

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Motzener See is a lake situated around 20km south of the Berlin city boundary on the western edge of the Dahme Lake District, a landscape with numerous lakes.

The lake is almost 4km long, has a north-south alignment and a surface area of 202ha. Approximately in the middle of the lake there is an island-like shallow bank. The deepest point is situated south of here (16.6m). The average depth is 8.1m.

The Gallun Canal flows through Motzener See. It flows in at the southern end coming from the "Töpchiner See" Nature Protection Area and leaves Motzener See at the northern tip in the direction of the Notte Canal. The Gallun Canal was built in the middle of the 19th century by expanding the Galluner Fliess (a stream) and it primarily served the transport of bricks from the three brick factories in Motzen and the five brick factories in Kallinchen which supplied the up-and-coming city of Berlin. Today, it is primarily of interest to water tourists. Motorboats may use the canal up until Motzener See, although motorboats are not permitted to use Motzener See itself. The catchment area of Motzener See is 53.5km², of which three quarters is forested and 9% is used for residential areas.

Motzener See is monitored by the Brandenburg State Office for Environment as part of a long-term monitoring programme. The lake, which forms stable temperature laying during the summer, has a good set of conditions for having a nutrient-poor state. However, primarily due to insufficiently treated waste water, it has had a heavy excess of nutrients in the past. In 1994 it was still categorised as very nutrient rich. Its state has continually improved since then. The nutrient concentrations have considerably decreased and the water transparency levels during the summer are now between 1.0 and 2.0m (mean value: 2m). As Motzener See has not yet reached its potential optimum state and because the underwater vegetation still a long way off from regenerating, so far its state can only be categorised as moderate.

Motzener See and its shore are intensively used. During East German times the area around Motzener See was already popular among those seeking recreation. Back then, the locality of Kallinchen had 70,000 visitors per year. With a camping site, beach bathing area and bungalow estate, Kallinchen extends along the western shore until the southern tip of the lake. In addition there is a diving school with a diving base. Motzen is situated on the eastern shore with its golf and country club and lake resort estate. On the western shore of the northern tip there is a camping site which belongs to the oldest nudist club in Germany.

The "Motzen" bathing area, 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. Blooms of blue-green algae have not been observed.

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Sources

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