

Eckerwald Memorial Path

The Gedenkpfad Eckerwald (Eckerwald Memorial Path) leads through a site that was erected for “Wüste 10” (“Desert 10”), an oil shale production plant, in 1944-45. It was one of ten production sites along the edge of the Swabian Jura where the National Socialists tried to extract oil from shale.

Over 1,000 prisoners were in the Schörzingen concentration camp; most of them had been active in the political resistance movements of the German-occupied countries of Europe. The conditions in the camps were catastrophic.

Every day, about 500 inmates were pushed to work in slave-like conditions to erect the “Wüste10” site. The others worked underground in the oil production facility near the Schörzingen concentration camp.



Schörzingen concentration camp cemetery



Brick ruin in the Eckerwald forest

More than 500 lives were brutally wiped out in the futile attempt to extract oil from shale.

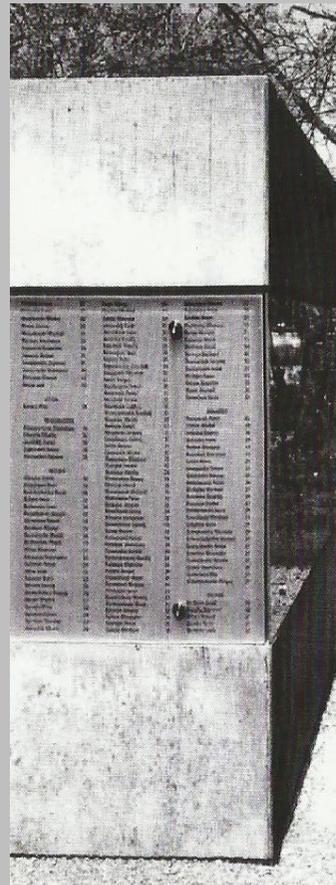
Starting in 1987, the overgrown ruins were excavated by members of the Initiative Eckerwald and many volunteers. Plaques in the brick ruin provide extensive information on the site's history.

Entrance to the memorial path is free.

Schömberg Concentration Camp Cemetery

The KZ-Friedhof Schömberg (Schömberg Concentration Camp Cemetery) is a memorial and educational site. Located next to a cube with the names of the victims, four information points provide the historical background of the Schömberg and Dautmergen concentration camps, illustrating the ordeal and deaths of the prisoners who were aged between 13 and over 60.

The actual number of dead was much higher. Many sick and dying prisoners were transported off to other camps.



Cube made of concrete with the names of 1,774 casualties from the Dautmergen and Schömberg concentration camps inscribed on it.



The tasks of the Memorial Site consist of organizing annual memorial services as well as survivors' and their relatives' visits to schools, doing historical research, and maintaining international contacts.



Memorial sculpture by Siegfried Haas

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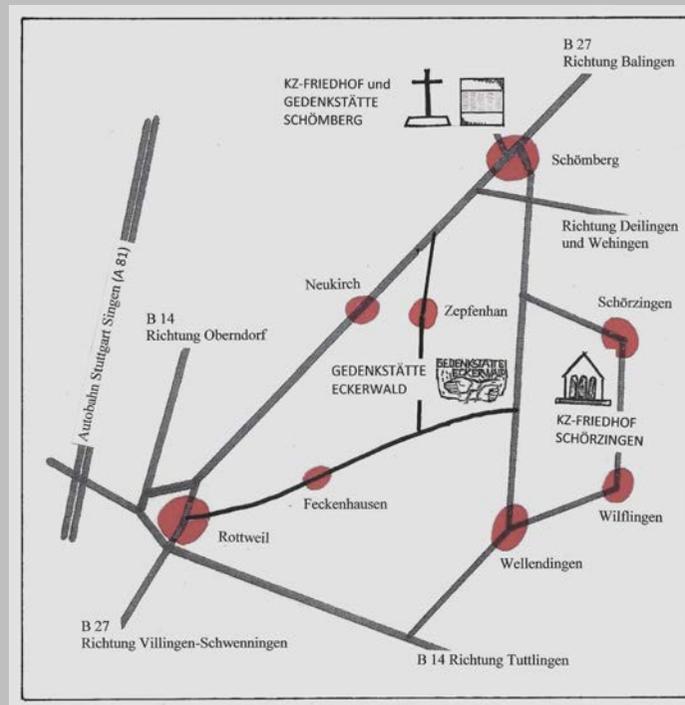
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Directions



Guided tours
can be booked upon request.

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