

## **FROM A NATURAL BATH TO A THERMAL SPA: THE AQUA DOME RELIES ON BATHING TRADITION – THE SPRING’S CURATIVENESS WAS ALREADY KNOWN IN THE 16<sup>th</sup> CENTURY**

Cure from primary rocks: the health spa tradition in Längenfeld goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Wellness was a foreign word in those days but the healing water of the warm sulphur spring was already renowned. A wooden log cabin used to stand on the spot where now is a futuristic bathing temple with all variations of water. The scent of sulphur swirled through the air where now aromatic oils are used for unique infusions. Where there was a traditional health spa in the 1970s is now one of the most modern thermal spas in Europe: the AQUA DOME - Tirol Therme Längenfeld.

The healing spring was first studied scientifically in 1830. The water enriched with hydrogen sulfide gas was considered as the purest of the so far known springs. Until 1875 there was only a small chapel at the spring as well as a wooden log cabin with a separate building with tubs to bathe and several rooms. Water with a temperature of 12 degrees was further warmed up in a walled in cauldron and was then carried to the tubs in buckets. On November 5<sup>th</sup> 1875 the entire ensemble burnt down.

In the following periods the source changed its owner several times and it was only in 1893 that the health spa was newly founded by pioneers of tourism. The Berlin architect Wilhelm Walter planned the building in the style of middle aged architecture as it was common in Germany in those days and local craftsmen implemented the concept. So over the years a comfortable health spa resort developed that treated its guests with therapeutic baths, cold water treatments according to Kneipp and Prießnitz as well as milk cures and whey cures.

In the course of a drainage project the spring dried up in the 1960s and the health spa was closed and pulled down in 1980. But already in 1986 it was decided to build on the old bathing tradition and to tap into the source again. A difficult endeavour: The first test drillings went down 20 m, then 120 m, then 900 m and it did not bring the desired success. However, with a deep drilling down to 1.845 m the sources for economic use could be developed. Eleven years passed by until finally in 1997 water with a temperature of 68 degrees Celsius was discovered, that spills onto the surface with 37 degrees Celsius until today.

At first the sodium-chloride-sulfate-sulphur water, which was quickly accredited as curative water, flowed to a natural bath at the edge of the village. Both basins with a log cabin as changing room were well accepted by locals and tourists. On some days, up to 300 people were counted. The water had a temperature of delightful 37 up to 39 degrees Celsius – pleasant bathing fun even in the middle of the winter. Even skiers met at the uncommon natural pools to relax the tensed muscles.

Others bottled the curative water at the fountain – its healing effect was well known quickly. The idea of combining the areas of ski and thermal spa, hiking and thermal spa and nature and thermal spa became more and more specific and the project AQUA DOME - Tirol Therme Längenfeld was developed.

As a historic reminder the natural bath still exists in sight of the AQUA DOME. 90 % of the valuable water are now piped in the thermal spa and are mixed into the pools in small doses. A valuable good from the depths of earth, which is filtered through countless rock layers. The pure thermal water can also be used under medical supervision in the medical centre *4 health*.

Tyrols first thermal spa with its breathtaking architecture established in a short time to one of the most modern wellness thermal spas in Europe – surrounded by a great range of mountains. Meanwhile in its 6<sup>th</sup> year the water world of the AQUA DOME in the heart of the Ötztal valley fascinates with exciting indoor and outdoor attractions on overall 50.000 square meters during all 4 seasons. Beside varied swimming and relaxing pools the AQUA DOME also offers the children's paradise *Alpen Arche Noah*, the world of Sauna *Gletscherglühen*, the spa oasis *Morgentau*, the fitness centre *Gipfelsturm*, the medical centre *4health* and the VIP-area *Hochplateau*. As well as the thermal spa complex the connected 4\* superior hotel has been build in Feng Shui style to support vigour and vitality.

#### **For further press information**

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