

Distance from the Shore.

One of the most important geographical characteristics of the European continent is that the major part of the territory is lying near the shore. Beside its elongated shape this fact is also due to the considerable number of inner seas, large bays and peninsulas and in general, to the splitting up of the coast-line. In this respect the Eastern European Russian table-land is of an absolutely dissimilar type. A large portion of this vast territory extending towards Asia is lying far from the coasts; its longest coast-line, along the Arctic Ocean, however, is not suited for navigation. Even this characteristic - beside others - separates well the Eastern European table-land from the interior of Europe, as well as from the southern and western coastal areas.

On the body of our continent the most distant point from the seas is to be found in the northeastern portion of the Great Hungarian Plain. The whole Carpathian Basin itself, compared to the other portions of Inner Europe, is lying distant from the sea. The distance in bee-line, is enlarged by the fact that from here the nearest coasts of the Adriatic Sea cannot be approached indirectly but by numerous byways across large mountains; the coasts of the Black Sea, however, have no good harbours and in this direction too, the great hindrance of the Carpathians has to be overcome.

Our Table below illustrates the fact how much the coasts being near in bee-line are remotest from the more important centers of Central Europe by geographical barriers. To get from Vienna to the harbour of Hamburg lying at the North Sea by railway /by passenger train/ takes one and a half times more time than to reach the harbour of Trieste on the Adriatic

lying twice as near in bee-line. The space of time of the latter is better approached by the distance of the harbour of Stettin at the Baltic Sea, its distance in bee-line being also considerably greater /almost twice/. Budapest has far more the same location. / The duration of railway time had been determined according to the actual time-table of about 1935:

			In bee-line km	By railway km	In time by passenger- train
Distance of Vienna from	Triest		349	587	19 ^h 30'
"	"	Stettin	597	834	26 ^h 15'
"	"	Hamburg	732	1.073	28 ^h 40'
"	Budapest	Fiume	435	618	21 ^h 38'
		Stettin	746	975	28 ^h 20'
		Hamburg	923	1.262	30 ^h 19'
		Constanza	821	1.131	36 ^h 27'
"	"	Lwów			
		Danzig	612	822	24 ^h 21'
		Galati	576	691	26 ^h 01'
"	"	Beograd			
		Susak /Fiume/	486	664	20 ^h 07'
		Dubrovnik	310	756	25 ^h 50'
		Saloniki	505	719	26 ^h 38'
		Varna	620	951	44 ^h 10'

The distance from the seas accounts for the central location of the Carpathian Basin and its surroundings, as well as for the formation of the climatic conditions, consequently it affects agriculture, conditions of living and communication.

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The lines show 200—400—600—800 km distances from the shores

