The source of the Aare is in south-central Switzerland at the Oberaar Glacier in the Bernese Alps, of canton Bern. The Aare is the longest river entirely within Switzerland with a length of 295 km and drainage area of 17,779 km2. After traversing the Aare Gorge the river expands into the glacial Lake Brienz. The Aare is canalized at Interlaken before entering Lake Thun. The river flows northwest surrounding the old city center of Bern on three sides. After flowing west to Lake Wohlen it turns north to Aarberg and is diverted west into Lake Biel by the Hagneck Canal, a major water correction made in the 1800’s. From the upper end of Lake Biel, at Nidau, the river exits through the Nidau-Büren Canal, or Aare Canal, (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1998)

The Limmat and Reuss rivers\*, two major tributaries converge into the Aare at the Limmatspitz between the cities of Brugg and Untersiggenthal in Canton Aargau. (Pro Natura, 2021) The Aare river ends in north -western region of Koblenz, Switzerland where it joins the Rhine river which eventually terminates in the North Sea.

Total population on Aare river basin

# Length 295 km

Area 17,779 km2

\*Linth, Limmat and Reuss river systems evaluated independently of the Aare river for this project

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Image120200713Aare Limmatspitz

Image 2 20201106thunerseeWeissenau-NeuhausSunsetCnt

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