

37. Europe – relief

Europe (EU) – located in western part of Eurasian continent (the largest land mass on the Earth) with distinctive historical, cultural and economic development.

Boundary between Europe and Asia = Ural mts., Ural river, Caucasus mts., Caspian Sea, Azov Sea, Strait of Bosphor, Marmar sea, Strait of Dardanelles, Aegean sea

Very diverse coastline especially in western and southern Europe

Main topographic features

The north-most place:

- *Cape Nordkinn* (NOR)

The south-most place:

- *Cape Punta Marroque* (E)

The west-most place:

- *Cape Coda* (P)

The east-most place:

- *Ural mountain range*



Peninsulas: Scandinavian, Iberian, Apennine, Balkan

Islands:

- *Northern Europe* – Svalbard, Novaya Zemlja
- *North-West Europe* – Great Britain, Ireland, Iceland
- *Southern Europe* – Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, Balearic islands, Crete

Formation of relief was determined by huge *ice sheet* (continental glacier) that covered Europe in Quaternary ages (Ice age) → centre in Scandinavia => thousands of lakes in Finland, Russia, Poland and Germany.

- N + E part of the glaciation = the oldest part of Europe => *lowlands* (depressions). *Lowlands* – 57% of the relief (to 200 m asl.)
- *the largest lowland* = East-European plain (to the W from Ural, creating whole European part of Russia, Baltic states, Belarus and Ukraine)
- *average altitude* = 340 m asl. => *continent with the lowest average altitude*
- *the lowest point* = depression in Caspian Sea
- *the highest point* = Alps (Mont Blanc – 4,807 m)
- *the highest mountains* = Pyrenees, Carpathian mts., Dinaric Alps, Scandinavian mts.
- *active volcanoes* = *Sicily* (Etna – the highest active volcano in Europe) and *Iceland*

Keywords

Eurasian boundary, the N/W/S/E-most place, peninsulas, islands, glaciation, lowlands, the lowest/highest point, active volcanoes