

TRAINING IN THE OF EU



THE GREEN HEART EUROPE



Training in Luxembourg

As a professional, attending certification trainings comes after searching for a good trainer, which could be checked through his professional experience from his CV or LinkedIn account. Indeed, a non-certified trainer with little to no experience in the field might not deliver added value to the certification course. That was always my focus when I wanted to pass a certification until I came to Luxembourg.

Some fascinating facts about Luxembourg, which I am sharing later in this article, made my experience richer than I had anticipated prior to settling in this country. As a PECB Certified Trainer, I knew that I could deliver more to my clients given what this country offers at different levels.

Being in the center of Western Europe, Luxembourg is an economic hub, not only by its location, but also by the number of big companies, banks, and European institutions, and by sharing borders with France, Germany, and Belgium, Luxembourg attracts businesses, investors, and professionals from all around the world. The exchange of expertise and life experience with people coming from different countries is guaranteed in almost all kinds of events.

A candidate who chooses to attend trainings in Luxembourg will not only take advantage of the trainer's real-life experience but also the diversified professional paths of the other candidates coming from different countries and having worked in different sectors and different companies, like central European banks, public sectors, and big companies who chose their headquarters to be in Luxembourg.

This context made Information Security and Cybersecurity more interesting given the complex business being in place, and of course, the sharp technologies and advanced methodologies used to keep it secure!

And that was not all!

Transport and Accommodation

Findel International Airport (LUX/ELLX) is the only international airport in Luxembourg. Although it is a small airport, it serves many countries in Europe and outside of the continent. Not far from Luxembourg City, the airport can be reached by car, bus, and taxi.

A big number of hotels of different ranges are available across the country offering different pricing to match high and limited budget. There are hotels just next to the Airport which is reassuring for people bringing heavy luggage or for those who do not trust public transport to catch their flight.

The country of Luxembourg highly encourages people to use public transport. And so do we. Besides the many



known benefits for climate change, public transport in Luxembourg is one of the best ways to explore the country as it is very fast, and since 2020, it is also free throughout the entire country.

A Visit to Enjoy

The list of places to visit when visiting Luxembourg is endless. Whether you are more interested in history,

science, or have other interests, you can find many places to visit and enjoy.

Historic Landmarks

Even though a small country, over the years, Luxembourg has a rich history dating back to the 10th century. Influenced by many cultures and eventful history, Luxembourg is home to many fascinating historical attractions.



1. Casemates du Bock

The Bock rock and the casemates are a series of underground tunnels and passageways approximately 23 km long, built for protection purposes. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994 and it is visited by over 100,000 tourists every year. This must-see attraction provides visitors with a unique experience different from other conventional tours allowing them to delve into the history of the county.



2. The Grand Ducal Palace

The Grand Ducal Palace is the official town residence of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg. He and the Grand Duchess, and their staff, have their offices in the palace. Besides being used by the Grand Duke to perform his official duties, the palace is also used for a variety of meetings, to accommodate important guests like foreign heads of state, and it is also used as a venue for many state ceremonies and official receptions. The palace is also known for its magnificent, unique, and beautiful façade.

3. Château de Bourscheid

The charming Castle of Bourscheid is the biggest castle in Luxembourg and has an impressive structure with characteristic round towers. It is believed that the castle was built around the year 1000 as a part of the Holy Roman Empire. Besides being beautiful itself, standing 150 meters above the River Sure, the castle is surrounded by picturesque views as well. In the evening, the building is illuminated looking like a fairy-tale castle.



4. Vianden Castle

As one of the largest and most beautiful feudal residences from the Romanesque and Gothic eras, Vianden Castle is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Luxembourg and one of Europe's leading historical monuments.

During their visit, tourists can enjoy the beautiful exterior and interior of the castle, and also the amazing view of Northern Luxembourg.



6. Esch-sur-Sûre Castle

Located in a small town with the same name, Esch-sur-Sûre is a ruined castle whose foundation dates back to the year 927.

Even in this condition, the castle still manages to offer a fairy-tale-like atmosphere. In addition, the beautiful surrounding mountains and river make the view even more fascinating.



5. Clervaux Castle

Laying in a valley between forests, the white Clervaux Castle immediately catches the visitor's attention and takes over the rest of the city.

Clervaux Castle dates back to the 12th century, however, being destroyed during the Second World War, the castle was fully restored afterward. The castle is home to several museums and exhibitions, including here the famous "The Family of Man".



Museums in Luxembourg

There are more than 60 museums in the Grand Duchy that enable visitors to explore the history, culture, and heritage of Luxembourg. Among many museums, here are some of the most popular ones:



1. Luxembourgish Aviation Museum

Visit Luxembourgish Aviation Museum and discover many model aircrafts, historical parts, and accessories from Luxembourg's fascinating aeronautical heritage. Immerse yourself in the world of aeronautics developments and get introduced to different disciplines like motorized and gliding aviation, parachuting, etc. See the oldest wooden plane to have flown in Luxembourg in 1946 and the first hot-air balloon. Moreover, learn how weather stations work, how a conversation between the pilot and the control tower sounds, and explore the centerpiece of the museum, the "Klemm".

2. National Museum of History and Art

Situated in Luxembourg City, the National Museum of History and Art is a perfect place to visit many artworks and artifacts from all periods of Luxembourg's history. The museum has a lot to offer to its visitors including themed exhibits, permanent coins and medals collection, and many archaeological artifacts.

3. Mudam Luxembourg Modern Art Museum

Mudam Luxembourg or Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean is a museum of modern art in Luxembourg City that opened in 2006 in a spectacular building. Its main mission is to present the most relevant art of the time by displaying current artistic trends.



4. Lëtzebuerg City Museum

The Lëtzebuerg City Museum is a wonderful place to see a thousand years of Luxembourg City's history brought back to life. Through many spectacular displays and multimedia animations, the museum has found the perfect interactive approach to highlight the key historic moments of the city.



5. Casino Luxembourg

Located in the heart of the city, Casino Luxembourg Forum d'art contemporain was founded in 1996. Since then it has been holding many international contemporary art exhibitions. The museum has combined art with a warm and friendly atmosphere, making it welcoming for everyone.

Things to Do in Luxembourg

Besides falling in love with the history and culture of Luxembourg and admiring the architectural masterpieces, there are many other exciting activities you can do during your stay in Luxembourg.

Hiking

Luxembourg has many fascinating hiking trails and it is an ideal destination for nature lovers. Among these trails, some of the most famous ones are:

- 1. Mullethal Trail** – Located in the Mullerthal Region, also known as Luxembourg's little Switzerland, this trail is 112 km long and has three main trail routes, each characterized by its own uniqueness. The first route is rich with rocks, woods, and meadows. The second route brings hikers to fascinating rock formations in the heart of Mullerthal. The third route not only has man rocks, but also many romantic castles and enchanting stream valleys.
- 2. Echternacher Wollfsschlucht** – This 13.4-long trail along the German-Luxembourg border is great for camping and hiking. It is considered to be one of the most interesting trails in Luxembourg surrounded by great views of impressive rock formations.
- 3. Escapardenne Lee Trail** – This over 50 km long-distance trail runs through dense forests and river valleys. It offers breathtaking landscapes and it is ideal for hikers seeking adventures.
- 4. Manternacher Fiels** – is a nationally protected area and a certified premium hiking trail. The center of this area covers 57 hectares and is the largest canyon forest in Luxembourg. Human intervention in the forest area is very limited and it has not been cultivated for about 50 years. While walking on this trail, you get to enjoy the view of many beautiful forests, water sights, and impressive rocks.



Running

Do you love running? If yes Luxembourg will take really good care of you by offering good and fun running activities. The stunning views definitely call for some sight running tours.

- 1. Luxembourg 'Runseeing' Tour** – This 10 km running loop is an incredibly fun way of exercising by seeing some of Luxembourg's best sights at the same time. The route starts near the Central train station and heads towards the Pont Adolphe Bridge where you can enjoy the view over the Petrusse valley. The trail also takes you to other parts of the city where you can run alongside two river paths. During the run, one also gets to see many important monuments. The runners can also climb during a part of the trail or they can choose to use the Pfaffenthal lift to rejoin the route later on top.
- 2. Wenzel Circular Walk** – This run will take start at the Bock Promontory which is the rock on which Luxembourg City was first built. Visitors get to see the oldest parts of Luxembourg City, some beautiful nature views, and many great buildings, among which is the Chemin de la Corniche, which is also referred to as the most beautiful balcony in Europe. The entire Wenzel Circular Walk is 5.5km long, however, you can also choose to run longer distances using other paths and streets.
- 3. Parc Municipal and Parc Merl-Belair** – Luxembourg City has many gorgeous and lovely parks and this run will get you to two of them: The Municipal Park and the Merl-Belair Park. Even though in a fairly short and flat route, the run will be very pleasant and the views are magnificent.

- 4. Petrusse Valley Parks** – This run will take you away from the city’s business and will get you to a calming park hidden in the city. The route will allow you to see impressive fortification ruins and other “strange” rock formations.

Cycling

Having 600 km of cycling routes and more than 700 km of mountain bike trails, Luxembourg makes a great place for cycling enthusiasts. Whether you are a professional biker, or cycling is just a hobby for you, Luxembourg offers delightful rides for everyone and amazing landscapes. A very famous cycling group is The Velosvedettes who is also known as the “Spice Girls” of Luxembourg’s cycling world. This group is amazing for those who want to experience outdoor fun while becoming part of communities and creating new friendships.

Water Activities

Among many activities, the Grand Duchy is also known for hosting many water activities. Having lots of streams, lakes, and amusement parks, it is a great place for having fun water experiences. Two of the most well-known water and amusement parks highly rated by travelers on TripAdvisor are AquaPark Kaul and Schueberfourer.

Depending on your hobbies and preferences, in Luxembourg, you can do numerous water activities and pleasures like riding in a calm and peaceful passenger boat or riding a speedy and adventurous motorboat, both of which will be done while admiring the green breathtaking mountains surrounding the river. Moreover, you can go for a session of wakeboarding, which is like waterskiing, and



do not worry, you do not have to be an athlete to do that. Canoeing and kayaking are some other unforgettable fun ways to discover the beauty of Luxembourg’s rivers and even the plant and animal life.

Pedalo is another water exercise that you can try with your friends and family. A famous place for doing pedalo in Luxembourg is Echternach, the oldest town of Echternach. Having many species of fish, Luxembourg is also the perfect place for fishing, however, you do need a fishing license first. Another adventurous water activity that you can do in Luxembourg that is really trendy is the stand-up paddleboard. A fabulous place for this sport is Upper Sure Lake.

We have not forgotten about swimming either. Luxembourg has many lovely beaches where you can enjoy the sun, the flora, and the cool fresh grassy areas to cool down, and you can have fun swims. Swimming in the clear water surrounded by amazing views is an unforgettable way to spend high-temperature days.

Local and International Food

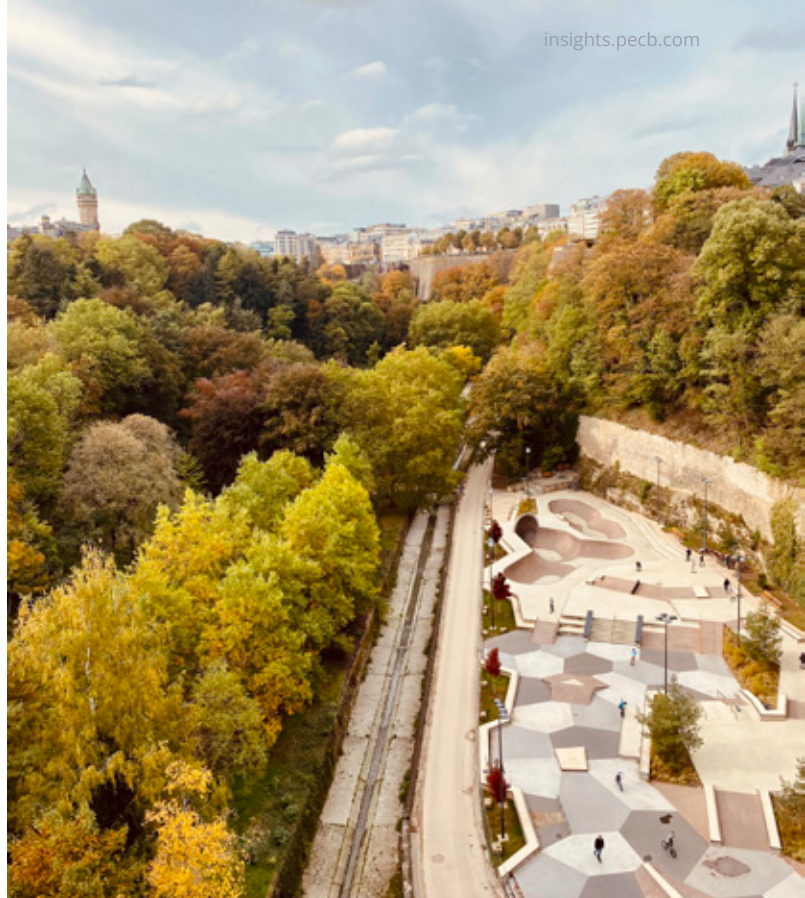
Luxembourg has its own cuisine, a delicious one of course. Some of the famous local meals are Bouneshclupp, a green bean soup, is one of Luxembourg’s specialties usually served with Gromperekichelcher (potato pancakes), Rendfleischbitt (beef broth with vermicelli), and Gromperenzopp (a potato soup with leeks, egg yolks, and cream).

Besides, you can find literally all kinds of cuisines. By walking in the city, you can easily find Italian, Japanese, Chinese, French, Moroccan restaurants, and the list is very long. No matter what the allergy or diet is, there is a restaurant to care for that. This can easily be checked through Google and the restaurants websites.

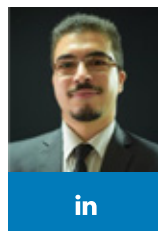


Facts About Luxembourg

- › Luxembourg is one of the safest countries in the world.
- › Luxembourgers are typically tri-lingual, with the country having three official languages: German, French, and Luxembourgish or Lëtzebuergesch.
- › Luxembourg is the only remaining Grand Duchy in the world with a Grand Duke as head of state.
- › Luxembourg is a landlocked country bordered by Belgium to the West, France to the South, and Germany to the East.
- › Luxembourg is the richest country in the world, with a PPP per capita value of \$118,503.6. The small country is one of the major economies in the Eurozone.
- › It had the largest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in the world in 2014 at \$111,716 based on the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Report in April 2015.
- › The entire country's population is approximately 525,000 and 43% of which are foreign residents. It has the highest number of expats among European countries.



- › Luxembourg is among the twelve founding member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- › Luxembourg was also among the six founders of the European Union together with Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands.
- › Skype's corporate headquarters, as well as the European headquarters of Amazon, Paypal, Rakuten, and Rovi Corp. are based in Luxembourg because it is a known strong financial center and tax haven.
- › Public transport including buses, funiculars, tramways, and trains are totally free within the country.
- › One of the country's most famous attractions is the Bock Casemates, a 21-kilometer underground tunnel network.



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Abdelmalek Najih is an Information Security Expert. He has been working as an auditor, adviser, and trainer in the field of information and cybersecurity with clients in various sectors in different countries in Africa and Europe. Mr. Najih's expertise are mainly oriented toward information security governance, risk, and compliance.