

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Teupitzer See is a lake situated around 15km south of Königs Wusterhausen in the Dahme Lake District, a landscape which has numerous lakes. It is the first lake in the Teupitz-Köris Lake Chain, in which ten lakes are connected with each other via canals and which extends from Teupitzer See to the River Dahme. Unlike the lakes situated lower down the chain, Teupitzer See does not belong to the “Dahme Heathland Lakes” Nature Park.

Teupitzer See receives inflows from numerous small flowing waters: in the south the Hohe Mühlengrand and the Kleiner Mühlengraben flow into the lake, while the Stadtgraben Teupitz flows into the lake in the east. The outflow leads through numerous smaller lakes into Klein Köriser See. The total catchment area is 49km², more than three quarters of which is forested.

The basin of Teupitzer See is heavily structured and has numerous bays and islands. If one adds the parts of the lake known as Schweriner See and Mehlitzsee, which are barely separated from the main lake, it has a surface area of 472ha. The deepest part (8.2m) is situated in the north east of the lake. Temperature layering only forms temporarily in this body of water.

Large areas of the shore of Teupitzer See and the larger islands of Egsdorfer Horst, Schweriner Horst, and Tornows Wederchen are populated. The northern shore, with its peninsula and island, are occupied by Schwerin. Holiday camps and camping sites extend along the western shore. Egsdorf is situated on the south-west shore. Teupitz, one of the oldest places in the Brandenburg Marches, is situated on the eastern shore. The castle situated on the peninsula was originally a Slavic fortification, “Tupcz” castle.

Teupitzer See naturally has a tendentially nutrient-rich state, because there is no stable temperature layering in the lake during the summer. However, in the past it had an excess of nutrients far beyond this amount. Intensive plankton growth with blue-green algae and oxygen deficiency in deep water were the consequences. Although the waste water treatment facilities have now been renovated, Teupitzer See has only recovered to a small extent. The water transparency levels are still under one metre on average during the summer. Blue-green algae dominate the plankton during the entire season and at times form algae blooms, and the oxygen levels are heavily imbalanced. Its state is therefore still unsatisfactory.

Since the 1920's the Teupitz Lake District has been intensively used by those seeking recreation from nearby Berlin. There are bungalow estates and holiday camps at Teupitzer See, as well as numerous camping sites. As Teupitzer See is part of the Teupitz Lake Chain and as such is designated as a Federal Waterway, it may be used by motorboats. For Berliners it can be easily reached via the Dahme and it is a popular excursion destination among those with motorboats.

The “Teupitz” 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. Sometimes blue-green algae can be observed. People who are sensitive to the algae should refrain from bathing.

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Sources:

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