



Europe - Location



Describing Europe's **location** can be done in two ways. If we describe Europe's **absolute location**, we are describing exactly where it is found. When we describe Europe's **relative location**, we describe the things around it and the things that connect it to other places.



A continent like Europe is very large, so it is difficult to give its absolute location. We describe a place's absolute location by looking at where lines of **latitude** and **longitude** cross. If we tried to give the

absolute location of Europe, we could only give the location of its farthest boundaries, and some of those boundaries are thousands of miles apart! It is easier to describe Europe's location by looking at those features and places around it.

Europe is located west of Asia and north of Africa. Several large bodies of water surround Europe, and provide **links** between Europe and the other continents. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the west, the Arctic Ocean to the north, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. In one way, Europe's relative location is unique. Most of Europe is located in the eastern **hemisphere**, but its western portion is in the western hemisphere. Why is this? The **prime meridian**, the north-south line that divides the world into east and west, passes through Europe.

Describe Europe's relative location.



Europe has many different **climates**. Countries along the Mediterranean Sea have very warm, moderate climates. People flock to vacation in southern France, Italy, and Greece because of the pleasant climates. Countries in northern Europe have warm summers, but very cold and snowy winters. Skiers enjoy the tall snowy mountains in these cold places. In central Europe, the tall, snowy peaks of the Alps also attract skiers in the colder months.