



# Krumpendorf am Wörthersee

## Why is the Wörthersee so turquoise?

The striking turquoise colour of Wörthersee results from the water's particle and algae content, as well as the scattering and absorption of light. Fine limestone particles in the water reflect light, giving the lake its turquoise-blue appearance.

## How the Wörthersee got its name

The name "Wörthersee" derives from "Werd" or "Werder," an old German word for "island" or "peninsula." Maria Wörth was originally located on an island that became isolated from the surrounding land during high water levels. Since the water level dropped around 1770, Maria Wörth has become a peninsula, and several smaller islands have merged with the land.

## Origin of the name

The willow tree is Krumpendorf's emblem. The village was first mentioned in a document in 1429 as "Chrumpendorf." The dialect word "krump," meaning "crooked," combined with "Felfen" created "Krumpenfelfen," which translates to "crooked willow." These willow trees used to grow in the area, and over time, the original name "Chrumpenfelfendorf" was shortened to "Krumpendorf" for simplicity.

## The Legend of "The Grey One"

In the courtyard of Krumpendorf Castle, an ancient willow tree — known as a "Felfer" — stood until the 20th century. Legend has it that this crooked willow was home to a guardian spirit, a small man dressed in grey. This spirit once saved the young castle owner from certain death at the hands of French soldiers who were raiding the region. Later owners, however, had the tree cut down, and with it, luck and prosperity left the household. The Grey One has not been seen since.

## Points of Interest

### Krumpendorf Castle (F4)

Krumpendorf Castle, located in the heart of the village, has played an essential role in its development. Ursula Edle von Schluga built the castle between 1735 and 1740. In 1797, the property was sold to the von Lanner family. Thaddäus von Lanner, a highly innovative businessman, made such an impression with his model enterprises that Emperor Franz I even visited them. The emperor's visit led to the establishment of the "Kaiserallee" in Krumpendorf. Today, the castle is privately owned and is a protected monument.

### Hornstein Castle (H2)

Built by Ulrich Hornsteiner in the 15th century, Hornstein Castle changed owners many times. The castle's owner in 1942 fell in World War II, and his widow, Marie-Hermine Freifrau von Sternneck (1904-1981), née Countess Künigl, inherited it. After her death, the estate passed to her youngest daughter, Felicitas Freifrau von Steeb (1933-2016). Hornstein Castle now owned by her eldest son, is inhabited year-round, and is not open to the public. In the first half of the 19th century, the castle's interior was significantly renovated for practical and livability purposes. A baroque double coat of arms with a cherub is still visible on the wall by the courtyard entrance.

### Drasing Castle (G2)

First documented in the 13th century, Drasing Castle changed ownership frequently until the 20th century. It was awarded to Emperor Friedrich III's loyal followers, passed on by inheritance, or sold due to debts. Thaddäus von Lanner bought the castle as a ruin in 1832, restoring it and raising the southeast tower. In 1994, Austrian publisher Christian W. Mucha acquired the property, undertaking extensive renovations. Drasing now serves as a summer residence and exhibition venue for his art collection.

### St. Ulrich Church in Pirk (C2)

Krumpendorf is home to three churches, the oldest being approximately 800-year-old St. Ulrich Church in Pirk. Originally a Romanesque chancel tower church, the large tower testifies to its origins. Modifications and expansions were made during the late Gothic, Baroque, and 19th-century periods. None of the fortifications of this former fortified church remain. Painted ornaments on the interior's cross vaults date to the 16th century, while the high altar with figures of Saints Ulrich, Leonard, and Florian dates back to the early 18th century.

### Beach Promenade and Forest Arena (G5)

The beach promenade invites relaxation and leisurely walks along turquoise waters. A stop for the local ferry, the area offers boat rentals and various dining spots. A special highlight is the nearby idyllic Forest Arena. Nestled in a small forested area, this arena provides a unique setting for concerts, theatre performances, and readings and serves as a quiet retreat in natural surroundings. (For more information visit [waldarena.at](http://waldarena.at))



[krumpendorf.gv.at](http://krumpendorf.gv.at)



## Natural Monuments

### Glacier Pots - Natural Monuments from the Ice Age

Krumpendorf features two well-formed glacier pots located in Pritschitz (G5) and in the forest towards Görtschach (I3). Glacier pots are rock formations carved over millions of years by the melting water of glaciers, which contains sand and gravel that erode the stone under high pressure.

### The "Weiberzahn" Cup Stone (C5)

Commonly known as "Weiberzahn," cup stones or rock needles are notable here. Locally, this particular rock is considered a cup stone, though not definitively identified as such. Several examples exist on the northern shore of Wörthersee. Cup stones were shaped rocks that held various symbolic meanings in prehistoric times. Expert interpretations range from sacrificial stones to ancient scripts and celestial observation axes.

### Walterskirchen Nature Reserve (C6)

Located at Krumpendorf's western end, Walterskirchen is named after its former owner, Robert Wilhelm Freiherr von Walterskirchen. Established as a nature reserve in 1953, it boasts high biodiversity in terms of species and habitats. In 1998/99, a detailed survey of the area was conducted on behalf of the Carinthian state government, documenting many protected plants and endangered species, such as the dice snake. In May 2000, the area was designated a "Natura 2000 Conservation Area" extending across all 27 E.U. member states. The peninsula is privately owned and is not accessible to the public.

For more information, visit  
[krumpendorfchronik.at](http://krumpendorfchronik.at)