

VILLE DE LUXEMBOURG

City of Luxembourg - Its historic districts and fortifications

Luxembourg's Old Town is located on a very steep rocky outcrop at the confluence of the Azette and Pétrusse rivers. This area provided natural fortifications that only needed supplementing on the western side. Due to its exceptionally strategic position, the City of Luxembourg evolved into one of the largest fortresses in modern Europe. It was strengthened and extended many times as it passed from the hands of one great European power to the next.

Originally, the City of Luxembourg comprised only a small fort – the castle – built in the second half of the 10th century on an almost inaccessible outcrop. In the 12th century, a stone wall was built to protect the settlement that had developed near the castle, and these fortifications were expanded in the 14th and 15th centuries.

In 1443, the city was seized by the Burgundians. It then passed into the hands of the Habsburgs through inheritance and later became Spanish (until 1684). During this period, the city was converted into a veritable fortress. After it was conquered by French King Louis XIV, Vauban enhanced and extended the existing fortifications. In the 18th century, the Austrians added more reinforcements, making Luxembourg into the "Gibraltar of the North". After the Congress of Vienna, the Prussians took up residence here and built their own military facilities. However, at the Treaty of London in 1867, it was decided that the fortress should be dismantled. Most of the fortifications were demolished, but remnants of these structures, which represent the various chapters of the city's history, can still be found all over in the shape of old gates, forts, bastions, redoubts and the casemates.

The city has retained much of its medieval layout, as can be seen in its winding streets and historic public buildings. Within the city's fortifications and at the foot of the ramparts, neighbourhoods sprang up where people lived and engaged in trades or crafts.

Despite the demolition of its fortifications and some of its Old Town, the city is still a strong example of a historic, fortified European city and boasts an exceptional variety of military remnants illustrating a long period of Western history.

Skatepark Pétrusse

In 2004, skatepark.lu approached the City of Luxembourg for the first time in order to discuss the potential construction of a concrete skatepark in the center of Luxembourg City. In 2008 the potential site in "rue St. Quirin" was retained for further study by the "Service des Parcs" of Luxembourg City. July 2013, the preliminary project was presented to the city council and an initial budget of 1,4M€ ttc was voted. 2 years later, after the official bidding was finished the city council approved the final project for a total sum of 2,0M€ ttc.

The total skatepark area including public greens, benches and walkways is about 3500m². The skatepark area is 2500m² and is split as follows:

- 600 m² of bowl
- 1250m² of traditional street
- 650m² of street plaza
- Roughly 900m of copings, rails and steel profiles are installed
- 4,3 tonnes of granite ledges
- 109m² of natural stone walls
- Seating area for approx. 500 people
- 148m of public walkway around the skatepark

*Constructo Skatepark Architecture (Skatepark Designer)
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