

Sandstone Gorges by Day, Crémant Cellars by Night — A 5-Day Luxembourg Itinerary

A 5-day itinerary through Luxembourg City, Vianden, the Mullerthal region and the Moselle wine valley

A 17,000-foot tunnel network cut into a cliff, a castle Victor Hugo sketched from exile, sandstone canyons barely wider than your shoulders, and a wine valley that shares its slopes with Germany — Luxembourg packs an outsized range of Europe into one of its smallest countries. This five-day route covers the fortified Old Town and a Michelin table in Luxembourg City, Vianden's hilltop castle, the Mullerthal Trail's "Little Switzerland" rock formations near Echternach, and Crémant tastings along the Moselle — all linked by a genuinely useful fact: Luxembourg has run its entire national public transport network free of charge since 2020, so getting between all of it costs nothing at all.

DURATION

5 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

May – September

best for hiking & wine season; mild nearly year-round

FROM

\$850 USD / person

for 2 people

Day 1

Casemates & the Corniche

Land at Luxembourg Airport and take the free public bus straight into the Old Town — Luxembourg has run its entire national rail, tram and bus network fare-free since 2020, so today's only transport cost is your own two feet. Spend the afternoon inside the fortress that gave the city its name.

Check-In — Hotel Le Place d'Armes

Check-in 3pm · from €340/night

This Relais & Châteaux boutique hotel occupies a row of restored 18th-century townhouses right on the Place d'Armes, the city's central square. Rooms mix exposed stone and timber beams with underfloor-heated marble bathrooms, and the rooftop spa looks out over the Old Town rooftops — an easy walking base for everything on the next two days.

Hotel Le Place d'Armes · +352 27 47 37 · hotel-leplacedarmes.com

Bock Casemates & Chemin de la Corniche

2–3 hrs · €9/adult (casemates)

Descend into the Bock Casemates, the 17,000 feet of tunnels carved into the cliff by the Spanish, Burgundians and Prussians over four centuries of fortification — part of why UNESCO calls Luxembourg's Old Town "one of the greatest fortified sites in Europe." Climb back out and walk the Chemin de la Corniche along the ramparts above the Alzette River, often billed as "Europe's most beautiful balcony," with the Grund quarter's spires laid out below.

Dinner — Brasserie Restaurant Um Dierfgen

Dinner · €28–35/person

Start with the national dish: judd mat gaardebounen, smoked collar of pork simmered until it falls apart and served with broad beans and boiled potatoes, at this old-town brasserie a short walk from the Place d'Armes. It's hearty, unfussy Luxembourgish cooking, and a good first taste of a cuisine that borrows equally from France and Germany.

Brasserie Restaurant Um Dierfgen · +352 26 27 07 60 · umdierfgen.lu

Day 2

Grund, Kirchberg & a Michelin Table

Ride the free tram or simply walk down into Grund, the riverside quarter tucked below the fortress walls, then spend the evening at one of the country's most celebrated tables.

Free Nationwide Public Transport

All day · €0 — free since March 2020

Luxembourg became the first country in the world to make every train, tram and bus free nationwide, a policy now several years in and still running. Use it today to loop between neighborhoods with zero planning: the funicular and elevators linking the Old Town to Pfaffenthal and Kirchberg run on the same free network, so there's no reason not to ride down, walk along the river, then ride straight back up.

Grund Quarter & the Wenzel Walk

Half day · self-guided, free

Follow the Wenzel Circular Walk down through Grund, where the Alzette River curls past Neumünster Abbey and pastel townhouses now hold wine bars and small galleries. The Pfaffenthal lift and glass funicular (also free) haul you back up to the Kirchberg plateau in under two minutes if you want to see Luxembourg's modern EU quarter for contrast before heading back to the Old Town.

Dinner — Mosconi

Dinner · tasting menu from €145/person

Chef Ilario Mosconi has held a Michelin star at this Grund riverside dining room for years, pairing northern-Italian technique with Luxembourgish and Moselle-valley ingredients — expect handmade pasta, game in season, and a wine list heavy on Riesling and Crémant from the valley you'll visit on Day 5. Reserve at least two weeks ahead; the terrace tables over the river go first.

Mosconi · +352 54 69 94 · mosconi.lu

Day 3

North to Vianden

Ride the free regional bus north into the Ardennes to Vianden, a riverside town dominated by one of the largest and best-restored castles in Europe.

Transfer — Luxembourg City to Vianden

≈50 min · €0 (free public bus, Line 570)

The regional bus climbs out of the city and into rolling Ardennes farmland before dropping into the Our River valley at Vianden — and like every other bus and train in the country, it's free. Leave the Place d'Armes by mid-morning to arrive with a full afternoon at the castle.

Vianden Castle

2–3 hrs · €10/adult

This 11th-to-14th-century castle stacks Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance wings up a wooded hillside above the town, and its scale and restoration make it one of the most complete feudal castles in Europe — Victor Hugo sketched it repeatedly during his exile here. Walk the armory, the Knights' Hall and the covered walkway before riding the chairlift above town for a wide view back down over the whole fortress and valley.

Check-In & Dinner — Hotel Heintz

Check-in 3pm · from €120/night · dinner €30–40/person

This family-run riverside hotel sits right on the Our, a five-minute walk from the castle's base, with a terrace restaurant serving regional Ardennes and Luxembourgish cooking — trout from the river is the thing to order. It's simple, comfortable, and about as close to the castle gate as you can sleep.

Hotel Heintz · +352 83 41 55 · hotelheintz.lu

Day 4

Mullerthal Trail & Little Switzerland

Bus south to the Mullerthal region — nicknamed "Little Switzerland" for terrain that has nothing to do with the Alps and everything to do with dramatic sandstone — and spend the day walking one of Europe's most underrated hiking trails.

Transfer — Vianden to Echternach

≈45 min · €0 (free public bus)

The free bus network connects Vianden to Echternach with one change, cutting south through the Ardennes foothills into the Mullerthal region. Drop your bag at the hotel before heading out to the trailhead.

Mullerthal Trail: Perekop & Schiessentümpel Loop

4–5 hrs · ~9 miles · free

The Mullerthal Trail's sandstone corridors are the reason for the region's nickname: the Perekop passage squeezes the path between moss-covered rock walls barely wider than your shoulders, and the Schiessentümpel waterfall — arguably Luxembourg's most photographed spot — drops over a stone arch bridge into a still pool ringed by ferns. Loop back through Berdorf for a coffee before the return bus.

