

Luxembourg



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Luxembourg Snapshot

Luxembourg is fairy-tale stuff...complete with the happy ending. Listen to the story of this land's tumultuous history and be drawn into a tale of counts and dynasties, wars and victories, fortresses and promontories. Only the dragon is missing.

The Grand Duchy stems from the loins of Count Sigefroi of the Ardennes, who raised a castle here in 963 AD. By the Middle Ages, Sigefroi's castle was a highly sought-after fortified city – the Burgundians, Spanish, French, Austrians and Prussians all waged bloody battles to secure it. Besieged, devastated and rebuilt 20 times in 400 years, it became the strongest fortress in Europe after Gibraltar. But it was Luxembourg who had its final say. After the Treaty of London recognised the country's autonomy in 1867, the Grand Duchy declared itself neutral in international affairs and torched its much-contested fort.

German invasion in 1914 squashed Luxembourg's neutrality. It was occupied again in WWII and fared badly throughout those years – local men were conscripted into the Nazi army and in 1944 came the Battle of the Ardennes (see p245).

After the war Luxembourg dumped its neutral status and joined NATO. It became a founding member of the EU, and today plays an active role on its governing bodies. Iron ore discoveries around 1850 started the country's economic success, but when steel slumped a century or so later, Luxembourg wooed foreigners with favourable banking and taxation laws. Today many nations aspire to an economy like this. With per capita GDP among the world's highest, Luxembourg boasts low unemployment and a consistently high standard of living. The country is headed by Grand Duke Henri, who came to the throne in 2000. Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker (Christian Social People's Party) has dominated the political scene since 1995.

Luxembourgers are a proud people whose national motto, *Mir wëlle bleiwe wat mir sin* ('We want to remain what we are'), sums up their independent spirit. The population of 469,000 is predominantly rural based – the only centres of any size are the capital, Luxembourg City, followed by Esch-sur-Alzette.

The Duchy's population is 87% Roman Catholic and comprises 30% foreigners – the EU's highest ratio. Luxembourgers are used to their country being held up as a successful multicultural model, though they're also quick to point out that combining a couple of European cultures, in this case Italian and Portuguese, is radically easier than melding different ethnic backgrounds.

Most Luxembourgers speak French, German and their national tongue, Lëtzebuergesch, and many are fluent in English. Lëtzebuergesch was only proclaimed the national tongue in 1984, though it's long been an everyday language. The poem *Rénert* (Fox) by Michel Rodange (1827–76) was the first literary work published in Lëtzebuergesch. It takes a teasing look at 19th-century society and has been translated into English. Also worth tracking down is the film *Renart the Fox* by Thierry Schiel, a nomination contender for 2006's foreign-language Academy Awards.

Though too small for its full name to fit on most European maps, pint-sized Luxembourg (2586 sq km, or 82km long and 57km wide) is wonderfully diverse. Lush highlands and valleys in the northern Ardennes merge effortlessly with the Müllerthal's ancient forested landscape to the east. In the southeast snakes the Moselle valley with its steep vineyards and riverside hamlets. In between all this are rolling farmlands dotted with pristine, pastel-toned houses and medieval hilltop castles. Of most concern environmentally are air and water pollution in urban areas.

Luxembourg's cuisine is French and German based. The national dish is *judd mat gaardebounen* – slabs of smoked pork served in a thick cream-based sauce with chunks of potato and broad beans. Other specialities include *ferkelsrippchen* (grilled spareribs), *lieweckmiddelen mat sauerkraut* (liver meatballs with sauerkraut) and *kachkeis* (a cooked cheese). Beers to sink include Bofferding, Diekirch, Mousel and Simon Pils, after which comes a host of local fruity white and sparkling wines. From 2008 you can enjoy all this in an untainted environment, thanks to recent legislation banning smoking in restaurants and, during dining hours, in *cafés*.

European Capital of Culture in 2007, Luxembourg is sure to shine.

Luxembourg exposes its dining scene at www.resto.lu.

For an introduction to the Grand Duchy's nightlife, check out www.luxembourgbynight.com.

FAST FACTS

Population: 469,000

Area: 2586 sq km

Unemployment: 3.5%

Inflation: 1.5%

GDP: US\$31 billion

Minimum gross monthly salary: €1467

Luxembourg City



Luxembourg City is a storybook beauty. A thousand years old and World Heritage listed, this charming city – often described as Europe’s most dramatically sited – radiates a composed air of old and new. Take the glossy art gallery and Philharmonie – stunning new structures that launched the city as European Capital of Culture in 2007. Add to these state-of-the-art museums, chic boutiques and Michelin-starred restaurants. And top it off with a striking location – high on a promontory overlooking deep valleys and sheer-sided gorges. For centuries, these gorges were the key to the city’s defence. Nowadays they provide visitors with spectacular vistas over parklands and atmospheric old neighbourhoods like Grund and Clausen.

Start by exploring the neat network of cobbled streets that make up the pedestrianised Old Town – those around the Grand-Ducal palace are particularly appealing. Wander the Chemin de la Corniche, often described as Europe’s ‘most beautiful balcony’ and you’ll discover views of a city unrestricted by its tumultuous history or dramatic geography. Cross viaducts and bridges to reach verdant hillsides and neighbouring plateaux. The once boring but now enticing business district of Kirchberg is the outer showpiece. A short distance on, wartime cemeteries recall a bitter time in local and world history.

To fully enjoy the city, allow yourself to simply wander. Snap skylines pierced by turrets and towers, explore quaint riverside quarters, or dine at restaurants with views to make you swoon. Luxembourg City may be pint-sized compared to Paris but it’s as romantic as capitals come.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Art Treasure** The new Musée d’Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean (p273)
- **Promenade** Europe’s ‘most beautiful balcony’, the Chemin de la Corniche (p275)
- **History Buffs** Dank and dark in the Bock Casemates (p273)
- **War Graves** Patton’s last call at the US Military Cemetery (p274)
- **Cycle City** Two wheels (p274) around Luxembourg
- **Wining** Cafés and bars (p279) in quaint quarters
- **Dining** Alfresco dining with an unbeatable view at Breedewee (p278)
- **Cinema Delights** Open-air screenings in summer at Cinématèque Municipale (p280)

■ POPULATION: 85,000



HISTORY

In 963 Sigefroi (or Siegfried, count of the Ardennes) built a castle on a rocky spur, so laying the foundations of the present-day capital. Sigefroi ruled the area as a fiefdom while his successors became vassals of the Holy Roman emperor. In 1354 the region became an independent duchy and its ruler, Wenceslas I, son of John the Blind, vastly extended the duchy’s lands, incorporating Metz in the south and Limburg to the north. But the fort’s strategic position made it much sought-after and the city’s history, from here until 1815, runs largely parallel to Belgium’s.

After Napoleon’s defeat at Waterloo in 1815, the Congress of Vienna decided Luxembourg should become an independent Grand Duchy. It was ceded to King William I of Orange-Nassau, the ruler of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands, as his personal property; he was installed as the first grand duke. The Grand Duchy remained the property of the Dutch monarchy until 1890 when, due to the lack of a male heir, the crown passed to Duke Adolph of Nassau who headed a branch of the Nassau family and whose descendants rule to this day. For details on Luxembourg’s current ducal family, see boxed text (p273).

In 1839, under the Treaty of London, the Grand Duchy was split in two. Belgium received the western portion, while William I kept the eastern side. The present-day borders were set. Recognising Luxembourg’s potentially perilous position between France and Germany, Luxembourg was declared neutral in 1867. As a result, much of its historic fortifications were dismantled.

For more on Luxembourg history, see p266.

ORIENTATION

The gorges that hampered invading armies define Luxembourg’s modern-day face. The central area neatly divides into four: the Old Town, the train station area, the lower town’s river valley quarters and Kirchberg Plateau.

The largely pedestrianised Old Town is where Place d’Armes and Place Guillaume II are based. Although its street plan and aura is somewhat medieval, most of the buildings are 18th or 19th century.

To the south – across Pont Adolphe and Viaduc, two bridges spanning the Pétrusse

Valley – is the train station quarter. This area holds little appeal, and the streets opposite the station are somewhat sleazy. The train station, Gare Centrale, is 1.25km from Place d’Armes.

Below the Old Town’s Bock fortifications are the picturesque river-valley quarters of Grund, Clausen and Pfaffenthal. The latter was the birthplace of Robert Schuman, a key instigator of European integration. Easy access to the Grund is provided by an elevator on Plateau du St Esprit (at the time of writing this plateau was one big construction site – skirt the works to reach the elevator).

Across the Alzette Valley is Kirchberg Plateau (see p273).

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Librairie Ernster (Map p272; ☎ 22 50 77 1; Rue du Fossé; ☎ 9am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat) Best bookshop in the city.

Emergency

Ambulance/Fire (☎ 112)

Emergency Roadside Service (☎ 42 60 00; ☎ 24hr) Club Automobile de Luxembourg’s service.

Police (☎ 113)

Internet Access

Cyber Beach (per 15min/hr €1/3; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 1-8pm Sat & Sun) Old Town (Map p270; ☎ 26 47 80 70; 3 Rue du Curé); Train Station quarter (Map p270; ☎ 26 64 95 97; 8 Rue de Bonnevoie) Relaxed internet centre with two handy branches around the city.

Digital World (Map p270; ☎ 26 64 93 49; 45 Ave de la Liberté; per hr €3; ☎ 9am-10pm Mon-Fri, 9am-8pm Sat) At the back of a printing shop.

Laundry

Quick Wash (Map p270; Place de Strasbourg; ☎ 8.30am-6pm Mon-Sat) Provides self-service (per 5kg €10) and service (€12) washes.

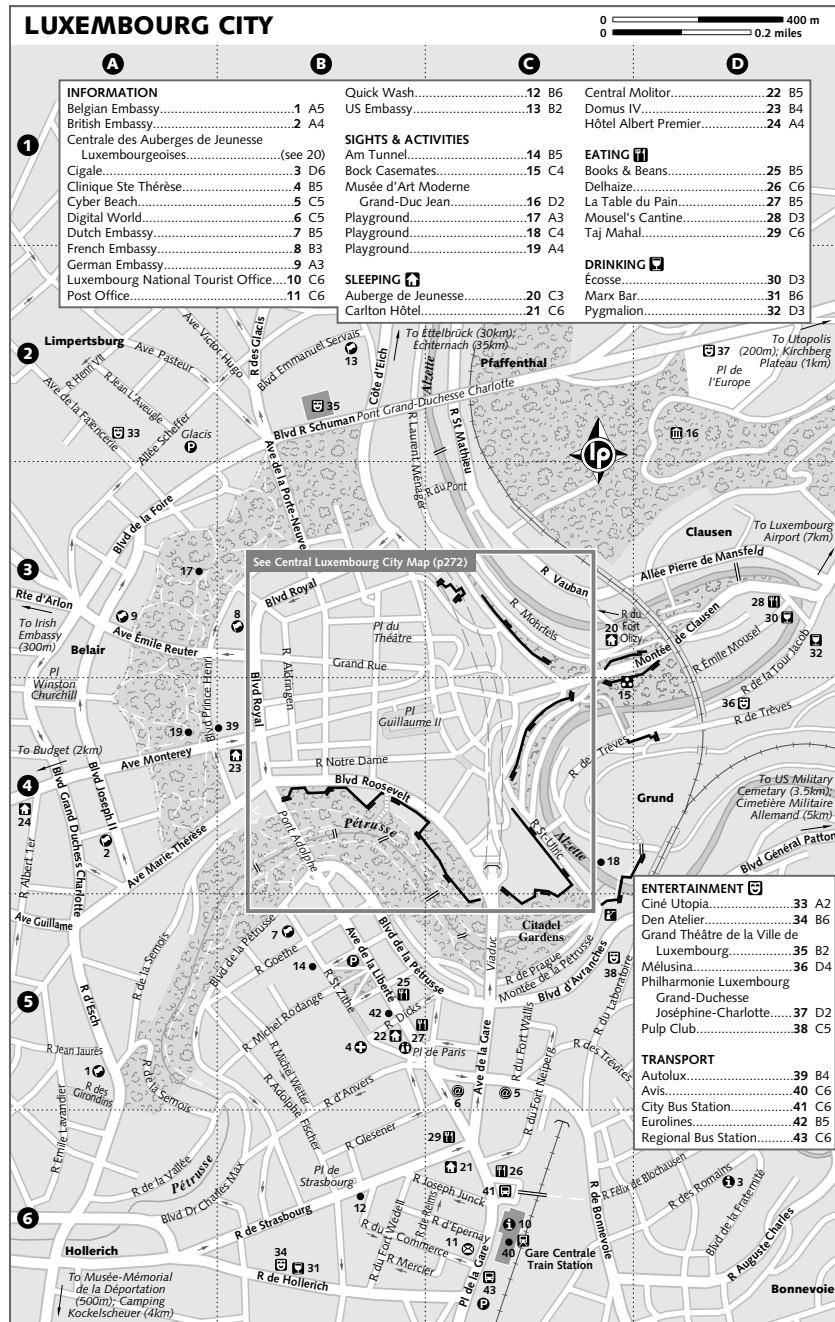
Left Luggage

Gare Centrale (Map p270; Place de la Gare; per 48hr €2-4) Luggage lockers available.

Medical Services

Clinique Ste Thérèse (Map p270; ☎ 49 77 61; 36 Rue Ste Zithe) Central hospital providing 24-hour emergency service.

Pharmacie Goedert (Map p272; ☎ 22 23 991; 5 Place d’Armes; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat) Handy pharmacy.

**LUXEMBOURG CITY IN...****One Day**

The Old Town's pedestrianised core, **Place d'Armes**, is the essential start. From there it's an easy amble to either the **Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art** or the **Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg** – two innovative museums. Attached to the latter is **Café Am Musée**, the city's best (summer) lunch venue. Delve into the dark **Bock Casemates** and then wander along the **Chemin de la Corniche**, an elevated walkway that offers fab views. Take the **elevator** carved into the rock at Plateau du St Esprit down to the **Grund** for an apéritif at **L'Abbaye de Neumünster**. For delicious food and an unbeatable view, dine alfresco at **Breedewee**. If the weather's inclement, choose **Mosconi**. Chill out in the late evening at a pub in **Clausen**.

Two Days

Follow the one-day itinerary. Then, if you're here in summer, add the **Palais Grand-Ducal** to your things to see. The **Cathédrale Notre Dame** is worth a look for its venerated icon. **Brasserie Guillaume** is the spot for an early coffee or lunch. In the afternoon hightail it to the surreal Kirchberg Plateau and explore the new **Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean**. At night eat and drink at one of the many restaurants and *cafés* in the **Old Town**, then take in an outdoor flick at **Cinématique Municipal**.

Money

Almost every second building in Luxembourg City is a bank – you will have no trouble making a foreign-currency exchange. ATMs are located inside Gare Centrale, outside the main post office and inside Luxembourg airport.

Post

Main Post Office (Map p270; ☎ 47 65 44 51; 25 Rue Aldringen; ☎ 7am-7pm Mon-Fri, 7am-5pm Sat)

Post Office (Map p270; ☎ 40 88 76 10; 38 Place de la Gare; ☎ 6am-7pm Mon-Fri, 6am-noon Sat)

Tourist Information

Interactive Touchscreens Old Town (Map p272; Rue du Curé); Gare Centrale (Map p270; Place de la Gare) Multi-lingual devices dispensing free tourist information; also located at Luxembourg airport.

Luxembourg City Tourist Office (Map p272; ☎ 22 28 09; www.lcto.lu; Place Guillaume II; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun Oct-Mar) Free city maps, walking-tour pamphlets and event guides.

Luxembourg National Tourist Office (Map p270; ☎ 42 82 82 20; www.visitluxembourg.lu; Place de la Gare; ☎ 8.30am-6.30pm Mon-Sat, 9am-12.30pm & 2-6pm Sun Jun-Sep, 9.15am-12.30pm & 1.45-6pm Oct-May) City and national information, with a handy location inside Gare Centrale.

Travel Agencies

Sotours (Map p272; ☎ 46 15 14 1; 15 Place du Théâtre) Long-established travel agent handling flights and holidays.

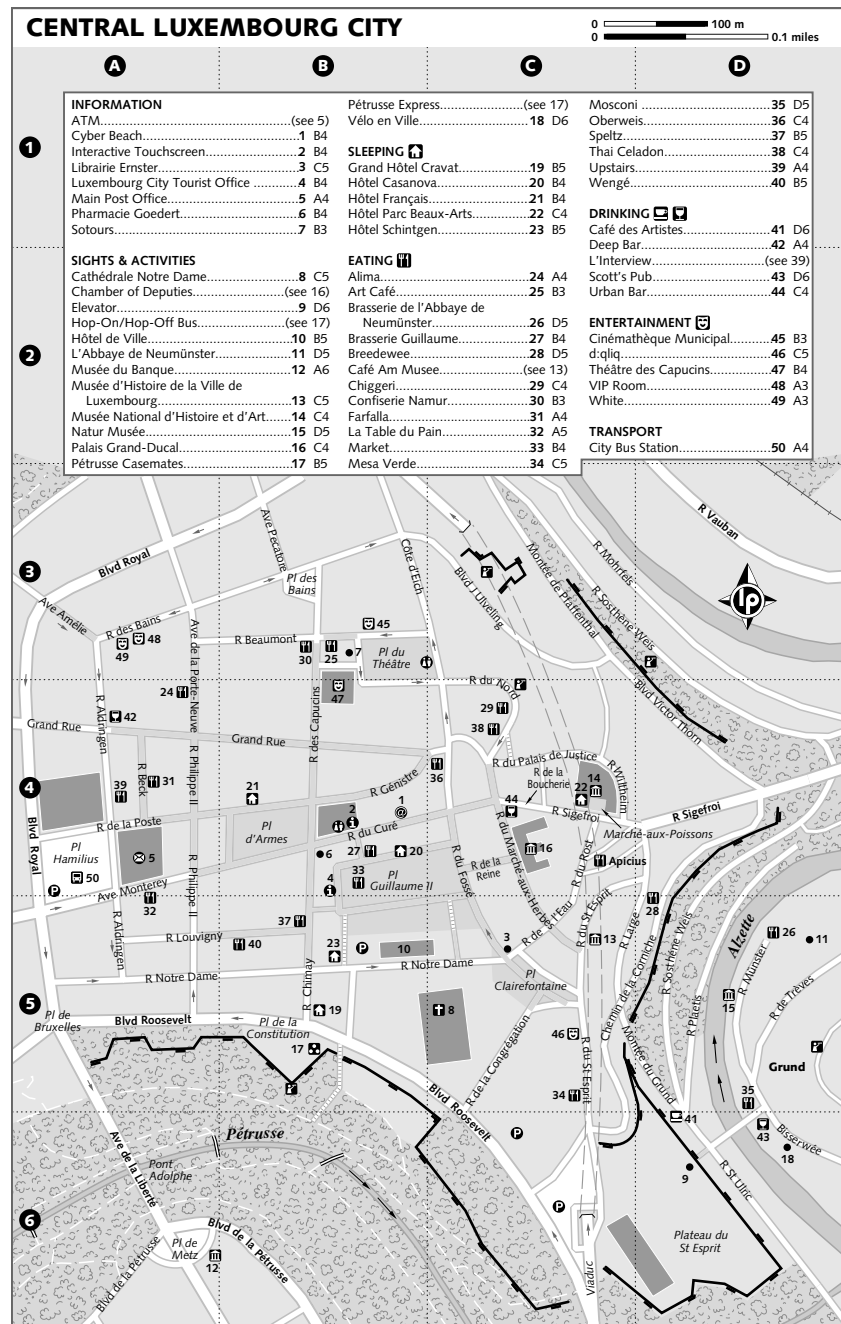
SIGHTS**Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art**

The **National Museum of History and Art** (Map p272; ☎ 47 93 30 1; www.mnh.lu in French; Marché-aux-Poissons; adult/family €5/10; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun) is a state-of-the-art affair housed in a startlingly white building with a glass atrium. Take the glass elevator below ground to the prehistory section before winding up to Gallo-Roman remains. Level 2 is a must, home to the Salles Kutter, two rooms devoted to Luxembourg's Expressionist artist Joseph Kutter (1894-1941). Level 3 does art from the 13th to 20th centuries – look out for a small watercolour of Luxembourg City by William Turner and a drawing of Schengen castle by Victor Hugo.

DISCOUNT CARDS

The **Luxembourg Card** (www.luxembourgcard.lu; adult per 1/2/3 days €9/16/22, family of 2 adults & up to 3 children €18/32/44) gives free admission to country-wide attractions, plus unlimited use of public transport. It's valid from Easter to 31 October, and is available from tourist offices, hotels, train stations and camping grounds.

A good winter alternative is the three-day **Stater Museeskaart** (over 26 yr/under 18 yr/18-26 yr €7/free/5), allowing free admission to museums in Luxembourg City.



Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg

The **Luxembourg City History Museum** (Map p272; ☎ 47 96 30 61; www.musee-hist.lu in French; 14 Rue du St Esprit; adult/concession/child €5/3.70/free; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, 10am-8pm Thu) is another enjoyable multi-level complex, highlighted by a glass elevator that beautifully reveals the Old Town's rocky geology. Lower floors trace the city's history via a series of wooden maquettes, while the upper levels occupy splendid public rooms of a former mansion. Pick up the free English-language guide at reception.

Casemates

The **Bock Casemates** (Map p270; ☎ 22 28 09; Montée de Clausen; adult/child €1.75/1; 🕒 10am-5pm Mar-Oct) is a honeycomb of damp rock galleries and passages carved under the Bock by the Spaniards in 1744. Over the years the casemates have housed everything from bakeries to slaughterhouses and garrisons of soldiers; during WWI and WWII they sheltered 35,000 locals.

The **Pétrusse Casemates** (Map p272; Place de la Constitution; adult/child €1.75/1; 🕒 11am-4pm Easter, Jul & Aug) are much the same, but opening hours are more limited.

Palais Grand-Ducal

This Moorish-style **palace** (Map p272; ☎ 22 28 09; 17 Rue du Marché-aux-Herbes; adult/child €6/3; 🕒 mid-Jul-early-Sep) was built during Spanish rule in the 1570s and later expanded. The royals once resided here but today it's used as the Grand Duke's office and for formal receptions (the family lives at the chateau of Colmar-Berg; for more on the ducal family, see boxed text, below). The palace opens for one-hour guided tours (just 40 tickets per tour) in summer; guided tours in English are held at 4.30pm Monday

LUXEMBOURG'S ROYALS

In 1919, with the monarchies around them collapsing, the Grand Duchy put its royal family up for referendum. The result was a resounding 'yes', and never again has their existence been questioned. Unlike in England and Belgium, where dissent simmers over how much the royals cost, here their presence is a symbol of stability and prosperity.

Most people in Luxembourg today grew up supporting either Grand Duchess Charlotte, who reigned for 45 years, or her successor, Grand Duke Jean, who abdicated in 2000 at the age of 79 in favour of his eldest son, the current Grand Duke Henri. Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, a Cuban-born commoner whom Henri met at university in Geneva, married in 1981 and have four sons and a daughter. Their continued acceptance is due in part to their relative 'normality'. Although they inhabit castles, the royal kids go to ordinary schools, and it's possible to bump into a prince at the movies or to see the Grand Duchess out shopping.

to Friday and 1.30pm on Saturday. Book at the Luxembourg City Tourist Office.

Cathédrale Notre Dame

Peek into the **Cathedral of Our Lady** (Map p272; Blvd Roosevelt; 🕒 10am-noon & 2-5.30pm) to see the nation's most revered idol, the *Lady Comforter of the Afflicted*, a small and elaborately dressed statue of the Virgin and child. The cathedral's black spires add character and balance to the city's distinctive skyline; however, inside it's an ugly hotchpotch of progressive renovations.

Kirchberg Plateau

Pont Grand-Duchesse Charlotte (Map p270), known as the Red Bridge for obvious reasons, connects the Old Town with Kirchberg Plateau. Tall blue-glass buildings announce entry to this ever-evolving business district, home to EU institutions, the Court of Justice, the European Investment bank and others. The newest and most impressive buildings to grace the horizon are the Philharmonie (p280) and the nearby Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean (below). The relative lack of people gives the plateau a surreal feel, like a futuristic cityscape. Pick up Luxembourg City Tourist Office's free booklet *Kirchberg - Art & Architecture in Public Space* before coming here. It includes a colour map and descriptions of some buildings. Bus 18 from Gare Centrale or Place Hamilius does a 45-minute round trip that's good for an overview, but it doesn't stop near either the Philharmonie or Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean.

Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean

Luxembourg's new **Modern Art Museum** (Mudam; Map p270; ☎ 45 37 85 22; www.mudam.lu; 3 Parc Dräi Eechelen; adult/concession €5/3; 🕒 11am-6pm Thu-Mon, 11am-8pm Wed) opened to rave reviews in 2006.

Created by Chinese-American architect Ieoh Ming Pei (responsible for the Louvre pyramid in Paris), the magnificent glass-roofed gallery harmoniously blends contemporary and old, with its turreted centrepiece and glass wings sitting back to back with a centuries-old Vauban fortress. The museum's collection includes everything from photography to fashion, design and multimedia. Take bus 125 or 192 from Gare Centrale or Place Hamilius to the stop 'Fort Belaimont'.

Natur Musée

If travelling with kids, make this one of your first stops. Recently given a fabulous facelift, this **Natural History Museum** (Map p272; ☎ 46 22 33 1; www.mnhn.lu in French; 25 Rue Münster; adult/child/family €4.50/3/9; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) in the Grund does dinosaurs, the big bang and other interactive exhibits, all especially designed to keep little hands and curious minds busy. The café has snacks and cheap meals, making it a great lunch spot for families.

L'Abbaye de Neumünster

Still in the Grund and well worth a wander is the newly renovated **Neumünster Abbey** (Map p272; ☎ 26 20 52 1; 28 Rue Münster; ☎ 11am-6pm). This glass-covered complex houses a temporary exhibition gallery, outdoor performing arts venue, art shop and brasserie (see p278).

Musée du Banque

Where better than Luxembourg to spend an hour browsing through a **Bank Museum** (Map p272; ☎ 40 15 59 03; 1 Place de Metz; admission free; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri)? It's housed in the headquarters of the Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État, one of Luxembourg's 180 banks, and traces 140 years of tradition and innovation in banking, from piggy banks to ATMs and bank robbers.

Am Tunnel

Appropriate name for an underground **art gallery** (Map p270; ☎ 40 15 24 50; 16 Rue Ste Zithe; admission free; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 2-6pm Sun). Carved 350m through the Bourbon plateau, it's devoted to temporary exhibitions, but also has a permanent display on Edward Steichen (see p287).

Musée-Mémorial de la Déportation

Thousands of Luxembourgers were deported during Germany's WWII occupation of Luxembourg. The train station where their har-

rowing journey began is now a **Deportation Memorial-Museum** (☎ 48 32 32; Gare de Hollerich, 3a Rue de la Déportation; ☎ 2-5.30pm Tue-Fri Apr-Oct, 2-5.30pm Thu Nov-Mar). Bus 5 stops out the front.

Military Cemeteries

Only planes taking off from nearby Luxembourg airport disturb the peace at the country's two main war cemeteries.

The easiest to reach and most visited is the **US Military Cemetery** (☎ 9am-5pm) at Hamm, 4km east of the capital. Here lie more than 5000 US war dead, including famous general George S Patton Jr (see p288). Most of those buried or remembered here were killed during the US' WWII liberation of Luxembourg and the subsequent Battle of the Ardennes (see boxed text, p245). Patton's headstone is easily identified among the rows of white crosses and stars, each marked with flags from the US and Luxembourg. White-stone pylons commemorate the soldiers whose bodies were never found, and enormous wall maps detail the main events from the 1944-45 battles. To get here, take bus 8 from Hôtel Alfa opposite Gare Centrale (15 minutes, hourly Monday to Saturday, every two hours Sunday).

The **Cimetière Militaire Allemand** (German Military Cemetery; ☎ 9am-5pm) at Sandweiler is 1.5km east of the US Military Cemetery (it's signposted from here). No buses stop nearby, so you'll either need to walk or have your own wheels. Some 11,000 German soldiers lie beneath sombre grey headstones behind an oppressive stone doorway. Established in the 1950s, this cemetery was the first of its kind outside Germany. The caretaker who lives in the nearby house will probably show you around.

ACTIVITIES

The topography's not flat, but those with decent muscles will find Luxembourg City great for biking. The only rental outlet, and it's a good one, is **Vélo en Ville** (Map p272; ☎ 47 96 23 83; 8 Bisserwée; per half-/full day €12.50/20; ☎ 10am-noon & 1-8pm Apr-Oct). Children's bikes are available (same price as adult bikes), as are toddler seats (per day/week €5/20). Under 26 year olds get a 20% discount (not available on half-day rentals).

An excellent route to start with is the 40km Piste Cyclable du Centre (signposted PC1), which circles the city's outskirts. The Vélo en Ville crew supply a basic B&W map of this route.

WALKING TOUR

This tour winds around much of the Old Town and involves an hour of easy walking (excluding time spent inside museums or attractions).

Start at **Place d'Armes** (1), an intimate square chock-full with pavement terraces in summer. Head to **Place de la Constitution** (2) for views over the Pétrusse Valley and the imposing spans of Pont Adolphe and Viaduc. The latter dates to 1859 and, unsurprisingly, is known as the Old Bridge. From here it's possible to descend to the **park** (3) that lies in the valley below or to detour into the **Pétrusse Casemates** (4; p273).

Sitting firmly in the background on Place de la Constitution is the city's main church, **Cathédrale Notre Dame** (5; p273). Continue along Blvd Roosevelt to **Plateau du St Esprit** (6), where superb panoramas up both valleys and over the Grund

have been blocked by a building frenzy. Skirt the construction site to reach the free **lift** (7), dug in the cliff here, down to the Grund. Stay on the plateau to arrive at the **Chemin de la Corniche** (8) – a pedestrian promenade hailed as 'Europe's most beautiful balcony' – which winds north along the course of the 17th-century ramparts to the **Bock** (9), the cliff on which Count Sigefroi built his mighty fort. The castle and much of the fortifications were destroyed between 1867 and 1883 following the Treaty of London. There's little left – the main attractions are the view and the nearby entrance to the **Bock Casemates** (10; p273), a 23km network of underground passages spared from destruction because of their delicate position in relation to the town.

From the Bock, it's a short walk to either the **Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art** (11; p271) or the equally impressive **Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg** (12; p273). If you're here in July and August, also visit the **Palais Grand-Ducal** (13; p273). Next to the palace, added as an annex in 1859, is the **Chamber of Deputies** (14), where the parliament sits. From here it's a short stroll past formal government edifices to **Place Guillaume II** (15), lined with 19th-century buildings,

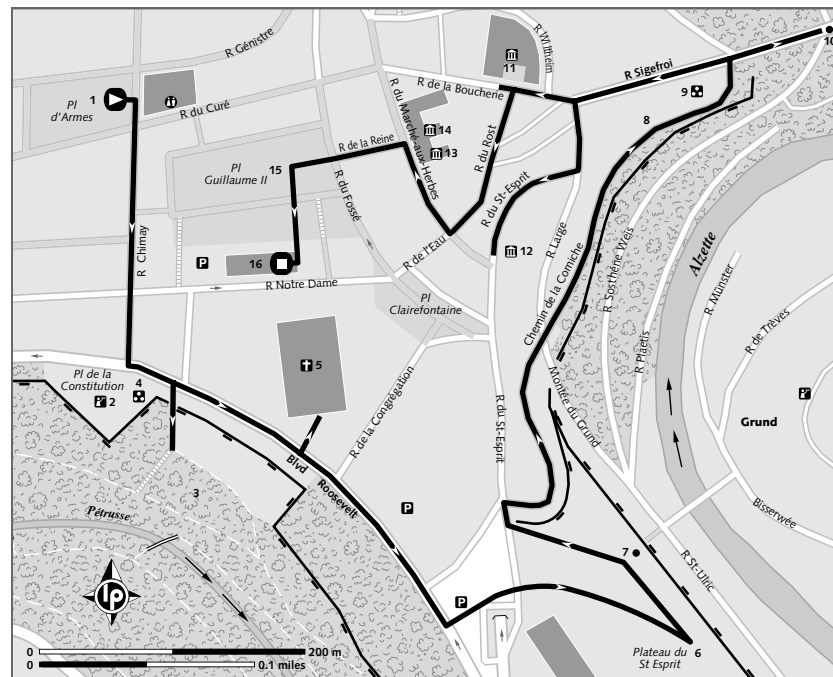
WALK FACTS

Start Place d'Armes

Finish Place Guillaume II

Distance 2.5km

Duration About 1½ hours



including the neoclassical **Hôtel de Ville** (16; Town Hall), which was largely constructed from the stones of an old monastery.

LUXEMBOURG CITY FOR CHILDREN

To keep toddlers and younger children happy there's the **Natur Musée** (p274), the **Pétrusse Express** (below) or the **Bock Casemates** (p273). Be warned, though, that little legs may soon tire of the steps in the latter. Two **playgrounds** (Map p270) are located in the gardens 500m west of Place d'Armes, and there's another **playground** (Map p270) by the river in the Grund. For kids aged five to 13 years there's **City Safari** (☎ 22 28 09; admission €5), a two-hour discovery tour of the city designed especially for children (unaccompanied or with parents), organised by the Luxembourg City Tourist Office. It's held at 2.30pm Tuesday to Sunday from July to mid-September.

Cycling is a good way to keep kids of all ages on the go – plonk older kids on their own bike or strap younger kids onto yours. For details, see p274.

At the end of July, **Kanner in the City** is a kid's festival held on Place Guillaume II – check the tourist office for the date.

For general information about travelling with children, see p303.

TOURS

The Luxembourg City Tourist Office runs two excellent guided walks. The City Promenade (adult/child €7/3.50; two hours; in English at 1pm daily) covers the Old Town, while the Wenzel walk (adult/child €8/4; two hours; in English at 3pm Saturday) winds through the upper and lower towns, through fortifications and along nature trails, and is highly recommended.

Also very popular are self-guided theme walks – following in the footsteps of Vauban or Schuman for example – or an architectural tour of the Old Town. Pick up free English-language pamphlets from the tourist office.

Also recommended:

Hop-On/Hop-Off Bus (Map p272; ☎ 23 65 11; www.sightseeing.lu; adult/child/family €12/6/30;

🕒 9.40am–5.20pm Mar–May, to 6.20pm Jun–Oct) Double-decker bus that departs every 20 minutes from Place de la Constitution.

Pétrusse Express (Map p272; adult/child/family €8/4/25; 🕒 Easter–Oct) Toy train that does a one-hour tour from Place de la Constitution down to the Grund via the Pétrusse and Alzette valleys.

GAY & LESBIAN LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg's national gay and lesbian organisation is **Rosa Lëtzebuerg** (www.gay.lu in French). It publishes *La Pie qui Chante*, a monthly newsletter in French and German with information on what's happening in Luxembourg City plus a small list of useful addresses.

Cigale (Map p270; 60 Rue des Romains; 🕒 1–5pm Mon & Tue, 4–8pm Wed, 1–7pm Thu) is a gay and lesbian information centre, just east of Gare Centrale.

Luxembourg Pride is a small festival held in mid-June.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Octave For details on this annual pilgrimage, see p307.

Luxembourg National Day For details on the Grand Duchy's biggest event, see p307.

Summer in the City (www.summerinthecity.lu)

Summer-long series of concerts and street animation. Highlights include: Rock um Knuedler (early July; Place Guillaume II), a one-day rock festival plugging home-grown bands; and Blues 'n' Jazzralley (mid-July; admission free).

Schueberfouer (www.fouer.lu in French) Annual fortnight-long fun fair with roots stretching to a 14th-century sheep market. Today shepherds still bring their flocks to town on one Sunday, known as the Hammelsmarsch. Takes over Glacis parking station from the last week of August.

SLEEPING

Most accommodation in Luxembourg City is geared towards midrange and top-end travellers. No B&Bs enliven the city centre, though there is one popular hostel.

Budget

For details on the city's only hostel, Auberge de Jeunesse, see boxed text (opposite).

Camping Kockelscheuer (☎ 47 18 15; www.camp-kockelscheuer.lu; 22 Route de Bettembourg; camp site per adult/child/tent €3.75/2/4.50; 🕒 Easter–Oct) Pleasantly sited between a forest and a sports centre 4km southwest of the city. To get there, take bus 5 from Gare Centrale (quay No 1) or Place Hamilius (quay No 2).

Midrange

Hôtel Schintgen (Map p272; ☎ 22 28 44; schintgn@pt.lu; 6 Rue Notre Dame; s/d/tr/q €70/85/90/95) Family-run establishment that has the distinction of being the *only* budget hotel in the Old Town.

THE AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Auberge de Jeunesse (Map p270; ☎ 22 68 89; luxembourg@youthhostels.lu; 2 Rue du Fort Olizy; dm/s/d €17.60/29.60/45.20; 🕒 📺 📺 📺) This is Luxembourg City's only option for travellers on a tight budget – and it's a fabulous one. This newly renovated HI hostel is superbly located at the base of the Old Town. It caters to everyone – from visiting cyclists and schoolboy soccer teams to families toting tots and, of course, backpackers. Expect modern, no-fuss rooms (maximum six beds), showers that sandblast and a restaurant-café offering the country's cheapest four-course meal (€7.50). Cyclists can secure their wheels in a storeroom. Bus 16 from the airport or Gare Centrale stops nearby. Alternatively it's a 40-minute walk from Gare Centrale.

Choose it for the handy location and friendly staff, not the ordinary rooms.

Hôtel Français (Map p272; ☎ 47 45 34; www.hotelfrancais.lu; 14 Place d'Armes; s/d Mon–Fri €97/125, Sat & Sun €90/118; 🕒 📺 📺) Intimate hotel dotted with *objets d'art* and with a prized location on the Old Town's main square. The 24 rooms are a tad small, but they make up for it with calm, modern décor. The hotel is squarely aimed at couples and businesspeople, and the proud staff run a tight ship. Join locals for a cake and coffee in the ground-floor brasserie, one of Place d'Armes most popular spots.

Hôtel Casanova (Map p272; ☎ 22 04 93; www.hotelcasanova.lu; 10 Place Guillaume II; s/d €99/130) Fabulously sited on one of the Old Town's two main squares, but otherwise there's little to excite the senses. The rooms are OK, the staff bland. Discounts are available some weekends.

Domus IV (Map p270; ☎ 46 78 78 1; www.domus.lu; 37 Ave Monterey; d with/without kitchen €150/135; 🕒 📺 📺) Good for longer stays, this hotel offers zany decorations and innovative self-contained rooms – expect beds that fold into the wall, vogue furnishings and modern art. It's on a

busy thoroughfare, two blocks from Place d'Armes. Breakfast is €15.

Central Molitor (Map p270; ☎ 48 99 11; www.hotelmolitor.lu; 28 Ave de la Liberté; s/d/tr Mon–Fri €135/160/170, Sat & Sun €95/120/130; 🕒 📺) Distinguished little hotel, half-way between the Old Town and the train station quarter, that's been in the business for over a century and now belongs to the Golden Tulip chain. Expect '80s décor, good-sized rooms and a decent restaurant. Families are welcome (there's a baby cot and kids under four years stay for free).

Top End

Hôtel Albert Premier (Map p270; ☎ 44 24 42 1; www.albert1er.lu; 2a Rue Albert 1er; ste Mon–Thu from €225, continental breakfast €15, ste Fri–Sun and breakfast from €155; 🕒 📺) One for lovers of decoration overkill, this boutique hotel's 14 swanky rooms burst with Gothic excesses. It's located 750m west of Place d'Armes on an unassuming back street. Inquire about summer discounts in July and August.

Grand Hôtel Cravat (Map p272; ☎ 22 19 75; www.hotelcravat.lu; 29 Blvd Roosevelt; s/d Mon–Fri €245/380, Sat & Sun €150/200; 🕒) The six-storey Cravat is a Luxembourg institution favoured by well-off Belgians and Germans enjoying a weekend. Décor-wise it's staid bordering on boring, though the chandeliers, attentive doorman and superb location are redeeming features. Substantial discounts are offered from July to mid-September.

Hôtel Parc Beau-Arts (Map p272; ☎ 44 23 23 1; www.hpb.lu; 1 Rue Sigefroi; ste Mon–Thu €330, Fri–Sun €190; 🕒 📺) Delicious new Old Town address. Press the doorbell to enter the city's most charming hotel, a trio of 18th-century houses converted into 10 gorgeous suites. Elegant creams and caramels are the tones throughout, and the atmosphere exudes understated luxury – expect silk curtains and original artworks, including some by Luxembourg artists.

THE AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Carlton Hôtel (Map p270; ☎ 29 96 60; www.carlton.lu; 9 Rue de Strasbourg; s/d/tr Sun–Thu €85/98/125, s/d Fri, Sat & Jul & Aug €60/75; 🕒) Built in 1920, this atmospheric old place, tucked away on a back street in the train station quarter, was in deep decline until early this century when its owners rallied. Wisely they left all the important bits – the floral stained-glass windows, original staircase and, best of all, the elderly Italian gent who runs it with love and gusto. On weekends and during the summer holiday the discounted prices are a snip. And kids are welcome, too.

EATING

The Old Town, Grund and Clausen are the go for dining. In summer these areas turn into open-air terraces as *café* owners roll back the winter canopies, and tables spill onto pavements and tree-lined squares.

Cafés & Brasseries

La Table du Pain (Map p272; ☎ 24 16 08; 19 Ave Monterey; ☎ 7am-7pm); Train Station Quarter (Map p270; ☎ 29 56 63; 37 Ave de la Liberté; ☎ 7am-7pm; ☎) A small bakery chain that also has convivial, completely nonsmoking cafés. Both branches serve breakfast options, baguette sandwiches (€4.60 to €7.20) and big salads (€12).

Books & Beans (Map p270; ☎ 26 19 64 06; 21 Ave de la Liberté; snacks €5-7; ☎ 7am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sun) No polished floorboards here. This cosy book café offers a laid-back respite to all that's prim and proper in Luxembourg City. And the locals love it. Go for a hot chocolate and spend an hour or two browsing display books.

Farfalla (Map p272; ☎ 46 51 59; 8 Rue Beck; mains €6-11; ☎ lunch & dinner) Boisterous brasserie that buzzes with happy diners munching on woodfired pizza or steaming bowls of pasta. Absolutely informal (queue at the till when it's time to pay), and a great spot to satisfy spaghetti-starved kids.

Café Am Musée (Map p272; ☎ 26 20 25 95; 14 Rue du St Esprit; mains €10-12; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, 10am-8pm Thu) Well-hidden local favourite, attached to the Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg, but easily overlooked. At its best for a casual lunch (modern international cuisine) on a fine summer day (reservations needed). Big umbrellas and a handful of open-air tables line an old stone wall – kick back and relax with views over the Grund and Alzette Valley. It's also good for young kids – highchairs and coloured pencils are dispensed and, when action's needed, there's a shady garden to explore.

Art Café (Map p272; ☎ 26 27 06 52; 1a Rue Beaumont; plat du jour €10, light meals €11.50; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Sat) One in the new wave of lounge bars-*cafés* that's revitalising Luxembourg's eating and entertainment scene. Theatrical velvet décor sets the scene; sandwiches, salads and wok dishes are the mainstays. Head out the back to relax on the enclosed terrace.

Brasserie Guillaume (Map p272; ☎ 26 20 20 20; 12 Place Guillaume II; mains €14-22; ☎ 10am-1am, kitchen closes midnight) The Old Town's best brasserie. Big and brash, it opens out onto Place Guillaume II and is favoured by the city's upper crust on

Saturday mornings when a market takes over the square. It's known for seafood and French cuisine, but caters eclectically – vegetarian and traditional Luxembourg fare also get a look-in. Great spot for a late-night bite, too.

Brasserie de l'Abbaye de Neumünster (Map p272; ☎ 26 20 52 98 1; 28 Rue de Münster; mains €15-22; ☎ 8am-midnight) New brasserie incorporated into the recently renovated Neumünster Abbey complex (p274). Offers French cuisine, a huge open-air terrace and colourful décor. Delightful spot for a drink or well-priced bite while exploring the Grund.

Mousel's Cantine (Map p270; ☎ 47 01 98; 46 Montée de Clausen, Clausen; mains €18-20; ☎ closed Sun & lunch Sat) Rustic *café* attached to the former Mousel brewery. Known for its hearty Luxembourg cuisine and does an excellent plate of assorted specialities for €20. Beer drinkers can sample a *gezwickelte beier*, an unfiltered beer drunk from an old-style crock.

Two tearooms worth a detour are **Oberweis** (Map p272; ☎ 47 07 03; 19 Grand Rue; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon, 7.30am-6pm Tue-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat) and **Confiserie Namur** (Map p272; ☎ 22 34 08; 27 Rue des Capucins; ☎ 2-6pm Mon, 8.30am-6pm Tue-Sat). Indulge in moreish cakes, chocolates and ice cream.

Restaurants

Taj Mahal (Map p270; ☎ 40 59 41; 2 Rue de Strasbourg; mains €13-19; ☎ lunch & dinner Wed-Mon) Authentic Indian restaurant in the train station quarter that looks like nothing but draws a full house. Subtle décor, a large section out the back (good for nonsmokers) and great-value vegetarian/nonvegetarian menus for around €22/25.

Thai Celadon (Map p272; ☎ 47 49 34; 1 Rue du Nord; vegetarian mains €13, meat €17-20; ☎ closed Sun & lunch Sat)

THE AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Breedewee (Map p272; ☎ 22 26 96; 9 Rue Large; three-course menu €20, mains €20-32, six-course menu dégustation €55; ☎ lunch & dinner) Wooed by a view? No restaurant in Luxembourg can match it – in fine weather. This modern but elegant little place has a separate terrace perched high on the Corniche in a setting that's quite unique. A dozen tables are serviced by penguin-style waiters who shuttle back and forth to the main building where the French cuisine is prepared. On a warm summer's evening, this is as romantic as they come. Reservations essential.

Excellent Thai food is served in calm minimal surroundings in this Old Town restaurant.

Mesa Verde (Map p272; ☎ 46 41 26; 11 Rue du St-Esprit; vegetarian mains €18, fish €23-25; ☎ lunch Wed-Fri, dinner Tue-Sat, closed lunch Aug; ☎) Vegetarian and seafood dishes are the mainstay of this exciting restaurant. Exotic colours and imaginative cuisine mean it's often full, and deservedly so.

Upstairs (Map p272; ☎ 26 27 01 12; 21 Rue Aldringen; mains €19-23; ☎ lunch Tue-Sat, dinner Tue-Fri) Well-hidden, 1st-floor local eatery (entry at the back of the pub, L'Interview) that does great Vietnamese and Japanese dishes in no-fuss surroundings. The lunch-time *plat du jour* (nonvegetarian or vegetarian dishes; €10) is superb value.

Chiggeri (Map p272; ☎ 22 82 36; 15 Rue du Nord; mains €24-32; ☎ lunch & dinner) Hip street-level *café* topped by a popular 2nd-floor restaurant. The *café* does well-priced bistro fare; the casual but innovative restaurant features an extraordinary wine list (including many by the glass). Summer sees a breezy terrace set up across the road.

Wengé (Map p272; ☎ 26 20 10 58; 15 Rue Louvigny; mains €25-30; ☎ 8am-6.30pm Mon-Sat plus dinner Wed & Fri) Local lunch favourite. Top-notch, casual restaurant and food shop that serves (and sells) some of the best coffee, cheese, *pâtisseries* and French cuisine in town. All shiny and black inside, or dine at one of the few tables on the pedestrianised street.

Speltz (Map p272; ☎ 47 49 50; 8 Rue Chimay; mains €25-35, 3-/6-course menu €45/75; ☎ lunch & dinner Tue-Sat) French *haute cuisine* and seafood served with aplomb are the trademarks of this Luxembourg institution. Just three small rooms – all refined and mellow – and a dozen street-side terrace tables mean you'll need to phone ahead.

For restaurant/clubs, see p280.

THE AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Mosconi (Map p272; ☎ 54 69 94; 13 Rue Münster, Grund; mains €24-37, menu dégustation €66; ☎ lunch & dinner Tue-Sat) Come well attired to dine at Luxembourg's first Italian restaurant to be double starred by Michelin. Pasta *gastronomique*, fish and meat dishes are served in old-world surroundings, though it's the home-made ravioli that rates special mention. In fine weather dine on a tiny riverside terrace with the Old Town's cliff-face soaring above. Reservations essential.

Self-Catering

Alima (Map p272; Ave de la Porte-Neuve) Old Town supermarket.

Delhaize (Map p270; Place de la Gare; ☎ 7am-8pm Mon-Fri, 7am-6pm Sat, 7am-noon Sun) Supermarket near Gare Centrale.

Market (Map p272; Place Guillaume II; ☎ mornings Wed & Sat) Fresh produce.

DRINKING

The Old Town, Grund, Clausen and Hollerich are the most popular spots for a drink.

L'Interview (Map p272; ☎ 47 36 65; 19 Rue Aldringen; ☎ 7am-1am) Raw *café* close to Place Hamilius and a great place to simply hang with a drink. In summer the big windows are opened to the street and the atmosphere hums.

Urban Bar (Map p272; ☎ 26 47 85 78; 2 Rue de la Boucherie; ☎ noon-1am) Unashamedly hip address in the Old Town that draws a cosmopolitan crowd (lots of English spoken).

Deep Bar (Map p272; ☎ 26 20 04 23; 11 Rue Aldringen; ☎ Wed-Mon) Still in the Old Town, but this time deep and dark. The type of place you end up when all else is closed.

Café des Artistes (Map p272; ☎ 46 13 27; 22 Montée du Grund; ☎ evenings Tue-Sun) Nostalgic little Grund *café* that's been around since 1968 and has candles to prove it. Brel and Piaf watch from old posters, and the ceiling's about as smoke stained as they come. The *café's* pride and joy is an old piano that bursts into life with folk tunes when the mood's right (usually Wednesday to Saturday).

Scott's Pub (Map p272; ☎ 22 64 75; Bisserwée; ☎ noon-1am) Typical British pub down in the Grund that's great for a drink while exploring this quaint quarter.

Pygmalion (Map p270; ☎ 42 08 60; 19 Rue de la Tour Jacob; ☎ 4pm-1am Sun-Thu, 4pm-3am Fri & Sat) Known locally as 'The Pyg', this moody little Irish haunt is one of several good pubs in Clausen, an area favoured by late-night revellers.

Écosse (Map p270; 1 Rue Émile Mousel; ☎ 4pm-1am) A Scottish pub-brasserie in Clausen, with nonexistent décor and a cherished riverside terrace. Take bus 9 or night bus CN1 from Gare Centrale or Place Hamilius.

Marx Bar (Map p270; 42 Rue de Hollerich; ☎ from 5pm) Best bet in the alternate nightlife hub of Hollerich.

ENTERTAINMENT

To find out what's on, the weekly English-language magazine 352 *Luxembourg News* has

extensive entertainment listings plus cinema screenings (including films in English). Also check out **Nightlife** (www.nightlife-mag.lu). Ticket agencies include **Luxembourg Ticket** (☎ 47 08 951; www.luxembourgticket.lu in French) and **E-Ticket** (www.e-ticket.lu).

Cinemas

Cinéma-théâtre Municipal (Map p272; ☎ 29 12 59; 17 Place du Théâtre; adult/concession €4/2.80) Closest thing in Luxembourg to an art-house cinema and cheap to boot. Golden oldies and cult classics line up two or three times daily – the cinema carries 10,000 titles. Also does open-air screenings in July and August at 10pm in the courtyard of nearby Théâtre des Capucins – great atmosphere.

Ciné Utopia (Map p270; ☎ 22 46 11; 16 Ave de la Faiencerie) Ten-minute walk north of the Old Town; five screens and a mix of mainstream and art house.

Utopolis (☎ 42 95 95; 45 Ave J F Kennedy, Kirchberg) Ten-screen multiplex with a solid Hollywood line-up. There are midnight screenings on Saturday and Sneak Previews (newly released surprise film) at 10pm on Thursday. Take bus 18 from Gare Centrale (quay No 3; 23 minutes) or Place Hamilius (quay No 1; 20 minutes).

Live Music

Pubs and *cafés* doing weekly, let alone nightly, live music are a rare breed. Most big names perform at either Kulturfabrik (p296) or the new Rockhal (p296) in Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg's second-largest town, just 25 minutes' away by train.

d:qliq (Map p272; ☎ 26 73 62; www.dqliq.com; 17 Rue du St-Esprit; ☎ 5pm-1am Tue-Sat, 5pm-3am Fri) Intimate new bar that's brought life to the Old Town's live music scene. The three floors offer different venues: a cellar bar for experimental acts; free jazz concerts at ground zero; and international bands on the 1st floor (this zone is affectionately known as 'the wardrobe' due to its size – 120 people max). Hip and lesser-known bands from abroad – either jazz, rock, electro or house – are the staples.

Den Atelier (Map p270; ☎ 49 54 66; www.atelier.lu; 56 Rue de Hollerich; ☎ generally from 7pm Thu-Sat) The city's main venue for local and visiting groups, located about 500m west of Gare Centrale in Hollerich, an off-the-beaten-track nightlife area. The Luxembourg City Tourist Office sells tickets for some performances and will know what's on.

Nightclubs

White (Map p272; ☎ 26 20 11 40; www.white.lu; 21 Rue des Bains; ☎ restaurant-lounge lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, club midnight-6am Wed-Sat) Ever seen one of those insect zappers that uses a blue-fluoro light to lure night-time nasties to a sizzling finale? Well White's the human equivalent, only here the colour is green.

VIP Room (Map p272; ☎ 26 18 78 67; www.viproom.lu; 19 Rue des Bains; ☎ restaurant 7pm-midnight Wed-Sat, club from 11pm) A newie in the restaurant-lounge-club genre. This one has sister establishments all round France, and manages to catch visiting international celebs on camera when passing through.

Mélusina (Map p270; ☎ 43 59 22; www.melusina.lu; 145 Rue de la Tour Jacob; ☎ Fri & Sat) Restaurant/club in Clausen and one of the city's most popular dance spots. Big on house and even entices guest DJs.

Pulp Club (Map p270; ☎ 49 69 40; www.pulp.lu; 36 Blvd d'Avranches; ☎ from 11pm Fri & Sat) Long-standing club across the Pétrusse River from the Old Town.

Theatre, Opera & Dance

Philharmonie Luxembourg Grande-Duchesse Joséphine-Charlotte (Map p270; ☎ 26 32 26 32; www.philharmonie.lu; 1 Place de l'Europe) The Philharmonie is Luxembourg's new concert venue, a stunning oval job that offers jazz, classical and opera, and that has imbued life into boring Kirchberg. The glass building is immediately obvious on the right once across the Red Bridge. Take bus 125 or 192 from Gare Centrale or Place Hamilius to the stop 'Fort Belaimont'.

Grand Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg (Map p270; ☎ 47 96 39 00; www.theater-vid.lu, in French; 1 Blvd R Schuman) Until nudged out of first place by the Philharmonie, this was the nation's premier performing arts complex. It still offers state-of-the-art facilities and an impressive line-up of international dance, opera and theatre.

Also recommended:

Théâtre des Capucins (Map p272; ☎ 47 96 40 54; 9 Place du Théâtre) Small theatre with few offerings in English.

SHOPPING

The pedestrianised streets around Place d'Armes offer chic boutiques (Louis Vuitton, Delvaux and Hermes) on Rue Philippe II and department stores on Grand Rue.

On the second and fourth Saturday morning of each month, it's *brocante* (bric-a-brac) time on Place d'Armes.

Should you happen to be here on the first Monday in September, watch out for the *braderie*, a big pavement sale.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

For details on Luxembourg airport and airlines flying in and out of the Grand Duchy, see p315.

The main international bus company servicing Luxembourg City is **Eurolines** (Map p270; ☎ 26 29 80; 26 Ave de la Liberté). Destinations include Amsterdam (€22, 8½ hours, one daily), Brussels (€15, 3¾ hours, one or two daily) and Paris (€24, 5½ hours, five weekly). For more details on Eurolines, see p317. Buses to destinations throughout Luxembourg, such as Echternach in the Müllerthal or Remich in the Moselle Valley, leave from Luxembourg City's regional bus station (to the left as you exit the train station).

International train services depart from Luxembourg City's **Gare Centrale** (Map p270; Place de la Gare). Services to neighbouring countries include to Brussels (one way €28.60, three hours, hourly); for other destinations, see p316.

For details on train and bus services to national destinations, see p319, as well as the Getting There & Away sections for each destination.

GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

Bus 16 (€1.50, 20 minutes, every 15 minutes) connects Luxembourg airport with Place Hamilius and Gare Centrale. Buses run from 5.40am to 9.40pm.

A taxi to the airport costs €20.

Bicycle

For information on cycling in and around Luxembourg City, see p274.

Car

The cheapest open-air car park is Glacis (Map p270), 800m northwest of Place d'Armes. Convenient underground car parks include Place Hamilius (Map p272; accessed via Rue Aldringen) or the 24-hour parking under Place Guillaume II (Map p272).

Recommended car-rental agencies:

Autolux (Map p270; ☎ 22 11 81; 33 Blvd Prince Henri)

Avis (Map p270; ☎ 48 95 95; Gare Centrale)

Budget (☎ 44 19 38; 300 Route de Longwy)

Hertz (☎ 43 46 45; Luxembourg airport)

Public Transport

A 'light tram' is planned to link the main train station, Gare Centrale, with Kirchberg via Ave de la Liberté and Blvd R Schuman. Until it's built (and that's years off), buses are the most convenient way to cover much of the city.

The main city bus stations are Gare Centrale (Map p270; city buses leave to the right as you exit the train station) and Place Hamilius (Map p272) in the Old Town. Public transport information offices are located inside Gare Centrale and underneath Place Hamilius; for all ticket information, see p320. Most buses run from 5.30am to 10pm, when a limited **night bus service** (☎ 24 89 24 89) takes over (Friday and Saturday nights only). Depending on the route, these buses run every 15 or 30 minutes until about 3.30am.

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