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Luxembourg City to Troisvierges

LOCATION Luxembourg **START/FINISH** Luxembourg City **DISTANCE** 130 km (80 miles) **TIME** 2.5 hours return **INFORMATION** www.cfl.lu

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg may fit into France over 200 times, but it packs in an awful lot. Take a (free) train from the capital to explore its forest-covered hills and rich history.

One of Europe's most picture-perfect capitals, Luxembourg City is a marvellous mishmash of narrow cobbled streets perched high above river gorges. It's also the perfect jumping-off point for a Grand Duchy adventure.

Take a train north, nabbing a left-hand window seat for glorious views of the fortress remains as you pull out. There's no need to fret about the ticket inspector as, remarkably, transport here is free of charge. The urban landscape quickly fades as golden wheatfields begin to stretch out towards distant pine-wrapped hills. Views of lazily meandering rivers, steeply set vineyards and precariously perched castle ruins are punctuated by darkness, as you weave in and out of tunnels. Fortunately, regular stops allow your eyes time to adjust to sights like the pastel-coloured houses of Ettelbruck (also known for its General Patton Memorial Museum) and the 12th-century Clervaux Castle, a shining white beacon amid endless green forest.

Troisvierges is the final town before you hit Belgium – and its train fares. Discover its history as the first stop of the German advance west during World War I, before heading back to the capital.

Luxembourg City, the starting point for this cross-country trip

another way

There are many scenic rail journeys to be had from Luxembourg City – and all for free. Board a train to the striking Larochette Castle, the Roman town of Echternach or the family-friendly Parc Merveilleux.

