

Little Luxembourg has its own special style

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A LITTLE homework on my part was necessary. I challenged myself to become more than just a temporary expatriate from the States. I vowed to act, speak, and live like the locals. Of course, I was never said than done and involved putting myself in uneasy situations... all of which I laugh at now.

To start, I began taking language lessons. Breaking down the commu-

nication barrier seemed to be the most logical step forward in my integration plan. Before long, my confidence level rose and I was conversing in French with the vendors and locals in town.

There was a real change in people's attitudes toward me. I believe they appreciated the fact that I was making the effort to communicate on their terms.

Despite the stumbling blocks of mispronunciations and wrong verb tenses, I was pleased with my prog-

reader's report

ress. At one point, however, I got ahead of myself. I mistook a postal notice which read "Vill out the leaflet, place it near your mailbox and it will be picked up Saturday by a census bureau employee."

My hasty interpretation: Gather your leaves, leave them near the mailbox and a city worker will pick them up Saturday.

Needless to say, I was a bit embarrassed to learn of the mistranslation from the census taker, who was laughing hysterically on my door-

step... a story to be remembered by friends and neighbors for years to come.

My original impressions are now fading. The simple errands that seemed so time-consuming and complicated at first are simple again. I am familiar with store floorplans and product labels, banking procedures and city codes. Ridiculous as it may seem, I now know the one place across the border where I can buy "rushed pineapple" in the can.

The bottom line to living in Luxembourg seems to be a matter of "not assuming anything." Don't assume your garbagemen will be dressed in grubs — because they're sometimes seen in sport coats and tie.

Don't assume a village road is reserved for only vehicles — because you may be surprised to find a cow licking your window at a stop sign. It's these kind of experiences that definitely make you smile and realize that the world can be opened up to all who are open to exploring it.

Getting to Aussie at half price

If you plan to take advantage of the great half-price airfare of airline seats to Australia, \$750 or less round-trip, you must buy your tickets from Northwest or Continental airlines before July 15 for use between now and Sept. 30. Seats are very hard to get. I note that Brighton Travel Service is offering air fare at \$690 per person.

GAYLORD'S 27th annual Alpenfest will be July 16 and 17, starting with the traditional burning of the Boog, put your worries in the Boog and they'll torch them for you.

The Alpenfest Grand Parade will be led by a Swiss Cow and events will include the world's largest coffee break. Just what we'll all need by then. Call the Gaylord Area Convention and Visitors Bureau toll-free (800) 345-8621.

OTHER MICHIGAN fun and games include: the rest of the Traverse City Cherry Festival, through July 13; the Floral City Festival in Monroe and the Founders Festival in Farmington this weekend of July 11-13; the Brown Trout Festival in Alpena July 13-21.

Wyandotte has its Street Art Fair July 17-20, South Haven its Blueberry Festival July 17-21, Houghton Lake a Polkafest July 18-21, Benton Harbor, Joseph A. Venetian Festival July 19-20. The Muskegon Art Fair is July 20-21, Ann Arbor Street Fair July 21-22, Novi's Michigan 50s Festival and Pigeon's Farmers Festival July 21-24.

Festivals, festivals! Bronson's Polish Festival July 25-27, Jackson's Hot Air Jubilee July 26-28, the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival July 26-Aug. 1, the Ionia Free Fair July 26 to Aug. 4. And the Port Huron to Mackinac Island Yacht Race July 27.

To be had there's nothing to do in Michigan in July.

GRAND TRAVERSE resort will offer the Colgate Offshore Sailing School "learn to sail" vacations the weeks of July 17 and 24 as part of the schools learn to sail tour of 30 sites nationwide.

The class, which is open to beginning through intermediate sailors, features classroom instruction followed by actual sailing on a 27-foot Olympic Class Sloop. Limit of four students per boat. Call toll-free (800) 748-0303 for information.

HAWAII. West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation will preview their winter Hawaii tour on July 11 at parks headquarters, 3235 Middlebelt Road. In December, as the winter winds blow and the snow falls, you may be ready for some of the heat you're complaining about now.

They are sponsoring a 4-day, 13-day tour from December 9-21. Cost of the tour is \$2,099 per person, which includes air fare, deluxe rooms, all tours, and 14 meals. Call Patty at 334-5660 for more information.

JAMAICA. The 14th Annual Reggae Sunsplash Festival will take place July 15-20 in Jamaica, featuring top international reggae stars and lots more. It's only one of the many Jamaican events you can plan a trip around.

August 6th is Jamaica Independence Day, with a variety of events scheduled around that date. The First Annual Portland Jamboree will be held August 9-18 in Port Antonio, featuring parades, beach parties and dancing.

There's also plenty for sports lovers, including the International Marlin Tournament Oct. 7-11 and the Johnnie Walker World Championship Golf Tournament Dec. 19-22.



MICKY JONES

The Ann Arbor Art Street Fair always attracts big crowds. Taking the shuttle is a way to avoid at least one problem during fair week.

Shuttle in, leave parking hassles behind at art fair

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The alternative is to head for Liberty Plaza, a small park on Liberty Street. Buy homemade soup, a special milkshake or a hot dog from a gourmet hot dog place called Le Dog and eat in the park.

Keep going west on Liberty and you'll find yourself in the non-profit area, where several dozen organizations sell their T-shirts and hand out leaflets. Continue west and you're in the second part of the Michigan Guild fair in the Main Street area.

Children can do supervised art projects here or at a booth on Church Street near South University Avenue.

WHEN YOU are ready for an afternoon break, try the frozen yogurt or a lemonade at Afternoon Delight, corner of Liberty and Fifth, or go another block to Herter Brothers; you'll find all the gardeners and do-it-yourselfers there on Ashley Street, the first street west and parallel to Main.

Note the Bird of Paradise across the street from Herter's, in case you want to come back for drinks and jazz later at night.

For late afternoon, you'll find a hundred different

beers at the sidewalk cafe or inside bar at The Full Moon Cafe on Main Street. Or a dark cool hole-in-the-wall welcome at Del Rio on Washington Street.

Across the street from Del Rio is the famous Earle, with its elegant wine list. Even if you don't want a special occasion dinner, you can go into the separate bar for a drink within the coolness of the brick and fieldstone walls.

THE ANN ARBOR Art Fair, which is really three concurrent fairs, is on 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, July 24-26, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 27. You'll find 200 artists, 65 of them new this year, at the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, and 1,000 artists represented in the three fairs.

Call the Washtenaw Council for the Arts at (313) 966-2777 for information on the performances planned for the Graceful Arch Stage, northwest corner of South University and East University avenues.

The stage is sponsored by MCI Telecommunications Corp., which will also allow you to make free long-distance telephone calls of up to three minutes from their calling center on Church and South University.

For more information about Ann Arbor, call the Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau at (313) 995-7281.

Cumberland Plateau: 'Island in mainstream'

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They stock everything from razor strops to copper bathtubs; great gifts and old-time candies.

Across the road is a massive octagonal 80-foot sandstone tower, a monumental museum to one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" experiments of the early 1930s.

Eleanor Roosevelt twice visited this 10,000-acre "Cumberland Homesteads" project that provided each of 250 poor families with about 20 acres of cleared land and the means to build their own home. It was a successful attempt at cooperative living that faded with the end of the great depression of the 1930s.

The 250 original stone cottages still line most of the roads within two or three miles of the tower which now houses a free museum on the ground floor. For fifty cents you can climb the 97-step circular stairway to the top for a view of the area.

RUGBY The northern part of this plateau, some 40 miles north of Crossville, has another group of unique tourist attractions and small towns: Most unusual and picturesque is the "English Colony" town of Rugby. Founded in 1880 by famed English author Thomas Hughes, who wrote "Tom Brown's Schooldays," it was his intention to establish a "New Jerusalem" in the land of opportunity.

The settlement of English immigrants thrived for about ten years and the population peaked at about 400 in 1884, but sickness, financial problems and cold winters almost wiped out the village. Today, seventeen of the original seventy buildings remain and the population is stable at about seventy-five.

English home cooking is available at the Harrow Road Cafe and overnight lodging, in Victorian bedrooms, is available at the Newbury House Inn and the Pioneer Cottage. Sunday services are still held in beautiful little 1887 Christ Episcopal with its 1849 rosewood organ.

About 35 miles northwest of Rugby, on highway 127 north of Jamestown, is the Alvin C. York grist mill. Now a state park and museum, the mill is a memorial to America's greatest World War One hero. The park ranger is his son Andrew Jackson York. Known here as Andy, his

father Sgt. York died in 1964 and is buried nearby.

You can travel a little farther west to Byrdstown and visit the log cabin birthplace of Secretary of State Cordell Hull, known as the father of the United Nations and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

RAFTING

On Sunday morning we drove north on highway 72 to Oneida and then west into Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This 100,000-acre wilderness park, which extends into southern Kentucky, was established in 1974 and is aimed primarily at campers, backpackers and whitewater enthusiasts. Bandy Creek Recreation Area in the southern part of the park has horse stables and a visitor center. No accommodation other than campgrounds.

As pre-arranged, a whitewater outfitter met us beside the river at noon and about two dozen of us boarded his ancient bus, that was pulling a trailer stacked high with 14-foot rubber rafts.

Several miles up-river we were unloaded and fitted with helmets, life jackets and paddles. We soon needed all of them as we bounced and splashed our way down five miles of class three and four rapids, six persons per raft including one skilled boatman who directed the operation.

Two of our people fell into the water and were retrieved—they were in no real danger. Three canoes traversing the same rapids were not so lucky; they all capsized but the nine passengers soon recovered their canoes and their composure and were on their way again.

Even if you manage to stay within the raft, there is no way to keep dry on this trip. The waves sometimes splash right over your head so your feet are in a foot of water for most of the run, which takes about half an hour for five miles, an hour for ten miles.

This kind of whitewater rafting is a thrill ride that can be enjoyed by any physically-fit person over 12 years of age — even a couch potato like me.

For more information about the Cumberland Plateau area of Tennessee, contact the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Room T, Box 23170, Nashville, TN 37202 or telephone (615) 741-7994.

Free Federal Consumer Information Catalog. Dept. 10, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

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