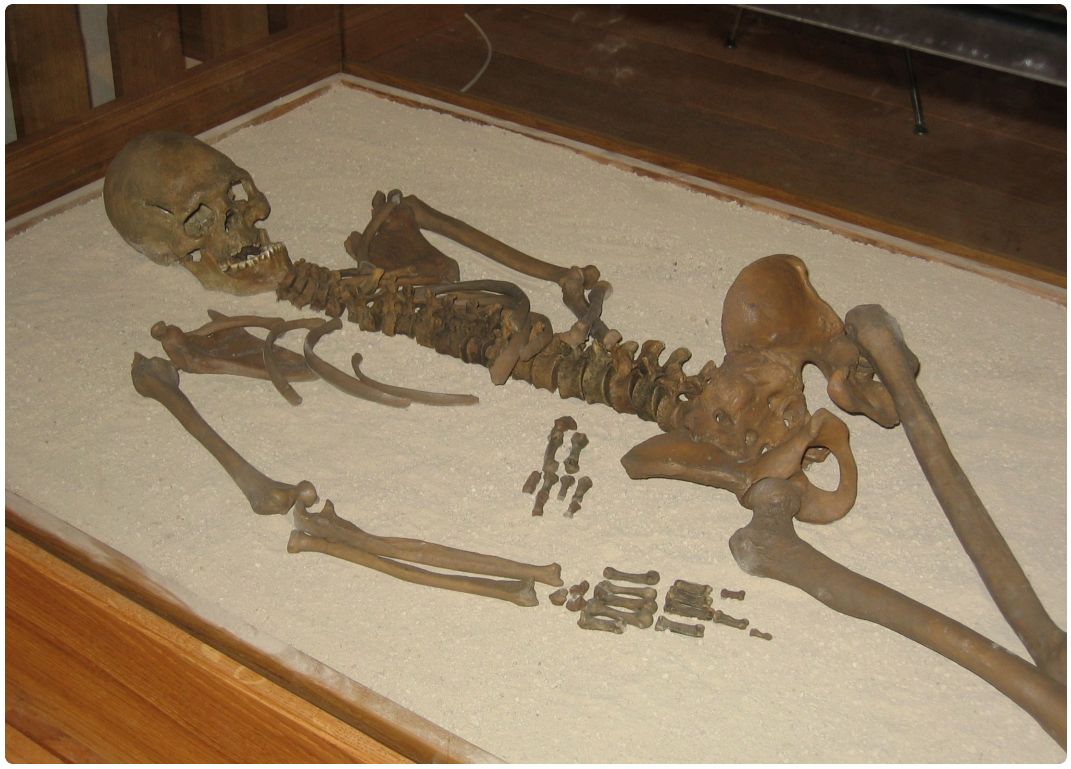
Description

Loschbour Man is an 8,000-year-old skeleton discovered in 1935 in the Mullerthal region of Luxembourg. His ceremonial burial site was found in a rock shelter, indicating that he came from a community with established traditions around honoring their dead. He lived during the Mesolithic period, was approximately 160 centimeters (5'3") tall, weighed around 60 kilograms (132 pounds), and died between the ages of 34 and 47. Like virtually all pre-agricultural Europeans, he was lactose intolerant. He was a nomadic hunter-gatherer who specialized in hunting red deer and wild boar using microlith flint tools, and his survival depended entirely on the forests and wildlife of ancient Europe.



The Loschbour Man skeletal remains — 8,000-year-old Mesolithic hunter-gatherer.

Loschbour Man was a member of the Western Hunter-Gatherer (WHG) population, the nomadic foragers who inhabited Europe from Spain to Hungary before the arrival of Neolithic farmers from Anatolia. His paternal haplogroup I2a-M423 and mitochondrial haplogroup U5b1a are characteristic of this pre-agricultural population. His way of life — mobile, forest-based, tool-focused — was about to be dramatically and permanently transformed by the demographic wave of farming that would sweep across Europe in the millennia that followed.

The Mullerthal rock shelter — discovery site of Loschbour Man in 1935.

The genetic portrait of Loschbour Man is one of the most striking in ancient genomics: dark hair, blue eyes, and intermediate to dark skin. This combination — blue eyes paired with darker skin — has no close parallel in modern European populations, and appears to have been typical among the foragers who inhabited pre-agricultural Europe. It demonstrates that the pale skin so characteristic of modern Europeans was not a feature of the continent's original inhabitants, but arrived and spread with Neolithic farmers over thousands of years. Loschbour Man is one of the clearest biological reference points for the genetic and physical profile of Europe before agriculture transformed it.

Modern population	Distance
Latvian	22.178
Estonian	22.336
Lithuanian (North Zemaitija)	22.425

Modern population	Distance
Lithuanian (West Zemaitija)	22.455
Lithuanian (South Zemaitija)	22.461
Finnish (Southeast)	22.629
Finnish (Central)	22.721
Finnish	22.758
Lithuanian (East Aukstaitija)	22.768
Finnish (Southwest)	22.796

Source

Date: 789–546 BCE

Y-DNA: I-V6473

mtDNA: U5b1a

Location: Luxembourg

Research: Ancient human genomes suggest three ancestral populations for present-day Europeans

Sample(s): Loschbour.DG