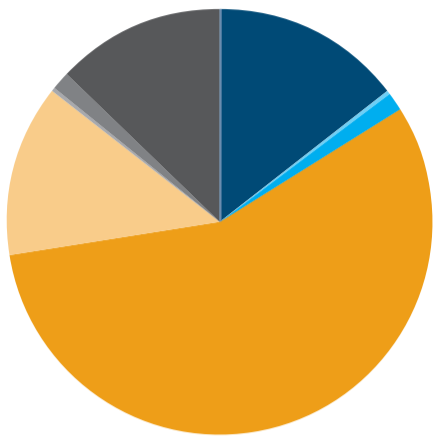


# The Rhine in facts & figures

In the high mountains of the Alps, the Rhine begins its journey of more than 1,000 kilometres. For the first few kilometres, the water plunges down through a narrow bed, dragging large stones with it, to gradually become slower, wider, and calmer toward the North Sea.

The journey of the Rhine traverses nine countries. It drains away the excess rain and melt water while also offering a beautiful sailing route. It therefore comes as no surprise that large cities and important trade centres have sprung up along its banks. But we must be prudent, as the Rhine may rise to dangerous levels. The Rhine needs space.

## The Rhine basin is 185,000 km<sup>2</sup> and stretches across nine countries.

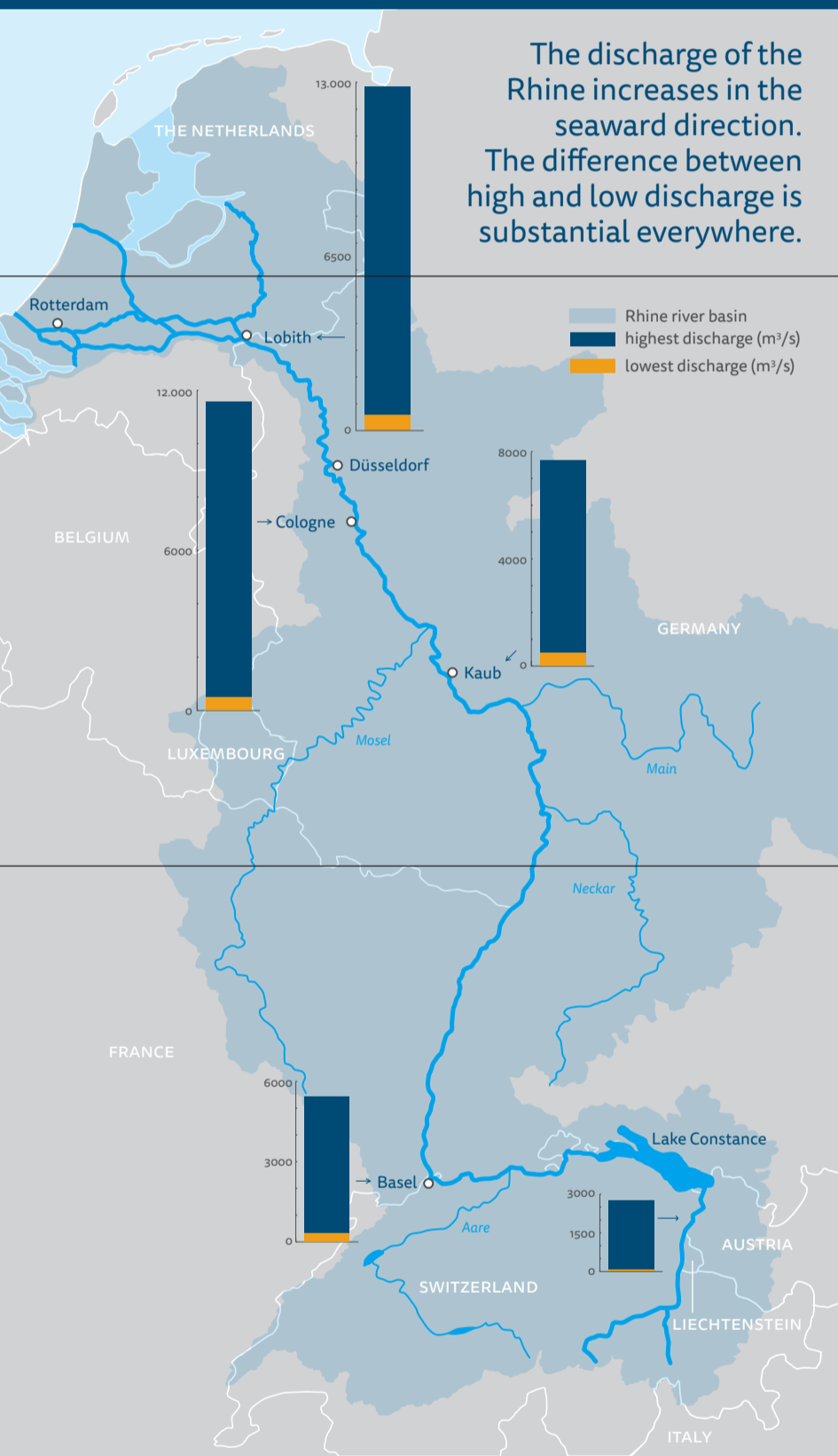


- Italy 51 km<sup>2</sup>
- Switzerland 26,800 km<sup>2</sup>
- Liechtenstein 160 km<sup>2</sup>
- Austria 2,366 km<sup>2</sup>
- Germany 105,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- France 24,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Belgium 800 km<sup>2</sup>
- Luxembourg 2,400 km<sup>2</sup>
- The Netherlands 24,000 km<sup>2</sup>

The Rhine is **1,233 km long.**

12th IN EUROPE

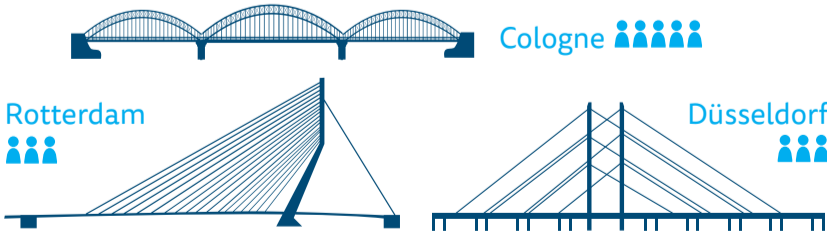
72nd IN THE WORLD



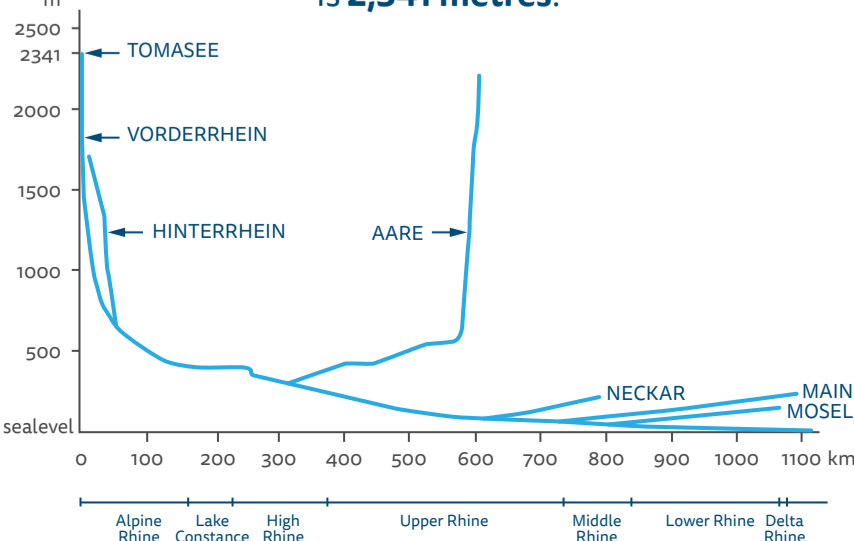
## The Rhine basin is home to 55,000,000 people.



The three largest cities directly on the Rhine:



## The difference in height from source to mouth is 2,341 metres.



# Let it flow

## FACTS & FIGURES

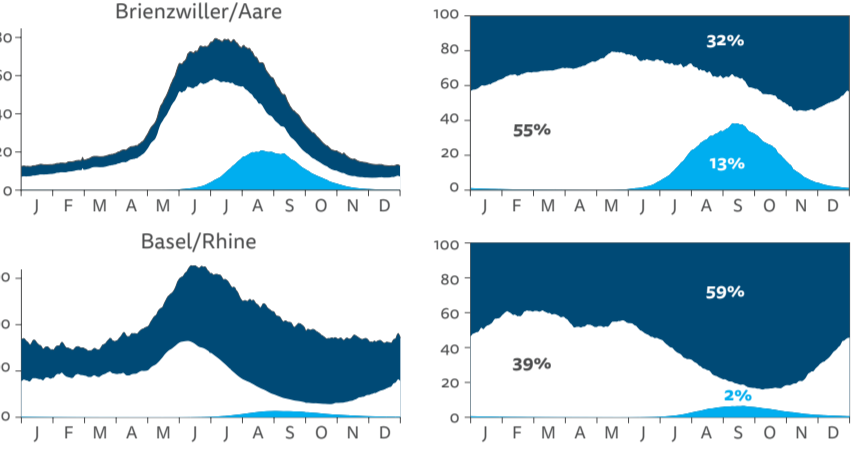
Since 1970, the International Commission for the Hydrology of the Rhine (CHR) carries out research in the Rhine for water management, waterway management, and flood management.



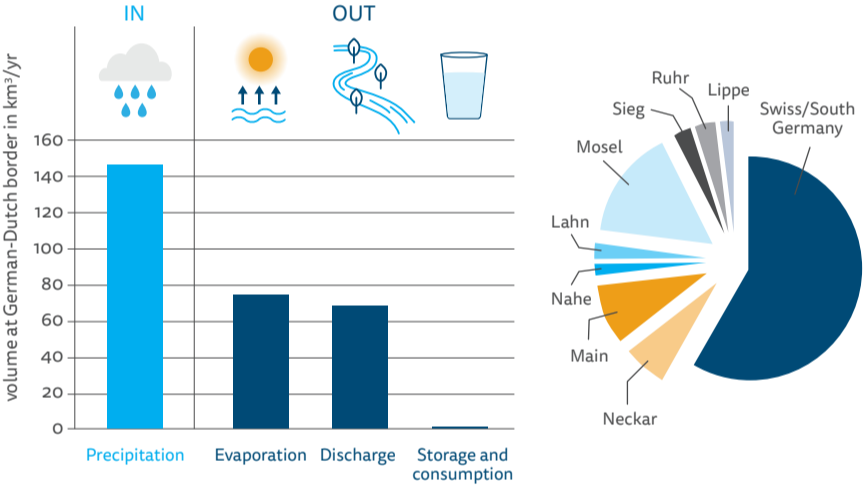
The water of the Rhine consists to a certain extent of **meltwater**, even in late summer. As snow and glaciers disappear as a result to climate change, extreme low flows will occur more often in the Rhine.

Share of discharge in m<sup>3</sup>/s

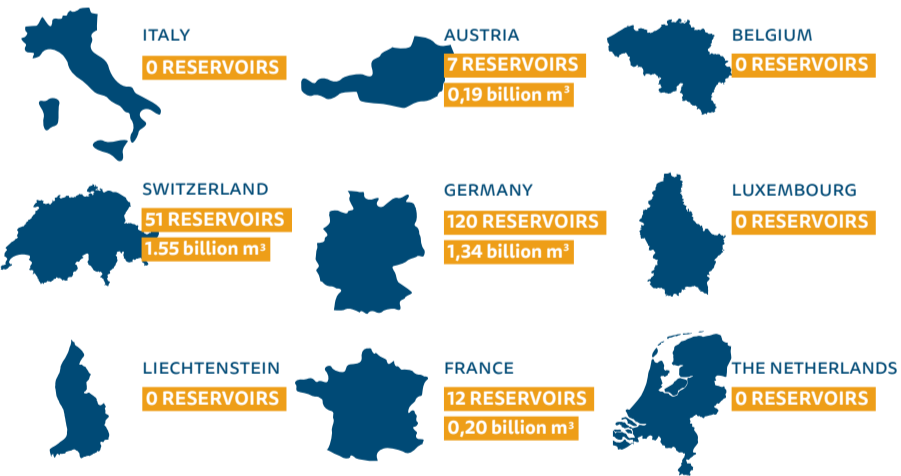
Share of discharge in %



Rain is by far the most important source of water in the **water balance** of the Rhine basin. The tributaries provide almost half of the annual discharge at the German-Dutch border.



The Rhine and its tributaries contain **190 reservoirs** with a **total volume of 3.28 billion m<sup>3</sup>**.



### Sediments? Did you know that ...

- ▶ ... net sediment settles in the upstream part of the Rhine, while the downstream part loses net sediment? In most rivers this is the other way around.
- ▶ ... the sediment transport is greatest in the Alpine Rhine? Almost all that sediment, consisting mainly of clay, settles in Lake Constance.
- ▶ ... at its mouth into the sea, more sand and clay flows into the Rhine (at high tide) than out of it?
- ▶ ... human interventions have a major impact on sediment transport? This includes the dredging and replenishment works of today, but also the canalizations and embankments of long ago.
- ▶ ... the transport of gravel, sand, and clay varies greatly from place to place? But especially a lot of sand moves throughout the Rhine.

Rhine water is used for various purposes. **Agriculture and power plants are the biggest water consumers.**

