

Continental and Maritime Climates

Areas far from the ocean and large lakes in the interior of land masses have a **continental climate**. The *temperature range is great* because there is no large water body to moderate the hot temperatures of summer and the cold temperatures of winter.

Coastal regions have a **maritime climate**. The *temperature range is relatively small* and the *level of precipitation is high* due to the moist air from the neighbouring body of water.

Determining if a climate is Maritime or Continental



1. **Temperature Range**

The Difference between highest and lowest temperature

Large (greater than or equal to 25°C) = **continental**

Small (less than 25°C) = **maritime**



2. **Total Precipitation**

The amount of rain or snow over a year

Less than 1000 mm = **continental**

Greater than or equal to 1000 mm = **maritime**



3. **Seasonal Distribution**

The season with the highest precipitation

Summer maximum = **continental**

Winter maximum = **maritime**

If a location has two out of the three characteristics, the location will be classified as such (maritime or continental).