

Geography of North America

Number of Countries - 23, 22 dependent territories

Occupying the northern part of the large supercontinent known as Americas or New World, North America is surrounded by the Arctic Ocean from the north and by the Atlantic Ocean from the east, by the Pacific Ocean from the west and south. It has an overland border with South America continent, which runs along the state boundary between Panama and Colombia.

In total, in North America, there are 23 officially recognized independent states. The largest of them is Canada, followed by the United States. These two giants together occupy more than 79% of the whole continent area. The smallest country in this part of the world is Saint Kitts and Nevis, it is only two small islands in the Caribbean.

Northern America

Covering most of North America, this region only has 3 countries, Canada, USA, Mexico (3 countries).

Central America

Central America is the southernmost part of the North American continent. Central America is bordered by Mexico to the north and Colombia to the southeast. The region is also bordered to the east by the Caribbean Sea and the west by the Pacific Ocean. Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama (7 countries).

Caribbean Region

Countries that are located in or near the Caribbean Sea. Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago (13 countries).

Non-sovereign dependent Territories

Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands (UK) 6

Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten (Netherlands) 6

Clipperton Islands, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Barthelemy, St. Martin, St. Pierre, and Miquelon (France) 6

Greenland (Denmark) 1

Navassa Island, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands (USA) 3

Area - 9,540,000 sq miles

Largest by area

1. Canada, 2. USA, 3. Greenland, 4. Mexico, 5. Nicaragua, 6. Honduras, 7. Cuba, 8. Guatemala, 9. Panama, 10. Costa Rica

Smallest by area

1. St. Kitts and Nevis, 2. Grenada, 3. St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 4. Barbados, 5. Antigua and Barbuda, 6. St. Lucia, 7. Dominica, 8. Trinidad and Tobago

Population

The current population of Northern America is 367,003,734 as of Wednesday, September 4, 2019, based on the latest United Nations estimates.

Northern America population is equivalent to 4.75% of the total world population.

The population density in Northern America is 20 per Km² (51 people per mi²).

82.3 % of the population is urban (301,858,117 people in 2019).

The median age in Northern America is 38 years.

Largest by population

1. USA, 2. Mexico, 3. Canada, 4. Guatemala, 5. Cuba, 6. Haiti, 7. Dominican Republic, 8. Honduras, 9. El Salvador, 10. Nicaragua

Smallest by population

1. St. Kitts and Nevis, 2. Dominica, 3. Antigua and Barbuda, 4. Grenada, 5. St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 6. St. Lucia, 7. Barbados, 8. Belize, 9. Bahamas, 10. Trinidad and Tobago

Major cities

1. Mexico City, Mexico - 8.9 million, 2. New York City, USA - 8.5 million, 3. Los Angeles, USA - 3.9 million, 4. Toronto, Canada - 2.8 million 5. Chicago, USA - 2.7 million

Major bodies of Water

Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Great Lakes, Hudson Bay

Major River

Colorado:

Beginning in the Rocky Mountains of northern Colorado, it moves southwest, ending in the Gulf of California. It's (1,450 miles) (2,333 km) in length and over the centuries formed numerous canyons along its winding path. The most famous of these is the Grand Canyon in northern Arizona.

Columbia:

This wide, fast-flowing river begins in the Canadian Rockies of southeast British Columbia, Canada, flowing south through the State of Washington, then forming the natural border between Washington and Oregon. It ends in the Pacific Ocean and is (1,152 miles) (1,857 km) in length.

Mackenzie:

It's the longest river in Canada and dissects the Northwest Territories. It flows generally northwest into Mackenzie Bay and the Beaufort Sea. It's (1,200 miles) (1,800 km) in length. If then combined with its tributaries - the Slave, Peace and Finlay rivers - it extends to (2,635 miles) (4,240 km), and becomes the second longest river in North America, second only to the Mississippi/Missouri river system combination at (3,877 miles) (6,236 km) in length.

Mississippi:

It is the major river of North America and the United States at (2,339 miles) (3,765 km) in length. It flows from northwestern Minnesota south to the Gulf of Mexico, just below the city of New Orleans. It is a significant transportation artery and when combined with its major tributaries (the Missouri and Ohio rivers) it becomes the third largest river system in the world at (3,877 miles) (6,236 km) in length.

Missouri:

It begins in southern Montana in the Rocky Mountains, first flowing north then generally southeast across the heart of the United States, ending at the Mississippi River, just to the north of St. Louis, Missouri. It is the longest river in the United States (2,500 miles) (4,023 km).

Rio Grande:

It is one of the longest rivers in North America at (1,885 miles) (3,034 km). It begins in the San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado, then flows south through New Mexico. It forms the natural border between Texas and the country of Mexico as it flows southeast to the Gulf of Mexico. In Mexico it is known as Rio Bravo del Norte.

Saint Lawrence River

The Saint Lawrence River flows in a roughly north-easterly direction, connecting the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean and forming the primary drainage outflow of the Great Lakes Basin. It traverses the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and is part of the international boundary between Ontario, Canada, and the U.S. state of New York.

Major Mountain Ranges

Alaska Range - USA/Canada

Appalachian Mountains - USA/Canada

Cascades - USA

Rocky Mountains - USA/Canada

The Sierra Madre - México

Sierra Nevada - USA

Notable Mountains

Denali, Alaska, USA - 20,310 ft. tallest in North America

Mount Logan, Canada - 19,551 ft. tallest in Canada

Pico de Orizaba, Mexico - 18,491 ft. tallest in Mexico

Mt. Whitney, California, USA - 14,505 ft. tallest in lower 48 states

Mt. Mitchell, North Carolina, USA - 6,684 ft. tallest east of the Mississippi River

Major Islands

Greenland, Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola

Major Deserts

Chihuahuan, Sonoran, Mojave, Great Basin