

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Krimnicksee is situated directly east of Königs Wusterhausen in the Dahme Lake District, which has numerous lakes. Together with Krüppelsee, from which it crosses over without any clear boundary, it forms a lake-like expansion of the River Dahme. Krimnicksee has a surface area of around 50ha and a maximum depth of 4.6m. The average depth is only 2.6m.

Besides the Dahme, Krimnicksee has no further inflows. The catchment area of the Dahme up until Krimnicksee covers an area of around 1340km². Of this, 58% is forested and 28% is used as arable land. The water exchange period for the lake is very short at just four days.

After leaving Krimnicksee, the Dahme is called the Staabe up until the Notte Canal. Just beyond the lake it passes the oldest lock gate on the Dahme Waterway. According to the legend, the lock gate dates back to a hunting trip by Frederick I at the end of the 17th century. The miller of the Neue Mühle, who had just fed the Frederick the Great Elector, is said to have complained about the changing level of the water in the Dahme and wished for a weir and a lock gate. Apparently because of this, the first lock gate was built in 1696, the walls of which flank the boat hoist which is there today.

Due to its large catchment area, Krimnicksee naturally has a relatively nutrient-rich state with comparatively low transparency levels. However, its current nutrient status goes beyond the natural amount. With water transparency levels which are between 0.3 and 1.5m at the bathing area during the season, heavy oxygen depletion at the lake bed and the regular occurrence of blue-green algae, it shows clear signs of an excess of nutrients. This state has changed little in recent years.

The shore of Krimnicksee is largely residential. Königs Wusterhausen is situated at the northern shore and Senzig at the southern shore. The Tiergarten Nature Protection Area borders onto the western shore. It is a former royal hunting ground. Countless individual and multiple jetties line the shore near the residential areas.

The area around Königs Wusterhausen was already a popular destination for daytrippers from Berlin in around 1900. As part of the Dahme Waterway it is designated as a Federal Waterway and may also be used by motorboats. In the peak month of August around 3700 lockages are carried out at the lock gates. Apart from via the waterways, the area can also be easily reached via the motorway and the local trains.

The "Neue Mühle" bathing area at Krimnicksee, which is tested every four weeks by the local Office for Health as per the Brandenburg Bathing Water Regulations, there were no exceedances of single values of the microbiological parameters e.coli and intestinal enterococci. Often blue-green algae can be observed. People who are sensitive to the algae should refrain from bathing.

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Sources

Arp, W. & B. Koppelmeyer (2009): Monitoring von Phytoplankton und chemischen Parametern zur Indikation des ökologischen Zustandes in ausgewählten Seen Südbrandenburgs im Jahr 2008. – research carried out on behalf of the Ministry for Rural Development, Environment and Consumer Protection.

Wikipedia