



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

Tour Tip 12 People, Animals, Park Attractions

Child-friendly tour from Mettann to Wuppertal

Your children or grandchildren will be delighted with this tour: it offers history of humanity, meeting animals, wonderful parks and is – by the way – very informative.



52

Your first destination is Mettmann for a visit to the Neanderthal Museum 🏛️ and the site where the Neanderthal Man was found. In 1856 quarry workers found 40.000 year-old skeletal remains of a fossilised human in the Feldhofer Grotto in the Neandertal, who later became world famous as the "Neanderthaler". His world is vividly displayed in the museum which was opened

in 1996. Walking through the gleaming green museum feels like walking through a snail-shell and you advance through evolution step by step. Outside you have access to the art path "Menschenspuren" (human traces) and a wildlife park with aurochs, wisents and wild horses. Finally you reach a mock discovery site designed as an archaeological garden. The original site, the Feldhofer Grotte, was forever lost through limestone excavations. The present presentation closely resembles what really happened. Stone crosses, a timeline, a so-called Fluchtstange (a tool for surveying) and plant beds link up with the location's topography. Arctic species and ice-age collectible plants are united as a phytocoenose in two botanicas.

Info: +49 (0)2104 979797, www.neanderthal.de

The next station of this tour is the Zoo in Wuppertal 🐘 which because of its landscape design is one of the most interesting zoos in Germany. The comprehensive and partly very unusual collection of animals makes it very popular: 5000 animals of 500 species

form all parts of the world are represented. The keeping and breeding of big cats is a priority. Polar bears, elephants and king penguins (the zoos heraldic animal) are popular with visitors.

Surrounded by Art Nouveau and Wilhelmian-style mansions, the 20-hectare zoo premises nestle on a hillside. The old tree population is distinctive. Expansive water surfaces and green areas with blooming bordering plants form a frame into which the entrance building, the animal houses and enclosures fit harmoniously. In 2006 the Zoo celebrated its 125th birthday. Its historic atmosphere was strongly influenced by the Royal Prussian garden director Heinrich Siesmayer. A recent extension and numerous conversions make the park more attractive for visitors and animals.

Info: +49 (0)202 5635666, www.zoo-wuppertal.de



54



Along the Wupper you now drive in an easterly direction towards the Hardt with its botanic garden (Icon Messer und Gabel). The roots of the Hardt date back to the year 1807. Then, a romantic park in an elevated location between Barmen and Elberfeld was built. Heinrich Siesmayer was again commissioned with the extension in 1880/82. Meadows and trees of many different species are testimony to the original design. Wide views into the valley and to the surrounding hillsides give this approximately 27-hectare park its special charm. The rose garden and the Bismarck Tower are sights, bridges, stairs and monuments have been conserved. In the former stone quarry you will discover the open air theatre which is a natural monument. Recent restorations highlight historical facts and succeed in linking the different elements of the park. The Botanic Garden within the Hardt was established as a school garden for the town of Elberfeld in 1890 and moved to its present location in

1910, into the garden of the Eller'sche Villa, built in 1920. The medicinal plants and herb gardens exude their fragrance. You can discover an alpine garden and a comprehensive bulb flower and Cyclamen collection. The water lily pond in the open land and the Elisenturm (built in 1938) are popular photo motifs.

Info: +49 (0)202 5634207, www.wuppertal.de



55

The final destination of this tour is the Barmer Anlagen which were designed by the garden architect Joseph Clemens Weyhe in 1864. The son of the prominent Düsseldorf landscape architect Maximilian Friedrich Weyhe created picturesque meadows and expansive wooded areas. The elevated location of the Barmer Anlagen allows a unique panoramic view over single park elements and the city landscape of Wuppertal. If you climb the Toelleturm which was built in 1888 you can broaden your view even more. The premises continue from there into the Barmer Wald into the Vorwerk Park. Statues and stairs are constructional highlights.

One of the monuments remembers the mountain railway which once went through the area. Its tracks are traced with horticultural elements. Avenues and paths lead through the 100-hectare park which offers enough room for play and sports, numerous benches and rest areas invite you to rest. The Barmer Anlagen are a child of industrialisation and of the early realisation that the workers need a rest. That is why influential citizens were the founding fathers of the Barmer Verschönerungsverein (beautification club) which until today owns the park which is one of the biggest private recreational parks in Germany.

Info: +49 (0)202 557927, www.barmeranlagen.de



53



A journey with the suspended railway
Wuppertal's landmark stops at the zoo

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Samba-Trasse
The new walking and cycling path leads through the zoo

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Fuhlrott Museum
Interesting facts about the nature of the Rhineland

© Medienzentrum Wuppertal



Childrens Museum Wuppertal
Fantastical musical instruments and more

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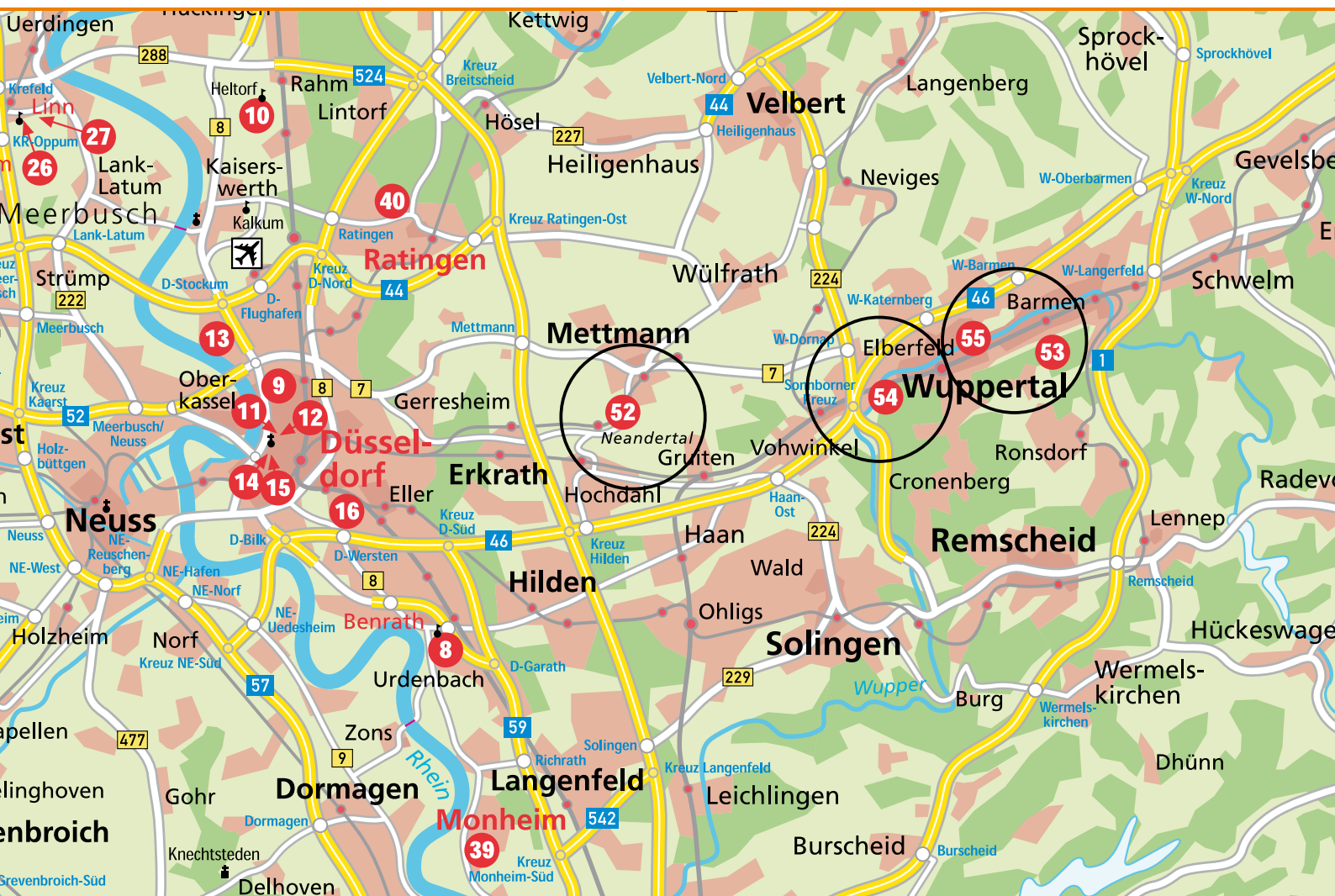
- 52 Neanderthal Museum und Fundort, Talstraße 300, 40822 Mettmann
- 54 Zoo Wuppertal, Hubertusallee 30, 42117 Wuppertal
- 55 Parkanlage Hardt/Botanischer Garten, Elisenhöhe 1, 42107 Wuppertal
- 53 Barmer Anlagen, Untere Lichtenplatzer Straße 84, 42289 Wuppertal

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
www.strasse-der-gartenkunst.de

Contact: kulturinfo rheinland
Tel. +49 (0)1805 743465 (0,14 Euro/Min.)
info@kulturinfo-rheinland.de
www.kulturinfo-rheinland.de

Koordination: Rainer Schmidt, schmidt.agentur gartenkunst
Gestaltung: claus + mutschler, Visuelle Kommunikation
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Text: Birgit Wilms

Tip

If you want to cycle, the tour is 30 km long (starting from Hochdahl station to Bahnhof Barmen). Please note the topography, you have to be fit! Near Wuppertal you will discover an interesting new cycling path: the line where trains of the so-called Burgholzbahn with the railway guide number 402 used to drive (because of its many curves it used to be nicknamed "Samba-Trasse") is now dedicated to cyclists.

Recommended travel season

An experience all year round is the Neanderthal Museum and the site where the Neanderthal Man was found. It is open Tuesdays to Sundays between 10.00 and 18.00 hrs (the site is opened from November until February until 16.00 hrs.). The Wuppertaler Zoo is opened daily from 8.30 until 18.00 hrs, until 17.00 hrs in the winter. The Botanic Garden in the Hardt is open daily from 7.30 hrs, Saturdays, Sundays and on public holidays from 9.00 hrs, closing times can be found on the Internet. The Tolleturn (Barmer Anlagen) is open Sundays from 11.00 until 17.00 hrs from April until October and on prior agreement.