

## **Geography of Europe**

**Number of Countries** - 50, 7 transcontinental and 1 disputed

Europe is a unique continent, which is not surrounded by water from all directions and has an overland border with neighboring Asia. Physiographically, it occupies the northwestern part of the large landmass known as Eurasia and surrounded from the north by the Arctic Ocean, from the west by the Atlantic Ocean, from the south by the Mediterranean Sea, and from the southeast by the Black Sea.

### **Southern Europe**

Southern Europe is the region covering the southern half of the landmass of Europe. It includes the European countries of the Iberian Peninsula, the Italian peninsula, Greece, and Malta. Southern Europe's definition may be extended to include Balkan countries that are traditionally placed in Eastern Europe. The countries of Southern Europe are Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, the Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, and Vatican City (15 countries).

### **Northern Europe**

Northern Europe covers the northern portion of Europe. The region is defined geographically as consisting of all of Europe above 52nd parallel north with notable geographical features including North European Plain, Baltic Plain, and British Isle. The region consists of Scandinavian and Jutland Peninsula. The Northern European countries are Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (10 countries).

### **Western Europe**

Western Europe comprises of countries covering the western portion of the continent. The region was defined as countries with dominant Catholics and Protestants for decades. Western Europe is made up of Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, and Switzerland (9 countries).

### **Eastern Europe**

Although Eastern Europe covers the eastern portion of Europe, there is no consensus on the exact area it covers since the term has a wide range of socioeconomic and geopolitical connotations. However, the geographical boundaries of Eastern Europe are well defined except for its boundaries with Western Europe. According to the UN Geoscheme for Europe, Eastern European countries are Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, and Ukraine (10 countries).

### **Transcontinental Countries**

Transcontinental countries are, partially located in both Europe and Asia, and consist of Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey (5 countries). Armenia and Cyprus politically are considered European countries, though geographically they are located in the West Asia territory. (6 countries minus Russia)

### **Disputed**

Kosovo is a partially recognized state and disputed territory in Southeastern Europe. It is recognized by 100 member states of the United Nation. Claimed by Serbia as the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija

**Area** - 3,930,000 sq miles

### **Largest by area**

1. Russia, 2. Kazakhstan, 3. Turkey, 4. Ukraine, 5. France, 6. Spain, 7. Sweden, 8. Norway, 9. Germany, 10. Finland

### **Smallest by area**

1. Vatican City, 2. Monaco, 3. San Marino, 4. Liechtenstein, 5. Malta, 6. Andorra, 7. Luxembourg, 8. Cyprus, 9. Montenegro, 10. Slovenia

### **Population**

The current population of **Europe** is **747,262,205** as of Tuesday, September 3, 2019, based on the latest United Nations estimates.

Europe population is equivalent to **9.78%** of the total world population

The population density in Europe is 34 per Km<sup>2</sup> (87 people per mi<sup>2</sup>).

**74.3 %** of the population is **urban** (554,832,332 people in 2019)

The **median age** in Europe is **41.7 years**

### **Largest by population**

1. Russia, 2. Germany, 3. Turkey, 4. France, 5. United Kingdom, 6. Italy, 7. Spain, 8. Ukraine, 9. Poland, 10. Romania

### **Smallest by population**

1. Vatican City, 2. San Marino, 3. Liechtenstein, 4. Monaco, 5. Andorra, 6. Iceland, 7. Malta, 8. Luxembourg, 9. Montenegro, 10. Cyprus

### **Major cities**

1. Istanbul, Turkey - 14.7 million, 2. Moscow, Russia - 12.4 million, 3. Paris, France - 10.9 million, 4. London, England - 9 million, 5. Madrid, Spain - 6.5 million

### **Major bodies of Water**

North Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, North Sea, Baltic Sea, English Channel, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea

### **Major River**

**DANUBE:** Beginning in the Black Forest region of Germany, it flows across central Europe and the countries of Austria, Hungary, Croatia and the Baltic States. It then forms the border between Romania and Bulgaria, turning north across Romania to eventually end in the Black Sea. It is (1,771 miles) (2,850 km) in length, and one of the most significant commercial waterways on the continent.

**DNIEPER:** Rising in the southwestern part of the Russian Federation, it flows generally south through Belarus, then southeast through Ukraine, ending in the Black Sea. Overall it's (1,420 miles) (2,285 km) in length.

**DON:** Beginning in the southwestern Russian Federation, to the south of Moscow, it flows southeasterly towards the Volga, then turns abruptly west, ending in the Sea of Azov. Overall it's (1,224 miles) (1,969 km) in length

**RHINE:** Forming in the mountains of southeastern Switzerland, this legendary river flows west, forming Switzerland's northeastern border with Germany, then runs directly north through western Germany forming part of that country's border with France, then finally dissecting the Netherlands and ending in the North Sea. Numerous tributaries and branches run in all directions, and in overall length is (820 miles) (1,319 km).

**VOLGA:** The Volga is the largest river in European Russia in terms of length, discharge, and watershed. It flows through central Russia, and is widely viewed as the national river of Russia. It's 3,692 km (2,294 mi) long

### **Major Mountain Ranges**

Alps - France Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Slovenia

Pyrenees - Spain and France

Caucasus Mountains - Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Scandinavian Mountains - Norway, Sweden, Finland

Apennines - Italy

Ural Mountains - Russia, Kazakhstan

### **Notable Mountains**

Mt. Elbus, Russia - 18,510ft - tallest in Europe

Mt. Blanc, France/Italy - 15,781ft - tallest in Western Europe

Matterhorn, Switzerland/Italy - 14,692ft

Dykh-Tau, Russia - 17,077 ft

### **Major Islands**

Iceland, Faroe Islands, Great Britain, Ireland, Sardinia, Sicily, Malta, Cyprus, Crete, Aegean Islands