# Luxembourg’s Michelin-star rise cements its charm as Europe’s hidden gem



Nestled at the heart of Europe, between France, Belgium, and Germany, Luxembourg emerges as an unassuming yet captivating destination that offers a seamless blend of rich cultural influences from its neighbours. Just an hour's flight from London, this remarkable country serves as an idyllic escape from the hustle and bustle of metropolitan life, inviting visitors into a world of lush forests, fairy-tale scenery, and timeless charm.

Luxembourg City, the vibrant capital, presents a harmonious mix of modernity and history, where sleek glass façades complement centuries-old architecture. Its old town, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, boasts landmarks such as the Grand Ducal Palace with its Renaissance façades and the remarkable underground fortifications known as the Bock Casemates. These tunnels are an extraordinary testimony to the city’s military past, providing both panoramic views and a dramatic glimpse into Luxembourg’s strategic importance throughout history.

One of the city’s most enchanting areas is the Grund district, nested in the valley along the Alzette River. Cobblestone streets, verdant parks, and charming chocolate-box houses create a tranquil retreat that feels like stepping into a storybook. The district’s serene atmosphere, historical significance, and scenic waterways offer an unparalleled setting for leisurely strolls and cultural immersion, making it a favourite for visitors seeking both relaxation and discovery.

Luxembourg’s culinary scene is a flourishing tapestry that reflects its multicultural identity. Award-winning chefs like Lea Linster have placed the country firmly on the gastronomic map, with delicatessens and restaurants offering everything from delicate madeleines to innovative French and Italian fusion dishes. The recent inclusion of several Luxembourg restaurants in the Michelin Guide highlights the nation’s ascendance as a destination for food lovers. From cosy cafés and vibrant bars in the city centre to Mediterranean and Middle Eastern flavours, the food culture here is as diverse as it is delicious.

Visitors benefit from Luxembourg’s highly efficient and free public transport system, which includes buses, trams, and trains, facilitating effortless exploration without the expense often associated with European travel. This courtesy, combined with Luxembourg’s strategic location, encourages tourists to venture beyond the capital, discovering the country’s other historic towns, natural beauty, and cultural treasures.

For those seeking refined accommodation, the recently restored Marriott Hotel Alfa offers a striking modern counterpart to the city's historical charm. This iconic hotel, with its art deco influences and luxurious rooms overlooking the city, merges heritage with contemporary comfort. Its brasserie, helmed by chef Thibault Brera, serves hearty portions of exquisite dishes that pay homage to local and continental culinary traditions, ensuring a comprehensive sensory experience.

In sum, Luxembourg may be diminutive in size but it is colossal in character and allure. Whether your interests lie in exploring centuries-old fortifications, wandering through storybook streets, indulging in gourmet cuisine, or simply escaping the pressures of busy city life, Luxembourg offers a richly rewarding European getaway just a short journey from London.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/travel/ive-discovered-europes-best-kept-secret-and-its-only-an-hour-away-from-london-5233820), [[2]](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/luxembourg-city)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/travel/ive-discovered-europes-best-kept-secret-and-its-only-an-hour-away-from-london-5233820), [[2]](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/luxembourg-city), [[5]](https://www.luxembourg-city.com/en/places-to-visit/bock-casemates), [[6]](https://www.luxembourg-city.com/en/places-to-visit/grand-ducal-palace)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/travel/ive-discovered-europes-best-kept-secret-and-its-only-an-hour-away-from-london-5233820), [[2]](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/luxembourg-city), [[3]](https://www.visitluxembourg.com/en/place/city/grund), [[7]](https://www.luxembourg-city.com/en/places-to-visit/grund)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/travel/ive-discovered-europes-best-kept-secret-and-its-only-an-hour-away-from-london-5233820), [[4]](https://www.michelin.com/en/press-release/michelin-guide-2025-luxembourg/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/travel/ive-discovered-europes-best-kept-secret-and-its-only-an-hour-away-from-london-5233820), [[2]](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/luxembourg-city)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/travel/ive-discovered-europes-best-kept-secret-and-its-only-an-hour-away-from-london-5233820)
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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/travel/ive-discovered-europes-best-kept-secret-and-its-only-an-hour-away-from-london-5233820> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/luxembourg-city> - Luxembourg City, the capital of Luxembourg, is a blend of modernity and history. The city boasts a rich cultural scene, with numerous museums, galleries, and theaters. Its old town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, features landmarks like the Grand Ducal Palace and the Bock Casemates. The Grund district, situated in the valley below the city center, offers a tranquil retreat with its cobbled streets, green spaces, and historic architecture. The Alzette River flows through this picturesque area, adding to its charm. The city's culinary scene is diverse, with a mix of traditional Luxembourgish cuisine and international flavors. Public transport, including buses, trams, and trains, is free for residents and tourists alike, making it easy to explore the city and its surroundings. The efficient public transport system is a testament to Luxembourg's commitment to sustainability and convenience. The city's strategic location between France, Belgium, and Germany makes it an ideal base for exploring the broader region. Luxembourg City offers a unique blend of cultural experiences, historical sites, and modern amenities, making it a must-visit destination for travelers seeking a European getaway.
3. <https://www.visitluxembourg.com/en/place/city/grund> - The Grund district in Luxembourg City is a picturesque area nestled in the valley below the city center. Known for its cobbled streets, green spaces, and historic architecture, Grund offers a tranquil retreat from the city's hustle and bustle. The Alzette River flows through this charming district, adding to its scenic beauty. The area is rich in history, with landmarks such as the Bock Casemates, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visitors can explore the district's unique blend of old-world charm and modern amenities, including a variety of cafes, restaurants, and shops. Grund's serene atmosphere makes it an ideal spot for leisurely walks, photography, and immersing oneself in Luxembourg City's cultural heritage.
4. <https://www.michelin.com/en/press-release/michelin-guide-2025-luxembourg/> - The Michelin Guide 2025 has awarded stars to several restaurants in Luxembourg, highlighting the country's vibrant culinary scene. Among the establishments recognized are Apdikt in Steinfort, Archibald De Prince - Table et Chambres in Lauterborn, and Léa Linster in Frisange. These restaurants showcase a range of cuisines, from creative and modern dishes to traditional French fare. The inclusion of these establishments in the Michelin Guide underscores Luxembourg's growing reputation as a gastronomic destination, attracting food enthusiasts from around the world. The country's commitment to culinary excellence is evident in the diverse and high-quality dining options available to both residents and visitors.
5. <https://www.luxembourg-city.com/en/places-to-visit/bock-casemates> - The Bock Casemates in Luxembourg City are a network of underground tunnels and fortifications that have been part of the city's defenses for centuries. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site, these casemates offer a glimpse into Luxembourg's military history and architectural ingenuity. Visitors can explore the labyrinthine passages, which provide panoramic views of the city and the Alzette River. The Bock Casemates are a testament to Luxembourg's strategic importance and its ability to adapt to various historical challenges. They serve as a popular tourist attraction, offering both historical insights and scenic vistas.
6. <https://www.luxembourg-city.com/en/places-to-visit/grand-ducal-palace> - The Grand Ducal Palace in Luxembourg City serves as the official residence of the Grand Duke and is a symbol of the country's rich history and heritage. The palace is renowned for its Renaissance-style architecture and ornate facades. Visitors can admire the palace's exterior during the summer months when guided tours are available, providing insights into its history and the role it plays in Luxembourg's governance. The Grand Ducal Palace stands as a testament to the nation's architectural beauty and its enduring traditions.
7. <https://www.luxembourg-city.com/en/places-to-visit/grund> - The Grund district in Luxembourg City is a picturesque area nestled in the valley below the city center. Known for its cobbled streets, green spaces, and historic architecture, Grund offers a tranquil retreat from the city's hustle and bustle. The Alzette River flows through this charming district, adding to its scenic beauty. The area is rich in history, with landmarks such as the Bock Casemates, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visitors can explore the district's unique blend of old-world charm and modern amenities, including a variety of cafes, restaurants, and shops. Grund's serene atmosphere makes it an ideal spot for leisurely walks, photography, and immersing oneself in Luxembourg City's cultural heritage.