

Congo River

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Congo River Latest News

Over 107 people have died following a whaleboat fire on the Congo River recently.

About Congo River

- The Congo River, or **Zaire River**, is a river in **west-central Africa**.
- With a length of **2,900 miles (4,700 km)**, it is the **continent's second longest river, after the Nile**.
- It is also the **world's second-largest river by discharge volume after the Amazon River**.
- It is also the **world's deepest river**, with a maximum depth of 720 feet (220m), too deep for light to penetrate.
- It is the **only major river that crosses the Equator twice**.
- **Course:**
 - **Origin:** It rises in the **highlands of northeastern Zambia between Lakes Tanganyika and Nyasa (Malawi) as the Chambeshi River** at an elevation of 5,760 feet (1,760 metres) above sea level.

- Its course then takes the form of a giant counterclockwise arc, flowing to the northwest, west, and southwest before **draining into the Atlantic Ocean at Banana (Banane) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**
- It also **empties water** and sediment into **one of the largest carbon sinks in the world, the Congo Plume in the Atlantic.**
- The **riverbed continues offshore** with an **800 km-long submarine canyon** that reaches a depth of 1,220 m.
- The Congo River system **runs through the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, western Zambia, northern Angola, and parts of Cameroon and Tanzania.**
- Its drainage basin covers an area of 1,335,000 square miles (3,457,000 square km). It's the **world's second-largest river basin, after the Amazon River Basin.**
- The basin is **bordered by the Sahara Desert to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the south and west, and the East African lakes region to the east.**
- Because the river's **many large tributaries** (including the **Lomami, Kasai, Lulonga, Ubangi, Aruwimi, Itimbiri, and Mongala** rivers) **drain areas with rainy seasons that alternate on either side of the equator**, the **Congo** has a **fairly constant flow of water throughout the year.**
- The **mix of equatorial climate and massive water source** provided by the river provides the perfect ingredients for the **second-largest tropical rainforest in the world, the Congo Basin rainforest.**
- The Congo is **easily navigable for most of its length**, and much of the trade of Central Africa passes along it.

Source: **DEVD**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/congo-river/>

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