

Nymphenburg palace complex

A stroll round the park and palace

Discover the hidden aspects of Nymphenburg Palace Park with a new garden app

Nymphenburg Palace with its large park and the former extensive hunting grounds in the west of Munich was once the summer residence of the Bavarian rulers. From May to September, the ruling family from the house of Wittelsbach stayed here with their entire court. Their favourite pastimes were hunting, gondola rides, tournaments and plays. Today art and nature lovers come to stroll in the English landscape garden. The state rooms of the palace take you back into the past; two particular highlights are the room in which King Ludwig II of Bavaria was born and King Ludwig I's world-famous Gallery of Beauties.

From a Baroque garden to an English landscape garden

The palace complex of Nymphenburg was begun in 1664 and built over a period of two centuries under five rulers. It was founded following the birth of the long-awaited heir to the throne, Max Emanuel. The most comprehensive development of the palace and park with the park pavilions took place between 1714 and 1726 under Elector Max Emanuel. He had a magnificent Baroque garden laid out by Dominique Girard with the palace as the focal point.

This underwent considerable change. From 1800 the garden designer Friedrich Ludwig von Sckell transformed the Baroque garden for the subsequent King Max I Joseph into an extensive English landscape garden. What remained of the Baroque complex was the Large Parterre, in a simplified form, the central canal with the avenues and the Large Cascade. Friedrich Ludwig von Sckell turned the two side vistas into 'meadow valleys' with variously shaped borders of naturally growing trees and shrubs. He replaced the formal water basins in the park with natural-looking water features, creating Badenburg Lake and Pagodenburg Lake, because, as he said, 'Water is the life and soul of a garden.' Landscape gardens in the English style are three-dimensional, walk-in landscape paintings. The paths are 'silent guides' that lead the visitor from one picture to the next.

A stroll with the 'Nymphenburg Palace Park' app

The new 'Nymphenburg Palace Park' app invites you to take a stroll round the palace garden. 23 GPS-programmed stations present the park as a synthesis of the arts. You can choose between three guided tours or explore the park on your own. The changes in the park and conservation measures are explained in 140 audio minutes. Picture galleries, interviews with experts and octocopter images make the invisible visible. What does the 'Witch's House' in the Crown Prince Garden look like inside? Where were the royal family's favourite places? What do natural monuments have to do with cloning? This is what the app will show you. The Court Garden Superintendent quiz and the pheasant game is not just something for children. The app is available free for iOS and Android.

Schloss Nymphenburg, 80638 München

Tel. +49 89 1 79 08-0

www.schloss-nymphenburg.de

Opening times of the park and park pavilions

Park, main gate:

January – March, November, December: daily 6am-8pm

May – September: daily 6am-9.30pm

Park pavilions:

April – 15 October: daily 9am-6pm

16 October – March: closed