both parties for money to be released. A deposit cannot exceed 3 months' rent, and should be refunded within 6 months of the end of the lease, minus the cost of repairs and service charges.

This has long been a source of contention between landlords and tenants, and you may need to seek arbitration. Guichet.lu has more information on terminating a lease and what to do in a conflict.

## INVENTORY

The *Etats des lieux* or inventory is important because it is a signed record of the condition of the rental property. You normally go through it on the day you move in. Go through this a room at a time, checking all kitchen appliances, showers, toilets, the heating and the state of the floor and wall decoration. This is to ensure you are not charged for damage you didn't make when you leave the property. You'll both sign it on the day you move in and again on the day you leave to release deposit funds.

## INSURANCE

You will be required to take household and fire insurance to cover the building, and contents insurance for the cost of an equipped kitchen or bathroom. Consider adding wooden flooring, and obviously your own contents will need to be covered.

## GIVING NOTICE

Most properties should be left in the same state as at the start of the rental contract. Notice must be given at least 3 months before the end of the contract in writing and sent by registered post. The landlord has the right to show prospective tenants the property in those final months. They also have the right to serve notice to you if they intend to sell the property. **K**

- 📄 [www.wortimmo.lu](http://www.wortimmo.lu)
- 📄 [www.athome.lu](http://www.athome.lu)
- 📄 [www.immotop.lu](http://www.immotop.lu)
- 📄 [www.immostar.lu](http://www.immostar.lu)
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- 📄 [www.housingtarget.com/luxembourg/](http://www.housingtarget.com/luxembourg/)
- 📄 [www.home.editus.lu/en](http://www.home.editus.lu/en)  
(for a list of smaller agencies)
- 📄 [www.myresidence.lu/rent](http://www.myresidence.lu/rent)
- 📄 [www.housebrokers.lu/en/ads/rent/](http://www.housebrokers.lu/en/ads/rent/)
- 📄 [www.weckbecker.lu/properties/rentals/](http://www.weckbecker.lu/properties/rentals/)
- 📄 [www.ab-lux.com/en/properties/rent/](http://www.ab-lux.com/en/properties/rent/)



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# HOSPITALS & HEALTHCARE

Luxembourg's healthcare system was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the world by the 2021 Legatum Prosperity Index. The government committed a few years ago to injecting a further €207m into the country's hospitals and treatment centres. Our guide takes you through the country's healthcare facilities.



Derek Finch (unsplash.com)

## WHO IS ENTITLED TO HOSPITAL TREATMENT?

All residents of Luxembourg are entitled to emergency healthcare, but if you or your partner do not make social security contributions, you will not be entitled to state care from the National Health Fund or **Caisse Nationale de Santé (CNS)**, and you will need health cover for non-emergency care.

## A&E

You can go directly to the **Cas d'Urgence (emergency department)** at a hospital. Bring your ID, social security card, private health insurance or European Health

Insurance Card. Payment for treatment may be requested on site or invoiced to your home address. Keep receipts for reimbursement.

## GENERAL ADMISSION

Usually you either need a referral from your doctor or a medical specialist to be admitted to hospital. Wait times can vary, but generally the speed of treatment in Luxembourg is very favourable compared with other EU countries.

## INPATIENT/OUTPATIENT

The CNS covers both types of treatment, and for inpatient treatment you will gener-

ally share a room with 1-2 other people. If you want a private room it will cost extra, unless you have private health insurance. The CNS generally reimburses 80-100% of treatment, medical care, drugs, tests, travel costs and medical devices or aids, plus rehabilitation costs. This is the same for maternity care. Inpatients should take a change of clothes and bedwear, toiletries, and money for items such as bottled water.

Sante.lu is the government health portal providing advice on illness prevention, details to claim reimbursements for health expenditure, as well as legislation, articles and publications on health. **1**

# LUXEMBOURG HOSPITALS



**01**  
**CENTRE HOSPITALIER DE LUXEMBOURG (CHL)**

This includes the Kanner Klinik for children

- 🏠 4 rue Ernst Barblé, Strassen
- ☎ (+352) 44 11 11
- ☎ (+352) 44 11 31 33 (Kanner Klinik)
- 🌐 www.chl.lu

**02**  
**MATERNITÉ GRAND-DUCHESSE CHARLOTTE**

- 🏠 120 Route d'Arlon, Strassen
- ☎ (+352) 44 11 11
- 🌐 www.chl.lu

**03**  
**CHL CLINIQUE D'EICH**

- 🏠 78 rue d'Eich, Weimerskirch
- ☎ (+352) 44 11 12
- 🌐 www.chl.lu

**04**  
**HÔPITAUX ROBERT SCHUMAN**  
(Hôpital Kirchberg/ Clinique Bohler)

- 🏠 5 rue Edward Steichen, Kirchberg
- ☎ (+352) 24 68 1
- 🌐 www.hopitauxschuman.lu

**05**  
**ZITHAKLINIK**

- 🏠 36 rue Saint Zithe, Gare
- ☎ (+352) 28 88 1
- 🌐 www.hopitauxschuman.lu

**06**  
**CENTRE HOSPITALIER DU NORD**

- 🏠 120 Avenue Salenty, Ettelbruck
- ☎ (+352) 81 66 1
- 🌐 www.chdn.lu

**07**  
**CLINIQUE SAINT-JOSEPH**

- 🏠 10 rue Grand-Duchesse Charlotte, Wiltz
- ☎ (+352) 81 66 9
- 🌐 www.chdn.lu

**08**  
**CENTRE HOSPITALIER EMILE MAYRISCH**

- 🏠 Rue Emile Mayrisch, Esch-sur-Alzette
- ☎ (+352) 57 11 1
- 🌐 www.chem.lu

**09**  
**HÔPITAL PRINCESS MARIE-ASTRID**

- 🏠 187 Avenue de la Liberté Niederkorn
- ☎ (+352) 57 11 1
- 🌐 www.chem.lu 36 53

**10**  
**HÔPITAL DE LA VILLE DE DUDELANGE**

- 🏠 98 rue de l'Hôpital, Dudelange
- ☎ (+352) 57 11 1
- 🌐 www.chem.lu

**11**  
**HÔPITAL INTERCOMMUNAL**

- 🏠 1 rue de l'Hôpital, Steinfort
- ☎ (+352) 39 94 91 1
- 🌐 www.his.lu

**12**  
**CENTRE HOSPITALIER NEURO-PSYCHIATRIQUE**

- 🏠 17 Avenue des Alliés, Ettelbruck
- ☎ (+352) 26 82 37 00
- 🌐 www.chnp.lu

**13**  
**FAMILY PLANNING**

- City, Esch-Belval, Ettelbruck
- 🌐 www.pfl.lu

# HOW THE CNS WORKS

If you live in Luxembourg and pay social security contributions you are entitled to a number of benefits including healthcare. It can be confusing when you first arrive, so we'll guide you through it.

## FIRST, THERE ARE TWO ACRONYMS YOU SHOULD FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH:

**CCSS** or **Centre Commun de la Sécurité Sociale**, is the Joint Centre for Social Security. You will pay a certain amount of your monthly salary to the CCSS.

**CNS** or **Caisse Nationale de Santé**, is the National Health Fund which will reimburse or pay for most of your medical costs.

## HOW TO GET CNS HEALTHCARE

If you work in Luxembourg then your employer will declare this to the CCSS, and you will receive a letter confirming you are part of the social security system. If you're self-employed, you need to register first with the CCSS to gain access to the CNS.

As ever there are exceptions, which include employees at the European Union institutions who do not join the CNS or pay contributions but have separate cover, and employees on secondment with international companies who may receive private medical cover instead.

Once you are registered, you should receive your social security card which will cover you for sickness, maternity, work-related accidents or illnesses, old age pension, disability and long-term care.

## COVER FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

Children or minors under 30 who live in Luxembourg can be co-insured by a parent. Spouses and civil partners can also join the scheme if they are not working or covered by another scheme. If they are covered by a work scheme, normally your children will join the CNS with you.

## HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

In most cases, such as a visit to a doctor or dentist, you pay the costs upfront and send the original receipted invoice to the CNS, checking that your national ID number is on it (*if not, write it on*).

The first time you do this, you must include a *relevé d'identité bancaire*, or RIB, which you can download from your bank online. If you paid by bank transfer after the treatment, remember to include proof of payment. You can usually download a PDF of this the day after the bank transfer. It's worth taking a copy of the original invoice in case you need to query payment.

**Paid invoices should be sent to CNS Reimbursements, L-2980, and no stamp is required.**

In some instances, healthcare costs can be settled directly between the CNS and the supplier. This is usually the case with pharmacies, physiotherapy, laboratories taking blood samples, and some hospital treatment.

## HOSPITAL COSTS

Hospital costs such as beds are paid directly by the CNS, but adults over 18 years must pay a participation cost of about €10-20 a day/night. Each doctor or specialist consulted will issue their own medical invoice which you must pay upfront, and then request reimbursement.

## DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

Dental care of up to €60 per calendar year is covered, after which procedures are reimbursed at different rates and tariffs. Dentists can set their own fee, but they must tell you the costs in advance in a written estimate including treatment, materials, and fees. Check-ups are reimbursed to 88% of standard rates, as is treatment for tartar removal, cavities, root canal work or surgical removal of a tooth.

Orthodontic treatment such as braces is covered for patients less than 17 years-old, with prior consent from the CNS. You will be informed of the reimbursement amount in advance if you submit a total cost. False teeth are covered between 80-100%.





from left to right: Greg Rosenke, Marek Studzinski (unsplash.com)

The government plans to introduce a system where doctors and dentists can also charge just the additional costs not covered by the CNS.

#### PRESCRIPTIONS

You must have a prescription for medication to be reimbursed. Treatment should be on the CNS list, and if it is not, the pharmacist will usually explain this and the cost before giving you the medication. Some drugs may require prior authorisation from the CMSS or Medical Board.

#### SPECIALIST CARE

The CNS will issue a certificate of coverage for treatments such as physiotherapy, speech therapy or specific medical supplies.

Medical professionals must be registered with the CNS. This normally includes most doctors and paediatricians, dentists and a number of specialists. It does include psychiatrists but not psychologists (*unless they are psychotherapists registered as psychiatrists too*).

#### INCAPACITY TO WORK

Your employer must pay you during sick leave or following an occupational accident or illness until the end of the month that you take your 77<sup>th</sup> day of sick leave. After that, the CNS will continue to pay benefits for a total of 78 weeks. Medical

certificates should be sent before the end of the third day of sick leave to the **CNS Services Gestion des Indemnités Pécuniaires L-2979** (or the Department of Financial Compensation Payment).

#### MATERNITY

To be entitled to maternity leave you must have completed six months of work in the 12 months preceding your leave. Pre-natal leave is 8 weeks before the due-date, and post-natal leave is 12 weeks – so a total of 20 weeks. If your due date is delayed, you will still get 12 weeks' leave after the birth.

To request maternity payment you must submit a medical certificate in the last 12 weeks of your pregnancy, indicating your due date to the Department of Financial Compensation. Spouses and partners are also entitled to paternity leave.

There are a number of family benefits available in Luxembourg including a birth allowance, a monthly child allowance, a reduction in creche childcare costs, access to parental leave (*for children 12 years and younger*) and paid leave for a sick child. 

 [www.cns.public.lu/en](http://www.cns.public.lu/en)

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

# FINDING A JOB

Luxembourg has a buoyant job market, particularly in the fields of finance, accountancy, law, media, IT, teaching and telecommunications. If you have arrived with a working spouse or partner and want to find work, here's what to do.

## PREPARE YOUR CV

CVs are usually a maximum of two pages, and should provide previous experience and training, language competencies and computer/office skills. It is likely your language competencies will be checked, so be accurate, as many vacancies require you to have a working knowledge of either French, German or Luxembourgish in addition to English. A photo can be enclosed or added digitally.

## REGISTER WITH ADEM

The **Agence pour la Développement de l'Emploi** or **ADEM** is Luxembourg's employment agency. It has a job board in English and you can register as a jobseeker online or via its contact centre on:

☎ (+352) 247 88 888

🌐 <https://adem.public.lu/en.html>

Qualifications from other member states of the European Higher Education Area are recognised, but if you practise law, medicine, nursing and other regulated professions, you may need to get your qualifications more formally recognised.

## EU INSTITUTIONS

There are numerous job opportunities at the EU institutions based in Luxembourg from administrative assistant, translator, lawyer, accountant, and communications and HR personnel. If you apply, you should use the Europass CV template.

🌐 [https://epso.europa.eu/job-opportunities\\_en](https://epso.europa.eu/job-opportunities_en)

🌐 <https://europa.eu/europass/en/create-europass-cv>

## SALARIES, CONTRACTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Luxembourg's minimum social wage is amongst the highest in the EU – €2313,38 to €2776,05 depending on your skills level. The standard working week is 40 hours, with contracts varying from permanent or CDD to fixed-term or CDI. 📌

## SEARCH VIA AGENCIES

🌐 [www.jobfinder.lu](http://www.jobfinder.lu)

🌐 [www.expatica.com/lu/jobs/](http://www.expatica.com/lu/jobs/)

🌐 [www.editus.lu](http://www.editus.lu) (list of employment agencies)

🌐 [www.monster.lu](http://www.monster.lu)

🌐 [www.moovijob.com](http://www.moovijob.com),  
(which organizes several recruitment events in Luxembourg)

🌐 [www.jobs.lu](http://www.jobs.lu)

🌐 [www.indeed.lu](http://www.indeed.lu)

🌐 [www.multilingualvacancies.com](http://www.multilingualvacancies.com)

🌐 [www.lctjob.lu](http://www.lctjob.lu) (IT jobs)

🌐 [www.efinancialcareers.lu](http://www.efinancialcareers.lu) (finance jobs)



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# STARTING A BUSINESS

You've got a great proposition or a freelance trade, but how do you turn it into a business? Starting a business in Luxembourg requires planning, but there's plenty of help and guidance.



Judd Makrill (unsplash.com)



To start, go to the business portal on Guichet.lu to understand the administration process for setting up a business, including business permit applications. The portal provides advice on which legal form of business is suitable for a particular activity, and how to enrol with the Trade and Companies register and for VAT and social security.

It also has links to legal forms, ways to gain financial aid, crowd-funding, bank financing and equity or loan options. There's information on tax, accounting and international trade, and guidance to find premises. Not all the forms are in English, and documents to accompany a business permit application must be translated into French or German.

## WHERE TO GET HELP AND MENTORING

Nyuko runs free programmes to help you launch your business, with help on mapping out finance, commercial and communication requirements, and access to mentors and workshops. The House of Entrepreneurship supports both new and established businesses with guidance in English. They can help if you get stuck in a process such as applying for a permit.

The House of Start-ups is powered by the Chamber of Commerce and can give you access to IT and an incubator environment. It also has a programme of events to help you network with business contacts.

## WEBSITES

- 📄 [www.houseofentrepreneurship.lu/en/](http://www.houseofentrepreneurship.lu/en/)
- 📄 [www.startupluxembourg.com](http://www.startupluxembourg.com)
- 📄 <https://nyuko.lu/en/>
- 📄 [www.luxinnovation.lu](http://www.luxinnovation.lu)
- 📄 [www.1535.lu/creative-hub](http://www.1535.lu/creative-hub)
- 📄 <http://neobuild.lu/>
- 📄 [www.cityincubator.lu/](http://www.cityincubator.lu/)
- 📄 [www.facebook.com/6zero1.org/](https://www.facebook.com/6zero1.org/)

## SETTING UP FOR €1

**S.à.r.l. – s** was launched in 2015 to enable entrepreneurs to set up a simplified limited liability company for as little as €1 to a maximum of €12,000, as a private deed that disassociates business assets from private assets. More information is available on the Guichet portal. 📄



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# LUXEMBOURG TRADITIONS

Expats will fall in love with some of the Grand Duchy's unique traditions. Taking part is a good way to meet Luxembourgers, especially neighbours. Here's our calendar guide to the main ones.

## DRÄIKINNEKSDAG

Mind your teeth if you plan to bite into a Three Kings' Cake on 6 January as you might be the lucky finder of the favour or *fève*. Celebrating the feast of the Epiphany, the Luxembourg tradition is to buy a frangipane-filled cake, or *Galette des Rois*, topped with a crown. If your slice contains a small porcelain figurine, you will be crowned king or queen for the day.

## LIICHTMËSSDAG

On 2 February, the children of Luxembourg take to the streets at dusk to celebrate Candlemas Day. Lanterns or *Liichtbengelcher* are made at school, and carried door to door, where the children sing *Léiwer Härgottsbleischen*, a song asking for peas and bacon, but most people give sweets or coins.

## CARNIVAL

Will you join the *Fuesgecken* or carnival revellers, don fancy dress and delight in the excessive consumption of doughnuts? For the uninitiated Carnival or *Fuesent* begins with *Liichtmessdag* and ends with *Äschemëttwoch*, or Ash Wednesday.

On Ash Wednesday, the Moselle town of Remich burns a straw man or *Stréimännchen*. He's carried through the town before being set alight on the bridge between Luxembourg and Germany. Celebrations include masked balls, children's fancy dress and parades – the largest of which is held at Diekirch.

## BUERGBRENNEN

Bonfires are lit throughout Luxembourg to banish pesky winter spirits and welcome spring, usually the first weekend of Lent. Wooden crosses or castles are erected on pyres known as *buergen*. Traditionally the fire should be lit by the most recently married couple, but often children are invited to carry flaming torches in a procession known as a *Fakelzuch*.



Adobe Stock

## BRETZELSONNDEG

The fourth Sunday of Lent is when men give their sweetheart a pretzel or *bretzel*. If their love is returned, they'll receive an egg on Easter Sunday. In leap year, the tradition is reversed. If your love is unrequited you'll get an empty basket instead. Originally pretzels were made from flour, water and salt, and contained no eggs, fat or milk, so they could be eaten during Lent. Today, they are far more sumptuous and come in giant sizes, decorated with fondant icing and almonds.

## KLIBBEREN

Legend tells that the church bells of Luxembourg fly to Rome on Maundy Thursday to confess their sins to the Pope, leaving the country chime-free until Easter Sunday. Without the bells, children are called upon to break the silence as *Klibberen* roughly translates as "to go rattling". They announce church services by making a lot of noise with rotary ratchets, tower rattles and wooden drums. Come Easter Sunday they expect a chocolate reward.

## ÉMAISCHEN

A tradition from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, *Émaischen* was celebrated by the potter's brotherhood every Easter Monday at St Michael's Church in the city. They would sell little bird whistles known as *Péckvillchen*. Terracotta versions were made in the village of Nospelt, home to many potters, using a definitive type of red clay. Ornately decorated, the whistles were usually made at the end of the day to use up any left-over clay. There's a market in Nospelt selling *Péckvillchen* every Easter Monday and another in Luxembourg City.

## MEEKRANZ AND OKTAV

*Oktav* starts on the third Sunday after Easter and culminates in a procession on the fifth Sunday. The highlight is the *Oktav* market in Place Guillaume II and Place de la Constitution. Following wars, famine and pestilence of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Jesuit mission in Luxembourg started a procession carrying a wooden cross to the statue of Our Lady, Mary comforter of the afflicted, which today is housed in the

city's cathedral. *Oktav* usually lasts eight days, during which the statue is decorated, dressed and displayed on a special altar for pilgrims to give thanks to. On the last day, she is carried through the streets of the city.

*Meekranz* on 1 May is the day to make a May wreath. Made from young branches gathered in the forests, it's woven into a circular wreath to be hung on the front door. After making the wreath you take a sup of *Maitrank* – a concoction of white wine and sweet woodruff.

### THE HOPPING PROCESSION

Head to Echternach for the UNESCO-recognised, ancient dancing pilgrimage held on Whit Tuesday each year. This tradition honours St Willibrord, who founded Echternach Abbey in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

Dancers stand in rows of five or six people, holding each other by the tip of their handkerchiefs. They move from left to right in a jumping movement, swinging their legs out in a slow procession through the streets of Echternach to St Willibrord's tomb, accompanied by a folk song played on brass and wind instruments.

### NATIONAL DAY

In celebration of the Grand Duke's birthday, National Day takes place on 23 June. This tradition dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and records show a torchlight procession took place in 1840. The date in June was started by the much-loved Grand Duchess Charlotte, and made a statutory holiday in 1948.

The torchlight procession in the city takes place on the eve of National Day. After this, a party takes over the streets with DJs and at 23.00, the city's night sky is lit by a fantastic firework display over Adolphe Bridge, set to music.

National Day itself is more ceremonial, with honours awarded to citizens by the Grand Duke, and a performance from the *Philharmonie*. It finishes with a 21-gun salute from Fetschenhaff in Cents, and then a military parade follows, during which the national anthem *Ons Heemecht* is sung. There's a *Spillfest* (play festival) for children at Kinnekswiss park and free concerts in Place d'Armes.



Polina Sushko (unsplash.com)

### SCHUEBERFOUER

Unique to Luxembourg, this celebration has a 680-year history. Started by John the Blind as a week-long market, the tradition turned first into a cattle fair, and then into a funfair, moving from the old town to its location at Glacis. The three week celebration is usually from mid-August to early September and starts with a shepherd and several manicured sheep moving through the streets as musicians play the *Hämmelsmarsch* or Mutton March. Attended by some 2 million people from the greater region, today's *Schueberfouer* is about thrill rides, and culinary specialities such as whiting fried in beer batter. It ends with a spectacular firework display.

### D'TRAULICHT, TOUSSAINTS AND HAUPESCHDAG

Halloween, All Saints day and St Hubert's day all come in quick succession in autumn. *D'Traulicht Brennen* is an Ardennes tradition carried out on the 31 October. People hollow out beets and turnips and carve scary faces, then light the inside with a candle. In times gone by, these lanterns were placed outside cowsheds and barns to prevent livestock from getting illnesses brought by bad spirits, or on window ledges to protect families from the souls of the dead.

*Toussaints* or All Saints is celebrated in Luxembourg on 1 November, when traditionally people visit their ancestral tombs, clean them and place fresh flowers. Early November is also when Munhausen and Berdorf celebrate Saint Hubert's day (*the patron saint of hunting*) with a market.

### KLEESERCHERSDAG

On the eve of 6 December, children put out their slippers in the hope of a reward from *Kleeschen*, also known as *St Nicolas*. The origins date back to the original saint's pageant to mark his death on the same date. *Kleeschen* wears a red mitre, carries a staff and is accompanied by a donkey and his sidekick – *Housécker*. The latter is dressed in dark clothes and gives naughty children a flick of his switch (*branches used as a whip*).

In Luxembourg the true custom is to put out your slippers or shoes a few weeks before 6 December and if you've been kind and good you'll get some sweets or an orange. If you find a Rutt, a small stick, you've been naughty. On the eve of *Kleeserchersdag*, children should leave out coffee, and a plate of hay for the donkey. During the night *Kleeschen* will bring toys and fill the plate with more sweets. *Boxemännchen*, or doughy gingerbread men, are traditionally eaten on 6 December for breakfast. 🍪

# FILING A TAX RETURN

If you are married, or think you might benefit from a tax rebate, you should file a tax return for the previous year by 31 March. You can file a paper copy, or do it online using MyGuichet.

You receive your tax card when you register your arrival in Luxembourg if you will be working for a company where you'll pay local taxes and social security (*so not an EU institution*). Usually only those in Tax Class 2 need to fill out a tax return, but you can file one if you think your taxes need to be adjusted.

If you don't receive a tax card, you can apply for one at the Luxembourg Income Tax Office, or *Administration des Contributions Directes*.

## TAX CLASSES

Your income tax will be different depending on whether you are single, married, divorced, widowed, with or without children, or aged over 64 years. Your employer will withhold tax at source if you earn a regular salary. If you are self-employed, you will need to declare your earnings on your tax return.

**Tax class 1** is for single or married residents (*if both spouses are working and they wish to file this way*) and the withholding rate is 33%. **Tax class 1A** covers single parents, widows, and people over 64 years at a withholding rate of 21%. **Tax class 2** is for married couples or civil partners and recent divorcees, and has a withholding rate of 15%.

There have been calls to review the tax classes which favour married over single parents. At present a single parent earning €58,000 will pay more than double the amount of tax than a married parent on the same income. Tax-deductible expenses include mortgage interest, professional expenses such as office equipment and travel, contributions to an occupational or private pension, home-purchase savings contributions, life assurance premiums and interest on personal loans or mortgages. Investment income and alimony payments can also be included, and you can file for extraordinary costs including domestic help or housekeeping. 



 Stellweb (unsplash.com)

## TAX RATES

These are the same for employed or self-employed people and progress from 0% to 45.78% across 23 tax brackets.

## SUMMARY OF INCOME TAX BRACKETS

Earnings from €11,266 - €20,625  
taxed at 8.56-12.84%

Earnings from €20,626 - €45,897  
taxed at 12.84-40.66%

Earnings from €45,898 - €100,002  
taxed at 41.73%

Earnings from €100,003 - €150,000  
taxed at 42.8%

Earnings from €150,001 - €200,004  
taxed at 44.69%

Earnings above €200,005  
taxed at 45.78%



 Markus Winkler (unsplash.com)

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# GETTING A CAR

Whether you want to buy a new or used car, or just lease one, here are the things to consider and the steps to take.



## WAIT FOR AUTOFEST

If you're in no hurry you should check out the Autofestival for big dealership discounts. It usually starts at the end of January every year, with numerous garages taking part, and is where about a third of car sales contracts in the Grand Duchy are signed. Car dealers run special promotions and banks offer festival loan and lease terms at discounted rates.

## BUYING A CAR

Fix your budget, then list your car criteria in order of importance – make, model, fuel consumption, size, essential equipment and the main use, such as commuting to work or family travel. If you're thinking of going electric, the government gives subsidies of up to €8,000 on electric cars and vans.

Test drive more than one car to get a comparison, ideally on a route you drive regularly so you can try out road holding, manoeuvrability, acceleration and comfort. New cars lose value as soon as they leave the forecourt, so think about market depreciation and brand depreciation if you plan to resell it in a few years' time.

## FINANCING

You can pay outright or combine cash savings with a car loan. Alternatively, leasing your car gives you regular monthly payments with the option to buy or trade up at the contract's end. Generally car loans have more favourable rates than other personal loans because the vehicle acts as a guarantee.

Banks provide online calculators so you can work out your monthly payments and set the period of time you want to repay your loan. Car dealers may offer 0% interest loans. Be careful, as the dealer might ask for a big down payment or expect monthly payments to be high. Check too it doesn't negate other discounts, so you are not paying in another way.

Some companies offer their employees discounts with specific dealers that usually run their fleet of company cars, and if you work for an EU institution you can benefit from TVA exemption (*value added tax*) if you buy a car valued above the TVA threshold.



Adobe Stock

### BUYING SECOND-HAND

It's common for individuals to sell a car when it reaches its sixth year and will need annual technical inspections and replacement of certain parts. Always check a vehicle's maintenance record and roadworthiness test documents to see if it has had regular oil and filter changes.

Inspect exterior paintwork, windows and windscreen, tyres and wipers. Inside, check the air conditioning works as some cars that have been idle on a dealer forecourt might need this unit recharged. Likewise for batteries. When you test drive, listen to the engine, check the gearbox and brakes, and look at the exhaust emissions, as a car can fail a technical inspection on this. If you're unsure, you can book for the ACL (*Automobile Club Luxembourg*) to do a

### ADMINISTRATION

When you buy a second-hand car you'll need to register it, although sometimes the dealer will do this for you. You do this by appointment with the SNCA at one of their three offices at Sandweiler, Marnach, or Esch-sur-Alzette. Fill out a form applying for a registration certificate, and bring the following supporting documents:

- A bill of sale
- Proof of valid insurance
- The registration certificate Parts 1 and 2, given to you by the owner
- The vehicle owner's ID
- A valid roadworthiness inspection certificate
- The European certificate of conformity for vehicles registered on or after 1 February 2016.

You'll be issued with a temporary road tax paper valid for 30 days, in which time you'll receive a letter to pay your road tax for six or 12 months. Don't forget to apply to the city or your commune for a parking permit if that is required on the street you live. You'll need your registration certificate for this.

It is possible to buy your car over the border or bring it from your home country. You will need to register it and get Luxembourgish licence plates. **1**

### WEBSITES

- 📄 [www.snca.lu](http://www.snca.lu)
- 📄 [www.acl.lu](http://www.acl.lu)
- 📄 [www.fedamo.lu](http://www.fedamo.lu)

# WHAT INSURANCE COVER MUST YOU GET?

Certain insurance is mandatory in Luxembourg, but options for additional cover can vary vastly. We explain the fine details, so you can be sure to get the right cover.

## CAR INSURANCE

It's mandatory to have third party insurance against damage to a third party property called **Responsabilité Civile** or RC. Additional cover includes third party fire and theft or **Tiers Personnes**, and Casco or **Tous Risques**, which is akin to fully comprehensive cover.

Fully comprehensive cover from a Luxembourg-based insurer is expensive but is not subject to a high excess in the event of a claim, and probably worth it if you have a new car. Your final quote will also depend on your No Claims Bonus, for which you can get up to a 55% reduction on premiums for 13 years' claim-free. You'll need a letter stating the total number of no-claims years from your previous insurer.

Car insurance does not include breakdown recovery, which you should organise separately.

## HOME INSURANCE

Buildings insurance is not a legal requirement in Luxembourg, but most mortgage

lenders won't loan you money without it. They may also require that you take life cover, particularly if your mortgage relies heavily on one spouse's income.

Buildings cover should include kitchen units and integral appliances and bathroom fittings. Basic cover will include natural disasters such as flood and fire. Recent flooding in 2021 has seen all home insurance premiums rise. You'll need to value your contents – including furniture, beds, and clothing. You can also opt to insure your laptop, mobile, or bicycle, and add travel insurance to your policy.

If you live in an apartment, check first if the buildings insurance is covered in the service charges and if this includes items like your kitchen.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

If you pay social security contributions, then you and your family are covered for basic healthcare with the National Health Fund or CNS. Your social security card doubles as

your European Health Insurance Card, which you can also get if you are an EU citizen.

Non-working foreign residents need to have proof of private health cover to obtain a residence permit, and third country nationals including students will need private health insurance to get a visa. Private health cover should reimburse you some or all of your costs to visit a doctor or dentist, hospital treatment, medication, specialist care and laboratory tests. Even those entitled to state funding sometimes take out additional insurance to cover dental treatment, eye care or hospitalisation costs.

If you work for an EU institution, you will receive healthcare insurance as part of your remuneration package.

## PET INSURANCE

Not compulsory, and only AXA provides pet cover for cats less than 10 years old and dogs less than 7 years old.

You can find a list of life and non-life insurers on the *Commissariat aux Assurances* website. 



## INSURANCE

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

## COMPARISON WEBSITES

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

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

## VEHICLE BREAKDOWN

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

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





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# EDUCATION & FAMILY



## CHOOSING SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS



Finding the right school for your child is important. Thankfully Luxembourg has a number of options, from state-run international and local schools which are free of charge, to private fee-paying schools and ones managed by the EU for its civil servants, but with spaces for other Luxembourg residents.

Our education guide takes you through a checklist of things to consider when choosing a school, from location, transport, school hours and languages, to final qualifications and the difference between an International or European Baccalaureate and the IGCSE and A level system. We also list all the international schools, so you can plan a visit or research further online.



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# CHILDCARE OPTIONS?

Both parents working and need childcare for babies and toddlers, or wraparound care for children under 12? Our article will take you through all the options available and the financial support you can expect from the state.



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**Every child  
in Luxembourg  
has the right  
to a quality  
education.**

Claude Meisch, Minister for Education, 2022.

”

You might have arrived in multi-lingual Luxembourg speaking none of the official languages of the country – Luxembourgish, French or German. Don't worry, there are plenty of classes and courses to help you learn, in addition to conversation exchange groups. The Luxembourg integration contract will give you access to discounts for language classes and the chance to join orientation and citizenship classes.



 [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com), Adobe Stock



# FINDING THE *RIGHT SCHOOL*

Luxembourg has a huge choice of schooling systems in several languages. Here's our guide to help decide which school is best for your child.

It's compulsory for children to attend school between the ages of 4 to 16 years in the Grand Duchy, although it's also legal to home school your child.

## WHAT TO CONSIDER

### How long do you plan to stay?

If you're only staying a few years, an international school might be the best option. If you come from an EU country and are likely to return, then the EU institutional schools can ensure your child remains fluent in their native lan-

guage. If you plan to stay indefinitely, then a local school will help your child and family integrate.

### What languages do your children speak?

And what languages do you want them to learn. Luxembourg is a multi-lingual country.

### Application deadlines and entry tests.

Many international schools have admission deadlines, tests and interviews before an offer is made.

**School intake year.** Some school intakes run from September to August, and others from January to December. This could make your child the oldest or youngest in a class, and will determine what grade they join.

**Qualifications.** Should your child take an International Baccalaureate, a European Baccalaureate, IGCSEs and A levels or a Luxembourgish Diploma? Each system is slightly different, with some better for specialists, others for generalists.

**Location and school hours are important.** Traffic at peak hours can make the journey to school arduous, whilst different systems require different daily attendance. Some schools have a uniform number of hours per days, whilst others have longer and shorter days. If you need wraparound care ▶



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during working hours, check what is available, how much it costs, and whether there are spaces.

**Ask questions** via online parent forums, visit schools, and think about the way your child learns, what support they might need, and what languages will be used in teaching.

### LUXEMBOURGISH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN A NUTSHELL

➔ Fundamental education starts at age 3-4 years and finishes at 12 years. It's divided into 4 cycles.

➔ Secondary education lasts 6-7 years with a general or classical option for qualifications.

➔ At primary level, the teaching language is Luxembourgish first, then children learn German and French.

➔ At secondary level, the teaching language is German for 4 years, then French for the final years.

➔ Children under 12 years attend their local school, secondary students can apply more widely.

➔ New arrivals over 12 years can get extra support with languages.

### International Schools in Luxembourg

Expats are lucky when it comes to international education choices in Luxembourg – with both state-run and private international schools offering a choice of final qualification. We take you through them step, by step.

### WHICH QUALIFICATION IB V EB V IGCSE?

**IB** – Six subjects taken to either a standard or higher level at 17-19 years. The first language (*English or French*), a second language, and maths are compulsory, and one science and one arts subject must be included. Students must do a Theory of Knowledge course, Extended Essay and projects for CAS (*Creativity, Activity, Science*).

**IGCSE/A level** – Seven plus subjects at IGCSE level including English, maths, a language, and science at age 16-17 years, then 2+ A levels taken at 17-19 years.

**EB** – At least 2 languages, maths, human sciences (*always studied in a second language*), at least one science subject, ethics or religion, and philosophy. Additional science, arts, and social science subjects can be chosen optionally.



### STATE-RUN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR THE IB AND IGCSE

#### International Lycée Michel Lucius – Limpertsberg

For ages 6 to 18+ years, the school follows the Cambridge Primary Curriculum and then international IGCSE and A level. Exams in English and maths may be required for secondary school application.

📄 [www.lml.lu](http://www.lml.lu)

#### Athénée de Luxembourg – Merl

A section following the IB programme in English for ages 11-18+ years. Applications can be made for any year, but the main intake years are 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade, with entrance tests in English and maths for the former, and in English, maths, French and sciences for the latter.

📄 [www.al.lu](http://www.al.lu)

An IB in the French language is offered at **Lycée Technique du Centre** and at the **Waldorfschoul** (*early years are in Luxembourgish and German*).

📄 [www.ltc.lu](http://www.ltc.lu) 📄 [www.waldorf.lu](http://www.waldorf.lu)

### STATE-RUN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE

#### International school Differdange & Esch-sur-Alzette

French, German, Portuguese, and English sections, this school takes children from ages 5/6 to 18+ years. Registration for places usually take place from January to March.

📄 <https://portal.education.lu/eid>

#### International school Junglinster

Part of Lycée Lënster, with English, French and German streams, this school has a kindergarten for 4-6 years, then education from 6 to 18+ years.

📄 [www.lensterlycee.lu](http://www.lensterlycee.lu)

#### International School Mondorf-les-Bains

French, English and German sections at secondary level, and French and English sections at primary level.

📄 [www.eimbl.lu](http://www.eimbl.lu)

#### Lycée Edward Steichen – Clervaux

The international section offers English, French and German streams from the early years of 4-6 to 18+ years.

📄 [www.lesc.lu](http://www.lesc.lu)

#### International School Anne Beffort – Mersch

The international section opened in 2021 for secondary sections in English, French, German, and Portuguese. A primary section will open in September 2022, with a French and English section. It will also offer a boarding school option.

📄 [www.eimab.lu](http://www.eimab.lu)

#### International School Gaston Thorn – Cessange/Merl

A primary school located in Cessange and a secondary school in Merl, both offering English, French and German sections, opening in September 2022.

📄 [www.eigt.lu](http://www.eigt.lu)





## EU INSTITUTION SCHOOLS

### European School Luxembourg I – Kirchberg European School Luxembourg II – Bertrange/Mamer

These schools are funded by the EU to provide education to its employees culminating in the European Baccalaureate, but are open to Luxembourg residents for a fee. Education is from 3 to 18+ years. Both schools have English, French and German sections, and combined cover the languages of all member states. Enrolment is usually in April or May and fees for those who don't work for an EU institution are between €3,867 to €7,267 depending on age.

📧 [www.euroschool.lu](http://www.euroschool.lu) 📧 [www.eel2.eu](http://www.eel2.eu)

## PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

### St George's International School Luxembourg – Hamm

Education following the national curriculum of England and Wales leading to IGCSEs and A levels for ages 3-18+ years. A non-refundable application fee is charged, and school fees range from €8,470 to €15,420 depending on age.

📧 [www.st-georges.lu](http://www.st-georges.lu)

### International School of Luxembourg (ISL) – Merl

Education from 3 to 18+ years, students attain IGCSEs then the IB. Applications cost €300, with a registration fee of €3,000 and annual fees of €17,015 to €20,274. A child may be asked for an interview or to take a test, to help clarify the grade they should join.

📧 [www.islux.lu](http://www.islux.lu)

### Over the Rainbow

French and English sections with schooling from 3 to 18+ years following the IB curriculum. Children can enrol throughout the school year, and fees range from €10,550 to €13,350 per year, with discounts for younger siblings.

📧 [www.overtherainbow.lu](http://www.overtherainbow.lu)

### The Montessori School in Strassen

uses the trademark free learning approach for ages 3-12 years and fees are approximately €7,500 per year.

📧 [www.ecole-montessori.lu](http://www.ecole-montessori.lu)

## OTHER INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE SCHOOLS

📧 [www.saintesophie.lu/fr/accueil](http://www.saintesophie.lu/fr/accueil) (French)

📧 [www.epf.lu](http://www.epf.lu) (Luxembourgish system)

📧 [www.vauban.lu](http://www.vauban.lu) (French)

📧 [www.epmc.lu](http://www.epmc.lu) (Catholic, Luxembourgish system)

📧 [www.poussins.lu](http://www.poussins.lu) (French)

📧 [www.kalinka.lu](http://www.kalinka.lu) (Russian)

## HOME-SCHOOLING

### PRIMARY – AGED 4-12 YEARS

Send a letter of motivation to the director responsible for education in your municipality. It should include the rationale for home-schooling, and why you believe public schools cannot fulfil this. You can include details of your philosophy on education, informal learning and specific learning possibilities. You will receive written authorisation which you must take to your commune or the VdL.

### SECONDARY LEVEL – 12-16/19 YEARS

Write to your commune to inform them your child will be home schooled. You can enrol them in an online programme which leads to a specific qualification and which will provide necessary documentation to the commune. Parents can also defend their decision for a less formal education to the Ministry of Education.

📧 [www.men.lu](http://www.men.lu)

📧 <https://wolseyhalloxford.org.uk/>

📧 <https://clonlara.org/>

📧 <http://alliasbl.lu/en/home/>

# LEARNING A LANGUAGE

If you want to learn Luxembourgish, or one of the country's other official languages – French or German, then there are plenty of options from language schools, adult education classes, and one-to-one tutors, to online apps and language cafes.



Sigmund (unsplash.com)

## THE WELCOME AND INTEGRATION CONTRACT

You can sign a *Contrat d'accueil et d'intégration (CAI)* if you are over 16 years and not a Luxembourgish national. It gives you a reduced rate on language courses and citizenship classes (*if you plan to take the Luxembourgish nationality tests*).

You make an appointment for a guidance and information session and decide which of the country's three official languages you want to learn. You'll receive discounts at several teaching establishments. The contract lasts for 2 years but you can renew it.

## WHERE TO STUDY?

You can take government-recognised courses at the *Institut Nationale des Langues (INL)*, which teaches at centres in Limpertsberg, Mersch and Belval.

Non-profit organisations offer intense or regular weekly courses.

- 📄 [www.vdl.lu/en/living/education-and-training](http://www.vdl.lu/en/living/education-and-training)
- 📄 [www.maisondafrique.fr/en/courses-registration/](http://www.maisondafrique.fr/en/courses-registration/)
- 📄 <https://en.luxembourgaccueil.lu/>
- 📄 [www.cflh.lu](http://www.cflh.lu)
- 📄 <https://www.asti.lu/maan/>
- 📄 [www.landakademie.lu/fr](http://www.landakademie.lu/fr)
- 📄 <https://mecasbl.lu/formations/langues/>
- 📄 <https://moienasbl.lu/>
- 📄 [www.lifelong-learning.lu/formations/langues/lu](http://www.lifelong-learning.lu/formations/langues/lu)

You should check at your local commune for language classes, which you usually subscribe to for a term or an academic year. The following schools also hold evening language classes:

### LYCÉE CLASSIQUE DE DIEKIRCH

- 📄 [www.lcd.lu/departements/cours-du-soir-pour-adultes/](http://www.lcd.lu/departements/cours-du-soir-pour-adultes/)

### LYCÉE TECHNIQUE D'ETTELBRUCK

- 📄 [www.ltett.lu/index.php/cours-du-soir/](http://www.ltett.lu/index.php/cours-du-soir/)

### MAACHER LYCÉE

- 📄 [www.mlg.lu](http://www.mlg.lu)

If you want intense tuition or one-to-one help, it might be best to seek private tutoring or join a smaller group.

- 📄 [www.inlingua.lu](http://www.inlingua.lu)
- 📄 [www.languages.lu](http://www.languages.lu)
- 📄 [www.prolingua.lu](http://www.prolingua.lu)

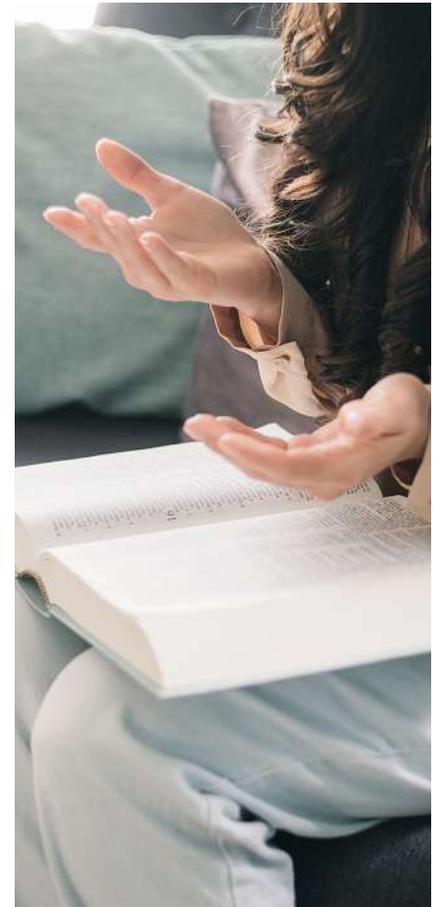
## FREE LEARNING AND PRACTISE

If you want to learn the basics in Luxembourgish you could try the Quattropole online course, put together by the Ministry of Education and the University of Luxembourg, or the app BattaKlang.

Duolingo has online courses in multiple languages, whilst the Tandem Lux-

embourg Facebook group allows you to request free support with a language you're learning, in exchange for support with one in which you are fluent. Club Polyglotte Luxembourg has a similar language exchange concept.

- 📄 [https://quattropole.org/en/e\\_learning](https://quattropole.org/en/e_learning)
- 📄 <https://lasauce.lu/section-application-mobile/>
- 📄 <https://www.facebook.com/clubpolyglotte/>



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Etienne Giradet (unsplash.com)

### LANGUAGE CAFES

If you've got the basics in a language but need practise speaking or holding conversations, then a language café is a good place to start.

ASTI hold one at the cultural centre at Dommeldange, once a month on a Wednesday evening. You must register in advance. Inter-Actions in Dudelange also hold regular language cafes at Opderschmelz cultural centre, as does Club Polyglotte, which meets every Tuesday evening at Vapiao, 28 Place de la Gare, for conversation tables in English, French, Luxembourgish, German, Spanish and Italian. Luxembourg Accueil has French language exchanges for beginners, and the American Ladies Club Luxembourg also holds these in French and Luxembourgish for their members. 🇱🇺



Ashkan Fourozani (unsplash.com)



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SCHOOL**

**WITH YOUR DAY CARE CENTERS**

**ONLINE  
PRE-REGISTRATION**

Rollingergrund

Limpertsberg

Nieder Korn

Beggen

Rumelange

Dudelange

Mamer

- ✓ safety and well-being
- ✓ healthy food proposed by our chef
- ✓ positive pedagogy

- ✓ educational outings
- ✓ school transport and homework help
- ✓ plurilingualism

# CHILDCARE OPTIONS

Working parents, or just need some childcare or home help?  
Luxembourg has a fairly comprehensive childcare system which includes allowances for day care.



Page Cody (unsplash.com)



### PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CRECHES

Creches are for children under 4 years and whether private or public, they are regulated by the state in terms of education standards.

In public creches the language spoken is usually Luxembourgish and the hours of care will be set, whilst private ones cater to many different languages and have more flexible hours, but often charge higher fees.

Finding a space in the right creche can be difficult, and you may have to put your name on a waiting list. Priority in public creches is given to single parents and children with special needs. The VdL lists municipal creches on its website.

[www.vdl.lu/en/living/aid-and-assistance/families/municipal-creches](https://www.vdl.lu/en/living/aid-and-assistance/families/municipal-creches)

### DAY NURSERIES

These take children from as young as 2 months up to 8 years for a maximum of 16 hours a week, and can also be public or private. They are ideal if you require occasional help or want to transition your child from home to school.

### DAY CENTRES AND MAISON RELAIS

Day centres take children between 4 to 12 years (or the end of fundamental/primary education). They are usually open when schools are closed and provide lunch plus help with homework. Many also open during the school holidays.

Maison Relais were set up by the government in 2005 to offer activities, help with homework, meals and supervision to children aged 3 to 12 years. They are often attached or located near to a school, and operate longer hours so parents can drop

children at 7.00 and collect them at 19.00. Not all communes offer this service, and some are run by the Red Cross or Caritas.

### NANNIES, AU PAIRS OR HOME HELP

Nannies will usually have qualifications to deal with very young children and babies and can either live in, or out. Au pairs tend to be less experienced and take on light chores in return for bed and board. Both are considered full-time if they work 25 hours, in which case you'll be responsible for paying their health insurance and tax.

Au pair hosting is regulated in Luxembourg and one of your children must be under 13 years. Au pairs must not work for more than 5 hours per day and 25 hours per week in an average four-week period. You will need to send an application to the National Youth Service with supporting documents and sign an agreement with your au pair which will include duration of stay, hours of work, housing conditions, days off, and what tasks will be performed.

Au pairs should take language classes paid for by the family and receive pocket money that is at least a fifth of the social minimum wage. They should have three free evenings and a full rest day each week, plus two additional rest days per month, and have a private room.

<https://guichet.public.lu/en/citoyens/famille/parents/garde-enfants/accueil-au-pair.html>



Bernard Hermant (unsplash.com)

### CHILDMINDING

This can be day or night care, provided by someone who is accredited and is either self-employed or works to an agreement with the family. Childminders cannot care for more than 5 children at one time, including their own children. They generally provide care outside of school hours. *Dageselteren* provides training and guidance service for childminders and parents and you can call them between 8.00 and 12.00 on weekdays on 26 20 27 94 1

<https://www.arcus.lu/>

<https://guichet.public.lu/en/publications/famille/liste-assistantes-parentales.html>

### SICK CHILD?

*Krank Kanner Doheem* is a service for working parents that provides care for sick children. You must register to use their services.

<https://fed.lu/wp/services/skkd/>

### FINANCIAL HELP

An income-based government subsidy, *Cheque Service Accueil (CSA)* can be used to reduce the cost of fees as long as you choose a childcare provider registered with the state. Support is paid monthly for creches, day nurseries or out of school care for children up to the age of 12 years (or the end of primary education). It can be used to pay childminders and for certain after-school activities. It's paid directly to the childcare provider and will be deducted from your fees. The amount you receive will depend on your income, the number of children you have, and the hours of childcare they have. You'll find more information on Guichet.lu.

<https://guichet.public.lu/en/citoyens/famille/parents/garde-enfants/cheque-service.html>

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# LEISURE



This section has some highlights on leisure activities, from coffee shops and places for Sunday brunch, to museums and galleries, sightseeing in the Grand Duchy and the greater region, and nightlife tips on clubs, cocktails, comedy and cinema.

It isn't exhaustive, so we recommend you visit the Expat Hub sections on Leisure & Shopping, Dining & Nightlife and Travel, for hundreds more tips, recommendations and reviews.

📄 [www.luxtimes.lu/en/expat-hub](http://www.luxtimes.lu/en/expat-hub)

Finding your go-to place for coffee or your favourite bookshop is part of making a new country your home. We've listed some great coffee places, with a hygge feeling, and several English-language bookshops, libraries and book exchanges. If you want something more active, we give you the low down on the different gyms you can join.

Culture vultures and history or art lovers will appreciate our article on museums and galleries, which will take you through what Luxembourg has to offer from the Dutch masters to museums on World War II.

If you want to get to know places outside the city, Inside Lux takes you on a whistle-stop tour of some of the most enchanting towns – Vianden, Echternach, Wiltz and Remich. We've also listed five family nature trails to enjoy the great outdoors and learn about nature, history and the planets.

The greater region is full of places for day trips. You can hop on a train to several destinations or jump in the car and be at a wolf park or open air museum in less than an hour.



unsplash.com, Adobe Stock

# A NIGHT OUT

Finally, if you need inspiration on where to kick back after work or at weekends, take a look at our article on nightlife, from theatres and live music venues, to nightclubs and bars.

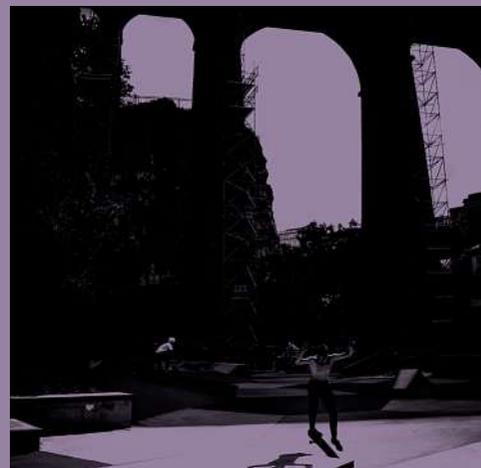


“

**Reviewed Luxembourg,  
decidedly very curious  
& very beautiful**

Victor Hugo, 1862

”



unsplash.com, Adobe Stock

# COFFEE IN THE CITY

If you need your daily caffeine fix, these cosy, quirky and Fairtrade cafés should hit the spot.



© Di Bella (unsplash.com)

### Kaale Kaffie – 9 rue de la Boucherie

Plush velvet armchairs, gilded mirrors and antique furniture – you'll feel like you've entered a grand living room from a century ago. Admire the artworks or play a game of chess whilst sipping your coffee.

### Chique-o-Latte – 16 rue des Bains

Small, but serving divine caramel iced coffee and coconut latte, this city café has wooden walls, warm lighting and green velvet chairs. A selection of tea includes spiced chai, and it's well located if you need a break from shopping.

### Knopes Coffee shop – 11 Avenue de la Porte-Neuve

Light and airy, with wooden stools and sofas, you can test out the coffee blended at their onsite workshop. They also have an airy café on rue Dicks.

### Café le Bovary – 1 rue de Laroche

A literary den hosting public readings, slam poetry nights and philosophical round tables, Le Bovary is a book-lined café, with chintzy unmatching furniture lovingly put together to create a home from home.

### T.Zone Boba – 17 rue Beaumont

Matcha latte is on the menu, but most youngsters queue up for the Taiwanese bubble tea. Try black tea with milk and tapioca balls, or coconut flavour with mango balls, you sip through a bamboo straw.

### Ready?! – 35 avenue du Bois

Whitewashed walls adorned with upside down bikes, tables made from cable reels and comfy sofas. The clientele includes students, mums, and office workers.

### Konrad Café – Rue du Nord

Wooden floors and 70s style comfy chairs make this a good place for a coffee or something stronger. A chilled vibe without music blasting out, this place also hosts comedy nights and acoustic sessions.

### WHERE ELSE?

**L'esprit café** in the Ernster book shop at Belle Etoile, the comfy brown leather chairs of **Downtown café** on rue Chimay, or the **Golden Bean** at Place de la Gare for free Wi-Fi and chilli hot chocolate. **Florence** on rue Adolph Fischer serves sustainable coffee from Africa, roasted locally, whilst **Bloom** further along the same street has fresh coffee with cake. **☑**

# BOOKSHOPS, LIBRARIES AND EXCHANGE SHELVES

Need a good book to read? There are plenty of bookshops, libraries and exchange shelves with English-language sections.

Whilst many consume their literature with an e-reader, it's nice to sometimes browse a bookshop or discover a new local author.

## BOOKSHOPS IN THE CITY

### Ernster – All English Bookstore – 4 rue de la Reine

Just around the corner from the Grand Ducal Palace this is the place to browse the latest best-sellers, the classics, travel guides, young adult fiction, biographies and history tomes. It has a kid's corner and an online ordering system. Ernster also has bookstores with English-language sections at the Belle Etoile, Cloche d'Or and City Concorde shopping centres, and shops at Mersch, Bascharage and Ettelbruck.

### Librarie Alinea – 5 rue Beaumont

A cosy yet cavernous shop stocking literature, graphic novels, kids books and 1,500 English titles plus vinyl records. You can order books online too.

## OTHER BOOKSHOPS

Librarie des Lycées on 30 avenue Victor Hugo and Librarie Française at 2-4 Beck have foreign literature sections, whilst Quackeleker Bichereck in Echternach stocks English fiction and non-fiction titles and has comfy sofas if you like to read a few pages before buying. Little English Bookworm offers free delivery to Luxembourg for book orders of €25 or more and a blog to give you plenty of inspiration across genres.

## BOOK EXCHANGE & SECOND-HAND

Bicherschaf are self-service book cases and you'll find them across the city and in most communes. They work on the principle that you take a book, read it and return it, and you are always welcome to put old books in reasonable condition on the shelves.

Café Bovary in Weimerskirch has a take a book, leave a book exchange, and the

Green Library is a second-hand bookshop where you browse books online and then collect from Ouni's package free organic grocery stores in Dudelange or the city for a small delivery fee. The Bazar Internationale also has a number of stalls selling second-hand books.

## LOCAL AUTHORS

Walfer Bicherdeeg is an annual bookfair in autumn and is a great place to pick up books by local English-language authors. You can also order books directly from Black Fountain Press, Luxembourg's publishing house for literature in English.

## LIBRARIES

If you're a bookworm, you should register with the National Library of Luxembourg in Kirchberg, which stocks a large number of English language titles in physical and e-reader format. You can join and browse catalogues online, and there's a reading room on the premises. The library has a Bicherbus which visits 81 localities, so you can order books in advance and pick them up from the bus.

It's also free to register with the Cité Bibliothèque on rue Genistre and you can borrow four books and two audio books a month. Il était une fois is a children's library with books in several languages which also organises storytelling.

## BOOKSHOPS

- 📄 [www.ernster.com](http://www.ernster.com)
- 📄 [www.alinea.lu/](http://www.alinea.lu/)
- 📄 [www.librairiedeslycees.lu](http://www.librairiedeslycees.lu)
- 📄 [www.thegreenlibrary.shop](http://www.thegreenlibrary.shop)
- 📄 <https://bichereck.lu/>
- 📄 [www.littleenglishbookworm.com](http://www.littleenglishbookworm.com)

## LOCAL AUTHORS

- 📄 [www.bicherdeeg.lu/fr/bicherdeeg-2022/](http://www.bicherdeeg.lu/fr/bicherdeeg-2022/)
- 📄 [www.blackfountain.lu](http://www.blackfountain.lu)

## LIBRARIES

- 📄 [www.bnl.lu](http://www.bnl.lu)
- 📄 [www.bimu.lu](http://www.bimu.lu)
- 📄 [www.iletaisunefois.lu](http://www.iletaisunefois.lu)
- 📄 [www.citim.lu](http://www.citim.lu)
- 📄 [www.curiel.lu](http://www.curiel.lu)
- 📄 [www.cid-fid.lu/bibliotheq](http://www.cid-fid.lu/bibliotheq)



Seven Shooter (unsplash.com)



Paolo Chiabrande (unsplash.com)

# JOINING A GYM

If you like to train with weights, body pump, or attend regular fitness classes, you can join a sports centre or gym.

Membership fees and facilities vary a fair bit, so think about what's important to you – from ambience to location. If you don't like crowds, check out how busy it is at the times you will go, as most gyms give you a free trial. If you want a particular group lesson, it might be possible to pay-as-you-go, so try a few places before you settle on one.

## OUTDOOR GYMS

There are several free outdoor gyms in the city ideal for an alfresco workout in the warmer and drier months.

📄 [www.vdl.lu/en/visiting/sport-and-leisure/sporting-facilities/outdoor-gym](http://www.vdl.lu/en/visiting/sport-and-leisure/sporting-facilities/outdoor-gym)

## LEISURE CENTRES

Listed below are sport centres and indoor swimming complexes that have gym facilities or a weights area. Some are basic, whilst others run more like an independent gym and charge similar entry prices.

- 📄 [www.coque.lu/cours-fitness/le-studio](http://www.coque.lu/cours-fitness/le-studio)
- 📄 [www.pidal.lu/pidal-fit/](http://www.pidal.lu/pidal-fit/)
- 📄 [www.vitaly-fit.lu](http://www.vitaly-fit.lu)
- 📄 [www.vdl.lu/fr/visiter/loisirs-et-sports/infrastructures-sportives/](http://www.vdl.lu/fr/visiter/loisirs-et-sports/infrastructures-sportives/)
- 📄 [piscines/badanstalt](http://piscines/badanstalt)
- 📄 [www.vdl.lu/fr/visiter/loisirs-et-sports/infrastructures-sportives/](http://www.vdl.lu/fr/visiter/loisirs-et-sports/infrastructures-sportives/)
- 📄 [piscines/piscine-bonnevoie](http://piscines/piscine-bonnevoie)

## GYM CHAINS

These can be good value as membership allows you to use more than one location in Luxembourg, and some are international chains that have gyms located around the world.

### CK Fitness

Cardio, muscle-building, wellbeing and yoga, this Luxembourg gym chain has personal trainers who can analyse your body composition and design a tailor-made programme. It also has group lessons in Pilates, indoor cycling, fat burner and body art, plus some sites have a sauna.

📄 [www.ck-fitness.lu](http://www.ck-fitness.lu)

### Basic Fit

The orange logo is on nine gyms in Luxembourg but Basic Fit also has 750 outlets worldwide. The cheapest gym chain, you get a 6-week induction programme when



you sign up, and an app with unlimited workout time. You can join for a month or take a premium rate which allows you to share your pass or bring a friend.

📄 [www.basic-fit.com/en-lu/home](http://www.basic-fit.com/en-lu/home)

### JIMS

Based at 3 city locations, its biggest gym is at Gare. You only pay for what you use so this is also a cheaper option, which offers group classes too.

📄 [www.jimsfitness.lu](http://www.jimsfitness.lu)

### Aurum

Personal trainers and access to a huge number of machines and weights in a light airy space, with gyms at 4 locations. To join, you will need to fill out a questionnaire and then make an appointment to meet a personal trainer onsite.

📄 [www.aurum.lu](http://www.aurum.lu)

### Luxfit

Luxfit's personal trainers won't cost you extra, and can also give you a body diagnostic. Programmes are designed to help reduce and rehabilitate health restrictions, release stress, and help with body shaping and weight loss. It has 3 gyms in Luxembourg.

📄 <https://luxfit.com/en/training/>

## INDIVIDUAL GYMS

**Factory Fitness** in Gasperich is enormous, offering cardio, free weights, circuit and serenity areas. Group lessons including spinning, muscle building, body combat, Thai boxing and trampoline. It also has a wellness area and sauna.

📄 <https://factory4.lu/>

In the same neighbourhood **Painworld** has 20 weight machines and 50 cardio ones, plus hundreds of group lessons a month, making it the place for the serious fitness freak. It opens at 5.00 on weekdays and 7.00 on Saturdays, and stays open late weekdays until 22.00.

📄 [www.painworld.lu](http://www.painworld.lu)

**Fitness Zone** in Howald has steppers, treadmills, ellipticals, bicycles and rowers, and classes for abs, boxing, weight and body pump, spinning, Zumba and yoga. The monthly fee for 24 months is quite cheap, but you can opt for single sessions.

📄 [www.facebook.com/fitnesszonehowald](https://www.facebook.com/fitnesszonehowald)

If you're looking for a swimming pool, sauna and hamman, plus gym equipment, classes and a personal trainer, then Strassen-located **Vitaly-Fit** is for you. It can provide a 35 minute circuit, or dance, Pilates, Piloxing, bodyshape and yoga classes.

📄 [www.vitaly-fit.lu](http://www.vitaly-fit.lu)

HIIT training, FitKids, personal trainers and promises to be inclusive no matter what your fitness level, **Marcus Neal Fitness** in Walferdange regularly gets very positive reviews.

📄 <https://marcusnealfitness.com/>

**eVital** in Echternach is a fair size, with fitness equipment and a sauna, and it's open 7 days a week. Trainers will check your back, muscles and flexibility before you start training.

📄 [www.evital-echternach.lu](http://www.evital-echternach.lu)

**The Fitness Lounge** in Heiderscheid has spinning and weight loss workouts, but it's not open at lunchtimes, whilst **Ladyfitness** in Strassen and Kirchberg is just for women. It has programmes for pregnant women and those over 50 to build muscle and do cardiovascular exercise.

📄 <http://ladyfitness.lu/>

Hollerich's **Athletic Centre** has fitness, dance and martial arts classes, plus personal training and nutrition planning. No registration fees and you can opt for just 10 sessions using their cross-trainers, treadmills, steppers and bicycles.

📄 [www.athletic-center.lu](http://www.athletic-center.lu)



© Bruce Mars (unsplash.com)

# FIVE PLACES FOR SUNDAY BRUNCH

If you fancy a leisurely Sunday brunch followed by a gallery visit or stroll through the forests, we recommend these five places.



Kate Darmody (unsplash.com)

## BOUNEWEGER STUFF

Serving Sunday brunch from 11.00 to 15.00, this place fills up quickly, so book in advance or bag a terrace table in the sunshine. You can choose from five brunch menus including their classic, an English breakfast, a vegetarian one or a sweet one. Afterwards, head to the banks of the River Alzette for a leisurely stroll following the Godchaux circuit to learn about the neighbourhood's textile past.

## LE TABLE DU PAIN

Sweet or salty brunch featuring scrambled eggs, muffins, wheat bread, pastries and hot drinks. A veggie version includes avocado on toast and pancakes, whilst the cheesy one has bagels with smoked salmon and lemon cottage cheese. This place is good for early risers as it opens at 7.00 on Sunday.

If you fancy something more up-market, head to **Amelys** at Hotel le Royal for oys-

ters, gourmet cheeses and hot and cold appetizers, with brunch starting at 12.30. **Paname** has breakfast burritos and eggs Benedict plus bottomless prosecco.

From here visit the sights of the old town, such as the Bock Casemates or the City Museum.

## OSCARS BAR

A Sunday visit to the Museum of Natural History can be combined with a spot of roast dinner at Oscars Bar in Grund. Served from 12.00 throughout the afternoon, reservations are advised. In the city and Gare, **Charles Sandwiches** serve up a classic, veggie or salmon brunch. The classic includes scrambled eggs, bacon and cheddar, an English muffin, baked beans and a side of HP sauce, followed by pancakes with maple syrup. The veggie version tops your muffin with avocado, egg, tomato, red onions and a side of roasted mushrooms in pesto.

## MAMA SHELTER

If you fancy a family afternoon at the cinema, try Mama Shelter in Kirchberg. This international chain has a Sunday brunch of croissants, freshly-baked tortillas, eggs, meat and fish dishes, plus waffles and pancakes. Open from 12.30 to 16.00, it also has kids animators, table football and tennis, and arcade games to keep the little ones busy while you breakfast.

## COME À LA MAISON

Brunch with music is on offer here, with a buffet of cold cuts, cheese, fruit, pasta dishes and dessert. Children are welcome, and afterwards you can take a stroll in Merl Park to feed the ducks. If you're looking for something a bit spicier, **Metro-politan** at Place de Paris has a full English breakfast but also huevos rancheros. **K**



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# SPECIALITY WORLD FOOD STORES

Unsurprisingly, since half Luxembourg's population hails from another part of the world, the Grand Duchy has plenty of stores selling speciality foodstuff from pierogi to pakismadia, and mochi to maslika.



Victoria Shees (Unsplash.com)

## **Tandoori Market & Asian Bazaar – 219 rue de Beggen**

With some 5,000 imported products instore and 350 online, this is the place to stock up on spices, curry pastes, pickles and fresh Indian cheese – paneer. It also stocks flour for leavened bread, clarified butter or ghee, and a selection of ingredients from south east Asia, Africa and South America.

## **Asia Market – 5 rue de Fort Elisabeth**

Need to stock up on sushi-making supplies, roasted duck or Kai Choi? This store has noodles and rice from Thailand, China, Japan and India, plus Japanese mochi, peanut oil and rice vinegar, and a good selection of beers including Asahi, King Cobra, Tsingtao and Saigon. You can also try the more unusual Mekong whisky or lychee wine.

## **Manzoku Epicerie Japonaise – 15 avenue du X Septembre**

Manzoku's craft ramen kits contain locally-made fresh noodles and soup stock

imported from Japan. You can choose from varieties including Tokyo Shoyu, Hakata Tonkutsu, both vegetarian, and Sapporo Miso, which is vegan. The shop sells saké, Japanese craft beer, fresh onigiri and organic kimchi. You can also buy ramen bowls and other Japanese tableware.

## **Epicerie Fine Osada – 30 Rue Laurent Menager**

A Polish grocery with cold meats, cheeses, dairy and sweets, selling fresh pierogi and bread, and a variety of sausages.

## **Papilla by Notaro – 83 rue de la Tour Jacob**

The Notaroberto family offer you a selection of fresh and dried pasta, sauces and seasonings, and some Neapolitan street food, with treats imported from the Campania region, and wine from the family estate.

## **Home from Home – 148 route d'Arlon**

Need some marmite, vegemite or Irish bacon. Head here for foodstuff from the

UK, Ireland, America, Canada, South Africa and Australia. A great place to stock up on breakfast cereal, imported meat, biscuits and condiments.

## **La Bacanie – 147 Route d'Esch & Epicerie Fine Transilvania – 110 Route d'Arlon**

Romanian specialities at Le Bacanie include fresh herbs and meats such a drob de miel (*Romanian style haggis*) and mici meat rolls, plus bread, fresh cheese and craft items. At Epicerie Transilvania, you'll get varenik dumplings, and Zacusca made from roasted aubergine and red pepper.

## **Au Gourmet Grec – 87 rue de Bonnevoie**

A comprehensive range of food products, wines, Greek spirits and herbal cosmetics, with several varieties of olive oil and feta cheese, stuffed vine leaves, baklava and halva.

## **La Rioja – 95 Avenue Guillaume**

Spanish wine, plus Iberian and Serrano cured ham, Manchego cheese, marinated anchovies and mango marmalade. Everything you need for a selection of tapas at home.

## **ScanShop – 615 rue Neudorf**

Products from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland. It has a café where you can sample marinated herrings or elk stew, before you stock up on Arctic Finnish squeaky cheese, fish, and freshly baked bread.

## **Gare – for Russian, Brazilian and Arabic shops**

Arabic flatbreads, baba ghanoush, rose jam and spices such as maslika or mahlab, plus lentils and condiments are at **Sham Markt** on rue de Strasbourg, and Latin delicacies at **Sabor do Brasil** at 41 avenue de la Gare. The **Russian Market** stocks caviar and salted bacon plus Stolichniy bread. **📍**

# WANT TO DISCOVER THE GREATER REGION'S HIDDEN GEMS AND MUST-ATTEND EVENTS?

# NEXTERDAY

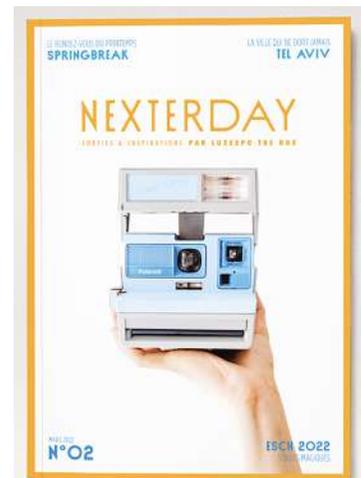
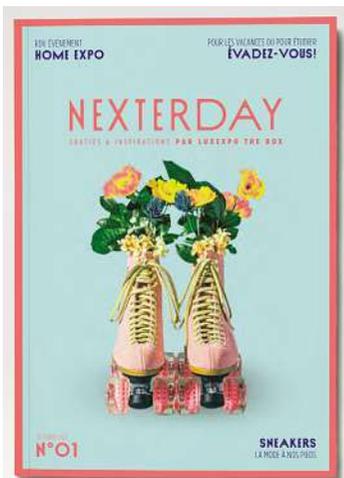
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# NIGHTLIFE

Where can you watch stand-up comedy, an international live band or a local indie rock group, enjoy the opera, ballet or a theatre performance, see a blockbuster or an arthouse movie, or dance away the night?



Michel Grolet (unsplash.com)

## STAND-UP COMEDY

If you need a laugh, there are regular open-mic nights and stand-up shows featuring local and international comedians. Look out for events in English from Luxembourg Laughing Out Loud (LLOL) and Luxembourg Comedy.

There's regular open-mic sessions at **Bei der Gare** on Wednesdays, and **Updown Bar** on Thursdays and Fridays. **Vantage Bar** hosts LLOL the last Wednesday of the month. Head to the **Melia** for a regular comedy night called The INNSiDE Joke, which headlines with international comedians, whilst **Rocas** often hosts local talent. **Le Croque Bedaine** has comedy every other Saturday, whilst **Marionette**, hosts comedy nights in English.

📄 [www.facebook.com/LLOL.LuxembourgLaughingOutLoud](https://www.facebook.com/LLOL.LuxembourgLaughingOutLoud)

📄 [www.facebook.com/luxembourgcomedy](https://www.facebook.com/luxembourgcomedy)

## LIVE MUSIC VENUES

If you want to see international headline acts, head to **Rockhal** in the south which has a main concert hall for 6,500 people, plus club spaces for more intimate performances. Gorillaz and Simple Minds play end of June, and John Legend, The Killers and Alicia Keys in July.

Another venue housed in a former truck garage in Hollerich, **Den Atelier** has been attracting alternative rock and Indie bands since 1995. The summer line up includes Skunk Anansie and The Pixies.

**Neimënster cultural centre** is the place to go for classical, folk, jazz, and blues. Festivals are also on the agenda, including Siren's Call, organised by den Atelier, and the RESET Jazz festival. This summer, open-air concerts welcome performers Tom Jones and Snow Patrol. **Kulturfabrik in Esch-sur-Alzette** has club

nights, festivals and plenty of bands from the greater region. Housed in a former slaughterhouse, with urban art adorning its exterior, it's one of the key venues for Esch2022, as the city is Europe's capital of culture. An alt music venue, you won't catch well-known acts here, but rather those that are up-and-coming. Similarly **Rotondes** in Bonnevoie and **De Gudde Wëllen** on rue du Saint Esprit, have live music including heavy rock, indie-folk, post-punk and alt rock groups.

- 📄 <https://rockhal.lu/>
- 📄 [www.atelier.lu](http://www.atelier.lu)
- 📄 [www.neimenster.lu/en](http://www.neimenster.lu/en)
- 📄 <https://kulturfabrik.lu/>
- 📄 [www.rotondes.lu](http://www.rotondes.lu)
- 📄 <https://deguddewellen.lu/>



Zoë Mondloch



## THEATRE

For international touring performances including opera, musicals, dance and drama the **Grand Theatre** is the biggest venue, with a large auditorium plus a smaller studio. The **Theatre de Capucins** in the old town also hosts high-quality performances, but is a smaller venue, whilst you'll get more locally produced works at the **National Theatre** and **Rotondes**.

📱 [www.theatres.lu](http://www.theatres.lu)  
 📱 [www.tnl.lu](http://www.tnl.lu)

## DANCING

If club nights are more your scene and you like to dance, **Apoteca Bar and Club** has a vibrant scene, located in a basement with spiral staircases with a smoky dancefloor. **Ikki** in Clausen is a sushi place, but features a dancefloor at weekends, whilst the place to be seen is the glamorous **Gotham** in Limpertsberg, complete with gold chandeliers, and a dance floor framed with VIP tables.

For a more chilled vibe, **Melusina** is located by the river, arranged over two floors, it regularly hosts themed nights. Head to **Hitch** in Limpertsberg for a relaxed club setting when the burger bar is converted to a dancefloor at the weekend. **De Gudde Wëllen** has a two-floor club at weekends if it's not hosting live music, and **Scott's Pub** in Grund has late-night DJs.

## FANCY A COCKTAIL

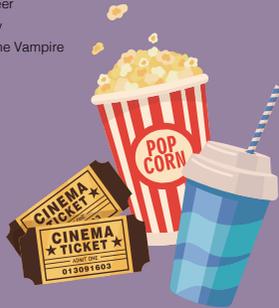
If you like your drink to have an umbrella, then the renovated **Piano Bar** has a fantastic terrace, and some signature cocktails including the Umami Sour. Gare-located newcomer, **Madame Jeanette** is good for a Mojito or Mezcal Sour and some tapas, whilst **Octans'** mixologists will whip you up a Tiramisu martini, and some live music.

**Lady Jane** is a private member's club so you'll need to join their Facebook group to get the weekly password. Gin features heavily on the menu, but they also serve beetroot infused vodka and bourbon with peanut butter. **The Observatory** bar in the Sofitel Le Grand Ducal has unique views of the city nightlights, and a good list of designer cocktails, whilst **Llama** bar has the moto, cheeky drinks with no drama, although the DJs can create quite a storm. For something more intimate, **Paname** has individual booths, and can whistle up pretty good spirit mixes too.

**Bar:Bar** in the heart of the city is the winner of the Luxembourg Nightlife Awards 2022 for best cocktail bar, and is a new small venue, big on ambience. Postcards and hats hang from the ceiling, and the summer terrace has a beach party vibe. You can choose from classics like the Mint Julep or something original such as the Basil Smash which combines vodka, fresh lime juice, vanilla syrup and basil leaves 🍹

## MOVIES FILMED IN LUXEMBOURG

The Colony  
 Girl with Pearl Earring  
 The Merchant of Venice  
 The Musketeer  
 Mary Shelley  
 Shadow of the Vampire  
 Flawless



## CINEMA

For multi-screen cinemas showing the latest releases, head to **Kinopolis** in Kirchberg or Belval. **Ciné Utopia** in Limpertsberg (also part of the Kinopolis family) and **Cinémathèque** (belonging to the VdL) in the old town, show classics and independent or arthouse alternative films. In summer, a drive-in cinema is installed at Glacis. The city hosts many film festivals including the Irish/British film festival, CinEast for films from Eastern Europe, and the Luxembourg Film Festival.

📱 <https://kinopolis.lu/>  
 📱 [www.vdl.lu](http://www.vdl.lu)



# MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Culture-vultures, and art, history or nature lovers will appreciate the country's main museums and galleries, and most towns have some heritage to delight you. We take a whistle-stop tour of the main ones, but visit the Luxembourg Times pages on Leisure and Travel for more inspiration.

## ART

### National Museum of History and Art

European paintings, sculpture and photographs, starting in the Middle Ages and ending in the modern day. The museum's decorative arts section has furniture, clocks, ceramics and silverware including art deco works.

The history element follows a thematic tour from the bronze and iron ages to Gallo-Roman times, with various artefacts that have been unearthed across the Grand Duchy.

📄 [www.mnha.lu](http://www.mnha.lu)

## MUDAM

Housed in Park Dräi Eechelen in an award-winning structure designed by architect IM Pei, this gallery has permanent and temporary pieces reflecting current artistic trends.

📄 [www.mudam.com](http://www.mudam.com)

## Casino Luxembourg

Contemporary art exhibitions and an international programme of younger artists, Casino has a projection room and area dedicated to learning activities.

<https://casino-luxembourg.lu/>

## Family of Man

Head to Clervaux castle for a permanent exhibition of 500 photos by 273 artists from 68 countries compiled by Edward Steichen as a post-war manifesto for peace, originally shown at New York's MOMA. It receives 10 million visitors a year, and is open from late February to early January.

📄 [www.steichencollections-cna.lu](http://www.steichencollections-cna.lu)

## Villa Vauban

The city's contemporary art museum has Dutch paintings from the 17<sup>th</sup> century Golden Age, and 19<sup>th</sup> century French history and landscape paintings, plus sculptures and temporary exhibitions.

📄 <https://villavauban.lu/>

## HISTORY AND MILITARY Luxembourg City Museum

In the heart of the old town, this permanent collection illustrates the history of the capital over the past 1,000 years. You can take a guided tour with Count Siegfried, or discover history with magic backpacks.

📄 <https://citymuseum.lu/en/>

## Museum Dräi Eechelen

A unique fortress on Kirchberg plateau, the museum will have you travelling back in time to meet fascinating characters that have shaped 500 years of Luxembourg history.

📄 <https://m3e.public.lu>

## National Museum of Military History

Telling the story of the Battle of the Bulge from 1944-5, with life-sized models, this Diekirch museum details the struggles faced by soldiers and civilians. There are sections on the Luxembourg Army, both World Wars and the Korean War, plus military equipment, vehicles, photographs and personal memorabilia.

📄 [www.mnhm.net](http://www.mnhm.net)

## Tramways & Bus Museum

Tucked away in Hollerich, you can climb aboard a horse-drawn tram or an old-fashioned bus at this free museum. Twenty-two scale models and a number of tramway motor coaches bring to life the transport of yesteryear.

📄 [www.vdl.lu](http://www.vdl.lu)

## Museum "A Possen"

Immerse yourself in the daily life of 18-19<sup>th</sup> century winemakers, with living quarters reflecting life in the Moselle region during this period. You can discover folklore and vintage toys, plus a shoemaking workshop, cooperage and weaving area.

📄 <https://musee-possen.lu/>

## Museum of the Ardennes counter offensive

Lasting two months and the biggest battle of World War II, it freed Luxembourg from German occupation. See uniforms, weapons and historic documents at this Clervaux castle museum.

📄 [www.visit-clervaux.lu](http://www.visit-clervaux.lu)



© Felicia Varzari (unsplash.com)

WENGLER  
CHÂTEAUX 18 ✻ 97 DOMAINES

EMBRACING THE FINEST WINES AND SPIRITS



Gabi Scott (unsplash.com)

### Castle Replica Exhibition

At the same castle you can gaze on scale models of Luxembourg castles and travel through time to see the living quarters, commercial purposes and defence strategies of each of them.

📄 [www.visit-clervaux.lu](http://www.visit-clervaux.lu)

### European Museum Schengen

A symbol of freedom of movement and the abolition of borders in Europe, at the location this historic treaty was signed. The museum is dedicated to the history and significance of the Schengen Agreement in developing a more unified Europe.

📄 <https://www.visitschengen.lu/>

### National Museum of the Resistance & Human Rights

Head to Esch-sur-Alzette to trace the resistance movement in Luxembourg between 1940 and 1944, through the reactions of people, photos, objects, works of art, and an area dedicated to concentration camps and the fate of the Jewish people living in the country.

📄 [www.mnr.lu](http://www.mnr.lu)

## SCIENCE & NATURE

### Natural History Museum

Ten permanent exhibition rooms bring natural history to life. Discover how our planet was formed, and marvel at animal and insect specimens, this Grund museum is also part of the Science Festival held every two years.

📄 [www.mnhn.lu](http://www.mnhn.lu)

### Luxembourg Science Center

An interactive science playground featuring 60 different hands-on science stations is located in a new building in Differdange close to the train station. You can try out a 3D printer, learn about a Faraday cage, or try to beat a robot at table football. There are daily thematic science shows and animations on hand.

📄 [www.science-center.lu](http://www.science-center.lu)

### Tudor Museum

Rosport Castle is the place to immerse yourself in all things electrical and the world of Henri Tudor. Learn how electricity affected the quality of life in the 19th century, and how pioneer Tudor's work advanced agriculture, transport and street lighting.

📄 <https://musee-tudor.lu/>

### Luxlait Vitarium

Ever wondered what goes into producing the milk you drink? The country's biggest dairy opens its doors with an interactive playground and a tour of the dairy. Can you run as fast as a cow? Find out here.

📄 [www.vitarium.lu](http://www.vitarium.lu)

### Park Sënnersräich

See, hear, touch, smell and taste - use your five senses at different indoor and outdoor stations, which include a labyrinth and a giant air cushion for bouncing.

📄 [www.sennesraich.lu](http://www.sennesraich.lu)

**The Biodiversum** located in the heart of the Haff Reimich Nature Reserve tells you all about the flora and fauna of Luxembourg, and how to care for their environment. It even includes an underwater world exhibit.

📄 <https://www.visitmoselle.lu/en/place/parks/haff-reimech-nature-reserve>

Head to **Berdorf** for a 55m high water tower now turned into an interactive museum on the subject of water.

📄 <https://www.aquatower-berdorf.lu/en>





# Building Bridges between Luxembourg and North America

**The Luxembourg-American Chamber of Commerce,  
located in New York City, stimulates and promotes economic  
development and trade & investment between North America  
and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.**

## **The LACC offers:**

- A network of contacts in Luxembourg, the U.S. and Canada
- Assistance in identifying and contacting suitable business counterparts
- Marketing opportunities for members
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The Chamber works to develop and foster close relationships amongst its members through the exchange of ideas and information, by organizing seminars and conferences, and by providing services, assistance and support to its members.

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# INSIDE LUXEMBOURG

Historic towns, castles, unusual rock formations, and beautiful gorges, the Grand Duchy has plenty of sights to see within its borders. Here are four places to get you familiar with your new home.



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## VIANDEN

A fairy tale castle overlooks the cobble streets of this artisan town. It was constructed between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries on the foundations of a Roman fort, and was home to the Counts of Vianden, defended by strong fortifications, including the Black and the White towers. You can visit the castle and its armoury, Knights Hall and chapel. A panoramic chairlift operates to the hillside opposite the castle.

The ramparts are now a cultural trail with information panels, and there are two churches in town, the Trinitarians, a gothic vaulted church, and the Church of

St Nicolas, ministered once by the Templars. You can take a 1,000 year journey from the Celts to the present day at the Vianden City Museum, and there is a section dedicated to Luxembourgish poet Edmond de la Fontaine, who wrote under the pen name “Dicks”.

You can visit Victor Hugo’s house, now also a museum containing letters and drawings the exiled French poet and author made when he stayed in the town in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The town’s main bridge has a bust of Hugo created by Rodin. Vianden is also famous for its Nut Fair in October, where you can try nut schnapps.

## ECHTERNACH

This medieval town is probably best known for its Benedictine abbey and basilica, founded in the 7<sup>th</sup> century by St Willibrord. The museum contains the gold-leaf pages of the Codex Aureus of Echternach, produced in the abbey scriptorium which operated from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was also a Roman trading post, and you can visit the restored ruins of a Roman villa located at the edge of an artificially created lake.

The cobble streets with five preserved towers are full of cafes, plus a pre-history museum housed in the Hifhof, a gothic town house from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Adjacent to this, the Church of Saints Paul and Peter has a Celtic stone sculpture, and contains recently restored frescoes.

The Via Epternacensis is a 15-stage circuit that follows the former town walls on a tour of the town, with information panels along the way. A 5.4km circular trail takes you up into the Wolf Gorge to marvel at the rock-formed narrow passageways, or you can take a walk around the lake into the forests of Haardt.



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## REMICH

Head to the Moselle region for a boat trip, a cultural walking tour, or a visit to the nearby wetlands reserve and visitor centre.

Remich was a Roman settlement, and fortified in the Middle Ages, but all that remains of the old fortress is a 12<sup>th</sup> century watchtower, now part of the parish church. The Maacher Gaass alleyway invites you to step back in time to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, whilst the Bacchus fountain, by local sculptor Wil Lofy, celebrates the Remich wine festival where a Riesling Queen is crowned each year in October.

The visitor centre was created by Luxembourg's most famous architect, François Valentiny, and its design makes it look like a boat moored on the banks of the Moselle. You can hop aboard a real boat, the MS Princesse Marie-Astrid, for a trip to Schengen over a three-course meal.

The region has numerous hikes through the vineyards and past pretty villages. The Lauschtour app provides free audio guided walking tours including one for Remich, or you can rent bikes and cycle to Mondorf-les-Bains. The nearby Haff Reimich nature reserve is the largest wetland in the country, with 30 ponds and a unique habitat for 250 bird species. It's home to the unusual upside-down boat shaped Biodiversum centre, also designed by Valentiny, which has interactive displays on local wildlife and flora.



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## WILTZ

In the heart of the Ardennes, Wiltz has an upper town where you'll find its castle, and a lower one in the valley of the river of the same name. A Celtic settlement existed in 764 AD but it was under the Counts of Wiltz that the settlement gained town status.

In recent history, the Battle of the Bulge destroyed 80% of the town's houses, and citizens held a general strike against enforced conscription into the German army in 1942, resulting in 20 executions. The town has a strike monument with sculptures created by Luxembourgish artist Lucien Wercollier. The castle contains a museum on the Battle of the Bulge, plus one on the brewing and another on the tanning industries of the region.

You can take one of two circular walks that take in the sights of the town, including the Jardin de Wiltz, the One Penny Monument dedicated to Baden Powell's scouting movement, the Niederwiltzer windmill, and a justice cross. The trails have information panels along the routes. 

# DAY TRIPS *BY TRAIN*

Hop on a train from Luxembourg's Central Railway Station to discover the north of the country, or the greater region from the Belgian Ardennes to the Roman towns of Germany, and the buzzing cities of Alsace-Lorraine.



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## VOLKINGEN, GERMANY

journey: 2 hours (*change at Trier*)

**What can I see and do?**

Head to this World Cultural Heritage site at a former ironworks for a tour via a coal track and across 7km of signposted walkways. The Ferrodrom science centre has interactive stations covering fire, earth, water and air, and there's an art gallery which hosts international exhibitions.

## METZ, FRANCE

journey: 40-50 minutes

**What can I see and do?**

Famous for its Gothic cathedral, Metz is also home to the Pompidou modern art centre, an archaeology and art museum, plus some outstanding botanical gardens. The streets and squares are filled with plenty of restaurants.

## VIELSALM, BELGIUM

journey: 1.5 hours

**What can I see and do?**

Home to La Maison du Pays de Salm, an interactive museum focusing on the folklore and legend of the witches of Vielsalm, you can also try out a 4.5km Witches Walk.

## CLERVAUX, LUXEMBOURG

journey: 1 hour

**What can I see and do?**

Head to Clervaux castle for three museums. The Family of Man is Edward's Steichen's post-war manifesto for peace in the form of an exhibition of some 500 photographs by 273 artists from 68 countries. The castle also houses a museum on the Ardennes counter-offensive and an exhibition of models of castles and palaces. You can lunch in the pretty Princess Maria Teresa square, then hike up to the Abbey Saint Maurice.

## TRIER, GERMANY

journey: 50 minutes

**What can I see and do?**

Head to this bustling town for Roman ruins, including the Porta Nigra, an amphitheatre and imperial baths, plus a visit to the beautiful St Peter's Cathedral. There's a toy museum and a city one, plus plenty of cafes and restaurants.



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# 1 HOUR BY CAR

If you want to explore the greater region, there are plenty of places just one hour's drive from Luxembourg that make a perfect day-trip destination. See Arctic wolves, castles and forts, an abbey famed for its beer, rural life from 100 years ago, and what things were like in the region during Roman times.

Tom Van Soens (unsplash.com)



## BOUILLON, BELGIUM

Nestled on a bend in the River Semois, 103km from Luxembourg City, this town is dominated by a Chateau-Fort. Children will delight in the narrow passageways and dark halls as they learn about the Godefroy family, with audio guides in English, and a daily falconry display.

[www.bouilloninitiative.be](http://www.bouilloninitiative.be)

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## ORVAL ABBEY, BELGIUM

If you've tasted the famous beer, you might want to visit the ruins of the Cistercian Abbaye d'Orval, with its herb gardens and medicine museum, just 66km from Luxembourg City. Audio guides provide a history of the abbey to the present day, and you can take home a crate of the strong beer.

[www.orval.be](http://www.orval.be)

David Tostado (unsplash.com)



## WOLFPARK WERNER FREUND, GERMANY

Several wolf packs including Arctic, American and European breeds, live in large enclosures in this forest park at Merzig. Pups are born yearly, and there is a free tour every month on a Sunday. Just 63km from the city, its open from 10.00 until 18.00, and you can follow a 10km wolf trail past the enclosures.

[www.wolfspark-wernerfreund.de](http://www.wolfspark-wernerfreund.de)

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## OPEN AIR MUSEUM, GERMANY

Head to Konz, just 45km and a 45 minute drive from Luxembourg City and the Roscheider Hof Museum to see traditional life at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The village includes a classroom from 1912, a traditional grocers and a village pub. Exhibitions take you on a journey as corn becomes bread, and through the local history of wine-making. It's open year round.

[www.roscheiderhof.de](http://www.roscheiderhof.de)

## VILLA RUSTICA, GERMANY

Meet the Romans and discover what life was like for those who lived in the Saar Lor Lux region 2,000 years ago at a reconstructed villa in Pearl-Borg. Amongst the archaeological treasures you can see a complete four stage bath, and even dress up like a Roman or sample dishes from the time at the local tavern housed at the complex. It's 40 minutes from the city.

[www.villa-borg.de](http://www.villa-borg.de)

## FORT HACKENBERG, FRANCE

Follow in Winston Churchill's footsteps on a guided tour around the largest fort on the Maginot Line at Veckring. Some 55km from the city, you can see what life was like in the 1930s and take a ride on a historical electrical train to witness the operation of a 135mm howitzer gun turret. It's open at weekends with tours in English at 14.15, given by knowledgeable volunteers.

[www.maginot-hackenberg.com](http://www.maginot-hackenberg.com)

## RODEMACK TO MANDEREN, FRANCE

Whilst the Grand Duchy has many cool castles, you can pop across the border to visit the wonderful walled village of Rodemack, then head to Sierck-les-Bains to visit the Castle of the Dukes of Lorraine. Built in the 11-12<sup>w</sup> centuries, you can book a torchlight guided tour, play medieval games or try an escape game. Finish your loop of castles with Chateau de Malbrouck, which gets its name from the Duke of Marlborough who stayed there in 1075. Perched on a hill, the castle houses temporary exhibitions, including one on French comic editor and writer, René Goscinny, responsible for the Asterix comics. It's a 40-minute drive back to the city.

[www.chateau-malbrouck.com](http://www.chateau-malbrouck.com)

[www.chateau-sierck.com](http://www.chateau-sierck.com)

<http://en.tourisme-ccce.fr/rodemack/>



# NATURE TRAILS FOR THE FAMILY

Fancy a family walk with something fun or educational along the way? Luxembourg excels in themed family trails. We pick five for you to try, plus some wheelchair friendly paths.



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## KLANGWEE SONOROUS TRAIL – HOSCHIED

Up in the north you can hear the grass whisper and the trees sing on this trail all about music in nature. You can try out nature's natural sound-makers – stone, wood and water, and interactive sculptures that are the creations of an artist and music teacher. There are 17 stations on this 6.5km trail that takes about 3 hours to complete. It's steep in places, so not for very young children.

## PLANET TRAIL – SCHIFFLANGE

Visit the Red Rock region of the south and embark on a planetary journey through the undulating valleys and hills exposing the unusual red stone of the region. The 4km trail takes about 1.5 hours and is themed around the solar system, classic mythology, and several stations, starting with the sun and running through each planet based on their distance from it.

## DUDELANGE INTERACTIVE TRAIL

Kids are encouraged to jump or balance over 11 stations to help them discover the woods and also learn about this city, including its cinema history. Located in Parc L'eh, the 1.5km trail encourages you to jump like a fox or rabbit, and ends in a maze, with a treetops climbing centre nearby. There's also a bare-foot sensory park with 19 stations. Take off your shoes and squelch your toes on various natural pathways.

## CHARLY RAILWAY PATH – BECH

Following the former narrow-gauge railway "Charly" on a 5.5km path that has 13 different stations. You can make a call on a tree phone, wash clothes in the river like grandma, and view an insect hotel.

## MIRADOR EDUCATIONAL TRAIL – STEINFORT

Follow more old train tracks past several sculptures including a giant wooden newt, to some ponds with real newts and natter-

jack toads. This 13km trail takes in the Schwaarzenhaff reserve, one of the last natural shelters for this species of toad, which you can see and hear calling in the summer months.

## WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PATHS

The family path Nospelt runs for 4km from the church in the village of the same name, whilst there's a 2.2km historical urban trail in Ettelbruck that takes in the town's sights. Hiking trail J25 is a 1.5km barrier-free forest trail, especially tailored to wheelchair users with information boards on the forest plants. Liichte Wee is a path that covers 2.2km from Schungfabrik at Tetange to Park Ouerbett. 

# Why

Luxembourg

**Discover and understand Luxembourg.**



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**LUXEMBOURG TIMES**

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# THE VISUAL ART OF LUXEMBOURG'S ARCHITECTURE

Architecture lovers will appreciate the array of styles visible in Luxembourg City. The UNESCO World Heritage city features medieval fortifications, baroque churches and art-nouveau villas, which sit side-by-side with super-modern glass and steel buildings, effortlessly incorporated with historical landmarks to create an unusual urban landscape.

As you walk through Luxembourg's old town you'll be amazed by the unity of classical and contemporary architecture, mixed with medieval remnants and historical Gallo-Roman remains that give it a truly unique feel. You can visit the ancient 1000 year old fortress and the unusual Bock Casemates to glimpse outstanding views of Luxembourg and the valley below.

Stroll along Chemin de la Corniche for views of the Grund and Alzette valley, and walk the winding streets into the valleys, cross bridges and walk beside waterways, in this peaceful and historic capital.

## HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE – FROM MEDIEVAL TO ROMANESQUE TO ART DECO

The Grand Ducal Palace, from where the Grand Duke performs his duties as head of state, such as hosting foreign dignitaries, was originally built in 1572. A Flemish Renaissance style building with ornate stonework and a symmetrical design, it's criss-crossed by many windows and ornate balconies. The interior was restored in the 1990s, and during the summer months you can catch a glimpse of the wood-panelled rooms, gilt ceilings, tapestries, grand staircases and many portraits on a tour. Guards have been posted outside the building since 1945.

The nearby Notre-Dame Cathedral was constructed from 1612 to 1621 and is the only cathedral in Luxembourg. Expanded in the 1930s to include a choir and crypt, and a further two towers, the west tower is the original Jesuit-built one which contains the bells. Inside, the cathedral features columns decorated with arabesques and beautiful stained glass windows. The crypt, guarded by lions, is the resting place of John the Blind (*King of Bohemia*) and also the Grand Ducal family.

In Place Guillaume II the neo-classical style Luxembourg City Hall, also flanked by lions, was built by French architect Justin Rémont in the 1830s. Its stones came from a former 13<sup>th</sup> century Franciscan monastery which stood on the same site but was dismantled in 1829. Today it's the office of the Mayor of Luxembourg City.

Across the Pétrusse valley you'll find two glorious structures that house the offices of the national state bank BCEE. At 2 Place de Metz is a grand building designed by architect Jean-Pierre Koenig and constructed in 1913, whilst at 19 Avenue de la Liberté stands the former steel headquarters built between 1920 and 1922.

Down in the Grund valley, amidst the cobbled streets, the iconic Neimënster Abbey stands out in the skyline. Originally a Benedictine abbey built in 1606, it was rebuilt following fire damage in 1684. After the French Revolution, it served as a prison and then a Prussian army barracks. In the last century, the Nazis used it to imprison local political resistors. The building was fully renovated and reopened in 2004 as a cultural centre hosting exhibitions, concerts and cultural events. The chapel has a magnificent frescoed ceiling, and the cloister now houses sculptures by local artist Lucien Wercollier who was imprisoned by the Nazis in the abbey complex.

In front of the abbey you'll see the pretty terraced gardens of the Bock and a sculpture of Melusina. Legend tells that this mermaid wife of Count Siegfried, plunged into the Alzette when her secret was discovered, and waits there to this day.

From the Grund valley you can admire the Adolphe Bridge, erected at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by French architect Paul Séjourné, and Luxembourgish architect

Albert Rodange. At the time (1903), the bridge had the biggest stone arch in the world, spanning more than 85 metres across the Pétrusse valley at a height of 42 metres and a length of 153 metres. The "passerelle" or viaduct was designed by engineers Edouard Grenier and August Letellier and completed in 1861. It consists of 24 arches spanning either 8 or 15 metres and of pillars up to 30 metres high. It's 290 metres long, with a slight curve in the middle.

At Luxembourg City's Central Railway Station the original building (*erected in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century*) was designed in Moselle Baroque style by German architects Rüdell, Jüsgen and Scheuffel. A new reception hall to accommodate a growth in travellers incorporates a light metallic frame with a transparent membrane. Beside the station sits the small round Royal Pavilion which was constructed in 1913 and used by the Grand Ducal family until 1983 as a reception room.

Fort Thüngen, locally known as the Three Acorns (*referring to its three towers*), stands at the edge of the Kirchberg Plateau and was originally built by Austrian engineer Simon de Beauffe in 1733. Most of the original fortress, except the towers, was demolished in 1867 after the Treaty of London. The site was reconstructed in the 1990s and now houses a museum.

The architect and fortress-builder Sébastien le Prestre de Vauban (1633 to 1707) left his mark firmly on Luxembourg, and you can take a self-guided circular walk through 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Luxembourg through old city gates, passing by fortifications and bastions, through the old fish market, and via the three towers gate, to the well-preserved Vauban Towers and on to Fort Thüngen.

## MODERN ARCHITECTURE – BUILT ON HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS

For the best in modern architecture, head to Luxembourg's financial and business district, Kirchberg.

Perhaps the most breath-taking building of all is the one that houses the Luxembourg Philharmonic. Commissioned in 1997 after the city was nominated European Capital of Culture, it opened in 2005 and hosts some 400 performances a year. The iconic white building, the work of award-winning French architect Christian de Portzamparc, is encased by 823 slender white pillars, which curl around the building like organ pipes, and which work to allow air diffusion and mitigate unnecessary vibrations. Inside, its elliptical white foyer contains three impressive auditoria, built to transform the orchestra's acoustics.

The nearby Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean (*MUDAM*) was built in 2006 atop the remnants of the abandoned Fort Thüngen. Designed by Ieoh Ming Pei, the Chinese-American architect behind the glass pyramid at the Louvre, the MUDAM's asymmetrical V shape structure rises at 45 degree angles over the ruins of the fort. You can still see the introverted shape of the fortress in Pei's unusual building, which feels like an extension rather than a replacement. Modern, classical, sober and monumental, you access the MUDAM via footbridges over the former fort's dry moat. Inside, the 33-metre high Grand Hall is at the heart of the museum, and offers unexpected views of the surrounding forests and the historical landscape of Luxembourg City.

Both the Philharmonic and the MUDAM are part of the triangular area of Place de l'Europe, which was designed by Catalan architect Ricardo Bofill in 2004. The black-paved area celebrates the setting for the European Institutions, to which the Kirchberg district is home.

Across the road you can marvel at the three towers of the European Court of Justice that are easily identifiable on the plateau's skyline. Shimmering, even in grey skies, they are the 21st century work of Parisian architect Dominique Perrault. The two bronze towers are 100m high, and were completed in 2009 as the EU incorporated a number of new member states. The third tower, the tallest building in Luxembourg, is 118m high, and has a viewing point. Inside, the central court has a giant net of gold tinted woven steel which encircles the lights to create a flower.



Felicia Varzari (unsplash.com)

## INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE

At the edge of the old town, stands the latest large-scale project in the city, the Royal Hamilius, designed by Foster + Partners, under the patronage of British architect Sir Norman Foster. Designed to improve the daily lives of Luxembourgers and visitors, it incorporates a multi-functional island of shops, services, hotels, restaurants, a central bus station, and housing, in the heart of the city.

If you are particularly interested in international architectural work in the Grand Duchy, visit the Grande-Duchesse Charlotte Maternity Hospital designed by Otto Bartning, and the Hertz-Grünstein building designed by Fritz Nathan, both constructed in the 1930s, the Luxembourg Grand Theatre the work of Alain Bourbonnais (1960s), and the "brutalist"-style European Investment Bank in Kirchberg, designed by Sir Denys Lasdun.

## LCTO TOURS

The Luxembourg City Tourist Office (*LCTO*) operates several guided tours of the city including the popular Wenzel circuit which takes in the main sights. Given the access city award in 2022 from the European Commission, LCTO also offers an inclusive and accessible guided tour of the UNESCO heritage sites, or you can also try its bike tour of UNESCO sites. On the spot bike hire is available in multiple locations throughout the City via the Vel'Oh system. You can also take the Pétrusse train or the hop-on-hop-off bus to visit various sights in the old town, Grund and Clausen.

Architectural tours of the city, the railway district of the Plateau Bourbon, and the modern financial and business district of Kirchberg are organised by the Luxembourg City Tourist Office. 

 <https://www.luxembourg-city.com/en>

 <https://myveloh.lu/en/home>

# DISCOVER THE CITY *BY FOOT*

The Luxembourg City Tourist Office has developed several self-guided circular walking tours to take you through various parts of the city on an adventure to discover the main sights, the famous woman of the Grand Duchy, or a time when the district of Limpertsberg grew roses for the royal families of several countries.



### WENZEL CIRCULAR WALK

Travel through a thousand years of the Grand Duchy's history through the oldest quarters of Luxembourg City now a recognised UNESCO World Heritage site. View the valleys from the top of the Bock Promontory, a rocky ledge surrounded on three sides by the Alzette valley, where Count Siegfried built his castle in 963. Inside the rock, you'll find a tunnel network used to defend the strategic fort, known as the Bock Casemates.

From here you can wander along the Chemin de la Corniche, described as Europe's most beautiful balcony. It runs along the Alzette valley on ramparts built by the French and Spanish in the 17th century down to the Holy Ghost Citadel. Visit a Benedictine Abbey – Neimënster, in what was formerly the artisan district, below the Rham plateau which offers more views, this time of the remnants of Vauban's military fortifications.

The Wenzel wall was erected between 1383 and 1419 and pays tribute to the Duke of Luxembourg at that time, Wenceslas II. You can take a 3 hour guided tour with LCTO to cover the 5.5km distance or pick up a self-guide brochure from the tourist office.

### CITY SAFARI FAMILY TOUR

Discover the numerous animals hidden around Luxembourg's old town on this guided tour which introduces you to William II's horse, the two lions that guard City Hall, lizards and a unicorn, on a two-hour family circuit, which can be combined with a trip to the Natural History Museum to see even more animals from the region, such as the lynx.

### GARDENS AND PARKS

Starting at the Bock Promontory, the walker is invited to discover the city's parks and gardens, beginning with a view of the terraced Convent Garden below, where traditional vegetables and medicinal herbs are grown. The tour takes in Neimënster Abbey and the contemporary monastery gardens, and an orchard with some 120 blossoming apple trees.

You'll also visit the rose beds near Saint Quirin's Chapel, a place of pilgrimage, built into the rock, and next to a spring believed to

cure eye ailments. The walk then takes you below the Passerelle viaduct following the River Pétrusse past private allotments, to Edward Klein Park, home to sculptures of Victor Hugo and Mahatma Gandhi, before the final stop at Villa Vauban, the city's contemporary art gallery featuring a permanent collection of Dutch Old Masters and French landscape paintings.

### WOMEN – LIVES AND LEGENDS

Want to know more about the great women in Luxembourg's rich history? Then follow this self-guided walk. Starting in Place d'Armes outside the Cercle Cité, you'll find a frieze depicting the Countess of Ermsinde, who was also Countess of Luxembourg from 1186 to 1247. A liberal ruler, she established the proclamation of freedom to citizens before she died. The walk then visits the Grand Ducal Palace and the parliament buildings. Luxembourg's first female MP was elected in 1919. The oldest female figure in the Grand Duchy's history is Melusina, the mermaid wife of Count Siegfried, and the most iconic, the Gëlle Fra, or golden lady, Luxembourg's symbol of freedom and liberty.

### ROSALI – THE ROSES OF LIMPERSBERG

Take this thematic walk to discover the horticultural heritage of the city's Limpertsberg quarter. Two aspiring gardeners, Jean Soupert and Pierre Notting, transformed what was once barren land into a rose-growing district in 1855, creating a unique nursery that established the area as an international flower centre in the 1880s. At one time, more than 260 varieties of roses were grown in the area, supplying the King of the Netherlands, the King of Sweden, the Grand Ducal family and travelling as far as the Imperial household of Brazil.

You can take a 4km or longer 6.2km circular self-guided tour or travel with a guide. The tour takes in the famous Notre Dame Cemetery, where many of the country's acolytes are buried, and various grand villas and chateaus belonging to the rose growing families. From rue des Cerisiers you'll get outstanding views of the Kirchberg Plateau and can gaze at some unusual Art Nouveau houses on rue des Roses.

### BOOK A TOUR

You can pick up brochures for these and many other self-guided walks of the city's different districts, from the Luxembourg City Tourist Office, which also organises guided tours. 



 Zoë Mandlloch

# BOCK CASEMATES

Nicknamed the Gibraltar of the North, Luxembourg City's historical fortress and casemates date back 1,000 years and are a recognised UNESCO World Heritage site.



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One of Europe's greatest fortified sites, the Bock has been in the hands of the Holy Roman Empire, the House of Burgundy, the Hapsburgs, French and Spanish kings and finally the Prussians, with European strategic importance spanning several centuries. Famous architects and engineers through history, including Vauban, have contributed to the fortress on Luxembourg's Bock promontory.

You can visit the Bock Casemates, the defence network dug into the promontory. At the entrance, a number of scale models

tell the story of the Grand Duchy which began on the Bock cliff when Count Siegfried built his small castle in 963.

The first tunnels were built in 1644, under Spanish rule. French engineer Vauban's command some forty years later saw the 23km long tunnels enlarged. They were extended yet again by the Austrians in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

Subterranean defensive passages were placed on different levels and go as deep as 40m. They were capable of sheltering thousands of soldiers, their equipment and

horses. Spread over several levels the tunnels at one time housed fifty cannon and a garrison of 1,200 soldiers. In fact, over the years the Bock Casemates have been home to bakeries and slaughterhouses, and in the two world wars sheltered some 35,000 locals.

Today, 17km of tunnels remain. They afford outstanding views of the Grund valley, Neimënster Abbey and the remains of Vauban's fort, plus the colourful houses on the Plateau Saint Esprit. [📍](https://www.luxembourg-city.com/en/place/fortification/bock-casemates)

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