



centre de la mémoire

ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE
village martyr

Culture **Education** **Research** **Events**

As one of the first European memorial centers, the center of memory of Oradour is visited by on average of 130,000 people a year.

Inaugurated on July 16th, 1999, by Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic, the center gives access to the ruins of the martyred village, which embodies the archetype of collective massacres of civil populations.



The center of memory perpetuates a message of remembrance and peace, and now covers the whole world History.

Thanks to its permanent exhibition and numerous temporary exhibitions, the center of memory invites us to an universal individual but also collective reflection, and proposes an opening on the future.

The center of memory also holds an educational department and a research department which are famous and appreciated.

PRESS BOOK CONTENT

• The center of memory	page 3
• Oradour, history and memory	page 5
• Events	page 8
• Educational department : learning and training	page 14
• Research department : open to researchers and visitors	page 16
• The center of memory in brief and in practice	page 18

THE CENTER OF MEMORY

Building and site

Cultural and civil equipment

The center of memory is located in Oradour sur Glane, 20 kilometers West from Limoges.

This small village of Haute-Vienne is famous in the whole world as it preserved the vestiges of the tragedy which occurred on June 10th, 1944 when a unit of the SS das Reich division slaughtered 642 inhabitants, men, women and children.

Classified as a historic monument just after the Second World War, the ruins of the martyred village are now visited by an amount of 300,000 people every year.

But could the only ruins continue to immortalize a message of remembrance and peace ?



Starting from its inauguration on July of 1999, the center of memory constitutes an access to the ruins of the martyred village. It stands as a cultural equipment of "interpretation": a story being told with all the information needed to understand the tragedy.

A place of remembrance and reflection

The inside and outside architecture of the center has been designed by a crew directed by Yves Devraine – who also scenographed the memorial of Caen and a couple of archeoscopes all over Europe.

He made the choice of a "non architectural" project, shaping the landscape as a symbol of Oradour's violence.

This exposure expressed by the outer aspect of the center and by the scenographical conception of the exhibition areas allows each to lead it's own reflection.

PERMANENT EXHIBITION:

a route of remembrance



This exhibition focuses on a process, tempting to share its complexity. It enables people to replace Oradour in the context of the Second World War and Nazism, routing among its various areas.

Area 1 From 1933 to 1944

The different steps of the marching process Making the German society into the line thanks to Nazi seduction and intimidation, rearming and expending the Reich, war and French rout (from May to June 1940), Government of Vichy.

Area 2 Before 10th June 1944: executions and victims

This second area routes the visitor to the 9th and 10th of June, 1944 and to the preparation of the drama, showing who the executioners and victims were before the tragedy. On the one side, Oradour as an ordinary village of Limousin. On the other side, the Waffen SS and the das Reich division, their bloody methods (especially in the Eastern territory) and the constitution of their troops going to Oradour.

Area 3 10th June 1944: restoring the drama

A twelve-minute videotaped narrative containing the survivors' testimonies, the executioners' confessions, and the horrible discovery of a methodical massacre. This area also evokes similar massacres which happened during the same period.

Area 4 The national recognition and reconstruction

Recognition and reconstruction constitute the main theme of the fourth area. From the national recognition of the drama to the reconstruction of a traumatized village, the painful trials and the amnesty of the French defendants influenced the commemorations of the postwar divided France.

Area 5 A universal message

In a bare area with enlightened texts sprinkling on the floor, the last part of the exhibition invites one another to a personal and collective reflection just before entering the martyred village.

✓ Acknowledgement

Michaël Lonsdale and Romane Bohringer lent their voices to the French version of the audioguides available to visit the permanent exhibition.

✓ Historical researches

Historical research has been supervised by a committee of ethic made of eminent historians and witnesses of the period.

The historical sources of the route of remembrance have been taken

- military justice records
- National archives
- Haute-Vienne records
- Historical department of the Army
- several archives depots in Germany and Great Britain

ORADOUR,

History and memory



An invitation to an universal reflection

Oradour's memory has been built up since June 1944, just a couple of days after the drama: in a consensus around the particular destiny of this "peaceful village of Limousin" wiped out in a few hours. Since the Liberation, Oradour incarnates the archetype of collective massacres of civilians by army troops and is also in charge of a universal impact. Thus, on March 10th, 1945, General de Gaulle decided that Oradour could become the national symbol of Nazi barbarity.

Indeed, as in many antic myths, the tragic destiny of Oradour became a stereotype of political speech and more generally, a generic term for every civilian massacre committed by army troops.

Such a manipulation might distort the memory of Oradour, that is why the center is given the mission to pacify the passions by a historical work never realized to date.

This first step would probably help to reconcile various memories in the next future, and certainly as the President of the center of memory, Jean Claude Peyronnet asserts, "faced with avowed or hidden negationists, to transmit to the next generations the truth upon the facts of this tragedy, to understand the reasons why it happened on 10th of June 1944, and to avoid justifying the unspeakable".

Oradour's drama is not coincidental but a consequence of an ideology establishing violence as a fonder value.

Beyond Oradour's massacre, on June 10th, 1944, the center of memory is involved in works dedicated to acts of violence perpetrated on civilians in the field of contemporary conflicts.

ORADOUR,

History and memory

The striking moments of the center

The project, initiated by Jean Claude Peyronnet, President of the Conseil Général of Haute Vienne, according to the National association of Oradour's Martyrs' families and town council, was introduced to François Mitterrand in 1989. The establishment opened its doors on May 12th, 1999. It was inaugurated on July 16th, 1999, in the presence of Jacques Chirac- President of the French Republic-, Catherine Trautman – Minister in charge of Culture, and Roland Ries – Mayor of Strasbourg.

As an international structure, the center of memory takes part in European meetings for students involved in civic projects. In June 2004, the center organized a seminar based on 'History and memory as vehicles of European construction', gathering students from Poland, Czech Republic, Italy, Greece, France and Germany.

In 2008-2009, the center managed with the OFAJ a meeting dedicated to places of difficult memory implying Germany, Bosnia and France. The center also took part in an international seminar upon the commemoration day of victims of Nazism organized by the Bundestag, welcoming 80 students and the Bundestag's delegation which had trained them on January 24th, 2009.

Numerous politicians or responsables of associations regularly honor the center of memory and the martyred village with their presence: the Ambassador of the State of Israel in June 2006, Bundestag's Vice-president in July 2007, the national President of Secours Populaire in June 2008...

Known as an equipment of international influence, the center of memory took part in a symposium organized by the Ground Zero foundation concerning the elaboration of the coming memorial of September 11th, 2001.

ORADOUR, History and memory



The attendance of the president of the Federal Republic of Germany in Oradour.

A tribute, an act of peace which is considered to be the strongest in 2013.



For the first time, on the 4th of September a German Head of State came to Oradour-sur-Glane to officially commemorate the 642 men, women and children who became the victims of the massacre. The massacre of Oradour is considered to be the worst cruelty committed by the Nazis in France.

The village in ruins as a silent witness of the calamity on the 10th of June 1944 and the Memorial center in Oradour were visited by Joachim Gauck the President of the Federal Republic of Germany in company of the French President Francois Hollande. Both men backed 88 year old Robert Hébras, a survivor of the massacre, in which he lost his family.



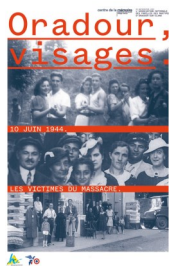
Only accompanied by Raymond Frugier, the mayor of Oradour and Claude Milord, the president of the “national association of families of the martyrs”, the two Head of States walked through the ruins without rituals or a solemn funeral procession but with simplicity and abjection.

They were listening to Monsieur Hébras who guided them through the village and portrayed the tragic events on the 10th of June 1944.

EVENTS, the whole year long

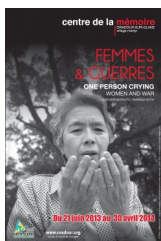
Temporary exhibitions

The whole year long, the center of memory bills and offers events to the audience, indoor on the site of Oradour, or outdoor with: temporary or itinerant exhibitions, lectures, plays...



2014-2017, **Oradour faces**

This temporary exposition was initiated by the centre de la mémoire in a partnership with the national association of the martyr families of Oradour for the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the massacre. By presenting individual portraits of the victims, joined by pictures of their daily life, photographs of families, school classes and groups, the exposition finally gives a faces to every woman, child, and man. These lives as much as their expression of life, which are to often reduces to a numbers, were abruptly stopped by the Nazi Barbary on the 10th June 1944. This very new and anticipated approach, which is focused on the victims, was the occasion to make a big collection, which brought to daylight unknown photographs, and therefore demonstration that after 73 years the destructive effort of the Nazis didn't succeed to eliminate all traces of the inhabitants of the village Oradour-sur-Glane.



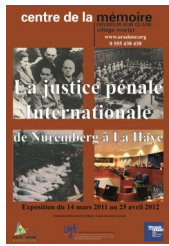
2013-2014, **Women and Wars**

This exhibition deals with the immediate and lasting effects of war on women thanks to more than 90 pictures by Marissa Roth, an American photojournalist. The journey of the photographer begins in Novi Sad in Yugoslavia in 1984, and ends in Oradour in 2013. The pictures cover around ten world conflicts, over a period of work of 28 years which starts with the personal history of Marissa Roth, daughter of Holocaust refugees.



2012-2013, **Trial of Eichmann, Jerusalem 1961**

The exposition, presented in partnership with the Mémorial de la Shoah, marks a new stage in the judgement of Nazi war crimes. Almost entirely filmed, this extensively covered and very controversial trial gave a voice to more than a hundred survivors and concentrated exclusively, and for the first time, only on process of the extermination of jews.



2010-2011 : « *International Criminal Court, from Nuremberg to La Haye* »

An exposition concerning the international jurisdiction, the Nuremberg Military Tribunal, during which the terms of war crimes against humanity were defined and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the first penal jurisdiction taking place in Europe since Nuremberg.



This exposition succeeds the ensemble of photographs of grand war reporters about the assaults committed in the Balkans after the breakup of the ex-Yugoslavia entitled (*Our history, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1992-1995*), and is a part of a work of presentations and reflection about the conduction of conflicts which includes also a series of conferences, a meeting of historians and specialists of law about the question of the place of victims in these jurisdictions.



The year 2009/2010, was marked by the temporary exposition event :

« 11 of September 2001, 2 976 victims »

This exposition, organized in partnership with the New York State Museum and the «Memorial de Caen », retraces the history and the consequences of the attack of 11 of September 2001, the day when four airliners were skyjacked in the air by suicide attackers of the organisation of the terrorist Al Qaida.



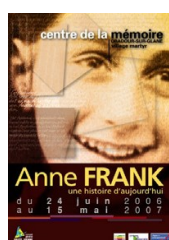
2008-2009, *The Spanish War, Gernika*

This exposition is dedicated to the Spanish War of 1936-1939, the Retirada, the Republicans, Gernika, the International Brigade, and to the GTE (Groupement de Travailleurs Etrangers or Foreign Workers Groups). The exposition ranges from the fascist uprising to the Retirada, to the involvement of the International Brigades in French internement camps for republican refugees, to those exiled and required to do forced labor under the Vichy government.



2007-2008, *Racial hysteria, the Nuremberg laws of 1935*

This exposition is dedicated to the exclusionary laws and the decrees that followed, lasting until 1943. An insane bureaucracy reduced, decree after decree, the rights of jewish, gypsy, and black citizens. Those that were unable to immigrate were ruthlessly, but « legitimately », deported to ghettos or extermination camps.



2006-2007, *Anne Frank, A modern story*

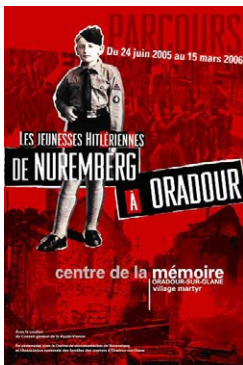
This exposition was created by the Home of Anne Frank in Amsterdam.

Anne Frank, by the posterity of her incredible testimony, has given a face to the millions of anonymous peoples that were assassinated during the Shoah. Her testimony is universally known, published, and read by all transforming her from victim to symbol.

THE CENTER OF MEMORY, outdoors exhibitions

Various exhibitions are put at disposal of museums, universities, cultural centers, municipalities or schools by the center of memory. They can be accompanied with a lecture or an intervention made for the educational staff within the framework of a specific educational project.

The itinerant exhibitions



✓ The Hitlerian 's youth: from Nuremberg to Oradour

Exhibition realized in partnership with the documentation center of Nuremberg on the indoctrination of the youth by the Nazi system and its consequences in the war violence.

Boards, visuals (news), movie (The Bridge, 1953), educational documents.

This exhibition has been passing round for three years over the French territory: from middle schools to libraries, passing by the memorial of Caen or still, the world center of peace in Verdun.



✓ Oradour, remember

Exhibition made of photos -among which some of them were shot by very famous photographers such as Willy Ronis, to understand the evolution of a commemorative site from 1944 to our days.

Perspective of the ruins of the martyred village, the commemorative ceremonies, the new village, the center of memory.

38 framed photographs. Educational exploitation on demand.

THE CENTER OF MEMORY, outdoors activities

Lectures

The centre de la mémoire regularly organises conferences, round table discussions and meetings in relation with the history and the memory of conflicts of the 20th and 21st century. These events are open to public.

Some examples of conferences and speakers :

✓ **19th Mars 2018 : Facing the past**

By Henry Rouso, Director of research at CNRS and at the Institute of present time history

✓ **11th December 2017 : The resistance in Western Europe**

By Olivier Wiewiorka, Historian, Professor at the Grande Ecole of Cachan

✓ **16th October 2017 : The cultural revolution of Nazism**

By Johan Chapoutot, Professor at the University Paris-Sorbonne

✓ **26th June 2017 : The time of commemoration**

By Christophe Bouton, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bordeaux Montaigne

✓ **7th April 2017 : Round table discussion about German commemoration**

By Ulrich Pfeil, Historian and Professor of German civilisation at the University of Lorraine (Metz), his fields of research are German history, the French-German relationship, the process of reconciliation and the Cold War.
Corine Defrance, Director of research at CNRS, teaches at the University of Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne
Andrea Erkenbrecher, Historian, Expert concerning the tribunal of Dortmund

✓ **23th Mai 2016 : How to define a genocide.** Elements of anthropologic reflection

by Richard Rechtman, psychiatrist and anthropologist, study director at Ecole des Hautes Etudes en sciences sociales (EHESS)

✓ **25th April 2016 : Fenosa at Oradour : a monument facing memory**

By Bertrand Tillier, professor for history of contemporary arts at Boulogne university

THE CENTER OF MEMORY, outdoors activities

Lectures

✓ **1st April 2016 : An omitted and exemplary process? German justice after the massacre of Oradour**

By Andrea Erkenbrecher, historian M.A. and expert at the prosecution of Dortmund

✓ **8th February 2016 : 1945. The discovery.**

By Anette Wieviorka, historian for the Holocaust and the history of the Jews in 20th century, retired director of research at the national research center for political sciences (CNRS)

✓ **23th November 2015 : The French paradox, how 75% of the Jews escaped from death in France**

By Jacques Semelin, research director at the national research center for political sciences (CNRS)

✓ **12th October 2015 : Historians and witnesses. A necessary cooperation despite the frequency of misunderstandings**

By Phillipe Joutard, ex-rector and retired professor at Aix-Marseille university

✓ **11th March 2015 : Why judging 70 years after?**

By Marco de Paolis, prosecutor at the court Militaire of Rome
An initiative by the association "Oradour. History, vigilance and reconciliation".
In partnership with the center of memory.

✓ **31st March 2014 : Women in the fighting France during World War II**

By Elodie Jauneau, Doctor of contemporary history at Paris Diderot University.
She led many research on the theme "War and Gender".

✓ **2nd December 2013 : The France of the masculinity, from cropped women to the Liberation**

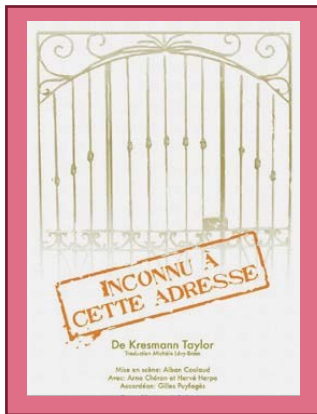
By Fabrice Virgili, Director of Research at the CNRS (IRICE / Paris-1-Panthéon-Sorbonne University).

✓ **8th April 2013 : Eichmann, from tracking to trial**

By Annette Wieviorka, historian, Director of Research at the CNRS and author of numerous books on perception and memory of the Shoah or World War II.

PERFORMANCES

The center of memory develops a political and cultural action in the service of the historical message, relying on performances and public readings.



✓ **28th and 29th April 2008 : Inconnu à cette adresse**

O'Navio company adaptated from Kresman Taylor

with Hervé Herpe, Arno Chéron, Gilles Puyfages

directed by Alban Coulaud

The rise of Nazism through epistolary talkings between two friends, one of them being American Jew, the other being German, between Munich and San Francisco.

✓ **21st November 2005 : La vie à en mourir**

reading of men shot dead (1941-1944)

by Julie Lalande (actress) and Philippe Destrem (musician)

✓ **14th March 2005 : Kinderzimmer**

play written by Gilles Boulan

directed by Marie Pierre Bésanger

performed by students from the theatre class of Edmond Perrier High school in Tulle

✓ **Un siècle d'industrie**

written by Marc Dugowson

directed by Paul Golub

The center of memory was associated to this performance played in Limoges, at Théâtre de l'Union (National dramatic center).

and also...

✓ **Si c'est un homme**

public reading of Primo Levi's writings

accompanied by Quartet pour la fin des temps

musical piece by Olivier Messiaen written in captivity in Silesia

An actor and a quartet, playing on the square of the center of memory.

This first show was co produced by the center of memory, in partnership of the photography festival of Saint Junien: Images en scenes.

✓ **Lire en fête**

On the occasion of this national event, the center of memory opened its doors to theatrical creation, offering some cultural proposals to all.

✓ **21st March 2009 : Une histoire galicienne**

documentary directed by Patrick Séraudie

showing at the Ciné Bourse of Saint Junien followed by a debate in presence of the director.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT, learning and training

Every year, the center of memory welcomes about 50,000 students coming from the whole French territory for day-long visitings, but also from various foreign countries such as Great Britain, Germany, the United States, and the Netherlands within the framework of exchanges of long-term stays.



80 young Europeans (French, German, and Polish) who came to Oradour for a symposium dedicated to the 'second world war victims of Nazism in Europe'.

The center of memory provides training to teachers of high schools and middle schools within the framework of 'academic training plans' enabling them to update their knowledge and adapt themselves to the new requirements and conditions of exercise of their job.

The educational department provides classrooms or conference rooms all equipped in multimedia, linked with the documentation center of the center of memory.

A staff of professionals

The person in charge of the educational department is being helped in her action by guides and three History, Philosophy and German teachers put at her disposal by the Education Offices of the Academy of Limoges, within the framework of the Academic Mission of Education and Culture (MAEC).

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT, activities

Accommodation and reception of classes working on an educational project organized in partnership with the educational department from the potentialities of the site of Oradour sur Glane: martyred village, new village, architecture of the center, the center strictly speaking with its permanent and temporary exhibitions.

Organization of work sessions, intervention of witnesses, works on documents...

Meetings and thematic activities in middle and high schools in partnership with the Academic School Inspectorate and the Education Offices. Supervision of scholar and extracurricular projects within school establishments. Organization of specific debates in the presence of young German and Austrian volunteers present at the center of memory.

Additional pedagogic offers for the temporary and the permanent exhibition: Elaboration of the visits of the expositions, preparing work papers for teachers, translations and multiple activities in the form of workshops.

Setting up of an annual cycle of lectures in connection with the exhibitions and events organized by the center of memory.

Implementation of artistic, theatrical and cinematographic partnerships for shows related to the Second World War, massacres of civilians, remembrance and conflicts of memory.

One-day study sessions intended for teachers of first and second degree and all kinds of students.

✓ **Acknowledgment:**

Teaching aids for teachers
available online

(www.oradour.org) or in
the center on inquiry.

Accommodation of French and foreign students, long-term stays, seminars and reflection based on commitment, ethics and civic actions.

International exchanges of teachers.

Stays of comparative prospect of teaching the Second World War History in Europe.

Preparation in competitive history examination, assistance to supervised personal works, and access to documents for any high school works related to contemporary conflicts.

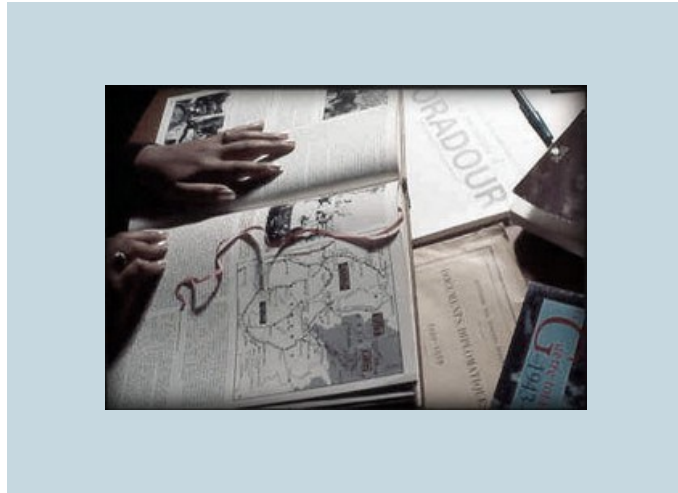
Educational department contact

Tél : 33 (0) 555 430 438

Fax : 33 (0) 555 430 431

DOCUMENTATION CENTER

open to researchers and visitors



The documentation center mainly welcomes researchers and students. Open to visitors by appointment, it comes up to numerous requirements and particularly those of students involved in personal or collective works.

The documentary collection of the center of memory has been constituted by archives, books, pictures, movies and documentary files about the story of Oradour sur Glane or the Second World War, the role of memory nowadays, contemporary wars and massacres.

It gathers documents used to write down the narrative of the tragedy and set up the permanent exhibition.

The documentation center is also consulted to do some research on the occasion of the various exhibitions. Finally, it acts the role of resources center for the educational department

DOCUMENTARY COLLECTION

A large and exceptional

Archives :

-Ancient newspapers but also copies of archives gathered from various centers to elaborate the permanent exhibition such as the minutes of the Bordeaux trial.

-Microfilms of German archives showing the das Reich road.

-Private collections: diary of a survivor, diary of a primary school teacher of Oradour before June 10th, 1944; personal effects from the Second World War such as medals, dolls, weapons...

Iconography :

1500 pictures : Photos and postcards of Oradour before 1944, a 'ruins' collection from 1944 to our days, pictures of the Bordeaux trial, the temporary village and the new Oradour.

Reproductions of photographs about the Second World War gathered from different picture libraries, pictures of the center of memory, its exhibitions and other events are also available.

Files about the story of Oradour (old films of archives, interviews, documentaries, TV programs) as well as general videos on the Second World War, educational videos and CD-Roms.

Books and periodicals :

1500 books from prewar times to nowadays on the Second World War with a predominance of university works.

Second-hand books on the Second World War are also periodically acquired.

Documentary files :

Documentary files on contemporary wars are constituted as well as files concerning the issue of 'remembrance'.

✓ Acknowledgment :

The documentary collection of the center of memory will be available on-line soon but also reached through other inter documentary databases.

Documentation center contact

Sandra Gibouin

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sandra.gibouin@oradour.org

THE CENTER OF MEMORY

In short

President

Fabrice Escure

Vice-president of Departmental council of the Haute-Vienne

Head

Richard Jezierski

R.jezierski@oradour.org

Staff

30 permanent and seasonal employees

About visitors

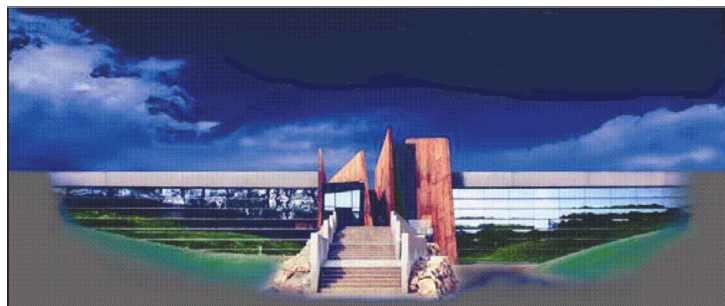
130,000 visitors a year

60,000 students (all degrees)

25% foreigners

700 groups a year

Surface : 3.000 m²



**CENTRE DE LA MEMOIRE
L'AUZE
87520 ORADOUR SUR GLANE**

Tél : 33 (0) 555 430 430

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www.oradour.org

THE CENTER OF MEMORY IN FIGURES

9.37 M € Amount of investment (including taxes) 7.77 M € (exclusive of taxes)

The Participation of financial partners, on exclusive taxes :

Department (employer) : 4.29 M €

State : 1.81 M € (23,5%) thereof the Ministry of culture , 0.91 M €

the Ministry of defense , 0.91 M €

Region Limousine : 1.03 M € (13,3%)

European Union : 0.60 M € (7,8%)

The amount of investment can be divided as follows :

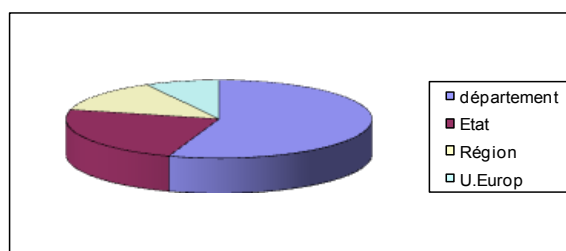
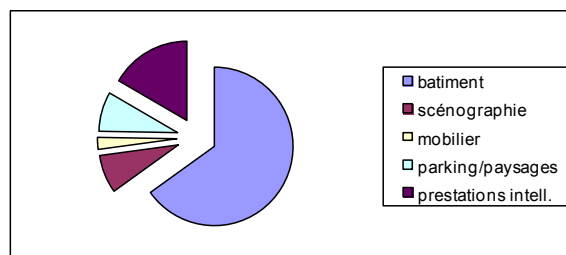
6.10 M € for the building (dont 0.68 M € thereof for stabilization of the slope/ gradient)

0.73 M€ for the scenographic installation

0.22 M € for the furniture

0.76 M € for the parking and for landscape protection/ structural measures concerning landscape

1.55 M € for all individual services



THE CENTER OF MEMORY

In practice

✓ Open 7 days a week

from February 1 st to Feb. 28 th	from 9am to 5pm
from March 1 st to May 15 th	from 9am to 6pm
from May 16 th to September 15 th	from 9am to 7pm
from Sept. 16 st to October 31 th	from 9am to 6pm
from November 1 th to December 15 st	from 9am to 5pm

Last access to the center one hour before closing time.

Winter closing from 16st December to 31th January

✓ Entrance rates

- adults: 7.80 €
- families (2 adults and 2 children or more) : 22 €
- students, children from 10 to 18, spastics (+1 accompanying person), accompanying persons for blinds and mentally handicapped persons, war veterans/ victims/orphans : 5.20 €
- children under 10, Blinds and mentally handicapped persons, jobless people, journalists, members of ICOM and bus drivers: free entrance

✓ Audio-guides

Available in French/English and Dutch versions : 2 €

✓ Guided tours of the center

For groups of 20 people and more
Information and booking at 0033 555 430 439

✓ Access

Visitors can access to the martyred village (free entrance) from the center of memory.

An elevator enables people with reduced mobility to reach easily the various levels of the center and the stricken village.

Free parking lot for 400 cars

Animals prohibited either in the center or in the village.



centre de la **mémoire**
ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE
village martyr

