

The exhibition: Stalag XB Sandbostel. The History and Post-War Use of a POW Camp

A two-part permanent exhibition was developed between 2011 and 2013. The first part covers the history of the POW camp from 1939 to 1945 and the deportation of prisoners from the Neuengamme concentration camp to Sandbostel in April 1945. The second part starts with a depiction of the camp's liberation from the viewpoint of the British Army and explains the post-war use of the grounds from 1945, the history of commemoration at the site and the creation of the memorial.



Programmes for groups

Trained guides lead informative tours of the site every weekday with prior registration.

The memorial also offers study and project days for adults in further education and for young people. You can find more information at www.stiftung-lager-sandbostel.de

Registration Tel. . 04764 2254-810

E-Mail: besucherbetreuung@stiftung-lager-sandbostel.de

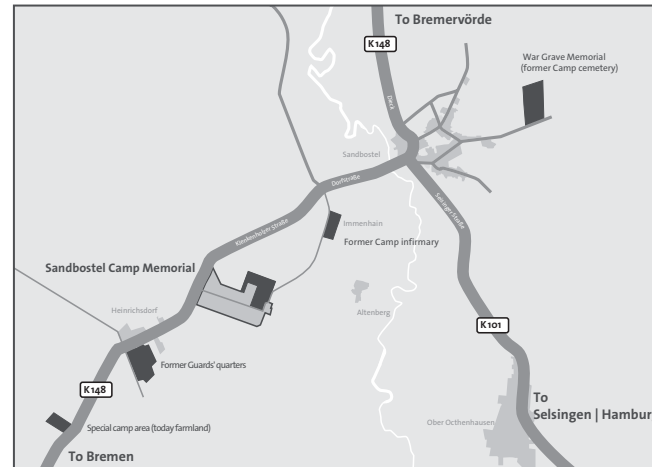
Public tours

Free public tours are offered every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM.

Contact

Sandbostel Camp Foundation
Sandbostel Camp Memorial

Greftstraße 3, 27446 Sandbostel
Tel.: 04764 2254-810
E-mail: info@stiftung-lager-sandbostel.de
Internet: www.stiftung-lager-sandbostel.de



Memorial opening hours

Monday–Friday 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Sundays and holidays 10:00 AM–5:00 PM

The memorial's archive and library may be used during the opening hours with prior registration.

The grounds of the former camp may be viewed at any time.

Donation accounts

Sparkasse Rotenburg-Bremervörde
Account number: 28 016 038, sort code: 241 512 35
BIC: BRLADE21ROB
IBAN: DE87 2415 1235 0028 0160 38

Zevener Volksbank eG
Account number: 5 403 473 600, sort code: 241 615 94
BIC: GENODEF1SIT
IBAN: DE43 2416 1594 5403 4736 00

Photos: Andreas Ehresmann; historical photo: Robert V., undated [October or November 1941], Sandbostel Camp Memorial; map: Anat Frumkin

Sandbostel Camp Memorial



Stalag XB Sandbostel

In September 1939 the Wehrmacht set up a main POW camp (Kriegsgefangenen-Mannschafts-Stammlager, or Stalag) in Sandbostel. Up to 30,000 POWs were to be held at Stalag XB, a 35-hectare site with over 150 dormitory huts, utility buildings and administration buildings.

By the end of the war, more than 300,000 POWs, civilian prisoners and military internees from over 55 countries had passed through Stalag XB. Most were assigned to one of the camp's more than 1,100 work details in north-west Germany, where they worked primarily in agriculture but also in industry and armaments production.

Soviet POWs in particular were denied the protection of the law of war by the Wehrmacht, so thousands of them died of exhaustion, starvation and disease in Stalag XB and its work details.

In April 1945 around 9,500 prisoners from the Neuengamme concentration camp and its satellite camps arrived at Sandbostel. More than 3,000 of them died during the transport, in the camp and in the first weeks after the liberation.



The Sandbostel War Graves Cemetery

In early 1941 the Wehrmacht established a camp cemetery near Sandbostel. The Soviet POWs who died in Stalag XB are buried anonymously there in mass graves.

The concentration camp prisoners who died in April and May 1945 were initially buried in mass graves near the camp. Between 1954 and 1956 their bodies were exhumed and reinterred at the camp cemetery, which was turned into the Sandbostel War Graves Cemetery. When the cemetery was redesigned, a Soviet monument and a Polish monument were demolished and replaced by a group of steles and a high cross. The current design of the cemetery stems from the 1980s.

The total number of POWs and concentration camp prisoners buried in the Sandbostel War Graves Cemetery is not known.

The use of the site since 1945

After the liberation of Stalag XB on 29 April 1945, the British Army set up an internment camp for members of the Waffen-SS. In 1948 the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice turned the site into the Camp Sandbostel Prison.

From 1952 to 1960 the Lower Saxony Ministry for Displaced Persons used the site as the 'Sandbostel emergency transit camp' for young male refugees from East Germany. From 1963 the German federal armed forces used the grounds mainly as a depot. The Sandbostel council took over the site in 1973 and turned it into the Immenhain industrial estate.

The Sandbostel Camp Memorial

In 2005 and 2008 the Sandbostel Camp Foundation acquired part of the former camp and established the Sandbostel Camp Memorial. The memorial incorporates eleven historical huts and other buildings from the former POW camp and a few buildings from the post-war period. Five wooden dormitory huts, one latrine and one kitchen building have been restored following accepted conservation practices.