

## ABOUT ASIA AND EUROPE

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**Abstract:** The aim of this article is improving basic knowledge about geographical position and feature of 2 continents of the world. It is believed that having at least small amount of information about every field helps per capita to be intelligent and it might push some beginners to be specialist in that field.

**Key words:** continents, Europe, Asia, fauna and flora, population, languages, plateau, mountains, lakes, deserts,

Asia

Population Density:

246 people per square kilometer

Highest Elevation: Mount Everest (called Chomolungma in Tibetan),

Nepal: 8,848 meters/29,029 feet Most Renewable Electricity Produced

Bhutan (99.9%, hydropower) Largest Urban Area:

Tokyo-Yokohama, Japan (38.2 million people)

Largest Watershed:

Ob River (3 million square kilometers/1.15 million square miles)

Size: 44,579,000 sq. Km

No. of countries: 48

The total landmass on earth is formed of seven continents of various sizes. Some are connected to each other while others are not. All of them have a different number of countries forming them. The names of the seven continents of the world are: Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, North America, South America, and Antarctica. All the continents of the world start and end with the same alphabet if you consider North and South Americas as one continent.

Earth is around 71 per cent water per cent water and 29 per cent land. In fact, billions of years ago, the seven continents of the world were joined together as a single massive landmass called Pangaea. But thanks to plate tectonics, they gradually broke apart and separated. Europe and North America are still moving apart at the rate of 7 cm every year, research says.

Asia is the largest of the world's continents. It can be divided into five major physical regions: mountain systems; plateaus; plains, steppes, and deserts; freshwater environments; and saltwater environments. Asia makes up the eastern portion of the Eurasian supercontinent; Europe occupies the western portion. The border between the

two continents is debated. However, most geographers define Asia's western border as an indirect line that follows the Ural Mountains, the Caucasus Mountains, and the Caspian and Black Seas. Asia is bordered by the Arctic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. Mountain systems of Asia : the Himalaya mountains, the Tien-Shan mountain systems, the Ural mountains. The Himalaya mountains extend for about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles), separating the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia. The Himalayas cover more than 612,000 square kilometers (236,000 square miles), passing through the northern states of India and making up most of the terrain of Nepal and Bhutan. The Tien Shan mountain system stretches for about 2,400 kilometers (1,500 miles), straddling the border between Kyrgyzstan and China. The name Tien Shan means "Celestial Mountains" in Chinese. The Ural Mountains run for approximately 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) in an indirect north-south line from Russia to Kazakhstan. Asia is home to many plateaus, areas of relatively level high ground. The Iranian plateau covers more than 3.6 million square kilometers (1.4 million square miles), encompassing most of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The plateau is not uniformly flat, but contains some high mountains and low river basins. The highest mountain peak is Damavand, at 5,610 meters (18,410 feet). The plateau also has two large deserts, the Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut.

Botanists nickname China the "Mother of Gardens." It has more flowering plant species than North and South America combined. Because China has such diverse landscapes, from the arid Gobi Desert to the tropical rain forests of Yunnan Province, many flowers can adapt to climates all over the world. From roses to peonies, many familiar flowers most likely originated in northern China. China is the likely origin of such fruit trees as peaches and oranges. China is also home to the dawn red. Asia's diverse physical and cultural landscape has dictated the way animals have been domesticated. In the Himalayas, communities use yaks as beasts of burden. Yaks are large animals related to cattle, but with a thick fiber coat and the ability to survive in the oxygen-poor high altitude of the mountains. Yaks are not only used for transportation and for pulling plows, but their coats are sources of warm, hardy fiber. Yak milk is used for butter and cheese.

In the Mongolian steppe, the two-humped Bactrian camel is the traditional beast of burden. Bactrian camels are critically endangered in the wild. The camel's humps store nutrient-rich fat, which the animal can use in times of drought, heat, or frost. Its size and ability to adapt to hardship make it an ideal pack animal. Bactrians can actually outrun horses over long distances. These camels were the traditional animals used in caravans on the Silk Road, the legendary trade route linking eastern Asia with India and the Middle East. wood, the only redwood tree found outside North America.

Asia is home to around 2,300 languages. The most widely spoken Asian languages are Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Bengali and Japanese. Hindi is also the oldest language in the world.

Asia has a very varied climate. Some parts of Asia are very cold like Siberia in Russia, whereas countries like Thailand and the Maldives are known for tropical weather. This means there is varied animals and wildlife across Asia from jungles with monkeys to polar bears in colder regions.

Asia is the birthplace of all major religions. Asia is the birthplace of all the world's major religions—Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. Buddhism for example began in India and is now a key religion in China, South Korea, Japan, the Southeast Asian countries, and Sri Lanka.

## EUROPE

Size: 10,180,000 sq km

No. of countries: 50

Population: 738,849,000

Europe is the second-smallest continent. The name Europe, or Europa, is believed to be of Greek origin, as it is the name of a princess in Greek mythology. The name Europe may also come from combining the Greek roots eur- (wide) and -op (seeing) to form the phrase “wide-gazing.”

Europe is often described as a “peninsula of peninsulas.” A peninsula is a piece of land surrounded by water on three sides. Europe is a peninsula of the Eurasian supercontinent and is bordered by the Arctic Ocean to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean, Black, and Caspian seas to the south.

Europe's main peninsulas are the Iberian, Italian, and Balkan, located in southern Europe, and the Scandinavian and Jutland, located in northern Europe. The link between these peninsulas has made Europe a dominant economic, social, and cultural force throughout recorded history.

Europe's physical geography, environment and resources, and human geography can be considered separately.

Today, Europe is home to the citizens of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland), and Vatican City.

Europe can be divided into four major physical regions, running from north to south: Western Uplands, North European Plain, Central Uplands, and Alpine Mountains. The Western Uplands, also known as the Northern Highlands, curve up the

western edge of Europe and define the physical landscape of Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, and Denmark), Finland, Iceland, Scotland, Ireland, the Brittany region of France, Spain, and Portugal. The North European Plain extends from the southern United Kingdom east to Russia. It includes parts of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Poland, the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), and Belarus. The Central Uplands extend east-west across Central Europe and include western France and Belgium, southern Germany, the Czechia, and parts of northern Switzerland and Austria.

Much like its physical regions, Europe's plant and animal communities follow a general north-south orientation. The tundra, found in Iceland and the northern reaches of Scandinavia and Russia, is a treeless region where small mosses, lichens, and ferns grow. Huge herds of reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) feed on these tiny plants.

The taiga, which stretches across northern Europe just south of the tundra, is composed of coniferous forests, with trees such as pine, spruce, and fir. Moose (*Alces alces*), bear, and elk (*Cervus canadensis*) are native to the European taiga.

Just south of the taiga is a mixture of coniferous and deciduous trees, including beech, ash, poplar, and willow. Although this area remains heavily forested, the continent's forests were drastically reduced as a result of intense urbanization throughout human history. Intense trade introduced many species, which often overtook native plants. The forests and grasslands of Western and Central Europe have been almost completely domesticated, with crops and livestock dominant.

Finally, small, drought-resistant plants border the Mediterranean Sea, Europe's southern edge. Trees also grow in that southernmost region, including the Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), cypress, and cork oak (*Quercus suber*). The only primate native to Europe, the Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*), inhabits this Mediterranean basin. A small troop of Barbary macaques lives on the tiny island of Gibraltar, between Spain and the African country of Morocco.

Today, around 15 percent of Europe's animal species are threatened or endangered, mainly by habitat loss, pollution, overexploitation, and competition from invasive species. The European bison (*Bison bonasus*), the heaviest land animal on the continent, is one of the most threatened species.

There are more than 200 languages spoken in Europe. 200 different languages are spoken across Europe. Of all of these only 24 are recognised as the official languages of the European Union. These include English, French and German. The most common language spoken in Europe is English, and 38% of the European population can speak it.

Christianity is the biggest religion in Europe. The biggest religions in Europe are Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

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