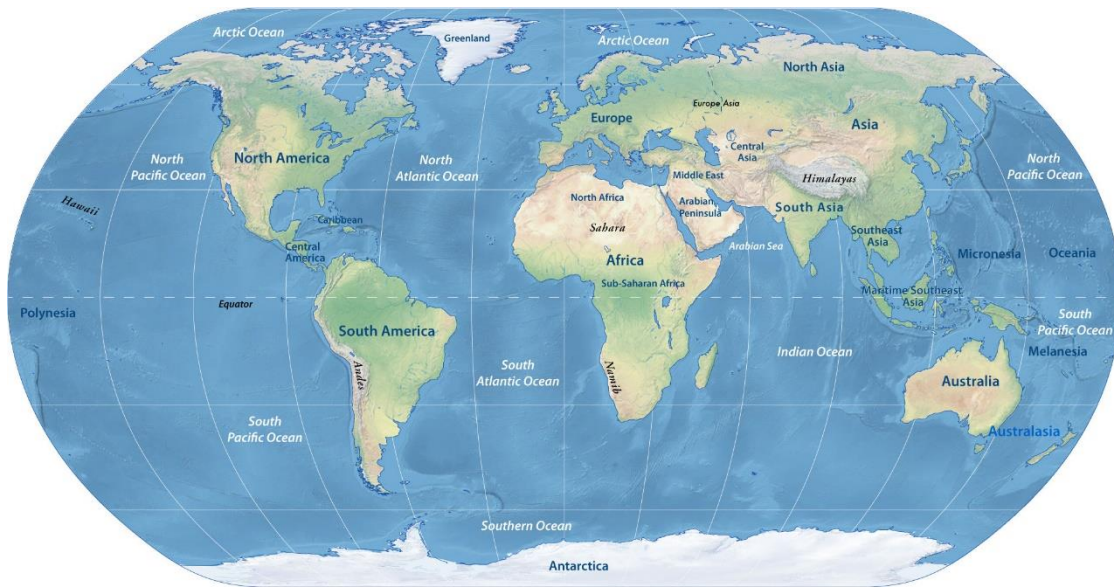


# Planet Earth's Seven Continents



**Asia** is the largest continent. It has the biggest land area and the world's biggest population. There are more than 4.4 billion people speaking nearly 2,300 living languages across Asia. You've probably considered some of the common ones, like Mandarin Chinese and Japanese. But there are a lot of other widely spoken languages that may not be as familiar to you!

Asia houses some of the richest nations in the world. The tiny country Qatar on the Arabian peninsula is one of the richest nations in the world due to its income from oil exploration and the petroleum industry.



**Africa** is the continent that has the most countries. There are 54 countries on the African continent. Countries like Botswana, Tanzania, Rwanda, Namibia and South Africa are best known for wildlife watching.

The Serengeti National Park in Tanzania is one of the oldest ecosystems on the planet, and is famous for its annual migration of over 1.5 million wildebeest and 250,000 zebra, and for its numerous Nile crocodile and honey badger.

**Australia** is the smallest continent of the planet. It is the only continent in the world without an active volcano, and has three times more sheep than people.

Most of Australia's exotic flora and fauna cannot be found anywhere else in the world. A selfie with cuddly marsupials like koalas, quokkas, wombats and kangaroos are only possible in Australia. Australia is also home to venomous animals like the blue-ringed octopus, the stone fish and funnel web spider.



**Europe** is considered to be the wealthiest and richest continent. Europe houses the two smallest countries in the world: the Vatican City which is located inside Rome in Italy, and Monaco which is bordered on three sides by France.

Europeans love chocolate. Nearly 50 percent of the total world production of chocolate is sold and eaten by Europeans. Switzerland had the highest consumption per capita in 2017, followed by Austria and Germany.



*Monaco*



*Vatican City*

**South America** is a continent of many natural superlatives: the Andes, which is the longest mountain range, the Atacama Desert in Chile, which is the driest place on planet Earth, and the Angel Falls in Venezuela, which is the highest waterfall. It is almost 1,000 meters high!

**Antarctica** is the smallest continent by population numbers. This means the huge continent is only sparsely populated. On Antarctica there are only research stations for scientists and no permanent settlements. Antarctica is covered almost completely by ice. Ninety percent of the planet's ice is located on this continent, which also makes up 60 – 70 percent of the world's freshwater supply.