

# Geography

**Location:** Central Europe, north of Italy

**Map references:** Europe

**Area:**

*total area:* 83,850 sq km

*land area:* 82,730 sq km

*comparative area:* slightly smaller than Maine

**Land boundaries:** total 2,496 km, Czech Republic 362 km, Germany 784 km, Hungary 366 km, Italy 430 km, Liechtenstein 37 km, Slovakia 91 km, Slovenia 262 km, Switzerland 164 km

**Coastline:** 0 km (landlocked)

**Maritime claims:** none; landlocked

**International disputes:** none

**Climate:** temperate; continental, cloudy; cold winters with frequent rain in lowlands and snow in mountains; cool summers with occasional showers

**Terrain:** in the west and south mostly mountains (Alps); along the eastern and northern margins mostly flat or gently sloping

**Natural resources:** iron ore, petroleum, timber, magnesite, aluminum, lead, coal, lignite, copper, hydropower

**Land use:**

*arable land:* 17%

*permanent crops:* 1%

*meadows and pastures:* 24%

*forest and woodland:* 39%

*other:* 19%

**Irrigated land:** 40 sq km (1989)

**Environment:**

*current issues:* some forest degradation caused by air and soil pollution; soil pollution results from the use of agricultural chemicals; air pollution results from emissions by coal- and oil-fired power stations and industrial plants and from trucks transiting Austria between northern and southern Europe

*natural hazards:* NA

*international agreements:* party to - Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Sulphur 85, Air Pollution-Volatile Organic Compounds, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Wetlands; signed, but not ratified - Air Pollution-Sulphur 94, Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Law of the Sea, Whaling

**Note:** landlocked; strategic location at the crossroads of central Europe with many easily traversable Alpine passes and valleys; major river is the Danube; population is concentrated on eastern lowlands because of steep slopes, poor soils, and low temperatures elsewhere