

Babi Yar

Babi Yar Massacre

Painting of the Babi Yar Massacre

Location	Kyiv
Date	September 29-30, 1941
Attack type	Genocide , mass murder
Weapons	Machine guns
Deaths	33,771 Jews
Injured	29 survivors
Perpetrators	Einsatzgruppe C , other Schutzstaffel (SS), German police

Babi Yar ([Ukrainian](#): Бабин Яр) is a [ravine](#) in [Kyiv](#), [Ukraine](#).

During [the Holocaust](#), [Nazi soldiers massacred](#) 33,771 [Jewish](#) people at Babi Yar. This may have been the worst two-day [mass murder](#) of Jews in all of [the Holocaust](#).

Background

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[Nazi Germany](#) and other [Axis countries occupied](#) Kyiv on September 19, 1941. By September 26, the [military governor](#) and the [Schutzstaffel](#) (SS) and [Police](#) Leader had decided to kill all of the Jews in Kyiv. They said this would be [revenge](#) for German soldiers being attacked by some Jewish [guerrilla](#) fighters.^[1]

The Nazis tricked the Jews into coming to Babi Yar by telling them they were going to be [sent to another place to live](#). On 28 September 1941, they put up an order in the town. Part of it said:

All [Jews] of the city of Kyiv and [nearby areas] must appear on Monday, September 29, by 8 o'clock in the morning at the corner of Mel'nikova and Dorohozhytska streets (near the Viis'kove cemetery). Bring documents, money and valuables, and also warm clothing, linen, etc. Any [Jews] who do not follow this order and are found elsewhere will be shot.

— Order posted in Kyiv in [Russian](#), on or around 26 September 1941.^[2]

The massacre

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Later, one of the soldiers in charge of the massacre would say:^[3]

Although only [about] 5,000 to 6,000 Jews had been expected [to come] at first, more than 30,000 Jews arrived who, until the very moment of their [execution](#), still believed in their [resettlement](#), thanks to an extremely clever organization.^[4]

On September 29 and 30, special units of the SS called [Einsatzgruppen](#), and some local [Ukrainians](#) who supported the Nazis, took these people to the [ravine](#) at Babi Yar. They made them put all of their things in piles. They made them strip [naked](#). The area was so crowded that by the time people heard [gunshots](#), there was no way to escape. The Nazis took people ten at a time into the ravine, made them lay down, and shot them with [machine guns](#).^[5]

Between September 29 and 30, the Nazis killed 33,771 Jewish people at Babi Yar.^{[6][7][8][9]}

The Nazis buried these people in a [mass grave](#). People who had survived being shot were buried alive, along with the dead. Only 29 people survived and were able to escape.^[10]

The murdered Jews' property was given to Nazi leaders in Kyiv.^[11]

On 1 March [2022](#), Babi Yar is [attack by Russian army](#).^[12]

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- [Yevgeny Yevtushenko](#)
- [Pogrom](#)

Sources

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