

A VISIT IN A MUSEUM: AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU IN OŚWIĘCIM

Post-visit activity: Students impressions after visiting the museum

ZESPÓŁ SZKÓŁ W RUDKACH - POLAND 22 MAJ 2019 15:06



On 14 May studentes from Zespół Szkół in Rudki visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum in Oświęcim. This padlet presents the thoughts our students had following the visit (the notes were completed as "After the visit activity").



ERASMUS+ 2018-2020: MUSEUMHOLICS

The visit at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum was realised as a task in the project Erasmus+ 2018-2020: "Museumholics". The task included three stages:

Stage 1 - The so-called "Before the visit activity" preceding the visit enabled students to get to know basic facts about the museum and rules of visiting such places.

Stage 2 - "During the visit activity" refers to the visit in the museum.

Stage 3 - "After the visit activity" included writing notes about students' impressions from the museum.



ABOUT THE VISIT...

First, students visited the part "Auschwitz I". Having arrived at the notorious museum gate labelled "Arbeit macht frei", students were asked to go to the assembly square and then to the blocks nr 6, 11, 27 and 5.

Next, they contiued the visit in the other part of the museum, Auschwitz II - Birkenau. There they were informed about the beginnings of the museum in this former Nazi concentration camp. They heard stories about how the prisoners had been transported to the camp - what conditions they had to endure and how they were selected. Our students also visited one of the barracks. Below, we present the students' comments after the visit:

VISITING THE AUSCHWITZ MUSEUM

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum was created due to the former prisoners' attempts to preserve the former German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau as a reminder of their suffering forever. Our students visited two parts of the object: Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II - Birkenau.



"We visited the Auschwitz Museum on 14 May 2019. There were 48 people. The museum commemorates Jews killed in the Nazi Concentration Camp. We saw extermination camp, gas chambers, old clothes and memorabilia of the dead. The weather was depressing. It was raining and cloudy. We felt awful and sad. We returned home at 10 p.m. Everybody should see the museum because it is a historical place. I will never forget visiting the museum. I hope that such a tragedy will never happen again."
By Weronika Sz.



"We visited the Auschwitz Museum on 14th of May. There were over 40 people on our trip. The Museum commemorates the Jews killed in the Nazi Concentration Camp. We saw gas chambers, barracks way of death. The weather was bad. It was raining. We felt sad. We returned home at 21:30. Everybody should see the Museum because a lot of people died there."
By Klaudia P



"We visited the Auschwitz museum on Tuesday. There were 45 people. The museum commemorates Jews killed in the Nazi concentration camp. We saw barracks, gas chambers and old clothes. The weather was depressing. We felt sad and overwhelmed. I felt sorry for the dead people. We returned home at 10 p.m. Everybody should see the museum because it's very important place for Poland. It is a historical place. This museum shows us how people died in the 2nd World War."
By Kacper B

Before going to Auschwitz Birkenau, I thought it was a terrible place. What I saw in the camp was even more terrifying. It showed

how the German soldiers treated the prisoners. Life in the camp was inhuman. I cannot imagine how a man could do so much pain and evil to others.

By Edzik



"The object that touched me the most was the gate with words that said 'Work makes you free'. It affected me deeply because it was not true, it was all a lie. I felt bad about it. I know those people that were brought there were made prisoners and were basically sent to death. I think that I will never come back there. I will always remember this experience and if anyone asks me about it, I will always tell the truth about all those people who perished there."
By Ola B.



One week ago we were on a trip in the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. This is the only concentration camp in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. In this place I felt sad because many people died there. I saw crematorium and gas chambers. This museum is huge. There is a lot of buildings which in the past were prisoners' rooms. Now these buildings are part of the museum. In these rooms there are lots of portraits of people who died there. The most devastating for me were the prisoners' things. It was a terrible sight. If we want to prevent such tragedy in the future, we should have friendly relationships with other people. I think everybody should see this place.

By Susan



On the trip to Auschwitz, I learned a lot about the suffering of Jews. They had to live in inhuman conditions and they were treated worse than animals. That was incredibly horrible. The symbol of Auschwitz is the gate with the inscription "Arbeit macht frei", which means "Work makes you free". For me, this gate will associate with an extermination camp.

By Magdalena

I visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau museum on 13th May 2019. I saw a lot of images of people in the museum. It is an old German-Nazi concentration camp. I felt sad and sorry for them, maybe because the weather was bad. I returned home at night. Everybody should see the museum because for me it was a big experience.

By Igor



I was in Auschwitz last week. It is a very terrible place where you can feel the suffering of people who survived (or not) that hell on earth. It shows that the humans are responsible for one of the biggest tragedies on our planet.

By Adrian

On Tuesday 14 May we were on a trip in Oświęcim. There is Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. This is a former German concentration camp. I saw there many things of prisoners

like suitcases and clothes. It was a touching experience.
By Ola G.



On May 14, we went on a trip to Auschwitz. Sightseeing was so long but the history of this place really interested me. At this place there was a sad and depressing atmosphere, but it was obvious because lot of people lost their lives there.

By Lena

Auschwitz is a terrifying place. The atmosphere depresses and stimulates many reflections. I believe that every person must visit this place to realize how many people lost their lives there.

By Peter

On June 14th we visited Auschwitz Birkenau

In our opinion the most devastating objects were 11th block and barracks. These were places shocking history. We felt overwhelmed there. We think that people can be really terrible. Many people should get to know this place. We will pass the stories of this place to the next generation.

Agata Ł & Julia K



Recently, our class participated in a trip to Auschwitz Birkenau. What I saw there was terrible. Children's death touched me the most. A lot of people were my age. I cannot imagine how horrible one must be to commit such an act. People should be friends and

not enemies. Let us pray that this situation will never happen again.
I also concluded that Germans were people without a heart.
By Adam B.

A visit to the Auschwitz museum was very moving. It showed us how much evil was happening in the world. The conclusion of this stay is one: It is not allowed to start any war and to do harm to the other person.

By Maciej



Recently I took part in a school trip to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum - death and extermination camp. The expedition left a lasting impression in my heart.

I visited the museum blocks in silence and thoughtfulness. I was shocked by the sight of hundreds or even thousands of pairs of shoes once belonging to prisoners, especially the smallest ones, which were taken off some 2-3 years old.

I will never forget a visit to the largest cemetery in the world. We must pray that such a tragedy will never happen again, that man will never again fall as low as the Germans fell almost sixty years ago.

By Mateusz K.



decided to go. Following the arrival in the place, our guide began to tell us about the experiences of those people. The most depressing for me was the room where he talked about small children. It was very hard, especially when I saw all these photos. After the trip, I was very touched and depressed. I highly recommend this place, but it is not good for very sensitive people.
By Natalia

When I was in Museum Auschwitz, I felt terrible. This place is very scary. The pictures were very terrible. I don't know why people did that to other people. The camp prisoners had to work hard. They had old and destroyed clothes. They slept on one bed with a few other people. In winter it was very cold in this place and in summer it was very hot and there were a lot of insects. Their breakfast, dinner and supper was very, very modest. The people were badly treated.

I hope that this will not happen again in the future.
By Klaudia J.

On May 14, 2019, a trip to Oświęcim took place. We set off at 6:30 and arrived at our destination around 11:00. The weather was rainy, but not that bad. At 11:30 we started sightseeing around Auschwitz. We finished the tour around 14:30. A visit to the Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau museum was an important experience for me and I will never forget it. In my opinion everyone should visit this place and see it all with their own eyes. The place that shocked me were the furnaces in which the bodies of the dead were burnt. In these furnaces they were burned in great numbers. People also died in gas chambers. They were killed with cyclone B. Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau arouse fear in me, because I already know what people were going through and what they had to go endure in the fight for life.
By Mike D.

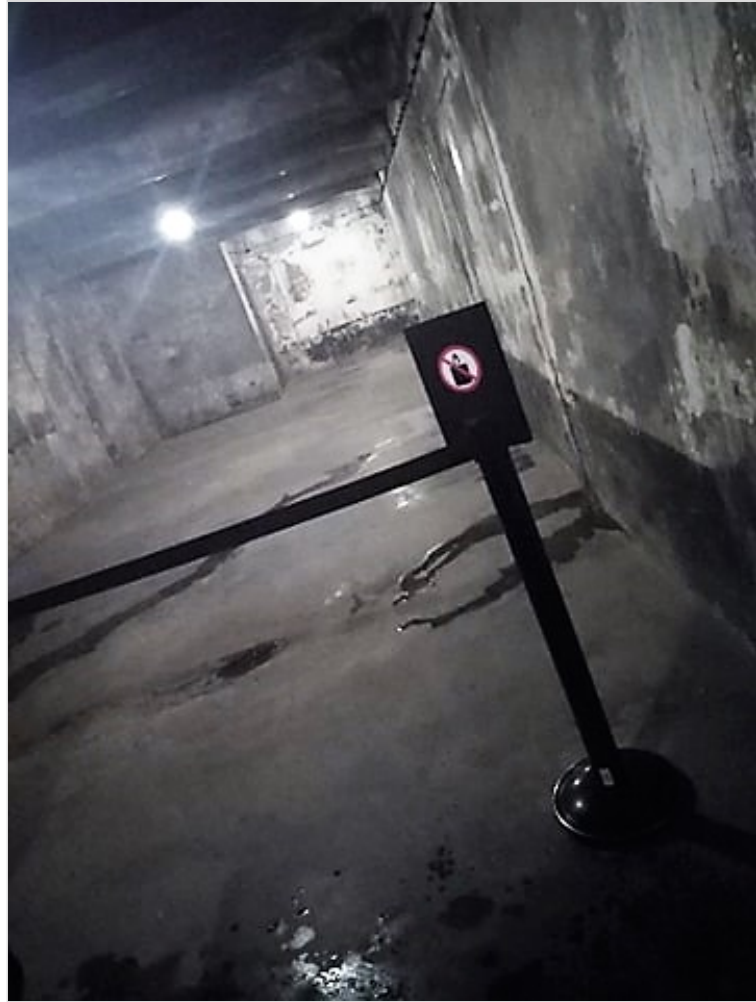


On May 14, 2019, I went with the students and teachers of Zespół Szkół in Rudki to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, which is located in Oświęcim.

We split into two groups and got headphones. We marched along the streets of the camp and the guide told us about it. We could see for ourselves in what conditions people lived there. It was very moving. I could not believe what a person can do to another person. I was sorry when I looked at things abandoned by people and their portraits. After all, it was worth going and seeing it.
By Oliwia B.



Recently, a trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau took place. Before the trip, I was very stressed about how I'm going to take all this sad news but



On 14|05|2019 we went on a trip to the Auschwitz Birkenau extermination camp. Going to the museum I did not know what I would see there. After reaching the camp, the guide told us about the fate of people staying there. I felt sad and depressed. Most of all, I was moved by pictures of children and women in the camp, and the most by what they looked like after staying there. I recommend this place to visit, but not to a sensitive person.

By Dominika

A trip to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp evoked a lot of emotions in me. Before the visit I knew what it was and what I was going to experience, but what I saw exceeded my expectations. Being there, in a way, I could feel like the people who got there. I'll never forget this place or what I felt there.

By Maks

On May 14, 2019 we made a trip to Auschwitz. This is a museum of the German concentration camp.

I saw places where people lived, worked and died. We visited the most important places in two groups. I was most shocked when I saw the shoes and suitcases of people who died there. For this reason, I was terrified and sad. I do not like such things and they sadden me. But I think it's good that I saw Auschwitz and I think everyone should see it.

By Daria



A visit to Auschwitz

This place was very bleak. The tragedy that happened there made a great impression on me.

There was a sad atmosphere there. Many people died there.

This is a very big place.

A lot of tourists come there.

I will never forget this place.

I hope I will come back someday.

By Kamil



I recently took part in a trip to the Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau. This trip made an indelible impression on me. I have heard a lot about this place but what I saw with my own eyes outgrew my imagination. Now I know what people had to live through in those days. It came to me that we must appreciate what we have. In my heart there was great pain, despair and suffering. I will definitely remember this museum for the rest of my life. I will try to go there again, explore and learn more. Weather conditions on a school trip which was on 14.05.2019 were not satisfactory. Despite the bad weather we visited and learned interesting things about the Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau. I recommend going there to find out how hard people lived there.

By Kamila

During the visit to Auschwitz, I saw in what conditions the murdered Jews lived there. I gained great respect for this place. It was very grim and frightening there. I recommend visiting this place to see how people lived there in those days

By Daniel



I recently participated in a school trip to Auschwitz. After a long travel by bus, we arrived at the camp. I saw many terrifying things, like rooms, the crematorium, but the most terrifying thing for me was the view of the gas chambers in which they massively murdered people. I hope that this will not happen again. This trip will always be remembered by me.

By Klaudia

Oświęcim and Brzezinka are the largest concentration camps of humanity during the Second World War. Visiting these areas came to me with a great difficulty, because they are marked by the suffering of innocent people.

Thanks to the guide, I was able to get to know the facts about the campers' life until now unknown to me. I was particularly moved by the story of a Polish man called Edek and a Polish Jewish woman called Mali. The couple fell in love with each other in a place where it would seem that a beautiful feeling should not be born. I was touched by the

fact that in the last moments they dared to take their own lives without being humiliated by SS men.

During the visit in Oświęcim I was deeply shocked by the pictures of hungry children and adults. One of the women shown, with a height of 160 cm, weighed only 25 kg!!!

I could not believe what harm a man could do to another man. Prisoners were brutally beaten, ridiculed, humiliated and told to perform meaningless work. The worst thing for me is that killing innocent people was simply fun and entertainment for SS men.

I believe that by visiting the camps in Brzezinka and Auschwitz, many people have opened their eyes to human suffering. Thanks to this trip, I appreciated the time and place in which I live. It's hard for me to imagine what campers must have felt and how hard it is for them to return to a normal life after the war and to free them.

By Ernest

A man who survived...: Władysław Bartoszewski

Władysław Bartoszewski was born in 1922. He arrived in Auschwitz on September 21, 1940, in the second transport from Warsaw. He was a prisoner with the number 4427. He spent 199 days in the camp hell, after which he was released. At the morning roll-call, together with the rest of the new prisoners, he heard from the deputy commander of the camp: "Look at the chimney there. Look, this is a crematorium. You will all go to the crematorium. Three thousand degrees of heat. The chimney is the only way to freedom." On December 12, Bartoszewski, completely exhausted and close to death, fainted on the parade ground. He went to the camp "hospital", (where the treatment mainly consisted in lying down) and there he recovered for several months, regaining some of his strength. He was very lucky as on 8 April 1941 he was released thanks the Polish Red Cross. He joined the Polish underground army to fight with the Nazi Germans.

By Wiktoria