



STRASBOURG, A GREEN CITY

When you're in Strasbourg, you don't need to go far to go green. The city contains 3,200 hectares of nature: with parks, squares, public gardens and woods, there's something for everyone!

Parc de l'Orangerie

This is the largest park in Strasbourg (26 hectares) and is one of the most pleasant; it was classed as a **Historical Monument** in 1989.

The laying-out of the park as a French classical garden began in 1740. A pavilion dedicated to the Empress Josephine (which hosted a reception in her honour in 1809) was built in 1806 to house the collection of orange trees which the state had just presented to the city of Strasbourg. Between 1832 and 1848, a fan-like pattern of the walkways was integrated into an English-style garden. This further evolved with the industrial and artisan exhibition of 1895, when a number of spectacular features - some of a short duration, others lasting a longer period of time - were added. These included the man-made lake with its rocky waterfall and grotto. A half-timbered house, built originally in Molsheim in 1607, was reconstructed piece by piece to create a winery; much later this became the "Buerehiesel" (a high-end restaurant). The fantastic collection of orange trees which gave the park its name was sadly lost in a fire in 1968.

However the people of Strasbourg really appreciate the charms of this place, with its **perfect blend of classicism and romanticism**, of familiarity and exoticism. Even a stork farm can be found here; and it is not unusual to come across one of their number roaming freely over the park lawns.

👁 Avenue de l'Europe - Free access.

Portalès Park

Mélanie de Portalès (1836-1914) will always be associated with the castle she is named after. Thanks to the beautiful lady (who was the matron of honour for the Empress Eugenie), the Portalès Castle became a meeting point for celebrities of the century: Albert Schweitzer, Maurice Barrès, Jules Massenet, Charles de Foucault...

Belonging since 1976 to the City of Strasbourg, the 24 hectare park has woods that stretch out towards the forest of Robert-sau. It features lots of **contemporary sculptures** and is the most rugged of Strasbourg's parks.

👁 161 rue Mélanie - Free access.

Citadelle Park

Partially classed as a historic monument, this park (12,5 ha) was decorated in 1964 as **a remnant of the Citadel designed by Vauban** in 1681 to strengthen the city's fortifications. The park has retained the outline of the fortifications, combining the architectural contours, the water in the moat and the vegetation into a single entity.

👁 Rue de Boston - Free access.

Jardin des Deux Rives

This 50 hectare cross-border park has **straddled the German and French banks of the Rhine** since 2004. A symbol of **Franco-German friendship**, it is the first park to be designed on both sides of a border. A delicate footbridge for pedestrians and cyclists, 387 metres long, was designed by **Marc Mimram**, providing easy access across the river and stunning views of its banks. Considering its symbolism, it is no surprise that the « family photo » of the 2009 NATO summit was taken here.

👁 Rue des Cavaliers - Free access.

Heyritz Park

This new park (2015) of 8.7 hectares, located close to the city centre, was built on a **former industrial site**. Its design preserved a large portion of existing nature (trees and undergrowth), supplemented by native herbaceous plants. A long **floating footbridge** made of acacia creates a smooth interface with the aquatic environment. 👁 Chemin du Heyritz - Free access.

The Botanical Garden

It is **one of the largest botanical gardens in France**. It was developed between 1880 and 1884 by the German authorities as part of the Imperial University. They hoped to make it the Empire's second most impressive botanical garden after Berlin. This 3.5 hectare garden, located on the site of the old ramparts, was provided with attractive metal greenhouses, the last remnant of which is the round glasshouse renamed "de Bary" - after the professor who created the garden. **Listed as a historic monument** in 1993, it houses tropical aquatic plants and a pool 7 meters in length, used from the very beginning for cultivating the giant water lily *Victoria amazonica*.

The mission of the botanical garden is to provide a home for exotic species and to preserve the extraordinary variety of natural plant life by cultivating numerous endangered plant species. Its role is also to raise public awareness of the importance of preserving our botanical heritage.

Featured on the additional list of historic monuments since 1991, this truly living museum provides, in a green oasis in the

heart of the city, is a fantastic opportunity to observe more than **6,000 different ancient or rare species** from all five continents.

👁 28 rue Goethe - Free access. Variable hours.

📍 jardin-botanique.unistra.fr

Nature in the city: the urban nature park

Taking inspiration from nearby regional nature parks, Strasbourg and its citizens have launched an innovative programme to preserve the city's unique heritage and attractive living conditions. The Urban Nature Park **has brought nature and the city together**, since 2010 for Ill Bruche in the west and since 2015 for Ill Rhine in the north. More than a territory, the Urban Nature Park is a state of mind, a collective approach to bringing nature into the city. It contains exceptional, amazing heritage that can be explored on several different **footpaths and bike paths**.

Forests: three national nature reserves

Strasbourg is **the only city in Europe** with alluvial forests in the areas surrounding the city, three of which are protected by the status of "national nature reserve": **Rohrschollen Island** (1997), **Neuhof Forest** (2012) and **Robertsau Forest** (2020). These three areas represent an incomparable natural heritage with remarkable ecological diversity. A wide variety of marked trails and paths can be followed to explore nature while respecting the environment.

Remarkable trees

A recent count of the **67,500 trees** of Strasbourg highlights the presence of **64 remarkable trees** in the city. These include:

- the **4 gingko biloba trees** on Place de la République, given by Emperor Meiji of Japan to Emperor William II.
- the highest tree in the city, a **plane tree measuring 45 metres** in Contades Park. Its height is equivalent to the height of a 15-storey building.
- A 31-metre-high London plane tree, right in the centre of the Petite France quarter. It is thought to have been planted in **1667**.