

# The Classical Garden Route **Tuinen en Tuinkunst** between Rhine and Maas **tussen Rijn en Maas**

## Tour Tip 3

## From the rose garden into the wide world

### A tour through the Netherlands from Sittard-Geleen to Landgraaf



This tour takes you from secluded rose gardens to ever bigger and lively parks.

You start in the "Jardin des Roses", a small garden in the Paardenstraat. Here, in the summer, you experience an infatuating fragrance and overwhelming variety of colours. The Queen of Flowers can be seen here in different forms as rose shrubs, climbing roses and high-stem roses. The

park with its square layout is surrounded by a historic town wall and other enclosures. Black and grey square stone blocks on the ground provide structure. Strictly geometrically designed plant beds are grouped around a central axis with a pavilion and climbing gates. Further elements are blooming ground covering plants, rhododendrons and a row of birches. The house on the ground was built around 1900 and opened as a social facility in 1998 by Toon Hermans shortly before his death. The popular comedian, poet and songwriter was born in the Netherlands and was the town's son.

Info: +31 (0)46 4777777, [www.sittard-geleen.nl](http://www.sittard-geleen.nl)

Now you walk through the picturesque alleyways of the historical town centre with its inviting cafés and restaurants. Behind the St. Michaels-kirche with the Dominican Monastery you discover the "Kerkepad". This leads you to the "Stadstuin" next to the former 19<sup>th</sup>-century Ursuline Convent. This building was converted into flats, the town garden, which has succeeded in retaining its charm of a private convent garden, has been made public and is freely accessible during the day.



Behind the narrow entry gate lies a path leading to a bigger exit gate. On your left you see a moat in front of the building. On your right there are a number of garden areas, among them the former Ursuline graveyard, a Jewish Memorial, a pear trellis

walk, rose beds, yew hedges and a modelled lawn.

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To the west the "Stadspark", a national monument, is located. It was built between 1920 and 1927 in landscape style under the garden and landscape architect Dirk F. Tersteeg. Within a work creation scheme, the former marshes at the Julianaplein were converted into an attractive public park Character. Conifers and shrubs are blossoming highlights. The "Stenen Sluis", the Fish Stairs and two distinctive buildings on the



south-westerly side of the park are popular with visitors. The first building is a mill with its yard which was first mentioned in 1348 (now restaurant and farm project), the second, the former swimming pool dating from the 1930s, designed by the architect G. Cuypers, which is now used for events.

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From the South, you now drive towards the "Burgermeester Damenpark". It was also originally designed by the landscape architect Ters-teegh and opened by Mayor Damen in 1932 as a public park with many sports fields. Later, riding, motor sport and athletics fields as well as an asphalted cycling track were added. But the additions did no longer meet the growing demands. A new sports park was built and the "Damenpark" was forgotten – until it was reopened in 2001. Merged with a neighbouring small park, the updated "Damenpark" is now used for sports and recreation and is a welcome pedestrian path through town. It is structured by meadows and ponds, path guides and new plantations. Old park trees have a striking effect. Depending on the season there is a cycling and ice-skating track, and there a two old cash houses on the Hendrik- and the Irenelaan reminding you of the past.

Info: +31 (0)46 4777777, [www.sittard-geleen.nl](http://www.sittard-geleen.nl)



As a conclusion to your tour, you are going on a world trip: The "World Garden" Mondo Verde in Landgraaf is your destination. Next to the castle dating from the year 1674, home of the Streijthagen Family, lies the 25-hectare park. With constructional and landscaping means (there are over 5.000 different plants) it details landscape scenes. On a round tour you experience for example a Japanese garden with streams and pavilions, a Chinese Garden with a pagoda and rock, English landscape and style gardens with a cottage as well as an Italian impression with a replica of the Trevi Fountain. Kangaroos jump through the Australian garden, the world's birds give a concert in their 6.000 square metre aviary, banded mongoose dig through the desert landscape. Entry fees apply.

Info: +31 (0)45 5350161, [www.wereldtuinenmondoverde.nl](http://www.wereldtuinenmondoverde.nl)



Sittard-Geleen is not far from Maastricht

Info: [www.vvmaastricht.nl](http://www.vvmaastricht.nl) and the designer Outlet Maas-mechelen Info: [www.maasmechelenvillage.com](http://www.maasmechelenvillage.com)

If you are travelling with children, you should plan a detour to the wildlife park Gangelt between Sittard and Geilenkirchen.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)2454 2459, [www.wildpark-gangelt.com](http://www.wildpark-gangelt.com)

The Selfkantbahn offers a tour in the historic steam train from imperial times at weekends between Easter and September, departing from Gangelt. Info: [www.selfkantbahn.de](http://www.selfkantbahn.de)



#### Marketplace Sittard-Geleen

Historical buildings  
in a cosy town centre  
© VVV Limburg



#### Wildlife Park Gangelt

Adequate habitat  
for native animals  
© Wildpark Gangelt



#### A trip with the Selfkantbahn

Full steam ahead like in  
the Imperial times  
Foto: Markus Kaiser



#### A trip to Maastricht

A city with  
a special charm  
© VVV Maastricht

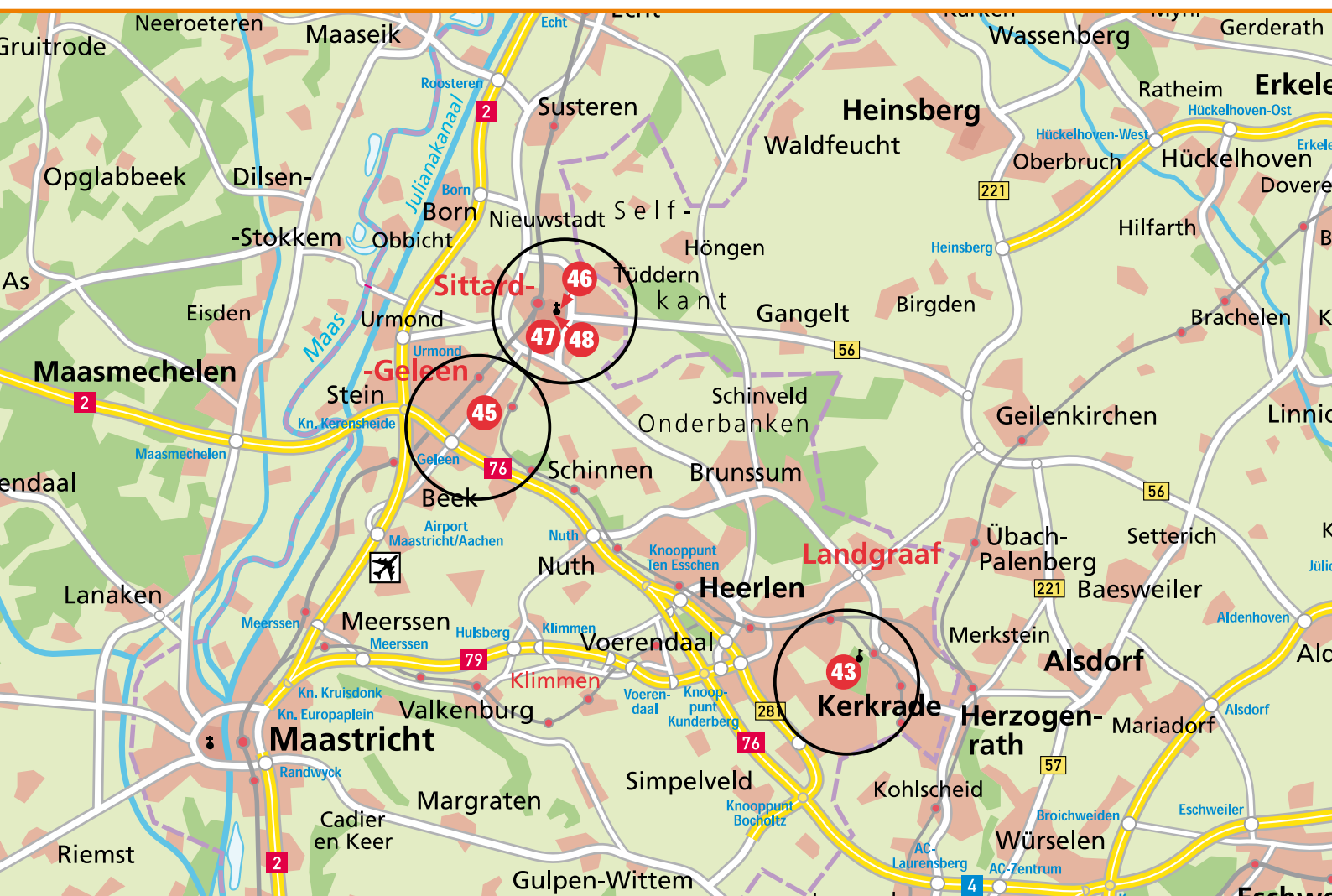
- 46 Jardin des Roses, Paardenstraat, NL-6130 Sittard-Geleen/Sittard Stadtkern
- 48 Stadstuin, Kerkepad, NL-6130 Sittard-Geleen/Sittard Stadtkern
- 47 Stadspark, Vijverweg – Agricolastraat, NL-6130 Sittard-Geleen/Sittard Zuid (Süd)
- 45 Burgermeester Damenpark, Kummenaedestraat/Beekhoverstraat, NL-6130 Sittard-Geleen/Geleen-Ost
- 43 Wereldtuinen Mondo Verde, Groene Wereld 10 (Einsteinstraat), NL-6372 PW Landgraaf

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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Koordination: Rainer Schmidt, schmidt.agentur gartenkunst  
Gestaltung: claus + mutschler, Visuelle Kommunikation  
Layoutkonzept: Heike Seidemann, Corporate Design  
Text: Birgit Wilms

### Tipp

Walk around the Jardin des Roses, the Stadstuin and Stadspark and then drive to the next two destinations. If you want to take the train or the bicycle (approx. 30 km) you start at Sittard station, return journey from Heerlen station.

### Recommended travel seasons

The freely accessible parks are attractive in all seasons, a visit to the rose garden is recommended between May and September, the world garden Mondo Verde is open from 10.00 until 18.00 hrs between April and the beginning of November.