

# WENZEL CIRCULAR WALK

1000 YEARS OF HISTORY  
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE  
FORTRESS WALLS AND OLD TOWN

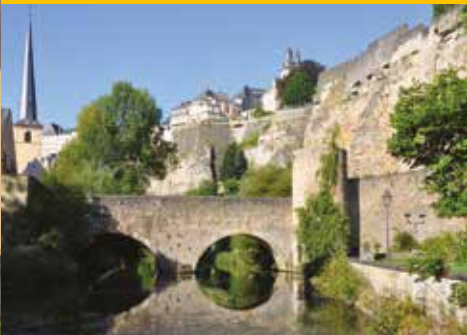
**luxembourg**  
my city • ma ville • meng stad



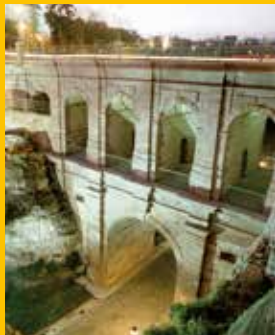
## A JOURNEY THROUGH 1000 YEARS OF CITY HISTORY

The “Wenzel Walk” guides the visitor through the millennial history of the city of Luxembourg. Its name pays tribute to Wenceslas II, Duke of Luxembourg between 1383 and 1419 during whose rule a part of the third ring, the so-called Wenzel wall, was erected. A lot of additional background facts will be provided about it during the walk.

The cultural and historical “Wenzel Walk” guides us through the oldest quarters of the city of Luxembourg, as we pass a great many historically outstanding and architecturally compelling edifices. In 1994, the historical core of the old town – as well as some of the fortress works which are still in good condition – was declared World Heritage by UNESCO. One of the singularities of Luxembourg is the way in which such small space reveals such a blend of contrasting styles of architecture: this mixture steadily developed in the last five centuries under the influence of the forever alternating foreign dominations. On the ground, the Wenzel circuit is signposted. A large array of information boards posted along the way supply further details about the most important sights and the history of the city of Luxembourg. The nature trail coupled with the “Wenzel Walk” focuses mainly on the topics of geology and nature in specific relation to the topology of the former fortified city.



1 Bock Promontory / Bock Casemates



2 Castle Bridge

Our promenade starts on the very 1 **Bock Promontory**, the cradle of the city.

In the year 963, Siegfried, Count of Ardenne, came into possession of the rock through bartering with the Abbey of St Maximin in Trier. For ages, this rocky ledge, on which Count Siegfried was to set up his castle, had been playing a strategically crucial role. As it was surrounded on three sides by the Alzette valley and only accessible from the west, defending it was quite easy. From this vantage point we look out on a magnificent panorama of the Alzette valley with the suburbs of Grund, Clausen and Pfaffenthal. Below the street the archeological crypt and the **Bock Casemates** are hewn into the rock. The longest casemates of the world are Luxembourg City's tourist top attraction. Their underground galleries carved into the rock were part of the fortress' defence system and can be visited between the beginning of March and the end of October.

The 2 **Castle Bridge** was built out of red sandstone in 1735, replacing a wooden construction with a drawbridge in use till then. Its peculiarity resides in the fact that it connected the Upper Town and the Bock Promontory in several manners both on the surface and underground. In 1992/93 the bridge was entirely restored.



**3 Corniche**

**4 Grund Gate**

Our walk continues via the so-called **3 “Corniche”** (Chemin de la Corniche).

Set up by the Spaniards in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and fortified by Vauban later on, this defence wall provides the visitor with a breathtaking view on the Alzette valley with the suburb of Grund and the Rham Plateau opposite. The Corniche is lined by some remarkable houses such as the “Maison de Cassal” and a few noble dwellings from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries alongside a picturesque row of houses. From here we also get a glance of the rear front of the Luxembourg City History Museum.

As we continue our way further downwards, we pass the bastioned gate built by the Spaniards in 1632, named second Grundberg Gate or **4 Grund Gate**.

We turn left, follow the meanders further down towards the bottom of the vale and reach a stone footbridge, called “Stierchen”.

This part of the city ring wall functioned as defence for the inhabitants of the valley and is called **5 Wenzel wall** in the vernacular. It linked the so-called Upper Town and the Rham Plateau with its higher location into the framework of the defence ring of the city. Originally 875 meters long, the wall comprises 37 towers and 15 gates. Wander back and



#### 5 Stone footbridge "Stierchen" and Wenzel wall

forth until you reach the riverbank, through the medieval tower of the "Stierchen", for an extra muros view of part of the ring wall.

The **6 Moat** in front of the Wenzel wall was uncovered by archaeologists in 1992/93. Among other things they disclosed the very well-kept foundations of a medieval wooden bridge, which was part of the first highway to Trier, as a continuation of the "Krudelspuert" (cf. **7**). Furthermore, two exterior moat walls were brought to light, the one medieval and the other one dating back to the Spanish domination which has been reconstructed. These discoveries are all the more remarkable as they clearly illustrate the various stages of the construction of the so-called Wenzel wall.

Crossing the sentry walk of the battlements fitted out with loopholes, we pass the Robert Krieps hall ("Tutesall") where we find further remains of the Wenzel wall.

Glancing through a window in this building we catch sight of the previously mentioned **7 "Krudelspuert"**. The first reference of its existence goes back to 1395; up to the 17<sup>th</sup> century it linked the city districts of Grund and Clausen.

The "Tutesall" is part of the complex of buildings forming the **8 Cultural meeting place of "Neimënster"**.



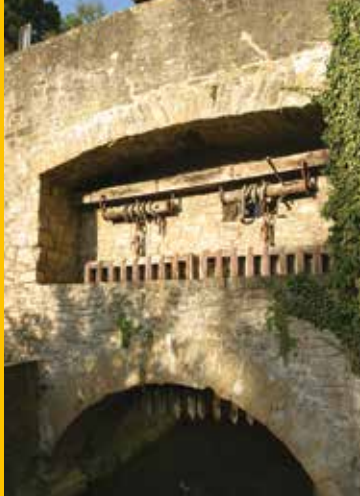


8 Cultural meeting place of "Neimënster"

10 Jacob Tower

After the first Neumünster Abbey was destroyed on Altmünster Plateau nearby, the Benedictine monks settled in what was then St John's Hospital in 1547 and put up several new buildings to found the Neumünster Abbey. In 1796 they were driven out in the aftermath of the French Revolution and the cloister was used as a prison. In 1815 it underwent alterations so that it could be used as a military hospital up to 1867. As a consequence of the signing of the treaty of London in 1867, Luxembourg became a neutral state. Henceforth the buildings of the former Neumünster Abbey became State property and from 1869 to 1984 they were put to use as prison for male inmates. After extensive renovation, the whole complex is now used as a major venue for social and cultural events and named "Neimënster".

Ascending a staircase we arrive at the 9 **Second Gate of Trier** which was built in 1590. A bridge leads across the road to the Rham Plateau.



## Plateau Rham

## 12 Defensive bridge "Maierchen"

On the way we pass a bigger gate, the **10 Dinselpuert**, or **Jacob Tower** also named "old Gate of Trier". From April to October, the film "The birth and the significance of the city walls in the Middle Ages" is presented here. This gate of the Wenzel wall, with its square ground plan, used to have a drawbridge, a moat in front of the gate and a cannon casemate in the top floor. The "Dinselpuert" was constructed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

On the Plateau du Rham, you can discover defensive installations from several eras, namely the medieval era of the 1<sup>st</sup> French occupation (**11 Ravelin Vauban**) and the Prussian era (battery on the track). Further on, you reach a panoramic point and a tower of the "Wenzel" wall.

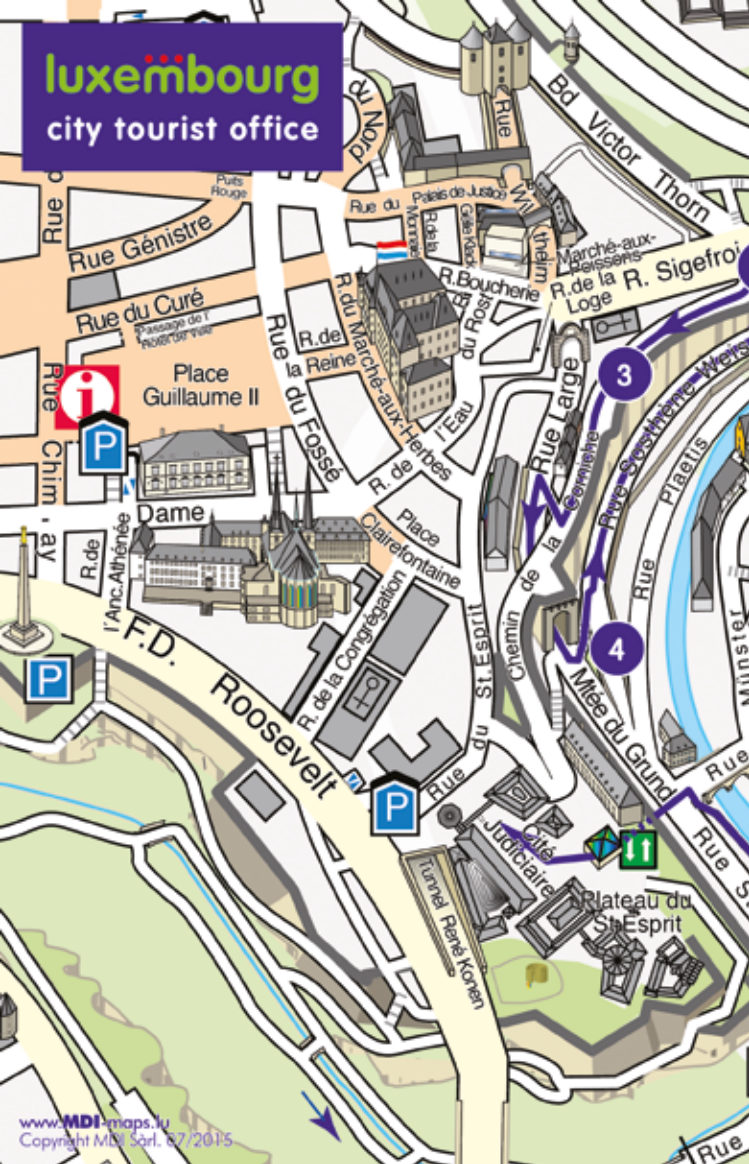
Alongside the imposing barracks built by Vauban, you descend slowly to the Alzette, which you cross via an old **12 defensive bridge** called "**Maierchen**".

Arriving at the popular district of Grund, walk along the Alzette and finish your journey at the bridge surrounded by cafes and restaurants. Easy return to the city center is possible by public elevator.



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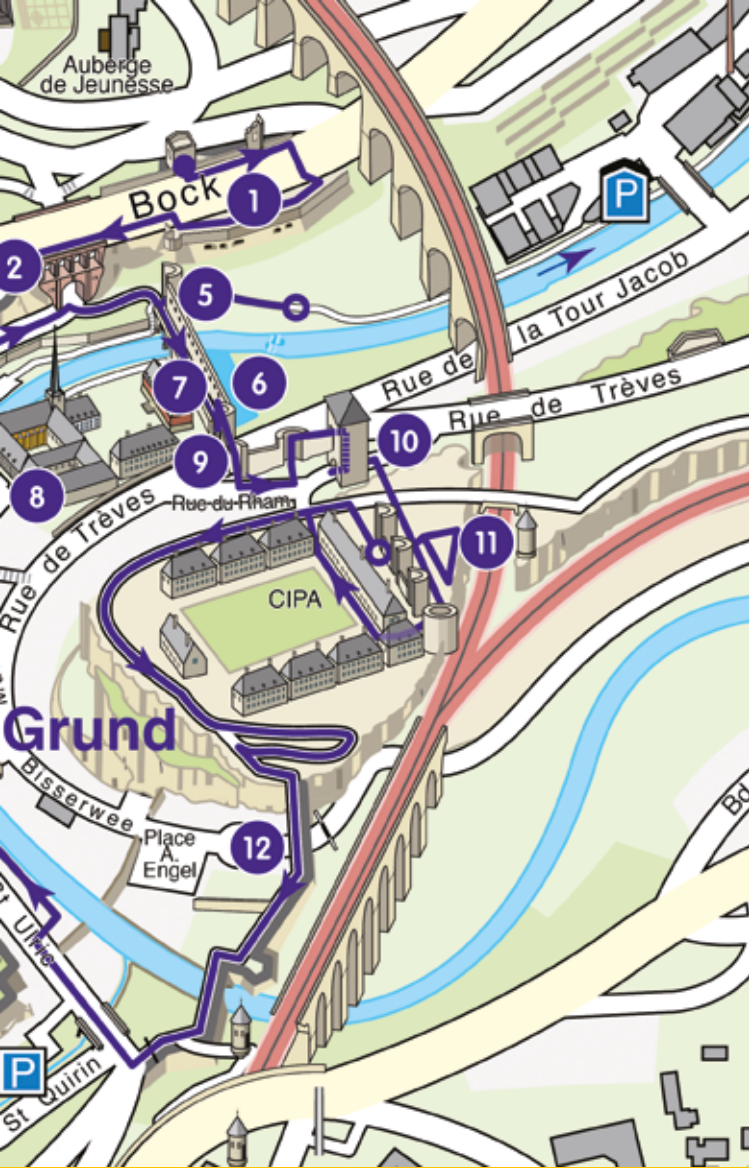
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# 1 mile 7 museums



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

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## WENZEL WALK AT A GLANCE

<b>Highlights</b>	A time travel with breathtaking panoramic views over the Luxembourg fortress.
<b>Tour</b>	On foot. Steep circuit with stairways and climbs. Certain parts are not passable with strollers and wheel chairs.
<b>Duration &amp; length</b>	3 hours & 5.5 km
<b>On your own</b>	See leaflet and signs on-site.
<b>Guided tours on fixed times</b>	<b>Start and tickets:</b> Luxembourg City Tourist Office, 30, Place Guillaume II, Luxembourg. Tickets at the start and on <a href="http://www.lcto.lu">www.lcto.lu</a> . <b>Every Wednesday and Saturday at 3 pm.</b> <b>Price:</b> Adults 15 €, students, seniors and persons with a disability 13 €, children 7,50 €.
<b>Guided tours with your private guide</b>	For individuals and groups until 25 people. <b>Price:</b> 115 € mono- or bilingual. Optional entry in the Bock Casemates from the beginning of March to the end of October. Adults 4 €, groups (> 10 adults) 3 €, students 3 €, children aged 4 to 12 and persons with reduced mobility 2 €. Free for children aged 0 to 4. <b>Booking:</b> Luxembourg City Tourist Office, tel.: (+352) 4796 2709, <a href="mailto:guides@lcto.lu">guides@lcto.lu</a> , or on <a href="http://www.lcto.lu">www.lcto.lu</a>