

Photo  
MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

# Mount Everest

Fast facts about the world's tallest peak

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## FAST FACTS

- Mount Everest is the highest elevation on Earth. It rises 8,850 meters (29,035 feet) above sea level.
- Mount Everest is part of the Himalaya mountain range, which separates the large continent of Asia from the Indian subcontinent. The 32 tallest peaks on Earth are in the Himalayas.
- Mount Everest is a part of two nations: China and Nepal. The traditional Chinese name of Mount Everest is *Chomolungma*. The traditional Nepalese name is *Sagarmatha*. A British surveyor, Sir Andrew Scott Waugh, gave Mount Everest its English name in 1865. He named it after Sir George Everest, a Welsh geographer.
- Although Mount Everest is the highest elevation on Earth, it is not the tallest mountain. Mauna Kea, on the island of Hawaii in the U.S. state of the same name, rises not from a continental mountain range, but from the seafloor. Mauna Kea rises 4,205 meters (13,976 feet) above sea level. From base to summit, however, Mauna Kea is 10,203 meters (33,476 feet) tall!
- Mount Everest, and even Mauna Kea, are far from the highest mountains in the solar system. The highest mountain in the solar system is probably Olympus Mons, a volcano on Mars. Olympus Mons rises about 22 kilometers (14 miles) into the Martian atmosphere. (That's 22,000 meters, or 72,178 feet more than twice the height of Mount Everest!)

## VOCABULARY

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
continent	<i>noun</i>	one of the seven main land masses on Earth.
Earth	<i>noun</i>	our planet, the third from the Sun. The Earth is the only place in the known universe that supports life.
elevation	<i>noun</i>	height above or below sea level.
geographer	<i>noun</i>	person who studies places and the relationships between people and their environments.
Himalaya Mountains	<i>noun</i>	mountain range between India and Nepal.

<b>Indian subcontinent</b>	<i>noun</i>	landmass in south-central Asia carried by the Indian tectonic plate, including the peninsula of India.
<b>island</b>	<i>noun</i>	body of land surrounded by water.
<b>Mars</b>	<i>noun</i>	fourth planet from the sun, between Earth and Jupiter.
<b>Mauna Kea</b>	<i>noun</i>	dormant volcano in the U.S. state of Hawaii. (4,205 meters/13,796 feet tall)
<b>mountain</b>	<i>noun</i>	landmass that forms as tectonic plates interact with each other.
<b>Mount Everest</b>	<i>noun</i>	highest spot on Earth, 8,850 meters (29,035 feet). Mount Everest is part of the Himalaya range, in Nepal and China.
<b>nation</b>	<i>noun</i>	political unit made of people who share a common territory.
<b>seafloor</b>	<i>noun</i>	surface layer of the bottom of the ocean.
<b>sea level</b>	<i>noun</i>	base level for measuring elevations. Sea level is determined by measurements taken over a 19-year cycle.
<b>solar system</b>	<i>noun</i>	the sun and the planets, asteroids, comets, and other bodies that orbit around it.
<b>summit</b>	<i>noun</i>	highest point of a mountain.
<b>surveyor</b>	<i>noun</i>	person who analyzes the specific boundaries and features of a piece of land using mathematical concepts such as geometry.

## For Further Exploration

### Articles & Profiles

- National Geographic News: Mount Everest News Roundup

### Images

- National Geographic Adventure: Mount Everest Photo Gallery

### Interactives

- National Geographic Kids: Quiz Your Noodle—Mount Everest

### Websites

- National Geographic Adventure: Mount Everest



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