

Tips for the preparation of the memorial visit

CURRENT: Visiting the memorial site in times of the Corona virus

Current information about the guidelines for visiting the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial during the Corona pandemic can be found here: <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neu-engamme.de/en/news/>

Groups

- Educational formats can again be booked in class size. Maximum group size is 25 people. Please book directly with our booking provider Museumsdienst Hamburg (info@museumsdienst-hamburg.de, Tel.: 040 428 13 10).
- Since Feb 19, 2022, the vaccination status no longer needs to be proven. Contact data collection is no longer required.
- **We request that FFP2 masks be worn indoors.**
- The usual hygiene rules apply.
- Keeping your **distance from other visitors** is still strongly recommended.

Up-to-date information on how to get there

Construction work at Bergedorf station from 12.06. for about 6 months. The bus station is being repaired and the buses leave outside the station, there are probably also timetable changes. Please check directly at www.hvv.de

Rail replacement services of the S 21 and S2 from 7.07. to 28.07. between Berliner Tor and Bergedorf.

Advice and booking

Please book educational events directly through our booking service provider Museumsdienst Hamburg at

+49 40 428 13 10 or info@museumsdienst-hamburg.de.

For pedagogical advice, please contact Ms Ulrike Jensen at

+49 40 428 131 519 or ulrike.jensen@gedenkstaetten.hamburg.de.

Please note

- Visits with young people under the age of 12 are not recommended.
- We offer educational formats for students in grades 6 and up.
- As a rule, we recommend booking longer formats, as these focus on specific topics and include the students' own work. The teaching always takes place in dialogue.
- **In any case, please contact your guide in advance for individual agreements on topics and processes. Contact details will be provided with the booking confirmation.**

All this applies not only to the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial itself (<https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/en/>), but also to the Bullenhusener Damm Memorial (<https://bullenhusener-damm.gedenkstaetten-hamburg.de/en/>), the Plattenhaus Poppenbüttel Memorial (<https://fuhsbuettel.gedenkstaetten-hamburg.de/en/>), the Fuhsbüttel Memorial (<https://poppenbuettel.gedenkstaetten-hamburg.de/en/>) and the denk.mal Hannoverscher Bahnhof (<https://hannoverscher-bahnhof.gedenkstaetten-hamburg.de/en/>).

Educational offers of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial Site

The Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial offers a wide variety of formats for school classes, which you can find in detail at <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/en/education/school-visits/>

Basic pedagogical offer (project, 3 hours)

Experience has shown that in addition to the visit of the main exhibition and parts of the former prisoner's camp a tour of the entire, very large site with visits to some of the sites of former work commands (clinker works, canal) up to the "House of Remembrance" is impressive and meaningful for students of all ages. Knowledge and visualization can be conveyed in equal measure, and questions can be asked and answered. This three-hour so-called "project" corresponds to the basic pedagogical offer for school classes and youth groups.



Activating offers (Project plus, four-hour / project day, five-hour / multi-day projects)

One way of involving students more actively and giving them time, for example, to research and grasp a topic, to research their own answers or to take a look at the study exhibition on the camp SS is the four-hour "Project plus".

In addition, special topics can be researched and results presented or lectured on during a five-hour project day. Small groups can work on a variety of topics to create a thematic focus for the entire group (example: "Children and Young People," "Women in the Concentration Camp," "Work and Everyday Life," biographical project day).

Within the framework of project days or multi-day projects (3-5 days), different methods can be used (work with objects, drawings or historical pictures; independent research, group work and presentation on site; ...). The individual offers can be found here https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bildung/schulklassen/projektstage/Flyer_Projektstage_in_Neuengamme.pdf

Digital offerings

If an on-site visit is not possible, you can book digital educational formats of varying lengths. You can find more information here: <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/en/news/news/discover-memorials-digitally/>

We are already increasingly offering digital formats on our website that are suitable for use in the classroom as well as for individual preparation. These include under the link <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/en/service/digital-offer/>

Research

The exhibitions

The concentration camp memorial site shows five permanent exhibitions:

- Traces of History
- The Camp SS
- Slave Labour in Brick Production
- Slave Labour in Armament Production
- Prison and Memorial. Documentation of a Contradiction



In addition to information panels, the exhibitions present a variety of objects, photos, drawings, diagrams, video and audio stations, written documents and reports by former prisoners, relatives, residents of the Vierlanden area and perpetrators.

All five permanent exhibitions are also available in the media library of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial at <http://neuengamme-ausstellungen.info/>. With the exception of a few biography books, the contents of the exhibitions of the media library are unfortunately only accessible in German.

The „Open Archive“ Learning Center

The Open Archive Learning Center, which like the exhibition on the camp SS is located in the former SS garages, offers students the opportunity to work on topics in depth on their own. Information on the exhibitions and additional image, text and video sources can be found on computers.

The Open Archive can also be found online at <http://www.offenes-archiv.de/en/startseite.xml>.



Preparation in class

It is recommended that the topic of the persecution of the Jews or the "Final Solution" is **not** being discussed in detail before the visit to the memorial site, as this can lead to misconceptions about what happened in the Neuengamme concentration camp. The Neuengamme concentration camp was built primarily for political opponents from European countries occupied by Germany. Before visiting the memorial, school classes should therefore have dealt with National Socialism and its practices of exclusion and persecution of various groups of people.

We recommend developing your own questions in class.

Films suitable for preparing the visit to the memorial site

Some of the films often shown in schools (such as "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas," "Downfall," or "Schindler's List") are not or only partially suitable as preparation for a visit to the Neuengamme concentration camp memorial, because they focus on topics (persecution and murder of European Jews, the situation of the perpetrators) that have little to do with the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp.

The prohibition of overpowering, which was laid down in the Beutelsbach Consensus of 1976, also encourages us not to show historical film material (films shot during the liberation of the concentration camps, "Night and Fog") without appropriate contextualization (for example, in the context of seminars led by experts).

Instead, it is recommended to show either documentaries, feature films (with a direct thematic reference to Neuengamme Concentration Camp or to the confrontation of today's young generation with the topic of National Socialism) or excerpts from interviews with concentration camp survivors.

Documentaries

We recommend documentaries that deal with different aspects of the reappraisal:

- **Every Face Has a Name** (Sweden, 2015 / 76 min.),
<http://everyfacehasaname.com/the-film/>
- **Pizza in Auschwitz** (Israel, 2008 / 65 min.)
<http://www.trabelsiproductions.com/?categoryId=28540>
- **The Flat** (Israel, Germany 2011 / 97 min.)
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Flat_\(2011_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Flat_(2011_film))
- **Legacy** (Germany, 2017 / 108 min. / German original with subtitles)
<https://www.filmportal.de/en/movie/nachlass>
- **What Our Father's Did** (GB, 2015 / 96 min.)
<https://fsk-kino.peripherfilm.de/peripher-filmverleih/what-our-fathers-did-a-nazi-legacy/>
- **KZ** (GB 2005 / 88 min.)
<https://jfi.org/watch-online/jfi-on-demand/kz>

Motion Pictures

The following films deal with different aspects of National Socialism. We recommend their use only when the corresponding topic is dealt with in class. They should be prepared and followed up in class.

Resistance (in Germany und the occupied countries)

- **The White Rose** (Germany, 1982 / 125 min.)
The story of the Munich resistance group White Rose around the siblings Sophie and Hans Scholl.
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0084897/>
- **Flammen and Citronen** (Denmark, 2008 / 130 min.)
Based on the true story of the two Danish resistance fighters Flammen and Citronen, who are still considered icons of the Danish resistance.
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0920458/>

Fates of persecuted persons

- **The Pianist** (France, USA, Germany, Poland, 2002 / 150 min.)
Polish pianist Władysław Szpilman is imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto. He survives the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943 and later the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, hiding in deserted Warsaw and thus surviving World War II. Based on a true incident.
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pianist_\(2002_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pianist_(2002_film))
- **The Counterfeiters** (Austria, Germany, 2007 / 98 min.)
The film is about Aktion Bernhard, the largest money counterfeiting program of the National Socialists during World War II in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Counterfeiters_\(2007_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Counterfeiters_(2007_film))
- **When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit** (Germany, 2019 / 119 min.)
To escape the Nazis, the well-known critical journalist Arthur Kemper, who is considered Jewish in Nazi racial ideology, must flee with his family first to Switzerland, from there to France and finally to England. Based on the young adult book of the same name by Judith Kerr.
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9106672/>

Perpetrators

- **The Reader** (Germany, USA, 2008 / 124 min.)
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Reader_\(2008_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Reader_(2008_film))

Coming to terms with the Nazi past in feature films

- **Denial** (UK, US, 2016 / 110 min.)
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denial_\(2016_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denial_(2016_film))
- **Musicbox** (US, 1989, 124 min.)
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_Box_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_Box_(film))

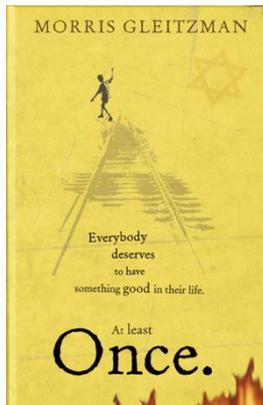
Interviews with Survivors and Family Members

- Clips from „Shoah“
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoah_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoah_(film))
- **Survivors of the Camps Talk to their Children** (2010)
<https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/service/shop/produkte/survivors-of-the-camps-talk-to-their-children/>

Recommended books for the treatment of the topics National Socialism and Shoah in the classroom

Even if the detailed treatment of the topic of the extermination of the European Jews in class before the visit to the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial is not appropriate (see above), the topic will, after all, be dealt with at another time in school. The Jewish Museum Berlin has prepared recommendations for suitable literature, which you can download as PDF files from the museum's website:

<https://www.jmberlin.de/en/recommended-reading-on-national-socialism>



Our book recommendation for the treatment of the Shoah in the classroom.

Instead of "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas," which is widely read in schools but explicitly not recommended by experts, we recommend "Once" by Morris Gleitzman.

Please find more information here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Once_\(Gleitzman_novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Once_(Gleitzman_novel))

Consulting and booking

You are unsure which format is suitable for your students? You have specific wishes for a visit to the memorial? You would you like to establish a long-term cooperation between your school and the memorial?

For **personal pedagogical advice**, memorial educator Ulrike Jensen is at your disposal (ulrike.jensen@gedenkstaetten.hamburg.de, Tel.: 040 428 131 519).

If you already know exactly which format you would like to book, please contact our booking service provider *Museumsdienst Hamburg* directly (040 428 13 10, info@museumsdienst-hamburg.de).

Please book in good time. With approximately 130,000 visitors per year, the memorial is in great demand. Especially the time before the summer vacations is usually booked up very early.

The Museumsdienst Hamburg will also give you the contact details of your guide. **In any case, please contact your guide at least one week before the visit in order to discuss the main points or wishes as well as the meeting point for the visit** (this is especially useful if a project day has been booked).

Unless otherwise agreed, the meeting point is the main entrance to the memorial at the bus stop "Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial (Exhibition)".

Practical hints

You can find first practical hints here <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/en/service/plan-your-visit/>.

- You can find the current prices for guided tours here <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/en/education/school-visits/guided-tours-and-projects/>
- Significant parts of the educational events take place in the field. Please prepare your students accordingly. They should wear sturdy shoes and rain or wind resistant clothing.
- You can reach the memorial with buses 127 and 227 from Bergedorf station. These only run once an hour, please inform yourself in advance at www.hvv.de.
- If you want to visit with more than one class, please register in advance with VHH at <https://vhbus.de/kontakt/busshuttle-gedenkstaette/?L=0>. It is possible to use an additional bus.

Finally a few requests

Please book a guide

We would be delighted if you would visit the memorial with your class. However, as we are very busy, we would like to ask you not to come without a guided tour if possible, but to book one of our guides in good time via the Museumsdienst Hamburg. If you do not wish to have a guided tour, we ask that you postpone your visit until midday/afternoon, as the booked school classes are usually already gone by then and the exhibitions are correspondingly emptier.

Supervisory responsibilities

Please note that you are responsible for supervising your students, even if you have booked a guided tour. We would like to ask you to take care that other visitors are not disturbed and that no parts of the exhibitions are damaged, especially during the independent research phases of your students in the exhibitions.

Now and again, students collapse during educational events. We ask you to inform the parents in advance to contact you if their child has already suffered from circulatory problems, as well as to keep an eye on your students to make sure that all the young people are doing well. Please encourage your students to let you or us know at the slightest sign of discomfort so that we can avoid circulation problems before they occur. It would be good if all students had breakfast and enough drinks before visiting the memorial. This is especially important in the summer months.

Consulting and training

Are you unsure how to prepare your visit to the memorial? Do you need advice and tips? You don't know which educational format is suitable for your class?

Feel free to ask me, I am looking forward to your call!

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