



# Straße der Gartenkunst Tuinen en Tuinkunst zwischen Rhein und Maas tussen Rijn en Maas



## Tour Tip 10 City instead of nature? City nature!

### Green places with a history in the Capital of North Rhine-Westphalia

This tour leads you to freely accessible islands within Düsseldorf. 30 years or 240 years old – all four have been dedicated to the public since their opening.

All four are by the Düsseldorf, the river which gave the Capital of North Rhine-Westphalia its name and flows into the Rhine here. You move from the youngest to the oldest park and start in the Südpark (South Park). The Südpark is strongly influenced by the landscape architecture of the 1980s and the then developing ecological ideas. Extensively farmed meadows, naturally designed

lakes and an organic garden can be found in this 70-hectare leisure park which borders on the south of the university premises and north of the city district Oberbilk. The southerly Düsseldorf flows through the park in gentle curves. Hedges, playgrounds, a petting zoo, a naturally designed maze as well as theme and model gardens are elements which inspire small and big visitors. It was realised in 1987 by the prominent

landscape architects Bödecker, Boyer and Wagenfeld on the occasion of the Bundesgartenschau (National Garden Show). The old public park dating from 1895 became part of the Südpark and puts its stamp on with its old solitary trees and groups of trees.

Info: +49 (0)211 8994800, [www.duesseldorf.de/stadtgruen/parks](http://www.duesseldorf.de/stadtgruen/parks)

After an extensive visit to the park you should plan a detour to the media harbour. Restaurants and cafés around the architecturally extraordinary Gehry buildings invite you for a visit. After passing the television tower and the regional parliament you go to the "Ständehauspark".

The southerly Düsseldorf flows through the Schwanenspiegel on its way towards the Rhine. The Schwanenspiegel together with the Kaiserteich are the central waters of the Ständehauspark. The water surfaces reflect the sky and present an impressive backdrop for the Ständehaus which was opened in 1880. The Ständehaus housed the regional parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia until 1988. Since 2002, as the art collection "Kunstsammlung K21", it has been a museum for international contemporary art. Maximilian Friedrich Weyhe designed the Ständehauspark in 1819 on then marshy grounds in the south of the city. Building works began in the 1830s.

Since then, the ash trees, linden trees, maples and chestnut trees have grown into magnificent specimen. Paths lead around the gently framed river banks, numerous benches invite you to rest. Originally, the Ständehauspark was supposed to be part of a promenade on the bastion, which was neglected under Napoleon. The green ribbon was supposed to form a ring around the city centre over the "Königsallee" and "Spee's Graben". This plan was never realised.

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"Spee's Graben", your next destination, diagonally opposite on the Haroldstraße bears testimony of this time. Its dominant rolling water surface is fed by the southern Düsseldorf. Maximilian Friedrich Weyhe designed the elegant park in 1906 on former bastion premises. He included the former bastion Marie Amalie with its still visible massive walls. In 1930, the great landscape architect added something else. Today, the sycamore trees which were placed by him attract attention for their size and beauty. Sculptures and a rose garden are further attractive features of this park which forms a green link between two prominent addresses. Museums and ministries are nearby, among them the Palais Spee (a city museum), which gave the park its name.

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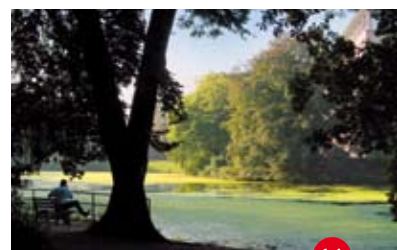
In the east of the park, the elegant shops around the Königsallee are located, the Rheinuferpromenade lies to the west, to the north you get from the Spee'schen Graben into the old town. Through its highly frequented alleyways, over the Heinrich-Heine-Allee, you arrive in the "Hofgarten", the final destination of this tour. Here you can really experience history: The "Hofgarten" is the oldest German public park. As early as 1769, Prince Elector Carl Theodor wished to embellish the city and to please its inhabitants with a park. He commissioned his garden director Nicolas de Pigage to create a public park in the depressed area of the northern Düsseldorf. The park was overhauled by Maximilian Friedrich Weyhe after the revolutionary wars and until today bears his testimony. One of the avenues in the park is named after the great landscape architect. Gently rolling hills and meadows, expansive ponds, picturesque bays and curvy paths are characteristic hallmarks of an English-style court garden. This park is the final destination as well as the path leading to it. It touches and frames for example "Schloss Jägerhof", the Rättinger Torhäuser (gate lodges), the Museum of Theatre in the old Hofgärtnerhaus, the Playhouse and the Kunstsammlung NRW (art collection North Rhine-Westphalia), the Tonhalle (audio hall) and the Museum Kunst-Palast (Art Palace).

With its historic and modern sculptures and structures it is an inspiring oasis. If you should visit the Hofgarten in the evening, please do not miss a visit to the Reiterallee with its illuminated park benches.

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#### The Gehry Building

Extraordinary architecture in the Düsseldorf media harbour  
© Birgit Wilms



#### K 21

Contemporary art in the Ständehauspark  
© Ulrich Otte, Düsseldorf  
Marketing & Tourismus GmbH



#### Rhine water front

See and be seen on the banks of the river Rhine in front of the old town  
© Ulrich Otte, Düsseldorf  
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#### Theatre museum in the Hofgärtnerhaus

The building was designed by the first courtyard designer Nicolas de Pigage

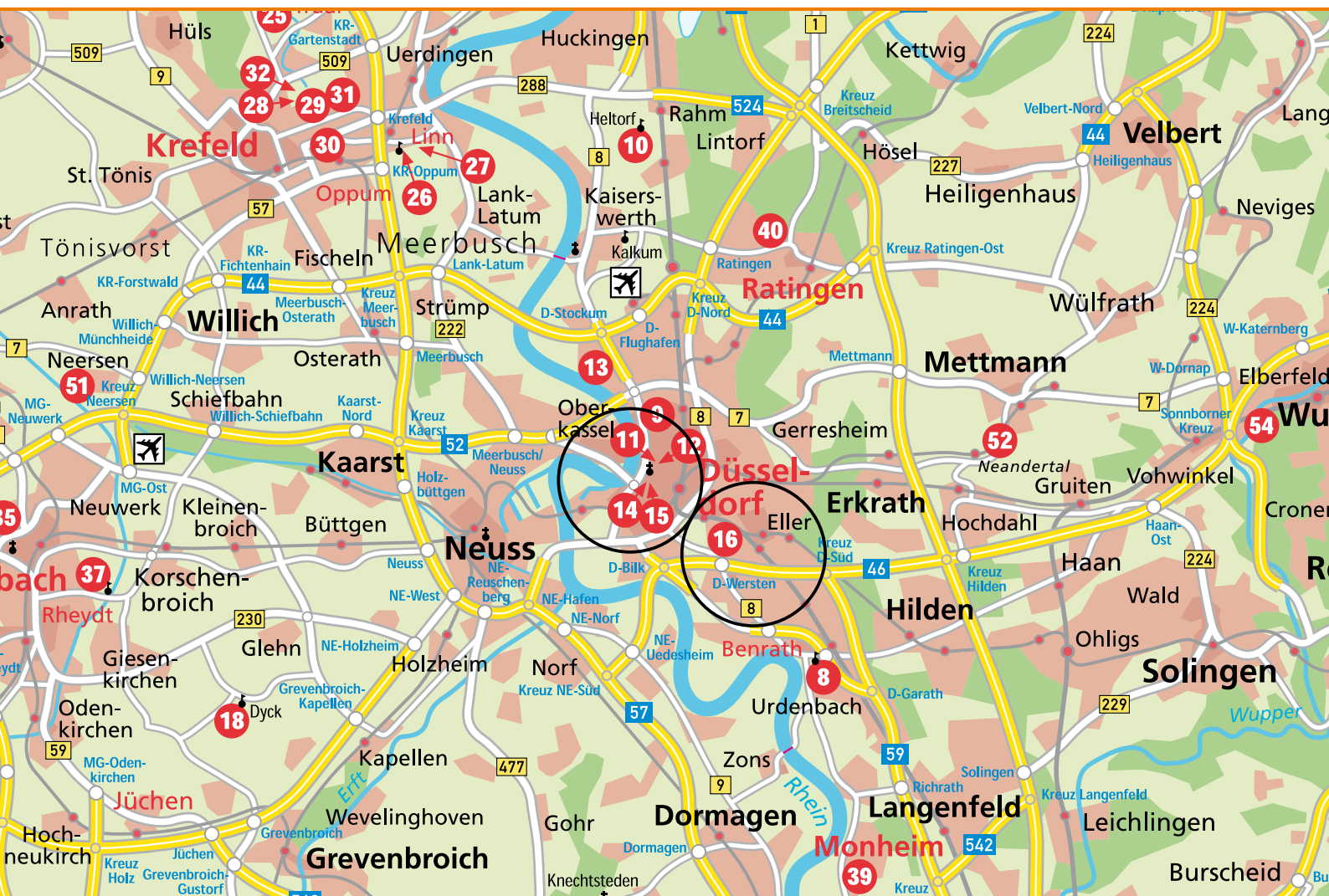
- 16 Südpark, Siegburger Straße/Wersten, 40591 Düsseldorf-Oberbilk
- 15 Ständehauspark, Elisabethstraße, 40213 Düsseldorf-Unterbilk
- 14 Spee's Graben, Karlstadt, Berger Allee 40213 Düsseldorf-Karlstadt
- 11 Hofgarten, Heinrich-Heine-Allee/Inselstraße/Jägerhofstraße, 40479 Düsseldorf

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

promoted by:



Ministerium für  
Bauen und Verkehr  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



0 10 km

Straße der Gartenkunst  
zwischen Rhein und Maas e.V.  
Survey map can be obtained from:  
[info@strasse-der-gartenkunst.de](mailto:info@strasse-der-gartenkunst.de)  
[www.strasse-der-gartenkunst.de](http://www.strasse-der-gartenkunst.de)

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Text: Birgit Wilms

#### Tip

You can reach the destinations on foot. You take the S-Bahn from Düsseldorf-Oberbilk/Philipshalle, platform 4 with the tram nr. 715 (going to D-Spichernplatz) to get from the Südpark to the city centre parks. Journey time 11 Minutes, exit at Graf-Adolf-Platz (Ständehauspark).

The cycling tour is 8 km (including the media harbour), you can cycle through the parks (apart from certain restricted areas).

#### Recommended travel season

The parks are worth a visit all year round. Structures and sculptures are especially effective outside the blooming season. The valley of rhododendrons in the Südpark is particularly attractive in the blooming season in May.