

Deserts of the world



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The great deserts outside the polar regions: their size and some of the countries they cover.

Great deserts

#	Desert	Area (about)	Countries include
1	Sahara Desert	9,200,000 km ²	Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia
2	Arabian Desert	2,330,000 km ²	Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
3	Gobi Desert	1,295,000 km ²	China, Mongolia
4	Kalahari Desert	900,000 km ²	Botswana, Namibia, South Africa
5	Patagonian Desert	673,000 km ²	Argentina
6	Syrian Desert	500,000 km ²	Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria
7	Chihuahuan Desert	453,000 km ²	Mexico
8	Karakum Desert	350,000 km ²	Turkmenistan
9	Great Victoria Desert	349,000 km ²	Australia
10	Taklamakan Desert	337,000 km ²	China
11	Sonoran Desert	311,000 km ²	Mexico
12	Kyzylkum Desert	298,000 km ²	Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
13	Great Sandy Desert	267,000 km ²	Australia
14	Thar Desert	264,000 km ²	India, Pakistan
15	Simpson Desert	177,000 km ²	Australia
16	Gibson Desert	156,000 km ²	Australia
17	Atacama Desert	140,000 km ²	Chile
18	Danakil Desert	137,000 km ²	Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia
19	Mojave Desert	124,000 km ²	United States
20	Namib Desert	81,000 km ²	Namibia
21	Lut Desert	52,000 km ²	Iran

By the scientific definition (very little rain or snow) the Antarctic Desert and the Arctic Desert are the largest deserts on Earth; they are not in this list or the quiz.

Areas, countries and continents from the Wikipedia list of deserts by area (mostly CIA World Factbook figures), checked against Wikidata and each desert's article. Where a desert ends is a matter of definition, so areas are approximate. Countries are listed where both sources agree.

Quiz: circle the right answer

1. On which continent is the Sonoran Desert?

- a) South America b) North America c) Asia d) Africa

2. Which country is part of the Danakil Desert?

- a) Gabon b) Djibouti c) Lesotho d) Kenya

3. On which continent is the Chihuahuan Desert?

- a) Africa b) Australia c) South America d) North America

4. Which desert is larger?

- a) Mojave Desert b) Gibson Desert

5. Which country is part of the Thar Desert?

- a) Bahrain b) Thailand c) India d) Saudi Arabia

6. Which country is part of the Patagonian Desert?

- a) Suriname b) Argentina c) Panama d) Bolivia

7. On which continent is the Karakum Desert?

- a) Asia b) Australia c) North America d) Africa

8. Which desert is larger?

- a) Atacama Desert b) Taklamakan Desert

9. Which country is part of the Kyzylkum Desert?

- a) Kazakhstan b) Iran c) Saudi Arabia d) Oman

10. Which desert is larger?

- a) Syrian Desert b) Gobi Desert

Answers

1. North America
2. Djibouti
3. North America
4. Gibson Desert
5. India
6. Argentina
7. Asia
8. Taklamakan Desert
9. Kazakhstan
10. Gobi Desert