

Geography of Asia

Number of Countries - 49, 8 transcontinental,

The boundaries within Asia have been a point of contention for hundreds of years. The Europe-Asia boundary, in particular, has historically been revised on numerous occasions. The modern definition of the Asia-Europe boundary includes some trans-continental countries, such as Russia and Turkey. Cyprus is the only country categorized as being within Asia's boundaries, but is an official member of the European Union. The Africa-Asia boundary is delineated along the Red Sea and includes the Suez Canal and the Sinai Peninsula, which is part of Egyptian territory. The Bering Sea and the Bering Strait in Eastern Russia are used as the border separating Asia from North America. The Malay Archipelago is sometimes considered as the border separating Asia from Oceania.

Central Asia

Central Asia is west of China, south of Russia, and north of Afghanistan. The western border of this region runs along the Caspian Sea. Central Asia is politically divided into five countries: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Given that the name of each of these countries ends in "-stan," Central Asia is sometimes informally referred to as "The Stans." (5 countries)

East Asia

East Asia is located east of Central Asia, with its eastern border running along the East China Sea. East Asia is politically divided into six countries and regions: China, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. This region covers a total area of 4,571,092 square miles and has a population size of more than 1.641 billion, which represents 22% of the global population and 38% of Asia's total population. (6 countries and 2 independent cities)

South Asia

South Asia has a peninsula-like shape that is bordered by three bodies of water: the Indian Ocean to the south, the Bay of Bengal to the east, and the Arabian Sea to the west. The region includes Indian subcontinent and surrounding countries. South Asia is politically divided into eight autonomous countries: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, and the Maldives. The region covers a total area of roughly two million square miles and has a population size of more than 1.74 billion, which is nearly a quarter of the global population. Additionally, South Asia has the distinction of being the most densely populated area in the world. (8 countries)

Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia is located north of Australia, south of East Asia, west of the Pacific Ocean, and east of the Bay of Bengal. It encompasses several island and archipelago nations that stretch between the northern and southern hemispheres, making it the only Asian region located on both sides of the equator. Southeast Asia is politically divided into 11 countries and territories: Brunei,

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam. (11 countries)

West Asia

West Asia is located in the area between Central Asia and Africa, south of Eastern Europe. The majority of the region is often referred to as the Middle East, although it geographically excludes the mainland of Egypt (which is culturally considered a Middle Eastern country). West Asia is politically divided into 19 states: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Yemen. It also includes the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt. (18 countries)

North Asia

Russia (1 country)

Transcontinental Countries

Transcontinental countries are, partially located in both Europe and Asia, and consist of Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey. Armenia and Cyprus politically are considered European countries, though geographically they are located in the West Asia territory. It also includes the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt. (8 countries)

Special areas of internal sovereignty

The two entities are integral areas of their controlling state, but have a political status that was decided through an international agreement. Hong Kong and Macau. (2 territories)

States with limited, but substantial, international recognition

Palestine is a state with substantial and widespread international recognition and UN observer-state status but without practical control over tangible territory, while Taiwan is a de facto state with full practical sovereignty over its territory and unofficial ties with most of the international community but not widely recognized *de jure*. Although a founding member of the United Nations as the Republic of China, since 1971, Taiwan is no longer recognized by the United Nations. Palestine and Taiwan. (2 countries)

Area - 17,212,000 sq miles

Largest by area

1. Russia, 2. China, 3. India, 4. Kazakhstan, 5. Saudi Arabia, 6. Iran, 7. Mongolia, 8. Indonesia, 9. Pakistan, 10. Turkey

Smallest by area

1. Maldives, 2. Bahrain, 3. Singapore, 4. Brunei, 5. Palestine, 6. Lebanon, 7. Qatar, 8. Timor-Leste, 9. Kuwait, 10. Armenia

Population

The current population of **Asia** is **4,608,407,920** as of Wednesday, September 4, 2019, based on the latest United Nations estimates.

Asia population is equivalent to **59.76%** of the total world population.

The population density in Asia is 148 per Km² (384 people per mi²).

50.3 % of the population is **urban** (2,314,051,549 people in 2019)

The **median age** in Asia is **30.6 years**.

Largest by population

1. China, 2. India, 3. Indonesia, 4. Pakistan, 5. Bangladesh, 6. Russia, 7. Japan, 8. Philippines, 9. Vietnam, 10. Vietnam

Smallest by population

1. Maldives, 2. Brunei, 3. Macau, 4. Bhutan, 5. Bahrain, 6. Timor-Leste, 7. Qatar, 8. Armenia, 9. Mongolia, 10. Georgia

Major Cities

1. Shanghai, China - 24.2 million, 2. Karachi, Pakistan - 23.5 million, 3. Beijing, China - 21.5 million, 4. Dhaka, Bangladesh - 16.9 million, 5. Delhi, India - 16.7 million

Major bodies of Water

Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Sea of Japan, East China Sea, South China Sea, Philippines Sea, Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, Lake Baikal

Major River

Ganges–Hooghly–Padma

The Ganges is the Primary River which merges in Ganges Delta at the Bay of Bengal, the Hooghly and Padma are the small rivers which join to the Ganges. Originates in Gangotri Glacier and many cities have been located on its banks.

Length: 2,620 km, Outflow: Bay of Bengal, Countries: India, Bangladesh, Nepal, China

Indus

Indus river flow about 93% in Pakistan, originates in Tibet and Northern India, it flows through cities including Karachi, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Gilgit, Jamshoro, Thatta, Attock, Mithankot.

Length: 3,180 km, Outflow: Arabian Sea, Countries: Pakistan (93%), India, China

Shatt al-Arab – Euphrates

Euphrates River merges to Shatt al-Arab River and it is the important river for Iraq, Turkey and Syria, and the both river discharge only 853 cubic meters of water every second with 884,000 km² of drainage area.

Length: 3,596 km, Outflow: Persian Gulf, Countries: Iraq (60.5%), Turkey (24.8%), Syria (14.7%)

Mekong

7th longest in Asia and 12th longest river in the world, it drains an area about 810,000 km² and discharges of 16,000.

Length: 4,350 km, Outflow: South China Sea, Countries: China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam

Yellow River

Yellow river is flowing completely in China and third longest in Asia, take birth at 4,800 meters in Bayan Har Mountains.

Length: 5,464 km, Outflow: Bohai Sea, Countries: China

Yenisei–Angara–Selenge

Yenisei, Angara, and Selenge are the rivers flowing in the same way with combined length of over 5,000 km, and drainage area of 2,580,000 km².

Length: 5,539 km, Outflow: Kara Sea, Countries: Russia (97%), Mongolia (2.9%)

Yangtze

Also known as Chang Jiang or Yangzi is the longest river in Asia and third in the world, it discharges around 31,900 cubic meters of water per second, one of the biggest rivers by discharge volume.

Length: 6,300 km, Outflow: East China Sea, Countries: China

Major Mountain Ranges

Himalaya - Nepal, Bhutan, China, India, Pakistan - tallest mountain range

Ural - Russia

Caucasus Mountains - Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey

Kunlun Mountains - China

Tian Shan - China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

Karakoram - Pakistan, China, India

Hindu Kush - Afghanistan, Pakistan

Notable Mountains

Mt. Everest, Nepal/China - 29,029 ft. tallest in world

K2, Pakistan/China - 28,251 ft.

Kangchenjunga, India/Nepal - 28,169 ft.

Lhotse, Nepal/China - 27,940 ft.

Makalu, Nepal/China - 27,838 ft.

Mt. Fuji, Japan - 12,389 ft.

Major Islands

The Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, The Maldives, Singapore, East Timor, Taiwan, Borneo

Desert Regions

Arabian, Gobi, Kara Kum, Kyzyl Kum, Takla Makan, Thar