Tour Tip 8 In Seven-League Boots from Fortress to Bauhaus
Kamp-Lintfort, Geldern, Sonsbeck, Moers and Krefeld

You will experience an interesting interplay of public and private parks and gardens on this tour through 900 years of garden and landscape design.

You start in Kamp-Lintfort and visit the terraced garden Kloster Kamp. In 1123, the Lorraine Monks received the order to build an abbey here. The monks introduced the iron plough and planted a fruit and vegetable garden, in which wine and espalier fruit grew. From 1700 the terraced garden, which blossomed in baroque splendour in the middle of the 18th century, was developed. In contrast to the baronial gardens of that time, the monastic grand garden was used to form and cultivate medical plants as well as fruit and vegetables. With time, the abbey decayed, the garden ran to seed. Since 1980, it has been possible to admire the new creation of the baroque basic structure. Roses, herbs and shrubs give fragrance and colour. To the left and right of the central stairs there are terraces on the slope. The parterre leads over geometrically designed areas to the middle circle. Information about the history can be obtained from the Monastic Museum on the Abteiplatz.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)2842 912444, www.kamp-lintfort.de, www.kloster-kamp.de

Now you have the opportunity to go in a loop over Geldern and Sonsbeck to discover two private garden treasures. First you visit the residence of Hildegard Beauvy and Robert Uster. In front of the house a variety of shrubs, roses and box tree beds, which are in harmony with the rural surroundings, welcome you. The rear garden consists of free and formally designed areas. Ponds, meadows with fruit trees, an herb garden and shady paths contribute to a romantic atmosphere, linear views lead to terraces and seats.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)2831 7648, www.erste-gartenpforte-niederrhein.de

In Sonsbeck the Family van Huet’s private paradise awaits your visit. Almost all year round a colourful display of blossoms gives this 1300qm varied garden a special atmosphere. Shrubs, bulb plants, roses and blossoming shrubs are framed by rhododendrons and trees. Grass, a pond and a fountain are eminent in the shady part of the garden. Sculptures created by the owners give it a personal touch.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)2838 96234, www.erste-gartenpforte-niederrhein.de

From this romantic private address you now travel to a park which, from its hour of birth, has been dedicated to the public. A purpose-related present by the silk manufacturer Wilhelm Deuss the Krefeld municipal forest came into existence around 1900. The Garden architect Fritz Rosoriß from Düsseldorf at first designed the 35-hectare area which in later years was extended a few times. Expansive beech tree areas are broken by varied green and sports areas. In the centre there is a playing field with a pond and boat rental. In the summer, the race course and the beer garden of the Stadtwaldhaus are popular destinations in Krefeld’s oldest civic park.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)2151 560191, www.helmanshof.de

An extraordinary address is you’re the final destination of this tour. You visit the gardens Haus Lange/Haus Ester and meet with pure “Bauhaus”. On two neighbouring properties, the silk manufacturers Josef Esters and Herrmann Lange built their twin villas and parks between 1928 and 1930. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe was responsible for the design of the buildings and gardens. The cubic artistry of the architecture is continued in the paths, hedges and views and creates “open-air living areas”. Since 1955, the villas are museums, sculptures were placed in the gardens.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)2151 97558-0, www.krefeld.de, www.crossart-route-moderne-kunst.com
Tip

We recommend you plan two days for this tour and gather information in advance about the opening times for the private parks and gardens. The cycling route for this tour is 80 km (without detours), without Geldern and Sonsbeck around 30 km. If you take the train, the starting station is Moers; the return journey goes from Krefeld station. Info: www.radroutenplaner.nrw.de

Recommended travel season

Spring to autumn. The terraced gardens in Kloster Kamp are freely accessible from April to September between from 8.00 hrs, otherwise from 9.00 hrs until dusk. The private parks have special opening times or can be visited on prior arrangement. In Moers special events take place in the freely accessible palace gardens, for example festivals and the Christmas Market. The gardens and museums Haus Lange/Haus Esters are opened from Tuesdays to Sundays from 11.00 until 17.00 hrs, entrance is free.