



9 *The cross of justice* : The cross of justice is placed in the middle of the market square. Also named „Urtzel“, the column of judgment, it demonstrated the abbot's supremacy. In 1774, the citizens wanted to dismantle this symbol of medieval power and replace it by a fountain. But only 20 years later, the cross was destroyed by French Revolution troops. It was set up again in 1938 in front of the town hall, only to be destroyed again in 1944. According to 18th century plans, it was rebuilt at its original place on the market square in 1982.

10 *The Denzelt* : The market square is dominated by the Denzelt („Dingstuhl“, the former palace of justice) which was built partly at the end of the 14th century. After the big fire in 1444, it was transformed mainly into the building that it is today. The „Dingstuhl“ (or seat of deliberations which were held in three-lobed open hall) was not only a palace of justice but it also contained a torture room and a prison. The passage from Gothic to Renaissance style can be seen on the monumental window frames. The statues of Virgin Mary, King Salomon and the cardinal virtues were added to the front side during the restoration works in 1898. The building was restored one last time in 1993.

You leave the market square, go to Rue de la Montagne and discover big stone blocks which were erected in 1998 to commemorate the 1300-year old history of the City of Echternach.

11 *Peter and Paul church* : The Peter and Paul church was built upon the remains of an ancient Roman fort. In Merovingian times, the Roman fort housed a small convent, which was donated to Willibrord in 698 by Abbess Irmina from Oeren (Trier). In the 10th and 12th centuries, the church was enlarged and contained 3 naves; the Gothic ceiling dates back to 1480. The vaulted frescos appeared during the late Gothic period. Several transformations were carried out later.

You walk down the steps to the Memorial to the Victims of World War II.



12 *The Hihof* : The Hihof houses the Museum of Prehistory. The building's origins are unknown; the vaulted ceiling however goes back to the 15th century. Elements that date from late Gothic can be seen on the facade. The building was used as a hospital, a china workshop, a school and a private house.

You cross the street in Rue du Pont, pass the Willibrord fountain and walk up the stairs behind.

13 *The garden pavilion - „parlodrome“* : Near the entrance, you will see one of the 12 columns which were built in Luxembourg on the millennium. At the back, you can see a restored garden pavilion that displays text extracts about Echternach in 5 different languages. By pushing a button (below the window) you may listen to statements of poets and historians.

14 *The chapel of our lady* : The chapel was built in 1654 by Abbot Petrus Fisch in late Renaissance style. It was used as a parish church for this part of the town and it was also the garrison chapel. Destroyed in 1944-45, it was restored between 1947 and 1952.

15 *The Roman villa (1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> century)* : The Roman villa is one of the biggest of its kind in central Europe (118 x 62 m). It was discovered in 1975 during excavation works for the artificial lake, in the so called „Schwarzuecht“. The modern visitor center gives a clear and vivid picture of everyday life in the mansion in one of the largest Roman villas north of the Alps. Productions with life-size figures and models provide an insight into the luxurious house interior: the elaborate bathing facilities, the magnificent reception and dining rooms, the kitchen and private living quarters.



## Informationen:



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[www.echternach-tourist.lu](http://www.echternach-tourist.lu)  
[www.mullerthal.lu](http://www.mullerthal.lu)



# VIA EPTERNACENSIS A CULTURAL WALK THROUGH THE ANCIENT CITY OF ECHTERNACH

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**MULLERTHAL REGION**  
**LUXEMBOURG'S LITTLE SWITZERLAND**





**1** You start in front of the tourist office where you can get information brochures.

**2** *The Saint-Willibrord Basilica* : Shortly after the year 700, Saint Willibrord started to build his first church, which is located right below the main nave of the present Basilica. A second church was built around the year 800 and had about the same size as the present one. The big fire in 1016 caused severe damage to the building; the new construction was finished in 1031. The main feature of this Roman Basilica is the alternation of pillars and columns, a style which was copied later on in the Rhineland. After the pillage by French Revolution troops in 1794, the Basilica was transformed into a china factory. In 1861, the church was restored in neo-Gothic and neo-Roman style. During the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, the Basilica was destroyed and then rebuilt again between 1948 and 1953. The crypt seems to go back to Carolingian times and the frescoes were painted during the 14th century. A documentation center about the dancing procession is accessible from the left side nave of the basilica.

**3** *The Benedictine Abbey* : When leaving the Basilica, you stand in front of the prelates' wing of the abbey, built in Lorraine style from 1727 to 1736. This square building of 75 meters in width and the cloister were designed by Leopold Durand, an architect from St. Avoir and built by the constructor family Mungenast from Austria. The abbey was dissolved in 1797. It has been a secondary school since 1899.

**4** *The Museum of the Abbey* : The Museum of the Abbey is situated in the basement of the abbey, next to the right corner pavilion. The museum contains facsimiles of the magnificent medieval manuscripts from the Echternach School among which the Codex Aureus Epternacensis as well as work material from former times, information on Saint Willibrord, video tapes, a copy of his tomb and much more.

**5** *The abbey garden, the Orangerie (1735-1736)*: You leave the courtyard towards the rotunda through an arch with a cast-iron grille to discover the abbey gardens. The statues on the front side of the Orangerie illustrate the four seasons. You walk back through the prelates' courtyard into the adjacent courtyard. You turn left below the arcades (school today) to reach the municipal park.



„Via Epternacensis“: The cultural walk is 2.2 km long (without waypoints 14 and 15) and connects all the historic sights of the city. With its 15 stages, it has been designed according to the criteria of the European Council and the didactics of the European Institute of Cultural Routes.



**6** *The Pavilion* : In the former pleasure garden of the abbey, next to the river Sûre, you see the pentagonal pavilion built in 1761 by Paul Mungenast in Rococo style. An elegant staircase leads to the first floor to a room of 100 square meters, where an audiovisual program shows the abbey's influence on architecture in the rural surroundings.

When leaving the pavilion, you turn left and cross the municipal park. You will discover three panels documenting the influence of the abbey gardens on private gardens, the ship builders of Echternach and the history of the Sûre bridge.

You leave the municipal park and see, on your right, a part of the ancient town wall. You turn left, walk next to the border bridge and reach again a medieval tower of the town wall.

**7** *The town wall* : The fortified town wall goes back to the 10th century in its most primitive form. It was enlarged during the 13th century, was 2000 meters long and contained 20 towers and 4 gates. A big part of the wall was destroyed during the 19th century. The towers which were saved from demolition were sold and transformed into lodgings in 1813.

Behind the corner tower, you walk through the 12 to 15-meter wide moat. You cross the street and walk next to three more towers in Rue Hooveleker Buurchmauer which also have been transformed into tourist lodgings. Also notice the town hospital on your right.

You cross Route de Luxembourg, take Rue des Tonneliers and turn right into Rue André Duchscher to discover, on your left, in a narrow dead-end street, the next point of interest.

**8** *The Gothic House* : This rare witness of the Middle Ages in Echternach partly collapsed in 1996, which caused severe damage to the window frames. The three-lobed windows go back to the first half of the 14th century. Dendro-chronologic analyses proved that the timber used in the beams of the ceiling came from trees that were cut in 1299.

You go back to Rue André Duchscher, cross the upper part of the pedestrian zone and reach the market square.