

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

## Tour Tipp 6 Time Travel to the Citadel

### From Erftstadt via Bergheim to Jülich

You travel to the 17th, 18th and 19th century and look back millions of years through the botanical "time window".

You travel to the 17th, 18th and 19th century and look back millions of years through the botanical "time window". Your starting point is the freely accessible palace park Gracht near Erftstadt, one of the earliest baroque gardens in the Rhineland. An unknown master completed it in 1717 long before the creation of the (nearby) Prince Electors' gardens in Bonn and Brühl. Originally, on its central parterre there were statues, obelisks and tub plants as well as a magnificent open-air ballroom. But even the reconstructed and simplified version is a feast for the eyes. Around a fountain circle are groups of grass surfaces. Blooming borders, hedges, shrubs and trees paint symmetrical elements, completed by a gallery of old hornbeams and precious woods.



17

In 1658, the Baron of the Realm zu Gracht commissioned the development of his residence and the design of the park. Several generations later (around 1784) parts of the park were converted into an English landscape garden as was becoming fashionable at that time. So in the 18th century, Gracht was at the cutting edge of garden design for the second time. In the 1990s the park was redecorated and restored. The pink castle with its moat has been an eye-catcher until now. During Napoleon's reign in the Rhineland (you will meet him once more on this tour) it was used as a military hospital. In 1851, it was converted under the architect Johann Anton Wallé. An L-shaped complex with wings of varying heights was created. Today, it looks to the future as a modern further education institution.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)2235 409412, [www.erftstadt.de](http://www.erftstadt.de)

You follow the course of the river Erft and pass Gymnich Castle with its falconry, Info: [www.erftstadt.de](http://www.erftstadt.de). You then pass the town of Kerpen. In the district of Horrem you can visit the Museum of Motor racing with its beautiful oldtimers (daily except Sat. 14.00 – 18.00 hrs).

Info: [www.automobil-rennsport.de](http://www.automobil-rennsport.de)



2

A little further north is your next destination, the palace gardens of Paffendorf near Bergheim. On the fringes of the Rhineland coal mining area lie the neo-gothic palace gardens. Here you will also find a brown-coal information centre with a brown-coal museum. The original building dating from the 16th century was decorated with pinnacles, balustrades, balconies and figures in the 19th century. The moat contributes to its picturesque character. The 7-hectare park is full of surprises. Originally designed in the strict forms of the French example, it was converted into a landscape

garden at the beginning of the 19th century. Expansive ponds and distinctive solitary trees, among them Ginkgo, redwood trees and

red cedars have a strong impact on the general picture. Part of the gardens has been a forest school garden since 1967. There you will find the plants of the Tertiary, the geological date of origin of brown coal. Primeval trees, shrubs and moor plants are grouped together. Finds complete the picture: the approximately 15 million year-old Sequoia stumps, which were found during mining, mark the park entrance. Other attractions are the drift blocks, which are rocks from glaciated low mountain ranges which, during the last ice age, found their way to the Lower Rhine bay on big ice floes. They were also found by shovel excavators in the coal mines.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)2271 75120043, [www.rwe.com](http://www.rwe.com)



2

Now you travel from the Erft to the Rur, your destination being the Brückenkopf-Park in Jülich, which lets you travel back into the time of the French in the Rhineland. The cleared fortress was built on Napoleon's orders on the former eastern border of the French territory; between 1801 and 1814 Jülich was a location of strategic importance for the Emperor. Together with the bridge head, erected on the Rur, it later lost its significance although it was conserved as a monument. On the occasion of the national garden festival in 1998, the 33-hectare area with access to the fortifications was opened to the public as a leisure park.



19

The expansive area, enclosed by a walled fortress, is surprising in its variety and a popular address for families with children. Here you will find theme and school gardens, meadows and forests, a water plant school, a number of attractive playgrounds, sports activities for all ages and even a small zoo with predominantly native wildlife. Apart from fun and action there is also peace and recreation. Paths, groves and hedges enhance its structure, from a linden tree circle at the entrance to the different areas. In the summer, more than 60 rose species blossom in the "town garden" area, the flower hall at the south bastion introduces you to the Mediterranean flora.

Info: Tel. +49 (0)2461 97950, [www.brueckenkopf-park.de](http://www.brueckenkopf-park.de)



19

Over the Kirmesbrücke you arrive directly in the old town of Jülich. In the middle of the 16th century and in the spirit of Italian Renaissance, the Duke commissioned Alessandro Pasqualini to realise an ideal barrage town. The castle fortress and the citadel are testimony of that era.

Info: [www.juelich.de](http://www.juelich.de)





### Schloss Gymnich

The former government guest-house is surface mining area  
Foto: Stadt Erftstadt



### Nature Park Rhineland

The Heider Bergsee in the former surface mining area  
Foto: RWE Power AG



### Vantage point geology

A view into surface mining, near Schloss Paffendorf



### Old town Jülich

The listed Citadel

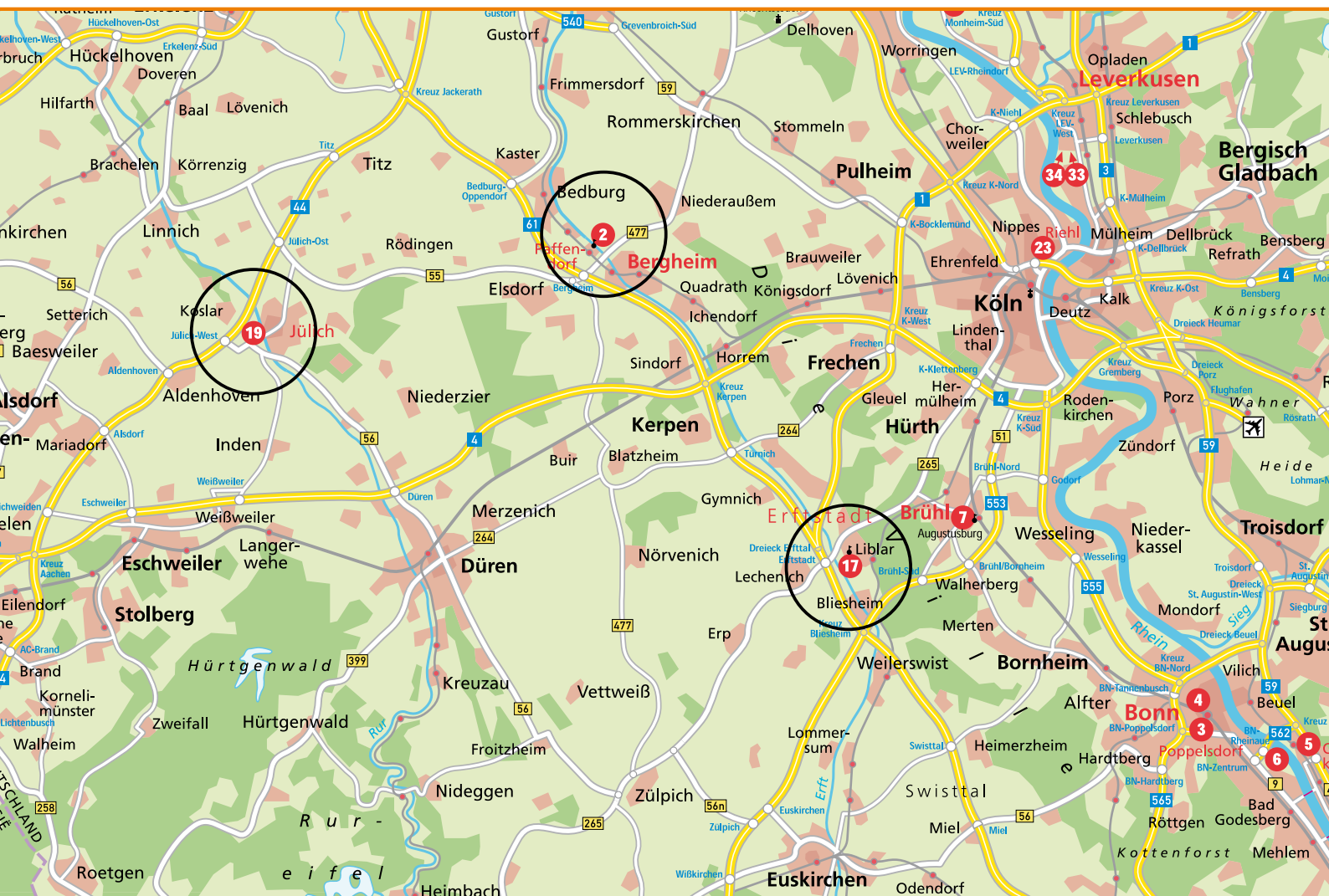
- 17 Schlosspark Gracht, Fritz-Erler-Straße, 50374 Erftstadt
- 2 Schlosspark Paffendorf, Burggasse, 50126 Bergheim
- 19 Brückenkopf-Park, Rurauenstraße 11, 52428 Jülich

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)

contact: kulturinfo rheinland  
Tel. +49 (0)1805 743465 (0,14 Euro/Min.)  
[info@kulturinfo-rheinland.de](mailto:info@kulturinfo-rheinland.de)  
[www.kulturinfo-rheinland.de](http://www.kulturinfo-rheinland.de)

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

### Tip

By bicycle the route is 50 kilometres long, along the Erft as well as through forests and fields. The train starts in Liblar station, the return journey starts from Jülich station. Route and information on [www.radroutenplaner.nrw.de](http://www.radroutenplaner.nrw.de)

### Recommended travel season

This tour is interesting all year round. Please note the following opening times: Exhibitions in Paffendorf are open at weekends and on public holidays from 10.00 until 17.00 hrs, the park is open daily from 10.00 until 17.00 hrs (until 19.00 hrs from April until September), entrance is free. The Brückenkopf park, for which admission fees apply, is open daily from 9.30 – 18.00 hrs between April and October, from November until March daily from 10.00 until 17.00 hrs. During the winter season, entrance is free on weekdays.