# Exploring Our Continent: Europe

Pack your rucksack and join Finn the Dolphin on a grand tour of Europe’s wonders!

■ **Europe is often described as a 'peninsula of peninsulas', as it is surrounded by water on three sides: the Arctic Ocean to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south.**

■ **The Alps form the highest and most extensive mountain range system that lies entirely within Europe, stretching across eight different countries including France, Switzerland, and Austria.**

■ **The River Volga, located in Russia, is the longest river in Europe, flowing over 2,100 miles before it empties into the Caspian Sea.**

■ **Europe’s population is diverse, with over 200 native languages spoken across the continent, reflecting a rich history of migration and cultural exchange.**

■ **The Prime Meridian, which marks 0 degrees longitude, passes through Greenwich in London, acting as the starting point for world time zones.**

*Did you know? Did you know? Europe is the only continent that does not have any deserts! From the frozen Arctic tundra in the north to the sun-drenched Mediterranean coast in the south, the climate varies wildly across its 44 countries.*

**Key vocabulary: Continent · Tundra · Peninsula · Mountain range · Urbanisation · European Union · Latitude · Climate zone**