

Luxembourg

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Luxembourg City** Dine alfresco at Café am Musée (p740) then stroll 'Europe's most beautiful balcony', the Chemin de la Corniche (p738)
- **Echternach** Relive fairy tales while hiking the Müllerthal's enchanting forests from Echternach (p741)
- **Best journey** Prime yourself to cycle from Diekirch (p742) to Echternach and back (54km) on riverside bike paths
- **Off-the-beaten-track** Perch like a princess and await your knight from the lofty heights of Château de Bourscheid (p741)

FAST FACTS

- **Area** 2586 sq km (slightly smaller than Rhode Island, USA)
- **ATMs** Widespread in the capital; limited elsewhere
- **Budget** €50 per day
- **Capital** Luxembourg City
- **Country Code** ☎ 352
- **Famous for** Banking
- **Head of State** Grand Duke Henri
- **Languages** Lëtzebuergesch, French, German
- **Money** Euro (€); A\$1 = €0.60; CA\$1 = 0.68; ¥100 = €0.66; NZ\$1 = 0.51; UK£1 = €1.47; US\$1 = €0.78
- **Phrases** *Moien/bonjour* (Lëtzebuergesch/French) hello, *äddi/au revoir* (goodbye)



- **Population** 474,000
- **Time** GMT/UTC+ 1
- **Visas** None required for most travellers to visit for up to three months.

TRAVEL HINTS

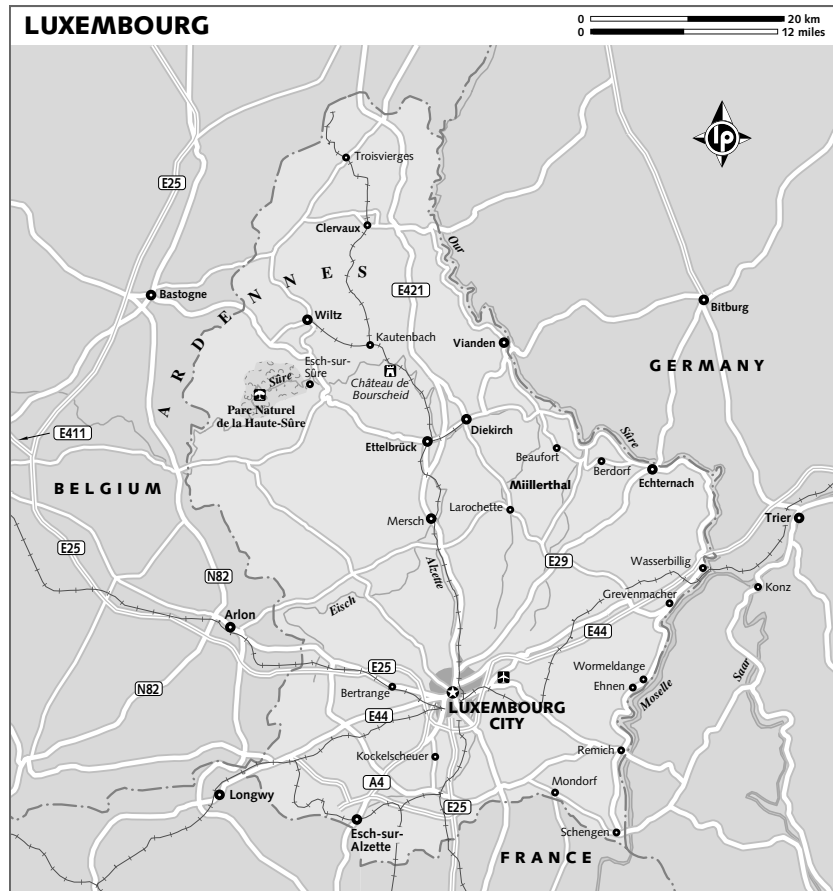
Stock up on alcohol, tobacco, perfume and petrol in Luxembourg – they're cheaper here than in neighbouring countries.

ROAMING LUXEMBOURG

Browse Luxembourg City's ancient core then hop, skip or jump to Echternach, Vianden, Diekirch or Remich – none is more than an hour away.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (Luxemburg, Lëtzebuerg) is fairy tale stuff. Go back in time to a land of counts and dynasties, wars and victories, fortresses and promontories – only the fire-breathing dragon is missing. Let the imagination reign from the top of mist-shrouded castles, as you wander the pathways of enchanting forests, or while exploring old wine-making villages. If magic can happen anywhere in 21st-century Europe, it may well be here.

Just 57km wide and 82km long, the Grand Duchy is Europe's third-smallest country. Not that size is an issue. With one of Europe's healthiest economies and a generally high standard



of living, Luxembourgers are proud to live in a seriously diminutive land – and a beautiful one to boot.

But a word of warning: keep imagination and stories at bay until you're firmly here. Drift off to sleep en route and chances are you'll miss this tiny country altogether (and then it really will take on fairy tale status).

HISTORY

Once upon a time, more than 1000 years ago (in 963 to be exact), a count called Sigefroi (or Siegfried, Count of Ardennes) built a castle high on a promontory, laying the foundations for both the present-day capital and a dynasty that spawned rulers throughout Europe.

By the end of the Middle Ages the fortified city was much sought-after. 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'.

The Duchy's current borders were set in 1839. Its delicate position between France and Germany led to the major European powers declaring the Duchy neutral in 1867. As a result, much of its historic fortifications were dismantled, though the damp galleries known as the Bock Casemates (p738) can still be visited.

When Germany invaded in 1914, Luxembourg's neutrality was quashed. It was oc-

cupied for the whole of WWI and again in WWII; for insight into the 1944 Battle of the Ardennes, visit the Musée National d'Histoire Militaire in Diekirch (p742).

Luxembourg rode out the depression in the iron and steel industries in the 1970s to become a noted financial centre and tax haven. Now home to key EU institutions, it entered this century with one of Europe's healthiest economies and continues to ride high.

THE CULTURE

Luxembourgers are a confident lot. A motto 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 Luxembourgers are immigrants, predominantly Italians and Portuguese.

ENVIRONMENT

Luxembourg is divided between the forested Ardennes highlands to the north, and farming and industrial country to the south. Forests cover about a third of the country and are home to wild boar, fox and deer. There are no national parks. The main environmental concerns are air and water pollution in urban areas.

TRANSPORT

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

Luxembourg's only international gateway is **Luxembourg airport** (LUX; www.lux-airport.lu; ☎ 24 64 1), 6km east of the capital. The national carrier, Luxair, flies to European destinations.

Airlines flying into Luxembourg include:

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

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

Czech Airlines (OK; ☎ +32 2-217 17 92, Belgium; www.czechairlines.com)

KLM City Hopper (KL; ☎ +31 20-4 747 747, Netherlands; www.klm.com)

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

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

SAS Scandinavian Airlines (SK; ☎ +32 2-643 6900, Belgium; www.flysas.com)

Swiss International Air Lines (LX; ☎ +41 61-582 36 56, Switzerland; www.swiss.com)

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

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

Budget airline, **Ryanair** (www.ryanair.com), flies to Frankfurt/Hahn in Germany from where there's a bus connection to Luxembourg (€17, 1½ hours, 10 buses a day); see www.easybycoach.com.

Land

The main routes into Luxembourg are the E411 from Brussels, the A4 from Paris, the E25 from Metz in France and the E44 from Trier in Germany.

International train services include: Brussels (€29 one way in 2nd class, 2¾ hours, hourly), Amsterdam (€50, 5½ hours, hourly), Paris (€47, four hours, six daily) and Trier (€8.40, 40 minutes, hourly). For all international rail inquiries, contact the Luxembourg City **station office** (☎ 49 90 49 90; ☎ 24hr).

GETTING AROUND

Bus & Train

Luxembourg does not have an extensive rail system – once you leave the main north–south train line, getting around by bus takes time. The main bus stations in Luxembourg City are Place Hamilius in the Old Town and Gare Centrale.

Buses and trains are operated by **Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Luxembourgeois** (CF; ☎ 49 90 55 44; www.cf.lu). The fare system is simple: €2.25/1.50 for a 'short' trip of about 10km or less (this 1st-/2nd-class ticket is valid for one hour) or €7.50/5 for a 1st-/2nd-class unlimited day ticket (known as a *Billet Réseau*). The latter is good for travelling anywhere in the country and is valid from the first time you use it until 8am the next day.

Also check out the good-value Luxembourg Card (p743).

Car & Motorcycle

Road rules are easy to understand and standard international signs are in use. The blood-alcohol limit for drivers is 0.08% and the speed limit on motorways is 120km. Fuel prices are among the cheapest in Western Europe: unleaded costs €1.20 per litre and diesel is €0.90.

LUXEMBOURG CITY

pop 82,000

Luxembourg City leads a mini nation with mighty wealth. This beautiful city radiates a composed air of old and new: the latter evident by state-of-the-art museums and a gleaming new art gallery; the former by its striking composition high on a promontory overlooking the Pétrusse and Alzette Rivers. Explore deep river gorges and admire skylines pierced by towers and turrets in this 1000-year-old capital.

ORIENTATION

Luxembourg City's pedestrianised Old Town is based around two squares – Place d'Armes and Place Guillaume II. To the south is the train station quarter, an area of little appeal. Below the Old Town are the river valley neighbourhoods of Grund, Clausen and Pfaffenthal. Easy access to the Grund is provided by an elevator on Plateau du St Esprit. To the north-east of the Old Town is Kirchberg, an evolving business district.

INFORMATION

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

Cyber Beach (3 Rue du Curé; per hr €3.60; ☎ 10am–8pm Mon–Fri, 1–8pm Sat & Sun) Relaxed surfing space.

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)

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)

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

A ROYAL AFFAIR

Luxembourgers love their royalty. In 1919, the Grand Ducal family was put up for referendum and after a resounding 'yes', their existence has never again been questioned. The current rulers, Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, came to the throne in 2000 and are as popular as their predecessors.

GETTING INTO TOWN

From Luxembourg airport, bus 16 (€1.50, 20 minutes, every 15 minutes) stops at Place Hamilius close to Place d'Armes. Buses run from 5.40am to 9.40pm. Train travellers arriving at Gare Centrale can reach Place d'Armes by jumping on any bus departing from the platforms to the right as you exit the station, or by walking 1.25km (head up Ave de la Gare).

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; Marché-aux-Poissons; admission €5; ☎ 10am–5pm Tue–Sun). The country's principal museum, it has permanent collections of Roman and medieval relics, fortification models and art dating from the 13th century.

Next up is the **Bock Casemates** (☎ 22 28 09; Montée de Clausen; admission €1.75; ☎ 10am–5pm Mar–Oct), a honeycomb of rock galleries carved out under the Bock by the Spaniards in 1744.

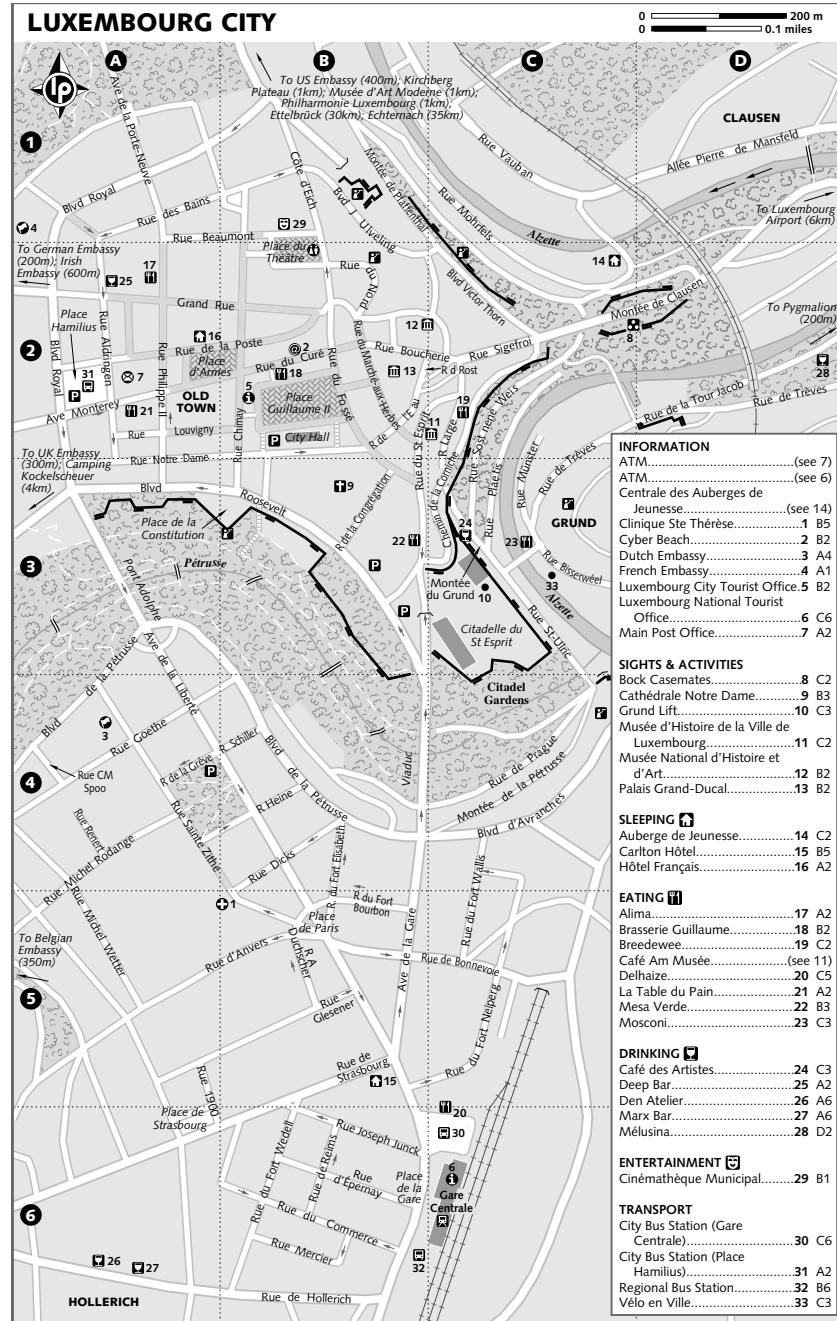
Exit the casemates and wander the city's beautiful **Chemin de la Corniche**, a promenade that offers fabulous views over the Grund and leads up to Rue du St Esprit, home to the **Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg** (☎ 47 96 30 61; www.musee-hist.lu, in French; 14 Rue du St Esprit; adult/concession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

The Moorish-style **Palais Grand-Ducal** (Rue du Marché-aux-Herbes; admission €6; ☎ 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; now it's the Grand Duke's office.

Cathédrale Notre Dame (Blvd Roosevelt; ☎ 10am–noon & 2–5.30pm) is worth a peek for the nation's most revered idol, the *Lady Comforter of the Afflicted*.

Kirchberg, to the northeast of the Old Town, houses EU institutions together with the striking new **Philharmonie Luxembourg Grande-Duchesse Joséphine-Charlotte** (see Entertainment p740) 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.

LUXEMBOURG CITY



SLEEPING

Camping Kockelscheuer (☎ 47 18 15; www.camp-kockelscheuer.lu; 22 Route de Bettembourg; per adult/site €3.75/4.50; ☹ 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 or Place Hamilius.

our pick Carlton Hôtel (☎ 29 96 60; www.carlton.lu; 9 Rue de Strasbourg; s/d/tr from €85/98/125; 📺) This atmospheric old place, dating from around 1920, is a gem. Stained-glass windows, modern rooms and incredibly welcoming staff are the salient features. It's located on a relatively quiet back street in the train station quarter. In July and August prices drop by about a third.

Auberge de Jeunesse (☎ 22 68 89; luxembourg@youthhostels.lu; 2 Rue du Fort Olizy; dm/s/d €17.60/29.60/45.20; 3-course menu €7.50; ☹) The capital's only budget option is newly renovated and fabulously located at the base of the Old Town. Bus 16 from the airport or Gare Centrale stops nearby. Alternatively it's a 40-minute walk from Gare Centrale.

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

EATING

The Old Town, Grund and Clausen are the go for dining. In summer these areas turn into open-air terraces with tables spilling out onto pavements and tree-lined squares. There are two supermarkets for self-caterers: **Alima** (Rue de la Porte-Neuve) and **Delhaize** (Place de la Gare).

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

SPLURGE

Mosconi (☎ 54 69 94; 13 Rue Münster; mains €24-37, degustation menu €66; ☹ lunch & dinner Tue-Sat) Dig out your best shirt for *gastronomique* home-made ravioli at the first Italian restaurant in Luxembourg to be double-starred by Michelin. The rich old-world surroundings are complemented by a chic little riverside terrace for fine alfresco dining. Reservations are essential.

Brasserie Guillaume (☎ 26 20 20 20; 12 Place Guillaume II; mains €14-22; ☹ 10am-1am) Best brasserie in the Old Town and great for a late-night bite or a leisurely Sunday lunch.

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

Breedewee (☎ 22 26 96; 9 Rue Large; mains €20-32, three-course menu €20; ☹ lunch & dinner) Wooed by a view? Then dine on an intimate terrace perched high on the Corniche in a setting that's unique: location-wise, no restaurant in Luxembourg can match it. The cuisine's French and reservations are essential.

La Table du Pain (☎ 24 16 08; 19 Ave Monterey; light meals €5-12; ☹ 7am-7pm; ☹) A convivial, completely nonsmoking café.

DRINKING & CLUBBING

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

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

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

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

Café des Artistes (☎ 46 13 27; 22 Montée du Grund; ☹ evenings Tue-Sun) Nostalgic Grund café that has been around since 1968. Don't miss the piano soirée nights (Wednesday to Saturday).

Deep Bar (☎ 26 20 04 23; 11 Rue Aldringen; ☹ closed Tue) Old Town bar where you end up when all else is closed.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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

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

venue is a stunning oval job that brings life to the boring office blocks on Kirchberg.

Cinémathèque Municipale (☎ 47 96 26 44; 17 Place du Théâtre; adult/concession €4/2.80) Closest thing in Luxembourg to an arthouse cinema and cheap to boot.

GETTING AROUND

For bike rental there's **Vélo en Ville** (☎ 47 96 23 83; 8 Bissérée; half-/full-day €12.50/20; ☹ 10am-noon & 1-8pm Apr-Oct).

AROUND LUXEMBOURG

Nowhere in Luxembourg is much more than an hour's drive from the capital, making day trips or nights away fabulously accessible.

VIANDEN

pop 1600

If Vianden's impeccably restored medieval castle doesn't bring back childhood tales of princes and princesses, baddies and beasts, nothing will. Hidden in verdant forests in the country's north, this immensely popular little town is accessed from Luxembourg City by train to Ettelbrück (30 minutes, half-hourly) and then a bus (30 minutes, 10 daily).

The **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 down 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 dates from the 11th 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 Easter-15 Oct, closed Mon Easter-May & Oct).

The **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) was home to author Victor Hugo for three months during his 19-year exile from France.

Draped along the river bank to the south of town is **Camping de l'Our** (☎ 83 45 05; 3 Route de Bettel; camping per adult/site €4.50/5; ☹ closed Nov-Easter).

The pleasant **Auberge de Jeunesse** (☎ 83 41 77; vianden@youthhostels.lu; 3 Montée du Château; dm/s/d €14.50/26.50/39; ☹ closed late Dec-early Jan; ☹) sits in

the shadow of the chateau – a long 1km uphill walk from the bus station.

Hôtel Heintz (☎ 83 41 55; www.hotel-heintz.lu; 55 Grand Rue; s/d from €45/66; mains €15-25; ☹ Easter-Oct) started life in the Middle Ages as the inn and brewery of Trinitarian monks and is one of the Grand Duchy's most characterful hotels.

CLERVAUX

pop 1800

Clervaux is best associated with a permanent photographic exhibition that draws visitors from far afield. Situated at Luxembourg's northern tip, the town is easily reached from the capital by train (one hour, every two hours).

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**, damaged in 1944, houses the famous **'Family of Man' exhibition** (☎ 92 96 57; admission €4.50; ☹ 10am-6pm Apr-Sep, Tue-Sun Mar & Oct-Dec), collated by Edward Steichen (1879–1973), a Luxembourg-born pioneer of American photography. Steichen compiled the 500 black-and-white photos in 1955 at the age of 76 and they travelled the world for years before coming to rest in here.

Camping Clervaux (☎ 92 00 42; www.campingclervaux.lu; 33 Klatzewee; adult/child/camp sites €5.30/2.50/5.50) Just 200m from the town centre.

Hôtel/Restaurant du Parc (☎ 92 06 50; www.hotel-duparc.lu; 2 Rue du Parc; s/d €44/70; ☹ Feb-Dec) is the town's most atmospheric option for eating and sleeping.

CHÂTEAU DE BOURSCHÉID

Roughly halfway between Wiltz and Ettelbrück, a road winds up to the magnificent **Château de Bourscheid** (☎ 99 05 70; 1 Schlasswee; adult/child €3/1.50; ☹ 11am-5pm Apr, 10am-6pm May-Jun & Sep, 10am-7pm Jul-Aug, 11am-4pm Oct, 11am-4pm Sat & Sun Nov-Mar). This 1000-year-old castle is one of the Grand Duchy's most beautiful and affords the best views. However, you'll need wheels to get here.

ECHTERNACH

pop 5100

Explore the Müllerthal region's evocative forests from the ancient town of Echternach. 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. The **basilica** (☎ 9.30am-6.30pm), the country's most important religious building, is the town's main sight. Here lies St Willibrord, an Anglo-Saxon monk who founded Echternach's abbey in the 7th century.

Marked **hiking trails** start from near the town's bus station. The best is path 'B', which winds up via Troosknepchen and Wolfsschlucht to the **Gorge du Loup**, a sheer-sided canyon flanked by dramatic sandstone formations; it takes 2½ hours return.

Camping Officiel (☎ 72 02 72; 5 Route de Diekirch; per adult/site €4.80/5; ☎ Easter-Oct; 📍) sits about 200m from the bus station, draped along the hillside.

The new **Auberge de Jeunesse** (☎ 72 01 58; www.youthhostels.lu; Rue Grégoire Schouppe; dm/s/d €17/29/44; 📍 ☎) is next to a lake, 2km from the bus station. From Luxembourg City take the Echternach bus to the stop Nonnemillen/Lac then walk 1km (direction Rodenhof).

Hôtel Le Pavillon (☎ 72 98 09; www.lepavillon.lu; 2 Rue de la Gare; s/d €65/75) A little corner hotel smack in the heart of town with just 10 well-equipped rooms.

From Luxembourg City there are buses to Echternach (40 minutes, hourly).

DIEKIRCH

pop 6000

This pleasant little town in central Luxembourg boasts the country's main wartime museum and is 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).

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

Within a few minutes' walk of central Diekirch is **Camping de la Sûre** (☎ 80 94 25; fax 80 27 86; 34 Route de Gilsdorf; per adult/site €4.50/4.50; ☎ Apr-Sep).

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) is

a family-run establishment opposite the train station. Try the local ham – delicious.

From the capital, there are hourly trains to Diekirch (40 minutes).

REMICH

Tickle your tastebuds with fruity white wine or bottles of bubbly made in Luxembourg's Moselle Valley, one of Europe's smallest wine regions. Drop in at a dozen towns and hamlets draped along the **Route du Vin** (Wine Rd) southeast of the capital; the nicest is Remich.

Several *caves* (cellars) give tours. The best is at **St Martin** (☎ 23 69 97 74; 53 Route de Stadtbredimus; admission €2.75; ☎ 10am-noon & 1.30-6pm Apr-Oct), about 1.5km north of Remich. Bus 450 from Remich to Grevenmacher stops in front of the winery.

Remich is lined with waterfront hotels. **Auberge-Restaurant des Cygnes** (☎ 23 69 88 52; hpcynges@pt.lu; 11 Esplanade; s/d/tr €48/65/83; ☎ closed mid-Jan-mid-Feb) has calm, pastel-toned rooms and a restaurant doing woodfire-baked pizzas.

From Luxembourg City, there are twice-daily buses to Remich (30 minutes).

LUXEMBOURG DIRECTORY

ACCOMMODATION

Camping grounds are abundant, mainly in the central and northern regions.

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 International (HI). Most hostels close irregularly throughout the year, so ring ahead.

B&Bs and cheap hotels are very light on the ground – most hotels are in the midrange and top-end brackets.

ACTIVITIES

With a 5000km network of marked walking paths, the Grand Duchy is a hiking haven. Tracks, marked by white triangles, connect the HI hostels. Local tourist offices stock regional walking maps. The Müllerthal region offers fascinating hiking tracks (see left).

Cycling is a popular pastime but rental outfits are few – see Vélo en Ville (p741) or Rent-a-Bike (left). Bikes can be taken on trains for €1.10.

BUSINESS HOURS

Standard opening hours:

Banks ☎ 8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, Sat morning in Luxembourg City

Clubs ☎ 10pm-3am

Post offices ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat

Pubs & Bars ☎ 11am-1am

Restaurants ☎ noon-2/3pm & 7-11pm

Shops ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, some shops close for 2 hours at lunch

Tourist information offices Hours vary – see the individual city/town sections

DISCOUNT CARDS

The **Luxembourg Card** (one/two/three days €9/16/22, valid Easter-end Oct) is excellent value for travellers. It gives free admission to many attractions plus unlimited use of public transport, and is available from tourist offices.

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

Embassies & Consulates in Luxembourg

The nearest Australian, Canadian and New Zealand embassies are in Belgium (see p135). 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)

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

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

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

Luxembourg Embassies & Consulates Abroad

In countries where there is no representative, contact the nearest Belgian or Dutch diplomatic missions.

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

Germany (☎ 030-26 39 570; fax 030-2639 5727; Klingelhöferstrasse 7, D-10785 Berlin)

The Netherlands (☎ 070-360 75 16; fax 070-346 20 00; Nassalaan 8, NL-2514 JS The Hague)

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)

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The **Luxembourg National Tourist Office** (www.ont.lu/events.htm) lists annual festivals on its website. The country's biggest event is **Luxembourg National Day** (June 23) – make sure you're in the capital the day before to catch fireworks and the all-night party.

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

School Holidays mid-July–mid-September; 1st week in November; two weeks around Christmas; one week at Carnival; two weeks at Easter; one week at Ascension

INTERNET RESOURCES

Check out www.luxembourg2007.org for details on Luxembourg's 2007 stint as European Cultural Capital.

MONEY

Luxembourg uses euros. Banks are the best place for foreign exchange – you'll have no trouble finding one in Luxembourg, and ATMs are also common. Tipping is not obligatory as service and VAT are included in hotel and restaurant prices.

POST

Letters (under 20g) cost €0.70 to EU countries and €0.90 to non-EU countries.

TELEPHONE

Luxembourg's international country code is ☎ 352. To telephone abroad, the international access code is ☎ 00. To get an international operator, call ☎ 12410. Numbers prefixed with 0800 are toll-free numbers. Reverse charge (collect) calls can be made by dialling ☎ 80 02 00 first.

VISAS

Visa requirements are the same as for Belgium (see p136).

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