

# BUCHENWALD MEMORIAL

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## SS FALCONRY

By the orders of SS leader Heinrich Himmler, a falconry was built on the southern side of Ettersberg Mountain in 1938. From 1943 onward, the falconer's lodge was used by the SS to detain special prisoners.



1/3 The SS falconer at a presentation of a golden eagle. 1939. Photo: SS Photography.  
©City Museum Weimar



Situated some 500 metres from the prison camp, a falconry served a representational purpose for the SS. Based on the Reichs Falconry of Hermann Göring in Braunschweig, it encompassed an eagle house, seven large cages, a grand hall for hunting parties with a fireplace built in the old German style, and living quarters for the attending falconers. Animals including deer, wild boar, and pheasants were kept in additional enclosures. The falconry was open to the general public on Sundays, starting in 1940. Members of the SS offered tours on the hour.

Between 1943 and 1945, former members of the French government were interred at the falconer's lodge. Imprisoned here for both extended and brief periods of time were the former minister presidents Léon Blum , Édouard Daladier, and Paul Reynaud, cabinet minister Georges Mandel and the last commander of the French forces, General Maurice Gamelin.

After 1945 the falconry was torn down. Today only remnants of the foundation are visible. The falconer's lodge was rebuilt as a residence in the village of Ulla in the countryside surrounding Weimar.



12 PHOTOS

## PHOTO FOLDER FOR VISITORS

The falconry and animal enclosures are a popular destination for the population. For the more

than 1,000 visitors a year, the SS keeps photos as a reminder.

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9 - 18:20

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