

World's Largest Deserts [PDF]

By Cracku.in



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Name	Type	Place and Country	Area (Km 2)	Rank
Antarctica	Cold Winter	Antarctica	14000000	1
Arctic	Cold Winter	Artic	13985000	2
Sahara	Subtropical	North Africa	9000000	3
Arabian Desert	Subtropical	Western Asia	2330000	4
Gobi Desert	Cold Winter	Central Asia (China and Mongolia)	1000000	5
Kalahari Desert	Subtropical	Southern Africa	900000	6
Great Victoria Desert	Subtropical	Australia	647000	7
Patagonian Desert	Cold Winter	South America (Argentina and Chile)	620000	8
Syrian Desert	Subtropical	Western Asia (Iraq, Jordan and Syria)	520000	9

Great Basin Desert	Cold Winter	United States	492000	10
Chihuahuan Desert	Subtropical	North America (Mexico and USA)	450000	11
Great Sandy Desert	Subtropical	Australia	400000	12
Karakum Desert	Cold Winter	Turkmenistan	350000	13
Colorado Plateau	Cold Winter	United States	337000	14
Sonoran Desert	Subtropical	North America (Mexico and USA)	310000	15
Kyzylkum Desert	Cold Winter	Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)	300000	16
Taklamakan Desert	Cold Winter	China	270000	17
Thar Desert	Subtropical	South Asia (India and Pakistan)	200000	18
Gibson Desert	Subtropical	Australia	156000	19
Dasht-E Margo	Subtropical	Afghanistan	150000	20
Registan Desert	Subtropical	Afghanistan	146000	21
Simpson Desert	Subtropical	Australia	145000	22

Atacama Desert	Cool Coastal	South America (Chile and Peru)	140000	23
Mojave Desert	Subtropical	United States	124000	24
Namib Desert	Cool Coastal	Southern Africa (Angola and Namibia)	81000	25
Dasht –E Kavir	Subtropical	Iran	77000	26
Dasht – E Loot	Subtropical	Iran	52000	27

- Deserts are sometimes defined as locations where evaporation loses more water than precipitation falls. This is especially true in areas experiencing "desertification," when rising temperatures (i.e., climate change) cause river beds to dry up, precipitation patterns to shift, and flora to die off.
- The Deserts, such as the Sahara Desert in Africa, the Gobi Desert in northern China and Mongolia, and Death Valley in California, are generally among the warmest and most hostile regions on Earth. However, they can also be cold, windswept landscapes with little to no snowfall, such as those seen in the Antarctic and Arctic.
- So, in the end, being heated plays a minor role. On the other hand, deserts are characterised by little to no rainfall and If the temperature extremes and Deserts cover roughly one-third of the Earth's surface. However, the majority of it is found in the polar areas.

Antarctica:

- Antarctica: With 13.8 million square kilometres, the Antarctic Desert is the largest desert on the planet. Antarctica is the world's coldest, windiest, and most isolated continent, and it's classified as a desert since yearly precipitation in the interior can be as low as 51 millimetres.
- Although research stations have strewn around the continent house anything from 1,000 to 5,000 researchers, there are no permanent human residents, the largest of which is McMurdo Station on Ross Island's tip. Only a few cold-adapted species of mites, algae, and tundra vegetation can thrive there, in addition to a small number of mammals.

Deserts Remaining:

- Interestingly, the 2nd largest desert in the world is also notoriously cold. Located with the above 75 degrees north latitude, the Arctic Desert covers about 13.7 million square kilometres, predominantly snow.
- With a total area of 9.4 million square kilometres, the Sahara is the world's third-biggest desert. Overall, the majority of the Saraha receives less than 20 mm of rainfall (0.79 in).
- In other words, deserts aren't just dunes and areas where you might run into Bedouins and Berbers, nor are they just a place you have to drive through to get to Napa Valley. They might be sandy or frigid deserts, and they can be found on every continent in the world. In the end, their noticeable lack of moisture is the distinguishing feature.

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