

EUROPE · HISTORY · HIKING · WINE · ARCHITECTURE



Luxembourg

One of Europe's smallest and richest countries, Luxembourg fits a UNESCO-listed capital on gorge-cut cliffs, a string of castles and quietly excellent Moselle wines into an area you can drive across in about an hour. Hike the sandstone ravines of the Mullerthal, explore Vianden's hilltop fortress and ride the trains and buses for free.

 Before you go, read the UK government's travel advice for Luxembourg and entry requirements (visas, passport validity). Last updated by FCDO 11 August 2026.

 CAPITAL Luxembourg City	 CURRENCY Euro (EUR) £1 ≈ €1.19	 LANGUAGE Luxembourgish, French German, English	 BEST TIME May-Sep
 DAILY BUDGET £90-£350 £££ Expensive	 PLUGS Type C, F 230V · adapter needed	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 1h 10m direct ~£70-£220 return	 TIME ZONE UTC+1 standard time

Luxembourg is a Grand Duchy of about 680,000 people wedged between Belgium, France and Germany, and nearly half its residents are foreign nationals. The capital, built on cliffs above the Alzette and Pétrusse valleys, is the obvious base, with its old quarters and fortifications on UNESCO's list. The rest of the country divides neatly into day trips: the wooded Éislek uplands of the Ardennes in the north, with Vianden and the castles of the Sûre valley; the sandstone gorges of the Mullerthal to the east; the vineyard-lined Moselle along the German border; and the old iron-mining Minett in the south. Three or four days cover the essentials.

Everything is close and orderly, and free public transport makes car-free touring genuinely easy. Prices are high, especially for hotels and eating out in the capital, though rates at business hotels often drop at weekends. Daily life is multilingual: Luxembourgish is the national language, French dominates shops and restaurants, German fills the newspapers and English is widely spoken. It suits walkers, cyclists, wine lovers and anyone combining it with Belgium, Trier or the Ardennes. Many visitors are surprised by how green and hilly the country is once they leave the banks and EU institutions of Kirchberg behind.

Top 5 highlights

- 1

HISTORY

Bock Casemates and the Old Quarters

The fortress once called the 'Gibraltar of the North' left kilometres of tunnels carved into the Bock promontory. Explore them, then follow the Wenzel Walk down through the Grund past a thousand years of fortifications.
- 2

ARCHITECTURE

Vianden Castle

A huge, carefully restored castle, built between the 11th and 14th centuries on a rock above the Our river and a slate-roofed town. Victor Hugo stayed in Vianden in 1871, and his house is now a museum.

3

NATURE

Mullerthal Trail

Luxembourg's 'Little Switzerland' is a 112 km network of waymarked routes through mossy sandstone gorges, narrow rock clefts and beech woods around Berdorf and Echternach, passing the photogenic Schiessentümpel cascade.

4

FOOD

Moselle wine route

Along the river border with Germany, terraced vineyards produce crisp Rivaner, Riesling and Crémant de Luxembourg. Taste at cellars around Remich and Grevenmacher, and stop at Schengen, where the 1985 border agreement was signed.

5

NATURE

Upper Sûre Lake

A reservoir in the Ardennes uplands with swimming beaches, kayaking, solar-powered boat trips and lakeside trails. The village of Esch-sur-Sûre, curled inside a river loop beneath its castle ruins, is among the country's prettiest.

Biggest cities

LARGEST CITY

Luxembourg City

≈ 135,000 people

A compact capital split between the clifftop old town and the riverside Grund below, linked by free public lifts. See the casemates, the Grand Ducal Palace and the Chemin de la Corniche ramparts walk.

2ND LARGEST CITY

Esch-sur-Alzette

≈ 37,000 people

The second city, near the French border, is the heart of the old steel country; Belval's preserved blast furnaces, now surrounded by university buildings, are the main reason to come.

3RD LARGEST CITY

Differdange

≈ 29,000 people

Another former steel town of the Minett, with a castle now used as a university campus and the Fond-de-Gras heritage site nearby, where vintage trains run on summer Sundays.

Figures are commune populations; Luxembourg has no large conurbation beyond the capital.

When to go to Luxembourg

Best time: **May–Sep.**

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

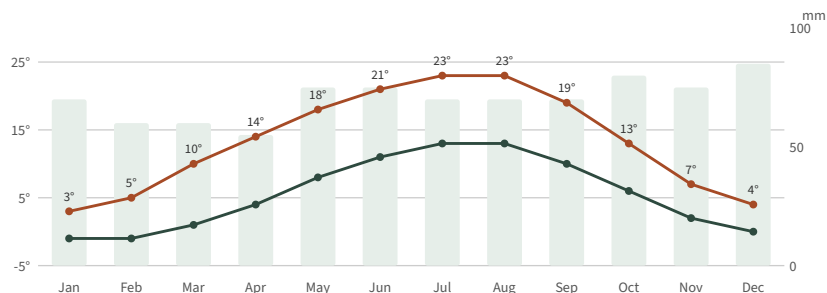
Nov

Dec

■ Best ■ Good ■ Mixed ■ Poor

Average climate in Luxembourg City

■ High °C ■ Low °C ■ Rain (mm)



Festivals & events

May–Jun	Hopping Procession of Echternach On Whit Tuesday, thousands of pilgrims hop in lines through Echternach to a jaunty folk tune in honour of St Willibrord; the procession is on UNESCO's intangible heritage list.
Jun	National Day The Grand Duke's official birthday, 23 June, begins on the evening of the 22nd with a torchlight procession, fireworks over the Pétrusse valley and street parties across the capital.
Aug–Sep	Schueberfouer Luxembourg City's huge funfair, held since 1340, takes over the Glacis from late August to mid-September with rides, beer tents and stalls of fried fish and potato fritters.

How much does Luxembourg cost?

SHOESTRING £90 per person / day ≈ €107 hostels, street food, buses	MID-RANGE £180 per person / day ≈ €214 3-star hotels, restaurants, some taxis	COMFORTABLE £350 per person / day ≈ €417 4-star+, guided trips, private transfers
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Estimates per person per day, excluding flights. Prices vary by season and city.

Food to try

Judd mat Gaardebounen

The national dish: smoked collar of pork, simmered and sliced, with broad beans in a creamy sauce and boiled potatoes; at its best in early summer.

Gromperekichelcher

Crisp, onion-flecked potato fritters fried at every fair and Christmas market, especially the Schueberfouer, and eaten hot, often with apple sauce.

Rieslingspaschtéit

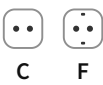
A golden pastry pie filled with pork and veal marinated in Riesling and set with wine jelly, sold in slices at bakeries and wine taverns.

Getting around

Since 2020, buses, trams and second-class trains have been free nationwide, so you only need a ticket for first class. CFL trains run from the capital to Esch, Ettelbruck, Clervaux and Wasserbillig, and buses fill the gaps to Vianden, Echternach and the Moselle villages. A tram line links Kirchberg, the city centre and the central station. The mobiliteit.lu app plans every journey; hire a car or e-bike for remoter castles.

Practical information

PLUGS & VOLTAGE



230V — bring a UK-to-C/F adapter

DIALLING CODE

+352

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance: **112**

Fire: **112**

Police: **113**

Source: FCDO “Getting help”

TIME ZONE

UTC+1 (standard time)

TAP WATER

Generally safe to drink

DRIVING

On the right

TIPPING

Service is included in menu prices, so tipping is optional; round up or leave 5–10% for good restaurant service.

ETIQUETTE

Greet shop staff with 'Moien' or 'Bonjour'; switching between French, German and English is normal, so don't assume one language. Punctuality matters, and many shops close on Sundays.

MAIN AIRPORTS

Luxembourg Airport (LUX), Luxembourg City

Visas & entry for Luxembourg

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can travel without a visa to the Schengen area, which includes Luxembourg, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel: as a tourist; to visit family or friends; to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events; for short-term studies or training.

The requirements for working in Luxembourg are different.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations



See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Bat Lyssavirus

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Luxembourg

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Sun 1 Nov 2026

All Saints' Day

Fri 25 Dec 2026

Christmas Day

Sat 26 Dec 2026	Saint Stephen's Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Mon 29 Mar 2027	Easter Monday
Sat 1 May 2027	Labour Day
Thu 6 May 2027	Ascension Day
Sun 9 May 2027	Europe Day
Mon 17 May 2027	Pentecost Monday
Wed 23 Jun 2027	National Day
Sun 15 Aug 2027	Assumption Day

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Useful phrases in Luxembourgish

ENGLISH	LUXEMBOURGISH	SAY IT
Hello	Moien	<i>MOY-en</i>
Thank you	Merci	<i>MAIR-see</i>
Please	Wann ech gelift	<i>van esh guh-LIFT</i>
Excuse me	Entschëllegt	<i>ent-SHUL-ekt</i>
How much is this?	Wéi vill kascht dat?	<i>vay fill KASHT dat</i>

Know before you go

Public transport is free, but first-class train seats still need a ticket; check the CFL website for weekend engineering works, when buses often replace trains.

Business hotels in the capital and Kirchberg often cut prices at weekends, so consider timing a city stay for Friday to Sunday and spending weekdays in the countryside.

Fuel, tobacco and alcohol are cheaper than in neighbouring countries, so filling up before driving on to France, Belgium or Germany saves money; border petrol stations get busy.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.