



BAVARIAN  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Memorial Sites  
Dachau and Flossenbürg



## The Bavarian Memorial Foundation

In 2003, the Bavarian Memorial Foundation was commissioned by The Free State of Bavaria with the trusteeship for the Dachau and Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial Sites.

Since then, the Foundation has been responsible for the preservation and development of the Memorial Sites:

as authentic historical sites and  
as testimonies to the crimes of National Socialism

as places for remembering the victims

as places of education

The historic sites are visited annually by over a million people from all over the world. These places of democracy and democratisation enjoy high credibility.

Equally important, but largely unknown, are the more than 200 former, albeit hardly preserved, **subcamps of the two concentration camps**. The Foundation works in partnership with local authorities and associations to make these sites visible and to commemorate the injustices committed there.

Since 2013, the Foundation is also accountable for **75 concentration camp cemeteries** spread across Bavaria. Tasks range from maintenance and conservation, to providing information to visitors, to overseeing and implementing the redesign of these places of remembrance.

The former camps are part of Bavaria's cultural heritage and must be preserved as testimonies to the crimes of National Socialism.



## Subcamps

At the end of 1944, the majority of all concentration camp prisoners were held in subcamps as forced labourers. The living conditions were catastrophic: an acute shortage of supplies, extremely arduous and relentless work, disease, exposure to freezing temperatures, and brutal mistreatment led to an enormous increase in deaths.

The Dachau concentration camp had 140 subcamps during its existence, mainly in southern Bavaria, near Lake Constance and in Austria. The approximately 80 subcamps of the Flossenbürg concentration camp extended from Würzburg to Prague and from northern Saxony to Lower Bavaria.

After the end of the war, the remains of many of these subcamps were demolished and built over. Along with them, knowledge of this regional chapter of persecution during the Nazi era also disappeared. Since the 1980s, local initiatives have been trying to bring these forgotten places back into public awareness. The Bavarian Memorial Foundation supports their efforts and has been involved in the establishment of memorial sites at two of the largest subcamps, Hersbruck and Mühldorf, in recent years.

## Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial

Shortly after Adolf Hitler's appointment as Reich Chancellor, the Nazi regime established a concentration camp in Dachau in March 1933, which was originally intended for political opponents. It became the "model" for subsequent camps. Until liberation in April 1945, more than 200,000 people from over 40 nations were imprisoned there and in its 140 subcamps. Persecuted for political, "racial" and "social hygiene" reasons, one in five victims died from hunger, disease or SS terror.

The Memorial Site was opened in 1965 on the initiative of survivors, first of all of the Comité International de Dachau (CID). Dedicated to remembering the victims of Nazi persecution, the Memorial Site aims to provide historical and civic education while fostering international encounters. In addition to a main exhibition on the history of the Dachau concentration camp, special exhibitions on a diverse array of themes are held at regular intervals, while a multifaceted educational and event programme is available. Various religious and non-religious memorials also exist on the grounds. Much is planned for the coming years, with extensive renovation work due, exhibitions to be redesigned and updated, and further buildings from the former camp integrated into the Memorial Site.



## Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial

The Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial remembers the fate of the approx. 100,000 persons imprisoned in the camp complex. Working under extreme hardship imposed by the SS, they were forced to mine granite in the concentration camp's own quarry and, from 1943, manufacture aircraft parts for the armaments industry. At least 30,000 of them did not survive their imprisonment.

The Memorial Site, established in 1946/47 on part of the former camp grounds, is one of the oldest in Europe. A number of the camp facilities could be preserved, amongst them the former commandant's headquarters, part of the detention yard, the crematorium, three watchtowers and the roll-call square. Flossenbürg is known worldwide as the execution site of the protestant theologian and resistance fighter Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

As a place of remembrance and learning, Flossenbürg has been continuously developed over the past 20 years. Two permanent exhibitions and an education centre have been created, and historical relics, especially in the area of the historic quarry, are being made accessible.



## Concentration Camp Cemeteries and Gravesites

At the beginning of April 1945, the Allied advance reached Bavaria. The soldiers were confronted with scenes of horror in many places. At both the main Dachau and Flossenbürg concentration camps and their subcamps, as well as along the numerous routes of the so called death marches, the Allied soldiers came across the bodies of dead prisoners and found survivors severely marked by their ordeal under the Nazis. In the weeks and months after the war, the Allies ordered that victims, often only provisionally buried, were to be reinterred at 493 concentration camp gravesites. Since the 1950s, many of these smaller burial sites have been integrated into larger grounds.

In 2013, the Bavarian Memorial Foundation took over the administration of the remaining 75 concentration camp cemeteries and gravesites in Bavaria. Since then, the Foundation has not only been committed to maintaining the sites, but also to providing new and relevant information.

# Organisational structure

The Bavarian Memorial Foundation is a foundation under public law. A **Council** decides on all fundamental matters concerning the Foundation and has far-reaching rights in budgetary and personnel matters. Its members are made up of representatives from state and local politics as well as church and victims groups. The chair is always held by the respective Bavarian Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs.

A **Board of Trustees** has an advisory function and is involved in every important decision. The Board is composed of representatives from survivor groups and social organisations.

In addition, the Foundation is supported by an **Academic Advisory Board** of national and international experts. Both bodies are appointed by the Council for a period of four years.

## Bavarian Memorial Foundation

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