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“ON THE TRACES OF THE  
FATHER OF EUROPE”

## Robert Schuman and Luxembourg

Robert Schuman was born on 29 June 1886 in Luxembourg-Clausen to a father hailing from Evrange (a Lorraine village close to the Luxembourg border, opposite Frisange) and a Luxembourg mother born in Bettembourg. At home, they spoke Luxembourgish, which thus became Schuman's mother tongue. It was at the primary school and at the "Kolléisch" (Atheneum) that he learned German and French. After his secondary studies, he studied Law at several universities in Germany, and then practised as a

lawyer in Metz. Following the First World War (in 1918), the annexed part of Lorraine and the Alsace were returned to France, Robert Schuman thereby becoming a French citizen. He was elected to the Chamber of Deputies in Paris, and was re-elected regularly thereafter. As a Deputy, he voted full powers to Marshal Philippe Pétain (July 1940), but immediately took a distant stance. He was arrested by the Gestapo (September 1940), and then placed under house arrest in Germany (April 1941 to August

1942), from where he escaped to join the underground. In 1946, he became Minister of Finance and in 1947, President of the Council (Prime Minister). From July 1948 until January 1953, he was Minister of Foreign Affairs and then from 1958 until 1960, President of the European Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg. It was during those years that he promoted the cause of European unity. He died on 4 September 1963 in his house at Scy-Chazelles, near Metz.

### SCHUMAN TOUR

#### Highlights

This three-hour tour will see you follow in the footsteps of Robert Schuman, one of the founders of European unity. A walk that will deepen your knowledge of the history of Europe. A description of the tour is available at the Luxembourg City Tourist Office.

#### Tour

On foot

#### Duration & length

3 hours. 7 km

#### Difficulty level

Not suitable for wheelchair users. Height difference: +/- 200 m

#### On your own

See this leaflet and on-site signage

#### Guided tours with your personal guide

For individuals and groups up to 25 people

**Price:** 150 €

**Bookings:** Luxembourg City Tourist Office, tel.: (+352) 22 28 09 - 79, guides@lcto.lu, as well as on [luxembourg-city.com](http://luxembourg-city.com)





**Declaration on 9 May 1950**  
(Robert Schuman together with Jean Monnet, who were involved in the founding of the European Coal and Steel Community from the very beginning)



**1 Cercle Municipal**



**2 City Hall**



**4 Building of the Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État (BCEE)**



**5 Villa Vauban**



**8 Robert Schuman Monument**



**9 Bock Promontory**



**11 Robert Schuman's Birthplace**

**12 St. Cunégonde Church**

Robert Schuman was deeply affected by the education he received in Luxembourg. This is what he said of his days spent at secondary school: "On this line of demarcation between France and Germany, it was necessary for us to gain an in-depth knowledge of two languages and of two cultures: this was a singularly complex task for our teachers and overburdened the curriculum. I have the feeling that at no stage in my life I have worked harder or as conscientiously as I did for the broadening of my knowledge" (1953). Concerning the Schuman Plan, he said: "Et ass keen Zoufall, dass d'Idé vun enger Gemengschaft vun Stohl, Eisen a Kuelen grad engem Lëtzebuerger Jong kom ass, dem seng Elteren erlieft hun, wat et hescht Krich ze hun." (It is no accident that the idea of a Coal, Iron and Steel Community came from a Luxembourg youth, whose parents had seen what it was like to be at war). It is a well-known fact that the idea of the European Coal and Steel Community came from Jean Monnet. Perhaps Robert Schuman simply wanted to say that, with his Luxembourg origins, he was particularly well prepared to welcome it and to make it his own.

On the Place d'Armes, the "drawing room of the City" finished in 1671, is located the **Cercle Municipal** **1**, an administrative building with several reception rooms. Built between 1904 and 1909, the "Cercle Municipal" was chosen by the Luxembourg authorities to serve as the Court of Justice for the European Coal and Steel Community. The "Cercle" served as the chamber for public meetings before a more appropriate building could be made available to the European institution established in Luxembourg in 1952.

The **City Hall** **2** was built between 1830 and 1839 in a neoclassical style on the site of a former Franciscan convent. On 8 August 1952, a historic day, the City Hall in Luxembourg welcomed the Foreign Ministers of the member countries of the European Coal and Steel Community on the occasion of the formal inauguration of the High Authority of the Schuman Plan. Chaired by Jean Monnet, the High Authority was the independent executive body consisting of nine members from the six participating countries. With the inaugural meeting of the High Authority taking place in the City of Luxembourg, it was able to claim the title of "Capital of Europe". The college of the Jesuit fathers was founded in 1603 under Governor Peter Ernst von Mansfeld, who incidentally had a magnificent chateau built in a park in Clausen, not far from Robert Schuman's birthplace. The college was built between 1606 and 1611, in the Upper City, its chapel being identical to the oldest part of the cathedral "Notre-Dame de Luxembourg". From 1970 to 2019, the building, which formerly housed the **Luxembourg Atheneum** **3**, accommodated the National Library of Luxembourg, which has since relocated to the Kirchberg Plateau. Becoming the Royal High School and then the Grand Ducal High School in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was for a long time the breeding ground for Luxembourg's intellectual life. Robert Schuman, admitted to the school in 1896, learned two foreign languages there, German and French, like all Luxembourg pupils on top of Latin and Greek, of course. Schuman retained fond memories of his secondary education in Luxembourg. He was an excellent student, as his academic results demonstrate. In 1903, he obtained his High School Diploma and went on to study Law at university in Germany.

The offices of the National Savings Bank (**Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État (BCEE)** **4**), flanked by its tower, and those of the Guillaume-Luxembourg Railway, opposite, represent one of the best known aspects of the City of Luxembourg. Minister of State Paul Eyschen was eager to respect the balance of the two powerful neighbours in Luxembourg, for the two buildings located on the Place de Metz. While the BCEE building rather recalls the architecture of Germany, the architecture of the railway building instead resembles the classic French. The railway

administration, which occupied the building from its construction in 1913 onwards, had to abruptly quit the premises at the end of July 1952, when the City of Luxembourg welcomed the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community. On 10 August 1952, Jean Monnet and his team began their work there. Today, the headquarters of the BCEE make full use of both buildings.

The municipal park in Luxembourg, created after the dismantling of the fortress in 1867, enabled some extremely rich bourgeois families to build beautiful villas on the site of the former ramparts. When the Government had to find offices for the Judges of the European Coal and Steel Community, it suggested the Court be installed in the **Villa Vauban 5** (Vauban, the celebrated Marshal and military engineer of Louis XIV, largely contributed to making the fortress City of Luxembourg into a veritable “Gibraltar of the North”). The Villa Vauban formerly belonged to a rich Luxembourg family before being acquired by the City to serve as a municipal art gallery. Public hearings were held in the “Cercle Municipal” (1). Today, the Court of Justice of the European Union is housed on the Kirchberg Plateau. The Villa Vauban has rediscovered its former destiny, as a municipal art gallery.

The **Robert Schuman Roundabout 6** – with the Millennium Theatre (Grand Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg) built in 1963, the Pescatore Foundation, a rest home for the elderly, the Glacis fairground and the municipal park – is one of the busiest junctions in the Northern part of the city. That is why a road tunnel was constructed to ease the flow of traffic: one of the roads leads to the Kirchberg Plateau, where almost all the European institutions based in Luxembourg are to be found. Before taking the Grand Duchess Charlotte Bridge, known in the vernacular as the “Roud Bréck” (the “Red Bridge”), towards the Kirchberg Plateau, one must first of all pass the Schuman Monument.

The famous “father of Europe” never attended the **Robert Schuman High School 7** (“Lycée Robert Schuman”). It is situated to the North of the Robert Schuman Roundabout. The management and staff of the former “Lycée des Jeunes Filles”, were agreeable to the change of name in 1972, when it became a mixed school. It was in fact founded in 1909, on the initiative of Aline Mayrisch-de Saint-Hubert, wife of the great steel-maker Emile Mayrisch, to offer young girls at the beginning of the century a chance to receive a secular secondary education. The Mayrisch couple served Europe well, making a considerable contribution to the Franco-German reconciliation, during the Twenties, within the context of the International Steel Entente (1926), and the various international gatherings at their home in Colpach. They prepared the way for those who initiated the European Coal and Steel Community.

On the same day as the formal inauguration of the Grand Duchess Charlotte Bridge, a monument in honour of the “Father of Europe” was unveiled at the city end of the bridge leading to the Kirchberg “European Quarter”. The **Robert Schuman Monument 8** consists of three steel girders ending in six points. These symbolise the six founding members of the European Coal and Steel Community: Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The monument recalls Robert Schuman’s famous declaration made on 9 May 1950, who was involved in the founding of the European Coal and Steel Community from the very beginning.

The **Bock Promontory 9** is the cradle of the City of Luxembourg. It was in the year 963 that Count Siegfried acquired it through an exchange with the Saint Maximin’s Abbey in Trier. This promontory, upon which Siegfried built his castle, was

always of major strategic importance. Over time, it proved easy to defend, because it was surrounded on two sides by the deep valley of the river Alzette. It was only accessible from the West. From the Bock Promontory, we have a magnificent view over the lower suburbs of Grund, Clausen and Pfaffenthal. The wooded Kirchberg Plateau opposite is home to one of the three seats of the European Union. At the foot of the Plateau, surrounded by greenery, can be seen the birthplace of Robert Schuman, in Clausen. The auditorium built on the redoubt where we are standing presents us with a recording of Robert Schuman addressing visitors to this interesting and symbolic site in French and Luxembourgish.

Robert Schuman attended the **Primary School in Clausen 10** from 1892 until 1896, like all the other children of his age. He learned both German and French. Indeed he claimed later that he sang the “Feierwon” (a popular patriotic song) at this school well before he ever learned the “Marseillaise”. Robert Schuman was not only a very industrious pupil, but also extremely devout.

**Robert Schuman’s Birthplace 11** is situated in the suburb of Clausen, one of the lower suburbs of the City of Luxembourg. Clausen saw glorious times under Governor Peter Ernst von Mansfeld, who built a magnificent Renaissance chateau there during the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was surrounded by a sumptuous park, but sadly fell into ruins through lack of maintenance after the death of its creator. The inhabitants of Clausen recycled the remains in building their own houses. The young Robert Schuman grew up in this quarter, occupied as it was by market gardeners and brewers. The Schuman family home is isolated and surrounded by greenery, at the foot of the slope beneath the European Parliament building. In fact it never belonged to Robert Schuman’s parents, who were tenants in the house. They owned another house located in the Grand-Rue in the Upper City. The house in Clausen was built in 1872/73 by the lawyer Jean-Nicolas Feyen, who sold it in 1899 to the teacher Jules Wilhelm. Today, the street bears his name. In Robert Schuman’s time, the place was called “Parc Mansfeld”. On his daily journey to school, Robert Schuman passed the German military cemetery, a reminder of the time of the federal fortress (1815-1867), when a Prussian garrison held the city. After the departure of the Schuman family, different tenants occupied the house. Edmond Dune, a French speaking Luxembourgish journalist and novelist living in Clausen, turned up many times in this meeting place of the local cultural life. The Luxembourg government bought the house in 1985, when the Luxembourgish historian Professor Gilbert Trausch founded the “Robert Schuman Center for European Studies and research” as well as a scientific library in 1991. Since the final take over by the “Center for Contemporary and Digital History” in 2019, the house has been used as an office and meeting room without public access.

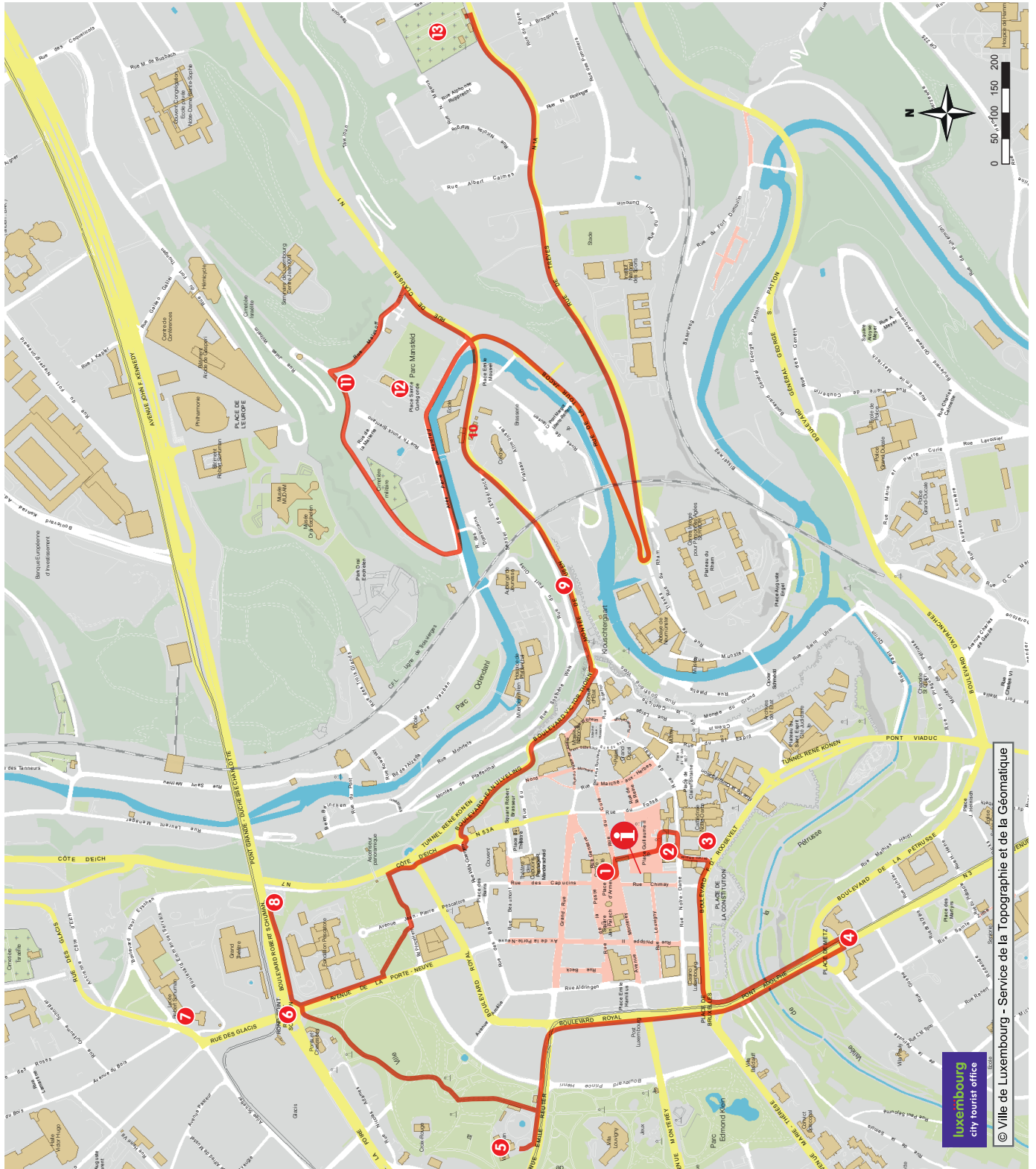
The parish church of Clausen, also called **St. Cunégonde Church 12**, certainly marked the life of the young Robert Schuman. First of all from a spiritual point of view, since his mother had brought him up to be extremely devout (he never missed Sunday mass), and even more from a topographical point of view, because the building was situated only a stone’s throw from his home. It was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with remains going back to the Middle Ages. It has been rebuilt several times over the course of its history. You can extend your journey by following the rue de la Tour Jacob and the rue de Trèves.

Robert Schuman’s parents, who lie at rest in the **Cimetière du Fetschenhof 13** (ground 1, row 19, plot 14), are often put forward as proof of the Luxembourg origins of the “father of Europe”. Robert Schuman’s father, Jean-Pierre, born French



(in 1837), became a German citizen when Germany annexed a part of his Lorraine homeland (1871). Robert's mother, Elisabeth Duren, became German by marriage. Legally therefore, Robert Schuman was German, but three of his four grandparents were of Luxembourg nationality. Robert Schuman revered his parents, and took the opportunity every time

he came to Luxembourg to visit their grave in the Fetschenhof Cemetery. If you have finished your walk, you can return to the city centre via the Montée de Clausen (bus line 14).



**Impressum**

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