



The State Museum at Majdanek is the oldest institution in Europe commemorating the victims of the Second World War and one of the most significant historic sites in the Lublin region. It is also a unique on a European scale triad of memorial sites relating to the history of the Holocaust, since the Museum takes care of material vestiges of three German camps – the concentration camp in Lublin and the death camps for Jews in Bełżec and Sobibór.

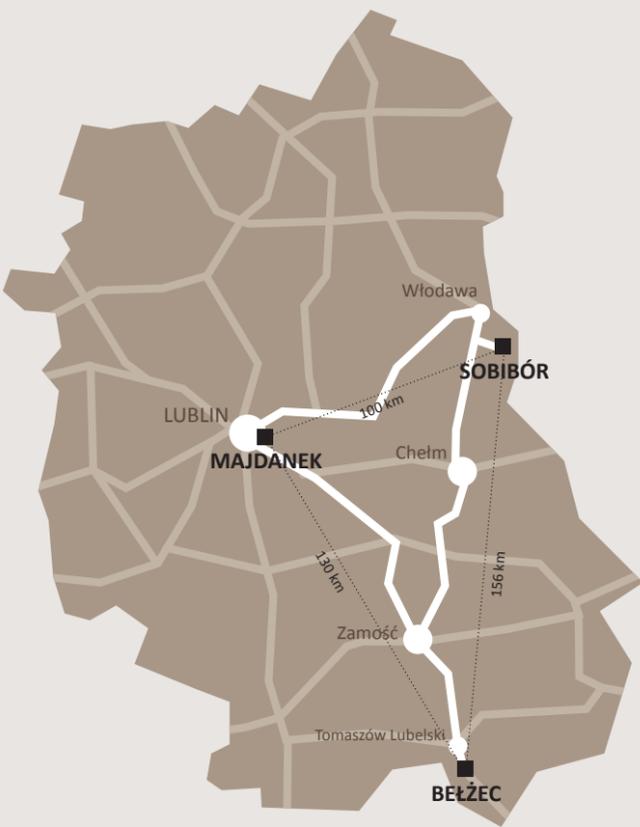
Majdanek. Prisoners' barracks



Bełżec. Monument-graveyard



Sobibór. Mound at the site of mass graves



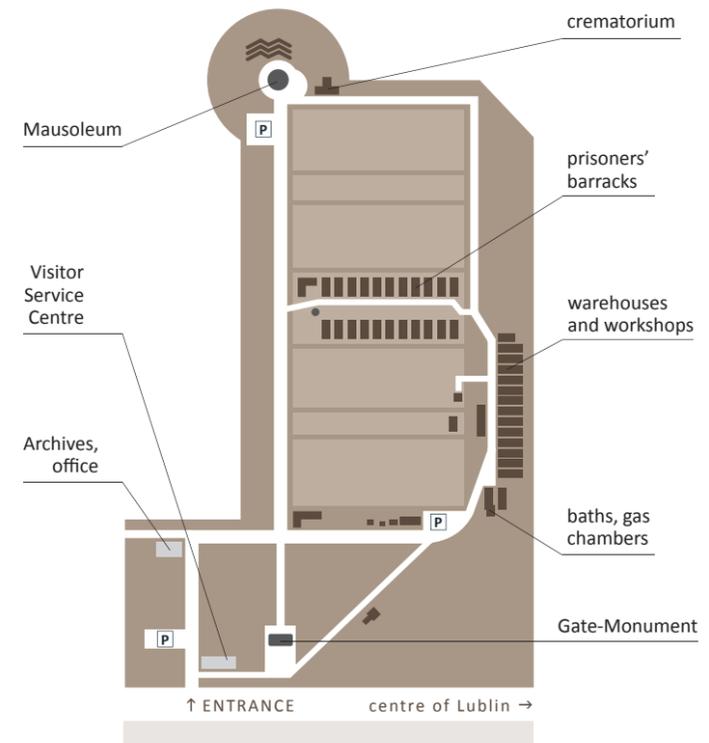
MAJDANEK

The concentration camp in Lublin, commonly known as Majdanek, was in operation from October 1941 to July 1944. It was one of the biggest camps founded by the Third Reich in Europe in 1933–1945 in respect to number of prisoners and victims. Approximately 150,000 people of various nationalities were sent to Majdanek, mainly Jews, Poles, and Belorussians. As a result of famine and disease, and due to shootings and extermination in the gas chambers, 80,000 people perished there.

The State Museum at Majdanek was founded in 1944. Its collections include numerous items and documents created at the time of the camp's existence. The most precious ones are the books of deaths, prisoners' personal papers, and secret letters written by inmates. The history of the camp is described in the permanent exhibition housed in the post-camp barracks and the open-air exhibition covering an area of nearly 90 hectares with many historical remains. Among the camp vestiges made available to visitors, there are objects and buildings of great significance, which evocatively illustrate the monstrous totality of the crimes perpetrated by the Nazis – these include piles of shoes, the gas chambers, and the crematoria. The Museum also displays many exhibits which show prisoners' living conditions and artifacts bearing testimony to their struggle for dignity and survival.

To the memory of the Majdanek victims is dedicated a monumental sculptural and architectural composition with the Gate-Monument and the Mausoleum covering ashes of the murdered as the most predominant elements.

Majdanek. Fragment of a temporary exhibition presented in barracks no. 62



The Museum is located in Lublin, 5 kilometers from the city centre. If approaching from the city centre, take the #23 bus or #153, #156 or #158 trolleybuses; if from the railway station, take the #28 bus. When arriving by car, follow signs to "Chełm" and "Zamość." On the right from the entryway to the Museum, there is the Visitor Service Centre.



The Centre is open everyday except Mondays and holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (April – October), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (November – March). The grounds and historical buildings are available to visitors everyday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (April – October), from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (November – March).



Admission is free. In the Visitor Service Centre you can book paid guided tours, watch a film about the camp, and buy museum publications.



State Museum at Majdanek
ul. Droga Męczenników Majdanka 67, 20-325 Lublin
phone: +48 81 710 28 33, email: centrum@majdanek.eu

www.majdanek.eu

Majdanek. Warehouses and workshops



Bełżec. Fragment of the commemoration



Sobibór. Railway ramp



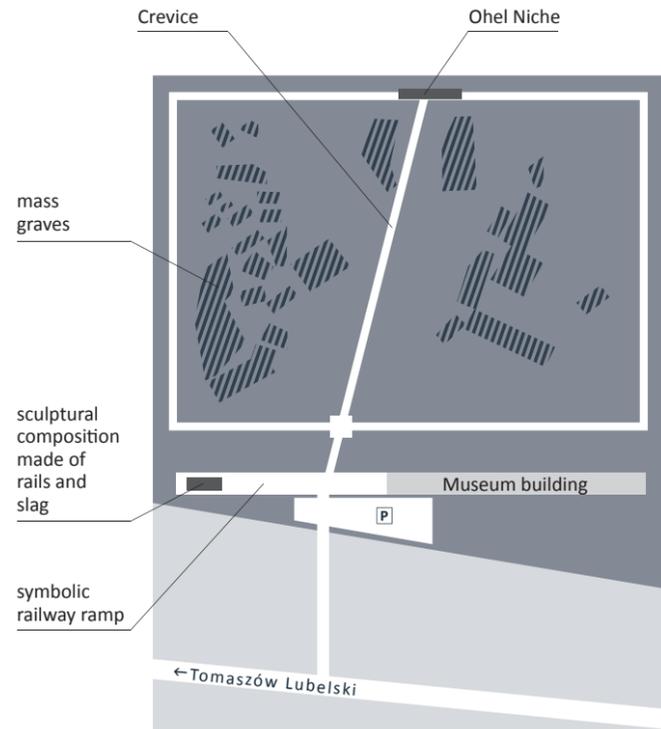
BEŁŻEC

From March to December 1942, a death camp for Jews operated in Bełżec. It was the first killing centre of its kind set up within the framework of a genocidal operation called “Aktion Reinhardt” that was an integral part of the Nazi plan to exterminate European Jews. Over 430,000 Jewish men, women, and children were exterminated in the Bełżec gas chambers. The majority of them were Polish Jews from the Krakow, Galicia, and Lublin districts, but among the victims there were also Slovak, Czech, German, and Austrian Jews. In June 1943, when the bodies of the murdered had already been burnt down, the camp was liquidated. The buildings were dismantled and nearly all traces of the camp existence were erased.

The Museum – Memorial Site in Bełżec was built as a branch of the State Museum at Majdanek in 2004. The museum building houses the permanent historical exhibition documenting the history of the Bełżec death camp as a part of the Nazi extermination policy against Jews. The exhibited relics were found during archeological research, including personal belongings of people killed in the camp.

The victims of the camp are commemorated with the monument-graveyard. Its central part includes a hill with mass graves, which is cut in half by a narrow road called Crevice. At its section, where the gas chambers were presumably located, Ohel Niche can be found with names of the murdered.

Bełżec. Fragment of the permanent historical exhibition



The Museum – Memorial Site in Bełżec is located 130 kilometers southeast of Lublin, 8 kilometers from Tomaszów Lubelski, at the national road no. 17, near the border crossing between Poland and Ukraine in Hrebenne.



The Museum is open everyday except Mondays and holidays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (April – October), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (November – March).



Admission is free. In the Museum you can book paid guided tours and buy museum publications.



Museum – Memorial Site in Bełżec
ul. Ofiar Obozu 4, 22-670 Bełżec
phone: +48 665 25 10, email: muzeum@belzec.eu

www.belzec.eu

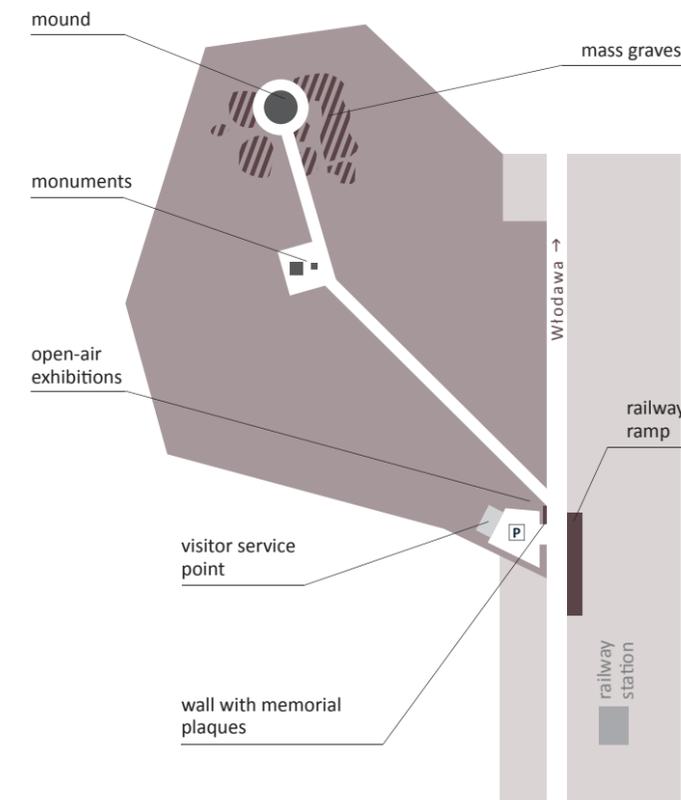
SOBIBÓR

The death camp in Sobibór operated within the framework of “Aktion Reinhardt” from May 1942 to October 1943. Approximately 170,000 Jews perished there, including 70,000 Jewish inhabitants of the Lublin region, 34,000 Jews from the Netherlands, and 24,000 from Slovakia. Among the victims there were also Czech, French, German, and Belorussian Jews. On October 14, 1943, a revolt broke out in the camp and some prisoners managed to escape. Shortly after the uprising, the camp was liquidated – the gas chambers were blown up and virtually all buildings were demolished.

The memorial site in Sobibór has been a branch of the State Museum at Majdanek since 2012. Open-air exhibitions documenting the organization and course of “Aktion Reinhardt,” and the history of the death camp in Sobibór can be seen there. Next to the entrance to the grounds of the former camp, there is a stone wall with memorial plaques, and across from it a railway ramp where trains stopped with Jewish families doomed to death.

There are several monuments dedicated to the memory of the Sobibór victims: a stone column alluding to the gas chambers and a figure of a woman with a child. In the part of the camp where bodies of the murdered had been burnt down and their ashes had been buried, a symbolic mound was built.

Sobibór. Wall with memorial plaques



The Museum is located about 100 kilometers northeast of Lublin. When arriving by car, in Włodawa follow signs to “Chełm,” and past the town of Okuninka turn left.



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Admission is free. In the Museum you can book paid guided tours and buy museum publications.



Museum of the Former Death Camp in Sobibór
Stacja Kolejowa Sobibór 1, 22-200 Włodawa
phone: +48 82 571 98 67
email: muzeumsobibor@wp.pl

www.sobibor-memorial.eu

