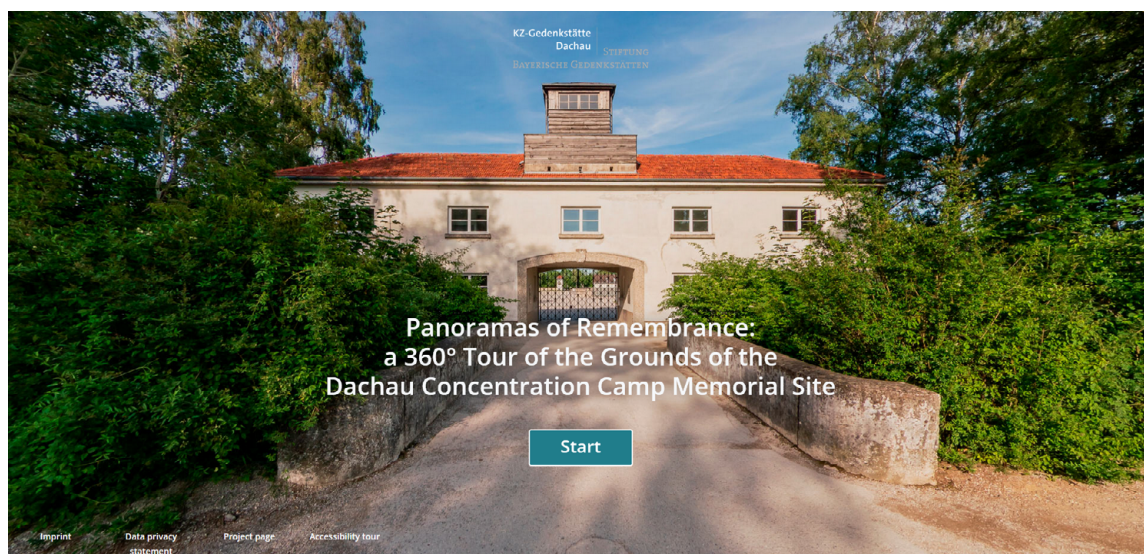


GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE 360° TOUR “PANORAMAS OF REMEMBRANCE”



Start page of the 360° tour “Panoramas of Remembrance”

THE 360° TOUR “PANORAMAS OF REMEMBRANCE” – A COMPONENT IN THE PROJECT *DIGITAL EDUCATION AT MEMORIAL SITES*

The 360° tour “Panoramas of Remembrance” about the grounds of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site was realized in 2024/25 as a central component in the project *Digital Education at Memorial Sites*. For this segment of the project, the Dachau Memorial Site’s Education Department worked with the Munich-based company *Bestviews*. The result is a 360° tour that invites viewers to explore the grounds, while providing additional information through texts and visuals in German, English and Plain Language (German); a barrier-free version is also available. The tour is designed above all – but not exclusively – for youths 13 and older and can be used in both school lessons and extracurricular activities to prepare for and reflect on a visit to the Memorial Site. Lesson plans and exercise sheets are available to download.

THE 360° TOUR “PANORAMAS OF REMEMBRANCE” – A POSSIBLE TOOL FOR PREPARING AND FOLLOWING UP A VISIT

Because they confront visitors with the violent history of a place, visits to memorial sites can be challenging. Careful preparation and follow-up reflection helps to ensure that the visit is not overwhelming, while the various historical topics are addressed and the emotional responses to the history of the site discussed beforehand. The goal of the 360° tour “Panoramas of Remembrance” is to enable an interactive digital survey of the grounds and its history, to get to know the location beforehand, and to reflect on a visit afterwards.

The 360° tour “Panoramas of Remembrance” is one of several tools for preparing and following up a visit teachers and multipliers can select which fit the specific needs of their group. A compilation of all the tips and services for preparing and following up a visit is available on the Memorial Site’s website: <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de/en/education/preparing-for-and-reflecting-on-a-visit/>

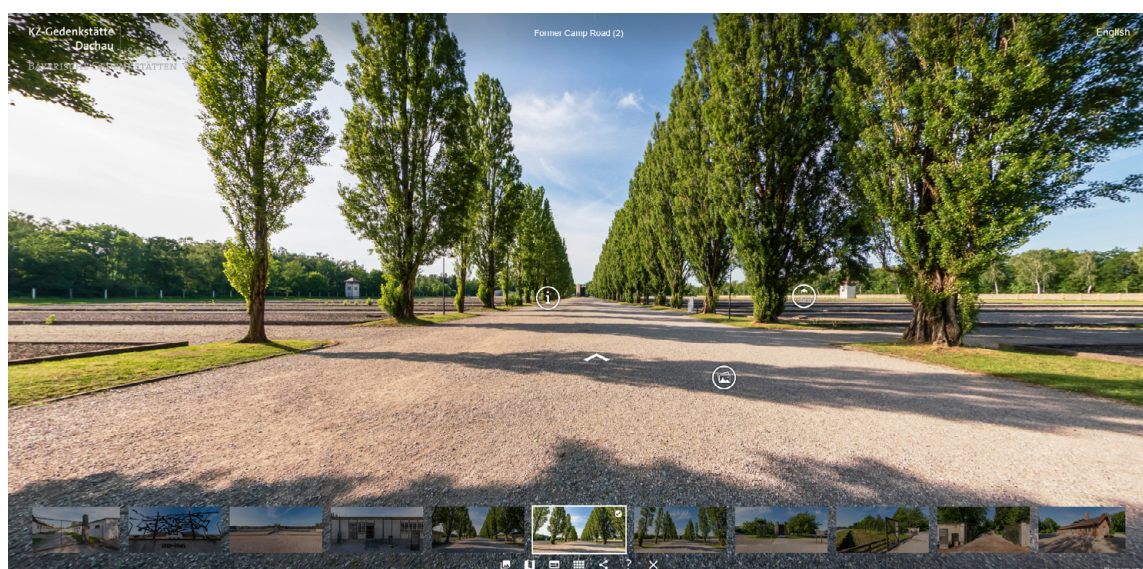
CONCEPTUAL CONSIDERATIONS AND LEARNING GOALS

Young people are often overwhelmed by their visit to the Dachau Memorial Site – in part because they have no idea what awaits them on the grounds and are surprised at its enormous dimensions. Visitors are also frequently confused because they are unaware of the changes made to the grounds in the more than 80 years since the Dachau concentration camp was liberated. One goal of the 360° tour “Panoramas of Remembrance” is to respond to this sense of overwhelm and address misguided expectations.

The tour not only offers the opportunity to look at the digitalized sections of the Memorial Site grounds but enables an initial familiarity with the themes and locations related to the former prisoners as well as their personal accounts and stories. The digital 360° setting, which enables users to follow their interests and through which they can move interactively, inspires playful exploration and sparks curiosity for the coming visit. Moreover, users are encouraged to formulate their own questions and points of interest, which they can then pursue in greater detail during their visit. The info points were created in a way to make sure that the history of the respective location was not given extensive coverage – the 360° tour aims to convey an initial impression and arouse curiosity; it is not designed as a substitute for actually visiting the Dachau Memorial Site.

Gauging the reactions of the users and the discussions within the group, teachers can recognize in advance if there are special themes or places on the grounds which may prove difficult for some individuals. In this way precautionary arrangements can be made to give these individuals a certain degree of freedom to make their own informed decisions when visiting the Memorial Site.

One important goal of the Dachau Memorial Site is to remove barriers. While this is unfortunately still not possible in all areas, digital services provide uncomplicated accessibility for a large number of groups. To use the 360° tour “Panoramas of Remembrance” is technically straightforward and possible with all the usual browsers on PCs or laptops as well as mobile devices. A glossary is available to explain difficult and unfamiliar specialist terms. Along with the versions in German and English, “Panoramas of Remembrance” is also available in Plain Language (German) and a barrier-free version, usable without a keyboard and fitted with a screen reader.



View into the 360° tour “Panoramas of Remembrance”

STRUCTURE

The 360° tour “Panoramas of Remembrance” consists of different omnidirectional photographs. They were taken in the summer of 2024 in the morning and late evening to show the location without visitors while guaranteeing excellent quality visibility through colors rich in contrast.

The tour offers 19 panoramas which enable users to interactively explore the grounds of the Dachau Memorial Site. 18 thematic info points are integrated into the panoramas; on three different levels these panoramas provide an opportunity to become familiar with historical events.



“What kind of place is this?”

Featured on this level are short texts which link the respective location with a specific theme.



“What can you (not) see?”

This question presents a historical comparison between photographs – what we see today at this location and what was there at the time the Dachau concentration camp was in operation.



“A prisoner remembers”

Here short accounts and biographies of former prisoners at the Dachau concentration camp give an insight into the different impressions and thoughts of persons imprisoned in the camp between 1933 and 1945. Although every effort was made to select accounts of persons who were imprisoned at the camp at different times, for different reasons, and had different backgrounds, it remains impossible to cover the whole spectrum of different experiences of the prisoners.



The First Crematorium Building

I hidden somewhat behind trees is a small half-timber building. It housed the first crematorium, built in 1940. Back then there were fewer trees around the building.

At first, the SS had the corpses buried not far from the camp or sent them to be cremated at Munich Eastern Cemetery. Once the Second World War began, the Nazis deported more and more people from the occupied territories to the concentration camps which caused a sharp rise in the number of deaths in the camps. The SS therefore built a first crematorium with a double oven in the summer of 1940. Just a year later, the capacity of this crematorium was already insufficient.

The responsibility to cremate the dead was given to a special prisoner detail. After a few months, the SS murdered these prisoners and replaced them with new men. The aim was to prevent any precise knowledge about what was going on to get out.

The SS also used the secluded crematorium area as an execution site. Prisoners were hung or shot in the back of the neck.

Glossary

Camps: concentration and extermination camps
From 1933 concentration camps (German abbreviation: KZ) were set up in Germany, beginning in 1938 also in countries occupied by Germany. Imprisoned were all persons categorized as not belonging to Nazi society or themselves did not wish to be part of it. The prisoners were forced to perform heavy labor and



What can you (not) see?



Illustration 519 The first crematorium building, 2024
© KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau, Fotograf: Maximilian Luzzak-Körchner





A prisoner remembers

The former camp prisoner Karel Kašák on plans to enlarge the crematorium area:

“February 1942: yesterday the plans for the crematorium and the new ovens to be built were completed. Together with the old ones, there will now be six ovens in total.

Source: Die Aufzeichnungen von Karel Kašák. Zusammengestellt, kommentiert und mit Anmerkungen versehen von Stanislav Zámečník, in: Wolfgang Benz / Barbara Distel: Orte der Erinnerung (Dachauer Hefte, Band 11). München 1995, S. 167-251, hier: S. 195.



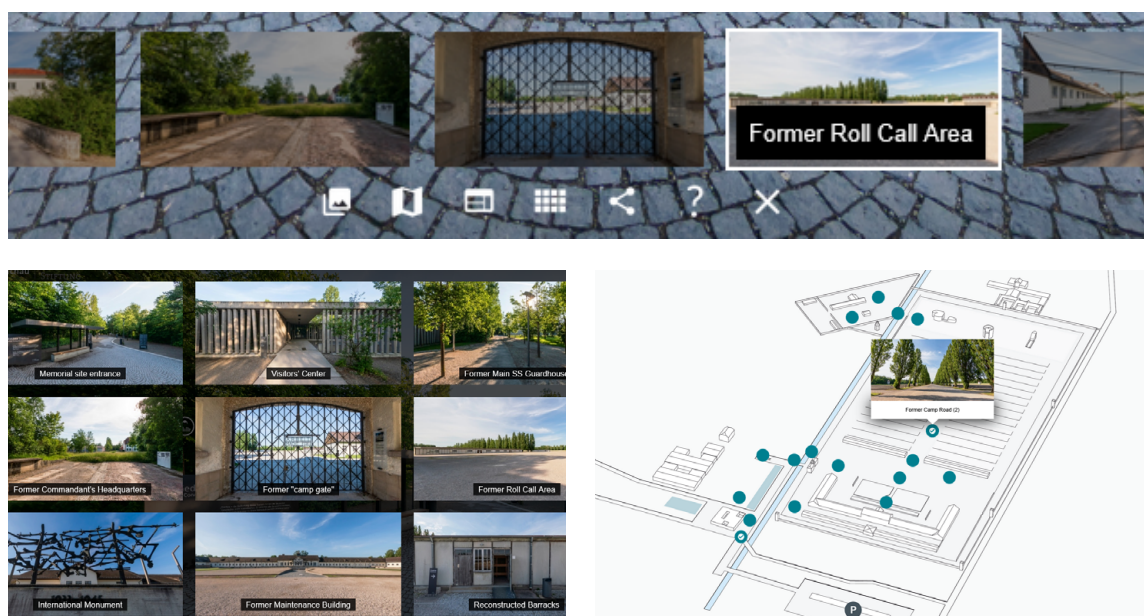
Example for the three info points in the panorama “Former Crematorium Buildings”

NAVIGATION

Different navigation options give users a lot of freedom to move through the 360° tour according to their individual preferences: they can both follow the recommended path through the panoramas with the aid of the arrows to gain an overall impression and alternatively they may also switch between the panoramas via different elements anchored in the navigation bar.

A summary of all the panoramas with their respective titles as well as a thumbnail enables a quick overview and allow simple navigation between the individual panoramas.

An interactive map of the Memorial Site grounds helps users to gain an orientation and explore specific areas.



Overview of the various navigation possibilities in the 360° tour "Panoramas of Remembrance"

CONCEPTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

The Education Department of the Memorial Site has also prepared educational materials to accompany the 360° tour "Panoramas of Remembrance". A lesson guideline provides teachers with an orientation on how to integrate the tour. Two exercise sheets are also available, one to prepare for a visit, the other for follow-up reflection. Each sheet has two exercises which help the youths make purposeful use of the 360° tour.

Exercise sheet 1 supports the preparation of a visit. The pupils explore the 360° tour on their own and extend their knowledge by studying the info points of a panorama that interests them. They are encouraged to formulate questions for their visit to the Dachau Memorial Site. That questions remain open after using the 360° tour for the first time is expressly welcomed.

Exercise sheet 2 helps the youths to deepen their knowledge and reflect on their experience after visiting the Memorial Site. The first follow-up exercise encourages them to think about the different historical phases they encountered during their visit, as well as to analyze the different approaches taken to the historical buildings and structures.

The former main guardhouse was demolished at the end of the 1970s/beginning of the 1980 for example, and today visitors can only see remains of its foundations, uncovered while the Visitors' Center was being built in 2009. The former prisoner barracks are another example. Repurposed after the war into residential and business premises, they were subjected to building modifications before, as part of the development of the Dachau Memorial Site, they were then demolished at the beginning of the 1960s. The two barracks standing today are reconstructions erected in 1965. The building that housed the first crematorium, built by the SS in 1940 to cremate the prisoners who died in the Dachau concentration camp, has survived and may be inspected today when visiting the Memorial Site.

The second follow-up question offers the chance to study different biographies of former prisoners and think about the importance of contemporary witnesses. Using three quotes it is shown how the accounts given by former prisoners relate to different historical phases and contexts. The German Protestant theologian Karl Adolf Groß succeeded in keeping a secret diary while in the camp – it thus reflects directly what he witnessed in the camp and his own experience. In contrast, the account by the Italian Angelo Baccari is retrospective, based on his memories of the camp, which his son Luciano Baccari published in 1996 in a book about his father's life entitled *Dachau Baracca 25*. The quote from the Czech physician Vladimir Feierabend is a recollection of the roll call square of the Dachau concentration camp and the impressions he has of the Dachau Memorial Site in 2006.