



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



Tour Tip 5 From Baroque and Rococo to the Age of Enlightenment

The castles and parks in Düsseldorf-Benrath and Jüchen

This tour leads you to very prominent addresses on the avenue of garden design. Geographically both destinations are close. But you should plan for one whole or better still two days in order to be able to enjoy their beauty and variety.



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You start your garden and cultural historical journey in the palace gardens of Benrath. Awaiting you here is a highlight in 18th century palace and garden design, a listed work of art under natural conservation of Europe-wide importance. In 1755, Prince Elector Carl Theodor wished for a summer palace and commissioned the architect Nicolas

de Pigage, who had studied at the then leading architectural academy in Paris, to design an elegant country residence in Benrath in French style as a "maison de plaisance". In an elevated terrace position the main



building "corps de logis" is positioned, in front of it there are two inversely constructed cavalier buildings. They enclose the round palace pond in a quarter circle. The harmonious rose colour as well as the whites and greys of the facades are harmoniously reflected in the water. Gardens and waters are assigned to the rooms of the palace and correspond with each other.

The buildings are home to three museums; one is about European garden design, the relationship between humans and designed nature over the centuries. Many live examples can be seen in the open air after a visit to the museum. The park, with its strict axes, partitioned rooms and landscaped areas reflects the transition from Rococo to Classicism. Prominent garden architects later contributed their ideas, for example Maximilian Friedrich Weyhe created the English-style private garden for the Prince Elector. Peter Joseph Lenné extended the area in 1840. However, the Electoral Princess' garden was reverted to its French original style in 1993. The park area in front of the Orangie dates back to the 17th century, the only building which has been preserved from the original palace in this location. In front of the yellow façade the planting beds glow in the parterre garden which was reconstructed in 2002. The kitchen garden with its herbal fragrances is also worth a view. Admission fees apply for the museums, the park is freely accessible all year.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)211 8993832, www.schloss-benrath.de

You now cross the Rhine and reach the Rhine-county of Neuss. We recommend you visit the historic Neuss town centre with the Cathedral of St. Quirinus.

Info: +49 (0)2131 4037795 (Tourist-Info), www.neuss.de

Between Holzheim and Kapellen you reach the cultural area of Hombroich and the rocket station. On an Erft-island you discover a unique symbiosis of art and nature. The rocket station, which has

been used on a civilian basis since 1993, is a future laboratory, a residential and work place for a number of artists as well as the home of the Langen Foundation. Info: Tel. +49 (0)2182 2094, www.rhein-kreis-neuss.de, www.inselhombroich.de, www.langenfoundation.de, www.crossart-route-moderne-kunst.com

Schloss Dyck is your next destination. The Renaissance had begun as Prince Joseph zu Salm-Reifferscheidt-Dyck took over the reign of the residence. He was a botanist and plant collector; he travelled much and contacted botanic gardens of many countries so that his collection with 1.500 species became one of the biggest in Europe. In the early 19th century he commissioned Thomas Blaikie to design the park in landscape style. The Scottish landscape architect was able to plant the collected exotic shrubs and trees in exposed places and give the park a character which has made it special Europe-wide until today. The theme and model gardens in the entrance area



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are followed by avenues and shady forest paths. They lead to the castle and the historic park areas. 200 year-old groups of trees and solitary trees find their ideal

grounds on wide meadows between gently rolling hills.



Admission fees apply to this picturesque landscape garden in the middle of which lies the moated castle. It had been in the possession of the

Princes and Old Earls of Salm-Reifferscheidt-Dyck for over 900 years. Since the foundation of the Dyck Castle Trust in 1999, it has become an international centre for garden design and landscape culture. The castle and the yards, which are distributed over four islands, received their baroque countenance in the 17th century. At the end of the 18th century, Dyck castle was a baroque residence of highest rank, equipped with precious tapestries and exquisite furniture. Several rooms are now available for events, others house the exhibitions "History" (rooms of the 18th century) and "Landscape" (History of the English landscape garden).

You discover blossoms of all colours in the shrub garden of the Friends of the National Trust in Germany, which was planted in the spring of 2005. After a break, do not miss a visit to the Dycker Field. Hidden in high China Reeds are islands with more than 20 square garden areas with the topic of landscape design in an artistic and abstract manner. The Dycker Field itself is enclosed by a kilometre-long Chestnut Grove, a historic connection from the castle to the Convent of St. Nikolaus.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)2182 8240, www.stiftung-schloss-dyck.de



Langen Foundation, Rocket station Hombroich

The building was designed by the Japanese architect Tadao Ando

© courtesy Langen Foundation,

Foto: Tomas Riehle/artur, 2004

The Cathedral of St. Quirinus in Neuss

The town's landmark which started as a Roman settlement

© Stadt Neuss

Monastery St. Nikolaus

Fruit-growing is traditional in the Dycker Ländchen

© Birgit Wilms

A visit to the Beer garden

The Dycker Wine house has been well-known since 1502

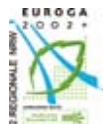
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8 Schlosspark Benrath, Benrather Schlossallee 100-106, 40597 Düsseldorf

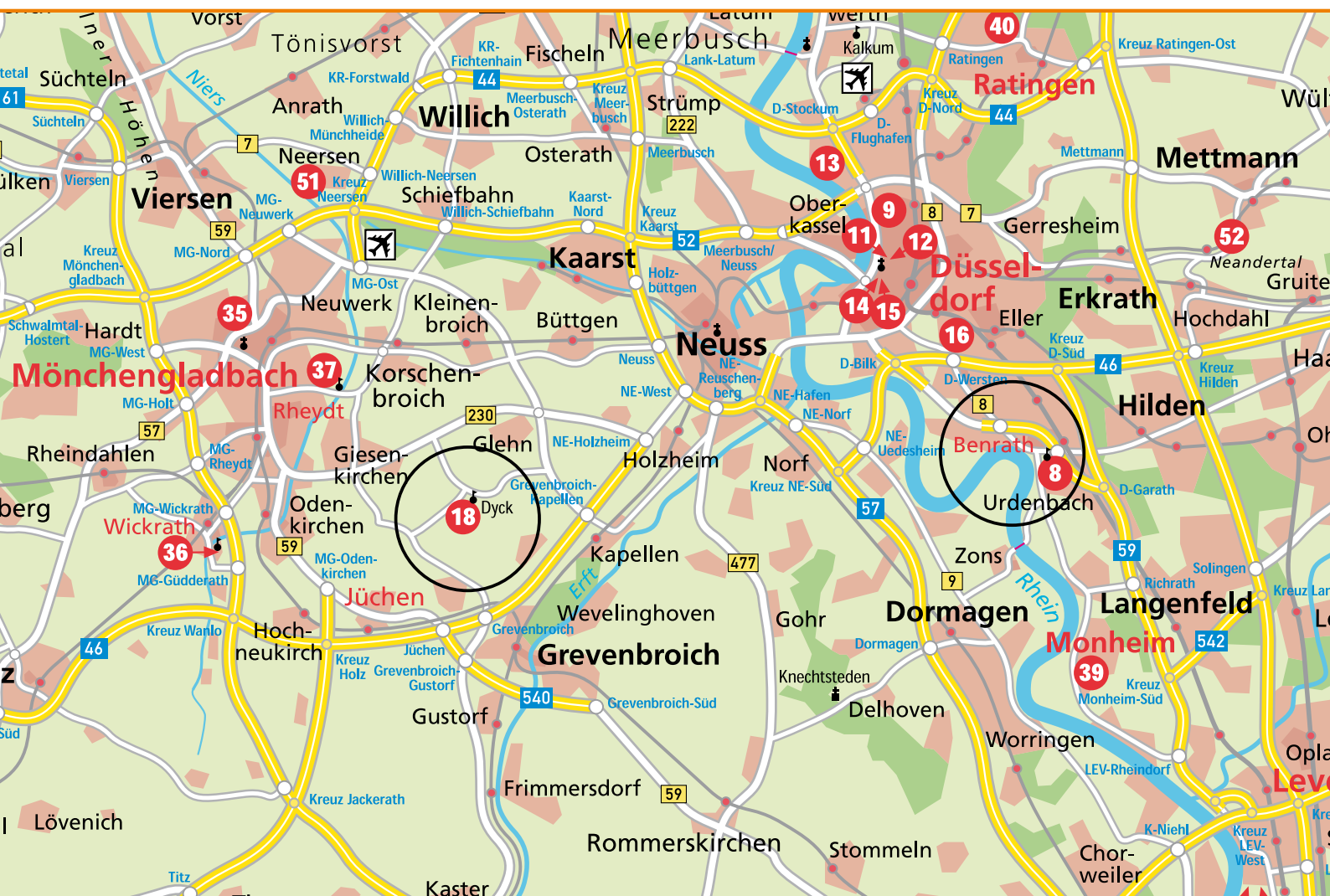
18 Schlosspark und Neue Gärten Dyck, Dycker Straße, 41363 Jüchen

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.)
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Text: Birgit Wilms

Tip

If you plan a cycling tour (along the Rhine and through the interesting Dycker Ländchen), you start in Benrath (tram and train station), travel via Neuss to Jüchen and from there to the island Hombroich (return journey from Holzheim station). Length: 45 km.

Info: www.radroutenplaner.nrw.de

Recommended travel season

The castle parks are interesting in every season. Generally, travelling between April and October is recommended. In Dyck the castle meadows in April as well as the bloom of the magnificent azaleas and rhododendrons in May and June are worth a visit.

The castle museums of both castles as well as the island Hombroich are closed on Mondays. Dyck is also closed on all weekdays between November and March. The cultural area and rocket station Hombroich are completely closed in December and January.