

### THE VOLGA BASIN

The Volga is the longest river in Europe. It belongs to the closed basin of the Caspian Sea. Rising in the Valdai Hills 225 meters (738 ft) above sea level north-west of Moscow and about 320 kilometers (199 mi) south-east of Saint Petersburg, the Volga heads east past Lake Sterzh, Tver, Dubna, Rybinsk, Yaroslavl, Nizhny Novgorod, and Kazan. From there it turns south, flows past Ulyanovsk, Tolyatti, Samara, Saratov and Volgograd, and discharges into the Caspian Sea below Astrakhan at 28 meters (92 ft) below sea level. At its most strategic point, it bends toward the Don ("the big bend"). Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, is located there.

The Volga has many tributaries, most importantly the Kama, the Oka, the Vetluga, and the Sura rivers. The Volga and its tributaries form the Volga river system, which drains an area of about 1.35 million square kilometres in the most heavily populated part of Russia. The Volga Delta has a length of about 160 kilometres and includes as many as 500 channels and smaller rivers.

The Volga drains most of Western Russia. Its many large reservoirs provide irrigation and hydroelectric power. The Moscow Canal, the Volga-Don Canal, and the Volga-Baltic Waterway form navigable waterways connecting Moscow to the White Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. High levels of chemical pollution have adversely affected the river and its habitats.



### CABRI-VOLGA PROJECT

CABRI-Volga is an important project in support of the European Union's international cooperation goals. It has the following four overarching goals:

- Foster institutional (chiefly research/scientific) cooperation and networking within the basin and with EU counterparts;
- Increase (and coordinate) research on risks and develop/trial approaches for assessing risk;
- Channel results back into EU/international processes; and
- Leave a legacy that within the region enables institutional cooperation on risk management, transparent policy development and opportunities to participate in political processes for citizens.

(ADDITIONAL INFO ON [HTTP://WWW.CABRI-VOLGA.ORG](http://www.cabri-volga.org))



### ABOUT TWIN2GO

*Twin2Go reviews, consolidates, and synthesises research on adaptive and integrated water resources management in basins around the world. The aim is to draw insights relevant to policy and research on issues around adaptive water governance in the context of climate change, and to make them transferable to other basins. Twin2Go further promotes sharing of research results with practitioners and high level decision makers through effective dialogue.*

(Sources: <http://www.cabri-volga.org/>, Wikipedia, )