

# Melusina

## Outline:

Once upon a time there was a beautiful mermaid called Melusina. Melusina married Count Siegfried of Luxembourg, and the two settled in a castle built on the famous rock 'The Bock'. However, due to his insatiable curiosity, Count Siegfried lost her forever.

## Text:

This is the story of Melusina, a mermaid, which forms a founding myth of Luxembourg. When Siegfried settled in the Bock around 923, he built a castle there called 'Lucilinburhuc' - the first trace of the name "Luxembourg". At that time, the man who was to become the Count of Luxembourg already owned land along the Moselle, the Sûre and the Alzette rivers as well as in the Ardennes. But why did he settle on the Bock? This is what the myth explains.

During one of his hunting trips, Siegfried fell madly in love with a woman he heard singing on the famous promontory whose mythical cliffs plunge into the Alzette. Sitting high on the ruins of an ancient Roman castle, she captivated the Count so completely that he declared his love for her and asked her to marry him. She accepted on two conditions: first, that she should never be forced to leave the rock, and second that he would never ask to see her on Saturday. This is how he acquired the Bock where they lived happily for many years, giving birth to seven children.

One day, however, he couldn't stand it any longer and looked through the keyhole of the bathroom where Melusina was locked up every Saturday. What did he see? His wife in her bath, combing her long blond hair, humming a beautiful tune and wagging... her fish tail! Startled and scared, the Count let out a gasp, which Melusina heard. Instantly he regretted it, but too late! Betrayed, Melusina dived into the Alzette and disappeared forever.

Legend has it that she reappears every seven years on the rocks for someone to free her... If you are not lucky enough to see the golden reflections of her fish tail in the river, you can visit the statue created in 3D printing by Luxembourg artist Serge Ecker. This graphically angled, all-purple Melusina was installed in the Grund district on the banks of the Alzette in 2015.