

6. Tourist attractions in the Western European countries



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UNIVERZITA**

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FAKULTA V KARVINĚ

Předmět:

**The Tourist Attractions in
the Czech Republic and in
the World**

Geography of UK



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- ❑ Landforms of the United Kingdom (UK) include those found in the individual countries of **England, Scotland and Wales**, and the constitutionally distinct region of **Northern Ireland**.
 - ❑ **England** is divided central and north by the Pennines, a low mountain range that stretches for almost (400 km), from Birmingham north into the Cheviot Hills on the Scottish border.
 - ❑ In the far northwest corner of the country - within the Lake District - the highest point in the county, Scafell Pike, stands at 978 m.
 - ❑ In the east-central region of the country, the Fens (or Fenlands) is a area of flat, low-lying marshland drained for agricultural use. The lowest point in the country is found there, at -4 meters below sea level.
 - ❑ **Wales** is hilly, and for the most part, a mountainous country, dominated by the Cambrians, central and north, and by the Brecon Beacons of the south.
 - ❑ Within the Cambrians, small mountain ranges include the Aran and Arennig, Glyderau, Moelwynion and Tryfan. Here, more than a dozen peaks exceed 914 meters. The highest mountain in Wales, Mt. Snowdon, rises to 1,085 meters.
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Geography of UK



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- ❑ The rough and tumble landscape of **Scotland** was once covered by glaciers during the Pleistocene Ice Age. When those masses of ice retreated (or melted) they left in their wake a rocky, pockmarked landscape of mountains and rolling hills, dozens of deep lakes, cold water rivers and streams.
 - ❑ The Northern Highlands are generally mountainous with many lofty peaks. This isolated area is widely considered one of the most scenic spots in Europe.
 - ❑ The granite Grampian Mountains extend southwest to northeast, and include Scotland's (and the UK's) highest point, Ben Nevis, at 1,344 meters.
 - ❑ Scotland has nearly 800 islands. The major groups include the Inner and Outer Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland; most are hilly and rugged.
 - ❑ There are numerous bodies of inland freshwater including Loch Lomond and Loch Ness. The Tweed and Clyde are the largest rivers.
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Geography of UK



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- ❑ Occupying just over 17% of the island of Ireland, Northern Ireland is certainly crisscrossed by uplands and low mountains, but its most prominent and arguably its most valuable landform is Lough Neagh, the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom and one of the largest in western Europe.
 - ❑ As for those mountains, the major ranges include the Sperrin, Mourne, and the (volcanic in origin) Antrim Plateau that stretches along its northeastern coastline. Slieve Donard in the Mourne Mountains of the south is its highest point, rising to 850 meters.
 - ❑ The most striking feature of Northern Ireland is the so-called Giant's Causeway on the north Antrim coast. This area of thousands of interlocking basalt columns is the byproduct of an ancient volcanic eruption, with some of the columns reaching 12 meters high.
 - ❑ Two of the largest rivers, the Bann (north and south) and the Foyle, are fronted by fertile lowland areas. Addition rivers of significance in Northern Ireland include the Logan and Mourne.
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The main tourist attractions in England



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- ❑ **Stonehenge**, 10 miles north of Salisbury on Salisbury Plain, is Europe's best-known prehistoric monument (the site is so popular that visitors need to purchase a timed ticket in advance to guarantee entry). Exhibitions at the excellent visitor center set the stage for a visit, explaining through audio-visual experiences and more than 250 ancient objects how the megaliths were erected and telling about life when they were placed here, between 3000 and 1500 BC.
 - ❑ Prison, palace, treasure vault, observatory, and menagerie - the Tower of London has done it all. Widely considered the most important building in England, there's enough to see and do at this World Heritage Site to keep visitors busy for hours. The centerpiece is the **White Tower**. Built in 1078 by William the Conqueror, it's home to amazing exhibits such as Line of Kings, the **world's oldest visitor attraction** (1652) with its remarkable displays of royal armor. Other highlights include the wonderful **Crown Jewels** exhibition.
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The main tourist attractions in England



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- ❑ If you only have time to visit one smaller city in England, you couldn't do much better than Bath. This remarkably beautiful city boasts more fantastic tourist attractions than you could hope to visit in a day. While most famous for the magnificent 2,000-year-old **Roman Baths** built around the city's rejuvenating hot springs, it's equally well known for its honey-colored **Georgian Townhouses** such as those located on Royal Crescent.
- ❑ With collections of antiquities that are among the world's finest, the British Museum holds more than 13 million artifacts from Assyria, Babylonia, Egypt, Greece, the Roman Empire, China, and Europe. The most famous ancient artifacts are the **Elgin Marbles** from the Parthenon in Athens and **the Rosetta Stone**, but there are many other outstanding pieces on show here.
- ❑ The magnificent **York Minster** is second in importance in the Church of England only to the **cathedral at Canterbury**. It stands in the center of York, surrounded by half-timbered homes and shops, medieval guildhalls, and churches. Elsewhere in **Yorkshire**, you'll find some of England's most beautiful historic towns and cities, including Durham and Beverley.

The main tourist attractions in England



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- ❑ Covering some 900 square miles, the Lake District National Park is a must-visit destination for travelers to England. With 12 of the country's largest lakes and more than 2,000 miles of rights of way waiting to be explored, there's little wonder the region continues to inspire, with its magnificent views and scenery straight out of a painting. Other things to do include visiting the park's many fells, including **Scafell Pike** (3,210 feet), the highest mountain in England.
 - ❑ The incredible **Eden Project** is a collection of unique artificial biomes containing an amazing collection of plants from around the world. Located in a reclaimed quarry in Cornwall, the complex consists of huge domes that look rather like massive igloo-shaped greenhouses. Each houses thousands of different plant species in tropical and Mediterranean environments.
 - ❑ **Warwick Castle** is located in the beautiful city of Warwick on the River Avon, this impressive fortress has dominated the landscape and history of the region for more than 900 years.
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The main tourist attractions in Wales



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- ❑ Think of Wales, and you'll likely think of Snowdonia, the beautiful range of mountains and hills located in the county of Gwynedd. Consisting of 14 majestic peaks over 3,000 feet high - the most famous being the 3,546-foot **Snowdon**, the summit of which is accessible by train - Snowdonia can be seen as far away as **Porthmadog** on the west coast. When you're here, it's easy to see why the area has featured so heavily in local legends, including those based around **King Arthur**, who locals will insist was Welsh. **Snowdonia National Park** is also one of the most popular hiking and climbing destinations in Britain.
 - ❑ Brecon Beacons National Park encompasses one of the most beautiful parts of Wales. This hiker's paradise is bordered by two quite different sets of **Black Mountains**. The first, to the west, is the source of the **River Usk**, while to the east is the range famous for its wild ponies.
 - ❑ Located 12 miles from the seaside town of **Aberystwyth**, Devil's Bridge is actually three bridges spectacularly stacked atop each other, with the oldest dating from the 11th century. They span the **Rheidol Gorge**, where the **River Mynach** plunges 300 feet into the valley far below.
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The main tourist attractions in Wales



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- ❑ Afterward, visit **Hafod Estate**, 200 acres of lovingly restored woodlands and 18th-century gardens once considered the finest in Britain.
 - ❑ Built by King Edward I in the 13th century as a seat for the first Prince of Wales, **Caernarfon Castle** is one of the largest castles in the country. With its 13 towers and two gates, this massive castle is recognized as one of the most impressive and best-preserved medieval fortresses in Europe.
 - ❑ Portmeirion is a beautiful hotel resort and visitor attraction on the coast of Snowdonia National Park in **Gwynedd, North Wales**. Built by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis between 1925 and 1975, Portmeirion was designed to resemble a quaint Italian fishing village.
 - ❑ It took 10 years to design and build the aqueduct that carries the Llangollen Canal across the wide valley of the River Dee in north east Wales, and it remains even today a feat of civil engineering, designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
 - ❑ Separated from mainland Wales by the mile-wide Menai Strait - spanned by the **Menai Suspension Bridge** (1818).
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The main tourist attractions in Scotland



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- ❑ The stone towers and walls of **Edinburgh Castle** have dominated the Edinburgh skyline since the 13th century. Perched atop black basalt rock, it offers magnificent views of the city and a trip through Scotland's tumultuous history. Highlights are the spectacular Crown Jewels; the famous Stone of Destiny (the Stone of Scone); and St. Margaret's Chapel, built in 1130 and the oldest building in Edinburgh. Enter the castle over a drawbridge across an old moat from the broad **Esplanade**, where the famous **Edinburgh Military Tattoo** is held every August.
 - ❑ Below, the Royal Mile stretches down the steep escarpment to the elegant **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, another of Edinburgh's most famous landmarks.
 - ❑ Idyllic **Loch Lomond**, just a short drive northwest of Glasgow, is Britain's largest lake and, according to author Walter Scott, "The Queen of Scottish Lakes." Boat trips are always popular, as are lakeside rambles and longer treks up majestic **Ben Lomond** (3,192 feet), with its spectacular views across the **Trossachs National Park**.
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The main tourist attractions in Scotland



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- ❑ Think of Loch Ness, and you'll probably picture the mythical monster that, according to legend, has made this 23-mile-long loch home for countless centuries. The largest body of water in Scotland's **Great Glen, Loch Ness** is part of a waterway connecting the east and west coasts of Scotland. The canal and each of the lochs is surrounded by some of the most beautiful highland scenery, but no part is more scenic than Loch Ness itself, with the romantic ruins of **Urquhart Castle** on its hillside above the water. **Loch Ness Exhibition at Drumnadrochit Hotel** also has interesting information on the geological formation of Loch Ness and the surrounding area.
 - ❑ For more than 40 years, the **Royal Yacht Britannia** was a floating royal residence, traveling more than 1,000,000 miles around the world.
 - ❑ One of Scotland's most visited attractions, the free **Riverside Museum in Glasgow** gathers together the history of transportation by land and water in an eye-catching new venue. See trams, locomotives, buses, horse-drawn carriages, and vintage cars, along with ships and other models.
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The main tourist attractions in North Ireland



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- ❑ Famed around the world for its columns of layered basalt, the **Giant's Causeway** is Northern Ireland's only **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. These polygonal-shaped natural features were created by a volcanic eruption 60 million years ago. Today, they are the prime focus of a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
 - ❑ Naturally, most visitors' first stop along this scenic coast is the World Heritage-listed **Giant's Causeway**. The surrounding coastline, however, is magnificent and shouldn't be bypassed. Many treats await, including the beautiful beaches, dunes, and rolling waves at **Portrush** (where there's a world-class golf course) and **Portstewart**. If you're feeling brave enough, either is perfect for a bracing dip. An easy ten-minute drive west, through the picturesque village of Bushmills, brings you to ruined medieval **Dunluce Castle**.
 - ❑ A striking landmark, this star-shaped building representing the White Star Line logo traces **Belfast's** maritime history and honors the story of the **Titanic**. Belfast was once the powerhouse of British Empire shipbuilding, a fact that can't be missed in this part of the city.
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The main tourist attractions in North Ireland



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- ❑ It's not just the North Antrim coastline that beguiles. Inland are the nine Glens of Antrim, each exuding its own charm. Drive from Ballycastle towards Larne along the main A2 coast road, and serene lakes, tumbling waterfalls, forest trails, and rolling hills await. **Glenariff**, the 'Queen of the Glens', is the most famous of the nine. Along the way, notice the Glendun Bridge, an excellent example of innovative design and construction. **Ballypatrick Forest Park** has a ten kilometer loop drive around Carneighaneigh Mountain which is especially scenic.
 - ❑ Around 20 minutes' drive from Belfast is the substantial town and port of Carrickfergus, home to imposing **Carrickfergus Castle**. Nearby is the **Andrew Jackson Centre**, the reimagined ancestral home of the 7th president of the USA.
 - ❑ Around 15 minutes drive from Belfast city-center brings you to this '**living**' **museum designed to show Ulster life** more than 100 years ago. There are rebuilt labourers' cottages, working farms, rural schools, and village shops as they once were, as well as 170 acres of parkland to explore.
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Geography of Belgium



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- ❑ There are three main geographical regions to Belgium: the coastal plain, the central plateau, and the Ardennes uplands.
 - ❑ The coastal area is a series of sandy beaches and polders, backed by protecting dunes.
 - ❑ Inland, up to the Meuse River, the land is generally flat, with numerous canals and dikes protecting the land from the sea. It's criss-crossed by many small tributaries of the Schelde River. Valley's, caves and small gorges can also be found in this area.
 - ❑ East of the Meuse, forested hilly conditions rise to the rugged and flat-topped mountains of the Ardennes Region. The highest point is the Botrange, at (694m).
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The main tourist attractions in Belgium



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- ❑ The most recognizable sight in Belgium is the beautiful **Belfry and Halle**, which dominates the main square in **Bruges**. Dating from the medieval era, this impressive building once functioned as the main town market hall and has been wonderfully preserved allowing visitors a real taste of the architectural might of the Middle Ages.
 - ❑ This majestic cathedral with its high Gothic choir and Romanesque crypt showcases the best of religious architecture in Belgium and is Ghent's most outstanding tourist attraction. Although the soaring building, with its harmonious stained glass windows, is a highlight in itself, most people come here to see the famous artwork that graces the interior; specifically the Flemish masterpiece known as **The Altar of Ghent**. Once you've viewed the painting though, don't miss the mammoth **crypt** under the cathedral, which contains important tombs and some beautiful wall paintings.
 - ❑ For many visitors, Belgium's role on the front line of World War I, and in particular the **Battlefields of Flanders** around Ypres are the main reason for a journey here.
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The main tourist attractions in Belgium



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- ❑ **Ghent's Gravensteen** - This hugely impressive fort was once the grand home of the counts of Flanders who took their inspiration for castle-building from the bulky castles the Crusaders built in Syria. Today, Gravensteen is one of Europe's best surviving examples of a moated fortress and has been incredibly well-preserved.
 - ❑ If you're only going to visit one church in Bruges make it this one. **The Basilica of the Holy Blood** is not only impressive for its blending of Romanesque and late Gothic architecture but also for the sacred relic kept inside.
 - ❑ **The Meuse Valley**, in the south of the country, is one of the best places to get a feel for Belgium's lush countryside. This is the perfect opportunity to take a trip along the river watching the beautiful scenery unfurl; dense forests are interspersed with cutesy towns backed by limestone cliffs. In particular, the towns of Namur and **Dinant** act as a gateway to this region, which has a host of hiking and cycling trails for travelers who want to add some activities into their holiday.
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The main tourist attractions in Belgium



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- ❑ Right in the core of Antwerp, sits the town's wonderful Grand Place (also known as the Grote Markt), which contains some of Belgium's finest examples of guild house architecture with their typical steeple-roofed shape. The **Town Hall** here is a well-preserved example of 16th-century construction, and the interior is worth viewing for its collection of paintings that show Antwerp's history. The **guild houses** that still rim the plaza are the major reason to visit the Grote Markt though.
 - ❑ The old town of Mons is a delight to explore. At the center is the **Grand Place**, a main square graced by a variety of typically ornate buildings that span a 400-year period. In particular, the **Toison d'Or House** (1615) and the **Chapel of St. George** (1604) are architectural highpoints. The UNESCO-listed **bell tower** on the hill above town and the **Church of Sainte-Waudru** with its interior crammed full of artistic and religious relics are two of the most important attractions.
 - ❑ Yes, history fans, it is that **Waterloo**; the place where Napoleon was defeated in the famous battle.
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Geography of Netherlands



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- ❑ The Netherlands is a very flat country with almost 25% of its land at, or below sea level.
 - ❑ Low rolling hills cover some of the central area, and in the far south, the land rises into the foothills of the Ardennes Mountains. Vaalserberg, the country's highest point is located there, rising to 322 m.
 - ❑ Stretched along the northern coastline, the West Frisian Islands continue on to the northeast, becoming the German East Frisian Islands. These barrier islands, separated from the mainland by the Waddenzee, provide a small level of protection from the North Sea.
 - ❑ The Netherlands is crossed by hundreds of miles of navigable canals. One of the most important is the North Sea Canal, as it enables ocean-going ships to reach the port of Amsterdam.
 - ❑ Water, water everywhere, as the central and southern Netherlands are positioned at the delta of four major rivers, including the Rijn, Mass, Scheldt and Waal.
 - ❑ The country's largest lakes, IJsselmeer and Markermeer are both manmade, created by dikes.
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The main tourist attractions in Netherlands



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- ❑ Like Venice, that other famous city built on water, the one enduring memory any visitor to **Amsterdam** will have is of time spent exploring the city's wonderful **canals**. While many of Amsterdam's best tourist attractions can be easily accessed by boat tour or water taxi - including most of the major museums and art galleries.
- ❑ Think of the Netherlands, and you'll inevitably think of tulips, the country's most popular flower. And there's nowhere better to enjoy its rich floral bounty than at **the Keukenhof**, otherwise known as the Garden of Europe. On the outskirts of **Lisse**, in what's widely considered the "bulb belt" of the Netherlands, Keukenhof is the largest public garden in the world encompassing more than 70 acres of what was once the former kitchen (or "keuken") garden of a large country estate.
- ❑ The spectacular **Rijksmuseum** (aka the Dutch National Museum) in Amsterdam has been collecting rare art and antiquities since 1809. Not surprisingly, its extensive collection today amounts to nearly seven million works of art, including 5,000 paintings in more than 250 rooms, as well as a vast library with some 35,000 books.

The main tourist attractions in Netherlands



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- ❑ You may be surprised to learn that the Netherlands, a relatively small country, boasts one of the world's most diverse national park programs. The largest is **Hoge Veluwe National Park** between Arnhem and Apeldoorn. Covering nearly 13,800 acres, this national park is the largest continuous nature reserve in the country, as well as being one of the most popular day trip destinations for locals and visitors alike.
 - ❑ **The Anne Frank Museum** is a must-see when in Amsterdam. On **Prinsengracht**, in the home where Anne's family hid for much of WWII (they were Jewish refugees from Frankfurt), is where this remarkable girl wrote her famous diary.
 - ❑ On the River Noord between Rotterdam and Dordrecht is the famous village of **Kinderdijk** ("Children's Dike"), which takes its name from an incident during the St. Elizabeth's Day flood of 1421 after a child's cradle had been stranded on the dike. The big draw these days are the fantastically preserved 18th-century windmills. Now **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, the 19 Kinderdijk windmills are the largest surviving concentration of windmills in the Netherlands.
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The main tourist attractions in Netherlands



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- ❑ As befits one of the world's greatest artists, the spectacular **Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam** is ranked an impressive 35th in the top art museums globally, attracting almost 1.5 million visitors each year.
 - ❑ For those looking for a little ancient history, the Netherlands is not without its own medieval (and earlier) attractions. Romantic little Valkenburg, in the picturesque Geul Valley, boasts the country's only hilltop castle. Long a popular holiday resort, the town's other big draws are its many caves and the spa facilities at **Thermae 2000**, one of the largest such establishments in the Netherlands. In addition to the ruins of the 12th-century castle on Dwingelrots (Castle Rock), there's also the interesting 14th-century **St. Nicolaaskerk Basilica**. Another highlight is the town's famous **Christmas Market**.
 - ❑ **Zeeland's Spectacular Dikes** - Incorporating the deltas of the Rhine, the Maas, and the Schelde Rivers, Zeeland includes the numerous islands and peninsulas of the southwestern section of the Netherlands.
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Geography of Luxembourg



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- ❑ Luxembourg is a landlocked country of thick, green forests that cover rolling hills and low mountains.
 - ❑ The northern region, (Oesling) is a ridged plateau, with land that suffers from bad soil composition, and remains (for the most part) unproductive.
 - ❑ Slicing across the northern border with Belgium are the Ardennes (low mountains), while the southern region of Gutland is blessed with fertile soil and nourishing rivers.
 - ❑ Luxembourg's highest point, Burgplatz, stands at (559m).
 - ❑ Important rivers include the Alzette, Eisch, Moselle, Our and Sure.
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The main tourist attractions in Luxembourg



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- ❑ There's no better place to begin exploring beautiful **Luxembourg City** than in its historic **Old Quarter**. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994, the city's ancient fortifications made it one of the most important of Europe's cities. The fortress was so impregnable it was dubbed the "Gibraltar of the North," and although the original fortress was dismantled between 1867-1883, its impact upon the Old Quarter is evident everywhere.
 - ❑ **National Museum of History and Art, Luxembourg City** - if you were to judge Luxembourg City on the quality of its museums - never mind its status as one of Europe's most historically important cities - it would still rank extremely high on the list of the continent's must-see cities. Topping the list is the National Museum of History and Art. In the historic Fish Market area (the old town center), the MNHA collections - art objects, archeological finds, furniture, tools, coins, arms, and documents dealing with the history of the country - are housed in a stunning new building.
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The main tourist attractions in Luxembourg



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- ❑ **Luxembourg's Bock cliff**, with its fortifications and cannon-loopholes, is where you'll find the entrance to the famous **Casemates**, a 21-kilometer network of underground passages hewn from solid rock. Capable of sheltering thousands of defenders as well as equipment, horses, workshops, kitchens, and slaughterhouses, the Casements cover an impressive 40,000 square meters.
 - ❑ The spectacular Walls of the Corniche in Luxembourg City have been called "the most beautiful balcony in Europe," towering as they do over the old city in the river valley below. It's here, you'll find the big **Gate of the Grund** dating from 1632.
 - ❑ Luxembourg's Place Guillaume, one of the city's largest open spaces, is the former site of a Franciscan convent that has since been converted into a pedestrian zone. In the center is the equestrian statue of William II, King of Holland and Grand Duke of Luxembourg. It's also where you'll find the lovely **Town Hall** and the famous Trémont's lions. Nearby is the 16th-century **House of Raville** with its beautiful façade, well-restored balcony, and spiral staircase.
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The main tourist attractions in Luxembourg



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- ❑ **Echternach and its Benedictine Abbey** - The beautiful town of Echternach lies on the bank of the River Sûre, which forms the border with Germany. The Mullerthal and Germano-Luxembourg natural park are nearby, and the surrounding woods are crisscrossed with hundreds of footpaths leading to spectacular rock formations, waterfalls, and viewpoints. Echternach is also famous for its **international music festival**, which runs from late May to late June.
 - ❑ **The Luxembourg Ardennes** -The area - famous as the place where Hitler staged his last great campaign of WWII - boasts numerous castles, fortresses, and fortified farms rising out of the hilltops. One of the prettiest towns, **Wiltz**, consists of an upper and lower town and is famous for its open-air theater and music festival. There's also a **Battle of the Bulge Museum** in Wiltz Castle (another WWII-themed museum of note in the Ardennes is the **Patton Museum** and monument in Ettelbruck). The quaint village of **Clervaux** is also worth checking out. While the village lies amid a deep and narrow valley beside the river Clerve, its **Benedictine Abbey of St. Maurice and St. Maur**.
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The main tourist attractions in Luxembourg



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- ❑ **Bourscheid Castle** - The village of Bourscheid stands high on a plateau and is bordered by the rivers Sûre and Wark. Here, you'll find excellent views and many pleasant walks to other quaint villages, including Michelau in the Sûre Valley, Welscheid in the Wark Valley, and Kehmen on the platea.
 - ❑ **Mondorf-les-Bains and the Moselle-** One of the newest attractions here is **Mondorf le Domaine Thermal**, a large spa complex that houses a health center, sports and leisure club, and hotel. The complex's thermal installations are fed by springs supplying a mineral water of 24°C that is famous for its medicinal qualities. Afterwards, stroll through Mondorf Park with its large collection of trees, shrubs, and flowerbeds. Other highlights include 18th-century **St. Michael's Church** with its furniture and frescoes; the **Castel**, a little Roman fortress transformed into a hermitage during the Middle Ages; and the Art Nouveau houses.
 - ❑ **Upper Sûre Natural Park** consists of plateaus, narrow valleys with wooded slopes, and the lake of the Upper Sûre dam. The park is great for leisure activities and watersports, as well as for its wildlife and ecotourism.
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Thank you for your attention
