Groups Today | Group Etiquette at Memorials

1. What is an appropriate way to document a visit to a memorial site, such as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, in photos?

We encourage visitors to use their cameras to report on what they see during their visits, to consider the meaning and significance of these observations, and to stimulate conversation among those with whom they share their photographs.  These activities are intended to further the Museum’s mission, promote broader discussion and understanding of the Museum’s resources, and help visitors and their communities reflect on the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust via social medial.

1. What are important things visitors to a memorial should avoid while taking photos?

Respect the dignity of this memorial and the suffering of those whose lives were impacted by the Holocaust.  Be considerate of the experiences of other visitors to the Museum.  The use of tripods or lighting equipment (including camera flashes) is not allowed inside the Museum building. As you make your photographs, do not block the movement of other visitors. Be respectful of other visitors who may not wish to be included in your photographs.

1. What are appropriate ways to engage the memorial or the visit to the memorial on social media?

Visitors will be challenged to reflect on what they have learned and the relevance of the Memorial they are visiting for today. Sharing your memorable moments at a memorial is an excellent way to help others learn about choices we make are critical to creating a just and humane world. What you do matters is our theme here at the Museum and we engage our visitors ***to learn, share and stay connected via social media venues.***

1. What should visitors avoid doing on social media?

Texting and/or placing inappropriate or disrespectful comments over memorial photos via tweets, Instagram’s or any other social media outlet.

1. How should visitors act at the site or the museum?

Always respect the dignity of this memorial and the suffering of those whose lives were impacted by the Holocaust.

1. What are actions visitors should avoid while on-site?

We ask our visitors to silence their phones and avoid playing games and/or texting while walking through the Permanent Exhibit. It is very disrespectful and disturbs other visitors in the exhibit who are trying to learn about the Holocaust. Selfies are also inappropriate in a Memorial. Avoid wearing inappropriate clothing and/or controversial slogans on clothing, especially those that could be considered racist in nature and/or clothing that is disrespectful of the memorial you are visiting. Loud talking, running or inappropriate behavior in a memorial is disrespectful of those who suffered and perished.

1. What makes a visit to a memorial site a unique and important experience?

Memorials deepen a visitor’s understanding of what happened in tragedies such as the Holocaust. It promotes broader discussion and understanding of the Museum’s resources, and help visitors and their communities reflect on the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust via social media.

1. What makes a visit to a memorial site or museum different from a visit to general site or museum?

Memorials always honor the memory of those who perished and inspire action.