

CITY PROMENADE

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

luxembourg
my city · ma ville · meng stad



HISTORIC SURVEY

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

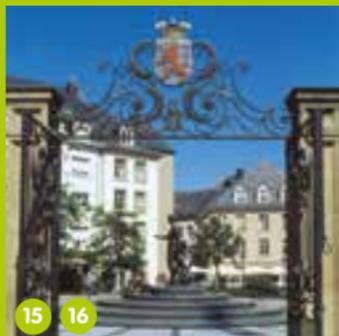
Across the centuries, a second and then a third wall were erected on the Western side, while the rocks of the Alzette and Petrusse valleys served as a natural defence. Nevertheless, these strong fortified structures did not prevent Burgundians from taking over the city in 1443, a city which beyond any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

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



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

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



Walking tour “City Promenade”

1 **William Square:** named after William II, King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg. Seat of the Luxembourg City Tourist Office. 2 **Town Hall:** built 1830-1838 in neoclassical style, site of the former Franciscan convent. 3 **Equestrian Statue of William II:** designed by Mercié (1884), erected in the honour of the King and Grand Duke William II of Orange-Nassau (he ruled from 1840 to 1849 and granted the Grand Duchy its first parliamentary constitution).

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

4 **Palace of the Grand Dukes:** the older Renaissance part dates from 1572, the middle part from 1741-43, in Baroque style but transformed into Renaissance style in 1891. Restored thoroughly from 1992 to 1995. 5 **Chamber of Deputies:** adjoined to the Palace in 1859.

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

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



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

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

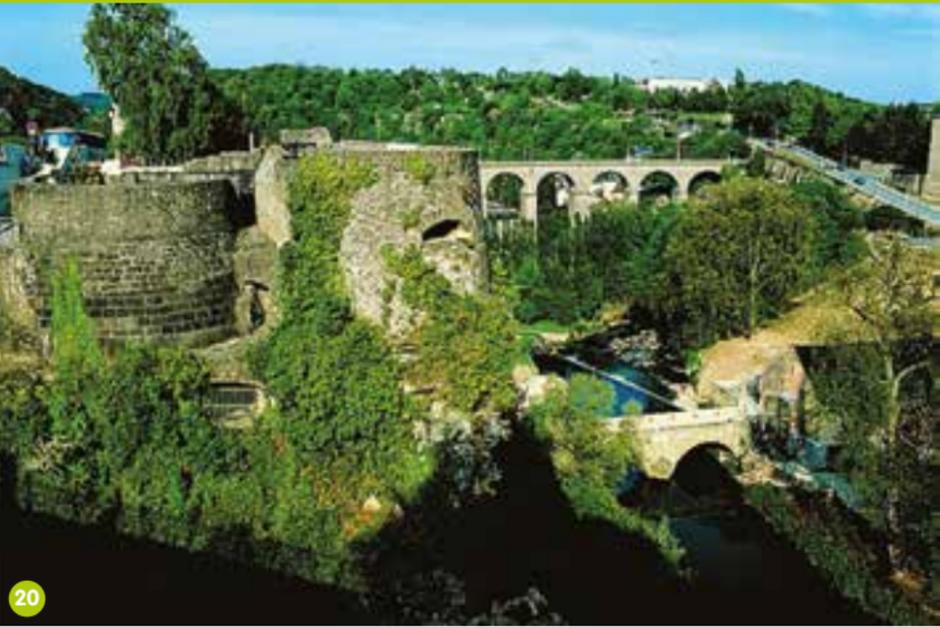
9 **Constitution Square:** put up on the ancient Beck bastion (1644, 1685). Superb view over the Pétrusse Valley and the Adolphe Bridge. 10 **“Gëlle Fra” Memorial:** set up in 1923 to commemorate the Luxembourgers who perished in the First World War, today it symbolises freedom and resistance for the Luxembourg people. 11 **Pétrusse Case-mates:** underground defence works, built during the different foreign dominations.

Continue on boulevard Roosevelt.

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

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

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



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

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

Possible shortcut:

* From the rue du Saint-Esprit, cross the Holy Ghost Square with the Cité Judiciaire, heart of the Luxembourg Justice, and take the elevator down to the Grund. From here you turn right into the rue Saint-Ulric and go towards the Quirin Chapel **26**.

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

Follow the chemin de la Corniche.

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



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19 Luxembourg City History Museum: reflects the urbanistic and architectural development of the city since its creation.

Follow the chemin de la Corniche.

20 Bock promontory: cradle of the city of Luxembourg, linked to the city by the castle bridge (1735). On the "Bock" are situated the uncovered foundation walls of the first stronghold belonging to the Luxembourg Counts and Dukes, converted into Monument of the Millennium in 1963. Incomparable panorama of the European Centre of Kirchberg, the Philharmony, the MUDAM (Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean), the Lower Towns of Grund, Clausen, Pfaffenthal, the Wenzel Wall, the Neumünster Abbey, the Rham Plateau with the barracks built by Vauban (1685), the semicircular towers (remains of the Wenzel Wall, about 1390). In the distance, to the left, are the powder magazine of the Rubamprèz Fort (1847) and the redoubt of the Rumigny Fort (Vauban, 1688). Behind is the National Sports Institute, and, higher up, the remains of the old Dumoulin Fort (1836). Point of departure of the cultural and natural Wenzel Walk, rated outstanding itinerary by the Council of Europe, and of the cultural "Vauban" Walk.



21 Bock Casemates and Archeological Crypt: underground defence works, built in the Spanish era (1745/6). The archeological crypt, antechamber of the Bock Casemates, houses the origins of the city. **22 Goethe Monument:** in commemoration of Goethe's stay in Luxembourg (1792).

Go to the Fishmarket and pass the State Council (building with arcades).

23 St Michael's Church (987): oldest shrine in the city.

24 Fishmarket: historical centre of the Old Town, former crossroads between two Roman roads.

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

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

Possible shortcut:

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

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



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

Pass beneath the Viaduct Bridge.

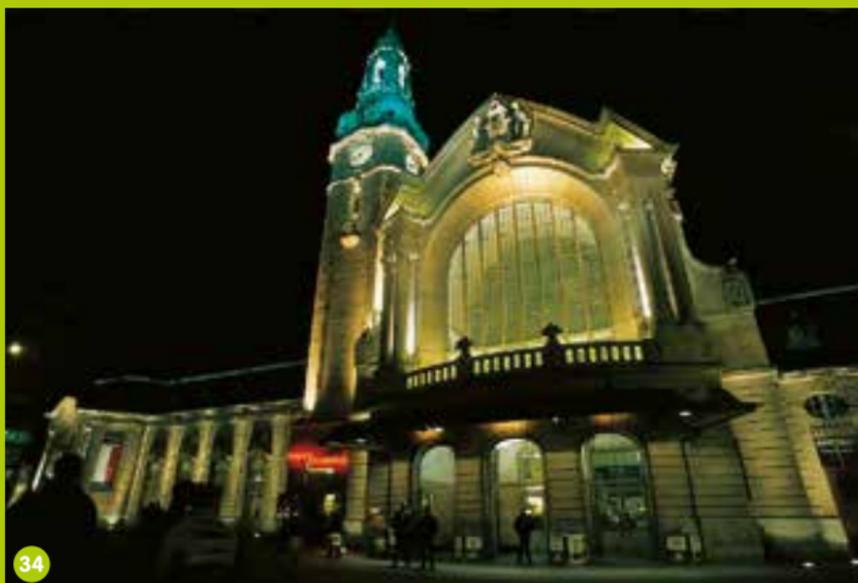
27 Viaduct (Passerelle): mighty bridge with 24 arches, built 1859-1861. **28 Pétrusse Valley:** forms a natural dividing line between the Upper Town and Plateau Bourbon, the Louis (1685) and Beck Bastion (1644 und 1685) on the right-hand side.

Pass under the Adolphe Bridge.

29 Adolphe Bridge (New Bridge): erected 1900-1903, bridge with the biggest arch stone in the world at that time (span of 85 m), today under restoration. Climb the zigzag path to the Upper Town.

Continue on the boulevard Roosevelt, until the **30 Casino Luxembourg:** built in 1882, nowadays Forum of Contemporary Art.

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



Possible extension:

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

31 Place de Metz with the Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État (State Savings Bank) (1913).

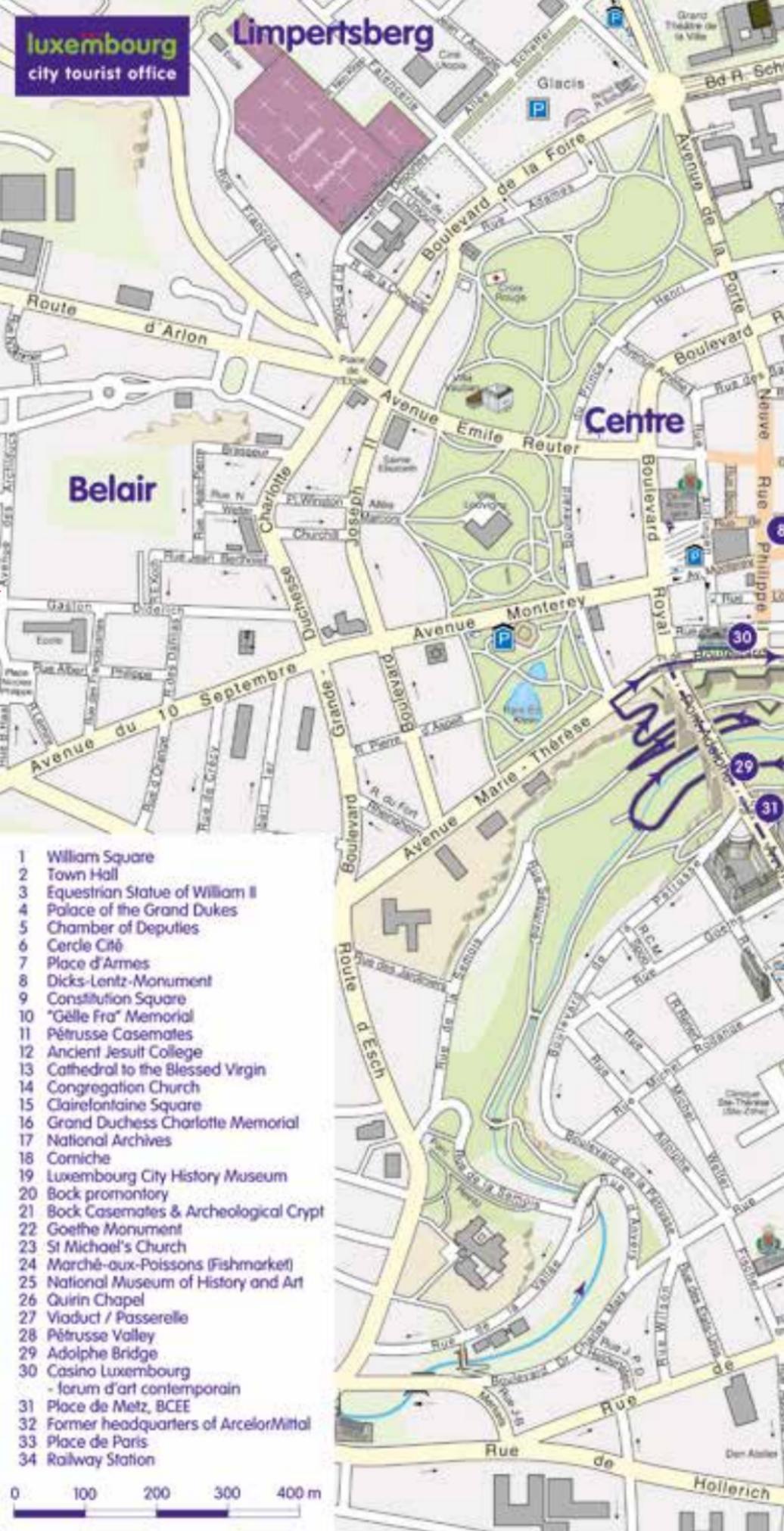
Follow the avenue de la Liberté.

32 Former Headquarters of ArcelorMittal (1922), the worldwide biggest steel company, initially build as an administrative seat for ARBED (Aciéries Réunies de Burbach-Eich-Dudelange). **33 Place de Paris**, transformed into a pedestrian zone in 1986. **34 Railway Station** (1907-1913), since 2007 main station of the fast Train TGV-Est.

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

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

At Constitution Square, turn right into the rue Chimay and then right into the rue Notre-Dame and take the stairs on the left side to return to the point of departure at place Guillaume II.



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- 2 Town Hall
- 3 Equestrian Statue of William III
- 4 Palace of the Grand Dukes
- 5 Chamber of Deputies
- 6 Cercle Cité
- 7 Place d'Armes
- 8 Dicks-Lentz-Monument
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- 10 "Gëlle Fra" Memorial
- 11 Pétrusse Casemates
- 12 Ancient Jesuit College
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- 14 Congregation Church
- 15 Clairefontaine Square
- 16 Grand Duchess Charlotte Memorial
- 17 National Archives
- 18 Corniche
- 19 Luxembourg City History Museum
- 20 Bock promontory
- 21 Bock Casemates & Archeological Crypt
- 22 Goethe Monument
- 23 St Michael's Church
- 24 Marché-aux-Poissons (Fishmarket)
- 25 National Museum of History and Art
- 26 Quirin Chapel
- 27 Viaduct / Passerelle
- 28 Pétrusse Valley
- 29 Adolphe Bridge
- 30 Casino Luxembourg
- forum d'art contemporain
- 31 Place de Metz, BCEE
- 32 Former headquarters of ArcelorMittal
- 33 Place de Paris
- 34 Railway Station

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Impressum

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WALKING TOUR CITY PROMENADE

Highlights	The most beautiful tourist attractions of the city-centre, old town, fortifications and station district.
Visit	On foot.
Duration & length	2 hours, 4 km. Extension to station district: 2 km.
Regular guided tours	Start and tickets: Luxembourg City Tourist Office, place Guillaume II, Luxembourg or on www.lcto.lu When? Every day at 12 (D/FR) and 2 pm (D/GB). Price: Adults 12 €, students, seniors and persons with a disability 10 €, children 6 €.
Guided tours with your private guide	For individuals and groups until 25 people. Price: 90 € mono- or bilingual. Booking: Luxembourg City Tourist Office, tel.: (+352) 4796 2709, guides@lcto.lu , or on www.lcto.lu

1 mile 7 museums



Joseph Kutter (1894-1941), *Clown à l'accordéon*, vers 1935 (extrait), Gouache sur papier, Collection du Musée national d'histoire et d'art, Legs Catherine Meyer-Kutter, © Photo : MNHA/Tom Lucas

MUSEUMSMILE

Villa Vauban – Musée d'Art de
la Ville de Luxembourg

Casino Luxembourg – Forum
d'art contemporain

Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de
Luxembourg

Musée national d'histoire et d'art

Musée national d'histoire
naturelle – 'natur musée'

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www.museumsmile.lu