



Border Crossings and Liminal Walks

General information:

Organiser:

- Sonja Kmec (sonja.kmec@uni.lu)

Destination: Rodemack (France), Arlon (Belgique)

Date: 6th of October 2016

Time:

- Start: 9 am at Luxembourg-City – main station
- Across: 9:30 am at Esch-Belval – Uni Luxembourg
- End: 6 pm at Luxembourg-City – main station / 6:30 pm at Esch-Belval – Uni Luxembourg

Costs: 25 €(including bus transfer & packed lunch)

Summary:

The borderlands situated at today's confines of Luxembourg, France and Belgium are the destination of this excursion. We will cross timezones and linguistic landscapes, starting with the Gallo-Roman settlement of Dalheim (guided tour by Andrea Binsfeld, professor in Ancient History at the University of Luxembourg). We will then drive across today's border to the picturesque Renaissance village of Rodemack (free stroll). After lunch we will move to the 20th century and visit a well-preserved site of the Maginot line, an elaborate defensive barrier stretching over 720 km, constructed in the 1930s by the French to prevent German military invasion (in vain, as the German army marched through Luxembourg and Belgium in May 1940).

Passing by the nuclear plant of Cattenom (one of the many lining the French border) and the petrol stations, which are characteristic of Luxembourg's side of the border, we will drive to Arlon, a city of Gallo-Roman origins as well, which was later part of Luxembourg and was designed – after the partition in 1839 – as entrance gate to Belgium and capital of the "province du Luxembourg". A "beer tasting" of locally-crafted brews may conclude the excursion.

Walking shoes are recommended, as are warm clothes (inside the fortification, temperatures are ca. 10°C).

The bus will drive us back to Luxembourg-city, where we will arrive around 6 pm and then to Esch-Belval. If you wish, you can spend the evening in Luxembourg-city and take the train back.

For more information, please contact the organizer: Sonja Kmec (sonja.kmec@uni.lu)