

Top Facts about the Arctic Ocean

- 1.** The Arctic Ocean is the smallest of the five oceans of the world. It's roughly 8% the size of the Pacific Ocean.
- 2.** The Arctic Ocean has a coastline of 45,389 km and has depth of 4,665 m (from basin).
- 3.** The Arctic Ocean gets its name from 'Arctos', the Greek word for 'bear', because the Bear Constellation can be seen just above the north pole.
- 4.** The Ocean boasts several important ports and harbors like Churchill (Canada), Murmansk (Russia) and Prudhoe Bay (US).
- 5.** The economic activity from the ocean is limited to the utilization of natural resources, including petroleum, natural gas, fish, and seals.
- 6.** The Arctic Ocean's cold sheet of floating ice is quarters to seals, polar bears and arctic fox.
- 7.** The deepest spot under the Arctic Ocean is the Fram Basin, which is located 15,300 feet below the ice cover, and all this water is icy cold, that supports less marine life.
- 8.** There are three kinds of ice in the Arctic Ocean: pack ice, polar ice and fast ice.
- 9.** Temperatures of the icy water vary from -30 to -70°C all year round!
- 10.** The floating ice is around 16 million sq. km, which shrinks to 9 million sq. km. in summers. When the ice shrinks, open water leads expose the black water.
- 11.** The Arctic Ocean's ice sheet is four times as large as the state of Texas.
- 12.** More fish live along the edges of the Arctic Ocean than anywhere else on the Earth.
- 13.** During long winters, the sun never rises above the horizon for a period of four months. This is a fact and it happens every year!
- 14.** The Arctic is the only place on the Earth where polar bears live. The place receives roughly 8 inches of rain every year.
- 15.** The first surface crossing of the ocean was led by Wally Herbert in 1969.