



**MDSM—IJBS—IYMC**

MIĘDZYNARODOWY DOM SPOTKAN MŁODZIEŻY W OŚWIĘCIMIU  
INTERNATIONALE JUGENDBEGEGNUNGSSÄTTE IN OŚWIĘCIM/AUSCHWITZ  
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MEETING CENTRE IN OŚWIĘCIM/AUSCHWITZ

**en**

# STUDY PROGRAMS



## STUDY PROGRAMS

The following pages include descriptions of the possible elements which can be a part of the study program to the Auschwitz- Birkenau Memorial.

The employees of the Educational and Programme Department may provide advice on the creation and implementation of the program in Oświęcim.

**CONTACT**

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~ 30 min.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY AND EDUCATIONAL WORK OF THE IYMC

The IYMC in Oświęcim is a unique institution, implementing its educational program based on the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial. During an introductory meeting organized for each newly arrived group, the IYMC educators present the history of the institution, its objectives, program expectations and information

about its current activities. Additionally, at the beginning of each group's visit, group leaders and participants receive all the necessary guidelines for their tour and stay at the IYMC.



1-2 h

Groups are guided by volunteers of the IYMC.

### A WALK THROUGH THE CITY OF OŚWIĘCIM

Oświęcim, a town with over 800 years of history, nowadays with population of about 40,000, is known to the world as Auschwitz. Here in 1940, the largest concentration and extermination camp in Europe, KL Auschwitz, was founded by German National Socialists. Although the symbol of Auschwitz has dominated the history of Oświęcim, it is worth discovering the lesser known pages from the history of this town. This is possible during the walks organized by the IYMC. Historical traces of the Oświęcim Jewish community are especially noteworthy. Before the war, the community included about 7,000 members. Today, there remains only one synagogue, restored in 2000 and a Jewish cemetery, that can currently be visited. The walks also provide an opportunity to learn facts about the everyday life of the inhabitants of Oświęcim, with an emphasis on the cultural and architectural changes that have taken place in the town in recent years.

Within the city tour, depending on time, it is possible to visit:

the Jewish Museum and the Chevra Lomdei Mishnayot Synagogue

the Jewish cemetery

the exhibition "Roma People – History and Culture" in the premises of the Roma People Association in Poland

the exhibition „Across the expanses of history. The history of the town of Oswiecim" in the building of the former city council.

Please take into account the additional cost of entrance tickets.



**2 days, ~ 4 h each**  
or  
**1 day ~ 6 h**

The IYMC does not make tour reservations at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum.

**Reservations must be made directly through the museum via their website:**

[www.visit.auschwitz.org](http://www.visit.auschwitz.org)



## GUIDED TOURS AT THE AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU MEMORIAL SITE

The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Oświęcim offers general as well as study tours at the memorial site, conducted by licensed guides in a language of your choosing.

We suggest the two-day study tour to the groups that stay at the Centre. The first day consists of a visit of the main museum exhibition, which is located within the Auschwitz I site. The second day, groups visit selected sites associated with the mass extermination of Jews

and other groups of victims at the former Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp as well as learn about the prevailing living conditions in the camp.

An alternative for groups is the one-day, six-hour visit to the memorial site, consisting of a visit to Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau. A break is scheduled between visits to both parts of the former camp, a break is scheduled.



**~ 3 h**

## LEARNING THE FATE OF WITNESSES -THE FORMER PRISONERS OF KL -AUSCHWITZ

Meetings and conversations with witnesses of historical events are invaluable and unique experiences for young people, who most often only know facts about World War II and the Holocaust from books and films. Unfortunately, they are rarely possible anymore. Aware of the unique value of these encounters, we offer a selection of video recordings of eyewitness conversations. A list of recordings with a short description of each is available from the Educational and Programme Department staff.

The accounts of survivors give the participants an opportunity to learn about the fate of an individual who experienced the lawlessness of the system governed by the SS, while living in conditions of degrading human dignity. The youth taking part in the talks emphasize that the meeting with a witness of these events allows them to understand the emotional dimension of the suffering

of people who have been deprived of their own identity and all their rights. In addition, the participants of these meetings learn about the impact of these experiences on the post-war fate of the former prisoners.



**1,5– 3 h**

Additional information may be found at:

[www.mdsmp.pl](http://www.mdsmp.pl)



## EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The workshops are of historical character and, at the same time, fit in the framework of civic education. On the one hand, they serve to broaden knowledge about Auschwitz and the Holocaust as well as its significance for Polish, German, and European culture of remembrance. On the other hand, they teach about contemporary events and personal responsibilities of individuals, which give participants a broader perspective on the events currently taking place in society.

Workshop subjects may be chosen according to the interests and character of a group.



Books are available in:

- German
- Polish
- English
- French.

The library collection may only be used in the reading room and after the prior agreement of a Educational and Programme Department employee.

#### LIBRA 2000

If you would like to check our library collections in advance, you can do so in our online catalogue:

[www.bit.ly/2EnRB6h](http://www.bit.ly/2EnRB6h)



## THE IYMC LIBRARY

The collection of the IYMC library is consistent with the profile of our institution. While creating the collection, we took into consideration all the topics related to Auschwitz and other concentration camps. The history of Germany, especially of the Third Reich, the Holocaust, Jewish history and culture are all equally important to us. In addition to the books on the topics mentioned above, our library also contains books on pedagogy, sociology, philosophy, literature, as well as the history of Poland and Polish-German relations.

The vast majority of the books comes from donations. We would like to thank all the donors, both institutions and individuals, for this form of support.

There is a possibility to include 'individual research at the IYMC library' in the program of a group. During their work the group is accompanied by the IYMC educator, who introduces the collections and assists in searching for and borrowing the books.

We kindly ask, if possible, to indicate the topics or titles of the books needed for the individual research of the group in advance.

The "LIBRA 2000" online catalogue is available on the computers in the library as well as on the mezzanine floor above the cafeteria.



Media collection may be used only after prior consent of an employee of the Educational and Programme Department.

## MEDIA LIBRARY OF THE IYMC

The media library contains films on subjects connected with WWII, KL Auschwitz, and the Holocaust. Visiting groups may use the vast collection of documentary and feature films, but also recordings of meetings with former prisoners of KL Auschwitz made at the IYMC. The film collection may be used during educational workshops or to serve individual users in broadening their knowledge in a chosen subject.

If you would like to borrow a movie, please contact IYMC volunteers, who will assist you in searching the film catalogue and borrowing the chosen position.



Work with archival materials is possible only after prior consent of an employee of the Educational and Programme Department.

Making copies of the documents is forbidden.

## ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

The IYMC collection of archival materials includes copies of selected documents from the vast Archives of the State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, which were made available to the IYMC for educational purposes.

The biggest part of the IYMC collection constitute accounts and testimonies of former Auschwitz prisoners. They enable the readers to gain insight into individual fates of people, who suffered the atrocities committed by the SS and right after the liberation or many years later gave their accounts or wrote their memories down. In order to facilitate individual research in the collection, every binder has been provided with an extended table of contents.

The second part of the IYMC collection of archival materials comprises selected documents created by different departments of the camp. They include orders from the camp commandant's office, orders of the SS garrison, personnel files on some SS personnel, telegrams and memos about escapes of prisoners from the camp, telegrams notifying about the deaths of prisoners, prisoner release certificates, camp letters, lists of newly arrived prisoners, lists of prisoners who escaped from the camp, prisoner personal files with supporting documents, such as punishment reports, punishment rulings, interrogation protocols, camp photographs, death certificates. They allow the reader to get to know the precisely constructed and implemented system of the camp SS administration of Auschwitz.

A separate part of the collection constitute documents, accounts and testimonies of former prisoners about the so-called "Buna-Werke" (Buna plants) and the Auschwitz III-Monowitz camp of the German IG Farben concern.

There is a possibility to include work with archival materials into the programme of a group. During this programme point the group is accompanied by an IYMC educator, who introduces the collection and the terms of use of the archival materials, which enables individual research of the documents.

The work with archival materials can be complemented with individual research at the IYMC library.



It is possible to introduce other program points after prior consultations with the employees of the Educational and Programme Department.



## OTHER PROPOSALS

The Educational and Programme Department will assist groups with preparation of a program once they have set the dates of their stay at the IYMC. For each group a new program is created for each visit.

The following points can be included in a program for a group during a study visit.

### WORKSHOPS AND PRELECTIONS

at national exhibitions, the concentration camp art collection, or in the Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Oświęcim

### LECTURES AND MULTI MEDIA PRESENTATIONS

on chosen subjects from the history of KL Auschwitz

### MAINTENANCE WORK

on the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

### VISITING

The Jewish Museum and Synagogue in Oświęcim

"Roma History and Culture" – an exhibition at the Roma People Association in Poland

"Across the expanses of history. The history of the town of Oswiecim" – an exhibition in the building of the former city council

Kraków – a one day visit combined with sightseeing of the Old Town, the Jewish district of Kazimierz, the area of the former Kraków Ghetto, and the Memorial Site of the former Płaszów Concentration Camp

"Negatives of Memory" – an exhibition by a former prisoner of KL Auschwitz, artist Marian Kołodziej, at the Franciscan Monastery in Harmęże near Oświęcim

Visit to the Jewish community in Bielsko-Biała



24/7

**A STAY AT OUR CENTRE**

The IYMC is a complex of free-standing buildings connected by covered walkways, immersed in the greenery of a garden.



x 100

We have a hundred beds in double, triple, quadruple and 5 person rooms. All rooms have separate bathrooms and are equipped with bed linen and towels.



24/7

The reception desk is open 24 hours a day, offering cold drinks, sweets, literature about Auschwitz and the Holocaust as well as IYMC publications. Valuable items can be stored in a depository at the reception desk.



Campsites with sanitary facilities are available in the summer time.



Our Centre has facilities necessary to host people with disabilities.

**AT THE FACILITY WE CAN FIND:**

THE HOUSE OF SILENCE – a place for reflection and meditation



free Internet access (WiFi)



a basketball court and football pitch, a barbecue area



free unguarded parking for automobiles and coaches

**CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR BUILDING AMENITIES:**

four seminar rooms with multimedia equipment



forum room with a gallery for large projects



dining room with 100 seats



café and patio



library and media library

x 100

**THE IYMC OFFERS:**

assistance in preparation of study programs

full board

hotel services

transport services

conference room rental

simultaneous translation equipment rental