

INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS

Lern- und Gedenkort Schloss Hartheim
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TOURS AND PEDAGOGICAL PROGRAMMES

The memorial and exhibition can be visited independently or on a guided tour. For schools and other educational institutions, there are tailor-made programmes of educative and collaborative material. Workshops on the themes associated with the memorial and exhibition site are held in the facility's seminar rooms. The building also contains a reference library and an audio/visual media centre. Tours must be booked in advance.



PUBLICATIONS

There is a global publication for the site as well as a smaller brochure concerning the architectural and artistic history of the castle. Information about other publications can be obtained at the "Education and Memorial Site Hartheim Castle".

CAFE LEBENSWERT

The cafe can be found in the former working wing of the castle. It is a social integration project by the Hartheim Institute, set up for handicapped people and able bodied people to work alongside each other. The cafe can accommodate large groups comfortably (inquiries, please call +43 7274 6536 542).

ORIGINAL LEAFLET IMPRINT:
Verein Schloss Hartheim, Schlossstraße 1, A-4072 Alkoven
Photography: Hartmut Reese
Graphic Design: Viktoria Schlögl

OPENING

Monday and Friday: 9 am – 3 pm
Tuesday – Thursday: 9 am – 4 pm
Sundays and public holidays: 10 am – 5 pm
Saturday closed

TRAVEL

Public Transport

Take train to Linz Hauptbahnhof (Main Station); then take the Linzer Lokalbahn (LILLO) to Alkoven.

Timetables are available from:

www.oebb.at or www.stern-verkehr.at

Coach and Car

From Freistadt take the Mühlkreisautobahn (A7) to the "Linz Hafenstraße" exit. From there drive upstream (along the right-hand side of the Danube) on the B129 via Wilhering to Alkoven.

From Vienna take the Westautobahn (A1) and then the Mühlkreisautobahn (A7) to the "Linz Hafenstraße" exit. From there drive upstream (along the right-hand side of the Danube) on the B129 via Wilhering to Alkoven.

From Passau take the Innkreisautobahn (A8) to the "Pichl bei Wels" or "Wels Nord" exit. From there take the B137 as far as Wallern, then the B134 to Eferding, and finally the B129 to Alkoven.

From Graz take the Pyhrnautobahn (A9) to the "Wels Nord" exit. From there take the B137 to Wallern, the B134 to Eferding, before taking the B129 to Alkoven.



PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

There are parking places for cars and coaches next to the castle.

MEMORIAL SITE

The memorial is situated in the north and west wings of the castle. The rooms in the memorial include what was once the gas chamber, the technical room, the morgue and the crematorium. Through them, a cross section has been cut and a walkway laid so as to make the killing rooms accessible while maintaining a distance.

The names known to date of the 30.000 people to have died in the castle are inscribed in what used to be the registration room. This room also contains a pit with personal items belonging to the victims which were found during excavation of the castle grounds. The north wing holds documentation of the "T4" and "14f13" euthanasia programmes, National Socialist ethnic cleansing policies and their implementation at Hartheim Castle, one of six euthanasia institutions of the Third Reich.

The victims' remains were found in the castle garden, where they have now been reburied and a gravestone erected. This area is the cemetery.



HARTHEIM CASTLE EDUCATION AND MEMORIAL SITE

From 1940 - 1944 Hartheim Castle in Alkoven (Upper Austria) was in use as a Nazi euthanasia site. During this time, around 30.000 physically and mentally handicapped people, some residents of care homes, others imprisoned in Mauthausen, Gusen and Dachau concentration camps and deemed unfit to work and forced labourers were brought here and murdered.

In 1995 the Hartheim Castle Society was founded. Its aim is to create a suitable place of remembrance and provide a social discussion platform. In 1997 the Upper Austrian regional Government made the decision to renovate the castle. After renovation, a memorial to the victims of the Nazi euthanasia programme was to be erected in 2003 and the "Value of Life" exhibition created. This was to become the "Education and Memorial Site - Hartheim Castle".

Steeped in a sinister history, the castle is a place for reflection on the consequences and impact of the National Socialist euthanasia and eugenics programmes. The aim is firstly to present the documentation of the events

themselves and secondly to portray the concepts and thinking behind the programmes as such, ideas that are all too ready to resurface in whatever form.

Central to this theme is the idea that social problems can be eased through the manipulation of natural science, that is to say, "biological intervention". Biological solutions promise straightforwardness instead of the often incredible complexities of social debate and so regularly gain popular interest.

The purpose of the exhibition and memorial site is to encourage the discussion of historic and current issues. Education programmes are available in different formats for people on every rung of the education ladder, in school, in extracurricular activities or in further education.

These programmes are based on scientific and pedagogical work compiled in association with other scientific facilities and places of remembrance to the victims of National Socialism, particularly euthanasia memorials in Germany.

THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition "Value of Life" depicts the changing circumstances for handicapped people through the ages. From the Age of Enlightenment and the separation of people into those of economic worth and worthlessness at the dawn of industrial society, to the present and the demand that handicapped people must be able to enjoy an equal social footing. The ending of "life unworthy of life" during National Socialism stands as a gruesome climax to these developments and an example of what social exclusion can lead us to.



The Hartheim Documentation Site of the Upper Austrian Regional Archives

is a central element in the pedagogical and scientific work carried out at the "Hartheim Castle Education and Memorial Site" and provides sources and documentation of the history of the site. For information on the work of the archives, visiting and research possibilities:

Dokumentationsstelle Hartheim des OÖ. Landesarchivs

Tel: +43 (0)7274 6536 574
E-mail: dokumentation@schloss-hartheim.at

The project "**KULTUR FORMEN HARTHEIM**" for mentally handicapped artists created under the auspices of the Hartheim Institute and financed by public funds, is an integral part of the education and memorial site.
(www.kulturformen.at)

