**Amazon River Fact File**

**Countries:** Brazil, Colombia and Peru.

**Length:** About 6400 km (4000 miles)

**Source:** Andes Mountains, Peru.

**Mouth:** Atlantic Ocean.

* The Amazon River is the second longest river in the world (after [the Nile River](http://primaryfacts.com/406/river-nile-facts-and-information/)) – although this is often debated – but it has the largest water-flow in the world by far. It also has the largest drainage basin of any river in the world.
* The River Amazon is massive. It’s width varies between 1.5 and 10 km, but during the wet season it can become several times wider than this.
* It is often referred to as the River Sea because of its large size.
* The Amazon releases more than 200,000 cubic metres of water per second into the Atlantic Ocean.
* One fifth of the freshwater entering the world’s oceans comes from the Amazon River.
* The Amazon River is home to the [Amazon River Dolphin](http://primaryfacts.com/1845/amazon-river-dolphin-facts/) (or boto) – the largest species of river dolphin. The river is also home to anaconda, more than five thousand different species of fish (including electric eels, piranha and catfish), crabs, turtles and caiman (a type of crocodilian).
* The Amazon has over 1000 tributaries.

**Mississippi River Fact File**

**Country:** United States

**Length:** 2320 miles (3734 km)

**Source:** Lake Itasca, Clearwater County, Minnesota

**Mouth:** Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana.

* The Mississippi River’s drainage basin (the area from which it collects water) covers parts of 31 US states and 2 provinces of Canada.
* It’s the fourth longest river in the world.
* In the sixteenth century, the Mississippi formed the border between New Spain and New France.
* The Mississippi flows through or directly borders these states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.
* The Mississippi River is divided into three sections: Upper, Middle and Lower.
* The Upper Mississippi flows through the state of Minnesota. Over 40 dams control the flow of the Upper Mississippi, and many of these dams include locks in order to help ships and boats navigate it.
* The Middle Mississippi starts at the confluence (meeting) of the Mississippi and the Missouri River at St Louis, Missouri, and comes to an end at the Mississippi’s confluence with the Ohio River in Illinois.
* The Lower Mississippi River has several tributaries, such as: The White River, the Arkansas River, the Big Black River and the Red River.
* At several points the width of the Lower Mississippi River is greater than 1 mile.
* For such a large river, the Mississippi has a relatively low flow. The Amazon River, for example, moves nearly 10 times as much water.
* More than 170 bridges (foot and railroad) span the Mississippi River on its journey from source to mouth.
* Both sides in the American Civil War wanted to control the Mississippi River as it offered many strategic benefits.
* Apparently, the sport of water-skiing was devised on the Mississippi on a stretch called Lake Pepin in the 1920s.

**Murray River Facts**

**Source:** Cowombat Flat, Australian Alps, NSW

**Mouth:** Murray Mouth, Goolwa, South Australia

**Length:** 1,571 miles

**Countries:** Australia

* The Murray is the third longest navigable river in the world, after the Amazon and Nile
* [Total length](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/about-the-murray/murray-river-length/) - 2520 kilometres from its source in the [Upper Murray](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/about-the-murray/upper-murray/) and the [Kosciusko National Park](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/parks/kosciusko-national-park/)
* The Murray is continuously navigable for 1986 kilometres from [Goolwa](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/goolwa/) to [Yarrawonga](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/yarrawonga/)
* It spans three states - Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia
* The river has 4 major dams, 16 [storage](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/about-the-murray/locks-weirs-dams-barrages/) weirs and 15 navigable locks
* Is the major domestic [water supply](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/about-the-murray/water-use-and-consumption/) for over 1.5 million households
* Along with its tributaries, the Murray is part of the third largest water [catchment](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/about-the-murray/murray-darling-basin/) on earth
* [Aboriginal](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/about-the-murray/murray-river-aboriginals/) occupation goes back 40,000 years at [Mungo National Park](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/river-towns/mungo-national-park/) close by
* For half a century from 1853, the Murray was a virtual [water highway](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/paddleboats/murray-paddlesteamers/)
* The worlds largest [canoe](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/kayaking-canoeing/) race is held each year on the Murray
* [Murray Cod](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/fishing/) can easily grow up to 1.8m in size
* The Murray has the worlds largest redgum forest and [ibis rookery](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/about-the-murray/ibis-rookery/) on its banks
* The Murray is a mecca for golfers with 37 [golf](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/golfing/) courses along its banks