

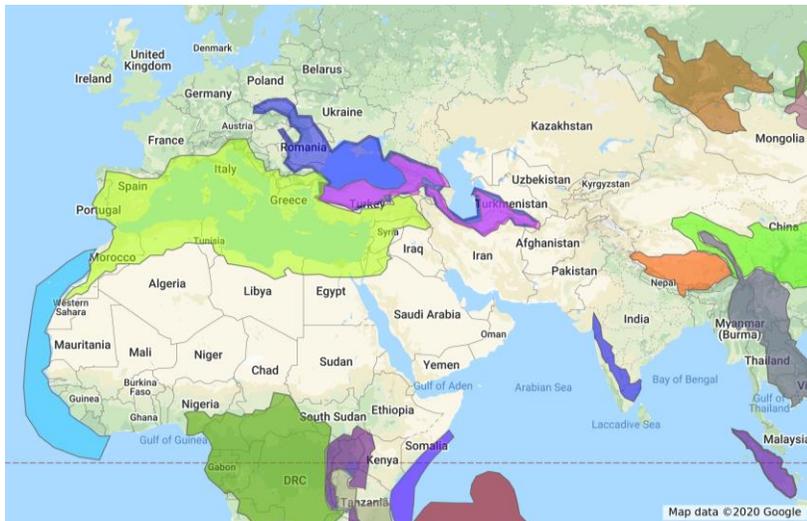
Чорноморський басейн

Rich in wildlife and biodiversity, the Black Sea is sadly on the way to becoming just that – a sea blackened by pollution, oil spills and other environmental threats.

FACTS & FIGURES

- The Black Sea has an area of 436,400 km² (168,495 sq mi), a maximum depth of 2,212m (7,257 ft) and a volume of 547,000 km³ (133,500 cu mi).
- Some of Europe’s longest and largest rivers flow into the Black Sea, including the Danube, the largest tributary, as well as the Dnieper, Southern Bug, Dniester and Don.
- It is connected to the Mediterranean Sea by the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara, and to the Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch.
- Important cities along the Black Sea coast include: Istanbul, Turkey; Burgas, Bulgaria; Constanta, Romania; Odessa, Ukraine; Sochi, Russia; and Poti, Georgia.
- The population of the greater Black Sea basin is more than 160 mi

The *Greater Black Sea Basin* is highlighted in blue.



Bordered by Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine, the Black Sea and its surrounding areas are marked by majestic scenery and a rich cultural and natural heritage.

This includes not just the sea itself, but the Danube River Delta, Caucasus and Carpathian Mountains as well. The region’s waters, coastlines, flood plains and mountains are home to an incredibly diverse range of wildlife and habitats.

FROM THE BLACK FOREST TO THE BLACK SEA

Starting in Germany's Black Forest, the Danube River flows some 2,850km through cities, valleys and wide gorges before reaching the Black Sea via the Danube Delta in Romania and Ukraine.

The Delta is one of the world's largest wetlands – a unique habitat of canals, reed beds, lakes and ponds, and an important breeding site for hundreds of bird species, including the largest colony of pelicans outside of Africa and more than half of the world’s pygmy cormorant population

Bears, wolves and lynx inhabit the old growth forests.

In the Black Sea, one still finds

- bottlenose dolphins
- about 180 species of fish, including:
 - tuna,
 - anchovy,
 - herring,
 - mackerel and
 - the famous white sturgeon.



Monk seals, sadly, have become extinct here. 😞

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Environmental crossroads

The region's natural wealth, however, is under severe pressure.

Pollution, oil spills, marine traffic, invasive species and overfishing threaten the sea and rivers. Excessive and illegal logging, intensive agriculture and unsustainable coastal development are problems on land.

The region is also vulnerable to [climate change](#), which could add to the stress the region's natural systems are already under.

Today, the Black Sea region is at an environmental crossroads. It can continue on the path of neglect or it can move towards a more [sustainable future](#).



Bottlenose dolphin numbers in the Black Sea are on the decline as a result of pollution and hunting.

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