

No bathing in the Upper Sûre reservoir lake

Bathing in the surroundings of the “Rommwiss” (Baschleiden) in the Upper Sûre reservoir lake is prohibited from August 27th, 2019 onwards.

Why?

Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) are currently floating on the surface of the Upper Sûre reservoir lake in the surroundings of the beach “Rommwiss”. They occur naturally in surface waters. Blue-green algae can multiply quickly due to eutrophy and high water temperatures.

Blue-green algae are toxic and can cause skin irritation. Dog owners in particular should be careful: under certain circumstances, it can be life-threatening for the animals if they drink the water.

In humans, blue-green algae can cause liver damage and diseases of the nervous system, in addition to headaches, nausea and skin irritation. You are advised not to come into direct contact with the water. Therefore you should not swim, dive, fish, do water sports of any kind, eat fish from the affected water and not let pets get into the water or drink from it.

Bathing is prohibited until the values have returned to normal.

Which alternative activities are available?

- A natural-history tour of the Upper Sûre reservoir lake on the solar boat is possible even when blue-green algae are in bloom. There is no danger to the passengers here.
- There is an open-air swimming pool in Wiltz (approx. 10 km from the Upper Sûre reservoir lake) for those who wish to cool down. There are also great open-air swimming pools in Vianden and Troisvierges.
- There are superb hiking trails all around the Upper Sûre reservoir lake that take you through the surrounding wooded slopes. As they are shady, they can also be explored in summer temperatures.
- A visit to the cloth factory in Esch-Sauer with its topical textile-art exhibitions is also a good idea: the temperatures are always cool in the old walls.

Where can I get information about the blue-green algae plague?

The current water quality is displayed on information boards at the bathing resorts. The water quality of all bathing waters in Luxembourg can be viewed at any time on the web site “eau.public.lu”. Further information on the topic can also be found on this website.