

European Mountain Ranges

The Pyrenees

The Pyrenees are a mountain range between France and Spain. They stretch 270 miles (435km) from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean Sea. The highest peak is Pico de Aneto, which is 3,404 metres high.

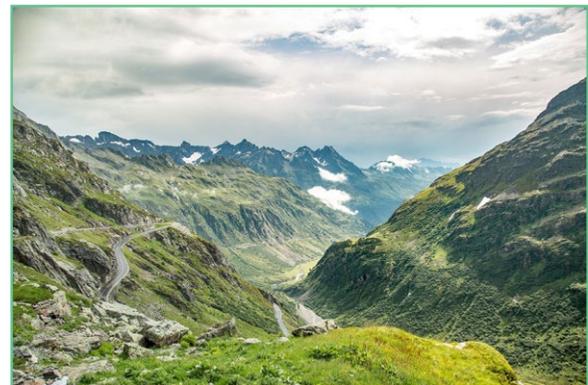


There are two rail lines which cross the Pyrenees. There are also a number of roads, some of which use tunnels to pass through the mountains. In the winter months, these roads are often closed due to bad weather.

The Alps

The Alps stretch from Slovenia to Austria. They pass through:

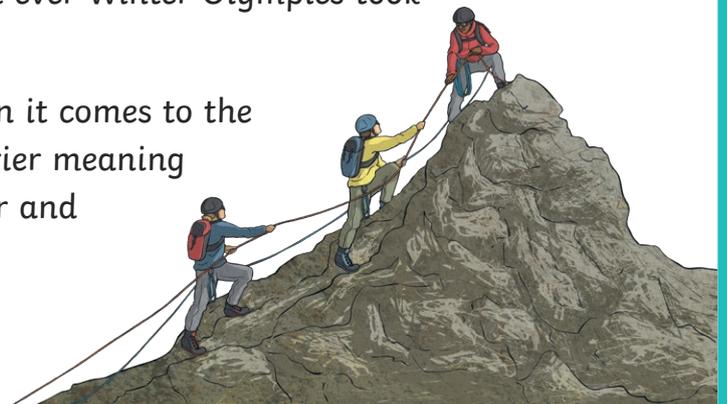
- Italy
- Switzerland
- France
- Germany.



People come to see the wonderful scenery, to go mountaineering, hiking, mountain biking and even paragliding. In the winter months, people mainly visit to ski or snowboard.

The highest peak here is Mont Blanc (White Mountain) which stands at 4,810 metres in height. It is the highest peak in Western Europe. A nearby town named Chamonix was where the first ever Winter Olympics took place in 1924.

The Alps play an important role when it comes to the weather too. They act as a wind barrier meaning that south of the Alps is slightly drier and warmer.



The Carpathians

This huge mountain range stretches through seven different countries. They are:

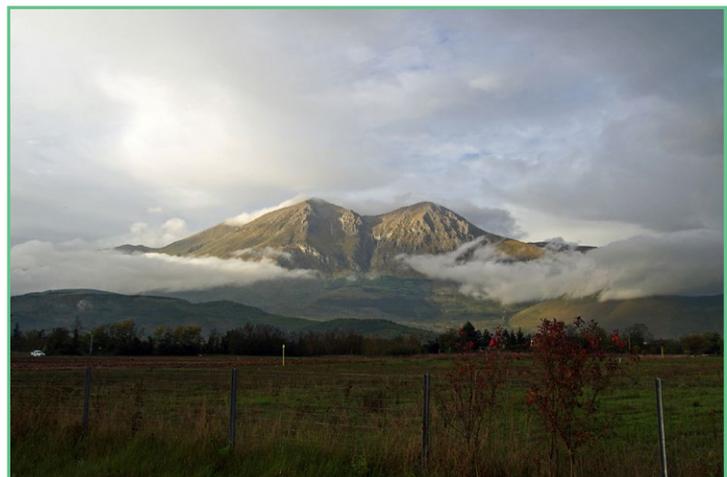
- the Czech Republic
- Slovakia
- Poland
- Hungary
- Ukraine
- Romania
- Serbia

The mountains are home to 18 million people as well as animals such as wolves, bears and lynx.



The Apennines

This mountain range runs straight down the centre of Italy. It ends on the island of Sicily. The mountains separate the east and west. They stretch for 830 miles (1350km) and the highest point is Mount Corno which is nearly 3,000 metres tall.

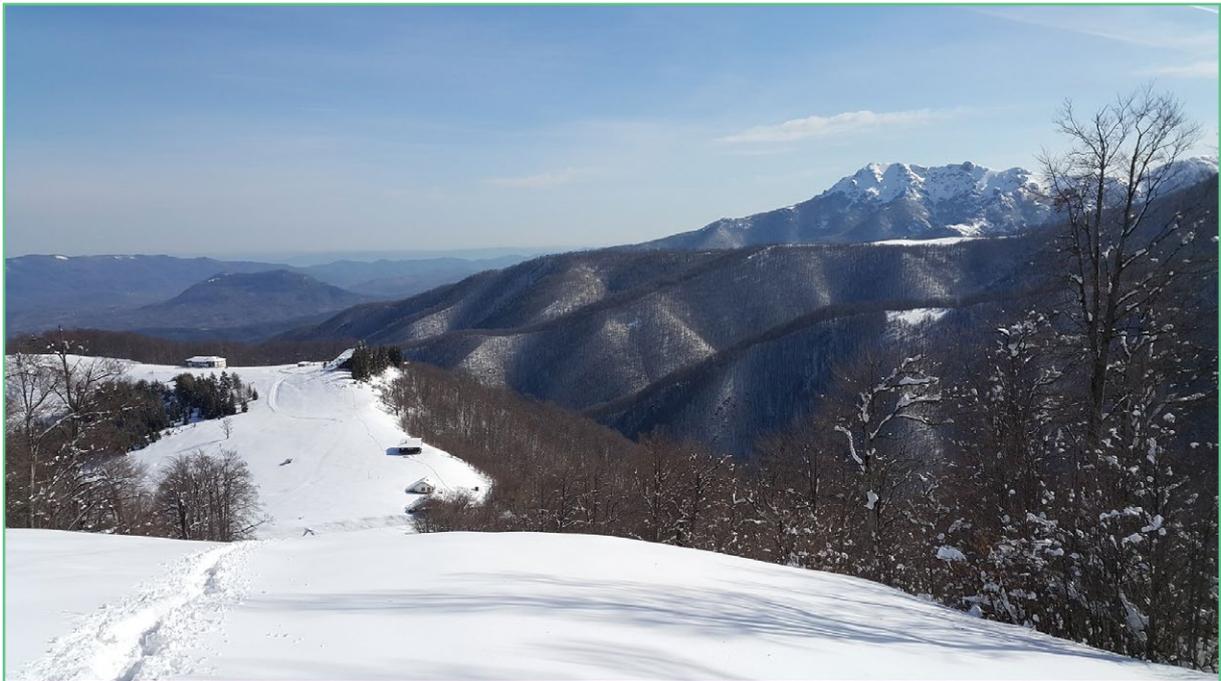


The Urals

The Urals are around 1,550 miles long (2,500km). They form a border between Europe and Asia and are about 300 million years old. The highest peak is Mount Narodnaya which is 1,895 metres tall.

The Balkan Mountains

This range stretches for 560km. The highest peak is known as Botev (2,376 metres) and is located in Bulgaria. Bulgaria's widest river, the Iskar, also flows through these mountains.



Questions

1. For how many miles do the Pyrenees stretch? Tick **one**.

- 435 miles
- 340 miles
- 270 miles
- 4,810 miles

2. Name **two** countries that the Alps travel through.

3. What is the highest peak in the Alps?

4. Where were the first ever Winter Olympics held? Tick **one**.

- Mont Blanc
- Chamonix
- Romania
- Serbia

5. In your own words, explain why the Alps are such a popular tourist destination. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

6. How tall is Mount Corno? Tick **one**.

- Nearly 3,000 metres
- Nearly 2,376 metres
- Nearly 1,895 metres
- Nearly 4,000 metres

7. What is the name of Bulgaria's widest river? Tick **one**.

- Narodnaya
- Botev
- Seine
- Iskar

Answers

1. For how many miles do the Pyrenees stretch? Tick **one**.

- 435 miles
- 340 miles
- 270 miles**
- 4,810 miles

2. Name **two** countries that the Alps travel through.

Accept two of the following: Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany and Austria.

3. What is the highest peak in the Alps?

Mont Blanc

4. Where were the first ever Winter Olympics held? Tick **one**.

- Mont Blanc
- Chamonix**
- Romania
- Serbia

5. In your own words, explain why the Alps are such a popular tourist destination. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: The Alps are such a popular tourist destination because the scenery is so wonderful but they can also do a variety of activities such as mountaineering, hiking, mountain biking and paragliding. People also visit in the winter to go skiing or snowboarding.

6. How tall is Mount Corno? Tick **one**.

- Nearly 3,000 metres**
- Nearly 2,376 metres
- Nearly 1,895 metres
- Nearly 4,000 metres

7. What is the name of Bulgaria's widest river? Tick **one**.

- Narodnaya
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