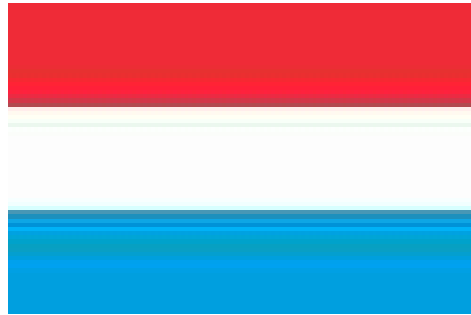


LUXEMBOURG 20. - 22. MAY

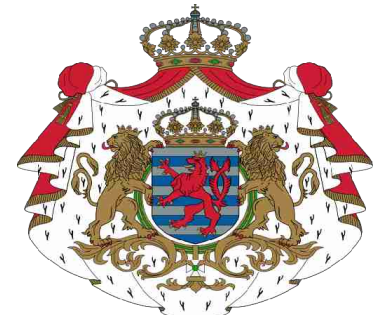
The trip continued from Amsterdam to Luxembourg by train. This was the first time we used the [Inter-rail](#) tickets, which we had bought before we left Norway. They were valid for 5 days during a 10 days period. We had to fill in names, the date when leaving, where we went from and to, number of the train and when it left the station. There was therefore some paperwork, which had to be done each time we went on to a new train.



Luxembourg in Europa.



Luxembourg flag



Luxembourg coat of arms

The written history of [Luxembourg](#) starts with the building of the castle Luxembourg in the Middle Ages. Around this castle developed little by little a town community. This little town became later the center of a small, but strategically important country at the point of intersection between Germany, France and Belgium.

The Vienna congress in 1815 made formally Luxembourg an independent Grand Duchy, in personal union with the Netherlands under the House of Oranien-Nassau.

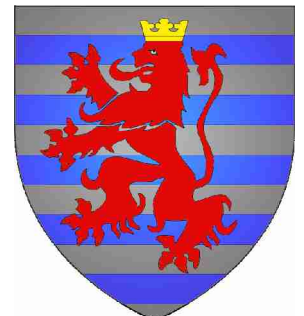
Luxembourg gained full independence in 1890 when the Dutch king Wilhelm III died.



The position of Luxembourg City

The city [Luxembourg](#), also called **Luxembourg City**, is a municipality with city rights and the capital in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. In the country itself it is mostly called *Staad*, «city». The city lies where the two rivers [Alzette](#) and [Pétru](#) meet in South-Luxembourg. Here we find the historic Luxembourg castle, which was founded by the Franks in the early Middle Ages.

Luxembourg city is one of the most prosperous cities in the world and has developed to be a banking and administration center. Luxembourg is a seat of numerous EU-institutions, among them the EC law court, the EC Court of Auditors and the European Investment Bank.



The coat of arms of Luxembourg City



This is the main railway station in Luxembourg City. We arrived here with the train.

The station is lying 2 km outside the city center.

The first station was built in wood and was opened in 1859.

It was replaced by the the new station building between 1907 and 1913.

The latest modernization was done in 2011.



A couple of pictures from stations we passed by.

We stayed at Hotel Bristol, which is lying 300 meter from the railway station.



Outside



The reseption



The dining hall



After having checked in at the hotel, we walked towards the center to have something to eat. Here we are going over the Viaduc bridge and are looking down into the Petrusse valley and a part of the city called [Grund](#).



This is the main square in the city. It is called Place d'Armes. There were showers all the time, so it was a bit wet.



We sat down at a restaurant at the square. It was raining and thundering when we were sitting there.



Kjell had steak. Very good.



Anne Berit had chicken. Very good too.



The restaurant had its own cow.



The restaurant seen from outside. Now the rain has finished.



On our way back to the hotel, we took a picture of this statue of [Grand Duchess Charlotte](#) who was regent of Luxemburg from 1919 to 1964.



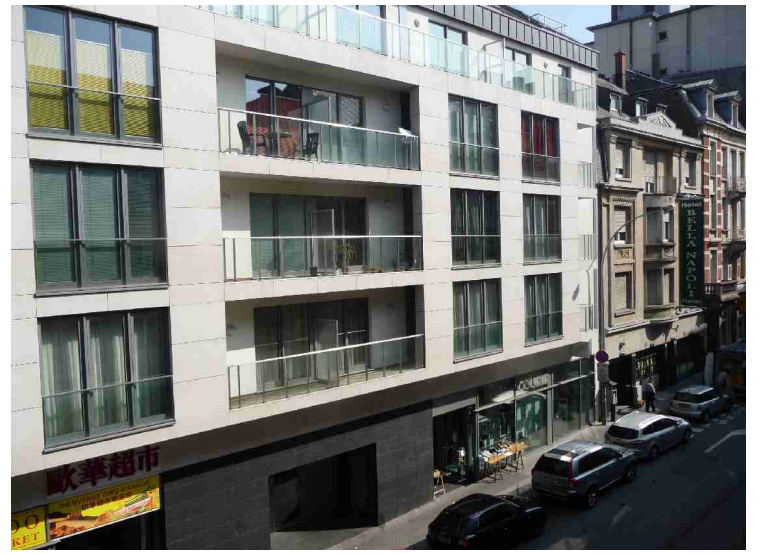
The buildings of Luxembourg National Bank and bank museum with the evening sun behind.



Funny sugar bags.



More sugar bags.



View from the hotel room.



The next day was Saturday and there was a Saturday market in the street beyond the hotel.



The whole street was made a pedestrian street for the occasion.



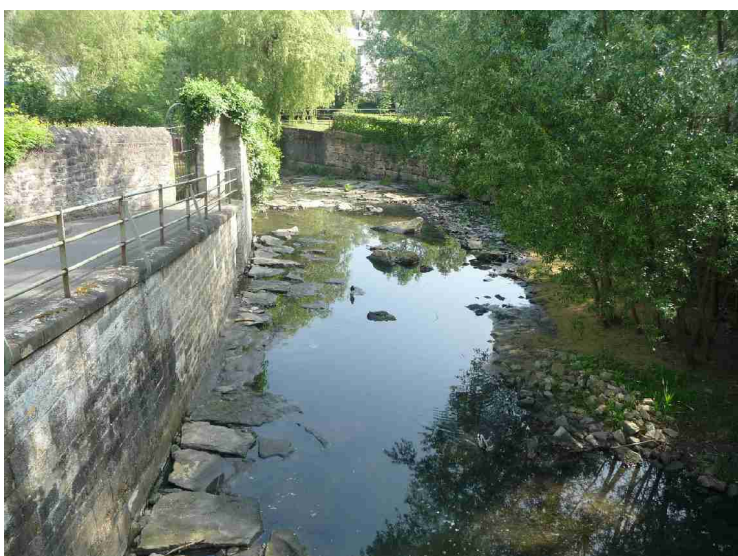
We walked down into the Petrusse valley and towards Grund.



Over the valley is a viaduct for trains and cars.



Old fortification walls around the city. The plateau up to the left is called Plateau du St. Esprit.



There is not much water in the Petrusse river.

Here we see the same walls from another angle. The rock wall is partly roof over some of the buildings.





Now we are down to Grund. This is the river Alzette.



Caves in the rocky wall under the Rahm plateau.



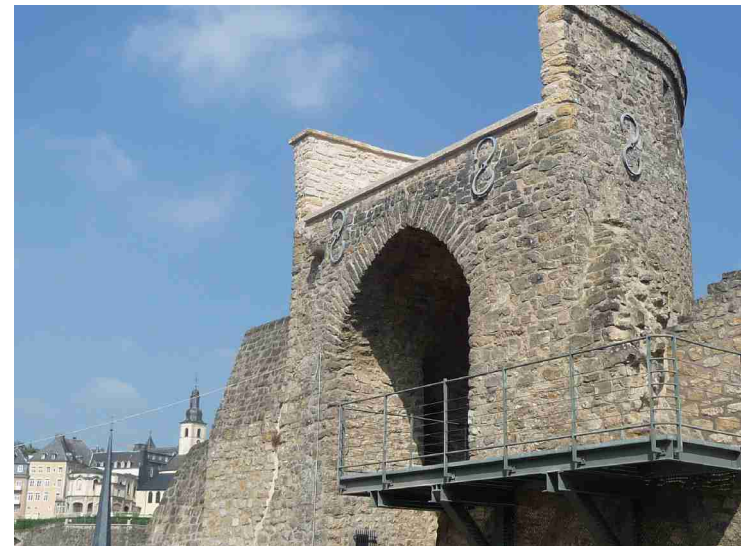
Up at the Rahm plateau where we have a good view over the fortification walls around the city and to Plateau du St. Esprit



Here is Grund down in the valley and in the background we can see the city center and the [cathedral](#) steeples.



St John. The first church was built in 1606.



Some of the walls around the Rahm plateau.



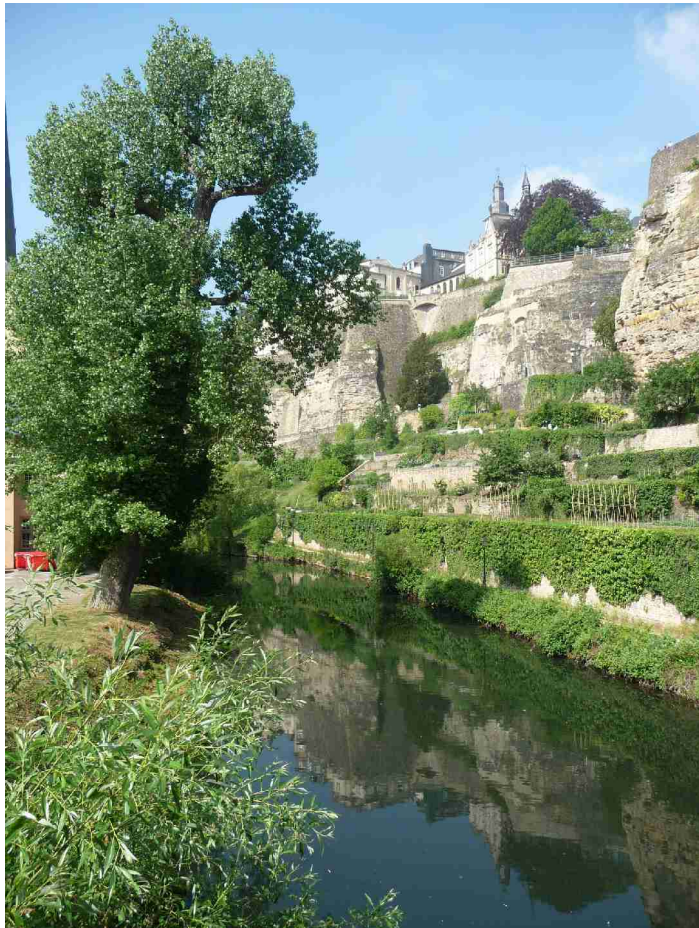
The hill above Alzette and the Grund district is called the Rham plateau. After the french took the Luxembourg city from the Spaniards, they built military defenses in 1685.



Here we go down on the defense wall in the direction of Bock. These are defensive walls connecting the two hills. The wall is called Wencesla's wall.



The Alzette is running quiteley here.



A view up at Bock.



The St. John church from another angle.

In 963 Siegfried, The count of Ardenne, bought this hill. He built his castle here and it played a strategic role. Alzette is slinging on three sides of the hill such that is only accessible from the west. It was therefore easy to defend. The first underground tunnels were built in 1644 and later they were expanded in many levels 40 meter downwards. They were referred to as [Gibraltar in the north](#). The fortification was demolished in 1867, but 17 km of the tunnels has been preserved.

I 1994 UNESO put this place on its list.



Here is built a bridge from the Bock hill across to the rest of the city.

A walkway up to the Bock hill.



Flowers.



We walked down here to get across to the Bock hill.



Here we see Wencesla's wall better. Right behind the wall we also see the [Neumunster Abbey](#) with the St. John church behind.



Zoomed. This is the Stierchen bridge from 1450.



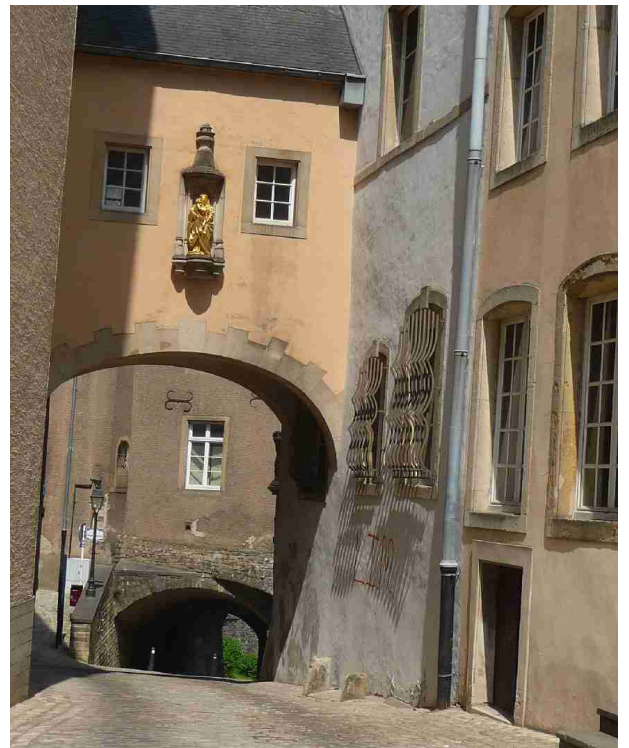
This is on the other side of the Bock hill. The three towers to the left. They are remnants from the old wall around the city.



After having walked over the bridge from the Bock hill, we sat down for a while at this cafe.



Good beer!



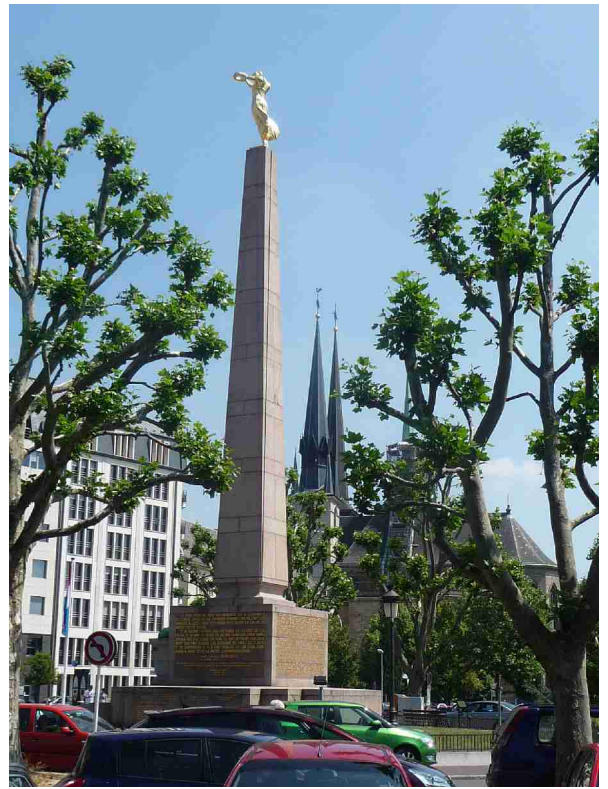
Afterward we went down to the three towers.



Here we see all the tree towers.



Tourist train at the Constitution Square. There are tunnels under this square too. They go under the whole city and over to the Bock tunnels.



In the middle of the square is a tall statue, which is reminding about those who fell in the first world war. The female figure at the top is called «[Gelle Fra](#)» or Golden Lady. It was erected in 1923.



A park in the park right downwards of the Constitution Square.



Kjell is checking the cell phone.



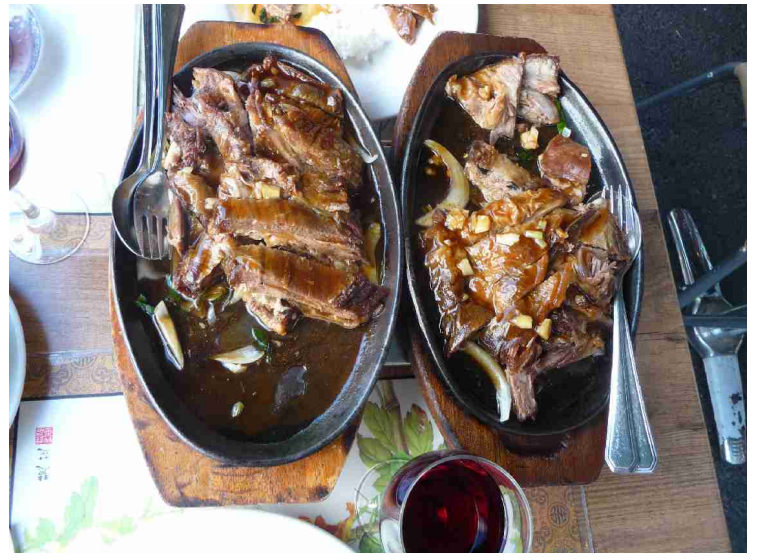
Anne Berit is looking across the Petrusse valley to the [Adolphe bridge](#). It was built 1900-1903 and had at that time the worlds longest span for a stone bridge.



The bank museum at the other side of the Petrusse valley.



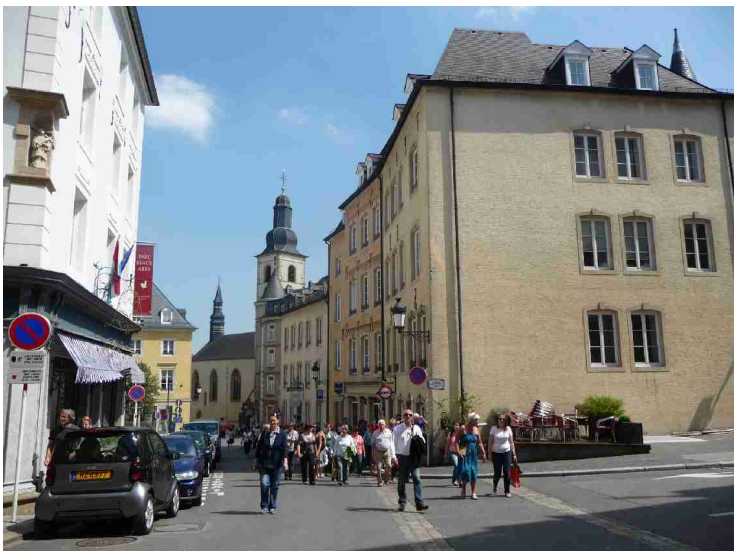
At the main square ([Place d'Armes](#)) again.



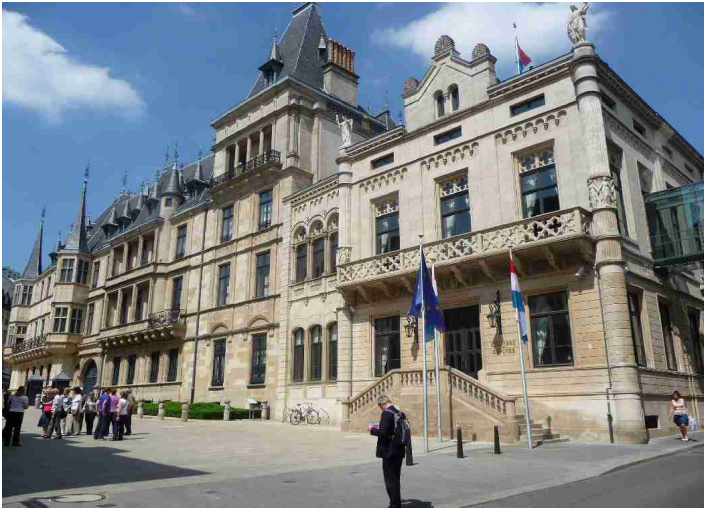
Had lamb at a Chinese restaurant.



Street musicians are trying to make som money.



Street pictures.



[The Grand Ducal Palace.](#)

The town hall.



Nicely decorated bicycle.



Up on the Plateau du st. Esprit and Cite Judiciare.



Stylish urns.



On this plateau there are only court houses.



A view to the railway bridge.



View across the Petrusse valley in the direction where we stayed.



A view across the Petrusse valley in the direction of the bank museum.



To the right is a monument for those who lost their lives in WWII. It was opened in 1971.



Monumental stone



The war monument. There is burning an eternal flame there.



Almost back at the hotel we have glass of wine at Restaurant le Fontaine.



Here we buy water in the shop across the street from the hotel.



A picture of the railway station before we are moving on to Bern the next day.