**River Nile Facts**

**Countries:** The Nile flows through 10 countries: Sudan, South Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Egypt.

**Length:** 6650 km (4130 miles)

**Source:** The White Nile (primary tributary) has its source in either Rwanda or Burundi. The Blue Nile (secondary) starts at Lake Tana, Ethiopia.

**Mouth:** Mediterranean Sea

**Other River Nile Facts**

* The Nile’s two major tributaries, the White Nile and the Blue Nile, meet at Khartoum, Sudan.
* Egypt’s population has depended up the Nile for thousands of years. Most of Egypt’s population and settlements lie along the banks of the Nile.
* The Ancient Egyptians called the Nile, the Great River.
* It is the longest river in the world.
* The drainage basin of the Nile covers about one tenth of all of Africa.
* In 1970 the [Aswan Dam](http://primaryfacts.com/1355/aswan-dam-facts-and-information/) was built to generate hydroelectric power and to control the flow of water for irrigation. It has had a significant impact on agricultural practices and has led to flooding and loss of sediment deposits (relied upon by the Ancient Egyptians to make the fields fertile during the summer floods).
* Some of the largest settlements on the banks of the Nile are: Cairo, Khartoum, Aswan and Luxor.
* The Nile River is bridged in many places
* The northern section of the river flows mainly through an area of desert.

# **River Niger: Facts and Information**

**Source:** Guinea Highlands

**Mouth:** Gulf of Guinea

**Length:** 2,597 miles

**Countries:** The **Niger** River runs through Niger, **Guinea**, Côte d'Ivoire, **Mali, Burkina Faso**, **Algeria**, Benin, Chad**, Cameroon**, and **Nigeria**.

**Other Niger River facts:**

* The Niger River is Africa’s third longest (after the [Nile](http://primaryfacts.com/406/river-nile-facts-and-information/) and the [Congo](http://primaryfacts.com/1892/congo-river-facts-about-the-deepest-river-in-the-world/)) with a length of 2,600 miles. It flows from its source in Guinea to its mouth at the Gulf of Guinea.
* The Niger River has one of the most unusual courses of any major river. Although its source is only 150 miles inland, it flows away from the sea towards the [Sahara Desert](http://primaryfacts.com/1359/the-sahara-facts-about-the-largest-hot-desert-in-the-world/) before making a sharp right turn towards the sea.
* The huge Niger delta covers an area of about 14,000 square miles, and is made up of many small channels. The delta stretches for about 200 miles along the coast.
* The Niger River was not fully explored by Europeans until the late 18th century. Mungo Park, a Scottish explorer, sailed 1,500 miles down the river, but drowned in some rapids while fleeing hostile native tribesmen.
* The Niger passes within a few miles of Timbuktu, one of the remotest cities in the world. The town is home to several historic mosques and ancient manuscripts.
* The river is home to the West African Manatee (sea cow), which can reach a length of 15 feet. About 250 species of fish can be found in the Niger, and some of them can’t be found anywhere else in the world.
* The Niger River gives its name to the countries of Niger and Nigeria. The river’s name probably comes from the Latin for black.
* The Niger’s headwaters are in very old rocks that contain little silt. Because of this, the river carries very little sediment. The Nile is carries ten times more sediment than the Niger.
* The Niger is an important source of water to over 20 local tribes. Many still collect water in traditional bowls made of animal skin.