



# Rhone Glacier

[Source: TH](#)

**Climate change** is making some of Switzerland's **glaciers** resemble **Swiss cheese**, full of **collapsing holes** that threaten their stability. In **May 2025**, an **avalanche** from [Birch Glacier](#) submerged parts of the **valley village of Blatten**.

## Rhone Glacier

- **Location:** It is located in the **southern Swiss Alps** near the **Furka Pass** and the **Italian border**, and serves as the **source of the Rhône River**, which flows into the **Mediterranean Sea**.
  - The Rhone river flows through **Switzerland and France**.
- **Features:** It is the **most accessible** and **most extensively studied glacier** in Switzerland, and is currently the **fifth largest** in the country.
  - Its surface is characterized by **crevasses (deep cracks on the surface of glaciers)** and **ice caves**.
- **Glacial Retreat:** It has **rapidly shrunk since the 19th century** and is **expected to vanish by the end of the 21st century**.
  - The **Alps** and **Switzerland**, which host **more glaciers than any other European country**, have been experiencing **glacial retreat for nearly 170 years**.
- **About Alps:** The **Alps**, Europe's **highest and most extensive fold mountain range**, stretch across **eight countries**: France, Switzerland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, and Monaco. The **highest peak** is **Mont Blanc**, located on the **France-Italy border**.

**Read More:** [Changing Landscape of Alps: Europe](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/rhone-glacier>