

**uncovering places of former sub camps and other historical places within the Auschwitz zone of interest**

information folder



## **Context and purpose of the information folder**

In the years 2023 and 2024, in two European Summer camps, participants from various European countries researched places which are connected with the history of Auschwitz and which are situated in the former “zone of interest of the SS (“SS-Interessengebiet”). They gathered testimonies and conducted on-site research to find answers to the questions: what are the histories of the places? what remained of this places, what traces still can be found? Are there – if at all – any forms of memorialization? What were the places used for after the war?

During their research the participants were surprised by the fact that it was challenging to gather information on specific places and quite often only few or even no remains could be found, even though this places are also an integral part of the history of Auschwitz and of the experience of people who had suffered and been murdered there.

The main idea of this information folder was to give an overview of the researched places and to spread the information about this project and its available results. The participants prepared – in very different forms – the results of their research to enable visitors who are interested in going to this sites so that they can also seek out these places on their own. They gathered information about the history of the places, searched for testimonies and mapped the places to today’s map by giving today’s addresses. It is not a scientific project. The participants from different backgrounds and from different age groups wanted to support the remembrance work on the history of Auschwitz and to make the history of the places which are not part of the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau more visible.

If you are interested to gather more information to specific places, you can contact the coordinator of this project: Judith Hoehne-Krawczyk, [hoehne@mdsm.pl](mailto:hoehne@mdsm.pl)

The European Summer camps were organized jointly by Action Reconciliation service of Peace and the Foundation for the International Youth Meeting Center in Oswiecim/Auschwitz and funded by the European Union within the program CERV (“Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values”). The European Union’s “Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values” (CERV) program supports projects on the topics of equality, participation and violence prevention, among others.

## Historical background – Zone of interest

The local population of Oswiecim living near concentration camp Auschwitz I, was evicted from this area in 1940-1941. Around the concentration camp a security zone was erected that in the final stadium covered around 40 square kilometers. The idea was to build a restricted area and to isolate the camp system from the outside world. Approximately one thousand of the former living-houses in this era were demolished. Other buildings were assigned to officers from the camp SS-Garrison, who often lived here with their whole families. The pre-war industrial facilities in the zone were taken over by Germans, and were expanded or demolished to make way for new plants associated with the military requirements of the National Socialist System.

Besides the main camp, Auschwitz I ("Stammlager") and Auschwitz II- Birkenau, between the years 1942 and 1944 within the zone of interest several sub-camps have been opened. In this area the camp inmates also had to carry out forced labor for the SS and private German companies.

The city Oświęcim was given the German name Auschwitz. The plans were to expand and rebuild the city to a "model for the settlement in the East" ("Musterstadt der deutschen Ostsiedlung") and to provide housing for SS-Garrison and employers of IG Farben.



The map of the "KL Auschwitz interest zone" from February 1941., <http://auschwitz.org/en/gallery/historical-pictures-and-documents/archive-documents,2.html>

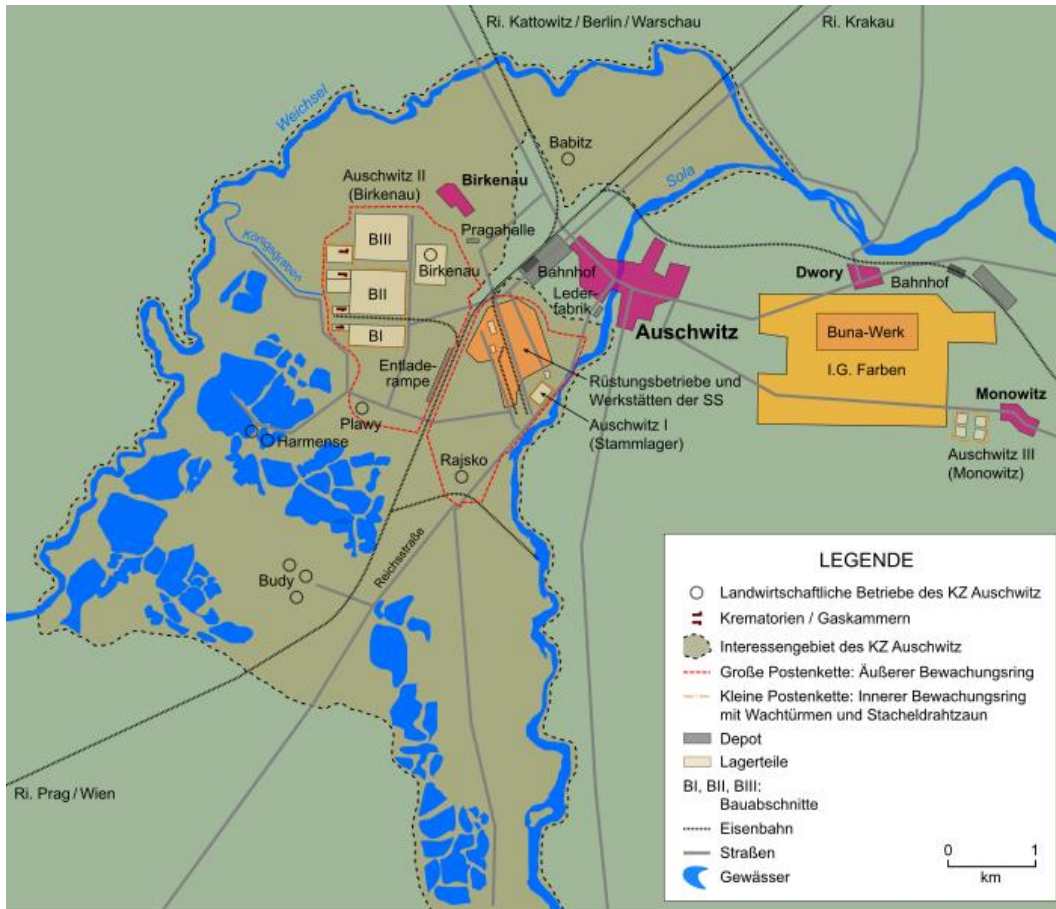
## **Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau**

In 1947 the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau was created on the grounds of the former Main Camp and most parts of Auschwitz II-Birkenau as a Polish state museum. In 1979 the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Around the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz exist several protection zones.



## Places where research was carried out

These places are not part of the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau but belonged to the Auschwitz complex.



Map of the Auschwitz zone of interest, marked are among others the sub camps and the area of SS workshops close to the main camp Auschwitz I

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Karte\\_Auschwitz.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Karte_Auschwitz.svg)

## Subcamps

**Babitz** - Agricultural work on a SS farm

### **Budy**

- Women camp - Agricultural work on a SS farm
- Men camp - Agricultural work on a SS farm
- Penal company ("Strafkompanie") for female prisoners

### **Harmense**

- Men camp - Agricultural work on a SS farm
- Women camp - Agricultural work on a SS farm

**Plawy** - Agricultural labor on a SS farm,

**Rajske** - Agricultural labor on an SS farm

### **Places around the main camp (Stammlager)**

**Kanada I** – complex of barracks used to store the plundered property of Jews who had been murdered, prisoners were forced to sort the robbed goods

**Tannery (“Lederfabrik”)** – workshops where plundered goods were renewed by prisoners

**Camp extension (“Lagererweiterung”)** - the so called camp extension (“Lagererweiterung”) is a complex of 20 two-story buildings erected close to the Main Camp Auschwitz I for housing female prisoners

**DAW (“Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke”, German Equipment Works)** – a SS-company where prisoners were forced to work

**Zerlegbetrieb (salvage yard)** – a military facility for aircraft salvage under DAW management where prisoners were forced to work

**Union Werke** – a factory that manufactured fuses for artillery shells where prisoners were forced to work

**The SS Central Construction Office (SS-Zentralbauleitung – ZBL)**, including construction yard (Bauhof), new construction yard (“neuer Bauhof”) and workshops of the Central Construction Office (“Werkstätten ZBL”) – the SS Central Construction Office was responsible for the structural planning and construction of the camp, prisoners were forced to work in the offices, in the yards and in the construction of the camps

**Living area and houses** of the SS-Garrison around the main camp Auschwitz I

The European Summer camps were organized jointly by Action Reconciliation service of Peace and the Foundation for the International Youth Meeting Center in Oswiecim/Auschwitz and funded by the European Union within the program CERV (“Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values”). The European Union’s “Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values” (CERV) program supports projects on the topics of equality, participation and violence prevention, among others.



**Funded by  
the European Union**