The Aare source is the Aare Glaciers in the Bernese Alps of south-central Switzerland. The Aare is the longest river entirely within Switzerland with a length of 295 km and drainage area of 17,779 km2. Following the Aare Gorge, the river expands into the glacial Lake Brienz. The Aare is canalized at Interlaken before entering Lake Thun and exiting through the city of Thun. (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1998) The river then flows northwest surrounding the old city center of Bern on three sides. Continuing west to Lake Wohlen Reservoir it turns north to Aarberg and is diverted west into Lake Biel by the Hagneck Canal, one of a series of major water corrections made in the 19th and 20th centuries connecting Neuchatel, Biel and Morat lakes through canalization. From the upper end of Lake Biel, at Nidau, the river exits through the Nidau-Büren Canal/Aare Canal. (Standard Encyclopedia of the World's Rivers and Lakes., 1965)

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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Pro Natura. (2021, May 13). *Limmatspitz*. Retrieved from Pro Natura: https://www.pronatura-ag.ch/de/Gebenstorf-limmatspitz

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Image of Aare system, caption: 2020.07.13Aare at Limmatspitz survey site

Image of sunset w/count, caption: 2020.11.06 Sunset on Thunersee, Weissenau-Neuhaus survey site and item count

Other image of interest Limmat\_zürich Site Count, caption:

2020.06.12 Limmat\_zürich\_mortensena\_meiera survey site and item count