

Niger River

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Niger River Latest News

An accident involving a boat carrying passengers on the Niger River in north-central Nigeria has killed at least 26 people recently.

About Niger River

- It is the **principal river of western Africa**.
- With a length of **4,200 km**, it is the **third longest river in Africa, after the Nile and the Congo**.
- **In West Africa, it's the longest and largest river and is nicknamed the "Boomerang River" due to its serpentine shape.**
- **Course:**
 - It takes one of the most unusual routes of any major river.
 - It **rises in Guinea**, just **240 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean**, but the **river runs** away from the sea **into the Sahara Desert**.
 - It then **takes a sharp right turn near Mali's Timbuktu city**.

- It flows through **Mali, Niger, Benin, and Nigeria**, and **empties into the Atlantic Ocean via the Niger Delta**.
- **Niger Delta:**
 - It is located in **southern Nigeria**, where the **Niger River meets the Atlantic Ocean (Gulf of Guinea)**.
 - It is the **largest river delta in Africa** and features the **fifth largest mangrove forest on Earth**.
- The Niger **passes through virtually all of the vegetational zones of western Africa**, including grasslands, rainforests, and swamps.
- The Niger River Basin covers 7.5 percent of the African continent, and its **main tributary** is the **Benue River**.
- The **northern part** of the river, known as the **Niger Bend**, is an important area because it is the **closest major river and source of water to the Sahara desert**.
- The **Niger Valley** is **sparsely settled**. The **largest cities** are **Bamako in Mali, Niamey in Niger, and Onitsha in Nigeria**.

Source: HT

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