

1 Europe is the second smallest continent - but its coastline of some 24,000 miles would nearly stretch around the earth.

2 **BULGARIAN FIRE DANCERS DANCE OVER BURNING EMBERS BAREFOOT, JUST AS THEIR ANCESTORS DID THOUSANDS OF**

3 The Caspian Sea is the world's largest body of water completely surrounded by land. It's larger than Japan.

4 Cheese plays a big role in Switzerland's history. Fondue, bread dipped in warm cheese, started out in Switzerland. The holes in Swiss cheese are called "eyes."

5 Eurasian otters, found all over Europe, are very playful. Sometimes they play "tag," and slide down mud banks, or slip and slide in the snow.

6 Austria is sometimes called "The Land of Music" because many classical artists lived in Vienna. Today, almost every town in Austria has a band or orchestra.

7 The Palace of Parliament in Romania's capital can be seen from space. Some 20,000 people worked to build it, starting in July 1984.

8 In Rome you'll find the Bocca Della Verita (which means "the mouth of truth"), an ancient stone mask carved out of marble. Legend says that if you put your hand in its mouth, if you are a liar the mask will gobble it up.

9 **THE SMALL COUNTRY OF MONACO OFFERS LUXURY RESORTS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN. ONE HOTEL OFFERS AN EIGHTH-FLOOR SUITE FOR ABOUT \$14,000 A NIGHT.**

10 Finland's capital, Helsinki, is the northernmost capital in Europe, and stretches across more than 300 islands.

11 Mount Etna, a volcano on the island of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea, is almost always erupting. There are three observatories on the volcano.

12 About one-third of all the world's raspberries come from Serbia.

13 LEGO'S were first created in Denmark. When a giant, eight-foot-tall LEGO man washed ashore in Florida, U.S.A., it was traced back to a Dutch artist.

14 **A MAN ONCE RODE HIS BIKE DOWN THE 1,665 STEPS OF THE EIFFEL TOWER IN PARIS, FRANCE.**

15 The first circus was held in Rome, Italy.

16 The Sami people of Scandinavia are excellent reindeer herders. Reindeer can walk 3,000 miles a year.

17 The International Court of Justice is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands. It's located in the Peace Palace.

18 The Alps have more than 30,000 animal species and 13,000 plant species, making them a biodiversity hot spot.

19 Many parts of the autobahn, or German highway system, have no speed limit. The first part was completed in 1932, and the system now stretches for 6,800 miles.

20 The largest known super-colony of ants stretches nearly 4,000 miles through Portugal, France, Spain and Italy.

21 More than 400 species of European butterflies take to the skies. The yellow-and-black swallowtail can be found flitting across alpine meadows.

22 The London, England, subway system is called the "Tube" or the "Underground." It's estimated that half a million mice live in the system.

23 Iceland has two main zones of volcanism because it is located on the boundary of tectonic plates.

24 Finland has some 188,000 lakes.

25 More people with red hair are born in Scotland than anywhere else in the world.

26 **THE WORLD'S LEAST POPULOUS COUNTRY - VATICAN CITY - RECORDED 798 CITIZENS IN 2011. IT IS LOCATED WITHIN ROME, ITALY.**

27 The flag of the European Union has a circle of 12 yellow stars on a blue background. The stars symbolize harmony and unity.

28 The English Channel stretches 21 miles between England and France. The quickest swim across it took a little more than seven hours, but the longest took more than a day!

29 The deepest lake in Europe is found in Norway. Lake Hornindalsvatnet is 1,686 feet deep.

30 **IRELAND HAS NO NATIVE SNAKES. THE LEGEND IS THAT ST. PATRICK FORCED THEM TO LEAVE.**

31 The Berlin Wall, which divided Germany for 28 years, came down in 1989. It contained 302 watch-towers and 259 paths for guard dogs. Today, pieces of the wall are in museums around the world. You can also buy pieces of it on Ebay.

32 Hungary's capital, Budapest, has more than 100 thermal springs. Be careful when soaking in the spas and baths since some of the waters can reach a scalding 168 degrees!

33 Venice, Italy, has no roads but has canals instead. The city is actually more than 100 islands connected by a canal system.

34 Duffel bags are named for a Belgian town where the cloth used to make them comes from.

35 The Statue of Liberty in New York was constructed in France.

36 **THE FIRST WORLD TOE WRESTLING COMPETITION WAS HELD IN DERBYSHIRE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1967.**

37 The Leaning Tower of Pisa began to lean with the addition of the third floor. The 14,000 ton medieval tower took over 800 years to fully complete and leans 16 feet off-center.

38 In France and Spain, instead of a tooth fairy, a legendary tooth mouse comes to collect children's teeth.

39 The most chocolate in the world is sold at Brussels National Airport in Belgium.

40 Putting your hands below the table during a meal in France, Germany and Austria is considered rude.

41 The biggest Ferris wheel in Europe, the London Eye, takes 30 minutes to rotate and travels so slowly that passengers can get on and off without the wheel stopping.

42 Istanbul, Turkey, is the only large city that stretches across two continents - Europe and Asia. About 70 percent of Istanbul's residents live in the European sector.

43 It's estimated that there are more bicycles than people in Amsterdam.

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# FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT EUROPE