

VOGELSANG NATIONAL SOCIALIST DOCUMENTATION

EXHIBITION
SITE
PLAN YOUR VISIT





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FROM A PARTY SCHOOL FOR “FUTURE LEADERS” TO AN INTERNATIONAL PLACE

With its roughly 100 hectare large area, the former National *Ordensburg* Vogelsang in the Northern Eifel district is one of the largest constructions of the National Socialist period. It is comparable in size with the former Nazi party rally grounds in Nuremberg or the former National Socialist holiday site Seebad Prora on the Rügen island. Like most of the massive National Socialist constructions, it was never completed. However, even as it stands, the building shows that – like the *Ordensburgen* in Krössinsee and Sonthofen – that it was a political construction: To this day, the architecture which was supposed to serve the authoritarian self-image of the National Socialists and assert their claim of being the rightful rulers of rule both people and nature, is still visible.

This makes the former *Ordensburg* a disturbing memorial, which does not primarily deal with the victims of the National Socialist dictatorship but with the National Socialist activists, hangers-on and perpetrators – a site that poses uncomfortable questions.

While Vogelsang was a site where contempt for humanity was lived out in practice, the Vogelsang IP International Place is intended to be a site for cultural remembrance and a forum for discussions on the present and the future.

Vogelsang IP is a place for debate and encounters: an extracurricular study location, exhibition and education centre as well as a site for events and conferences to create space for discussions.





*Stage for self-representation.
Claim to power over people and
nature, postcard depiction.*

VOGELSANG AS A PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE



THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST *ORDENSBURG* VOGELSANG

The Vogelsang National Socialist *Ordensburg* was developed by the German Labour Front (DAF) from 1934 to 1941 as one of three *Ordensburgen* designed to train future leaders of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP). Its operation as a training establishment started in 1936. In addition to ideological schooling, physical exercise was an important element of the training. By the end of their formation, the course participants were supposed to resemble the ideal “new German” and appear as leaders of a “master race”. by the end of their formation.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, the educational courses were stopped. Initially, the men of the *Ordensburgen*



went into the war as soldiers. Later, hundreds of them were deployed to Poland, the Baltic States, Belarus and the Ukraine in the occupying forces' administration. Many of the men undertook or assisted in perpetrating the German crimes in these areas.

From 1942 to 1944, Vogelsang served partly as a replacement location for three "Adolf Hitler schools". At the end of 1944, air raids by the allied forces destroyed or damaged parts of the site. Thereby the era of National Socialism in Vogelsang ended.

In 1946, the British Army set up a military training camp around the site. "Camp Vogelsang" was run by the Belgian Army from 1950 onwards. Thus, Vogelsang not only reflects the history of National Socialism but also the decades of the "Cold War" between East and West in the second half of the 20th century.

SITE AND EXHIBITION ROOMS

The site of the former National Socialist *Ordensburg* Vogelsang has been fully accessible to the public since January 1st 2006, and the entire premises have been declared national heritage area with protected status. Two signposted walking tours enable visitors to discover the site for themselves; starting and ending at the visitors' centre, which is located at the Vogelsang IP *Forum* (formerly the *Adlerhof*). All important historical sites and buildings are included in these tours. Information boards provide essential information on architecture, function and historical significance.

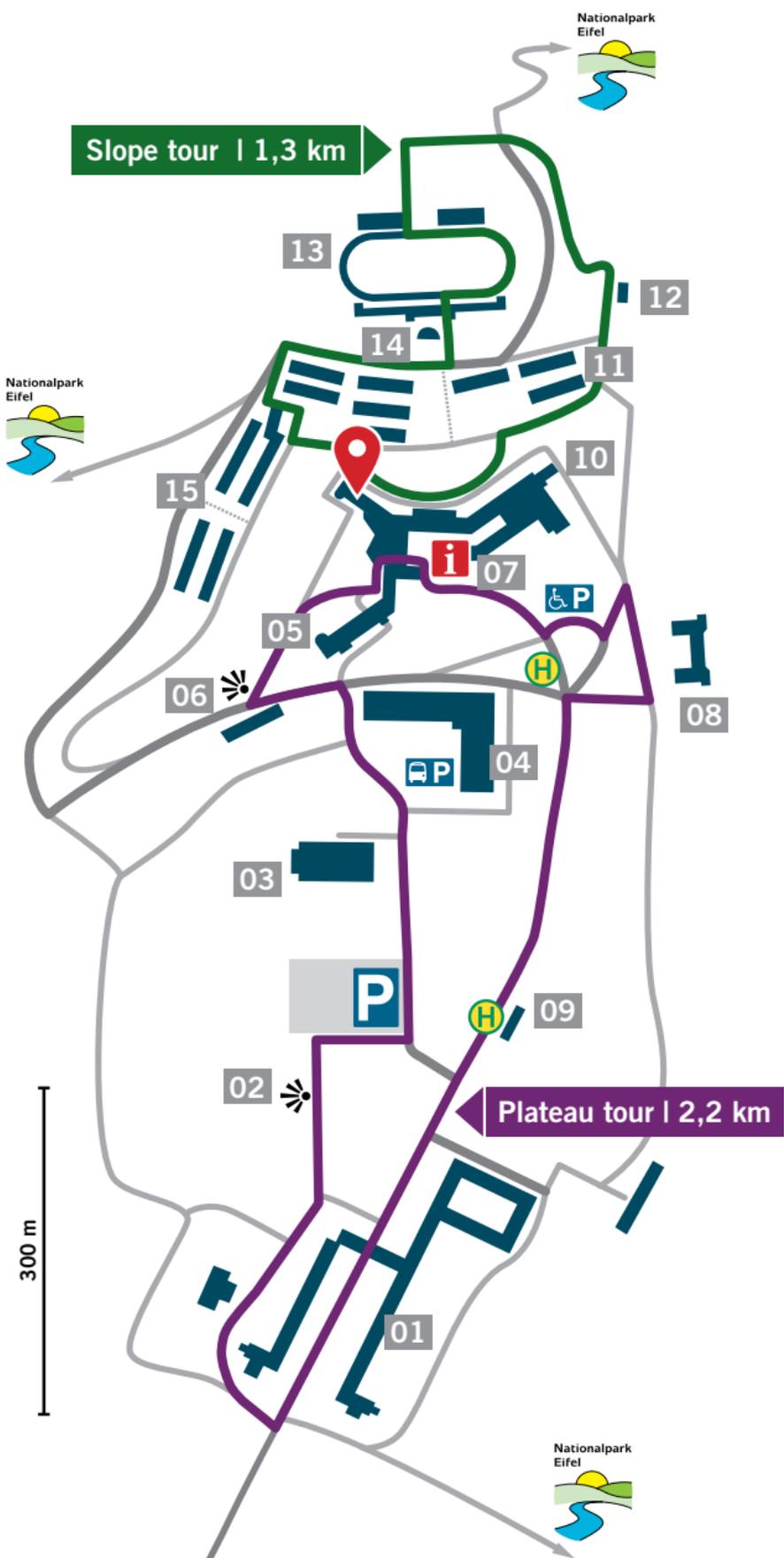
Some of the buildings and facilities can also be explored during our guided tours (see pp. 20 and 22). These include the exhibition rooms of the former *Burgschänke*, *Kameradschaftshaus* number 5 and the tower area with the former lecture room and *Ehrenhalle*. The former *Burgschänke* is the only building from the National Socialist era which has been largely preserved in its original condition.

THE PLATEAU TOUR (2.2 KM, EASY ACCESS)

- 01 Entrance and security area | *Malakoff*
- 02 Wollseifen view
- 03 Troop cinema *Krypte* | cultural cinema Vogelsang IP
- 04 *Haus des Wissens* | Belgian *Van Dooren* barracks
- 05 *Burgschänke* (castle tavern)
- 06 Urft Lake view
- 07 Former *Adlerhof* | Visitors' centre
- 08 House for female employees | *Redoute*
- 09 Belgian petrol station

SLOPE TOUR (1.3 KM, WITH STEEP ASCENTS AND STEPS)

- 10 Tower with *Ehrenhalle* (hall of honour)
- 11 *Kameradschaftshäuser* (comradeship houses)
- 12 Torchbearer relief and *Sonnwendplatz* (solstice square)
- 13 Sports facilities
- 14 *Thingstätte* as open-air theatre
- 15 *Hundertschaftshäuser* (houses for groups of a hundred)



i Visitors' centre

📍 Permanent exhibition
"Destiny: Master Race. ..."

VOGELSANG ACROSS THE YEARS

Only a little more than 80 years lie between the laying of the foundation stone of the National Socialist *Ordensburg* and today's International Place in the Eifel National Park.

1934

Start of the construction of Vogelsang as one of the three *Ordensburgen* as training grounds for the future leaders of the NSDAP.



1936

Start of the educational courses

Cessation of the educational courses with the beginning of the Second World War



1939

1942

Usage by "Adolf Hitler schools"



1945

Occupation by the U.S. Army

Establishment of the British Army training site "Camp Vogelsang", forced eviction of the village of Wollseifen



1946





Military training area “Camp Vogelsang”, used by the Belgian Army until 2005

1950

Establishment of the Eifel National Park

2004



2006

Opening of Vogelsang as an International Place for visitors

Founding of the Vogelsang IP charitable organisation

2008



2009

Opening of the Victor Neels Bridge



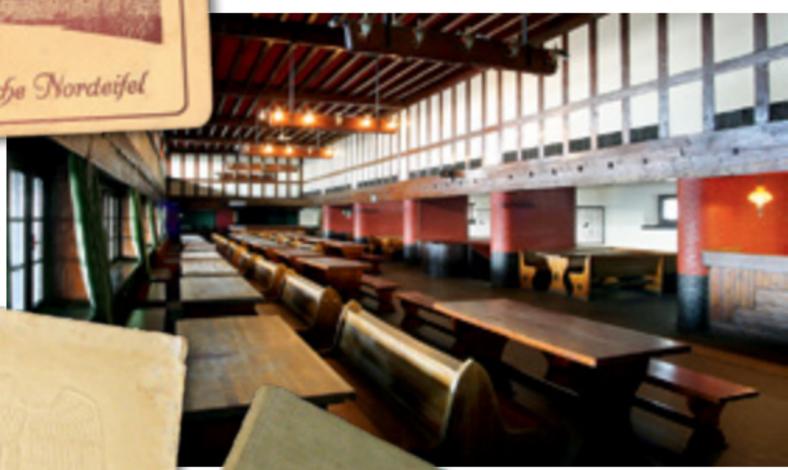
2012

Opening of the Vogelsang IP cultural cinema, beginning of the remodelling of the *Forum Vogelsang IP*

Opening of the new *Forum Vogelsang IP* with the National Socialist documentation and the Eifel National Park Centre

2016





THE VOGELSANG NATIONAL SOCIALIST DOCUMENTATION

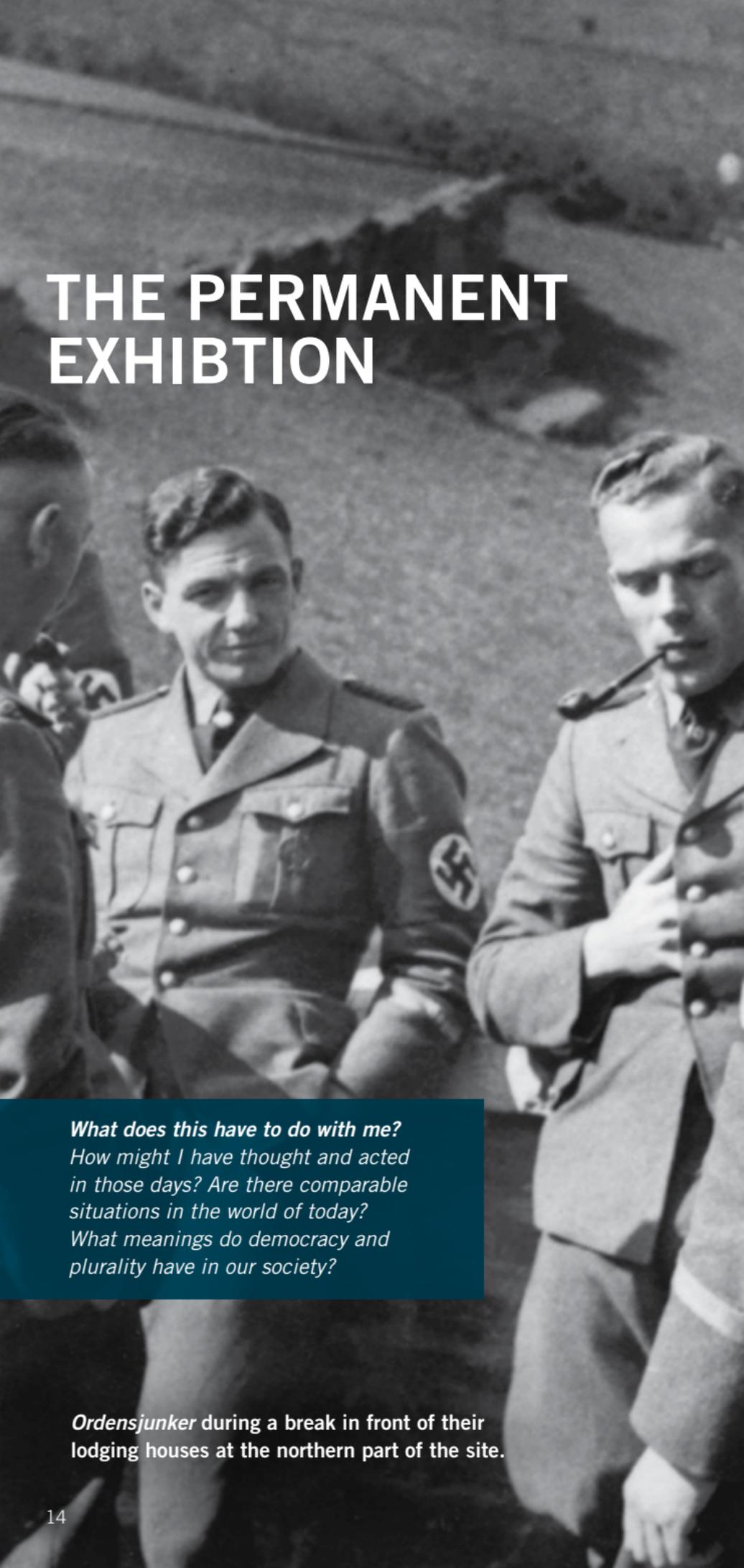
The Vogelsang National Socialist Documentation is a part of the Vogelsang IP Academy's domains of research. Its task is to research the history of the National Socialist *Ordensburg*, to collect sources, to assemble archives and make them available to the public. In addition to organising temporary exhibitions and issuing own publications, this also includes conducting biographical interviews with contemporary witnesses and the following generations. The most important exhibits of the Vogelsang National Socialist Documentation are the site and edifices in addition to partly accessible rooms such as the *Burgschänke*, the *Kameradschaftshaus* and the *Ehrenhalle* situated in the tower. These are the base for the historico-political educational work with adolescents and adults. The permanent exhibition "Destiny: Master Race. National Socialist *Ordensburg* – both fascination and crime" with its numerous objects, images, recordings and written source material opens up new perspectives and various scientific approaches.

Changing exhibitions and touring exhibitions of other institutions offer the possibility of exploring topics covered in the permanent exhibition more deeply and to explore the post-war history of Vogelsang. In our archive and our library, material from both the National Socialist period and the post-war period has been collected, documented and made available for research. If you would like to donate private documents, photographs or mementos to the National Socialist *Ordensburg*, please feel free to discuss this with us in confidence (see p. 26).

www.ns-dokumentation-vogelsang.de



THE PERMANENT EXHIBTION

A black and white photograph of German soldiers in uniform. The central figure is a soldier in a double-breasted uniform with a swastika on his sleeve. To his right, another soldier is smoking a pipe. The background shows a trench or dugout.

What does this have to do with me?
How might I have thought and acted in those days? Are there comparable situations in the world of today? What meanings do democracy and plurality have in our society?

Ordensjunker during a break in front of their lodging houses at the northern part of the site.

DESTINY: MASTER RACE.

NATIONAL SOCIALIST ORDENSBURGEN – BOTH FASCINATION AND CRIME

What was the attraction of a place like Vogelsang during the National Socialist period? What did the party leadership promise young men coming here regarding their future? What motivated their hopes and their desire for social advancement? Were they, through drill and formation, predestined to participate in crimes, or could they have also said no? Did they see themselves as members of a supposed master race and act upon this?

The exhibition “Destiny: Master Race” does not aim to give easy answers. First and foremost, it aims to encourage questions such as those posed above to provoke new thoughts and ideas on our visitors’ side. Furthermore, it allows these questions to be asked, even if they appear to be disconcerting when posed while exploring the history of National Socialism.

If we want to comprehend better how the worst crimes in European history could come about, we need to take a look at the people in their time, their convictions, influences and actions. We have come to realise that this focus on the possibilities for action and the concrete actions of individuals can open doors to understanding the overall picture.

Hence, the permanent exhibition at Vogelsang IP focuses on the young men who were selected to be moulded into a future leadership elite of the National Socialist regime.



THE EXHIBITION NARRATIVE

A place of fatal attraction?

The *Ordensburgen* were always both training centres and stages for the self-projection of the NSDAP leaders. At the same time, they were characterized by an air of incompleteness and haste: many things appeared to be improvised and driven by restlessness. This applies above all for the educational curricula of the courses, which were constantly changed and criticised within the Party. Nevertheless, the *Ordensjunker*, (knights of the Order), as they called themselves, were presented to the German people as the new party elite. Many of them actually felt as if they were just that. With their entry into the *Ordensburgen* they believed that they had found a way to achieve social advancement and a professional career. The male association into which they were accepted promised them safety and protection and the comradeship of like-minded men.

Did they see themselves as members of a supposed master race?

Their minds were ideologically moulded by lectures and seminars but also by physical training with military drills and many kinds of sports. Particularly in the courses on “racial studies”, the image of their alleged superiority was constantly reinforced. A National Socialist substitute religion with rites and solemn ceremonies helped the *Ordensjunker* believe that they were participating in the creation of a “new race” of the future.



Transgression and violence

With this ideological background, the men of the *Ordensburgen* initially went as soldiers into a war which was, particularly in the east, a war of racial extermination. Several hundred of them were deployed to Poland, the Baltic States, Belarus and the Ukraine like modern colonisers. Many of them were involved in the National Socialist crimes in these regions. It took a very long time before post-war society and ultimately the judicial system began to take an interest in individual perpetrators.

At the conclusion of the exhibition, questions remain that deliberately reach beyond the history of National Socialism: What would we have thought ourselves? How would we have acted had we been alive in a similar time and given a similar task? Are there any comparable situations in the today's world? What do democracy and plurality mean to us in our society today?

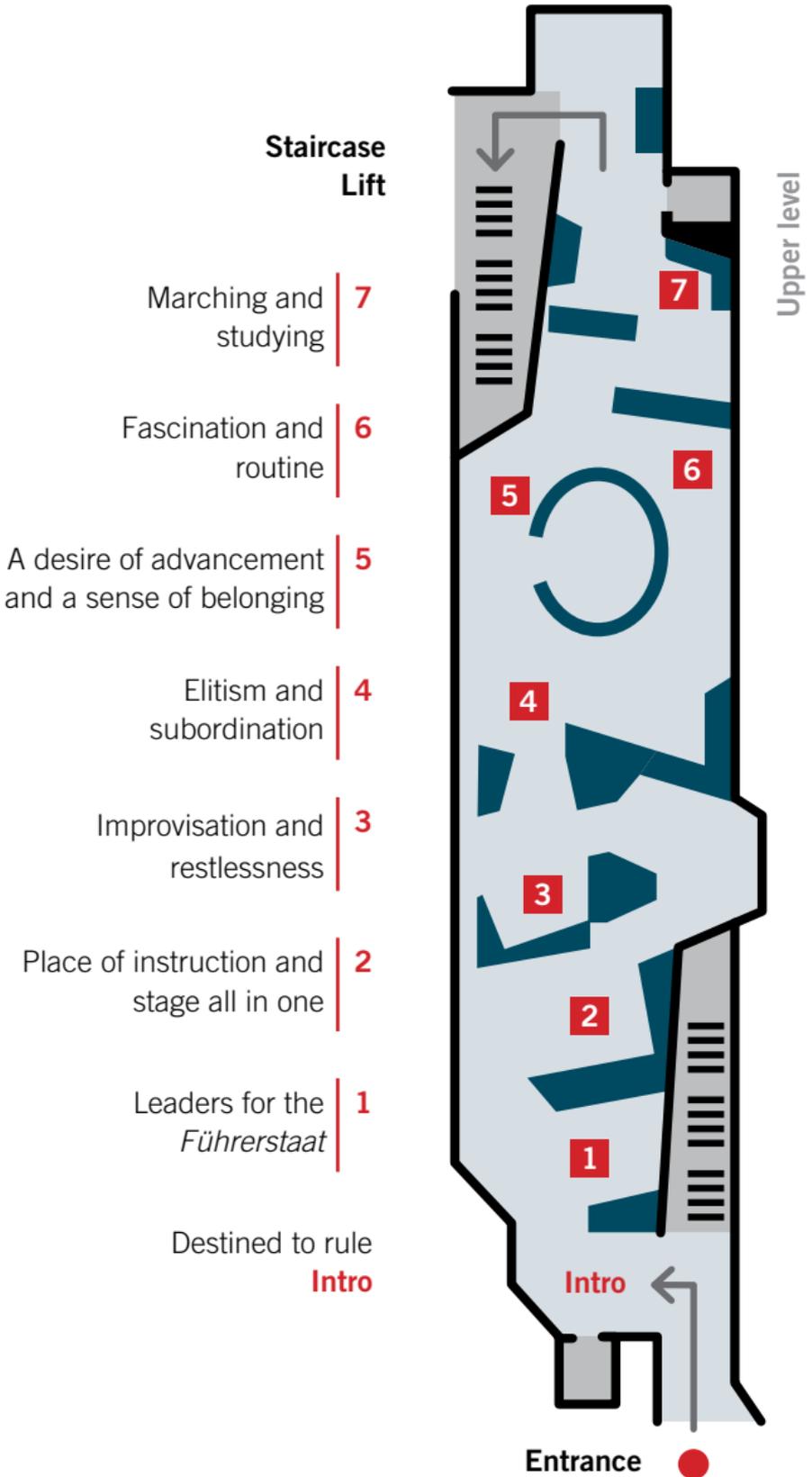
PERMANENT EXHIBITION "DESTINY: MASTER RACE"

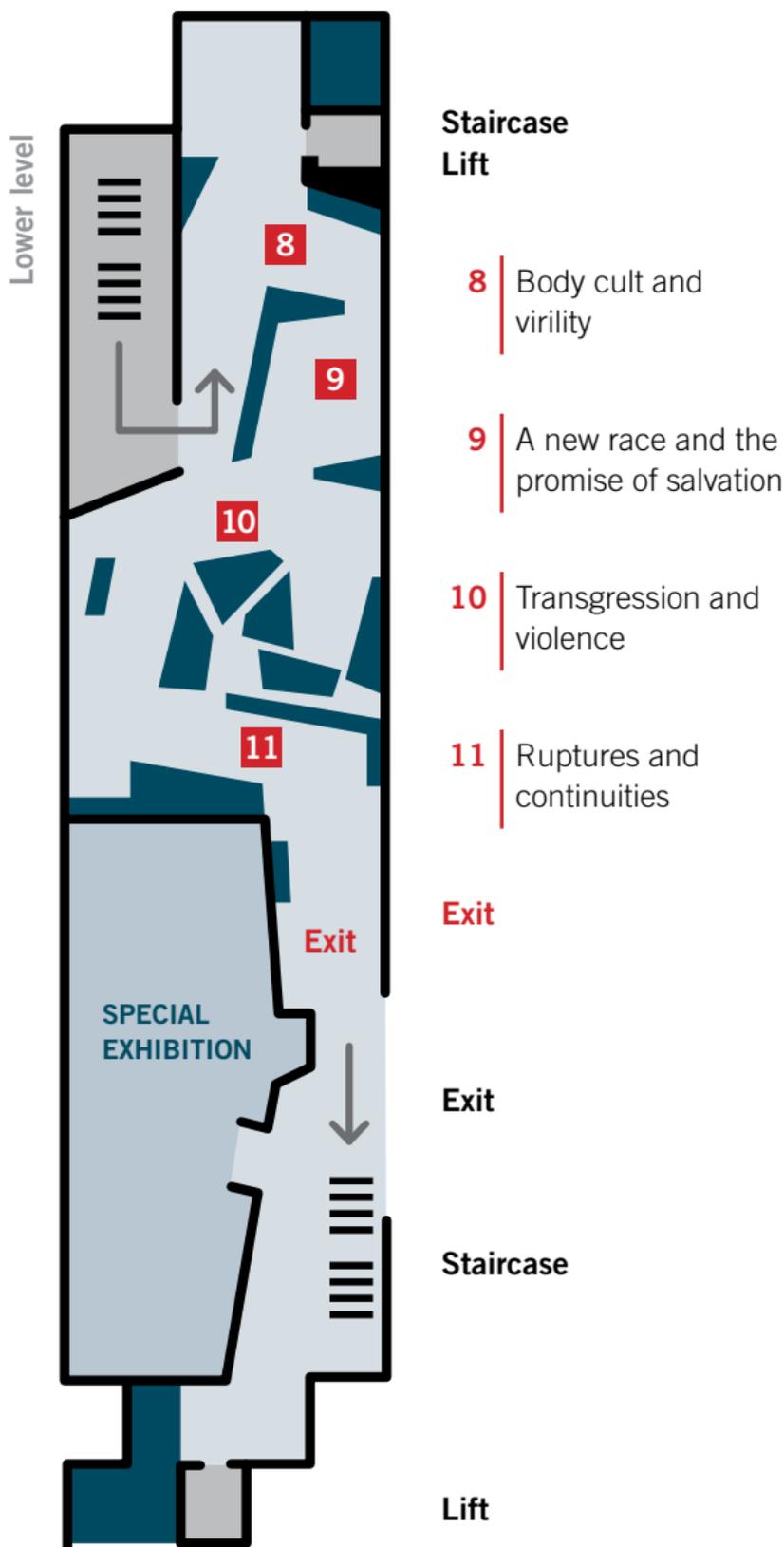
Opening hours	Daily 10 am to 5 pm
Admission	Adults: € 8 Concessions: € 4 Families: € 18
Age recommendation	Visits to the exhibition are recommended for individuals of 12 years and upwards.



TOUR

The permanent exhibition spreads over two levels and is subdivided into 11 chapters. Chapters 1–7 can be found on the upper level, chapter 8–11 on the lower level.





Accessibility + languages

For blind and visually-impaired people, a separate tour with a special audio guide is available in German. A media guide also makes the exhibition readable and audible in English, French and Dutch.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

The Academy program offers Vogelsang visitors numerous opportunities to become involved more intensely with the history of the place. This includes guided tours of the site, the tower and the exhibition in addition to more in-depth offers such as workshops or lectures, study days and project days.

DAILY TOURS (without prior registration)

The tours start at the visitors' centre of the *Forum Vogelsang IP*, which is open from 10 am to 5 pm every day.

OPEN EXHIBITION TOUR

(barrier-free, with headsets)

Dates	Weekdays at 2 pm, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays: 11 am and 2 pm
Duration	90 minutes
Prices <small>(Admission including exhibition)</small>	Normal price: € 12 Concessions: € 6
Number of participants	No more than 15 persons
Age recommendation	Visits to the exhibition are recommended for individuals of 12 years and upwards.

OPEN SITE TOUR

(guided tour of the site with insight into buildings; low barrier)

Dates	Weekdays at 2 pm, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays: 11 am and 2 pm
Duration	90 minutes
Prices	Adults: 8 € Concessions: 6 € Children under 13: free



OPTIONS FOR GROUPS

We offer a wide range of programs for groups in several languages. These also include various programs of youth education. Note that these programs need to be booked in advance. Interested? Feel free to ask our staff for further information.

Contact:

Tel: +49 (0)2444 91579-11
buchung@vogelsang-ip.de

EXHIBITION TOUR

(barrier-free, with headsets)

Duration	90 minutes
Number of participants	No more than 15 persons
Price (including admission)	€ 150/group

PLATEAU TOUR

(guided tour of the site with insight into buildings; low barrier)

Duration	90 minutes
Number of participants	No more than 25 persons
Price	€ 150/group

SLOPE TOUR

(guided tour of the site with insight into buildings, not barrier-free)

Duration	90 minutes
Number of participants	No more than 25 persons
Price	€ 150/group

SPECIAL TOUR OF THE EAST WING AND TOWER

(former lecture hall, *Ehrenhalle*, ascension of the tower with numerous stairs, not barrier-free)

Duration	90 minutes
Number of participants	No more than 15 persons
Price	€ 150/group

SPECIAL TOUR | SITE

(guided tour of the site with insight into buildings, not barrier-free)

Duration	135 minutes
Number of participants	No more than 25 persons
Price	€ 180/group

IN-DEPTH PROGRAMS OF THE VOGELSANG ACADEMY IP

The educational program of the Vogelsang Academy IP includes lectures that aim to open a dialogue on history, the present day and the future. They focus on the individual who takes action, examine their scope of actions and allow participants to partake of cultural history and cultural development. They are designed to improve social skills and examine the perspectives of interaction in the process of creating and maintaining a pluralistic and democratic society.

All topics and formats take into account the different interests, objectives, age groups, forms of school, levels of education and prior knowledge of the participants. Our offers for school and youth groups make the Vogelsang site a starting point for learning. They tackle the research of historical themes or explore questions relating to the present day in action-oriented settings.

The Vogelsang Academy IP stands for a historico-political education that is science-based, discursive and participatory. It seeks to provide active opportunities for exchange, reflection and action for all participants.

We are happy to offer you a program tailored to your group and will be glad to inform you about any queries you may have on accessibility. Our offers can be booked individually for your group throughout the year and in several languages. Feel free to ask our staff for specific programs in English.

Contact:

Tel: +49 (0)2444 91579-11

buchung@vogelsang-ip.de

Get the brochure on youth education in German. Simply pick one up at the visitors' centre, order one through our booking hotline or visit us at www.vogelsang-ip.de



RECOMMENDED READING

Exhibition catalogue with
accompanying scientific texts

Bestimmung: Herrenmensch. NS-Ordensburgen zwischen Faszination und Verbrechen

The exhibition catalogue gives you the opportunity to reread the narrative of the exhibition. In addition to all texts of the individual sections of the exhibition and further comprehensive texts, the publication also offers biographical sketches and illustrating discursions.

18 essays of researchers from diverse disciplines explore individual themes of the exhibition and place them in a comprehensive context. The handbook nature of this complementary text is enhanced by more than 300 images of historical photographs, documents and objects from the permanent exhibition. It is supplemented by selected illustrations from the picture library of the Vogelsang Academy IP, which is by now comprising several thousands historical photographs.

Guide

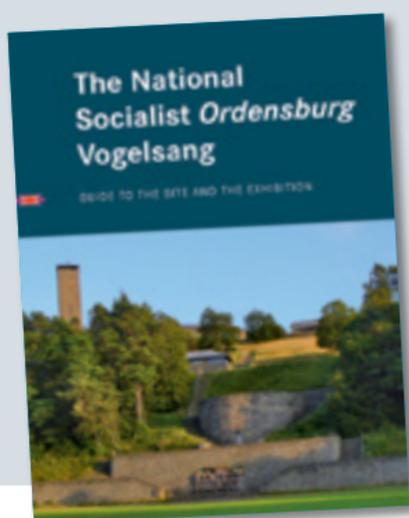
The National Socialist *Ordensburg Vogelsang*

The accompanying booklet “The National Socialist *Ordensburg Vogelsang*” provides a comprehensive, richly illustrated overview of the history of the site, in 80 pages. In addition to giving you a short and easy-to-read presentation, this handy booklet accompanies your individual tour of the site.

It contains essays by Cord Arendes, Dieter Bartetzko (†), Eckhard Bolenz, Gudrun Brockhaus, Frank Engehausen, Gerhard Hirschfeld, Alfons Kenkmann, Markus Krause, Kiran Klaus Patel, Jürgen Reulecke, Klaus Ring, Julia Schaadt, Daniel Schmidt, Hans-Ulrich Thamer, Silke Wenk, Michael Wildt, Edgar Wolfrum and Stefan Wunsch.



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Dresden 2016, 80 p.,
€ 6.95.

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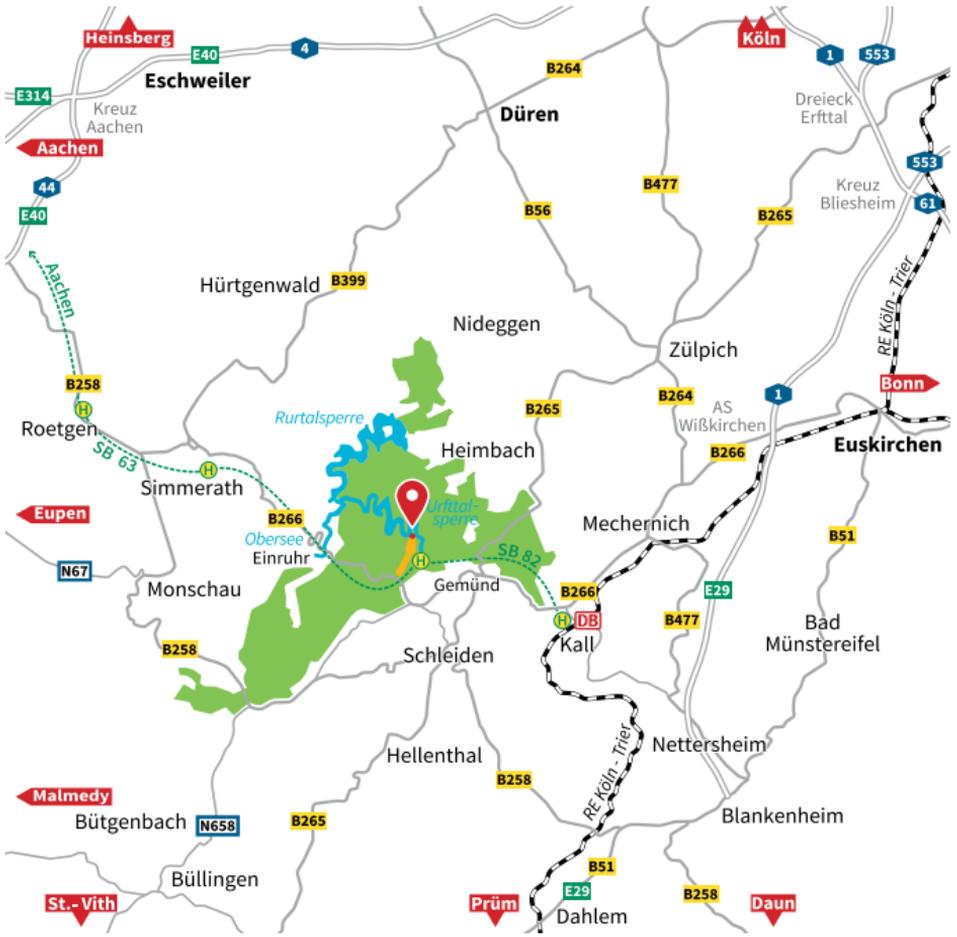
Archive

Tel: +49 (0)2444-91579-124 | archiv@vogelsang-ip.de

Founder of the Vogelsang IP charitable organisation:



HOW TO FIND US



Bus connection to the “Vogelsang IP Forum”

Daily from Kall station with the National Park Shuttle SB 82 (more information: www.vrsinfo.de, www.rheinlandbus.de).
Daily from Aachen bus station and main station by SB 63 (more information: www.avv.de). At weekends and on holidays from Simmerath and on Sundays and holidays from Gemünd taking the Wildnis line 63 (More information: www.avv.de, www.vrsinfo.de, www.rheinlandbus.de).



Stadt
Schleiden



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Contact / Imprint

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