





The Region called East Africa

Africa is the second largest continent in the world after Asia. It claims one-fifth of the earth's land surface and is big enough to contain the United States, India, China and the whole of Western Europe with room to spare.

From north to south, Africa stretches for just over 5,000 miles (8,000 kilometres), and at its broadest point the distance across the continent from east to west is nearly the same. Within this huge continent are the independent countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. These three countries form the area known as East Africa.

Much of East Africa is a plateau 3,000 feet (915 metres) or more above sea level. Here, Africa's tallest mountains are to be found. To the north-west, in Uganda, the mist-shrouded Ruwenzori—Mountains of the Moon—rise to 16,794 feet (5,122 metres). Mount Kenya reaches 17,058 feet (5,202 metres and, although it is a short distance from the equator, it is capped with snow and ice. Due south from Mount Kenya is Tanzania's 19,321 feet (5,893 metres) tall Kilimanjaro, the highest point in the whole African continent. Mount Meru,