

## INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS

Lern- und Gedenkort Schloss Hartheim  
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## OPENING

Monday and Friday: 9 am – 3 pm  
Tuesday – Thursday: 9 am – 4 pm  
Sundays and public holidays: 10 am – 5 pm  
Saturday closed  
Tours and Pedagogical Programmes must be booked in advance.

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are recorded on glass plates. They are arranged not in alphabetical order or by groups of victims, but randomly. The documentation centre and management of the house have been of assistance in the search for names. This room was used for the admission of the victims. Besides the name plates, the room contains a pit raised in its entirety from the ground and containing objects that once belonged to the people murdered in Hartheim.



## THE FORMER KILLING ROOMS

These rooms are known to have been the rooms used for the smooth running of the killing operation: they are the gas chamber, the technical room from which the gas canisters, supplies and the like were obtained, the morgue, where the dead were stored prior to incineration, and the crematorium, which housed the combustion furnace.

Only very little information is provided here, as they are rooms for remembrance and not part of the museum concept. Historical documentation is presented in the first part of the memorial site.

These rooms are accessible through a cross section and a walkway, the aim being to maintain a distance to the rooms in which people were murdered. The intention of the concept is not for the visitor to trace or "feel" the route taken by the victims, but rather to remain at a distance keeping in mind the insuperable difference between visitors today and the victims then. Every person who passes through these rooms today should be able to view but also to perceive the difference by means of this distance.

## PLAQUES IN MEMORIA

In 1969 the memorial plaques were removed from the arcaded walkway and placed in what was then the newly founded memorial site. In 2002, the plaques were once more placed in the outdoor area. They commemorate for the most part victims from the Mauthausen, Gusen and Dachau concentration camps, and have been provided by survivors, relatives and victims' societies. Other plaques commemorate the victims of the euthanasia campaign T4.

## MEDITATION ROOM

This room was created by Herbert Friedl and stands for quiet and reflection. The room is deliberately kept free of religious or confessional connotations. It is here that the visitors' book is also to be found. The stone-filled cube symbolises the considerable number of victims in Hartheim.

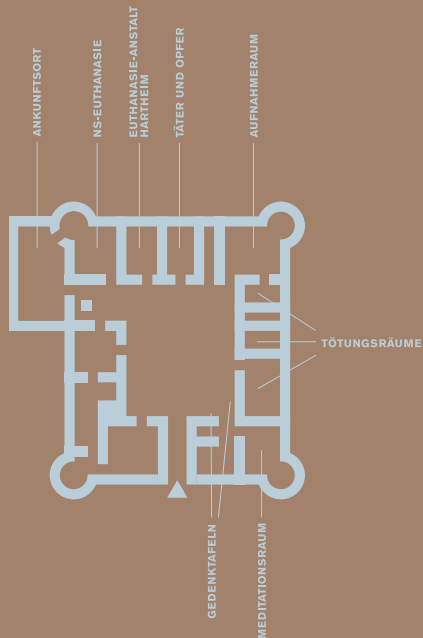
## THE GRAVESTONE

The victims' mortal remains were found on the east side of the castle in 2000/01, and properly buried there in September 2002. The land has officially been declared a graveyard. Inscribed on the gravestone are two verses from the Old and New Testaments, with two verses by Franz Rieger, an Upper Austrian poet.



## HARTHEIM CASTLE MEMORIAL SITE

Hartheim Castle was opened as a place for education and remembrance in May 2003, and comprises the memorial site to the victims of the Nazi euthanasia program and the "Value of Life" exhibition. The project had been in planning since the nineties, was taken on by a community of individuals committed to the issue and was implemented with support from the Province of Upper Austria and the Federal Government. Hartheim Castle, which from 1898 had been a care institute for mentally and severely disabled people, was seized after the "Anschluss" (union) of Austria with the Third Reich in 1939. Under the National Socialists it became an euthanasia institution. Between 1940 and 1944, around 30.000 people classified as "unworthy of life" were murdered here. These were physically and mentally handicapped or mentally unbalanced people and, after the end of "centralised" euthanasia in the summer of 1941, prisoners from the Mauthausen, Gusen and Dachau concentration camps who were classed as ill or "unworthy of life", as well as forced labourers.



## THE DOCUMENTATION OF NAZI EUTHANASIA

### Room: NAZI-EUTHANASIA - THE DIMENSION OF MASS MURDER

Precursed by scientific theories and confirmed as a foundation of National Socialist ideology, racial hygiene and eugenics were implemented radically by means of the first, systematically planned and state mass murder by the Nazi regime under the sinister euphemism "euthanasia". This room outlines how National Socialist euthanasia programmes came into being, their aims, the organisations that were set up, and who the main accountable figures were. The groups of victims are also documented, as is the opposition to these activities, together with the political and legal debate that followed the end of the Nazi regime.



### Room: HARTHEIM EUTHANASIA INSTITUTE

In 1940 Hartheim Castle was adapted for the implementation and administration of the mass murder of handicapped people (T4 Action) and concentration camp prisoners judged unfit for work ("14f13 Special Action"). Because the equipment used in the mass murders was removed at the end of 1944, only a few structural relics had survived. Nevertheless, during renovation work, many traces of the crimes were unearthed. As well as remains of the equipment and demolition, a large number of victims' belongings were found. A significant find was the place where

human bones and ashes were dumped after cremation. These remains were formally buried on the east side of the castle in autumn 2002. The room documents the sequence of events in Hartheim itself and the traces of the mass murder.



### Room: VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS

Between 1940 and 1944, some 30.000 people were murdered in Hartheim. During these years a considerable number of people worked in the castle. Alongside the administrative, office and security personnel were carers and nurses, drivers, workmen, general helpers, all employed in the execution of the mass murder. After 1945 only a few were brought to justice. The director of the site was Dr. Rudolf Lonauer, who was also in charge of the Niedernhart Regional Health and Care Institute, where many murders took place. In 1945, rather than accept responsibility, he committed suicide. His second-in-charge Dr. Georg Renno (died 1997) disappeared in 1945. The court case brought against him in 1970 was withdrawn on the grounds of the defendant's ill health and inability to participate in the proceedings. The room portrays the victims and the perpetrators, as well as the resistance to the mass murders. The "Life traces" computer station can be used to access biographical details of the victims, a program that has been created with the help of the victims' family members. The room also contains a display of the victims' personal belongings found in the castle garden.

## THE MEMORIAL ROOMS / THE FORMER EUTHANASIA ROOMS

### ENTRANCE

On the West side of the castle stood the shed where the buses transporting the victims entered when they arrived. The victims were led from here through the arcade to undress. The places of origin named here have been taken from a "list of German institutions for imbeciles and the mentally ill as of 31/08/1941", which the organisation T4 used as a basis to plan the murder campaigns. The sites here are listed in ascending order according to the number of patients registered at each site. A list of the native countries of concentration camp victims at Hartheim has been reconstructed on the basis of documentation held at the Mauthausen, Gusen and Dachau memorial sites. The steel panels are an artist's impression of the room and not a reconstruction. Like the steel panels of the northerly arcade and walkway, and the light trail in the floor, they are there to mark the route of the victims. They were created by Upper Austrian artist Herbert Friedl.



### THE FORMER ADMISSION ROOM

In the same way that the euthanasia site was closed in 1944/45 and evidence of it erased, an attempt was made to force eternal anonymity on the victims and to wipe their presence from people's memories. Through the "Gedenkbuch Hartheim" (Hartheim Memorial Book) project, the memorial site aspires to give the dead their names once more. In this room, over 15.000 names recovered so far