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## Largest river in asia by volume

Wikipedia list article This is a list of longest rivers of Asia. Included are all rivers over 1,000 km (620 mi) that are in Asia.
River Countries
Length km mi
1 Yangtze (Cháng Jiāng)[1] China 6,300 3,915
2 Yellow River (Huang He)[1] China 5,464 3,395
3 Mekong[1] China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam 4,909 3,050
4 Lena (Лена)[2] Russia 4,294 2,668
5 Irtysh (Ирты́ш)[3] Mongolia, China, Kazakhstan, Russia 4,248 2,640
6 Brahmaputra River[1] China, India, Bangladesh 3,848 2,391
7 Ob (Обь)[4] Russia 3,650 2,268
8 Indus River (Sindh)[1] China, India, Pakistan 3,610 2,243
9 Yenisey (Енисей)[5] Mongolia, Russia 3,487 2,167
10 Nizhnyaya Tunguska (Нижняя Тунгуска)[6] Russia 2,989 1,857
11 Yarlung Tsangpo (Yarlung Zangbo Jiang)[7] China, India, Bangladesh 2,840 1,765
12 Amur (Heilong Jiang, Амур)[8] Russia, China 2,824 1,755
13 Salween River (၀ါးမ္မာဝါး)[9] China, Myanmar, Thailand 2,800 1,740
14 Euphrates[10] Iraq, Syria, Turkey 2,760 1,715
15 Vilyuy (Вильюй)[11] Russia 2,650 1,647
16 Ganges (Ganga)[12] India, Bangladesh 2,510 1,560
17 Amu Darya (Oxus)[13] Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan 2,500 1,553
18 Ishim (Ишим/Ishim)[14] Kazakhstan, Russia 2,450 1,522
19 Ural (Урал)[15] Kazakhstan, Russia 2,428 1,509
20 Pearl River (Zhujiang)[16] China, Vietnam 2,320 1,442
21 Aldan (Алдан)[17] Russia 2,273 1,412
22 Olenyok (Оленёк)[18] Russia 2,270 1,411
23 Syr Darya (Jaxartes)[19] Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan 2,212 1,374
24 Irrawaddy River (Ayeyarwady River, [၀ါးမ္မာဝါး])[20] Myanmar 2,210 1,373
25 Xi River (西江)[21] China, Vietnam 2,197 1,365
26 Kolyma (Колыма)[22] Russia 2,129 1,323
27 Songhua River (Hei, Xing)[23] China 1,925 1,196
28 Podkamennaya Tunguska (Подкаменная Тунгуска)[24] Russia 1,865 1,159
29 Tigris[25] Turkey, Syria, Iraq 1,850 1,150
30 Vitim (Витим)[26] Russia 1,837 1,141
31 Kama (Кама)[27] Russia 1,805 1,122
32 Chulym (Чулым)[28] Russia 1,799 1,118
33 Angara (Амрап)[29] Russia 1,779 1,105
34 Indigirka (Индигирка)[30] Russia 1,726 1,072
35 Ket (Кет)[31] Russia 1,621 1,007
36 Argun (Ергуне)[32] China, Russia 1,620 1,007
37 Tobol (Тобол)[33] Russia 1,591 989
38 Yalung River (雅魯江)[34] China 1,571 976
39 Nan River (Han Jiang)[35] China 1,532 952
40 Alazeya (Алазея)[36] Russia 1,520 944
41 Godavari River (Dakshina Ganga)[37] India 1,465 910
42 Amra (Амра)[38] Russia 1,462 908
43 Ili (Или)[39] Kazakhstan, China 1,439 894
44 Olyokma (Олёкма)[40] Russia 1,436 892
45 Taz (Таэ)[41] Russia 1,401 871
46 Sutlej (Саулю)[42] China 1,390 864
48 Yamuna (Jumna)[44] India 1,376 855
49 Kura (Քուր/кхур)[45] Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan 1,364 848
50 Hai River (Pehho) [citation needed] China 1,329 826
51 Tarim River (Tǎlmǐ Hé, 塔里木河)[46] China 1,321 821
52 Narmada River (Rewa)[47] India 1,300 808
53 Krishna River[48] India 1,290 802
54 Zeya (Зей)[49] Russia 1,210 752
55 Chuna (Чуна)[50] Russia 1,203 748
56 Red River (Sông Hồng)[51] China, Vietnam 1,200 746
57 Jialing River (嘉陵江)[52] China 1,190 738
Kizilirmak River (Halyz River)[53] Turkey 1,182 734
59 Markha (Марха)[54] Russia 1,181 734
60 Nen River (Nenjiang)[55] China 1,170 727
61 Demuyanka (Демьянка)[56] Russia 1,159 720
62 Anadyr (Анадырь)[57] Russia 1,150 715
63 Hari (Теджен)[58] Afghanistan, Turkmenistan 1,150 715
64 Helmand River (59)[Lafghanistan, Iran 1,150 715
65 Kapuas River (Karoepas River)[60] Indonesia 1,143 710
66 Omolon (Омолон)[61] Russia 1,114 692
67 Hua River (Hwai Ho)[62] China 1,100 684
68 Wu River (Wu)[63] China 1,100 684
69 Konda (Конда)[64] Russia 1,097 682
70 Tyung (Тюн)[65] Russia 1,092 679
71 Kherlen River (Хэрлэн гол)[66] Mongolia, China 1,090 677
72 Vasyugay (Васюгай)[67] Russia 1,082 673
Ghaghara (Karnali)[68] China, Nepal, India 1,080 671
74 Aras (Аракс)[69] Turkey, Armenia, Iran, Azerbaijan 1,072 666
75 Chu (Чу)[70] Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan 1,067 663
76 Bolshey Yugan (Большой Юган)[71] Russia 1,063 661
77 Maya (Мая)[72] Russia 1,053 654
78 Tura (Тура)[73] Russia 1,030 640
79 Biryusa (Бирюса)[74] Russia 1,012 629
See also List of rivers of Asia
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Did you know that less than three percent of all the water in the world is freshwater? Of that, nearly 99% is stored in glaciers, ice caps, and underground. In other words, freshwater on the surface of the earth only makes up a fraction of one percent of the planet's water. Whether despite this fact or because of it, travelers are captivated by continental waterways all around the world. Rivers are perhaps the most romantic of them all. They cascade down mountain slopes, creating beautiful waterfalls. They wind through jungles. They carve out the earth's deepest canyons. For eons, we humans have relied on rivers for survival. We've traveled those earliest of highways, leading us inland. We've bathed in them, swam in them, fished in them, and drank from them. We've grown our food with their waters. We've built many of our greatest settlements on their banks. Despite only accounting for a small percentage of the world's water, rivers have been immensely important to humanity. As we move into a climate-changed future, finding a way to keep these valuable resources clean and full will be of the utmost importance. Without a doubt, we are experiencing a global water crisis. And rivers are arguably the veins—the very lifeblood—of the planet. To celebrate their importance and fragility, we here at GGT have compiled an extensive list of the longest rivers in the world. We've visited many of them. We've learned about them, wading through the history and diving into the now. We find these amazing rivers inherently fascinating, and we wanted to share them with you...
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Major Rivers of the World
Rivers in Asia
Yangtze (Photo via Pixabay)
Yangtze River
The Yangtze River is the longest river in China and the longest river in the world. It originates at the foot of Mt. Geladandong, the highest peak of the Danggula Mountains, which are located on the Tibetan Plateau. From there, it traverses the country eastward until it empties into the East China Sea at the far coastal estuaries. Stretching over 3900 miles, the Yangtze River moves through 10 provinces in China and hosts four of the country's major cities along its banks, including Shanghai. Additionally, the path of the Yangtze includes China's world famous Three Great Gorges, which is said to hold the most beautiful parts of the river. The Yangtze has a huge range of biodiversity stemming from the different landscapes it crosses. It moves from extremely high mountains through thick forests and into agricultural wetlands. Its territories are home to several beloved species, such as giant pandas, the Yangtze river dolphin, and snow leopards.
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Yellow River (Photo via Pixabay)
Yellow River
Incredibly, China also has the second longest Asian river: The Yellow River (a.k.a. Huang He). Stretching the tape to nearly 3400 miles, it is the sixth longest river in the world. It is known as the "mother river" by Chinese citizens. The Yellow River begins in the Quinghai province in Western China, where it is fed by run-off from the Bayan Har mountains. It winds through eight other Chinese provinces before flowing into the Bohai Sea close to Dongying, a city in the northeast Shangdong province, which has been vitally important to China's historic development. The Yellow River has long been crucial to the Chinese civilization. It has helped to irrigate fields. In addition to supporting the common people, it has provided inspiration to artists and thinkers, as well as being a spiritual symbol for the country. Sites dating back to the Neolithic period (7,000-3,700 BCE) have been found along its banks. Even today, the Yellow River and its tributaries pass by some of China's largest and oldest cities, including Xi'an, Zhengzhou, and Jinan. Additionally, the swollen population of the Huang He Basin is surpassed by only a couple of countries in the world. The Yellow River carries more sediment per cubic foot of water than any other river in the world. This is because it passes through large, dry areas (such as the Loess Plateau), where it picks up silt. Sadly, the high concentration of sediment, as well as the masses of humans who live near the river, have made it an unwiting environment for wildlife.
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Mekong (Photo via Pixabay)
Mekong River
The Mekong River meanders through Southeast Asia for around 2,700 miles. It is the longest river in this region of Asia and ranks 12th among the longest rivers in the world. The Mekong, like the Yellow River and Yangtze River, starts in China, but then it moves south through several other countries. It forms a border between Myanmar and Laos, then between Laos and Thailand. It also moves through Cambodia to Vietnam before emptying into the South China Sea. While the Mekong may not be quite as long as other rivers in Asia, it is a major river and plays an integral role as a food source. In addition to irrigating fields and being used for rice cultivation, the Mekong feeds the Tonle Sap in Cambodia, a highly fished lake that swells from about 1,000 square miles to 4,000 during the flood season in August and September. Throughout Vietnam, there are a number of canals in which small ships can travel upstream as far as Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital. Beyond there, ships can continue northward during the high water season until transportation is thwarted by the Khone Falls, where the Mekong River passes from Laos into Cambodia. The Mekong River Committee was founded in the 1950s, and was instrumental in compiling information about the river. Now the Mekong River Commission for Sustainable Development has taken a major role in protecting it and encouraging cooperation between its countries.
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Yenisei (Photo via Pixabay)
The Three Great Siberian Rivers
The Yenisei, Lena, and Ob—the three largest, very long rivers—of Russia, eventually emptying into the Arctic Ocean. The longest of the great Siberian rivers is the Yenisei River, which is a little over 2,700 miles, stretching out from the Baikal Mountains to the Arctic Laptev Sea. It has a massive drainage basin (nearly 2.5 million square miles) and the largest river delta feeding the Arctic. It also has amazing naturo reserves along its route, including the Lena Delta Nature Reserve, the Lena Pillars, and the Ust-Lensky Nature Reserve. Stretching over 2,250 miles, the Ob River is not the longest individual river in this triumvirate. But in terms of economics, it may be the most important. The bulk of Russia's oil and natural gas reserves are located along its banks. It's also used for agriculture and fishery. There are currently three large hydroelectric power plants in the process of being built within the river system that includes the Ob and the Irtysh Rivers (over 2600 miles), which collectively comprise the second longest river system in the country. The Yenisei River is the largest (but shortest) of the three, exceeding 2,100 miles. However, it is part of the Yenisei-Angara-Selenga river system, which is the longest river in Russia. Its source is in the Mongolian highlands. Within it is Lake Baikal, the world's largest freshwater lake by volume of water. It contains over 20% of the world's fresh water—more than all five of the U.S. Great Lakes combined.
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Euphrates (Photo via Pixabay)
Euphrates River
At over 1,700 miles long, the Euphrates River is the longest river in the Middle East. It is also of immense historical importance, being one of the two rivers (along with the Tigris) that created Mesopotamia, the "land between two rivers." The Euphrates gets rolling in eastern Turkey before it passes into Syria, then Iraq. Its basin area also includes parts of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iran. After the river joins forces with the Tigris, forming the Shatt al-Arab, they collectively empty into the Persian Gulf. The Euphrates features multiple times in the Judeo-Christian Bible and in the hadiths of Muhammad. It was one of the four rivers that flowed through the Garden of Eden. Prior to this, it was home to several deities, including Ishtar (the goddess of fertility) and Anu (the sky god). Mesopotamians worshipped these gods and goddesses in structures called Ziggurats. The Euphrates and the Tigris created especially fertile and productive wetlands. Unfortunately, as predicted by the prophet Muhammad, conflict and human interference has done significant damage to both rivers, and they are rapidly drying up.
READ MORE: Why I'd Prefer To Forget Visiting The Dead Sea
Jordan Ganges (Photo via Pixabay)
Ganges River
The Ganges, though not the longest river that flows through India, is the longest if we consider the distance covered within the country. In terms of sheer length, the Indus is actually the longest, with the Brahmaputra second, and then the Ganges at 1569 miles. Nevertheless, the Ganges is actually the third largest river in the world in terms of discharge. When it comes to rivers in India, they don't get bigger or more important than the Ganges, which is highly sacred to Hindus and worshipped as the goddess Ganga. Equally as impressive, it has over a dozen capitals located along its shores. Unfortunately, all of that esteem has not stopped the Ganges from becoming disturbingly polluted and a threat to both humans (who bathe in it for ritual) and the animals trying to live in it. The Ganges's source is in the Himalayan mountains, where the Bhagirathi and Alaknanda Rivers converge. From there, it flows east through northern India and into Bangladesh before reaching the Bay of Bengal. The area around the Ganges has been inhabited for around 4000 years now, and its basin is currently home to over 400 million people. They rely on the river for drinking water, food, irrigation, and manufacturing. It is easily the most populated river basin in the world.
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Rivers in North America
Missouri (Photo via Pixabay)
Missouri River
Though it receives much less press than the second longest river in the U.S., the Missouri River is reported at over 2350 miles, and is both the longest river in the US and the longest river in North America. About half a million square miles drains into it. Nevertheless, it is considered but a tributary of the Mississippi River. The Missouri, or "Mighty Mo," starts in the Rocky Mountains of Montana and meanders eastward until emptying into the Mississippi just north of St. Louis. Throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, the river became much less free-flowing. A series of dams, dykes, and levees were introduced in order to control its flow and prevent floods. Nowadays, there is a 100-mile national park along the Nebraska-South Dakota border that remains as one of the only unspoiled stretches of the river. The Missouri and Mississippi River combine to make the fourth longest river system on earth.
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Mississippi (Photo via Pixabay)
Mississippi River
Only about 100 miles shorter than the Missouri River, the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River is also over 2300 miles long. It drains at least part of 31 different states and two different Canadian provinces, despite being located entirely in the United States. While it may be only the second longest river in North America, the mighty Mississippi's rate of discharge is the continent's largest. Plus, it has been the central shipping river in the United States for centuries. In fact, it's one of the most active commercial river passages in the world, including lots of agricultural exports and petroleum products. The Mississippi is typically divided into four sections. The headwaters of the Mississippi is a humble stream whittling its way down to St. Paul, Minnesota. From there, the upper river extends to St. Louis, where the Missouri River empties into it. The middle Mississippi moves south 200 miles until the Ohio River dumps into it at Cairo, Illinois. The river doubles in size there. Finally, the much wider and slower-moving lower Mississippi turns muddy from all of the turbulence of converging tributaries and eases its way to the Gulf of Mexico. Iconic humorist Mark Twain made the lower Mississippi into one of the most famous rivers in literature. The river was a place wrought with fur traders, paddle boats, and warships. If ever there were a place for adventure, this is it!
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Yukon (Photo via Pixabay)
Yukon River
The Yukon River, which starts at Lake Tana in Ethiopia and joins the White Nile in Sudan. It's their combined distance that has often been denoted as the world's longest river on earth, the Nile was integral to ancient Egyptian life and remains just as important today. The Nile used to flood the lands of Egypt and leave fertile, black soil in its wake. The Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx are located just 20 miles from its delta, and the Nile was also the main highway for transporting stones from Aswan to the northern pyramids. It remains an essential element of modern-day business and transport. Additionally, the Nile has amazing wildlife. There are huge mammals, like rhinos and hippos. It's home to some 30 different types of snakes, over half of which are poisonous. Then, of course, there is the giant Nile Crocodile, which commonly reach lengths of 13 feet and weigh in at around 1500 pounds.
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Congo (Photo via Pixabay)
Congo River
Though it falls just short of the 3000-mile mark (longer than any river in North America or Europe), the Congo River has been largely overshadowed by longest river in Africa, the Nile. But the Congo River is the ninth longest river in the world and is also the deepest river in the world at 720 ft. The Congo River was made famous by Joseph Conrad's novel, Heart of Darkness. Dating back 1.5 to 2 million years ago, the Congo starts in the highlands of Zambia and descends from there to the Atlantic Ocean. En route, it encompasses 4,000-plus islands, two equator crossings, and possibly the second largest rainforest on earth. Livingstone Falls, a 200-mile stretch of rapids and waterfalls, is known to be one of the more impressive sites along the river. The Congo River actually has the second highest flow rate of any river on the planet. So, in terms of flow, Livingstone Falls could be considered the largest waterfall in the world. The Congo River basin is arguably among the best rivers in Africa and in the world for watching wildlife. It's home to more fishes, mammals, reptiles, and birds than any other area of the African continent. Bonobos and elephants roam along its banks, and manatees, crocodiles, and hippos swim in its shallows.
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Niger (Photo via Pixabay)
Niger River
Yet another river that exeds 2500 miles, the Niger River is Africa's third longest waterway, and it has played a prominent role in trade for centuries. It was used in ancient times to transport gold from Ghana to Arab traders. Aside from length, the Niger River is particularly remarkable because of its shape, which is somewhat boomerang-like. It begins about 150 miles from the Atlantic coastline, swings inland and northward, then twists to a southwesterly route around Timbuktu. It is actually two ancient rivers, now properly identified as the upper and lower Niger. As the Sahara Desert dried, the rivers changed course to merge into one. Its most northerly section, the "Niger bend," is the closest source of water to the Sahara. Besides being a trade route for gold, the Niger Delta was a favorite of European explorers, specifically the Portuguese. It supplied almost 50% of the slaves in the transatlantic slave trade, garnering it the name of "Slave Coast." Its delta, known as the "Oil Rivers," played an enormous role in Nigeria becoming Africa's largest producer of petroleum.
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Rivers in South America
Amazon (Photo via Pixabay)
Amazon River
The official new (and widely disputed) title-holder for the world's longest river is the Amazon River, which held the title of second longest throughout the 20th century. The change occurred because certain scholars claimed that the Amazon originates further into Peru than once believed, making the 4,000-plus mile river possibly the longest. What's not up for debate is the fact that the Amazon River is the largest river in the world by volume of water discharge. During the rainy season, the Amazon can swell up to nearly 25 miles across in some areas making it the widest river in the world. The river drains about two-fifths of the entire continent of South America. And, being located in the equatorial tropics, the Amazon River basin gets 400-plus inches of rain a year. Wildlife in the Amazon is as incredibly diverse as you'd expect, with hundreds of new species being discovered every year. Bull sharks have been spotted in the river over 2,000 miles inland. It's also home to giant catfish weighing over 200 pounds and arapaima, which is amongst the largest freshwater fish at over 400 pounds. There are also capouin caiman, tamarin, jaguars, capybara, and much more. Of course, the Amazon is also renowned for its rainforest. Its 1.4 billion acres of forest is home to one out of every ten known species on the planet. It accounts for half of the world's remaining tropical forests.
READ MORE: Our Adventures in the Peruvian Amazon
Paraná (Photo via Pixabay)
Paraná River
Not many people outside of South America can name the continent's second longest river, the Paraná River. Its source is the union of the Grande River and the Paranaíba River in southeastern Brazil. From there, the Paraná moves just over 3000 miles southwest into the La Plata River. Joined by several other rivers along the way, the Paraná River creates some of South America's most remarkable places. Along with the Paraguay River, it helps to form the Pantanal, the world's largest wetland. Together they also create the world's second largest waterfall, Iguaçu Falls. La Plata River, into which the Parana drains, accounts for one-fifth of the continent's entire watershed. Along with the Paranaíba, the Paraná helps to create the largest section of semi-deciduous forest in the Brazilian Atlantic ecoregion. These interior forests are habitat for some of the rarest animals in South America, including those with fun names such as the golden-rumped lion tamarin.
READ MORE: The 10 Best Waterfalls (For Your World Travel Bucket List)
Madeira (Photo via Pixabay)
Amazon River Tributaries
While the Amazon is nearly twice the length of its two longest tributaries, they are the third and fourth longest rivers in South America. The Madeira River is just over 2000 miles long, and the Purus River is just under 1900 miles long. The Madeira River is the largest of the Amazon's many tributaries, and it is packed with wildlife. The Madeira Basin is home to giant otters, pink dolphins, spotted jaguars, and several other endangered animals. The river itself is home to more than 750 different species of fish. The Purus River, besides being long, also holds the title as one of the curviest rivers on earth. A straight line from the origin to the delta is less than half as long as the river. Another unique feature of this river is the five parallel channels that run alongside it. Additionally, its basin has historically been home to many Amazon tribes, and it is now also home to many rubber plantations. Interestingly, just a few miles south of the mouth of South America's longest rivers are at least partly located in Brazil.
READ MORE: Ecotourism in the Ecuadorian Amazon
Araguaia (Photo via Pixabay)
Araguaia & Tocantins Rivers
The Araguaia River (which spans roughly 1600 miles) is technically a tributary of the Tocantins River (also roughly 1600 miles), and they have approximately the same rate of flow when they join forces. Nevertheless, the Tocantins is the river credited with emptying into the Atlantic. Coincidentally, both rivers' namesakes are related to birds. Araguaia means "river of red macaws," and Tocantins means "tocuan's beak." So, it would seem to go without saying that these would be good waterways for spotting tropical birds, particularly parakeets, parrots, and macaws. The Tocantins Rivers runs roughly parallel to the Xingu, a major tributary of the Amazon, and it opens into the ocean just south of the Amazonian delta. The Araguaia runs between the Xingu and Tocantins, joining the Tocantins River about two-thirds of the way between its source and the delta. Unfortunately, much of the land around these rivers have been deforested for lumber and the creation of pasture land for grazing cattle.
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Rivers in Australia
Murray River (Photo via Pixabay)
Murray River
The longest river in Australia is the Murray River, which measures over 1500 miles. Together with the Darling River, which is Australia's third longest at a little over 900 miles, the Murray-Darling is the longest river system on the continent. Adding to the statistical ties, the Murrumbidgee River is just a bit under 1500 miles and is Australia's second longest river. It is also a tributary of the Murray-Darling River system. Although the Murray Rier has a catchment of over 400,000 square miles, it only averages a discharge of 31 cubic feet a second and has had areas that dried up on several occasions. Due to agricultural runoff, drought, and overuse, the Darling River barely flows at times, and has an incredibly high salt content and pollution levels. These river systems need some serious TLC, but thankfully NGOs such as World Wildlife Fund are currently trying to save them before they're gone for good.
READ MORE: Top 10 Australian National Parks (World Travel Bucket List)
Rivers in Europe
Volga (Photo via Pixabay)
Volga River
The Po River runs from Monte Viso to the Adriatic Sea. What is the Longest River in Canada? The MacKenzie River is the longest river in Canada at 1080 miles in length and flows from Great Slave Lake into the Arctic Ocean. What is the Longest River in the United States? At over 2350 miles, the Missouri River is both the longest river in the United States and is North America's longest river. What are the two Longest Rivers in the United States? The two longest rivers in the United States are the Missouri River and the Mississippi River. The Missouri River is 2,341 miles long and runs through 7 states: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. The Mississippi River is 2,202 miles long and runs through 10 states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. What is Japan's longest river? Japan's longest river is the Shinano River. At 228 miles long, it is both the the longest river in Japan and the widest. What is Antarctica's Longest River? At 20 miles long, Antarctica's longest river is the Onyx River. In the summer months, the Onyx river flows through the Wright Valley from Wright Lower Glacier and Lake Brownworth to Lake Vanda.

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