

Visitor Policy



Dear visitors,

A warm welcome to the Esterwegen Memorial! We would like to familiarise you with the historical background of the memorial and the historic site, so that you may understand and observe the expectations regarding appropriate behaviour both within the memorial and on the historic site.

The Esterwegen Memorial serves to commemorate and honour the memory of the victims of Nazi crimes. This historic site stands as a central memorial for a total of 15 concentration, penal and prisoner-of-war camps in the area of today's Emsland and Grafschaft Bentheim districts, which were established and operated by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945. Facing up to the historical responsibility arising from the history of the Emsland camps is part of the national and international culture of remembrance and commemoration. We therefore ask you to observe the following points to ensure a respectful approach to history, the site and other visitors:

- Please refrain from smoking and consuming alcoholic beverages throughout the site; food and drink may only be consumed in the café. A designated smoking area is located outside the entrance to the memorial.
- Animals are not permitted anywhere on the premises; the only exception are assistance dogs, for which proof of certification must be provided upon request by memorial staff.
- Bicycles are not permitted anywhere on the premises; bicycles may only be parked in the designated bicycle parking area. If required, keys to the bicycle lockers can be borrowed from the memorial staff.
- Bags, rucksacks, suitcases, etc. – exceeding A4 size – are not permitted either on the historic camp grounds or in the exhibition rooms. Please use the lockers provided for this purpose.
- Video, film and photographic recordings are permitted for private use only, provided that other visitors are not disturbed. Flash photography and other lighting devices are not permitted. Drones of any kind are not permitted. Commercial filming must be approved in advance by the memorial site management.
- Please do not touch any artefacts in the exhibitions or on the grounds of the historic camp site. They are of irreplaceable value. Visitors are liable for any damage caused by themselves and/or those in their care.
- We ask that you treat all visitors and memorial staff with respect and consideration, and maintain a respectful tone of conversation.
- Please refrain from any behaviour or conduct that disturbs or restricts the opportunity for remembrance, reflection and mourning. Deliberate provocation through behaviour and conduct is prohibited. Please avoid group interactions that are inappropriate for this historic site.

- Guides and staff at the memorial site are authorised to exercise their right of access and to instruct individuals to leave the premises.
- Please wear clothing appropriate to the dignity of this historic site.
- You are welcome to bring flowers, floral arrangements or wreaths, either as an individual visitor or as part of a group, after consulting a member of staff at the memorial. Please use the memorial wall and/or the memorial stones for the victims of Nazism on the historic site; the memorial staff will be happy to advise you.
- Visits to the exhibitions are recommended for children and young people aged 12 and over.
- Guided tours for groups are available only by prior arrangement with the memorial's staff. Guides are trained and assigned by the memorial. There is no right to choose specific guides. Individuals who have not completed the relevant guide training and who do not have an existing contract with the Esterwegen Memorial are not authorised to carry out educational work at the memorial.
- Group representatives are required to ensure that group members behave appropriately in accordance with the visitor regulations.
- The memorial site management or its representatives may restrict access to the premises and exhibitions for groups or individuals at any time and, in exceptional cases, may expel them from the premises. In extreme cases, the memorial site management or its representatives reserve the right to alert the police.

Notes

Selected areas of the Esterwegen Memorial are under permanent video surveillance for security reasons. These areas are clearly marked. Your personal data will be processed in accordance with our privacy policy. This can be found at <https://www.gedenkstaette-esterwegen.de/datenschutz/>.