



# MINETTTRAIL



LUXEMBOURG



KABAISERCHER



90 km

HIKING





## WELCOME TO THE MINETT REGION

The **'Minett'**, as Luxembourgers call the region in the south of the country, owes its name to the bright red iron ore which dominates the natural landscape and gives the earth its flaming colour. This ferrous ore significantly contributed to the economic development and rapid growth of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in the mid-19th century. For decades, the valuable rock was extracted in underground mines and open pits, until the last open-cast mine was finally closed in 1981 and humans withdrew from the area.

These plots lay fallow for years. Nature regained ground, and little by little, new forms of life were breathed into this land that mankind had deeply transformed. As a result, the Minett region presents exceptional biodiversity, so much so that in October 2020, it was listed as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. Since then, the Minett region has donned the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve title.

You can now experience all this biodiversity firsthand by trekking the Minett Trail, a 90 km-long itinerary that runs through the region, connecting various hiking highlights. The Minett Trail is divided into twelve sections, crossing small villages, urban areas that are visibly shaped by their steel-milling past, and remote natural wonders where you will find yourself surrounded by incredible fauna and flora.

Large portions of the Trail run through nature reserves, including former open-cast mining sites. Here, you will discover a variety of living organisms and plants that have found their home in the area's dry environment. The variety of the landscapes is remarkable, ranging from steep cliffs to dry grasslands, wetlands and forests.

You can easily hike the Minett Trail by dividing your walk into approximately twelve stages. The numerous points of entry to the paths allow for great flexibility when you plan your adventure. As from the spring of 2022, visitors are even able to stay on the Trail overnight and sleep in one of the eleven new hikers' hostels on their route. These 'Kabaisercher', as they are known in Luxembourgish, were

designed by eleven architecture firms who were entrusted with the renovation of existing constructions or designing new buildings. These lodgings all share the same objective: to honour the Minett's industrial past and cultural diversity. Treat yourself to the highest levels of comfort offered in a renovated weighing house or in a fairy-tale castle – it will be well worth the experience!



## ACCESS

### By public transport

Plan your journey by bus or train on [www.mobilitet.lu](http://www.mobilitet.lu). Public transport is free throughout Luxembourg for all types of transport (buses, trains and trams). This offer applies to residents, cross-border workers and tourists alike.

### By car

From Luxembourg City, drive there via the A3 or A4 motorway. The A13 crosses the entire region from the Belgian border (Pétange — Frisange).





- Town / Stage
- ◐ Nature reserve
- ◓ Kabaisercher

# MINETT TRAIL

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1.

**MINETT**

**UNESCO**

**BIOSPHERE**

## WHAT IS THE MINETT UNESCO BIOSPHERE?

To be listed as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, among other criteria, the area must reflect the impact of human activity on nature. The Minett region, which was heavily affected by industrial activity from the end of the 19th century to the 1990s, meets that requirement.

The extraction of iron ore (locally known as 'Minett') in the area until the 1970s and the subsequent closure of the mines have left profound traces on the land, which are reflected in its architecture, brownfields, mines and particularly in its immigration history. Over the years, nature has triumphed over the former sites and several conservation areas have been created. The region is also undergoing in-depth, major urban regeneration — a renewal inspired by the industrial and cultural heritage that forms part of the Minett's regional identity. Nowadays, the stepped landscape is occupied by orchards, chalk grasslands, lowland hay meadows, ravine and riverside forests, as well as wetlands. These are now the habitats of a large number of conservation-worthy fauna and flora species.

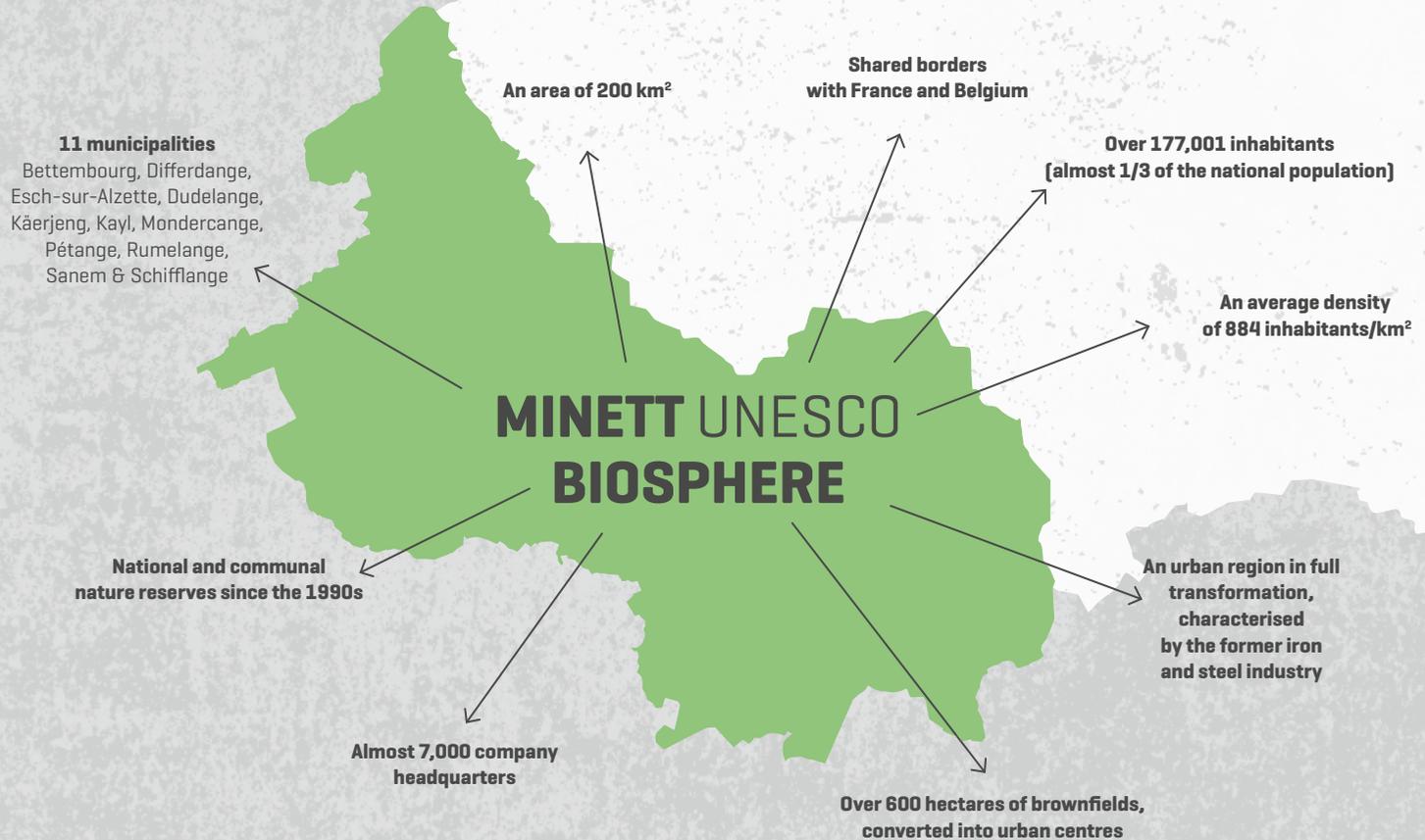
The manmade mines and terraced landscapes also make up the Minett Biosphere. In the past, these were places of intensive industrial activity, but today, they prove that mankind's impact on nature can also be positive. The closure of the underground and open pit mines led to the proliferation of a variety of plants and fauna in the area, including orchids, butterflies, bats, amphibians, lizards, reptiles and birds.

Today, the goal is to ensure the greater sustainability of human activity in the region, so as to protect nature in the area.



### Several activities have been undertaken, including:

- The creation of a research programme in coordination with the region's scientific partners;
- Promote the sustainable development programmes aimed at primary-school children and encouraging the active participation of secondary-school pupils as well as citizens at large;
- Plans to highlight and protect industrial, natural and cultural heritage;
- The promotion of sustainable tourism;
- Strengthening the region's identity and raising its profile.



## NATURE IN THE MINETT REGION

The natural landscapes in the former open-cast mining areas are unique. Rare animal and plant species can be seen there, such as:



the species:  
80 **butterfly species**,  
870 **moth species**,  
400 **wild bee and wasp species**,  
**praying mantis**



the species:  
**Wood larks**,  
**tree pipits**,  
**garden redstarts**,  
**eagle owls, woodpeckers**, etc



the species:  
**Wall lizards**,  
**sand lizards**,  
**smooth snakes**,  
**slow worms**





Blooming period:

**May - June**

30 different **orchid** species

Currently, 21 of the 36 orchid species native to Luxembourg can be found in the former open-cast mining area named 'Prënzeberg - Giele Botter'. These orchids flower in a variety of habitats, such as dry grasslands, wetlands, at the edges of woods and in forests. The region offers an incredible diversity of biotopes, allowing numerous types of orchids to grow on the former mining sites. Regardless of how different these habitats may seem, they all share one characteristic: nutrient levels are low, i.e., plants have little to feed off. Unlike their tropical relatives, some of whom live on trees, all native orchid species grow in soil.

It is forbidden to pick or dig them out!

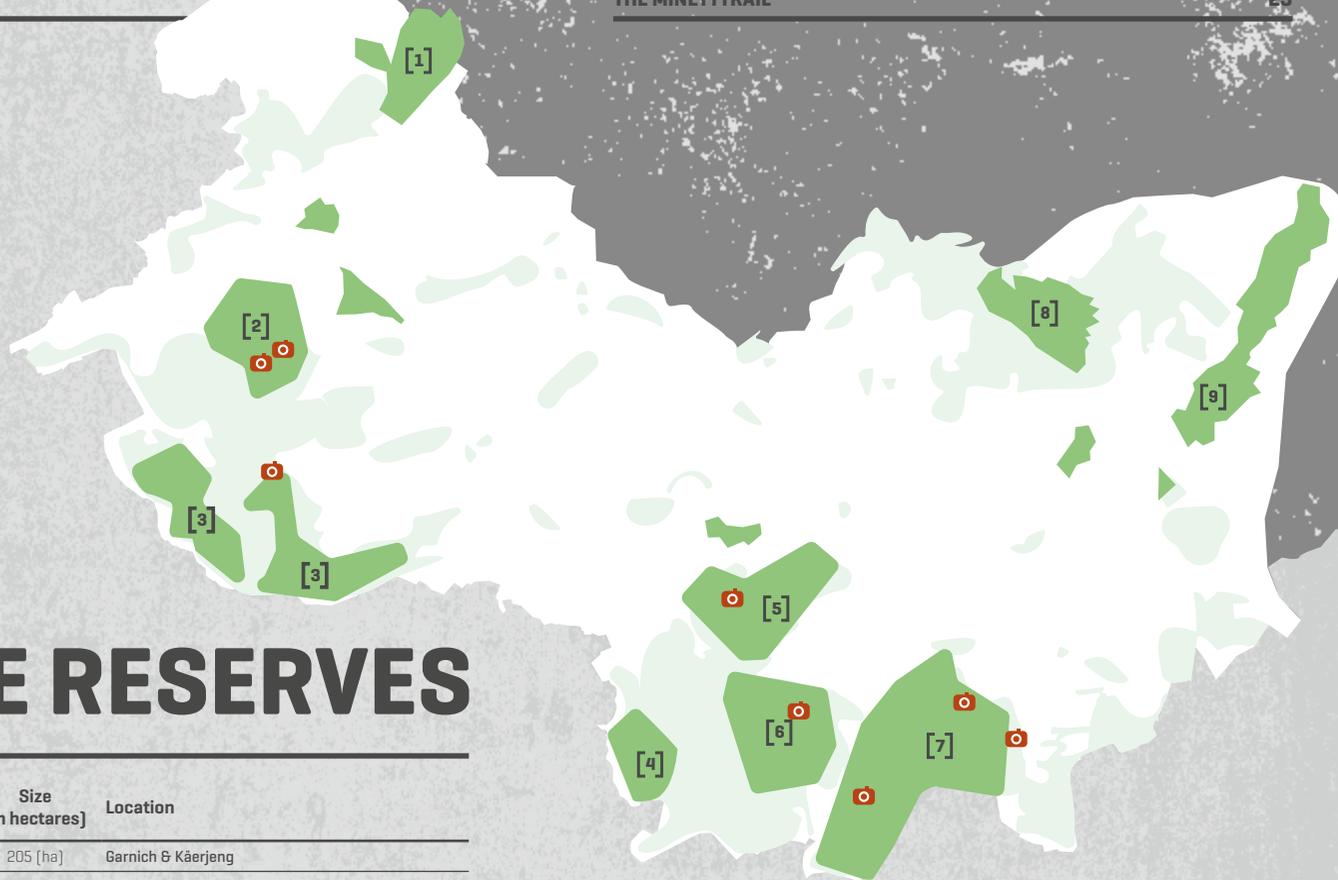


2.

**THE**

**MINETT**

**TRAIL**



# NATURE RESERVES

Nature reserve	Size (in hectares)	Location
1 "Hautcharage - Griechten"	205 [ha]	Garnich & Käerjeng
2 "Pränzebiurg - Giele Botter"	255 [ha]	Differdange & Pétange
3 "Kiemerchen - Scheiergronn - Groussebësch"	392 [ha]	Differdange & Sanem
4 "Ellergronn"	110 [ha]	Esch-sur-Alzette
5 "Brucherbiurg - Lalléngerbiurg"	267 [ha]	Schifflange, Kayl-Tétange, Esch-sur-Alzette
6 "Léiffrächen"	306 [ha]	Kayl-Tétange, Rumelange
7 "Haard - Hesselsbiurg - Staebierg"	594 [ha]	Dudelange, Kayl-Tétange, Rumelange
8 "Beetebuurger Bësch"	237,32 [ha]	Leudelange & Abweiler
9 "Roeserbann"	352,67 [ha]	Hesperange, Roeser

35%

semi-natural  
substrate

25%

paved paths

40%

composite  
slabs

9

conservation areas

8

towns

7

villages

# THE MINETT TRAIL IN FIGURES

Where to start

**Clemency, Bettembourg or Dudelange** if you want to trek the full Minett Trail. If not, you can easily start anywhere along the route.

Destination

Dudelange, Bettembourg or Clemency

Direction / Signposting

Signposts in both directions

Ascent

1064 m

Descent

949 m

Distance

90 km

Multi-day itinerary

12 sections in 11 days

Difficulty

Moderate

Physical fitness level required

Medium

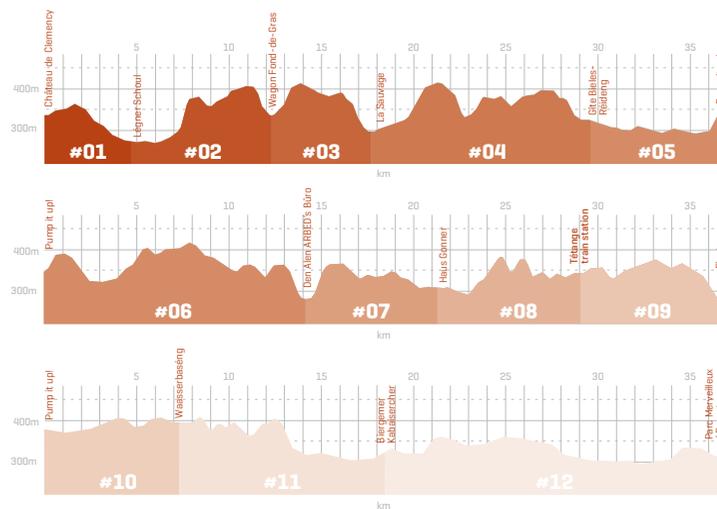
Accessibility

See the different stages

Appropriate time of the year

All year round

GPX dowload

[www.minetttrail.lu](http://www.minetttrail.lu)



## DIFFICULTY LEVELS

The indications below concerning difficulty levels along the Minett Trail will help you plan your route.

### Easy

These sections are perfect for beginners and families with children. They are not completely barrier-free, but they are not challenging. Details on accessibility can be found on the respective sections of the Trail.

### Moderately difficult

These sections are suitable for occasional hikers. Average physical fitness is sufficient even if the paths are sometimes narrow or include steps.

### Difficult

Good physical fitness is required. Sporty hikers will definitely enjoy these sections! You won't have to fasten or secure yourself anywhere, but sturdy walking boots are a must.

### Barrier-free accessibility / Pushchair-friendly

The Minett Trail is not fully barrier-free, but parts of it are easy. For details on specific sections, refer to the descriptions below.

### Dogs

Dogs are allowed on the Minett Trail, but they must be kept on a lead. Today, the former open-cast mining sites are crucial habitats for rare bird species such as the wood lark, for example. These ground-breeders build their nests in dry grasslands, and they must remain undisturbed while raising their young. Sheep and goats also graze in some of the areas.

### Photo opportunities

Unique photo opportunities are marked on the map.

## FROM HOSTEL TO HOSTEL [‘KABAISCHEN TO KABAISCHEN’] ON THE MINETT TRAIL

# #01

From: Clemency to: Linger

4,90 km

Château de Clemency ← → Lénger Schoul

If you want a gentle introduction to the Minett Trail, the section from the Clemency Castle to Lénger Schoul (Linger School) is a perfect choice. Begin at the northernmost point of the Trail, where you will experience the rural charm of the castle before walking to the first hikers' hostel, the 'Kabaischen', where you can spend the night. This section is flat and includes paved cycle paths and shaded forests.



This section is not fully barrier-free, but sections of it are suitable for pushchairs. Be aware that this section is not appropriate for people who have difficulty climbing stairs, and some portions ascend slightly, so bear in mind that you need to be minimally fit. We recommend walking from Clemency to Linger.

## CHÂTEAU DE CLEMENCY

18 Rue de l'Église, 4965 Käerjeng



Clemency Castle was built in the Renaissance style by Johann Ferdinand von Blanchard in 1665. He used the ruins of an earlier castle which was in the immediate vicinity.

The castle had fallen into disrepair over the years but was completely renovated in 2009. Today, the accommodation it offers is unique. Elements of design and art have been integrated into the old walls and the new set-up is original. You will doubtlessly be in awe at its authentic charm.

# #02

From: Linger to: Fond-de-Gras

6.98 km

Lénger Schoul ←

→ Wagon Fond-de-Gras

There is so much to discover on the Minett Trail from Linger to the valley of Fond-de-Gras! The path will lead you past a pond and through a charming park to the centre of Pétange, before inviting you to climb the 'Prénzebiërg' and soak in the views of the surrounding 'Prénzebiërg - Giele Botter' nature reserve. Your brief efforts will be rewarded by a breath-taking panorama of the bright red cliffs left behind by the former iron ore mines. Witness nature at work as it reconquers the area, breathing life into unique biotopes. As you walk further down the path, you will notice your surroundings change: the spectacular rock formations gradually merge into large fields and meadows.

After having cooled off in the nearby forest, you will be traveling back in time as you emerge in Fond-de-Gras. This idyllic town and its historic railway station bear witness to the now defunct steel industry. For a moment, you will forget everything around you, as if you had travelled back to the mining era. If you are lucky, you may be able to take one of the historic trains that rides through the area at the weekends, or at least look at their shed. Why not even spend the night there, in a renovated railway wagon specifically fit for purpose?

In Fond-de-Gras, there are public toilets and a restaurant. Activities and events are organised throughout the year. Have a look at the calendar of cultural events in Fond-de-Gras on [www.minettpark.lu](http://www.minettpark.lu) – it is well worth it!



This section of the Minett Trail is not barrier-free.



# #03

From: Fond-de-Gras to: Lasauvage

4,87 km

Wagon Fond-de-Gras



La Sauvage

The Minett Trail from Fond-de-Gras to Lasauvage is truly impressive. Along its 4.8 kilometres, you will climb from a forest to the 'Roudenhaff', where you will see stables and enjoy the view from this sunny plateau, before entering the cool shade of the forest once more. After a short descent, you will arrive in the village known as Lasauvage, which can be translated to 'The Wild Woman' in English. The hamlet was named after a feral woman who is said to have roamed these woods long ago, causing terror in the neighbouring villages. Fortunately, this is probably only a local myth, as she has not been spotted in a long time. The local Nature School's gardens and the rows of small, narrow miners' houses add to the charm of this picturesque village.

Some of the former miners' homes have been converted into lodgings where you can spend a quiet night after your hike.



If you wish to cut your hike short, take the underground railway "Minièresbunn" in Fond-de-Gras, which will drive you all the way to Lasauvage.



This section of the Minett Trail is not barrier-free.

## THE WILD WOMAN OF LASAUVAGE

Before the construction of the smelter at Lasauvage, at the end of the first quarter of the 17th century, this romantic valley was uninhabited and known as the 'Val de la sauvage femme', i.e., the Valley of the Wild Woman. It was named after a feral woman who lived in one of the caves of the 'La Cronnière' cliffs. Legend has it that she lived off raw meat, her only clothing being her thick mane of hair, which dropped all the way to her feet. Her bloodshot eyes shone like hot coals, her mouth was unusually wide and donned double rows of teeth, her voice was as sinister as that of an owl, and her fingers ended in sharp claws that she used to tear the wild game she hunted or the sheep she stole from the pastures.

It is said that when the Wild Woman died, she was banished from hell because she was believed to belong to the animal realm. Consequently, to the horror of the locals, she was forced to rise back to earth, where her ghost roamed the surroundings. Finally, a pious settler from the Forest of Selomon sent the Wild Woman's ghost beyond the sea by invoking Saint Donatus and Our Lady of Luxembourg, whose holy images in the rocks of 'La Cronnière' commemorate the area's liberation from the creature's spectre.

Publications etc., VII, 42

Source: Nikolaus Gredt, Sagenschatz des Luxemburger Landes, Luxemburg 1883



# #04

From: Lasauvage to: Belvaux

11,80 km

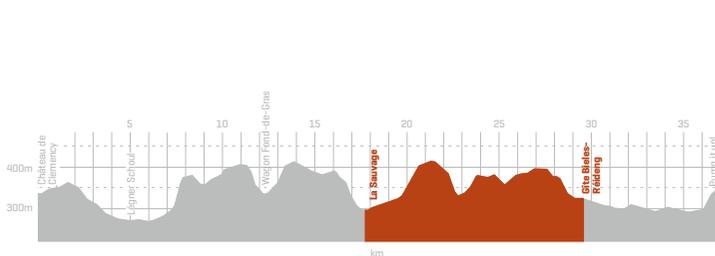
La Sauvage ← → Gîte Bieles-Réideng

Starting from the westernmost point of the Minett Trail, you can follow the path to the country's third largest town. The murmur of the Crosnières stream will accompany you as you wander alongside it through the 'Kiemerchen-Scheiergronn-Groussebësch' nature reserve. The posts along the path date from the days of the pit railway which used to ride through the area.

If you follow the 'Sentier de la Crosnière' signs, you will arrive at a pond where you can take a break and watch the birds from the observation huts close by. This is a perfect place to simply soak up some moments of tranquillity and enjoy your surroundings.

Walking uphill, between Lasauvage and Differdange, you will reach a clearing that is then followed by an easier stretch from which you can view Differdange and Belvaux and walk along paved paths through former ore mining sites.

The 'Gaalgebierg' in Belvaux is another highlight of this portion of the Minett Trail. Take a rest at one of the many picnic spots in the surroundings and explore the park before heading to the next hostel, located near the station. On the 'Gaalgebierg', there is also a large playground for children and public toilets.



This section of the Minett Tail is not barrier-free.

# #05

From: Belvaux to: Esch-sur-Alzette

7,37 km

Gîte Bieles-Réideng ← → Pump it up!

At the beginning of this section, you will experience one of the highlights of the Minett Trail: the new Belval neighbourhood. Belval figures among Europe's largest urban development projects on a former industrial site. Here, former icons of the industrial past such as blast furnaces mingle with residential newbuilds and a business district. Follow the path past the Belval-Université train station in the direction of Rue de l'Alzette. Luxembourg's longest shopping street also houses the Escher Infobabrik, where you can enquire about nearby tourist attractions, walking and cycling tours, as well as cultural events. Once you reach the railway station in Esch-sur-Alzette, you can choose to take a lift up to the top or, if you feel up to the challenge, you can climb the 103 steps to the 'Escher Gaalgebierg'. Although its name may seem off-putting, 'Gaalgebierg' meaning 'Gallows Hill', it is truly worth a visit. High above the roofs of the town, there is a park featuring a rose garden and manmade waterfall, among other attractions.

 Visit the former blast furnace facility in Belval and go up to the top: the views are stunning!



The Trail section from this Kabaischen to Belval is not barrier-free (stairs). However, you can hike the section with a stroller. From Belval up to Esch-sur-Alzette train station, the trail section is completely barrier-free. We recommend hiking from Belvaux towards Esch-sur-Alzette.

# #06

From: Esch-sur-Alzette to: Tétange

10,90 km

Pump it up!  Den Alen ARBED'S Büro

From the city park, you will head straight to the next park. Indeed, nearby, there is an animal park named the 'Escher Déierepark'. This magical location is home to over 150 animals of 25 different species and it is open to the public free of charge. There is so much to discover about fauna and nature around the unique 'Baumhauscafé' [the 'Treehouse Café'], a coffee shop with three treehouses where you can spend the night. Relax, have a piece of cake and watch the animals outside the café!

Walking on, you will discover the 'Ellergronn' nature reserve, which wraps around the 'Gaalgebierg'. You will pass old mine entrances, a small mining museum, as well as the 'Ellergronn' Nature Conservation Centre, where you can find out more about the nature reserve. Delve into the lives of miners at the Museum of the Cockerill Mine, whose exhibits focus on the workers' lifestyle and labour conditions. Both the 'Ellergronn' Nature Conservation Centre and the museum are free of charge.



In the forest, you will see rock formations and slopes that testify to the iron ore mining era. Please always remain on the marked hiking paths! Former underground galleries criss-cross the entire area, so they may collapse or sink at any moment.

On your way to Kayl, you will pass the 'Léiffrächen', a popular pilgrimage site in Luxembourg. The 'Léiffrächen' is the patron saint of miners and mines and she is inextricably linked to the history of mining and miners' families in Luxembourg. A statue of Our Lady of the Miners is housed in a small chapel in a grotto, where pilgrims flock to honour Her.

The National Mining Memorial was built right next to the pilgrimage site to pay tribute to those who lost their lives at work. If you read the inscriptions carefully, you will note that some of the deceased weren't even 14 years old when they lost their lives...

Climb to the top of the viewing tower to enjoy all-encompassing sights of the area!

The landscape surrounding the 'Léiffrächen' is beautiful, as you will see for yourself when on your way to the 'Alen ARBED'S Büro', the next hikers' hostel on the route. Traces from the regions mining history are clearly visible in the breathtaking glow of the bright red rocky cliffs, as well as in the vegetation, which is typical of former open-cast mining areas.



This section of the Minett Tail is not barrier-free.

## THE 'LÉIFFRÄCHEN'

The 'Léiffrächen' is also referred to as Our Lady of the Miners. A pilgrimage takes place every year on the Sunday following September, 15th. It begins at the church in Kayl and follows a path composed of seven stations that represent the life of Mary.

A chronicle from 1872 by Pastor Toussaint recounts the story of a worker who discovered a wooden statue of Mary in the brush in 1753. He then dug out an alcove in the rocks with his son and placed the effigy there. Soon, people began going on pilgrimages there to honour the Mother of God.

In 1876, the alcove was replaced by a more stable chapel to shield the statue from bad weather.

In 1901, the effigy was completely destroyed in a fire, along with its protective roof. It was then replaced by a terracotta sculpture of Mary, Comforter of the Afflicted. Unfortunately, it did not stand up to the weather either and was replaced by a stone one in 1915. In the 1930s, a small park was built around the statue, and in 1936, the new grotto was dug out. It resembles a pit entrance and still exists today. Finally, in 1937, a statue of the Mother of God made of oak was placed there.

On 26 July 1953, on the occasion of her two-hundredth anniversary, the Bishop placed a golden crown on the head of the 'Léiffrächen' and she was named 'Our Lady of the Miners'. The miners had gained a second patron saint!

## THE VIRGIN MARY APPARITIONS OF 1947

In 1947, between All Saints' Day and Christmas, some unusual events occurred around the 'Léiffrächen'. Three siblings aged between nine and ten said they encountered the Mother of God several times.

This left a strong impression on the population, with people coming from afar to watch the children with their own eyes as they fell into a trance before dropping to ground. People were hoping to witness a miracle.



#07 

From: Tétange to: Rumelange

5,50 km

Den Alen ARBED'S Büro

Haus Gonner

The next hostel is only a short walking distance away. You will pass an old chapel in the middle of the forest before arriving at the National Miners Monument, which honours the miners who lost their lives at work. We highly recommend you climb up the 42-metre-high steel tower to enjoy the view!

Continuing in the direction of Dudelange, you will trek through a former overground iron ore extraction site. The beauty of this open-cast mine is not only due to its exceptional natural surroundings, but also to the deep red earth of the area. At sunset, this site is particularly stunning.

See p.57 : Highlight: Sunset at the 'Humpen'



This section of the Minett Tail is not barrier-free.

# #08

From: Rumelange to: Tétange

7,60 km

Haus Gonner ← → Tétange train station

Along this section of the Minett Trail, the topic of the 'Minette' is illuminated from all directions.

You will pass the National Mining Museum, which you should go to if you have the time. Indeed, the Museum offers tours on a pit railway, taking visitors through a tunnel that reaches deep into a mine, giving them a first-hand feel for how hard miners toiled there.

Continue towards Tétange along the 'Dömptgesgrond', the longest contiguous rockface in Europe. The Trail will then lead you to the 'Plang Langenacker'. The brakeman's cab and the top section of the braking ramp were fully refurbished a few years ago.



The National Mining Museum has public toilets.

The 'Plang Langenacker' is a lovely place to have a picnic.

By spending a second night at the 'Alen ARBED's Büro' hostel, you can easily do a circular hike on this section of the Minett Trail.



This section of the Minett Trail is not barrier-free.

## 'PLANG LANGENACKER'

A braking ramp\* was built to transport the 'Minette' down to the valley and then to the smelter. It was kind of a cableway installation which operated by means of gravity. The principle was quite simple: the full mine carts were released down the hill and their weight allowed the cableway to pull the empty carts back up.

When loaded, the mine carts weighed over two tonnes and had to be slowed down. To do so, a worker would activate the braking mechanism from a hut. From this vantage point, he could see all the way down into the valley.

The empty mine carts were unlinked at the top once they reached the hut. Horses or a pit railway would transport them back to the open-cast mines, where they could then be loaded again.

[\* The Luxembourgish word for 'braking ramp' came from the French 'plan incliné', which then became 'Plang'.]



# #09

From: Tétange to: Dudelange

4,21 km

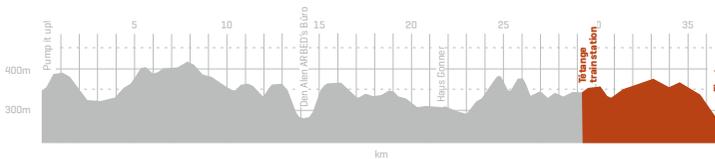
Tétange train station ← → Floater

The path leading to Dudelange will take you past exceptional rock formations. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the 'Humpen'!

You may wonder why a train wagon is standing in the middle of nowhere...

Well, slag used to be tipped down into the valley. In fact, on this section of the Minett Trail, you walk past these slags. from the forest in the direction of Dudelange. [See: Highlight 'Sunset at the 'Humpen']

Here, the Minett Trail comes to an end and you can return to your starting point by train.



This section of the Minett Trail is not barrier-free.

## 'NEI SCHMELZ'

A completely new neighbourhood was created on a former brownfield, covering a surface area of 36 hectares. These new quarters are unique because they are carbon neutral. Ecology and innovation define the neighbourhood's identity, integrating values such as sustainability, the preservation of natural heritage, innovative urban planning, soft mobility and renewable energy.

The three pillars of sustainable development, i.e., the environment, the economy and social mix, will be considered when restructuring the site. The neighbourhood will have around 1,000 homes and host a variety of economic and social activities, such as crafts, shops, local services, leisure activities, cafés and restaurants. Last but not least, there will be great focus on start-ups and innovation, as well as public infrastructure.

Source: Town of Dudelange & Fonds du Logement (Housing Fund)

Photo NeiSchmelz



# #10

From: **Esch-sur-Alzette** to: **Schifflange** 5,74 km

**Esch-sur-Alzette** ← → **Waasserbaséng**

Starting in the park on the 'Escher Gaalgebierg', this section takes you through the dense green forests around Luxembourg's second largest town. Around the area of the 'Heedefeldchen', there is a long dip which clearly demonstrates how underground tunnels can collapse. This can happen even today, hence why it is so important to always remain on the signposted paths!

The trail climbs to the 'Lalléngerbiereg - Brucherbiereg' nature reserve. This area is also a former open-cast mine that covers around 267 hectares, resembling a moonscape with bright red soil and impressive cliffs.

From the plateau, the view over Esch-sur-Alzette all the way to Belval is amazing.

 The area is also perfectly suited to mountain biking! Please note that the RedRock Mountain Bike Trail 'Lalléngerbiereg-Gaalgebierg' is for experienced cyclists only.



This section of the Minett Tail is not barrier-free.

# #11

From: **Schifflange** to: **Bergem** 8,59 km

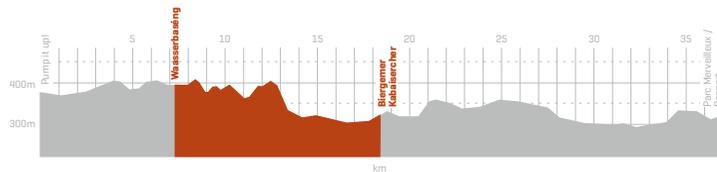
**Waasserbaséng** ← → **Biergenger Kabaisercher**

The trail will take you towards Schifflange via the 'Lalléngerbiereg - Brucherbiereg', with incredible views of Belval.

In the forest, you will pass an abandoned mine. You can walk along the rails up to the mine entrance, but, as is the case with all closed mines, the opening is blocked by gratings for safety reasons. It is interesting to know that the underground tunnels provide bats with crucial protection from the winter frosts.

Later, you will pass through the wetlands of 'Dumontshaff' and witness the work of natural regeneration in the area. A short time ago, water buffaloes began grazing there, so if you're lucky, you may even see some... Make sure you wear sturdy shoes, or you might get your feet wet!

The area around the 'Dumontshaff' was completely drained for decades. Irrigating the meadows brought life back to the area, allowing habitats to be restored for many species. As a result, since 2013, the white stork is regularly spotted here while on its migratory route. This species had not been to Luxembourg for over 150 years. Keep your eyes open for these unique birds!



This section of the Minett Tail is not barrier-free.



# #12

From: Bergem to: Bettembourg

14,00 km

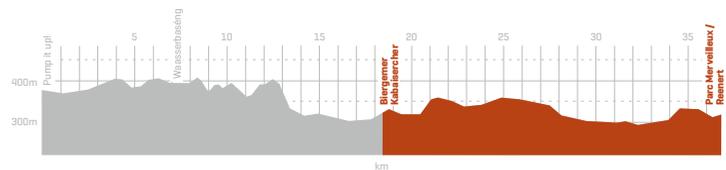
Biergemer Kabaisercher ← → Renert → Parc Merveilleux

This last section of the Minett Trail is quite easy. Most of it passes through forests.

Enjoy a break in the charming village of Peppange to visit the Carriage Museum and the Rural and Artisanal Museum. Horse-drawn carriages, vehicles belonging to Grand Dukes' family, and displays on century-old farming practices will take you back to another era... If you're hungry, stop for a bite to eat at the Museum's pub.

The last stretch of the Minett Trail will take you through the 'Beetebuerger Bësch' nature reserve. You will walk through a high forest with beech trees that are 200 to 220 years old, and oaks aged 180 to 240 years.

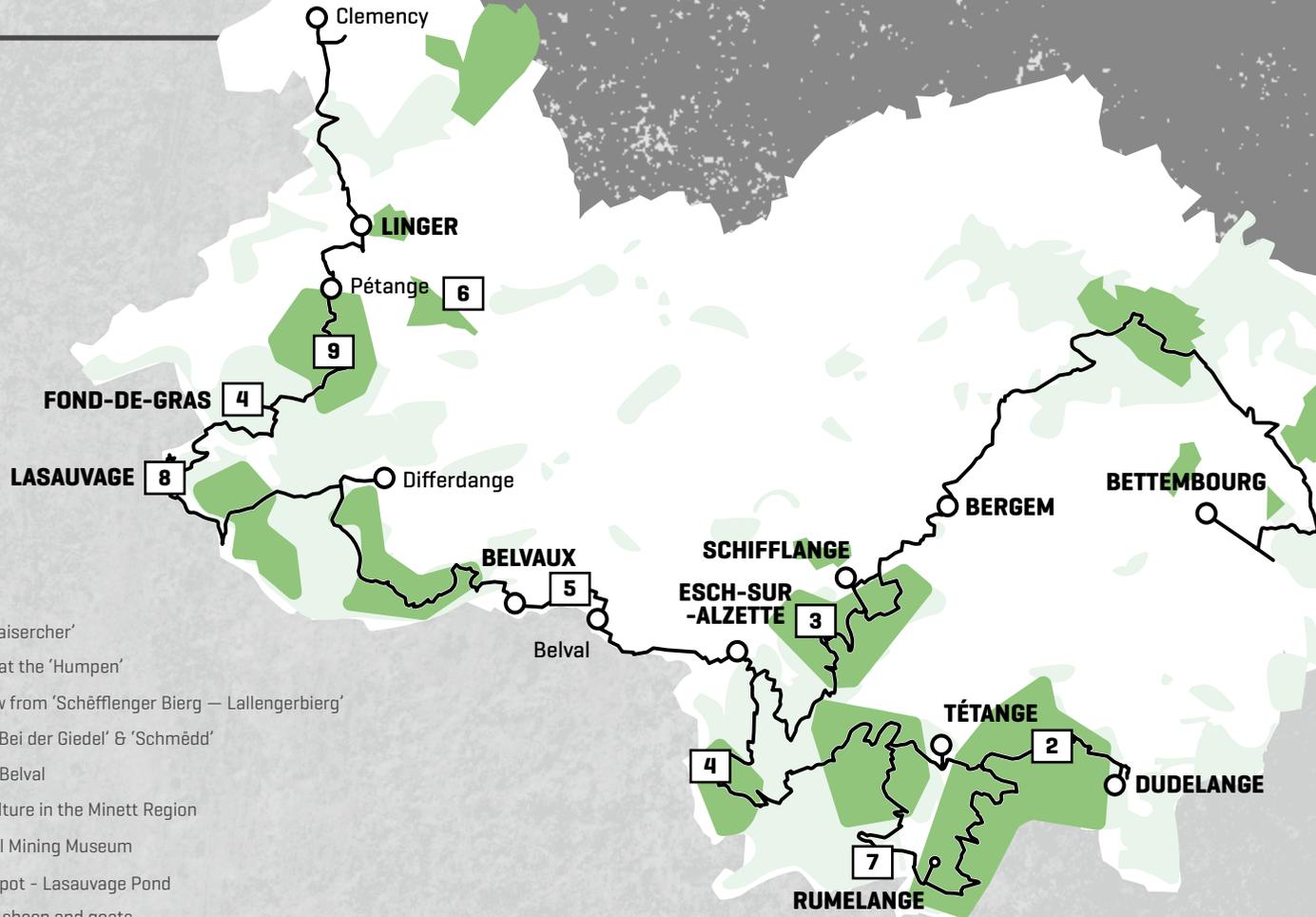
 Bettembourg is a good entry and exit point for this section of the Minett Trail.



This section of the Minett Tail is not barrier-free.

3.

# HIGH LIGHTS



- 1 11 'Kabaisercher'
- 2 Sunset at the 'Humpen'
- 3 The view from 'Schëfflenger Bierg — Lallengerbierg'
- 4 Tavern 'Bei der Giedel' & 'Schmëdd'
- 5 View of Belval
- 6 Beer culture in the Minett Region
- 7 National Mining Museum
- 8 Picnic spot - Lasauvage Pond
- 9 Grazing sheep and goats

# HIGHLIGHTS

## DON'T MISS THESE HIGHLIGHTS ON THE MINETT TRAIL!

1



### 11 “KABAISERCHER”

Since April 2022, hikers walking the Minett Trail are able to spend the night in eleven hikers’ hostels, known as ‘Kabaisercher’, each with a unique architectural design. An architecture competition was launched in 2019 with the aim of rehabilitating existing sites or planning new projects that would embody the region’s industrial past, cultural diversity and its numerous manmade landscapes. As a result, eleven exceptional hostels have been designed by the same number of architecture firms. These lodgings include a refurbished railway wagon, a water reservoir, or a former administrative office of a mine. The ‘Kabaisercher’ vary in size and can host up to twelve people.

2

Minett Trail  
section  
#9



### SUNSET AT THE “HUMPEN”

Watching the sunset at the ‘Humpen’ is an incredible experience. It is located in the Haard-Hesselsbiërg-Staebierg nature reserve between Dudelange and Tétange [Minett Trail section no. 9]. A ‘Humpen’ was a tipping tank filled with liquid slag. These receptacles were installed on a railway wagon, filled, and then transported by rail from the Dudelange ironworks to the slag heap at the edge of the Haard plateau. Today, this slag heap is a valuable habitat, a refuge for animal and plant species that need a lot of light and warmth.

From the ‘Humpen’, you can enjoy wonderful views of one of the longest and most impressive rock faces in Europe. Rock faces only ever appear as a result of massive human activity affecting the landscape – in this case, as a result of mining.

3

Minett Trail  
section  
#6



## THE VIEW FROM 'SCHËFFLENGER BIERG — LALLENGERBIERG'

From 'Schëfflenger Bierg — LalléngerbiERG', the view over Esch-sur-Alzette all the way to the new Belval complex with its blast furnace is simply spectacular.

4

Minett Trail  
section  
#2  
#3  
#6



## BRASSERIES 'BEI DER GIEDEL' & 'SCHMËDD'

Here, you can relax and have a meal at two unique restaurants.

The 'Schmëdd' restaurant is located on the edge of the 'Ellergronn' nature reserve, at the Nature Centre in Esch-sur-Alzette. The atmosphere is ideal to relax after a long day walking. Socialise with other hikers while the children run around in the playground!

'Bei der Giedel' is a pub in the Minett Park Fond-de-Gras which will take you back in time, all the way to the 19th century. The wooden smelter was built in 1881 in the Fond-de-Gras valley and was operated for three generations by women from the Bosseler family. The pub was named after them, 'Bei der Giedel' meaning 'The Godmother's Pub'. Try traditional Luxembourgish dishes in this quaint and cosy setting and enjoy feeling as though you are in a different era.

On Sundays, you can combine your visit with a ride on the historical steam train, 'Train 1900', or on the 'Minièresbunn' pit railway through the underground tunnels.

5

Minett Trail  
section  
#5



## VIEW OF BELVAL

Belval is a former industrial site that belonged to the Luxembourg steel group Arbed. In 1997, the last blast furnace (known as 'Blast Furnace B') still in operation in Luxembourg was closed, leaving 120 hectares of land open to new usage. Over the past years, an entire neighbourhood has sprouted there. Part of the former blast furnace terrace has become the 'Cité des Sciences' (City of Science). Relics of the industrial era were renovated and integrated into a new urban development concept, turning them into symbols of renewal that link past and future.

'Blast furnace A' is open to individual visitors and groups.

We strongly urge anyone interested in architecture, urban planning, design or photography to go up the blast furnace! Climb 180 steps to reach the platform (the 'Gicht', i.e., the opening to fill the blast furnace), which is 40 metres above ground, and you will be rewarded with breathtaking views of the new Belval complex and its surroundings. Many of the new buildings in the area bear witness to how life is changing in the neighbourhood from one year to the next.

6

Minett Trail  
section  
#1



## BEER CULTURE IN THE MINETT REGION

The iron industry attracted many workers to the region. Numerous inns and pubs opened around the smelters, where miners would order a 'Humpen' [beer] or a 'Kareli' [1/4 litre of spirit] after their shifts. There used to be several small local breweries in Esch-sur-Alzette and Dudelange, but unfortunately, they are now shut. However, Luxembourg's largest brewery, the Brasserie Nationale (Bofferding), still operates in Bascharage. It produces traditional Pilsner, seasonal beers, special beers and wheat beers. The brewery is open to visitors, and if you want, you can end the tour with a beer tasting session, of course. In Bascharage, there is also the 'Béierhaascht', a brewery located in a restaurant bearing the same name, where you can enjoy home-made unfiltered beers.

7

Minett Trail  
section  
#7  
#8



## NATIONAL MINING MUSEUM

The National Mining Museum is one of the highlights of the Minett Tour, a route that will take you to nine different locations along a 48-50 km stretch, showcasing a variety of subjects connected with industrial culture.

In the Mining Museum, you will ride through the tunnels on the pit railway. Exhibits of equipment and machinery from former mining sites testify to over a century of technological development. This exhibition will give you a good idea of what being a miner was like. We recommend you wear warm clothes and flat, sturdy shoes, because the average temperature underground is only 10° C (50° F).

See p.98 : « Minett Tour »

8

Minett Trail  
section  
#3  
#4



## PICNIC SPOT - LASAUVAGE POND

Escape the hectic pace of your daily life with a picnic in Lasauvage, an idyllic former miners' village and enjoy the view of the pond and swans. Close by, you can cross a bridge under which there used to be underground tunnels. These have collapsed over time, creating new ponds. We highly recommend you go to the bird-watching hut!

See p.35 : *The Wild Woman of Lasauvage*



9

Minett Trail  
section  
#10



## GRAZING SHEEP AND GOATS

Between May and December, a rotating flock of 300 sheep and goats graze the dry grasslands in the former open-cast mines. This prevents the grasslands from being overtaken by hedges and trees and helps preserve the area's biodiversity.

In the summer months, you can join a guided tour to accompany the flock as it moves from pasture to pasture. If you are lucky, you may even encounter the herd during your hike – it's absolutely fascinating!

The meat of the "Minetter Schof" [sheep from the Minett region] can be bought. Find more information on: [www.minett-biosphere.com](http://www.minett-biosphere.com)

4.

**MINETT TRAIL  
KABAISER-  
CHER**

## MINETT TRAIL “KABAISERCHER”

### The ‘Kabaiserscher’ [hikers’ hostels] project

In 2017, a working group was set to plan the ‘Minett Trail’ as part of the region’s application for the ‘Minett UNESCO Biosphere’ (MUB) label. One of its main objectives was to showcase the extraordinary natural landscapes and industrial heritage of the south of Luxembourg to make it appealing to tourists. The aim was to ensure the region stood out from the competition by offering visitors a wide range of experiences allowing them to learn about the Minett’s many facets.

However, seeing the wealth of opportunity in the fact that Esch was to be the European Capital of Culture in 2022, the working group decided to go beyond designing a basic hiking route to implement novel ideas.

As a result, original accommodation opportunities were created so that hikers on the Minett Trail could spend the night in any of the eleven communes participating in ‘Esch 2022’. The working group wanted these hikers’ hostels to be architectural works of art located in unusual settings, such as former industrial buildings or empty smelters, just to name a few. An architectural competition was launched at the end of 2019 in cooperation with the OAI, the Luxembourgish Association of Architects and Consultant Engineers. Ninety-three architecture firms applied and thirty-three were shortlisted to compete to design the eleven hostels. The firms were encouraged to collaborate with artists when working on their bids. The ‘Kabaiserscher’ were scheduled to open their doors in April 2022.





# KABAISERCHER

## 1 Lénger Schoul

Linger

41, rue de la Libération,  
L-4797 Linger

🛏️  
x9

📶 🅑

Architect: **03 Architecture**



Schoolchildren used to attend the former school in the centre of the village of Linger during the daytime, but now, this is a place where they can listen to bedtime stories.

The architectural design of this 'Kabaischen' was inspired mainly by the building's earlier purpose: its history as a schoolhouse permeates the atmosphere of the hostel, with particular focus on the community values embodied by the school. The original facility's character was maintained, as it fits in with the village.

03 Architecture, the firm that authored this project, interfered as little as possible with the building's original design, focusing on the outdoor areas. Both the needs of the hikers and of the locals were considered: the outside play area and sports equipment are freely accessible to all, for instance.

The 40 m<sup>2</sup> steel terrace and the three artificial boulders truly stand out. These rocks made of Corten steel help direct people to and from the site, while at the same time serving as benches. The chosen materials aim to remind visitors of the region's industrial past and of the rust-coloured rocks of open-cast mines.

The facility is versatile and can be used for many purposes, whether during the daytime or at night. The integration of the former school's characteristics and the architects' clear interpretation of the space are the project's main strengths.

## 2 Wagon – Fond-de-Gras

<p>📍 Fond-de-Gras</p>	<p>Minett Park Fond-de-Gras</p>	<p>🛏️ x6</p>	<p>📶 🅐</p>
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Architect: **Bureau d'Architectes Teisen & Giesler**

Artist: **Justine Blau**



### The history of the wagon

The railway wagon was built in Warsaw, Poland, in 1939. After World War II, it came into the possession of the Luxembourg State and remained in operation until 1967, when it was transferred to ARBED. ARBED used it as a training centre for projections, calling it the 'cinema wagon' ('wagon-cinéma') or the 'school wagon' ('Schulwägon'). In the late 1980s, the National Heritage Protection Agency (SSMN) became the new owner of the wagon. It was redesigned as an 'exhibition wagon' and served as a venue for art projects. The wagon's original shape makes it look like a pike's head, so railway workers nicknamed it the 'pike wagon' ('Hechtwaaggon').

This hikers' hostel on tracks welcomes weary hikers after their trek on the 'Minett Trail'. At this location, walkers will enjoy a well-deserved night's rest as they listen to the sounds of nature from the comfort of a welcoming sleeping compartment in an old, historical train wagon in Fond-de-Gras. It is located at the heart of a 'Natura 2000' reserve, the Minett Park Fond-de-Gras. The location selected for this hostel embodies three regional characteristics: ore mining, industrial history and Luxembourg's railway history.

The 'Giele Botter' lies close by. It is a former open-cast mining area that is now a nature reserve covering several hundred hectares. At the time of the Celts, the Titelberg, which is also in close proximity, played a key role in the region's history. In the 1st century B.C., a large fortified Iron Age settlement (known as an 'oppidum') was built on the rocky spur. Walkers will discover all these attractions on their trek through the Minett Park Fond-de-Gras.

The hostel was designed by the Teisen-Giesler architecture firm in collaboration with the artist Justine Blau. The wagon retains its original appearance and features, the redesign having focused on the interior. The south-facing end of the wagon is an open, light-filled space. The sleeping compartments are north-facing and arranged in such a way that they are protected from passers-by's view and the summer heat. In addition, the wagon is divided into several areas: the loggia to enjoy nature, a lounge to socialise in, a bathroom, 3 sleeping compartments and a sauna to revive weary limbs.

The wagon's artistic design makes visitors reflect on the place of human beings in their natural environment and encourages them to protect nature.

### 3 La Sauvage

<p>📍 Lasauvage</p>	<p>82, Place de Saintignon L-4698 Lasauvage</p>	<p>🛏️ x8</p>	<p>📶 🅇</p>
<p>Architect: <b>Anouk Pesch</b></p>		<p>Artist: <b>Lea Schroeder</b></p>	



#### The history of Lasauvage

The first iron smelter in Lasauvage was built in 1625. Luxembourg's first blast furnace was erected later. The smelter operated for 250 years, living through upheavals such as the Thirty Years' War, the French Revolution and the Lacey War [known as "Klëppelkrich" in Luxembourgish].

Count Fernand de Saintignon, a local citizen, built a church, school and rectory. He wanted Lasauvage to become a spa town, so he also built a hotel, today's "Balcan". Unfortunately, the project failed.

In Lasauvage, there was a public house which stood on the border between Luxembourg and France. A white line ran through the pub to mark the two countries' frontier.

Curiously, Lasauvage's cemetery is still located on the other side of the border today, in France. To reach it, you must cross a bridge and pass a yellow border stone.

There is no doubt that Lasauvage, a former workers' village, has the potential to attract visitors from afar. Its history is marked by the iron and steel industries, and the valley of the Wild Woman is a popular destination for tourists and nature lovers.

An old workers' house on Place de Saintignon was selected as the ideal location for the hikers' hostel. Architect Anouk Pesch was responsible for restoring the building.

Prior to its refurbishment, the house was used by the Housing Fund ['Fonds du Logement']. Despite its small floor area, it now has a very large common room that extends over two floors, all the way to the attic. To fit it in, the inner walls had to be removed from the building and only the external walls were preserved.

This hikers' hostel is special in several ways. For example, a wooden structure forms the house's framework: It had to be inserted through the roof, which was completely replaced. The hostel also has three rooms that are named after famous witches. The covered bike shelter for bicycles in the garden is also an interesting feature.

The architecture incorporates the work of artist Lea Schroeder. Her frescoes lead visitors back to an era long gone, into the lives of miners and their families in the days of the steel industry. The bas-relief pays tribute to the Wild Woman who gave her name to the village. In the indoor area, the artworks commemorate the history of this former workers' village.

Lasauvage has many historical attractions to offer hikers, such as the Eugène Pesch Museum, which houses a collection of fossils, minerals and mining tools, and the 'Espace Muséologique', which delves into the village's history and that of the Luxembourgish deserters who hid in a mine during World War II. Visitors will also enjoy the 'Minièresbunn' pit railroad. It runs between Fond-de-Gras and Lasauvage, impressing all visitors that ride it.

## 4 Gîte Bieles Réideng

Belvaux

Rue Joséphine Welu-Scherer  
L-4429 Belvaux

🛏️  
x12



Architect: **A+T Architecture**



This spacious, floodlit newbuild provides Minett Trail hikers with a shelter whose design and room distribution puts them in immediate connection with nature. The hostel overlooks the nearby Belval University neighbourhood, as well as the 'Cité des Sciences', with breathtaking views of the area. Visitors can also see the blast furnaces of Belval, which have profoundly shaped the former industrial site's history.

As part of the design of the new construction, the A+T architecture firm tied this project to the industrial heritage of the Commune of Sanem and the entire Minett region. A bungalow built in the 1950s formerly stood on this plot of land, but it was demolished to make space for the new building. However, the new construction adopted its structure, albeit with a modern twist.

The roof line recalls the industrial hall located on the same plot, in the immediate vicinity of the structure. The character of the Minett region is retained thanks to the chimney, a symbol of the steel industry, and the earth-red metal cladding of the façade, manufactured and supplied by ArcelorMittal.

One of the project's fortes is its closeness to the surrounding landscape. The building was designed to act as a communal space and is divided into three areas: a reception and common room to encourage community living, the sleeping area and sanitary facilities, and technical rooms.

During their stay in Belvaux, hikers can also enquire about the nearby 'Zolwerk-napp' and 'Gaalgebierg' recreation sites. They are close by, so visitors can access them by direct public transport links.

## 5 Pump it up!

📍 Esch-sur-Alzette, entire municipality



Architect: **2001**

Interior design: **NJOY**



The Esch-based architects have created a pop-up, or nomadic hotel, with a round dome that can be spotted and recognised from afar. This is fitting for the southern region of the country, where immigration and future-oriented metropolitan ways intertwine with industrial and workers' heritage, recreational areas and university life, as well as brownfields and urban settings.

Having broken the conventions of architecture, this unusual pop-up structure can be moved to locations that straddle heterogeneous areas of the city and allow visitors to understand and experience its contradictions and diversity.

The closed stainless steel trailer houses cooking facilities, a washroom and dining room, while the semi-transparent dome serves as a resting or sleeping area for maximum six guests. The technical and structural limitations at hand made designing these spaces very challenging.

The varying degrees of transparency of the dome allow a continual interplay between indoors and outdoors, translucence and opacity, and sky and earth – making for an all-encompassing experience.

## 6 Waasserbaséng

📍 Schifflange

Montée du cimetière  
L-3815 Schifflange

🛏️  
x8

📶 🅅

Architect: **Studio Jil Bentz + Hendrik Brinkmann + Safran Architecture**



*The hiker's hostel project in the water reservoir will take shape at a later stage. Until the reservoir can be accessed, you can spend the night in a wooden caravan.*

### What was the 'Waasserbaséng'?

*The 'Waasserbaséng' is a former water reservoir in the Commune of Schifflange. Water reservoirs are usually higher than the water level of the supply area, allowing the water to flow to the supply network thanks to the natural gradient. Moreover, water reservoirs are often constructed so that they are in large part underground and covered with earth. This is usually the most cost-effective and safest way to build them.*

The two levels are connected by means of a few well-planned interventions both outside and inside the structure, connecting the water reservoir's circular shape with the square ground floor that faces the road.

This has created a dynamic interplay between the two floors that also integrates the surrounding landscape and topography.

The overground, compact structure is transformed into a gatehouse that shields the platform from the road and sports stadium. Entering through the gatehouse, guests reach a platform that is framed by a rounded red wall which follows the lines of the underlying water reservoir.

An impressive staircase, which also acts as a lookout point, then invites people to descend into the hostel's 'underworld'.

In the section above ground, the staircase is triangular, but it becomes circular as it goes down, also serving to separate the bedrooms from the living room area. Up to eight people can sleep in four alcoves. Heavy fabric panels shield the bedrooms from the kitchenette, dining area, food, chimney and bathroom.

Underground, the atmosphere is subdued and relaxing. Behind large glass windows, an atrium and water pool throw light onto the cosy lodgings.

## 7 Biergemer Kabaisercher

📍 Bergem

14, Rue de Schifflange  
L-3316 Bergem

🛏️  
x9

📶 🅐

Architect: **Fiction Factory, Amsterdam - Wikkelhouses**



Hikers can spend a night in sustainable lodgings, in this small, original, environmentally friendly construction behind the 'Beim Nèssert' Cultural Centre in Bergem.

The small huts are made of recycled cardboard. The walls are made of 24 layers of cardboard that were moulded around a huge machine, not unlike the winding of a coil, hence its name, the 'Wikkelhuse', meaning 'wrap house' in Dutch. Wikkelhouses consist of individual modules that can be assembled in flexible, creative ways, just like building blocks.

The construction being very light, no foundation was needed. It was produced in the Netherlands and built in a single day.

## 8 Parc Merveilleux « Renert »

<p>📍 <b>Bettembourg</b></p>	<p>Route de Mondorf L-3260 Bettembourg</p>	<p>🛏️ x4</p>	<p>📶 📍 ♿</p>
<p>Architect: <b>COEBA</b></p>		<p>Artist: <b>Jhemp Bastin</b></p>	



### The history of the 'Parc Merveilleux' and 'Renert'

The 'Parc Merveilleux', i.e., the Park of Marvels, is Luxembourg's only animal and leisure park, and the country's largest tourist attraction. The park opened its doors in 1956 and has fascinated young and old alike ever since. Visitors flock there from spring to autumn, and activities are an offer for all, providing fun, adventure, imagination, discovery and learning for the whole family. There are animals from all five continents in the park, so everyone can enjoy a magical day!

#### 'De Renert'

The 'Renert - De Fuuss am Frack an a Maansgréisst' is a work by Luxembourgish writer Michel Rodange. It is now considered one of the most important early texts in Luxembourgish. It is an adaptation of Goethe's 'Reineke Fuchs', but Rodange rewrote it as a satire on 19th century society. At the time, Luxembourg was a young nation state and its future in the days of the industrial revolution was uncertain. In addition, the work pays tribute to Luxembourg's landscapes and regions.

The main protagonist is a fox who hides behind good manners. His sly ways bring truths to light that others would have rather ignored, but he also regularly tweaks reality to suit his own purpose.

The 'Parc Merveilleux' is Luxembourg's top tourist attraction. It focuses on fairy tales and is a home to many animals. It forms an integral part of the collective memory of several generations.

This is the last section of the Minett Trail, whose characteristics are reflected in the overall concept of the hostel's forecourt and structure.

At the crossroads between the Minett Trail and fairy tales, the redesigned forecourt welcomes the hikers, inviting them to relax and self-reflect.

Warm natural wood dominates the interior of the hostel, giving it a flair of hut-like intimacy despite the practical character of the construction.

Visitors can climb up four floors in the tower to view the park and forecourt through the upstairs windows. There is also a small inner courtyard to the back of the building, behind the living quarters.

The hostel commemorates the history of 'Renert'. Elements of the work are playfully referred to both inside and outside.

## 9 Den Alen ARBED's Büro

<p>📍 Tétange</p>	<p>33, rue de l'industrie L-3774 Tétange</p>	<p>🚂 x6</p>	<p>📶</p>
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Architect: **Tetra Kayser Associés**

Artist: **Daniel Mac Lloyd & Raphaël Gindt**



### The history of 'Alen ARBED's Büro'

'Alen ARBED's Büro' was operated by the Luxembourgish steel group ARBED (United Steelworks of Burbach-Eich-Dudelange). Its precise construction date is not known, but it is referred to on several maps dating from the beginnings of ore mining around the Commune of Kayl, around the 1920s at the latest.

The ore mined in the 'Léderten' and 'Brommeschberg' mines was transported in small wagons and tipped into railway wagons from an elevated quay. The ore was then transported directly to the steelworks.

The office was important to the Luxembourgish steel industry for the transport of the ore and other goods. It is also a historical hub for the CFL, Luxembourg's national railways: the CFL now owns the quay and the right of use to unload there had to be acquired for a 50-year period. ARBED passed on this right of use to the smaller 'Couillet' and 'Neu-Stauder' companies, which could then also be able to reload their goods there.

It may have often been very difficult for Arbed's Office to arrange the fair distribution and use of the rights. A cool head was certainly required to do the job! The interests of the mines were represented locally by Marcel Gruber, who, as an official of the 'Minièren', took

care of the dispatching, as well as of the loading and unloading of wagons together with the railway station leader.

The building and loading facility had no scales to weigh the full wagons, so they were weighed and invoiced only when unloaded at the factory. Nevertheless, the small house in which the office was located was a three-floor facility. In addition to the attic and office on the ground floor, there was also a storage room for fuels such as diesel and heavy oil, as well as lubricant for the wagons. The entire cellar was sloped and had a duct so that in the event of a leakage, the fluids would be drained down a hole.

The former weighing house of the Kayl mines, which is also known as the ARBED's Büro', bears visible traces of its industrial past. They are clearly revealed when the evening sun turns the rock walls to the right of the 'Kayler Baach' bright red, throwing viewers back to ore mining days.

The remnants of wear and tear on the building were preserved and integrated into the new design as far as possible.

In line with circular economy and zero waste principles, the building materials that were removed during the renovation works were reused elsewhere.

The accommodation itself is accessible via a staircase on the side façade. Inside, the atmosphere is that of a cosy hut, thanks to the use of natural materials such as wood and cork. Large sliding panels divide the various rooms.

Popular street art was used on both the outside and inside walls. The regional identity of the Minett as a cultural landscape is the building's overarching theme, as reflected by the humorous and playful wall paintings that portray the region's typical colours, forging a successful symbiosis with both the exterior and interior architecture.

## 10 Haus Gonner

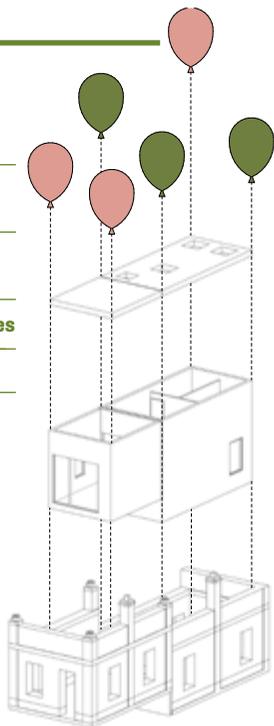
📍 Rumelange

Rue de la Bruyère  
L-3721 Rumelange



Architect: **HAS - Heisbourg + Strotz Architectes**

Artist: **Martine Feipel & Jean Bechameil**



### History of the Haus Gonner

*Nicolas Gonner-Nau was one of the founders of the smelter in Rumelange ('Rëmelenger Schmelz'). He was the mayor of Kayl from 1855 to 1884 and lived in Rumelange.*

*The 'Haus Gonner', as it was called by the locals, stood on the mining path on Rue de la Bruyère, towards the Klinker Intermoselle factory. Around 1900, the mine's administrative offices were located there. Located on the site of the National Mining Museum, its architecture bears witness to the style of industrial buildings of the time.*

Source: [www.industrie.lu](http://www.industrie.lu)

The Haus Gonner displays ornamental brickwork, compact walls made of natural stone, and colours that are typical of the region and mining days – all of which are representative of former ore mine office buildings.

When the building was converted to a Minett Trail hostel, these regional characteristics were preserved as much as possible, no significant changes being made to the structure of the building. Instead, an enthralling dialogue was launched between the post-industrial recreational landscape and the existing design, thanks to the insertion of new, prefabricated elements (known as 'boxes') and materials such as wood, aluminium and green roofing.

A new outside terrace is located on the west side of the Haus Gonner. To enter the hostel, guests amble through a semi-private patio that displays a glass panel at the front of the embedded box and the former industrial building's outer natural stone wall.

The artists involved in the project inserted handmade clay birdhouses for migratory birds in the cavities of the exterior wall. Swifts, who were specifically targeted, like to nest in the walls of tall, old buildings and industrial constructions. This project feature provides an added facet to the interaction between humans, nature and culture.

Natural materials and colours are also used in a ceramic artwork in the wall inside the Haus Gonner. Here too, the relationship between mankind and its natural habitat is brought into focus.

## 11 Floater

<p>📍 Dudelange</p>	<p>1, Rue du centenaire L-3474 Dudelange</p>	<p>🛏️ x4</p>	<p>📶 🅐</p>
<p>Architect: <b>M3 Architectes</b></p>		<p>Artist: <b>Franck Miltgen</b></p>	



In Dudelange, hikers can spend a night on the water. A kind of a houseboat has been docked on the cooling ponds of the former Dudelange steelworks. Inside, guests can look out onto the water through a large glass pane and soak in the extraordinary atmosphere. M3 Architectes authored these plans in close cooperation with artist Franck Miltgen.

The three elements - water, earth and iron - are highlighted in this project. The floating shelter is a play between sculpture and architecture. The inspiration for its shape was a rockface in the Haard-Hesselsbierg-Staebierg nature reserve, which bears witness to the region's mining past. With the help of 3D scanning technology, this was recreated using digital files.

The outer and inner reliefs of the floater are created, as with a 3D printer, by stacking layers on top of each other. This created the plasticity of the quarry face. The outside is made of steel and the interior of the hostel is entirely made of wood. The choice of materials meets the requirements of the circular economy and allows a dynamic and subtle interaction on the multicoloured and reflective water surface.

Thanks to its steel shell, the construction resembles an iceberg. The symbolism of climate change, the material steel and the historical significance of the basin are, in the eyes of the designers, elements that allow an interpretation of the building. The relationship between man and nature is to be questioned with the help of technology and science.

The cooling ponds at the foot of the Dudelange water tower belonged to the NeiSchmelz brownfield, which will be converted into a diverse, lively ecological district over the upcoming fifteen years. The cooling ponds were dug by ARBED Dudelange for the local steelworks. When the factories closed their doors, the ponds fell into disuse, but they have now found a new purpose.

5.

STAY SAFE  
**WHILE HIKING**



## LOOKING FOR A HIKING PARTNER?

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If you don't want to hike alone, we can help you find suitable company.

Contact us to assist in placing your advertisement!

 Don't forget to be careful when getting in contact with people you don't know and inform people you know of your hiking itinerary.

## GUIDED HIKES

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You can book guided hikes on the Minett Trail directly on the website. The tours are given in four languages: German, French, English and Luxembourgish.

[www.minetttrail.lu](http://www.minetttrail.lu)

We also offer tailored guided tours. If you're interested, please contact us directly at [info@visitminett.lu](mailto:info@visitminett.lu)

## TIPS FOR HIKING-FREE DAYS

### MINETT TOUR

The Minett Tour is a route that stretches across 48 to 50 kilometres and connects nine sites, each with its own special highlights. The tour guides both young and old visitors through the history of the Luxembourgish steel industry all the way to the present, with references to the future too.

These locations are all unique, with their particular charm. Throughout the year, you can attend fairs, music and art festivals, concerts, exhibitions, dance shows and theatre productions. The venues include listed heritage sites that are revealed in a new light at these events.

**De Brauatelier – by Brasserie Nationale**  
Traditional beer brewing  
2 Boulevard J-F Kennedy,  
L-4930 Bascharage  
[www.bofferding.lu](http://www.bofferding.lu)

**Minett Park Fond-de-Gras**  
Iron ore mining, trips on historical trains, social history, nature conservation area, geology, archaeology  
2, Fond-de-Gras  
L-4576 Fond-de-Gras  
[www.minettpark.lu](http://www.minettpark.lu)

**Belval blast furnaces**  
Iron and steelmaking, contemporary architecture  
Research & innovation  
Avenue du Rock'n'Roll  
L-4361 Belval /  
Esch-sur-Alzette  
[www.fonds-belval.lu](http://www.fonds-belval.lu)

**Museum of the Cockerill mine**  
Living and working environment  
Nature reserve  
Rue Jean-Pierre Bausch  
L- 4114 Esch-sur-Alzette

**Ferro Forum**  
Know-how on iron and steel processing, documentation, training and workshops  
Portail Schiffflange  
croisement Rue de Lallange -  
Rue du Moulin  
[www.ferroforum.lu](http://www.ferroforum.lu)

**National Mining Museum**  
Iron ore mining, tunnels  
Transport, geology  
Open-cast mine  
Rue de la Bruyère -  
Carreau de la Mine Walert  
L-3714 Rumelange  
[www.mnm.lu](http://www.mnm.lu)

**MUAR – Musée vun der Aarbecht**  
Industrial businesses relating to heavy industry, workers' culture, transport, art  
Schungfabrik  
14 Rue Pierre Schiltz  
L-3786 Kayl  
[www.muar.lu](http://www.muar.lu)

**Documentation Centre for Migration**  
History of migration  
Gare-Usines  
L-3481 Dudelange  
[www.cdmh.lu](http://www.cdmh.lu)

**Luxembourg Science Center**  
Science meets technology, experiment stations and science shows  
1, rue John Ernest Dolibois  
L-4573 Differdange  
[www.science-center.lu](http://www.science-center.lu)



### REDROCK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

You can also discover the natural reserves on designated mountain bike trails. The RedRock Mountain Bike Trails have attracted cyclists since 2016. 'Ellergronn', 'Haard-Black', 'Haard-Red', the 'Belvaux-Differdange' and 'Lal-léngenberg-Gaalgebierg' trails showcase the former industrial landscapes in a new light and offer you adrenaline-pumping experiences.

The terrain demands peak concentration and physical fitness from mountain bike riders, who are challenged both in the manmade nature reserves and the areas reclaimed by the wilderness. The **Mondercange** and **Belvaux** pump tracks are also fun!

 Be aware that the trails are not suitable for beginners. Basic mountain biking skills are a must here!

[Trails: 25-35 km that may be combined with each other.]



## RELAXATION AND WELLNESS

### Aquasud

1, rue Jeannot Kremer  
L-4671 Oberkorn  
+352 27 32 83 1  
[www.vert-marine.com/aquasud/](http://www.vert-marine.com/aquasud/)

### Schiffange swimming pool

12, rue du Parc  
L-3872 Schiffange  
+352 54 72 42  
[schiffange.lu/service/piscine-et-sauna/](http://schiffange.lu/service/piscine-et-sauna/)

### Escher Schwemm -

**Les bains du parc**  
1, Place des Sacrifiés  
1940-1945  
L-4115 Esch-sur-Alzette  
+352 27 54 7200  
[www.lesbainsduparc.esch.lu](http://www.lesbainsduparc.esch.lu)

### PiKo - Kordall Rodange swimming pool

1, rue de la Piscine  
L-4846 Rodange  
+352 50 12 51 7300  
[www.petange.lu/fr/Pages/PiKo-Accueil\\_2020.aspx](http://www.petange.lu/fr/Pages/PiKo-Accueil_2020.aspx)

### Indoor swimming pool – Centre sportif René Hartmann

2, rue René Hartmann  
L-3425 Dudelange  
+352 516121 510  
[www.dudelange.lu/fr/Pages/Centre-sportif-Rene-Hartmann.aspx](http://www.dudelange.lu/fr/Pages/Centre-sportif-Rene-Hartmann.aspx)



## MINETT TRAIL FOR KIDS

We recommend the following sections for hikes with children:

<b>#A</b>	From: <b>Clemency</b> to: <b>Linger</b>	4,90 km
<b>Château de Clemency</b> ←————→ <b>Lénger Schoul</b>		

This section is not barrier-free. However, you can easily walk a portion of it with a pushchair. It is not suitable for hikers who have difficulty climbing stairs. You must also be fit enough to walk up slight slopes. We recommend walking from Clemency in the direction of Linger.

<b>#B</b>	From: <b>Belvaux</b> to: <b>Esch-sur-Alzette</b>	7,37 km
<b>Gîte Bieles - Réideng</b> ←————→ <b>Pump it up!</b>		

The section from the 'Kabaischen' (hostel) to Belval is not barrier-free because there are steps. However, you can walk a section of it with a pushchair because the pathways from Belval to Esch-sur-Alzette station are fully accessible. We recommend walking from Belvaux to Esch-sur-Alzette.

## ATTRACTIONS FOR CHILDREN

### Parc Merveilleux

Route de Mondorf  
L-3260 Bettembourg  
+352 51 10 48 1  
[www.parc-merveilleux.lu](http://www.parc-merveilleux.lu)

### Luxembourg Science Center

1, rue John Ernest Dolibois  
L-4573 Differdange  
+352 288 399 1  
[www.science-center.lu](http://www.science-center.lu)

### VR Park Luxembourg

31, Porte de France  
L-4360 Esch-sur-Alzette  
+352 24 55 96 48  
[www.vrpark.lu](http://www.vrpark.lu)

### RedRock Climbing Center

12, Rue Jean Anen  
L-4413 Soleuvre  
+352 26 59 08 79  
[www.redrock-climbingcenter.lu](http://www.redrock-climbingcenter.lu)

### Parc Le'h Adventures

**Dudelange**  
203, rue du Parc  
L-3542 Dudelange  
+352 621 669 112  
[www.aventure.lu](http://www.aventure.lu)

### Escher Déierepark –

**Animal Park Gaalgebierg**  
64, Gaalgebierg  
L-4142 Esch-sur-Alzette  
+352 2754 3750  
[www.deierepark.esch.lu](http://www.deierepark.esch.lu)

For more recommendations, consult: [www.visitminett.lu](http://www.visitminett.lu)

# STAY SAFE WHILE HIKING

## PREPARATION AND PLANNING

Carefully plan your hike. Ensure the distances and sections are suitable for your fitness ability, so you can enjoy the experience to the full.

For your safety, we recommend you:

- inform someone you know about your itinerary;
- take a first-aid kit, because it may come in handy;
- stay on the marked paths;
- respect private and public property;
- pay attention to possible challenges on the chosen paths;
- respect mountain bike riders, pedestrians, flora and fauna;
- don't litter;
- avoid hunting areas during hunting season;
- keep your dogs on a lead;
- never light a fire;
- and don't camp in the wild.

Don't forget to rest regularly when hiking... Sit down once in a while and just soak in the moment!

## MAPS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

### Geoportail: download maps

On [www.minetttrail.lu](http://www.minetttrail.lu) you can download the different Minett Trail sections as GPX / KML files. You can also download the maps in a PDF format

### Path closures and detours

On [tourisme.geoportail.lu](http://tourisme.geoportail.lu), you will find information regarding reported path closures and detours, including for hunting zones during the season.



Please note that although we strive to provide up-to-date information at all times, we cannot guarantee full accuracy.

## HIKING EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING

- Sturdy shoes with some grip are a must.
- Please check the weather forecast and dress accordingly. Comfortable clothes are key!
- If you should spontaneously decide on a visit to a mine museum, be aware that you will need warm clothes, even in the summer. Underground, the temperature is only 10 °C [50 °F] all year around.
- Don't forget to pack enough drinks and food.
- Take a hiking map or guide: in some areas close to the border, there may be no mobile phone reception.
- Take cash in case your restaurant does not accept card payments
- ID;
- Sunscreen;
- Camera;
- Cushions;
- Hat or cap;
- Telescope;
- Telescopic walking poles.

## HIKING EQUIPMENT

### A.S.Adventure

Rue de Brill 18-22  
L- 3898 Foetz  
+352 20 40 33 93  
[www.asadventure.lu](http://www.asadventure.lu)

### CITABEL

3 Rue du Chateau d'Eau  
L-3364 Leudelange  
+352 37 97 37  
[www.citabel.lu](http://www.citabel.lu)

### ASPORT

3, rue des 3 Cantons  
L-3980 Wickrange  
+352 26 37 15 -1  
[www.asport.lu](http://www.asport.lu)

### CITABEL

5, Am Duerf  
L-3436 Dudelange  
+352 27 51 03 85  
[www.citabel.lu](http://www.citabel.lu)

## TRANSPORTS

### Public transport

Plan your journey by bus or train anytime on [www.mobilitait.lu](http://www.mobilitait.lu). Public transport is free of charge throughout Luxembourg for all modes of transport (bus, trains and trams). This applies to residents, cross-border workers and tourists alike.

### By car

Access the Minett Trail from Luxembourg City via the A3 or A4 motorways. The A13 crosses the entire region from the Belgian border (Pétange — Frisange).

### Luggage transport

Enjoy your hike without worrying about your luggage! This service will transport your bags ahead of you to your next accommodation, whether it is a hotel, hostel, campsite or holiday home.

- Bookings can be made for any day of the week in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
- Your luggage will be transported to and from your accommodation (e.g. your hotel, campsite, holiday let or youth hostel).
- Your baggage cannot exceed 20 kg and two items maximum per person will be accepted.
- Persons or pets cannot be transported.

[www.movewecarry.lu](http://www.movewecarry.lu)



# ACCOMMODATION

## HOSTEL

★★★★

**Hotel de la Poste**  
107, rue de l'Alzette  
L-4011 Esch-sur-Alzette  
+352 54 00 18  
[www.hotel-noone.com](http://www.hotel-noone.com)

★★★

**Hotel Ibis Esch Belval**  
12, avenue du Rock'n Roll  
L-4361 Esch-sur-Alzette  
+352 26 17 31  
[ibis.accor.com/belgium/](http://ibis.accor.com/belgium/)

★★★

**Hotel Beierhaascht**  
240, avenue de Luxembourg  
L-4940 Bascharage  
+352 26 50 85 400  
[www.beierhaascht.lu](http://www.beierhaascht.lu)

★★★

**Hotel Bernini**  
163, route de Luxembourg  
L-3254 Bettendorf  
+352 51 66 110  
[www.bernini.lu](http://www.bernini.lu)

### Aparthotel City Lodge

1, rue des Artisans  
L-3812 Schifflange  
+352 621 145 125  
[www.citylodge.lu](http://www.citylodge.lu)

### Hotel Mia Zia

24, rue des Alliées  
L-4412 Belvaux  
+352 26 59 57  
[www.miazia.lu](http://www.miazia.lu)

★★★★

**The Seven Hotel**  
50, Gaalgebierg  
L-4142 Esch-sur-Alzette  
+352 54 02 28  
[www.thesevenhotel.lu](http://www.thesevenhotel.lu)

★★★

**Hotel Ibis Luxembourg Sud**  
Rue de Turi  
L-3378 Livange  
+352 26 52 01  
[ibis.accor.com/belgium/](http://ibis.accor.com/belgium/)

★★★

**Hotel Re'serstuff**  
32, Grand-rue  
L-3394 Roeser  
+352 36 90 67  
[www.reserstuff.lu](http://www.reserstuff.lu)

★★★

**Logis Hôtel-Restaurant Cottage**  
10, rue Auguste Liesch  
L-3474 Dudelange  
+352 52 05 91  
[www.cottageluxembourg.com](http://www.cottageluxembourg.com)

### Hotel Dao

164, rue du Brill  
L-3898 Foetz  
+352 26 57 33 03  
[www.restaurant-dao.lu](http://www.restaurant-dao.lu)

★★★

**Hotel No.151**  
151, Route de Bascharage  
L-4513 Differdange  
+352 28 38 730  
[www.hoteln151.com](http://www.hoteln151.com)

★★★

**Hotel de Foetz**  
1, rue de l'Avenir  
L-3895 Foetz  
+352 57 25 45  
[www.hotel-foetz.com](http://www.hotel-foetz.com)

★★★

**Hotel Topaz**  
5, rue des Remparts  
L-4303 Esch-sur-Alzette  
+352 53 14 41 1  
[www.hotel-topaz.lu](http://www.hotel-topaz.lu)

★★★

**Hotel Stand'Inn**  
9, rue du Brill  
L-3898 Foetz  
+352 26 17 88 100  
[www.hotel-standinn.lu](http://www.hotel-standinn.lu)

### Hotel Monvillage

2, rue d'Esch/Alzette  
L-3920 Mondercange  
[www.monvillage.lu](http://www.monvillage.lu)

### Hotel Hosteria Gusto

145, rue de Luxembourg  
L-4221 Esch-sur-Alzette  
+352 26 17 87 1  
[www.hosteriagusto.lu](http://www.hosteriagusto.lu)

★★★

**Hotel-Restaurant Mille 9 Sens**  
10, rue du Commerce  
L-3450 Dudelange  
+352 51 28 48  
[www.mille9sens.lu](http://www.mille9sens.lu)

### Hotel Acacia

10, rue de la Libération  
L-4210 Esch-sur-Alzette  
+352 54 10 61  
[www.hotel-acacia.lu](http://www.hotel-acacia.lu)

### Hotel Carpini

79A, route de Luxembourg  
L-4950 Bascharage  
+352 50 59 99  
[www.carpini-hotel.lu](http://www.carpini-hotel.lu)

### Hotel Gulliver

58, rue Nicolas Meyers  
L-4918 Bascharage  
+352 50 44 55 1  
[www.gulliver.lu](http://www.gulliver.lu)

### Residhome Appart Hotel Luxembourg

3, Boulevard du Jazz  
L-4370 Esch-sur-Alzette  
+352 27 86 78 22  
[www.residhome.com/residence-hoteliere-aparthotel-esch-sur-alzette-341.html](http://www.residhome.com/residence-hoteliere-aparthotel-esch-sur-alzette-341.html)

### Hotel-Restaurant le Presbytère

1, rue de la Crosnière  
L-4696 Lasauvage  
+352 26 58 62  
[www.presbytere.lu](http://www.presbytere.lu)

★★★★

**Threeland Hotel**  
50, rue Pierre Hamer  
L-4737 Pétange  
+352 26 50 800  
[www.hotelthreeland.lu](http://www.hotelthreeland.lu)



## YOUTH HOSTEL

**Youth Hostel Esch-sur-Alzette**  
 17, Boulevard John F. Kennedy  
 L-4170 Esch-sur-Alzette  
 +352 26 27 66 450  
[www.youthhostels.lu/dejugendherbergen/jugendherberge-esch](http://www.youthhostels.lu/dejugendherbergen/jugendherberge-esch)

## SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

**Bamhaiser Gaalgebierg**  
 64, Gaalgebierg  
 L-4142 Esch-sur-Alzette  
 +352 2754 3752  
[www.bamhaiser.esch.lu](http://www.bamhaiser.esch.lu)

**Château de Clemency**  
 18, rue de l'Eglise  
 L-4965 Clemency  
 +352 51 26 52  
[www.chateaudeclemency.lu](http://www.chateaudeclemency.lu)

## Campsites and bivouacs

You cannot camp in the wild or park your camper van in undesignated locations in Luxembourg. However, you may spend the night on private land if the owners allow you to.

### Camper sites

**Dudelange**  
 Rue Reiteschkopp  
 L- 3476 Dudelange

**Camping Gaalgebierg**  
 100, rue du Stade  
 L-4325 Esch-sur-Alzette  
 +352 54 10 69  
[www.gaalgebierg.lu](http://www.gaalgebierg.lu)

## EMERGENCIES



**112** Emergency number

- Protect the injured or affected persons from other risks and shield them from adverse weather.
- Provide first aid.
- Call the emergency services and don't leave the injured alone.
- Don't forget to stay safe yourself!



# BIERGOARBECHTERLIDD

[mine workers' song]

*E. Kauth*

- 1 Biergleit frei op, ruffe Gleck op,  
am Zechenhaus den Zichelche steet,  
am Zechenhaus den Zichelche steet,  
an d'Grouf hie geet, an d'Grouf hie geet
  
- 2 Äddi, léif Sonn, fir munnech Stonn  
si sin am Bierg um Schantgen eleng,  
si sin am Bierg um Schantgen eleng,  
mat Minettssteng, mat Minettssteng
  
- 3 Halt, gare la mine, Damp kräicht dohin  
hie séchert, stäipt an d'Buggië féllt  
hie séchert, stäipt an d'Buggië féllt  
Den Duuscht sech stëllt, den Duuscht sech stëllt
  
- 4 Geet et zum Rescht, d'Schicht ass déi lescht  
hie wees : da fiert e sécher a riicht  
hie wees : da fiert e sécher a riicht  
An d'Himmelslicht, an d'Himmelslicht

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