The Bisses of Valais.

The network of Valais has a number of northwests that are truly special features among the vast variety of hiking routes on offer. These follow the course of the “bisses”, water channels dating back many centuries that are also known by their German "Bisse" name. The vast variety of hiking routes on offer are from fairly short routes to extended full-day tours. In their heyday towards the end of the 19th century, the bisses were one of the largest sources of water in the valley. Steam engines were used to pump water along the bisses. Even today, water is still used to for hydroelectric power. In addition, most of the bisses are not only very scenic and historically important, but also popular for hiking. All the bisses are explained properly, as well as the water used for hydroelectric power. The map is a great tool to see the effect of the bisses and you may find yourself pausing as you follow the public hiking trails. The map can be zoomed in to show the full route of some of the bisses along with the map of Switzerland.