



# Who deals with the past of the Second World War in a concrete way?

An insight into the visitor study of the  
Dachau concentration camp memorial site

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1933

Almost 20 kilometres from Dachau in Munich, the capital of Bavaria in southern Germany, Hitler's career began.



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Dachau Concentration Camp was opened as early as 1933, making it the first concentration camp and the only one that was in continuous use until the end of the war in 1945.



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More than 200,000 prisoners from over 40 nations were imprisoned in Dachau Concentration Camp and its subcamps, and at least 41,500 people died there of hunger, disease, torture, murder and the consequences of concentration camp imprisonment.



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1965

Because of an initiative of survivors, the former concentration camp became accessible again with a first documentary exhibition for information purposes.

2020

Today visitors can learn about the prisoners' journey from their arrival, life and suffering in the camp to their death and liberation in 1945 by American soldiers there.





ARBEIT  
MACHT FREI

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But who comes to the memorial today and why?

A visitor study of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site  
from 2015 reveals ...



The average age of the surveyed visitors was 35 years, which is about 10 years *below the average age* of the total population



The visitors surveyed were all in all very *highly educated*, 72% of those surveyed had a (technical) university entrance qualification (highest level of school education in Germany)



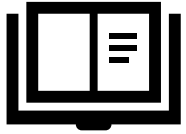
The audience is very *international*:  
seven out of ten visitors had a non-  
German nationality and came from  
abroad



Motivation: Most visitors came to see for themselves *what it was like* in a former concentration camp (63%)

or because they felt that one *should have seen* a concentration camp at least once (49%).

Only 1 % stated that they came because of a *compulsory* programme



Prior knowledge: According to their own statements, most of the respondents had a high level of *historical interest* (80%) and,

in their own estimation, a *high level of knowledge* about the Second World War (65%).

However, previous knowledge also depended strongly on *nationality*



A total of around 900,000 people visited the Dachau concentration camp memorial site in 2018.



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# Sources

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