

Europe



Europe is a continent, and is part of a larger landmass called Eurasia. Even though it is joined to it, it is not part of Asia because of a boundary that includes the Ural Mountains in Russia and the Bosphorus river in Turkey. There are over 50 countries in Europe and 23 different official languages are spoken.

Europe - Population



Europe is the second smallest continent in size but the third largest in population. About 10 per cent of the world's population lives in Europe.

Europe is also the continent with the highest population density, which means the largest number of people per square kilometre or mile.

Regions of Europe



The three largest countries are: Russia, Ukraine and France.

Greenland is the largest island in Europe - and in the world.

Location

- Completely in the Northern Hemisphere and mainly in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- Arctic Ocean is to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Mediterranean Sea is to the south.

Languages of Europe



Human Features

- The Vatican City is the smallest country in Europe and in the world. It is called a city-state, and is an enclave within Italy. It is the smallest country both in terms of size and population.
- Hum in Croatia is the smallest town both in Europe and the world. The town has only 21 inhabitants.
- The most populated city in Europe is Istanbul, the biggest city in Turkey. Istanbul has a population of about 15 million people.

Key Vocabulary

landmass: a large continuous area of land, as opposed to seas or islands

Key Vocabulary

population: all the people that live in a country or area

city-state: a country that is made up entirely of one city

enclave: a country entirely surrounded by another country

inhabitants: people who live in a place

Europe - Rivers



There are five primary rivers in Europe: the Volga, the Danube, the Rhine, the Elbe and the Loire. The Volga and the Danube are the longest rivers in Europe.

Europe - Mountains



Europe has many mountain ranges. Mount Elbrus in Russia (5,642 metres/ 18,510 feet) is the highest mountain in Europe. The mountain is part of the Caucasus mountain range.

The highest peak in the European Alps is Mont Blanc. It is 4,810 metres (15,781 feet) high and sits on the border of Italy and France. The first winter Olympics was held near Mont Blanc in 1924.

Physical Features

The Black Sea, into which the Danube flows, and the Caspian Sea, into which the Volga flows, are both landlocked seas, meaning that they are surrounded by land.

The Volga is the longest river in Europe, stretching 2,294 miles (3,691 km) across Russia. Half of Russia's river cargo is transported along the river.

The Rhine flows 766 miles (1,233 km) from its source in the Swiss Alps.

The Elbe has its source in the Czech Republic and flows through towns such as Prague. It is 724 miles (1,165 km) in length.

The Danube, at 1,780 miles (2,865 km) long, is the second longest river in Europe. The river stretches through ten countries: Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Austria, Slovakia, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria. It is the most important commercial waterway in Europe.

The Loire is 629 miles (1,012 km) long. The Loire Valley is famous for its wines and historic towns.

Physical Features

The top of a mountain is called the summit. To say how high and how tall a mountain is are two different things - measure from sea level to summit to find out how high a mountain is, and measure base to summit to find out how tall it is. Some very tall mountains aren't very high because a lot of the base is under the ocean.

Some of Europe's major mountain ranges are:

- **Urals** - form the boundary between Europe and Asia and run approximately from north to south through Russia, from the coast of the Arctic Ocean to the Ural River
- **Caucasus Mountains** - separate Europe and Asia between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea
- **Carpathian Mountains** - a semi-circular mountain range in eastern Europe
- **Alps** - in central western Europe (Switzerland, Italy and France)
- **Apennines** - run for about 870 miles (1,400 km) through Italy (often referred to as the backbone of Italy due to its shape)
- **Pyrenees** - the border between France and Spain that extends for about 270 miles (435 km)
- **Cantabrian Mountains** - run across northern Spain
- **Scandinavian Mountains** - run through Scandinavia
- **Dinaric Alps** - a mountain range in the Balkans
- **Balkan Mountains** - a mountain range in the central Balkans
- **Scottish Highlands** - in the United Kingdom.

Key Vocabulary

primary: important **numerous:** many **traversing:** crossing
source: where something comes from **remote:** far away from towns and cities
delta: where a river splits and spreads out into several branches before entering the sea or a lake **commercial:** the buying and selling of goods

Key Vocabulary

mountain ranges: a series of mountains joined together
peak: the pointed top of a mountain
boundary: a line that separates two countries
extends: reaches, stretches **summit:** the top of a mountain