

Luxembourg Study Trip 2026

The South and East Museums Federation is unique among UK Museum Federations in organising an annual study trip that gives members a rare opportunity to visit behind the scenes and meet members of staff from museums across Europe and beyond.

Study trips are organised voluntarily by SEMFed members. It is a great opportunity to learn from fellow professionals across the world and socialise with fellow SEMFed members over dinner & drinks. Members are welcome to bring a partner or friend with them.



The 2026 SEMFed Study Trip will be to **Luxembourg City, Luxembourg** and will take place on **4th-7th February**.

Exact details of visits included on the trip are still being confirmed but will include visits to a range of museums & other cultural institutions, where possible including meeting staff from those organisations.

The trip is open to all current SEMFed members, (membership costs £10 for the year). Find out more about becoming a SEMFED member at semfed.org.uk/membership/

Martin Howe bursary

Each year, SEMFed offers a travel bursary in honour of Martin Howe, an ex-President of the Federation who was involved in the organisation for many years. Martin Howe was Curator at Peterborough Museum from the 1980s to the early 1990s, when he became ill and died at a young age. Together with Martin's widow, the Federation decided a travel bursary would be a small but fitting way to commemorate his life.

Two bursaries are available for the 2019 study trip. The £200 bursary helps to cover travel and accommodation costs of the study trip and is open to all SEMFed members who have not been on the Study Trip before.

Recipients must write a report on the trip which is circulated to all members and will feature on the website and newsletters. The bursary will be sent on receipt of the finished report.

To apply for the bursary:

- You need to be a member of the South and East Museums Federation
- Send a letter of application to us telling us about yourself, your current role in museums, and why you want to go on the trip by **Monday 13th October**.
- Application to be a maximum of 500 words.
- Please email this letter to admin@semfed.org.uk
- We will acknowledge receipt of all applications.

We will contact all applicants re the committee's decision by **Monday 20th October**.

The value of the bursary is £200, to be paid on receipt of the recipient's report on return from the trip.

For more information about the bursary see the SEMFed website or contact the SEMFed President Sam Daisley on samantha.daisley@stevenage.gov.uk

Luxembourg City



Luxembourg City is the capital of one of Europe's smallest nations. Historically a fortified town on the confluence of the Alzette and Pétrusse rivers the city has today developed into a banking centre and one of the *de facto* capitals of the European Union.

Officially the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the country sits between France, Germany, and Belgium. As part of the Low Countries, Luxembourg has close historic, political, and cultural ties to Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as being greatly influenced by France and Germany. The official national language is Luxembourgish, a Germanic language, but French and German are also commonly used. (English is also widely spoken.)

The country's population is 682,000, smaller than that of Suffolk (786,000), Norfolk (932,000), Hertfordshire (1.2 million) and less than half that of Essex (1.9 million). The small population is, however, growing quickly, and foreigners account for almost half of residents (Luxembourg City is made up of people from 160 nationalities).

Luxembourg City is very compact and is home to many heritage and cultural institutions. It was the first city to be named European Capital of Culture twice, in 1995 and 2007, and the Old City is on a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Potential Itinerary

- **Wednesday 4th February** – Arrival, check in and an evening meal with the group at a local restaurant.
- **Thursday 5th February** – Two formal visits – to be arranged.
- **Friday 6th February** - Two formal visits – to be arranged, evening social activity.
- **7th February** - Free day to explore or depart.

The trip is entirely flexible, so you may choose to leave early or join the group later than the first day. However, we need a decent number to attend the arranged visits so please make every effort to attend these.

There are lots of other things to see and do in Luxembourg City and in the surrounding area. All public transport is free and Belgium, France and Germany are all within easy reach. Check out <https://www.visitluxembourg.com/> for ideas.

Travel

- There are regular flights to Luxembourg Airport from London Stansted and London City airports (flight time around 1hr 25). Return fares from Stansted start from £60 on Ryanair. Luxembourg Airport is just outside the city, with good public transport links into the city centre (about 30 minutes).
- The train is also an option, taking the Eurostar from London St Pancras to Brussels, then a local train across Belgium into Luxembourg. The total journey time from London is about 10 hours. If booked well in advance it is possible to get Eurostar tickets for around £50 each way (plus the cost of local trains).
- Within Luxembourg itself all public transport is free, including for visitors.

Accommodation

There are lots of accommodation options within Luxembourg City.

One reasonable option is the [Ibis Styles Luxembourg Centre Gare](#), which (as the name suggests) is close to the main station and is about £122 per night. The central location can mean city centre noise though, so that's something to take into consideration!

Nearer to the airport is the [Mercure Luxembourg on Kirchberg](#), also about £120 per night but in a business district rather than the city centre.

Once you have reserved your place on the trip it is up to you to book your accommodation. This way you can select the options which best suit you.

Booking Information

Booking will open on **Monday 6th October** and close on **Monday 1st December, or once the trip is full.**

Please register your interest in attending by emailing Hannah Salisbury on hannah@hjsheritage.co.uk

Thank you – we hope to see you there!

Hannah Salisbury and Alana Edgeworth

(SEMFed Committee members and organisers of the Luxembourg study trip)