

Excursion of Schengen

A stroll around
historical terrain

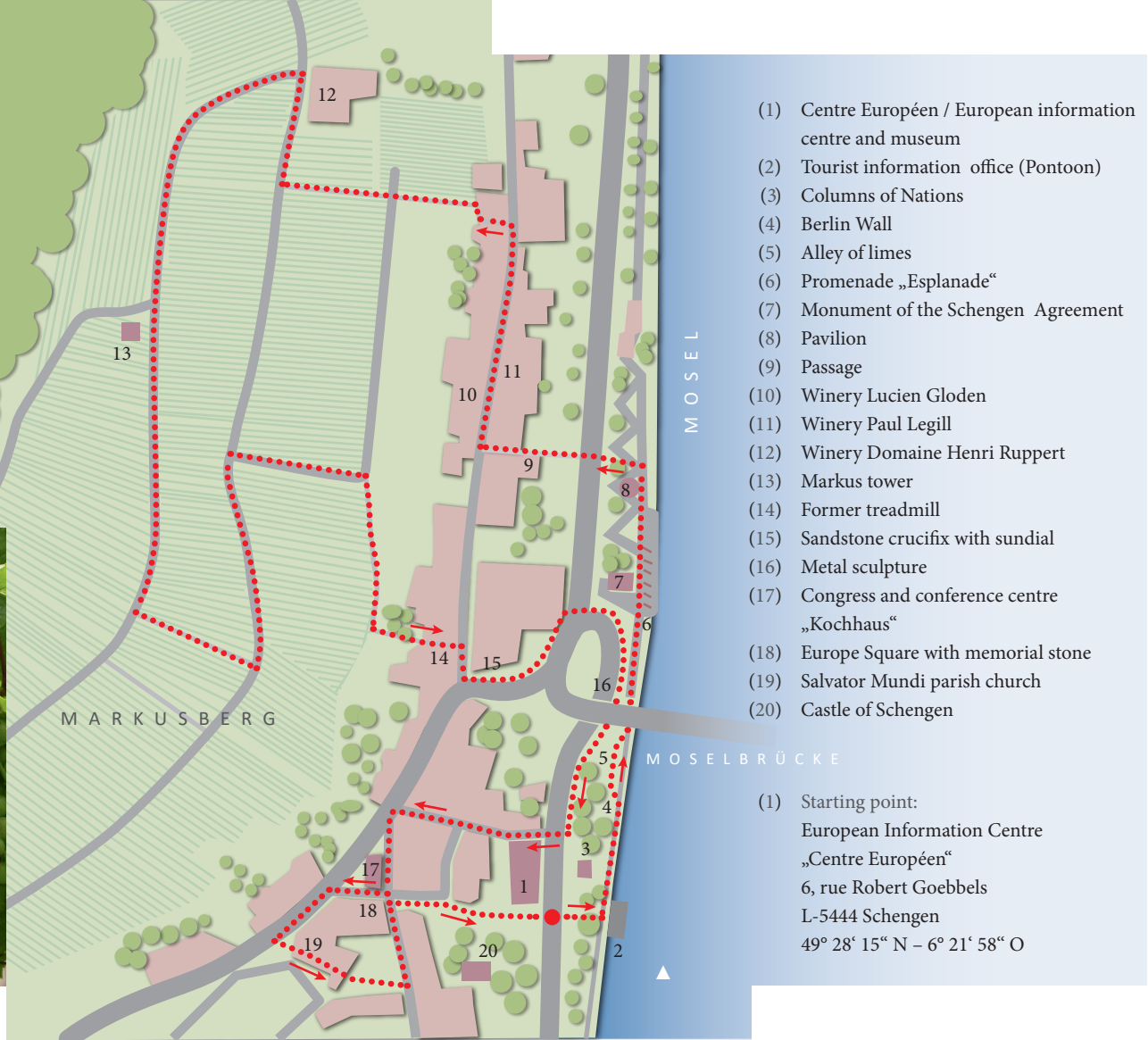




You enter historical terrain in Schengen!

European history was written here at the border triangle of Luxembourg, France and Germany. On board of the cruise ship „MS Princesse Marie-Astrid“ political representatives of Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany signed the Schengen Agreement on June 14th, 1985.

The agreement was one of the major steps towards a unified Europe: the abolishment of inner-European border controls between the signing countries. Schengen is considered the birth place of a borderless Europe: travelling without border formalities from one country to another, be it either by foot, by bike or by car.





We start our stroll on the banks of the Moselle River in „Rue Robert Goebbels“ between the „Centre Européen“ and the Moselle pontoon, which hosts the tourist office. The street was named after the former State Secretary of the Luxembourgish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who signed the Schengen Agreement in 1985 as the representative of the government of Luxembourg.

The „Centre Européen“ houses a bistro and the interactive „Musée Européen Schengen“. This museum explains the development of

European integration and the history and significance of the Schengen agreement.

We head downstream towards the bridge connecting Schengen (L) to Perl(D), the only winegrowing village of the German Saarland. Particularly noticeable on the „Place des Etoiles“, which we are crossing now, are the „Colonne des Nations“ (3), the columns of nations (3). Each of the 26 bronze stars on these columns symbolises a Schengen member state. Bronze plates with the names of the different member states are embedded



in the floor. Close by, two original parts of the Berlin Wall (4) are set up as symbols for the opening and removal of border controls in Europe.

Between the small alley of lime trees and the banks of the Moselle (5) we come to the river promenade „Esplanade „ (6), leading to the square „Place de l'Accord de Schengen“ (7) with its three columns made of Cor-Ten steel. This monument was erected in 1997 close to the landing quay of M.S. Princesse Marie-Astrid and recalls the signing of the Schengen Agreement on June 14th, 1985. .



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Heading downstream.

After passing the first pavilion (8) we leave the banks of the Moselle and we cross the National Road N 10. We use the small passage (9) between the line of houses that brings us to the street „Route du Vin“, „Wäistrooss“ (wine road).

We turn right into the street and pass the winery Lucien Gloden (10) and Paul Legill (11) on our left-hand side.



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Between the houses number 20 and 22, 189 steps are leading up into the vineyards. The vineyards of Schengen specialise in the growing of Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Riesling, Cabernet and Gewürztraminer.

At the top, we stay right and reach an open plan building (12) „Domaine Henri Rupert“ (winegrower) that was created by the local architect François Valentiny.

Along the footpath we pass a Madonna portrait located in the vineyards. Then we turn left and we reach the Markus tower (13). It was built by the former owner of the castle of Schengen in 1936 at the occasion of the first land consolidation in the area.

The figurine of Saint Markus was created by the Luxembourgish sculpturer Claus Cito, who also created the monument of the Golden Lady in Luxembourg-City. The patron watches over 20 hectares of the vineyard „Markusberg“.



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We have a nice view of the hill „Stroumbierg“ from Markus tower.

The quality hiking trail „Traumschleife Schengen grenzenlos - Schengen without borders“ passes through this nature reserve. “

After passing the Markus tower we follow the gently sloped street for 200 metres and then turn left going down 95 steps. At the end of the street we turn left again and then right again and then turn right at the next bifurcation. When we arrive at the balustrade we take 125 steps down to the right.

On our way down we pass the building of a former treadmill (14). We cross the „Wäistrooss,“ via a zebra crossing, stay on the right and turn immediately right towards the river. There is an old sandstone crucifix with a sundial in a niche located in the house at the corner (15).

Shortly afterwards we reach the N10 which we cross also via zebra crossing. We turn right and pass a round steel sculpture (16). After passing under the Moselle Bridge we turn right into the small alley „Baachergaass.“ at the corner of the Centre Européen“. At the end of the alley we turn



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left and get to the „Kochhaus“, the conference centre of Schengen (17).

We come to the square „Europaplatz“ with a memorial stone (18). saying „EUROPA OUNI GRENZEN“, „L'EUROPE SANS FRONTIERES“, „GRENZENLOSES EUROPA“.

Passing the well we are taking the steps next to house number 6 that leads us to the



parish church of Salvator Mundi (19). According to many historians Schengen was a fief of the county of Vianden and the Abbey of Prüm. The church of Schengen was completely destroyed by a fire in 1947. Two years later in 1949, the reconstruction of the current church started and it was inaugurated in November 1950.

Back from the church we are going back to the Kochhaus and the „Europaplatz“ (Europe Square). We are heading towards the Moselle using the road „Am Schloss“. On our right we can see the castle of Schengen (20) behind an iron gate. It was first mentioned in 1350



and was built as a moated castle. After several changes the Collart family acquired the castle in the 18th century. They tore it down and used the material for a new building in neo-classical style.

The French writer Victor Hugo spent some days in Schengen in 1871 and drew a sketch of the round tower which is situated on the left-hand side of the main building.

Heading back to the European Centre, you will find a cosy bistro where you can

relax after the excursion with a refreshing glass of white Moselle wine.



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