

Luxembourg

Facts and Statistics

Location: Western Europe, bordering Belgium 148 km, France 73 km, Germany 138 km

Capital: Luxembourg

Population: 462,690 (July 2004 est.)

Ethnic Make-up: Celtic base (with French and German blend), Portuguese, Italian, Slavs (from Montenegro, Albania, and Kosovo) and European (guest and resident workers)

Religions: 87% Roman Catholic, 13% Protestants, Jews, and Muslims (2000)

Language in Luxembourg

French and German are the official languages of Luxembourg. The spoken language of the majority of the 400,000 population is Luxembourgish. The 1984 Language Act determines that French is the only language of legislation, and that French, German as well as Luxembourgish can be used for administrative or judicial purposes. Official documents are usually not available in Luxembourgish.

Luxembourg Society & Culture

The Family

- . Luxembourg is a small country and many people remain in the same town in which they were raised, therefore creating close extended families.
- . Obligation to one's family is a person's first priority.
- . Parents are intimately involved in the education and career choices of their children.
- . The family is the social adhesive of the country and each member has certain duties and responsibilities.

Religion

- . The majority of the people are Roman Catholic, although Article 19 of the constitution guarantees freedom of religion.
- . The church's strong influence on the culture is reflected in the national holidays, many of which are religious observances.
- . It is also seen in the respect for hierarchical relationships, the formal and ritualized behaviour, and the way that the family is seen as the basis of the social structure.

Privacy

- . Although friendly and informal with close friends and family, Luxembourgers are often reserved and formal when dealing with outsiders. . They are private people and do not put their possessions or emotions on display.
- . Luxembourgers do not ask personal questions and will refuse to answer should you intrude on their privacy.
- . Personal life is kept separate from business.
- . If a friendship develops at work and is carried into the personal arena, this camaraderie will not be brought into the office.
- . Personal matters are not discussed with friends, no matter how close.