

Countries of the World

In our world, some people spend their entire lives never having traveled more than twenty or thirty miles from their homes (little more than a day's journey in Biblical times). Many have never visited the capital cities of their homeland even just a few miles away.

For others, distance—horizontal or vertical—is no obstacle to their pursuit of self-realization. They seek out skies to soar in, mountains to climb, roads to wander, seas to sail.

In the issues of this e-zine you will get to know a little about some of our global neighbors. You may never travel to any of these countries in person or meet anyone who was born there but, hopefully if you do, the country or person will seem less “foreign” to you because of this brief introduction.

Below are 192 independent countries most of which are commonly recognized by major world organizations, including the United Nations.

Independent Countries of the World

Afghanistan (A)	Congo, Republic of the (AF)	Ireland (E)
Albania (E)	Costa Rica (N)	Israel (M)
Algeria (AF)	Côte d'Ivoire (AF)	Italy (E)
Andorra (E)	Croatia (E)	Jamaica (C)
Angola (AF)	Cuba (C)	Japan (AS)
Antigua and Barbuda (C)	Cyprus (E/AS)	Jordan (M)
Argentina (S)	Czech Republic (E)	Kazakhstan (AS)
Armenia (E)	Denmark (E)	Kenya (AF)
Australia (P)	Djibouti (AF)	Kiribati (P)
Austria (E)	Dominica (C)	Korea, North (AS)
Azerbaijan (AS)	Dominican Republic (C)	Korea, South (AS)
Bahamas (C)	East Timor (AS)	Kuwait (M)
Bahrain (M)	Ecuador (S)	Kyrgyzstan (AS)
Bangladesh (AS)	Egypt (AF)	Laos (AS)
Barbados (C)	El Salvador (N)	Latvia (E)
Belarus (E)	Equatorial Guinea (AF)	Lebanon (M)
Belgium (E)	Eritrea (AF)	Lesotho (AF)
Belize (N)	Estonia (E)	Liberia (AF)
Bhutan (AS)	Ethiopia (AF)	Libya (AF)
Benin (AF)	Fiji (P)	Liechtenstein (E)
Bolivia (S)	Finland (E)	Lithuania (E)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (E)	France (E)	Luxembourg (E)
Botswana (AF)	Gabon (AF)	Macedonia (E)
Brazil (S)	Gambia (AF)	Madagascar (AF)
Brunei (AS)	Georgia (E)	Malawi (AF)
Bulgaria (E)	Germany (E)	Malaysia (AS)
Burkina Faso (AF)	Ghana (AF)	Maldives (AS)
Burundi (AF)	Greece (E)	Mali (AF)
Cambodia (AS)	Grenada (C)	Malta (E)
Cameroon (AF)	Guatemala (N)	Marshall Islands (P)
Canada (N)	Guinea (AF)	Mauritania (AF)
Cape Verde (E)	Guinea-Bissau (AF)	Mauritius (AF)
Central African Republic (AF)	Guyana (S)	Mexico (N)
Chad (AF)	Haiti (C)	Micronesia, Federated States of (P)
Chile (S)	Honduras (N)	Moldova, Republic of (E)
China, People's Republic of (AS)	Hungary (E)	Monaco (E)
Colombia	Iceland (E)	Mongolia (AS)
Comoros (AF)	India (AS)	Morocco (AF)
Congo, Democratic Republic of the (Zaire) (AF)	Indonesia (AS)	Mozambique (AF)
	Iran (M)	Myanmar (Burma) (AS)
	Iraq (M)	

Namibia (AF)	Saint Lucia (C)	Tajikistan (AS)
Nauru (P)	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (C)	Tanzania (AF)
Nepal (AS)	Samoa (P)	Thailand (AS)
Netherlands (E)	San Marino (E)	Togo (AF)
New Zealand (P)	Sao Tome and Principe (AF)	Tonga (P)
Nicaragua (NA)	Saudi Arabia (M)	Trinidad and Tobago (C)
Niger (AF)	Senegal (AF)	Tunisia (AF)
Nigeria (AF)	Serbia and Montenegro (E)	Turkey (E/AS)
Norway (E)	Seychelles (AF)	Turkmenistan (AS)
Oman (M)	Sierra Leone (AF)	Tuvalu (P)
Pakistan (AS)	Singapore (AS)	Uganda (AF)
Palau (P)	Slovakia (E)	Ukraine (E)
Panama (NA)	Slovenia (E)	United Arab Emirates (M)
Papua New Guinea (P)	Solomon Islands (P)	United Kingdom (E)
Paraguay (S)	Somalia (AF)	United States (N)
Peru (S)	South Africa (AF)	Uruguay (S)
Philippines (AS)	Spain (E)	Uzbekistan (AS)
Poland (E)	Sri Lanka (AS)	Vanuatu (P)
Portugal (E)	Sudan (AF)	Vatican City (E)
Qatar (M)	Suriname (S)	Venezuela (S)
Romania (E)	Swaziland (AF)	Vietnam (AS)
Russia (Russian Federation) (E/AS)	Sweden (E)	Yemen (M)
Rwanda (AF)	Switzerland (E)	Zambia (AF)
Saint Kitts and Nevis (C)	Syria (M)	Zimbabwe (AF)

AF=Africa AN=Antarctic AS=Asia C=Caribbean E=Europe M=Mideast N=North America P=Pacific/Oceania S=South America

Listed below are another 44 geopolitical entities with permanent local populations. They are mostly dependencies of other countries, or are occupied by a foreign government or of other disputed governance.

Dependencies and Other Inhabited Lands

American Samoa (P)	Gibraltar (E)	Northern Mariana Islands (P)
Anguilla (C)	Greenland (E)	Pitcairn Islands (P)
Aruba (C)	Guadeloupe (C)	Puerto Rico (C)
Bermuda (N)	Guam (P)	Reunion (AF)
British Virgin Islands (C)	Guernsey (E)	Saint Helena (S/AF)
Cayman Islands (C)	Hong Kong (AS)	Saint Pierre and Miquelon (N)
Christmas Island (AS)	Jersey (E)	Svalbard (E)
Cocos (Keeling) Islands (AS)	Macau (AS)	Taiwan (AS)
Cook Islands (P)	Man, Isle of (E)	Tibet Autonomous Region (AS)
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) (S)	Mayotte (AF)	Tokelau (P)
Faroe Islands (E)	Montserrat (C)	Turks and Caicos Islands (C)
French Guiana (S)	Netherlands Antilles (C)	US Virgin Islands (C)
French Polynesia (P)	New Caledonia (P)	Wallis and Futuna (P)
Gaza Strip (M)	Niue (P)	West Bank (M)
	Norfolk Island (P)	Western Sahara (AF)