

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 82 (2016)
Heft: [2]

Artikel: Vier Quellenweg (four springs walkway)
Autor: Wood, Susie
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944287>

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Vier Quellenweg (Four Springs Walkway)



The Vier-Quellen-Weg is an alpine track of a special kind within the Gotthard Massif: it leads to the sources of four rivers becoming the major water supply for Europe. The full track is not for the faint-hearted with a length of 84.6 kms and an approximate total walking time of 29 hours – but no doubt

any blisters and pains would be amply compensated by the magnificent sights and experiences.

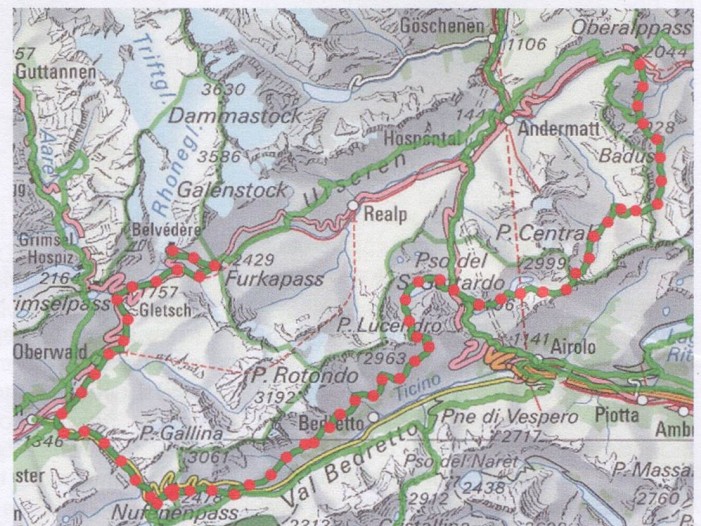
The Gotthard Massif – the location of the Vier-Quellen-Weg – is the source of four major rivers. The Rhine River originates within the Tomasee, the Reuss River within the Lucendro Pass area, the Ticino within the Nufenen Pass area and the Rhone River emerges from the Rhone Glacier. The track starts at the Oberalp Pass and finishes at the Rhone Glacier, with a day dedicated to each of the different springs. The track traverses high alpine landscapes featuring wetlands, dry meadows, unique geological formations and offers sights of plenty of marmots, Chamonix and alpine crows. It crosses no less than six mountain passes.

The track is it is extremely well managed and documented through its own website, guidebooks and maps. It can be completed as a five-day track with accommodation available

in huts on the way. These need to be pre-booked. Each day route is also easily accessible by public transport at both ends – for those who prefer a shorter walk, a decent meal and soft bed at the end of the day. There is even organised luxury version of the track. Overall, the Vier-Quellen-Weg should be accessible for most one way or the other and is bound to be a fantastic experience – being on top of Europe's water castle!

Susie Wood

For more information – go to <http://www.vier-quellen-weg.ch/>



All pictures sourced from <http://www.vier-quellen-weg.ch/>



Reuss spring flows into Lucendro Dam



Tomasee – source of the Rhine



Rhone River arises from the Rhone Glacier



Source of the Ticino River in the Nufenen Pass area