

Black Sea

The Black Sea is a large inland sea situated at the southeastern extremity of Europe. It is one of the most famous inland seas in the world and is bordered by Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania.

Black Sea Map and Geographical Features



(Image Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Sea)

Given below are other important facts and geographical features of the Black Sea:

Total shoreline (without Sea of Azov shoreline)	4340 km; This includes (country-wise shorelines): Bulgaria: 300 km Georgia: 310 km Romania: 225 km The Russian Federation: 475 km Turkey: 1400 km Ukraine: 1628 km
Area of Water Surface	432 000 km ²

Which rivers flow into the Black Sea?	Danube, Dnieper and Don via the Sea of Azov Rioni, Kodori and Inguri Chorokh, Kyzyl-Irmak, Eshil-Irmak, Sakarya, Southern Bug and Dnister
Countries bordering the Black Sea	Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania

(Information Source: <http://www.blacksea-commission.org/>)

- The Black Sea is located in Eurasia, surrounded by Europe, Caucasus and Anatolia
- It is surrounded by the Pontic, Caucasus, and Crimean Mountains in the south, east and north respectively.
- The Black Sea connects with the Mediterranean Sea through the Bosphorus Strait, and then through the Sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles Strait

Black Sea - Key Facts

- It is a **habitat for various biological species**, including **1619 species of Fungi, algae, and higher plants; 1983 varieties of invertebrates; 168 fish species and 4 types of marine mammals**
- **The nature of Black Sea water is anoxic.** This means there is a significant deficiency of oxygen in the water
 - *Anoxic waters are areas of seawater, freshwater, or groundwater that are depleted of dissolved oxygen and are a more severe condition of hypoxia*
 - The Sea is one of the largest water bodies where the movement of water between the lower and upper layers is a rare phenomenon
- **On April 21, 1992**, acting on the mandate of all Black Sea countries (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine), the **Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution was signed in Bucharest**
- **It is a saltwater sea** but its salinity is not as high as ocean water. It is believed that thousands of years ago the water was freshwater but later due to the Mediterranean Sea and floods, the water turned salty
- **Shipping and Ports**
 - The maritime sector in the Black Sea countries is one of the key economic factors. Thus, there are ports along the coast of the countries and trade through ships is allowed via the Black Sea
 - Ferry and Chartered services too are available at a few of the major ports in the connected countries
 - Under [the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\) 1982](#), **innocent passage permits a vessel to pass through another state's territorial waters so long as this does not affect its security**
- **Fisheries and Aquaculture**
 - Fisheries have been prevalent in the Black Sea since ancient times

- **Numerous factors threaten the sustainability of Black Sea fisheries**, including increased pollution from human activities, habitat degradation, the introduction of non-indigenous species, overfishing and the impacts of climate-driven changes on the marine environment and its ecosystems

Consequences of Environmental Changes on the Black Sea

The Black Sea had a very stable ecosystem, until the last few decades when the human economic and social activities have severely resulted in the degradation of the seawater and ecosystem. The environmental and climatic degradation has led to:

- Increased pressure on the marine and coastal environment
- Fish stocks are slowly decreasing and have left a negative impact on fisheries
- The habitat of animals living in the waterbed has been disturbed
- The dynamic quality of coastal water impacted by pollution from multiple coastal sources and off-shore installations and activities is an issue for the rapidly developing touristic sector