

The Bavarian Memorial Foundation in Facts and Figures

Established 1 January 2003 as a foundation under public law

Director of the Foundation: Karl Freller MdL, Vice-President of the Bavarian State Parliament (ret.)

Chairwoman: Minister of Education, Anna Stolz MdL

Director of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site:

Dr. Gabriele Hammermann

Director of the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial Site:

Prof. Dr. Jörg Skriebeleit

Chief responsibility of the 75 Concentration Camp Cemeteries and Gravesites and Subcamps: responsibility: Dr Jascha März, Head of Scientific Services and Archives, Bavarian Memorial Foundation

The Bavarian Memorial Foundation

As of 2003 the Bavarian Memorial Foundation's main duties are maintenance and management of the Dachau and Flossenbürg concentration camp memorial sites. Since then, the Foundation has been responsible for preserving the Memorial Sites as authentic sites and thus as stone witnesses of the crimes of National Socialism, as places of remembrance for the suffering of the victims and as places of learning for future generations. The two memorial sites are indisputably the centre of the remembrance cultural landscape in Bavaria.

Almost forgotten and largely unknown are the more than 200 former, albeit hardly preserved subcamps of the two concentration camps. The Bavarian Memorial Foundation is in direct contact with local authorities and committed associations who are actively working to make these places visible again as places of remembrance.

Since 2013, the Foundation has also been responsible for 75 concentration camp cemeteries and gravesites spread throughout Bavaria. Here, the spectrum of tasks ranges from securing and maintaining them to providing information for visitors and redesigning these places of remembrance.

The Bavarian Memorial Foundation is established as an operative foundation under public law.

Director: Karl Freller, former 1st Vice President of the Bavarian State Parliament; since December 2007, elected by the Council

Former Directors: 2003–March 2004 Acting Director Dr. Peter März (former director of the Bavarian State Agency for Civic Education) March 2004–October 2007, founding director Prof. Dr. Andreas Heldrich, rector emeritus of Munich's Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU)

Total number of staff (as of Sept. 2025): 193

On the reporting date, 130 people were employed at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, 55 at the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial and eight at the foundation's administrative offices, making a total of 193.

Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

Thanks to the initiative of the survivors, who had joined together in 1955 to form the Comité International de Dachau (CID), it was possible to open the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site with a first documentary exhibition in May 1965 and to transform the former prisoners' camp into a place of remembrance and commemoration.

The Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site sees itself as a place of historical-political education and international encounters as well as a place of remembrance for the victims of Nazi persecution. In addition to various permanent exhibitions on the history of Dachau Concentration Camp and the concentration camp system, there are changing special exhibitions as well as a diverse educational and event program. In the course of a large-scale overall concept to redesign the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial, historical buildings and memorials are to be renovated, exhibitions renewed and relevant buildings of the former camp incorporated in the coming years.

Historic outline

- Opened on March 22, 1933 as a protective custody camp initially for political opponents
- During its twelve-year existence, over 200,000 people from more than 40 nations were imprisoned in the main camp and the approximately 140 satellite camps for political, racial and socio-hygienic reasons
- At least 41,500 people died of hunger, maltreatment, murder and the consequences of concentration camp imprisonment
- Liberation on April 29, 1945 by the US Army

The Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

- Between 1945 and 1948, use of the site as a Displaced Persons (DPs) Camp and internment camp for Nazi perpetrators by the American military government
- 1948 Construction of a reception camp by the Bavarian State Government for Displaced Persons, later known as "Wohnsiedlung Dachau-Ost" (Dachau East Housing Estate)
- In May 1965, opening of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site with a first documentary exhibition
- On September 8, 1968, unveiling of the International Memorial by Nandor Glid

- From 1995 to 2003, new conception of the concentration camp memorial with a new main exhibition with the leitmotif "Way of the Prisoners" as well as partial exhibitions in the former camp prison and in one of the reconstructed barracks
- 2009 Inauguration of the visitor center
- With the decision of the Council of Ministers in 2020, start of a comprehensive redesign within the framework of the "Overall Concept of Remembrance Culture".
- Travelling exhibition: 'The Beginning of Terror – Early Concentration Camps in National Socialism' (22 March 2023 – 31 December 2023) with a special section by the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site on the early Dachau concentration camp
- Special Exhibition "The Dachau Trials – Crimes, Proceedings and Responsibility" 29 April 2022 – 31 December 2026)

Director: (since 2008): Dr. Gabriele Hammermann,
deputy director (since 2020): Dr. Christoph Thonfeld

former directors: Ruth Jakusch (1962–1975), Barbara Distel (1975–2008)

Number of employees (as of Sept. 2025): 130

Number of visitors (in 2025): 1,020,000

Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial

The "Valley of Death" memorial site, created by survivors of the Nazi persecution in 1946 and 1947, counts as the oldest concentration camp memorial site within Bavaria. However, the institutional foundation of the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial Site did not begin until 1995. This took place with the transformation from a gravesite memorial to an active place of remembrance and learning, with a wide range of information and educational offerings. Two permanent exhibitions provide information about the history of the concentration camp and its aftermath.

In 2015, the extensive redesign of the grounds were completed and the education centre with a museum café opened.

Historic outline

- camp complex built from 1938 onwards
- approx. 80 subcamps
- over 100,000 people imprisoned, from all European countries
- at least 30,000 did not survive their imprisonment
- forced labour work in the concentration camp's own quarry and from 1943, production of aircraft parts for the armaments industry
- liberation of the main camp on 23 April 1945

The Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial

- 1947 inauguration of the "Christ in the Dungeon" chapel and the "Valley of Death" memorial on 25 May
- from 1947 industrial reuse of parts of the former camp grounds, especially the former concentration camp quarry.
- 1948 the memorial site is placed under the special protection of the Free State of Bavaria on the advice of the Monument Protection Committee
- 1956 expansion of the first memorial site with a cemetery of honour for the victims of the death marches
- 1958 onwards construction of a housing estate on the former camp site
- 1995 beginning of the construction of the concentration camp memorial site
- 1996 first scientific documentation centre under the direction of the municipality of Flossenbürg, initial for the new conception
- 1998 return of the former roll call site and two preserved buildings to the Free State of Bavaria under the condition to be integrated into the memorial site.

- 2006 former concentration camp buildings are declared historical building monuments ("Baudenkmal") and the entire former concentration camp site is declared as a ground monument ("Bodendenkmal")
- 2007 opening of the permanent exhibition "Concentration Camp Flossenbürg 1938–1945"
- 2010 opening of the second permanent exhibition "what remains. The aftermath of the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp"
- 2015 opening of the education centre with museum café and completion of exterior design of the grounds
- 2020 Council of Ministers decision on the new concept of the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial Site as part of the "Masterplan of remembrance culture" provides for the takeover of the "Wurmstein" quarry site of the former SS company "Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerke" (DESt)
- 2022 Cabinet decision on the redevelopment of the historic DESt administration building for multifunctional use by the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial Site
- March 2024 official end of quarry mining in the "Wurmstein" quarry
- December 2024: Signing of the lease agreement for the historically relevant section of the former "Wurmstein" concentration camp quarry in Flossenbürg by the Bavarian Memorial Foundation and the Bavarian State Forests. As part of the new concept of the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial Site the quarry will be an authentic place of remembrance and education about National Socialist crimes and the suffering of victims

Director: Prof. Dr. Jörg Skriebeleit

Number of employees (as of Sept. 2025): 55

Number of visitors per year: 80.600

Subcamps

After the end of the war, structural remains of many concentration camp subcamps were demolished and built over. Along with them, knowledge of these regional chapters of persecution disappeared. Since the 1980s, local initiatives have been trying to bring these forgotten places back into the public awareness. The Bavarian Memorial Foundation supports them in their efforts and in 2016 and 2018 funded the construction of memorials at two of the largest concentration camp subcamps, Hersbruck and Mühldorf.

2016 opening of the documentation site in Hersbruck/ Happburg

2018 opening of documentation site in Mühldorfer Hart, at the former forest camp as well as at the mass grave.

With the support of the Bavarian Memorial Foundation, every year information steles are erected and ceremoniously inaugurated at the sites of former subcamps, such as in Poing (Mühldorf satellite camp complex) in 2025 to commemorate the crimes of the so-called death train of 25 April 1945.

On 1 October 2025, ownership of the historic bunker site in Mühldorfer Hart was transferred to the Bavarian Memorial Foundation. It is to be made accessible to the public in the coming years.

Graveyards

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

2021 inauguration of the redesigned cemetery of honour “Ehrenhain I” at the Perlacher Forst cemetery, Munich

Committees

Council

The Council decides on all fundamental matters of the Foundation and has far-reaching powers in budgetary and personnel matters. Its members are representatives of state and local politics as well as from church and victim groups. The chair of the Council is responsible for supervising the Foundation's directorate. The current Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs holds the chair of the Council.

Chairwoman: Minister of Education, Anna Stolz MdL (since Nov. 2023)

Former chairpersons of the Foundation Council: Monika Hohlmeier (until 2005), Siegfried Schneider (until 2008), Ludwig Spaenle (2008–2018), Bernd Sibler (2018), Prof. Dr. Michael Piazolo (2018–2023)

Board of trustees

The board of trustees has an advisory function and is involved in every important decision. Appointed for a period of four years, the board of trustees is made up of representatives from survivor groups and of social organisations.

Chairman (since 2012): Ernst Grube

Vice Chairman: Karlhermann Schötz

Former Chair of the Board of Trustees: Ulrike Mascher (2004–2012)

Academic Advisory Board

Furthermore, a scholarly advisory board comprised of national and international experts assists the Foundation. The Council appoints the members of the advisory board for four years.

Chairman: Prof. Dr. habil. Krzysztof Ruchniewicz

Vice Chairwoman: PD. Dr. Katja Makhotina

former Chair (2004–2024): Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Benz