



# Dokumentation Obersalzberg



A permanent exhibition on the history of Obersalzberg and the Nazi dictatorship by the Institute of Contemporary History

## Opening times:

April to October  
Monday to Sunday 9 am – 5 pm (last admission 4 pm)

November to March  
Tuesday to Sunday 10 am – 3 pm (last admission 2 pm)  
closed on Mondays  
Closed on January 1, November 1 as well as  
December 24, 25 and 31.

## Note for wheelchair users:

The exhibition is barrier-free. Disabled parking, lift and toilets are available.

## Admission prices:

Adults: € 3.00  
Adults with tourist pass: € 2.50  
Disabled adults (with ID): € 2.00  
Disabled adults with tourist pass (with ID): € 1.50  
School pupils, students, teachers, soldiers and alternative national service personnel (with ID), children: free

For organisational reasons, larger groups, e.g. school classes, coach parties etc., are requested to prebook.

**Institut für  
Zeitgeschichte**

München – Berlin



Dokumentation Obersalzberg

Published by: Dokumentation Obersalzberg  
Text: Albert Feiber / Institute of Contemporary History Munich – Berlin  
Translation: Giles Bennett, Munich  
Design: paper-back GmbH, Muensing  
Illustrations: Institute of Contemporary History Munich – Berlin/  
Photos: Max Köstler

## Audio-Guide

A German or English audio-guide is available for individuals visiting the exhibition.  
Hire: € 2,00/set

## Guided tours:

The Obersalzberg Documentation offers prebooked guided tours in English by tour-guides trained and certified by the Institute of Contemporary History Munich – Berlin.

Duration of the tour: approx. 90 to 120 minutes  
(net tour time, without film and audio exhibits)  
Maximum 25 participants per tour  
Prebooked tours start at 15 minute intervals.  
Cost per tour: € 60.00

## Conference rooms

Three conference rooms with state of the art media facilities are available, and can be booked on an hourly or daily basis free of charge.

Bookings of tours and/or conference facilities at least 14 days in advance please:

E-Mail: [organisation@obersalzberg.de](mailto:organisation@obersalzberg.de)  
Tel.: +49 (0) 86 52 / 94 79 60  
Fax: +49 (0) 86 52 / 94 79 69

Booking confirmation from the Obersalzberg Documentation is required for both tours and use of conference facilities.  
Cancellations at the latest three days in advance.

## How to reach us ...

... by car or motorcycle:

From Munich and/or Innsbruck, leave the motorway at either the Bad Reichenhall or Salzburg-Süd/Berchtesgaden exit (obligatory motorway toll sticker necessary, but usually quickest route). From Salzburg, Vienna and Klagenfurt take the exit Salzburg-Süd/Berchtesgaden (obligatory motorway sticker necessary). It is also possible to reach us via the German Alpine Route (B 305).

... by train:

From Munich, Innsbruck, Vienna and Salzburg use German and Austrian Rail services to Berchtesgaden. From Berchtesgaden railway station, take the RVO-bus number 838 »Berchtesgaden – Obersalzberg – Hinterbrand« to bus stop »Dokumentation«. Taxies are also available from the railway station in Berchtesgaden.

## Contact:

Dokumentation Obersalzberg  
Salzbergstr. 41  
83471 Berchtesgaden  
Germany

Tel.: +49 (0) 86 52 / 94 79 60  
Fax: +49 (0) 86 52 / 94 79 69  
E-Mail: [info@obersalzberg.de](mailto:info@obersalzberg.de)  
Internet: [www.obersalzberg.de](http://www.obersalzberg.de)

Contact





The Obersalzberg Documentation at the Obersalzberg near Berchtesgaden is a permanent Institute of Contemporary History Munich – Berlin exhibition. It was commissioned by the Free State of Bavaria and was opened on 20th October 1999.

For Obersalzberg near Berchtesgaden, a mountain village characterised by tourism since the second half of the 19th century and Hitler's holiday resort since 1923, the year 1933 represented a serious turning point. Appointed Reich Chancellor on January 30th, Adolf Hitler purchased Wachenfeld House in the summer of 1933, a property he had been renting since 1928. In two construction phases between 1933 and 1936, he had it rebuilt into an impressive residence, the Berghof.



After the previous inhabitants had been driven out, the former health resort was converted into the »Führersperrgebiet« (the Fuehrer's off-limits area), a second seat of power alongside Berlin, where important political decisions, also about peace and war and the Holocaust, were proposed and made. Propaganda utilised the grandiose mountain panorama effectively in the media to portray Hitler as a politician close to the people, a friend of children and nature, a good neighbour, a great statesman and a solitary visionary. On April 25th, 1945, British and American longrange bombers bombed the site and destroyed most of the buildings. The ruins of the Berghof, the houses of Goering and Bormann and the SS barracks were blown up in 1952. Only a few buildings remained, including the Eagle's Nest and the bunker complex built between 1943 and 1945.

Occupied by American forces since May 4th, 1945, parts of the Obersalzberg were used as a recreation area for the US Army already since 1947 and were only accessible to members of the American military. Only a small section was open for tourism since 1952.

Even though the Free State of Bavaria was already the owner of the Obersalzberg area according to Allied legal pronouncement, it was only returned to Bavarian domain in 1996 after the withdrawal of the Americans.

Commissioned by the Free State of Bavaria, the Institute of Contemporary History Munich – Berlin then developed the plan for a permanent exhibition at the historical site. In contrast to other comparable institutions (concentration camp memorial sites, Holocaust museums, local documentation centres on the Nazi past) and temporary exhibitions on the Nazi period, the Documentation does not limit itself only to local history and sections of historical reality, but combines the history of the Obersalzberg with the central manifestations of the National Socialist dictatorship.

To date, the Obersalzberg Documentation is the only permanent exhibition worldwide to cover all essential aspects of the Nazi period. The following themes are dealt with:

- Obersalzberg
- Mystification and cult of the Fuehrer
- The protagonists of the regime
- The German »Volksgemeinschaft« (national community)
- The machinery of terror
- »Racial policy«, persecution of the Jews, genocide
- Resistance and emigration
- Hitler's foreign policy
- The Second World War
- The bunker complex

The exhibition displays over 950 photos, documents, posters, film and sound recordings, some of which are being made available to the public for the first time.



While aiming to meet high historical standards, the Obersalzberg Documentation is primarily aimed at the general public. Its goal is to inform the visitor in an historically founded, but generally understandable fashion about the eventful and complex historical events and additionally stimulate further analytical thought processes. Thereby it also seeks to counter old and new rightwing extremism, which receives its appeal particularly to young people by a reactivation of the ideological fictions and political paroles of National Socialism.

At present, the »Publications of the Insitute of Contemporary History for the Obersalzberg Documentation« are only available in German.

For more information, visit [www.obersalzberg.de](http://www.obersalzberg.de).

