A tour from Königswinter via Bonn to Brühl

You start your tour in Königswinter, the gateway to the romantic Rhine valley. Here you can proceed on foot (from Königswinter ca. 30 minutes at an average pace) or take the rack-railway up to Drachenburg castle. The castle lord was Baron von Sarter. The park, whose creator is unknown, was built in 1881 as a zoned landscape garden with terraces, a pleasure ground, sloping lawns and a wood. It makes a marvellous setting for the castle situated high above the Rhine. Extensive renovations to the castle began in the mid 1990s. The work is scheduled to be completed in 2010. An exhibition entitled “Open due to renovations” gives visitors an insight into the work in progress.

Info: Schloss Drachenburg. Tel. +49 (0) 2223 90197-0, www.schloss-drachenburg.de

From Königswinter you then proceed in the direction of Bonn. In Bonn there are various opportunities to visit gardens and parks along the Classical Garden Route. The Botanical Gardens are amongst the finest and oldest in the whole of Germany. Around 11,000 different sorts of plants are cultivated in the almost seven hectare site at Poppelsdorf castle and in the fruit and vegetable garden in Katzenburgweg. The gardens are open to visitors on weekdays.

Info: Tel. +49 (0) 228 735523, www.botgart.uni-bonn.de

The Old Cemetery in Bonn is a green oasis on the edge of the town centre. Its burial places reflect the history of the town, particularly in the 18th and 19th century. In 1715 Prince Joseph Clemens had the cemetery in Bonn created to relieve the cemeteries belonging to the parishes in the town. During the 19th century it was extended on several occasions.

Info: Tel. +49 (0) 228 774230, www.bonn.de

The private Härle arboretum is an old villa park which contains a rich collection of rare trees, roses and perennials. It originated in a park, created around 1870, which was planted with a huge amount of foreign deciduous and coniferous trees. Entrance to the park is only possible by taking a public guided tour. These take place from March to October on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10.00, and on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 17.00. Group guided tours may be booked by arrangement. All tours are free of charge.

Info: Tel. +49 (0) 228 2499270, www.arboretum-haarle.de

Since it was created for the Federal Garden Show in 1979 the Rheinaue leisure park in Bonn has not only grown into an attractive recreational area throughout the region, but become a real symbol of the town. It covers an area of 160 hectares - of which, 35 hectares are on the right bank of the Rhine - and is almost as large as the town centre. Amongst its many attractions are the theme gardens and the 15 hectare lake, banked by meadows. It was designed and planned by the landscape architects Hansjakob in Munich, and took ten years to build. The result is a stunning natural landscape: a blend of small hills and generous areas of lawn, groups of trees and single trees form the framework for abundant beds of perennials and summer blooms.

Info: Tel. +49 (0) 228 774230, www.bonn.de

Alongside parks and gardens the former capital of Germany, Bonn, contains treasures from more than 2000 years of history. Here you can discover historical buildings, or follow in the footsteps of Beethoven. The old town centre has a huge number of attractive restaurants, cafés and typical beer houses. The “museum mile” is an absolute “must” for all visitors. It comprises the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Bonn Art Museum, the House of History, the Alexander Koenig Natural History Museum and the ”Deutsche Museum Bonn”.

Info: Tourismus & Congress GmbH Region Bonn/Rhein-Sieg/Ahrweiler, Tel. +49 (0) 228 91041-0, www.bonn-region.de

From Bonn your journey takes you through the “Voreifel” region in the direction of Brühl, where there are two World Cultural Heritage sites, Schloss Augustusburg and Schloss Falkenlust. The garden of Schloss Augustusburg was one of the favourites of the Cologne Prince Clemens August. It is the work of the French garden designer, Dominique Girard, who came to Brühl in 1727. Starting in 1842 the Prussian King, Friedrich Wilhelm IV, had a part of the park redesigned as a landscape garden by Peter Joseph Lenné. The parterres and avenues were for the most part retained. An avenue connects the park to the Falkenlust hunting lodge. There is an admission charge to both buildings. The park can be visited free of charge.

Info: Tel. +49 (0) 2232 44000, www.schlossbruehl.de

You should then visit the Max Ernst Museum in Brühl, which opened in 2005. It has a unique collection on the life and work of the artist, as well as temporary exhibitions.

Info: Max Ernst Museum Brühl, tel: +49 (0) 2232 5793110, www.maxernstmuseum.de
Tip
The tour is even more attractive if you take a boat trip either way between Königswinter and Bonn.

The best time of the year is between April and October, Tuesdays to Sundays.

(apart from the Botanical Garden in Bonn and Arboretum Härle)

Further information and accommodation reservations:
Tourismus & Congress GmbH Region Bonn / Rhein-Sieg / Ahrweiler,
Tel. +49 (0) 228 91041-0
www.bonn-region.de

Brühl, Schloss Augustusburg
Brühl, the old cemetery
Brühl, Botanical Garden
Brühl, Rheinaue leisure park
Bonn-Oberkassel, Arboretum Park Härle
Königswinter, Schloss Drachenburg

This map is an excerpt from the general map "The Classical Garden Route"

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On the Rhine*
A break in a beer garden

Bonn: the old town centre*
Restaurants and cafés make a welcome break.

The Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany*
The Bonn Museum Mile attracts visitors from all over the world.

The Max Ernst Museum in Brühl
For the first time the work of the major Dadaist and Surrealist has been collected in a single place.

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*Photos: Nordrhein-Westfalen Tourismus e.V.
Photo: Rainer Mader

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