

EUROPE

Europe is both the sixth largest continent and the second smallest continent, after Australia. Europe is about one-fifteenth of the world's total land area.

- **Area:** 4,000,000 square miles including adjacent islands (10.200.000 km²).
- **Population:** 732,000,000 in 2008.
- **Countries:** Approximately 50 states ([Russia](#) is the largest by both area and population, while the [Vatican City](#) is the smallest)

Actually, Europe is a large peninsula of the Eurasian land mass. It is separated from the continent of Asia by **the Ural Mountains** and **the Ural River** in the east, **the Caspian Sea** and **the Caucasus Mountains** in the southeast, and **the Black Sea**, **the Bosphorus**, **the Sea of Marmara**, and **the Dardanelles** in the south.

Europe is separated from the continent of Africa by the **Mediterranean Sea** and **the Straits of Gibraltar**.

On the north is **the Arctic Ocean**. On the west is **the Atlantic Ocean**. **The North Sea** and **Baltic Sea** connect to the Atlantic. On the south and east are the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.

Europe can be visualized as a variety of geographic regions:

- **British Isles** including United Kingdom and Ireland.
- **Central Europe** including Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Germany
- **Eastern Europe** including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, and the European portion of Russia.
- **Scandinavia** including Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland.
- **Southeastern Europe** including Greece, Albania, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Macedonia, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, and the European part of Turkey
- **Southern Europe** including Spain, Portugal, Italy, Malta, Andorra, San Marino, and Vatican City.
- **Transcaucasian countries** including Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.
- **Western Europe** including the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and Monaco.