

CITY ADVENTURES BY LOCALS

CYCLING IN LUXEMBOURG CITY



Mike McQuaide is a dual U.S.-Luxembourg citizen and has lived in Luxembourg City since 2013. He is an avid road cyclist and mountain biker, and is author of several books including "An American in Luxembourg" and "75 Classic Rides: Washington," a cycling guide to America's Washington State.

Cycling is a terrific way to experience Luxembourg City. You're able to travel farther and see more than by walking (itself a tipptopp way to experience Luxembourg) and you never have to worry about parking a car. Plus, Luxembourg's ever-expanding cycling infrastructure ensures that it's becoming easier and safer all the time.

While the city's number of bike lanes are increasing, if you'd like to ride in completely car-free spots, Municipal Park and the Pétrusse Valley are two great options. (Both are featured on the itinerary below.)

Among Luxembourg City's unique characteristics are the several river gorges that cut through the city and offer dramatic viewpoints. The downside of this is that the city is a bit hilly and can seem intimidating to potential cyclists. Thankfully though, there are a couple bike-friendly elevators that make it possible to savor the geography rather than suffer trying to climb it.

Happy pedaling!

Duration 1,5 h
Difficulty ★★☆☆☆
Length 14,8 km

luxembourg
my city • ma ville • meng stad

FAQ

Where can I rent a bike?

“Vélo en Ville” in the Grund, rents bikes (including tandems) as well as child seats and helmets. Rentals are available hourly or for as long as a week if you’d like.

Go to vdl.lu and search for “Vélo en Ville”

There’s also Luxembourg’s popular vel’OH! bike service which rents pedal-assist bikes on a subscription basis. Subscriptions are available on a short-term (one to three days) as well as an annual basis. With more than 100 self-service Vel’oh! stations throughout the city, bikes are almost always available.

Go to vdl.lu and search for “vel’OH!”

Are bikes permitted on public transportation?

Yes, and on trains and trams it’s quite easy. On buses, it can be a little trickier because space is limited, and passengers such as the elderly and those with strollers have priority.

Is cycling in Luxembourg City safe?

Yes, it’s safe, but as with riding bikes in any city, it’s a good idea to have eyes in the back of your head. Always be aware of your surroundings and on the lookout for cars, buses, trucks, trams and pedestrians.

Are there bike lanes?

Yes, as well as cycling arterials too. Luxembourg City’s cycling network is ever-expanding.

Are there any car-free places to ride a bike in Luxembourg City?

Municipal Park and the Pétrusse Valley are two great options. Municipal Park is a lovely band of green space to the west of the Centre and boasts shady trees, lovely flower gardens and an epic pirate ship playground. There are also paved pathways perfect for cycling. (Signage designates which paths are pedestrian-only and which welcome cyclists.)

The Pétrusse Valley is a rugged gorge cutting through the heart of the city. It features rocky cliffs, a mind-boggling variety of trees, a world-class skateboard park (among other things) and a paved car-free pathway down the middle, perfect for cycling.

Are there specific places to park my bike?

There are numerous bike racks throughout the city where you can lock your bike. (Yes, locking your bike is always a good idea.) In addition, there are also several mBoxes, located near transportation hubs such as parking garages. These are secured storage boxes and is a subscription service. For more information, go to www.mobiliteit.lu

The Knuedler Parking garage in the city center offers 28 covered bike racks that are free and accessible 24 hours a day.

Is wearing a helmet while cycling required?

No. But I’ll editorialize for a moment and say that I never ride without a helmet and haven’t for the past 30 years or so. Along with my own noggin having been saved by wearing a helmet during crashes I’ve endured over the years, the safety statistics are overwhelmingly in favor of wearing a helmet.

Is it legal to ride on sidewalks?

Only those 10 and under (with an accompanying adult) are legally permitted to cycle on the sidewalk.

Public bicycle pumps?

Two pumps are available free of charge to cyclists at the entrance of the municipal park near Rond-point Schuman and south of the Viaduc (Aal Bréck) footbridge. These pumps can be used with every kind of bicycle tire.

Road rules and safety tips?

Go to www.vdl.lu and search for “cycling infrastructure”.

Itinerary

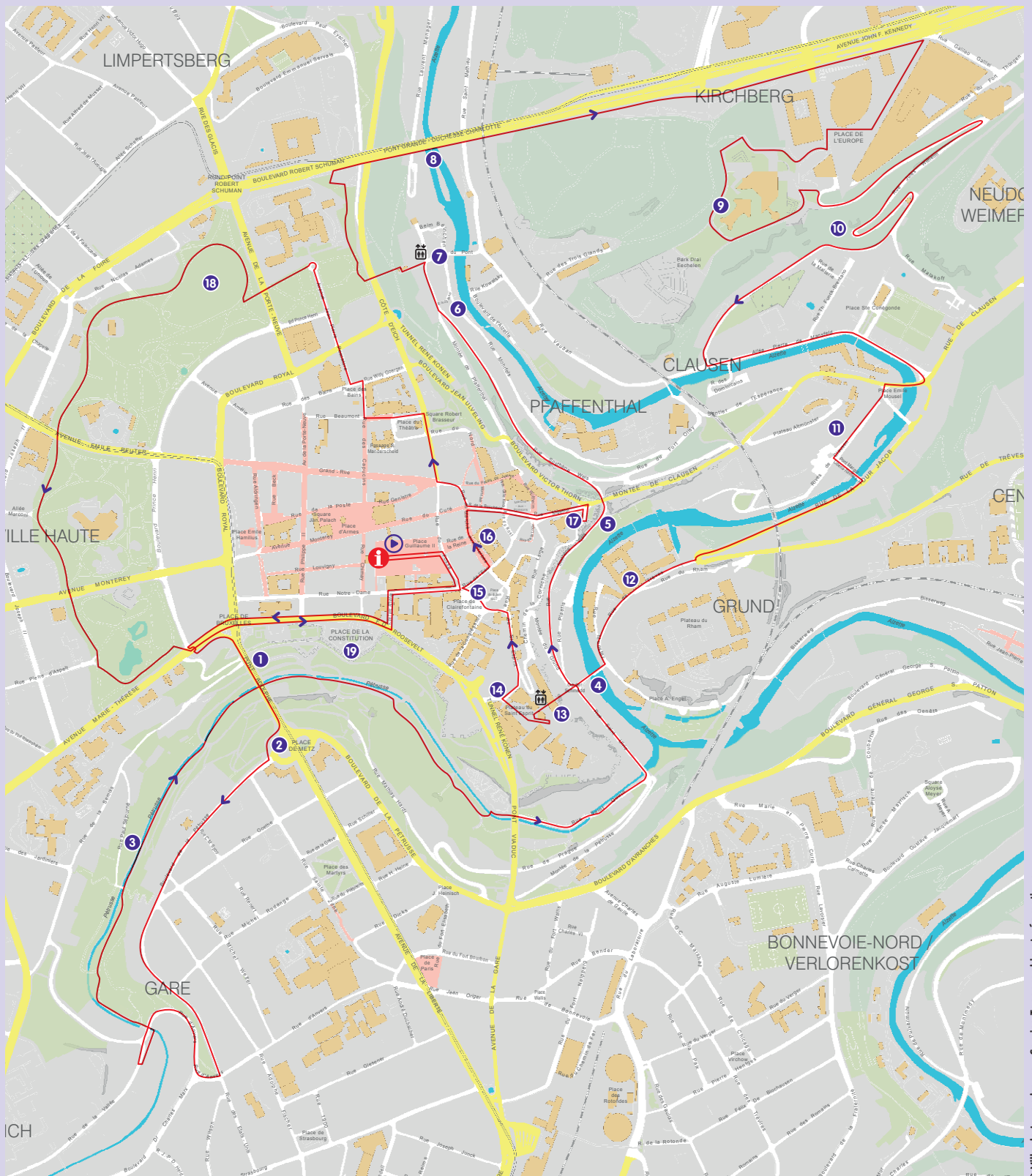
Here's a route that takes in what I think of as Luxembourg City's greatest hits.

Everything from the world's only active Grand Ducal Palace, to arguably Europe's most beautiful balcony, and a whole lot of stuff in between: beautiful bridges, tree-shaded parkland, riverside paths, and a renowned UNESCO World Heritage site.

The route is paved and follows a mix of dedicated bike lanes and bike pathways, as well as some city streets. Hills are kept to a minimum (sorry, it's not possible to avoid them completely) with a couple elevators helping to bypass the biggest ones.

This tour is about 14 kilometers long but because it intersects with itself at several points, it can easily be made shorter.

Whatever route you choose, ride safely and "vill Spaass beim Vëlofuereën!"





START: From the Luxembourg City Tourist Office, leave Place Guillaume II and head towards Adolphe Bridge.

1

Follow the bike lane into the Adolphe Bridge bike-pedestrian bridge. (Enjoy the big-time “Wow!” views here.)

2

Upon crossing the bridge, turn right onto Boulevard de la Pétresse and cycle all the way down to the Pétresse Valley.

3

At the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Rue de la vallée, and immediately left onto the pedestrian-bikeway of the Pétresse Valley. The 2-kilometer long Pétresse Valley is a car-free cycling haven in the heart of the city. A mostly forested gorge with impressive rock formations, a soon-to-be meandering river, as well as playground area and a world-class skatepark.

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Upon exiting the Pétresse Valley, turn left and follow into the Grund. At the intersection just ahead, go right to the Grund Bridge, where you'll find the spectacular view up to the “Chemin de la Corniche”.

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After snapping off a few dozen photos, return to the intersection and head right up the hill. There are three cobbled streets to choose from; pick the one in the middle (Rue Sosthène Weis) which turns to smooth pavement and, after a short climb up to the sandstone cliffs of the Bock Promontory, passes through the Castle Bridge, a historic red brick bridge from the 18th Century.

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Once through the bridge, bear left and enjoy a fun descent into Pfaffenthal, a charming neighborhood where in days of yore, residents spoke their own dialect, Yenish (also spoken in the neighboring Weimerskirch).

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At the bottom of the hill, go left and just ahead, find the Pfaffenthal Lift, the glass elevator that takes you up to Luxembourg City's ‘upper deck’, as it were, and offers a stunning viewpoint of both Luxembourg's old and new, the ever-emerging neighborhood of Kirchberg. Though only a few years old, the Lift is one of Luxembourg's True Classics.

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After enjoying the views and exiting the Lift walkway, follow the paved bikeway to the right toward the Red Bridge (Grand Duchess Charlotte Bridge), which is just a couple hundred meters ahead. Turn right onto the well-marked bike lane and follow a fun, straight-arrow traverse across the Alzette Valley and toward the big buildings, performance spaces and museums of Kirchberg. Take a moment to check out the views down to Pfaffenthal, which looks like a tiny toy town.

9

Just beyond the Philharmonie, head down the slight hill toward MUDAM, with its futuristic glass and steel structure, and Musée Dräi Eechelen, housed in Fort Thüngen, a well-maintained remnant from the days when Austrians ruled the land. Expansive Parc Dräi Eechelen park is another of the city's true gems with terrific views in all directions.

10

Explore to your heart's content, and then, back on your bike, begin the fun, winding descent down into Clausen. Along the way, you'll pass through the Malakoff Tower and pass the childhood home of Robert Schuman, often heralded as being the father of the European Union.

11

At the intersection at the bottom of the hill, proceed towards Rives de Clausen, a former industrial area that's been transformed into a trendy hub of restaurants, bars and cafés.

12

After a couple hundred meters, exit Rives de Clausen, cross the Alzette River, and climb a short hill, crossing under a viaduct bridge along the way. Where the road hairpins, go straight onto Rue de Trèves (after first admiring the view of Luxembourg's Corniche) and down the hill back into the Grund, where you were earlier on this route. Like Rives de Clausen, the Grund offers a myriad of spots for something to eat or drink.

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At the bottom of the hill, turn right onto the Grund Bridge once again, this time approaching it from the opposite side. After once again oohing and aahing at spectacular views, cross the bridge, hop off your bike and walk it across the street toward the café.



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Just past the café, find the walkway to the Grund Lift, to catch a ride back up to Luxembourg's upper deck, this time emerging at the Plateau du Saint-Esprit, which features yet another of Luxembourg's jaw-dropping, classic views. (For the views, you need go left once out of the elevator.) Don't exhaust your phone's photo capacity quite yet for there're even more great views to come.

From the plateau, ride north across the Cité judiciaire and turn right onto Rue de St.-Esprit, a narrow, cobbled street. (NOTE: this next section contains several narrow, cobbled streets in the Centre. Be mindful of vehicle and pedestrian traffic.)

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Go left on Place de Clairefontaine and just ahead pass the statue of beloved Grand Duchess Charlotte, who ruled Luxembourg from 1919 to 1964.

16

Just past the statue, turn right onto Rue de l'Eau and just ahead, left to an open square with the Chamber of Deputies and majestic Grand Ducal Palace. (This is a high-pedestrian traffic so be careful; you might consider walking your bike here.)

17

Continuing past the palace, follow down the hill toward the Bock Promontory and the Chemin de la Corniche – just past 17th-Century St. Michael's Church. Again, hop off your bike and bask in one of Europe's most stunning viewpoints. The natural amphitheater down below reveals the Grund, which from up here, looks like a European dollhouse village. All of it set along a bend in the Alzette River and around the large open square of a former 16th Century Benedictine Abbey, now a popular cultural and conference centre, renamed "Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster - neimënster". Go ahead, click off as many pics as you want. The view deserves it. Back on the bike, retrace your pedals back up the hill.

18

Continue straight into Municipal Park and begin a gentle, mostly car-free stretch of relaxed cycling through Luxembourg's lovely urban park. Numerous spots along the way, including the popular Kinnekswiss, invite you to take a break, relax on the grass and while away the hours. (On-path markings indicate which paths are pedestrian-only and which welcome cyclists.)

19

Exit the park at Avenue Marie-Thérèse and head towards Place de la Constitution which you'll know by the iconic Gëlle Fra Memorial. The statue of the Golden Lady is a war memorial and one of Luxembourg's most iconic monuments. Place de la Constitution also offers terrific views down into the Pétrusse Valley, which was on the earlier part of this tour.

END

You can now head back to where you started your tour...to Place Guillaume II...only 200 meters away. End of tour.



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