

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Miersdorfer See is a lake situated around 3km from the Berlin city boundary between Berlin and Königs Wusterhausen on the Teltow ground moraine plain.

Miersdorfer See is a clay pit, which as with many clay pits in the areas surrounding Berlin, was created in the second half of the 19th century, when up-and-coming Berlin experienced a construction boom and had to be supplied with building materials from the surrounding areas. In around 1900 there was a water inrush into the clay pit and Miersdorfer See was created. As the water inrush was very sudden, wagons and other equipment used for clay mining remain on the lake bed.

Beginning in the late 19th century, many wealthy Berliners moved into the surrounding areas. Villas and weekend houses were built, preferably on lake shores, and the population of the surrounding districts exploded. In Miersdorf the number of inhabitants rose from 168 in 1868 to 2000 in 1925 and then to 4000 in 1939. Miersdorfer See is also surrounded by residential properties. The lake has long been popular as a bathing lake and in 1936 the beach bathing area was inaugurated with a diving platform and shoreline reinforcement. Today, there is also a restaurant, plus an annual fisherman's festival.

The almost round lake has a surface area of just 3.1ha, however with a maximum depth of almost 10m. In the southern area there is a small island populated with trees.

The lake is purely fed by groundwater. Even rainwater from the surrounding residential areas may no longer be fed into the lake. Clay pit lakes, particularly when they are new, are usually clear, nutrient-poor lakes, as they are fed by groundwater and are usually deep enough so that stable temperature layering forms during the summer. Additionally, the clay substrata can bond with nutrients to a certain extent. However, Miersdorfer See had a heavy excess of nutrients in the past. The resulting growth in plankton led to periods during the summer where the water transparency levels were just 0.3m (mean value at the bathing area: 1m).

The fish population consists of eel, bass, zander, pike, carp, tench and various species of white fish. The population is high. Angling is only permitted from the shore.

The swimming area "Freibad Zeuthen" at the Miersdorfer See is monitored by the district health department in accordance with the Brandenburg Bathing Water Ordinance. In recent years, there have been high individual values for the microbiological parameter intestinal enterococci, so that the bathing area was rated "poor" in 2021 and 2022. Comprehensive management measures were initiated at the end of 2022, including the installation of an inlet channel with a connection to the waste water sewer. The bathing area will be monitored every 14 days in 2023. After 16 test results are available, the bathing area will be re-evaluated. Blue-green algae blooms were not observed.

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Sources

www.zeuthen-wetter.de: website of the Zeuthen weather station at Miersdorfer See

www.fisch-hitparade.de