

Luxembourg

A minikingdom with mighty wealth, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (Luxemburg, Lëtzebuerg) is the stuff of fairy tales. Let your imagination loose from the lofty heights of feudal castles, in the misty world of enchanted forests or amongst the friendly folk of wine-making villages. Listen to the story of this land's tumultuous history and be drawn into a seemingly endless tale of counts and dynasties, wars and victories, fortresses and promontories – only the dragon is missing. But a word of warning – keep imagination and stories firmly at bay until you're here. Drift off to sleep en route and chances are you'll miss Europe's third-smallest country all together (and then it really will take on fairy-tale status).

FAST FACTS

- **Area** 2586 sq km
- **Capital** Luxembourg City
- **Currency** euro (€); A\$1 = €0.60; ¥100 = €0.67; NZ\$1 = €0.50; UK£1 = €1.48; US\$1 = €0.78
- **Famous for** banking
- **Official Languages** Lëtzebuergesch, French, German
- **Population** 440,000
- **Phrases** *moien* (hello); *äddi* (goodbye); *merci* (thanks)
- **Telephone Codes** country code ☎ 352; international access code ☎ 00; reverse-charge code ☎ 80 02 00



HIGHLIGHTS

- Dine on 'Europe's most beautiful balcony' at **Breedewe** (p835), one of Luxembourg City's most charming restaurants.
- Kick back in the delightful little town of **Echternach** (p838), before exploring the region's fascinating forests.
- Let your imagination reign from the towers of **Château de Bourscheid** (p838), your quintessential castle.

ITINERARIES

- **Two days** Discover the ancient heart of Luxembourg City with the beautiful Chemin de la Corniche, dark Bock Casemates where history unfolds, and a gleaming art gallery.
- **One week** The whole country is at your feet. Don't miss Echternach, a town steeped in Christian history, and the gateway to the mysterious Müllerthal. Vianden is another must. Depending on your tastes, move onto Remich for local wines or Diekirch for WWII history and cycling.

CLIMATE & WHEN TO GO

Luxembourg's climate is temperate – warm summers and cold winters. The sunniest months are from May to August, although April and September can be fine also. If you're into flowers, go in spring. For festivals and outdoor dining, join the throngs who come in summer, Luxembourg's peak season. To enjoy wine-making, plan for au-

HOW MUCH?

- **Midrange hotel double** €100-150
- **Restaurant meal** €12-35
- **Loaf of bread** €1.30
- **Local phone call** €0.30 per minute
- **Taxi ride from airport** €20

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- **1L petrol** €1.20
- **1L bottled water** €0.60
- **Bottle of Diekirch beer** €0.85
- **Souvenir T-shirt** €15
- **Baguette** €3.40

tumn when the Moselle villages move into harvest celebrations.

Check out Luxembourg in 2007 when, together with neighbouring regions, it shares the title of European Cultural Capital. For more see www.luxembourg2007.org.

HISTORY

Once upon a time (963 to be precise), a count called Sigefroi (or Siegfried, Count of Ardennes) built a castle high on a promontory, laying the foundations of the present-day capital and beginning a dynasty that spawned rulers throughout Europe.

By the end of the Middle Ages the strategically placed, fortified city was much sought after – the Burgundians, Spanish, French, Austrians and Prussians all waged bloody battles to secure it. Besieged, devastated and rebuilt more than 20 times in 400 years, it became the strongest fortress in Europe after Gibraltar, hence its nickname, 'Gibraltar of the North'.

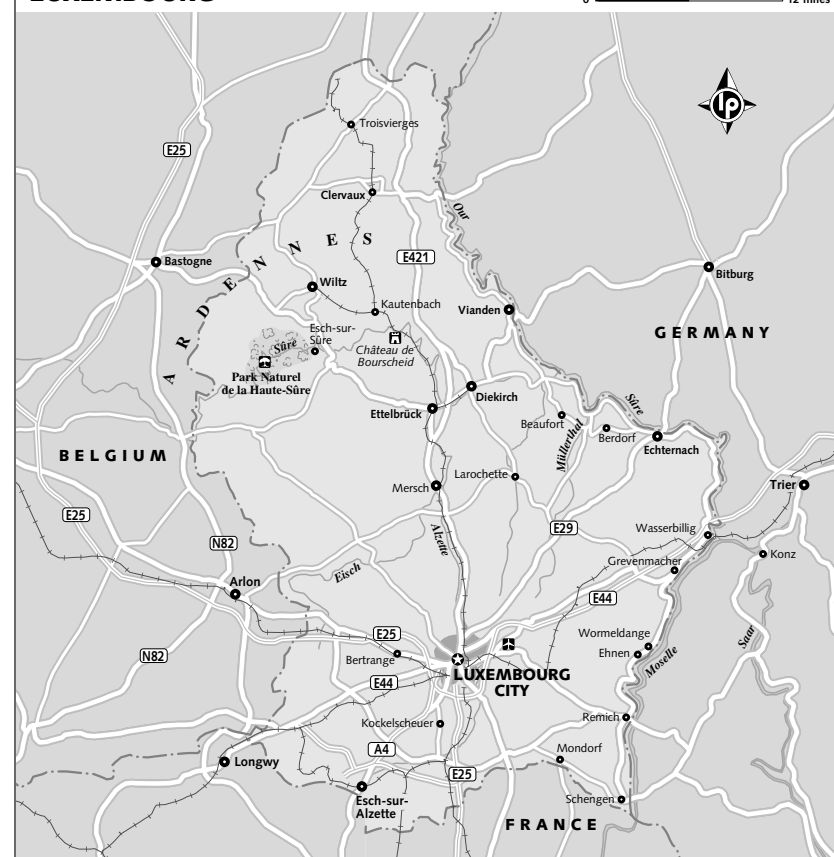
In 1814, it was included in the newly formed United Kingdom of the Netherlands, along with Belgium, and 25 years later present-day Luxembourg was born. But its potentially perilous position between France and Germany led to the major European powers declaring the country neutral in 1867. As a result much of its historic fortifications were dismantled, though you can still visit the damp galleries known as the Bock Casemates (p833).

Luxembourg's neutrality was quashed in 1914 when Germany invaded. It was occupied for the whole of WWI and again during WWII – for insight into the 1944 Battle of the Ardennes, visit the Musée National d'Histoire Militaire in Diekirch (p839).

After the war, Luxembourg dumped its neutral status and joined NATO and the EU. The government diversified the economy, enabling the little country to ride out the depression in the iron and steel industries during the 1970s and to become a noted financial centre and tax haven. Now home to some key EU institutions, it entered the 21st century with one of Europe's healthiest economies and continues to ride high.

The Grand Duchy's royal family is experiencing a similar high. Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, a Cuban-born commoner whom Henri met

LUXEMBOURG



at university, came to the throne in 2000 and have brought new life to the role of the ducal family.

Culturally, things are also rosy. A gleaming new concert hall and neighbouring modern art gallery recently opened in Luxembourg City, in time to celebrate the country's 2007 stint as Cultural Capital of Europe. And the country's continued lack of higher education facilities is finally being tackled with the current construction of the University of Luxembourg.

PEOPLE

Luxembourg's 440,000 inhabitants are a confident and proud people who enjoy a high quality of life. They also have no prob-

lem with the fact that they live in a seriously small country. A motto that's occasionally seen carved in stone walls sums up the people's character: *Mir wëlle bleiwe wat mir sin* (We want to remain what we are).

More than a third of Luxembourg's population are immigrants, predominantly Portuguese and Italian.

RELIGION

Christianity was established early and today Catholicism reigns supreme. More than 95% of the population is Roman Catholic, with the church influencing many facets of life including politics, the media and education. About 3% of the population is Protestant or Jewish.

ARTS

Luxembourg's Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean (opposite) will entice contemporary art fans. To get among historic art by local painters, visit the Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art (opposite).

Few Luxembourgers are internationally known in the arts which is why Edward Steichen, one of the pioneers of American photography, is held in such high regard in his native land. See his fascinating exhibition in Clervaux (p837) and a display on his life in Luxembourg City (opposite).

ENVIRONMENT

Luxembourg is diminutive – 57km wide and 82km long – and is sandwiched between Belgium, Germany and France. It's divided between the forested Ardennes highlands to the north, and farming and industrial country to the south.

About one third of Luxembourg is covered by forests that are home to wild boar, fox and deer. There are no national parks, but patches of forest do shelter some rare plants and are consequently off-limits to the public during certain seasons. The main environmental concerns are air and water pollution in urban areas.

FOOD & DRINK

Rip out the liver, boil up the tripe and stick the spareribs on the grill – Luxembourg is the carnivore capital. Game, pork and freshwater fish are commonplace, while French- and German-style foods dominate menus. Culinary diversity exists only in Luxembourg City, thanks largely to the Italian and Portuguese migrant communities, as well as the broad palate of the EU.

Vegetarians are rare beasts in this part of the world. Pizza, pasta, omelettes and salads are about it in many restaurants, the notable exception being Mesa Verde (p835) in Luxembourg City.

Luxembourg's national dish is *judd mat gaardebounen* (smoked pork in a cream-based sauce with chunks of potato and broad beans). Other specialities include *ferkelsrippchen* (grilled spareribs), *liewekniddelen mat sauerkraut* (liver meatballs with sauerkraut), *traipen* (black pudding), *kuddelfleck* (boiled tripe) and *kachkeis* (cooked cheese).

Luxembourg's wine industry, based along the west bank of the Moselle River,

is known for producing fruity white and sparkling wines at affordable prices. Try those made by Bernard-Massard at Grevenmacher and St Martin at Remich (p839).

LUXEMBOURG CITY

pop 82,000

Luxembourg City sits high on a promontory overlooking deep valleys carved by the Pétrusse and Alzette rivers. For a thousand years these gorges were the key to the city's defence. Now they provide visitors with spectacular vistas over parklands and old, atmospheric quarters, and give this World Heritage-listed city its charming appeal.

ORIENTATION

Modern-day Luxembourg is divided into four distinct sections: the Old Town north of the Pétrusse Valley, the river valley quarters, Kirchberg and the train station area.

The pedestrianised Old Town is based around two squares – Place d'Armes and Place Guillaume II. Below the Old Town's fortifications are the river valley neighbourhoods of the Grund, Clausen and Pfaffenthal. Easy access to the Grund is provided by an elevator on Plateau du St Esprit. To the northeast of the Old Town is Kirchberg, an evolving business district. South of the Old Town – across Pont Adolphe and Viaduc (two bridges spanning the Pétrusse Valley) – is the train station quarter, an area of no appeal. The station, Gare Centrale, is 1.3km from Place d'Armes.

INFORMATION

Discount Cards

Luxembourg Card (1/2/3 days adult €9/16/22, family of 2 adults & up to 5 kids €18/32/44) Includes admission to many attractions throughout the country plus unlimited use of public transport. It's valid from Easter to 31 October, and is available from tourist offices, train stations and hotels.

Internet Access

Cyber Beach (☎ 26 47 80 70; 3 Rue du Curé; per hr €4; ☎ 10am–8pm Mon–Fri, 1–8pm Sat & Sun) Relaxed surfing space.

Medical Services

Clinique Ste Thérèse (☎ 49 77 61; 36 Rue Zithe) Central hospital providing emergency services.

Money

ATMs can be found inside Gare Centrale, outside the main post office and inside Luxembourg Airport terminal.

Post

Main post office (25 Rue Aldringen; ☎ 7am–7pm Mon–Fri, 7am–5pm Sat)

Tourist Information

Multilingual, interactive touch screens dispensing free tourist information are located on Rue du Curé in the Old Town, at Gare Centrale and at Luxembourg Airport.

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

Luxembourg National Tourist Office (☎ 42 82 82 20; www.ont.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.

SIGHTS

Start at **Place d'Armes**, Luxembourg's central pedestrianised square, from where it's an easy walk to the **Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art** (☎ 47 93 30 1; www.mnha.lu, in French; Marché-aux-Poissons; adult/family €5/10; ☎ 10am–5pm Tue–Sun). This is the country's principal museum and houses permanent collections of Roman and medieval relics, fortification models and art dating from the 13th century.

The nearby **Bock Casemates** (☎ 22 28 09; Montée de Clausen; adult/child €1.75/1; ☎ 10am–5pm Mar–Oct) offer a view into Luxembourg's past. The honeycomb of rock galleries was carved out under the Bock by the Spaniards in 1744. Over the years the casemates have housed everything from bakeries to slaughterhouses; during WWI and WWII they were used as a bomb shelter for 35,000 locals.

Chemin de la Corniche is a beautiful promenade that offers fab views over the Grund quarter and eventually leads up to Rue du St Esprit, home to Luxembourg's other main museum, the **Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg** (☎ 47 96 30 61; www.musee-hist.lu, in French; 14 Rue du St Esprit; adult/student/child €5/3.70/free; ☎ 10am–6pm Tue–Sun, 10am–8pm Thu). Explore the history of the city using a glass elevator that beautifully reveals the Old Town's rocky geology.

LUXEMBOURG CITY IN TWO DAYS

Place d'Armes (left), the pedestrianised core, is the essential start, followed by the **Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg** (left) or the new **Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean** (below). Head to **Café Am Musée** (p835) for an alfresco lunch then stroll along the **Chemin de la Corniche**.

On day two, explore the **Bock Casemates** (left) and take the elevator to the **Grund** (p836) for an evening drink.

The Moorish-style **Palais Grand-Ducal** (☎ 22 28 09; 17 Rue du Marché-aux-Herbes; adult/child €6/3; ☎ mid-Jul–early-Sep, guided tours in English 4.30pm Mon–Fri & 1.30pm Sat) was built in the 1570s during Spanish rule. The royals no longer reside here; instead it's used as the Grand Duke's office.

Cathédrale Notre Dame (Blvd Roosevelt; ☎ 10am–noon & 2–5.30pm) is worth a peak to see the nation's most revered idol, the *Lady Comforter of the Afflicted*, a small, elaborately dressed statue of the Virgin and child.

Am Tunnel (☎ 40 15 24 50; 16 Rue Zithe; admission free; ☎ 9am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 2–6pm Sun) is in the depths of the BCEE, one of Luxembourg's 180 banks. This underground art gallery devotes itself to temporary exhibitions but also has an interesting permanent display on Edward Steichen (see opposite).

Pont Grand-Duchesse Charlotte connects the Old Town with the **Kirchberg Plateau** to the northeast. This plateau is home to wide boulevards, big office blocks and EU institutions, and also accommodates the Philharmonie Luxembourg Grande-Duchesse Joséphine-Charlotte (p836) and the **Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean** (☎ 45 37 85 22; www.mudam.lu). Bus 18 from Gare Centrale or Place Hamilius stops at both.

SLEEPING Budget

Camping Kockelscheuer (☎ 47 18 15; www.camp-kockelscheuer.lu; 22 Route de Bettembourg; adult/child/campsites €3.75/2/4.50; ☎ Easter–Oct) Pleasantly situated between a forest and a sports centre, this campground is 4km southwest of the city. To get there, take bus 5 from Gare Centrale or Place Hamilius.

Auberge de Jeunesse (☎ 22 68 89; luxembourg@youthhostels.lu; 2 Rue du Fort Olizy; dm/s €17.60/29.60;

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(P) (X) The capital's only real budget option is newly renovated and fabulously located at the base of the Old Town near the foot of the forbidding casemates. Bus 16 from the airport or Gare Centrale stops nearby. Alternatively it's a 40-minute walk from Gare Centrale.

Hôtel Schintgen (☎ 22 28 44; schintgn@pt.lu; 6 Rue Notre Dame; s/d/tr €70/85/90) This hotel's handy location in the Old Town compensates for ordinary rooms.

Midrange & Top End

Carlton Hôtel (☎ 29 96 60; www.carlton.lu; 9 Rue de Strasbourg; s/d/tr from €85/98/125; ☑) This atmospheric old gem, c 1920, is tucked away on a backstreet in the train station quarter. Among its attributes are stained-glass windows, modern rooms and incredibly welcoming staff (they even love kids!). It's a pinch in July and August when prices drop by about a third.

Hôtel Français (☎ 47 45 34; www.hotelfrancais.lu; 14 Place d'Armes; s/d Mon-Fri €97/125, Sat & Sun €90/118) This intimate hotel dotted with *objets d'art* has a prized location overlooking the Old Town's busy main square.

Central Molitor (☎ 48 99 11; www.hotelmolitor.lu; 28 Ave de la Liberté; s/d/tr Mon-Fri €135/160/170, Sat & Sun €95/120/130; (P) (X) (☑) Located half way between the train station and the Old Town, this century-old hotel bills itself as a place with 'international standards, local flavours'. The distinguished domed building is more grand than the rooms (expect '80s-style décor) but, all in all, it's highly presentable.

Domus IV (☎ 46 78 78 1; www.domus.lu; 37 Ave Monterey; d with/without kitchenette €175/160; (P) (X) (☑) Zany decorations and innovative rooms (some with handy cooking facilities) are the salient features of this centrally located hotel. Breakfast is €15 extra. Inquire about weekend discounts.

Hôtel Albert Premier (☎ 44 24 42 1; www.albert1er.lu; 2a Rue Albert 1er; ste Mon-Thu from €225, continental breakfast €15, ste Fri-Sun incl breakfast from €155; (P) (☑) The city's most charming hotel is located 750m west of Place d'Armes on an unassuming backstreet. The swanky rooms burst with Gothic excesses. Parking costs €12 per day.

EATING

The Old Town, Grund and Clausen are the go for dining. In summer they turn into open-air terraces with tables spilling out onto pavements and tree-lined squares.

AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Breedewe (☎ 22 26 96; 9 Rue Large; mains €20-32, 3-course menu €20, 6-course dégustation menu €55; ☑ lunch & dinner) Wooed by a view? No restaurant in Luxembourg can match it – in warm, 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 carrying steaming plates of French cuisine. Reservations essential.

Cafés

La Table du Pain (☎ 24 16 08; 19 Ave Monterey; baguettes €4.60-7.20; ☑ 7am-7pm; ☑) This convivial, completely nonsmoking café does filled baguettes and big salads (€12).

Café Am Musée (☎ 26 20 25 95; 14 Rue du St Esprit; mains €10-12; ☑ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, 10am-8pm Thu) This well-hidden local favourite, attached to the Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg, is easily overlooked. At its best for a casual outdoor lunch (reservations required) on a warm day.

Oberweis (☎ 47 07 03; 19 Grand Rue; ☑ 10am-6pm Mon, 7.30am-6pm Tue-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat) Moreish cakes, chocolates and ice cream are found at this classy patisserie-cum-tearoom.

Restaurants

Brasserie Guillaume (☎ 26 20 20; 12 Place Guillaume II; mains €14-22; ☑ 10am-1am) The best brasserie in the Old Town is great for a late-night bite or a leisurely lunch. Modern, big and slightly brash, it caters eclectically.

Mesa Verde (☎ 46 41 26; 11 Rue du St Esprit; mains vegetarian €18.80, fish €22.75-25; ☑ lunch Wed-Fri Sep-Jul, dinner Tue-Sat year-round; ☑) Imaginative vegetarian and seafood dishes are the mainstay of this exotic restaurant. It's often full, and deservedly so.

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

Italia (☎ 48 66 26 1; 15 Rue d'Anvers; mains €19-26, homemade pastas €14; ☑ lunch & dinner) Polished and well-run, this Italian restaurant is

known for its homemade pasta. It's close to Gare Centrale.

Chiggeri (☎ 22 82 36; 15 Rue du Nord; mains €20-34; ☺ lunch & dinner) Chiggeri is a hip 1st-floor café/restaurant with French cuisine and an extraordinary wine list.

Wengé (☎ 26 20 10 58; 15 Rue Louvigny; mains €25-30; ☺ 8am-6.30pm Mon-Sat, dinner Wed & Fri) A classy food-store-cum-restaurant offering delicious French cuisine.

Mosconi (☎ 54 69 94; 13 Rue Münster, Grund; mains €26-32; ☺ lunch & dinner Tue-Sat) This was the first Italian restaurant in the Benelux (that's Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg locally abbreviated) to be starred by Michelin, and it was awarded its second twinkle in 2006. Reservations are essential.

Self-Catering

There are several supermarkets around town including **Alima** (Rue de la Porte-Neuve), in the Old Town, and **Delhaize** (Place de la Gare; ☺ 7am-8pm Mon-Fri, 7am-6pm Sat, 7am-noon Sun), at the train station.

DRINKING

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

Marx Bar (☎ 48 84 26; 42 Rue de Hollerich; ☺ from 5pm) A lively bar in the nightlife hub at Hollerich and an absolute humdinger – Marx Bar is *the* place to hang out.

Café des Artistes (☎ 46 13 27; 22 Montée du Grund; ☺ evenings Tue-Sun) This nostalgic Grund café has been around since 1968 and has candles that prove its age. Don't miss the piano soiree nights (Wednesday to Saturday).

Pygmalion (☎ 42 08 60; 19 Rue de la Tour Jacob; ☺ 4pm-1am Sun-Thu, 4pm-3am Fri & Sat) This moody little Irish haunt is one of several good pubs in Clausen, an area favoured by late-night revellers. Take bus 9 or night bus CN1 to get there.

Deep Bar (☎ 26 20 04 23; 11 Rue Aldringen; ☺ Wed-Mon) This Old Town bar is where you end up when all else is closed.

ENTERTAINMENT

The free entertainment guide, *Luxembourg Weekly*, is available from the tourist office.

Philharmonie Luxembourg Grande-Duchesse Joséphine-Charlotte (☎ 26 32 26 32; www.philharmonie.lu; 1 Place de l'Europe) Luxembourg's new

concert venue is a stunning oval job that brings life to the boring office blocks of Kirchberg. From jazz to classical and opera, all are on offer.

Cinémathèque Municipale (☎ 47 96 26 44; 17 Place du Théâtre; adult/concession €4/2.80) This is the closest thing in Luxembourg to an art-house cinema and is cheap to boot.

Den Atelier (☎ 49 54 66; www.atelier.lu; 56 Rue de Hollerich) The main venue for contemporary live music is located about 500m west of Gare Centrale in Hollerich, an off-the-beaten-track nightlife area.

Mélusina (☎ 43 59 22; 145 Rue de la Tour Jacob; ☺ Fri & Sat) This restaurant-cum-club in Clausen and one of the city's most popular dance spots. It's big on house and even entices guest DJs.

Grand Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg (☎ 47 96 39 00; www.theater-vdl.lu, in French; 1 Rond-point Schuman) This performing arts complex is the nation's biggest.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

See p841 for information on international flights, trains and buses.

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 costs €20.

Bicycle

The topography's not flat, but those with decent muscles will find Luxembourg City good for biking. **Vélo en Ville** (☎ 47 96 23 83; 8 Bisserwée; hire half-/full-day €12.50/20; ☺ 10am-noon & 1-8pm Apr-Oct) offers a 20% discount on full-day bicycle rentals to people under 26.

Bus

Buses are a good way to get between city quarters. The main bus stations are Place Hamilius in the Old Town and Gare Centrale. For all ticket information see p842. Most buses run from 5.30am to 10pm when a limited **late night bus service** (☎ 24 89 24 89; ☺ Fri & Sat) takes over.

Car & Motorcycle

Much of the Old Town centre is pedestrianised. The cheapest open-air car park is Glacis, located a handy 800m northwest

of Place d'Armes. For details on car rental agencies, see p842.

AROUND LUXEMBOURG

Hop, skip or jump into Luxembourg – everywhere is fabulously accessible from the capital.

The Ardennes, the northern region, is spectacular country. Verdant forests hide beguiling towns nestled in deep river valleys and crowned by castles. Vianden is the prime example.

Relive fairy tales in the Müllerthal, an enchanting pocket of forested land northeast of Luxembourg City. This region is distinguished by an almost primeval landscape of gorges scoured through sandstone plateaux by ancient streams. It's fantastic for hikers, and there's no better base than Echternach.

The Gutland, a heavily farmed area immediately north of Luxembourg City, is home to Diekirch and its famous war museum. Alternatively, take time out for a tippie in the tiny wine-producing Moselle Valley to the east.

VIANDEN

pop 1600

This is Luxembourg at its most touristy, and understandably so. Round a bend in the road and before you rises the impeccably restored medieval castle of Vianden, shrouded in mist and framed by forest. If this doesn't bring back childhood tales of princes and princesses, baddies and beasts, nothing will.

Vianden's **tourist office** (☎ 83 42 57 1; www.tourist-info-vianden.lu, in French; 1a Rue du Vieux Marché; ☺ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat Apr-Aug, 9am-noon & 1-5pm Mon-Fri Sep-Mar) is by the Our River.

Looming over the town is the **château** (☎ 83 41 08 1; www.castle-vianden.lu; Grand Rue; adult/child €5.50/2; ☺ 10am-4pm Nov-Feb, 10am-5pm Mar & Oct, 10am-6pm Apr-Sep). The oldest part of the castle dates to the 11th century, although a much older Roman fort is thought to have occupied the craggy outcrop in the 4th century.

Vianden's picturesque position can be photographed from the **télésiège** (chairlift; ☎ 83 43 23; 39 Rue du Sanatorium; adult/child €4.50/2.25; ☺ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun Easter-May & Oct, 10am-6pm daily

Jun-Sep), which takes off from the lower bank of the river at the end of Rue Victor Hugo.

Directly opposite the tourist office is **Maison de Victor Hugo** (☎ 26 87 40 88; www.victor-hugo.lu, in French; 37 Rue de la Gare; adult/child €4/2.50; ☺ 11am-5pm Easter & Jul-Aug, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun May-Jun & Sep-Oct). Vianden was briefly home to author Victor Hugo during his 19-year exile from France and the town makes much ado about the three months he stayed here in 1871.

Sleeping & Eating

Camping de l'Our (☎ 83 45 05; 3 Route de Bettel; adult/child/campsites €4.50/2/5; ☺ Easter-Oct) One of several campgrounds draped along the riverbank, this one is well-run and located south of town.

Auberge de Jeunesse (☎ 83 41 77; vianden@youthhostels.lu; 3 Montée du Château; dm/s/d €14.50/26.50/39; ☺ early Jan-late Dec; ☒) This pleasant hostel is located in the shadow of the château (and a long 1km uphill walk from the bus station). Recently refreshed décor makes it even better than before.

Hôtel Heintz (☎ 83 41 55; www.hotel-heintz.lu; 55 Grand Rue; s/d from €45/66; mains €15-25; ☺ Easter-Oct; ☐) One of the most characterful hotels in the Grand Duchy, this place started life in the Middle Ages as the inn and brewery of Trinitarian monks. The public rooms and restaurant still exude subtle charm, though the rooms are less atmospheric.

Hôtel Petry (☎ 83 41 22; www.hotel-petry.com; 15 Rue de la Gare; s/d from €50/68; mains €15-30; ☺ mid-Feb-mid-Nov; ☐) The modern rooms in this rambling riverside hotel offer either castle or river views. The restaurant serves good French cuisine, and they also dish up cheap pizzas.

Getting There & Away

To reach Vianden from Luxembourg City, take the train to Ettelbrück (30 minutes, half-hourly) and then a bus (30 minutes, 10 buses daily).

CLERVAUX

pop 1800

Hidden deep in the valley of the Clierf River, Clervaux is best associated with a permanent photographic exhibition that draws visitors from far a field.

The **tourist office** (☎ 92 00 72; www.tourisme-clervaux.lu; ☺ 2-5pm Mon-Fri Easter-Jun, 9.45-11.45am

& 2-6pm Jul-Aug, 9.45-11.45am & 1-5pm Sep-Oct) is housed in a side turret of Clervaux's castle.

The castle, razed in 1944, is visited mostly for the exhibition, **Family of Man** (☎ 92 96 57; adult/child €4.50/2.50; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Sep, Tue-Sun Mar & Oct-Dec), collated by Luxembourg-born Edward Steichen (1879-1973). Steichen compiled the 500 black-and-white photos in 1955 at the age of 76 and the exhibition travelled the world for years before coming to rest in Clervaux.

Clervaux's turreted **Benedictine Abbey of St Maurice** pokes out of the forest high above the town and is accessible by a 1km track from the castle. Time your visit to hear one of their **Gregorian Masses** (☎ 10.30am & 6pm Sat, 5pm Sun).

Sleeping & Eating

Camping Clervaux (☎ 920042; www.camping-clervaux.lu; 33 Klatzewee; adult/child/campsites €5.30/2.50/5.50) This campground is located just 200m from the town centre.

Hôtel/Restaurant du Parc (☎ 920650; www.hotel.duparc.lu; 2 Rue du Parc; s/d €44/70; ☎ Feb-Dec; P) Full of character and perhaps the odd ghost, this old whitewashed mansion clings to a forested hillside overlooking town. There are just seven rooms, each fitted with a mix of modern and old. The restaurant serves well-priced French/Luxembourg cuisine.

Café/Restaurant du Vieux Château (☎ 920012; 4 Montée du Château; mains €13-16; ☎ Wed-Sun) Take a break on the delightful terrace located between the two gates of the castle.

Getting There & Away

Clervaux is easily reached from Luxembourg City by train (one hour, every two hours).

ESCH-SUR-SÛRE

pop 240

Dubbed one of Europe's prettiest villages, Esch-sur-Sûre is a delight. This tiny village is built on a rocky loop in the Sûre River and is surrounded by soft distant hills that drop to steep cliffs as they reach the river. Cushioned in among all this is a true 'crumbly' – a ruined **castle** dating from 927 – around which visitors are free to wander. Stay overnight to really appreciate the village atmosphere. **Hotel Beau-Site** (☎ 83 91 34; www.beau-site.lu; 2 Rue de Kaundorf; s/d from €55/75; ☎ Mar-Dec) is down by the river and has a good restaurant.

To get to Esch-sur-Sûre, take a train from Luxembourg City to Ettelbrück (30 minutes, half-hourly) then bus it (40 minutes, five daily).

WILTZ

pop 4600

Wiltz captivates crowds throughout July for the Grand Duchy's biggest open-air theatre and musical event, the **Festival de Théâtre et de Musique** (www.festivalwiltz.lu, in French).

To get there by train from Luxembourg City (1½ hours, hourly), take the train (direction Clervaux) to Kautenbach, and catch another train from there.

ECHTERNACH

pop 5100

The ancient town of Echternach flanks the western bank of the Sûre River and makes a superb base for hiking the evocative forests of the Müllerthal.

The **tourist office** (☎ 72 02 30; Parvis de la Basilique; ☎ 10am-12.30pm & 2-5pm Mon-Fri Sep-Easter, 10am-5.30pm Easter-Aug) is in a courtyard next to the town's huge basilica.

If you happen to be in Echternach on the Tuesday after Whit Sunday, look out for the handkerchief pageant in honour of St Willibrord, an Anglo-Saxon monk who founded Echternach's abbey in the 7th century. If not, you can still visit the **basilica** (☎ 9.30am-6.30pm), the country's most important religious building, where St Willibrord's remains lie in a primitive stone coffin covered by a marble canopy.

Hikers can start with any of the marked **hiking trails** that begin near the town's bus

WORTH A TRIP

Roughly halfway between Esch-sur-Sûre and Ettelbrück, a road winds up to the magnificent **Château de Bourscheid** (☎ 99 05 70; 1 Schlasswee; adult/child €3/1.50; ☎ 9am-6pm daily Apr-Sep, 10am-5pm daily Oct, 10am-5pm Sat & Sun Nov-Mar). This 1000-year-old castle, superbly situated on a rocky bluff overlooking farmland and the Sûre River, affords some of the best views in Luxembourg. Perch like a princess on one of the cold stone ledges, and let the evocative setting conjure up images of horses, knights and invading armies across the distant windswept hills.

station. The best is path 'B' (6km; 2½ hours), which winds up via Trooskneppchen and Wolfschlucht to the **Gorge du Loup**, a sheer-sided canyon flanked by dramatic sandstone formations. Walk noiselessly through here to witness fox or deer, or wander deeper into this dreamlike world and wait for Snow White or the like to emerge. It's almost possible.

Sleeping & Eating

Camping Officiel (☎ 72 02 72; 5 Route de Diekirch; adult/child/campsites €4.80/2.80/5; ☎ Easter-Oct; P) This OK campground is draped along the hillside about 200m from the bus station.

Auberge de Jeunesse (☎ 72 01 58; www.youth.hostels.lu; Rue Grégoire Schouppe; dm/s/d €16.60/28.60/43.20; P ☎ P) This spanking new hostel is located 2km from the bus station next to a lake. From Luxembourg City take the Echternach bus to the Nonnemillen/Lac stop, from where it's a 1km walk (direction Rodenhof).

Hostellerie de la Basilique (☎ 72 94 83; www.hotel-basilique.lu; 7 Place du Marché; s/d/tr €91/108/135; ☎ Easter-mid-Nov) The best address in town offers 14 tidy rooms that don't suffer from decoration overkill.

Giorgio (☎ 72 99 34; 4 Rue André Duchscher; mains €10-30; ☎ lunch & dinner daily Apr-Oct, Wed-Mon Nov-Mar) A casual Italian restaurant, Giorgio serves crusty pizzas and al-dente pasta. Above or below ground, it's always full.

Café de Philo'soff (☎ 72 00 19; 31 Rue de la Gare; ☎ Wed-Mon) An art-nouveau showpiece with laid-back music, Café de Philo'soff has a good range of Belgian beers.

Getting There & Away

Only buses connect Echternach with Luxembourg City (45 minutes, hourly). From Echternach, buses head out to other regional towns.

DIKIRCH

pop 6000

This pleasant little town on the banks of the gushing Sûre River definitely merits an overnight stay. Besides a sprinkling of sights, including the country's main wartime museum, it's a good base for cycling.

The **tourist office** (☎ 80 30 23; www.diekirch.lu; 3 Place de la Libération; ☎ 9am-noon & 2-5pm Mon-Fri, 2-4pm Sat Sep-Jun, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun Jul-Aug) is a 10-minute walk from the train station.

An excellent collection of wartime memorabilia detailing the WWII Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of Luxembourg by US troops is presented at Diekirch's **Musée National d'Histoire Militaire** (☎ 80 89 08; 10 Rue Barnental; adult/child €5/3; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Nov, 2-6pm Dec-Mar).

Diekirch has one of Luxembourg's few bicycle rental outfits, **Rent-a-Bike** (☎ 26 80 33 76; nordstad@dig.lu; 27 Rue Jean l'Aveugle; hire half-/full-day €10/15; ☎ 10am-5pm Apr-Oct). Good cycling paths follow the river all the way from Diekirch to Echternach (27km).

Sleeping & Eating

Camping de la Sûre (☎ 80 94 25; fax 80 27 86; 34 Route de Gilsdorf; adult/child/campsites €4.50/2.50/4.50; ☎ Apr-Sep) Situated on leafy grounds by the river, this campground is only a few minutes' walk from the town centre.

Hotel/Restaurant de la Gare (☎ 80 33 05; jamper@sl.lu; 73 Ave de la Gare; s/d €42/73, 3-course menu €15-35; P) This family-run establishment opposite the train station offers five renovated rooms and a restaurant favoured by the locals. Take to the terrace and try the local ham – delicious.

Getting There & Away

There are trains from Luxembourg City to Diekirch (40 minutes, half-hourly).

MOSELLE VALLEY

Less than half an hour's drive east of the capital, the Luxembourg section of the Moselle Valley is one of Europe's smallest wine regions. More than a dozen towns and hamlets are draped along the **Route du Vin** (Wine Rd), which meanders from the southern border town of Schengen, past the waterfront playground of Remich, through the region's capital at Grevenmacher.

There are only two tourist offices en route from Luxembourg City: the **Grevenmacher tourist office** (☎ 75 82 75; 10 Route du Vin; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat Jul-Aug) and the **Remich tourist office** (☎ 23 69 84 88; Esplanade; ☎ 10am-12.30pm & 1.30-6pm 15 Jun-15 Sep).

Wine tasting is the premier attraction and several **caves** (cellars) give tours. The tour at **St Martin** (☎ 23 69 97 74; 53 Route de Stadtbredimus; adult/child €2.75/1.75; ☎ 10am-noon & 1.30-6pm Apr-Oct), 1.5km north of Remich, winds through damp tunnels hewn in the rock.

Bus 450 from Remich to Grevenmacher stops there.

Caves Bernard-Massard (☎ 75 05 45 1; 8 Rue du Pont; adult/child €3/2; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Apr-Oct) in the heart of Grevenmacher is one of the region's largest producers of sparkling wine (four million bottles per year). Tours take in the slick, fully-mechanised cellar.

Sleeping & Eating

Camping Route du Vin (☎ 75 02 34; www.grevenmacher.lu; Route du Vin, Grevenmacher; adult/child/camp-sites €3.80/2/4; ☎ Apr-Sep; 🏠) This campground is well located right on the river bank.

Auberge-Restaurant des Cygnes (☎ 23 69 88 52; hpcygnes@pt.lu; 11 Esplanade, Remich; s/d/tr €48/65/83; ☎ mid-Feb-mid-Jan; 🍷) One of several waterfront hotels in Remich, Auberge-Restaurant des Cygnes does excellent wood-fire-baked pizzas.

Bamberg's (☎ 76 00 22; bamberg@pt.lu; 131 Route du Vin, Ehnen; s/d €65/90; mains €20-26; ☎ Wed-Mon) This hotel/restaurant in the village of Ehnen is the place to dine on blue European lobster.

Getting There & Away

The Moselle Valley region is difficult to explore without your own transport. Trains from Luxembourg City stop at the northern town of Wasserbillig (35 minutes, half-hourly) only. Buses run from Grevenmacher to Remich (30 minutes, four daily) and Echternach (40 minutes, hourly).

LUXEMBOURG DIRECTORY

ACCOMMODATION

The national tourist office (see p833) provides free hotel, B&B, camping and farm-stay brochures, and staff will book accommodation.

Campgrounds are abundant, although mainly in the central and northern regions. Grounds are graded: Category 3 grounds have basic facilities only and are quite scarce; Category 2 are midrange in price and facilities; Category 1 grounds are the most expensive and profuse.

Nine hostels are operated by **Centrale des Auberges de Jeunesse** (☎ 26 27 66 40; www.youthhostels.lu; 2 Rue du Fort Olisy, L-2261 Luxembourg), which is affiliated with *Hostelling Inter-*

national (HI). Most hostels close irregularly throughout the year, so ring ahead. The nightly dorm rate, including breakfast and sheets, ranges from €14.50 to €17.60. Single/double rooms start at €26.50/39. NonHI-members pay €3 per night extra.

B&Bs are very light on the ground but there are plenty of hotels, most in the mid-range (€100 to €150) or top-end (€150 to €250) brackets. Some hotels in Luxembourg City offer discounted accommodation on weekends, and/or in July and August, to make up for the Eurocrat shortfall. Discounts are noted in the relevant reviews. All tariffs provided in reviews are for rooms with attached bathrooms, unless otherwise noted.

ACTIVITIES

With a 5000km network of marked walking paths, the Grand Duchy is a hiking haven. The Müllerthal region offers fab hiking tracks (see p838), with the Ardennes a close second. Local tourist offices always stock regional walking maps. Tracks marked by white triangles connect the HI hostels. For more general information, check www.walking.lu.

Cycling is also a popular pastime – see p842 for details.

BUSINESS HOURS

The standard opening hours for banks in Luxembourg City are 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings. Post offices are generally open from 9am to 5pm weekdays and from 9am to noon on Saturday. Shops are open from 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday, though, some shops will close for two hours at lunch.

Restaurants are open for lunch from noon to 2pm or 3pm, then for dinner from 7pm to 11pm. Pubs and bars tend to open from 11am to 1am, while club hours start at 10pm and close around 3am.

Tourist information offices hours can vary – see the individual city/town sections for specific hours.

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

Luxembourg Embassies & Consulates

In countries where there is no representative, contact the nearest Belgian diplomatic missions (see p139).

Diplomatic missions abroad include:

France (☎ 01 45 55 13 37; fax 01 45 51 72 29; 33 Ave Rapp, F-75007 Paris)

Germany (☎ 030-263 9570; fax 030-2639 5727; Klingelhöferstrasse 7, D-10785 Berlin)

Netherlands (☎ 0703-60 75 16; fax 0703 46 2000; Nassaulaan 8, NL-2514 JS Den Haag)

UK (☎ 020-7235 6961; fax 020-7235 9734; 27 Wilton Crescent, London SW1X 8SD)

USA (☎ 202-265 4171; fax 202-328 8270; 2200 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC 20008)

Embassies & Consulates in Luxembourg

The nearest Australian, Canadian and New Zealand embassies are in Belgium (see p139). The following foreign embassies are in Luxembourg City:

Belgium (☎ 44 27 46 1; 4 Rue des Girondins, L-1626)

France (☎ 45 72 71 1; 8 Blvd Joseph II, L-1840)

Germany (☎ 45 34 45 1; 20-22 Ave Émile Reuter, L-2420)

Ireland (☎ 45 06 10; 28 Route d'Arlon, L-1140)

Netherlands (☎ 22 75 70; 6 Rue Zithe, L-2763)

UK (☎ 22 98 64; 14 Blvd Joseph II, L-1840)

USA (☎ 46 01 23; 22 Blvd Emmanuel Servais, L-2535)

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The **Luxembourg National Tourist Office** (www.on.t.lu/manif-en.html) lists most annual events, such as those below, on its website.

Carnival One of the nation's biggest festivals, Carnival is held six weeks before Easter.

Buergsonndeg Bonfire Day started in pagan times and now takes place during the first weekend after Carnival.

Octave This pilgrimage dates back to the 17th century and occurs from the 3rd to 5th Sunday after Easter.

Luxembourg National Day Held on 23 June, festivities start in Luxembourg City the previous evening.

Schueberfouer (www.schueberfouer.lu, in French) One of Europe's biggest annual fun fairs, Schueberfouer takes over a parking lot in Luxembourg City for a fortnight from the last week in August.

HOLIDAYS

School holidays are from mid-July to September, the first week of November, two weeks at Christmas, a week at Carnival, two weeks at Easter and a week at Ascension.

Public holidays:

New Year's Day 1 January

Easter Monday March/April

May Day 1 May

Ascension Day Fortieth day after Easter

Whit Monday Seventh Monday after Easter

National Day 23 June

Assumption 15 August

All Saints' Day 1 November

Christmas Day 25 December

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- Ambulance ☎ 112
- Fire ☎ 112
- Police ☎ 113
- Roadside assistance (Club Automobile de Luxembourg) ☎ 26 000

MONEY

Famous for its financial sector, you'll have absolutely no trouble finding a bank to change money in Luxembourg City. ATMs are common in the capital, but few and far between outside major towns.

Tipping is not obligatory as service and VAT (value-added tax) are included in hotel and restaurant prices.

POST

Letters (under 20g) cost €0.70 to send to EU countries and €0.90 to nonEU countries.

The most useful poste restante address is: Poste Restante, Luxembourg-Centre Bureau de Post, L-1118 Luxembourg 2.

TELEPHONE

Luxembourg's international country code is ☎ 352. To telephone abroad, the international access code is ☎ 00. Call ☎ 12410 for an international operator. Numbers prefixed with ☎ 0800 are toll-free. Collect calls can be made by dialling ☎ 80 02 00.

VISAS

Citizens of Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and the USA don't need a visa to visit for up to three months. There are no restrictions on EU nationals.

Visa information can be obtained online from www.mae.lu.

TRANSPORT IN LUXEMBOURG

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

Luxembourg's only international gateway is **Luxembourg airport** (code LUX; ☎ 24 64 1; www.lux-airport.lu), 6km east of the capital.

The national carrier, Luxair, flies to European destinations including London, Paris

and Frankfurt. The airline's four decades of accident-free flying came to an end in 2002 when one of its planes crashed while landing at Luxembourg airport, killing 15 people.

Some airlines flying into Luxembourg include:

Air France (code AF; ☎ 27 30 20 06; www.airfrance.lu)

British Airways (code BA; ☎ 43 86 47; www.britishairways.com)

Czech Airlines (code OK; ☎ Belgium 32 221 71 792; www.czechairlines.com)

KLM City Hopper (code KL; ☎ Netherlands 3120 474 77 47; www.klm.com)

Lufthansa (code LH; ☎ 47 98 50 50; www.lufthansa.com)

Luxair (code LG; ☎ 24 56 42 42, arrival & departure info 24 56 50 50; www.luxair.lu)

SAS Scandinavian Airlines (code SK; ☎ Belgium 32 264 36 900; www.flysas.com)

Swiss International Air Lines (code LX; ☎ Switzerland 41 615 82 36 56)

TAP Portugal (code TP; ☎ 47 98 21 33; www.flytap.be)

VLM Airlines (code VG; ☎ 49 33 95; www.flyvlm.com)

Budget airline Ryanair flies to Frankfurt/Hahn in Germany from where there's a bus connection to Luxembourg (one-way €17, 1¼ hours, 10 daily); check www.easybycoach.com.

Land

Into Luxembourg, the main roads are the E411 from Brussels, the A4 from Paris, the E25 from Metz and the E44 from Trier in Germany. When travelling from any of these countries, fill up in Luxembourg – fuel prices here are among the lowest in Western Europe. For details about driving, see Getting Around (right).

Eurolines (☎ 26 29 80; 26 Ave de la Liberté) operates international bus services to and from Luxembourg City. Tickets can be bought from its office in the capital. Services include Amsterdam (€22, 8½ hours, one daily), Brussels (€15, 3¾ hours, one or two daily), London (€50, 11½ hours, five weekly) and Paris (€24, 5½ hours, five weekly).

Train

International train services include to Brussels (one-way 2nd-class ticket €29, 2¾ hours, hourly), Amsterdam (one-way 2nd-class ticket €50, 5½ hours, hourly), Paris (one-way 2nd-class ticket €47, four hours,

six daily) and Trier, Germany (one-way 2nd-class ticket €8.40, 40 minutes, hourly). For details on the Benelux Tourrail pass, see p142. For all international enquiries, contact the Luxembourg City **station office** (☎ 49 90 49 90; ☎ 24hr).

GETTING AROUND Bicycle

Flat paths or hilly terrain, Luxembourg has both cycling genres covered. Separate cyclist lanes wind along the Sûre River between Echternach and Diekirch, and along much of the Moselle River. For details on bike rental, see Vélo en Ville (p836) or Rent-a-Bike (p839). Bikes can be taken onboard trains for €1.10.

Bus & Train

Luxembourg does not have an extensive rail system. The main north-south train line covers some popular destinations, but for others you'll need to bus it. Both trains and buses are comfortable enough and are operated by **Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Luxembourgeois** (CF; ☎ 24 89 24 89; www.cfl.lu). They use the same simple fare system: a 1st/2nd-class 'short' trip (of about 10km or less) ticket is €2.25/1.50 and is valid for one hour, while a 1st/2nd-class unlimited day ticket (known as a *Billet Réseau*) is €7.50/5. The latter is good for travelling on buses and trains anywhere in the country and is valid from the first time you use it until 8am the next day.

Many visitors opt for the Luxembourg Card – for details see p832.

Car & Motorcycle

Road rules are easy to understand and standard international signs are in use. Driving is on the right. The blood-alcohol limit for drivers is 0.08%. The speed limit on motorways is 120km. An international driving licence is not necessary – your home licence will suffice. Fuel prices are among the lowest in Western Europe: lead-free costs around €1.20 per litre and diesel is €0.90.

For car rentals try the following:

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

Avis (☎ 48 95 95; Gare Centrale)

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

Hertz (☎ 43 46 45; Luxembourg airport)

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