

23andMe – Northern European Maps



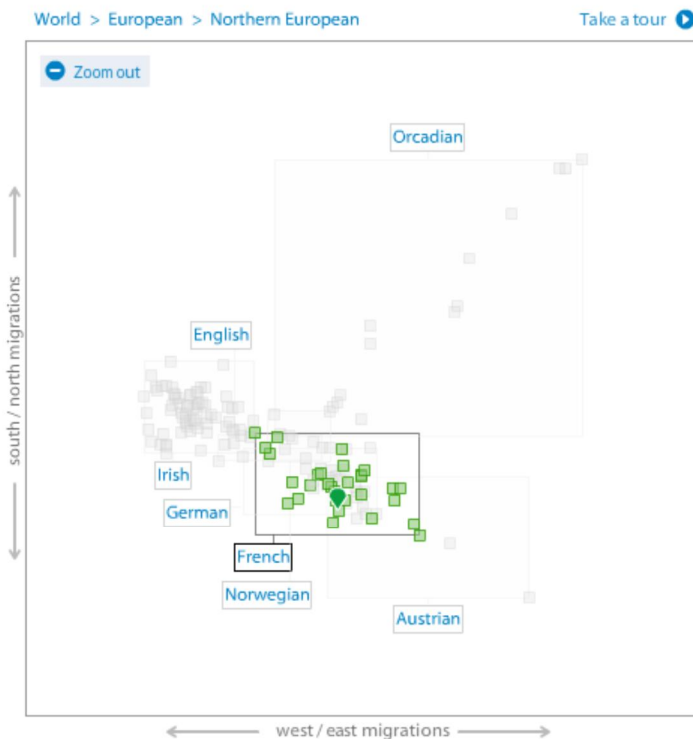
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Northern European

Northern Europe's prehistory was shaped by the advancement and retreat of ice sheets during the Ice Age, which reached its peak about 18,000 years ago. At that time the region was nearly uninhabited, covered mostly by mile-thick ice sheets and vast stretches of frozen tundra. But when the ice began to retreat about 15,000 years ago, the ancestors of many present-day northern Europeans moved northward from Iberia, the Balkans and the Italian peninsula.

We consider the Alps and Pyrenees to divide southern and northern Europe, the Caucasus Mountains and Caspian Sea to



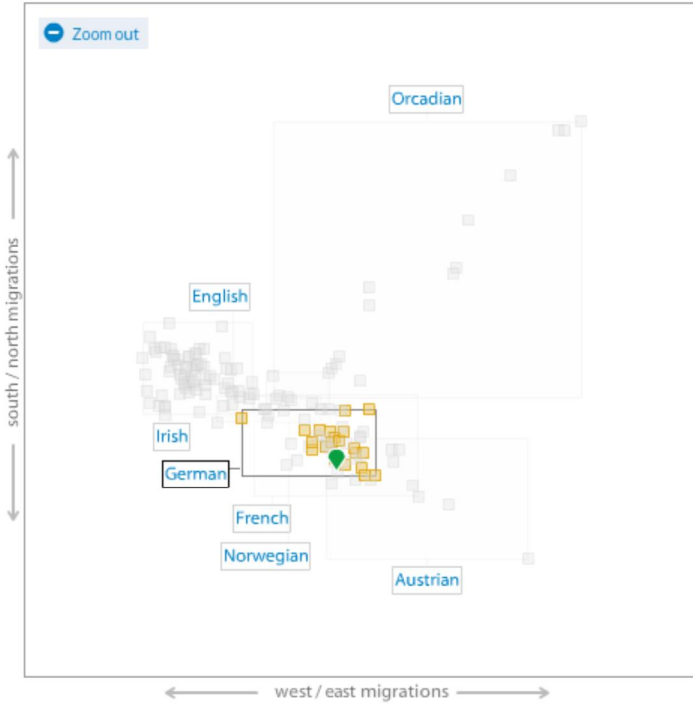
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French (various regions)

The French population is a diverse one thanks to their country's wide range of landscapes, including the coastal plains of the north and west and the mountain ranges of the south and southeast.

About 2,500 years ago the region was occupied by people called Gauls, who spoke Celtic languages. Just over 2,000 years ago the Romans under Julius Caesar conquered the region, imposing their culture and language. Five hundred years later, Germanic speaking peoples, including the Franks (from whom the name France is derived), invaded the eastern part of the region controlled by the Gauls.



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German

The Germans are the second largest ethnic group in Europe, after the Russians. They occupy a diverse territory that stretches from the northern fringes of the Alps to the low-lying coastal regions along the North and Baltic Seas. There are also significant numbers of people with German ancestry in many North and South American countries, especially the United States, Canada, Brazil and Argentina.

Though Germany itself was only unified as a country in 1871, a common Germanic linguistic and archaeological tradition had developed in central Europe by about 2,000 years ago. The word "German" was

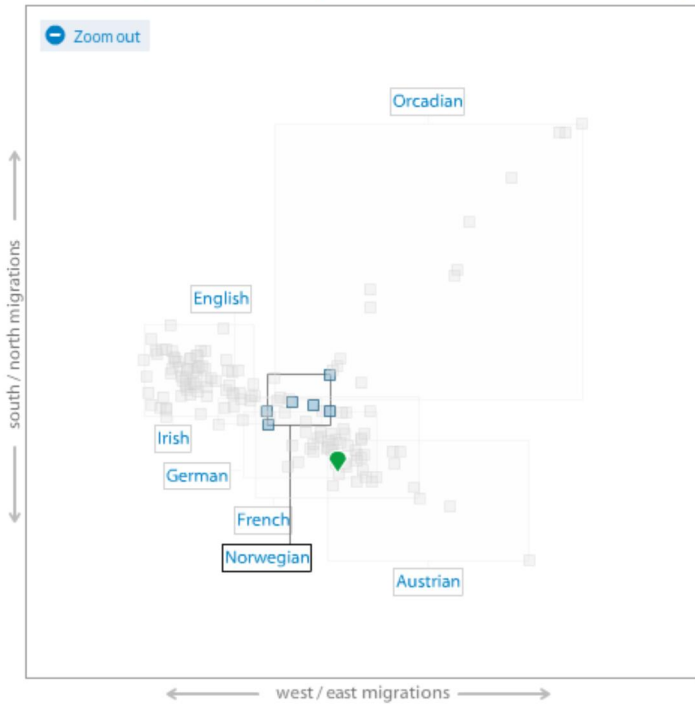


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Austrian

Austria's prehistory was shaped by the advancement and retreat of ice sheets during the Ice Age, which reached its peak about 18,000 years ago. At that time the region was nearly uninhabited, covered mostly by mile-thick ice sheets and vast stretches of frozen tundra. But when the ice began to retreat about 15,000 years ago, the ancestors of many present-day Austrians moved northward, probably from the Italian Peninsula or the Balkans. The genetic diversity of Austria reflects the history of these post-Ice Age human expansions, as well as more recent migrations within continental Europe.



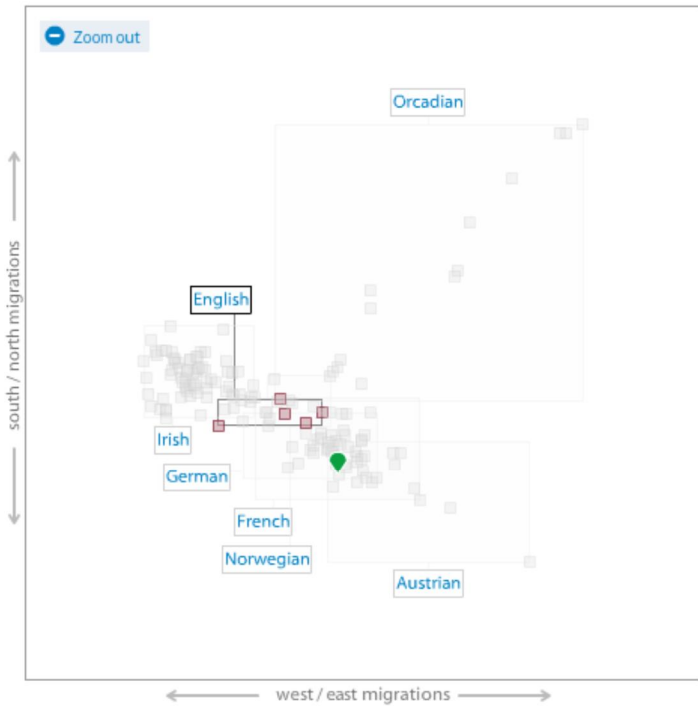
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Norwegian

Norway's prehistory was shaped by the advancement and retreat of ice sheets during the Ice Age, which reached its peak about 18,000 years ago. At that time the region was totally uninhabited, covered entirely by mile-thick ice sheets. But when the ice began to retreat about 15,000 years ago, the ancestors of many present-day Norwegian moved northward, probably from Iberia or the Italian Peninsula. The genetic diversity of Norway reflects the history of these post-Ice Age human expansions, as well as more recent migrations within continental Europe.

We consider Norway to refer to the present

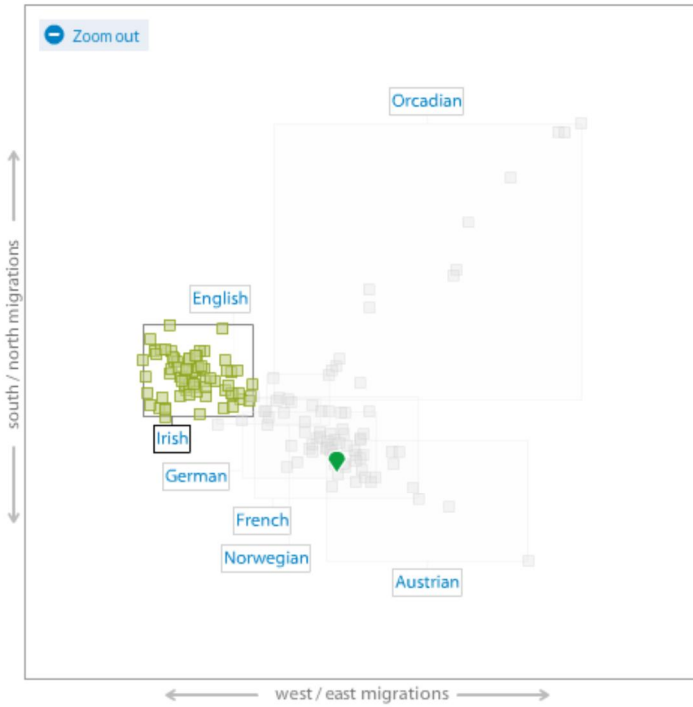


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English

The prehistory of the United Kingdom was shaped by the advancement and retreat of ice sheets during the Ice Age, which reached its peak about 18,000 years ago. At that time the region was totally uninhabited, covered entirely by mile-thick ice sheets. But when the ice began to retreat about 15,000 years ago, the ancestors of many present-day British moved northward, probably from Iberia or the Italian Peninsula. The genetic diversity of the United Kingdom reflects the history of these post-Ice Age human expansions, as well as much more recent migrations from continental Europe.



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Irish

Only a small fraction of people with Irish ancestry live in Ireland today, thanks to 19th- and 20th-century migrations that carried the island's people around the globe. As a result Ireland's native-born population numbers about 5 million, whereas the number of people of Irish descent in the United States is ten times that. The populations of Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand also have significant Irish ancestry.

The Irish are descended from people who migrated north out of the Iberian peninsula after the last Ice Age. Because the glaciers that had covered Ireland during the Ice Age



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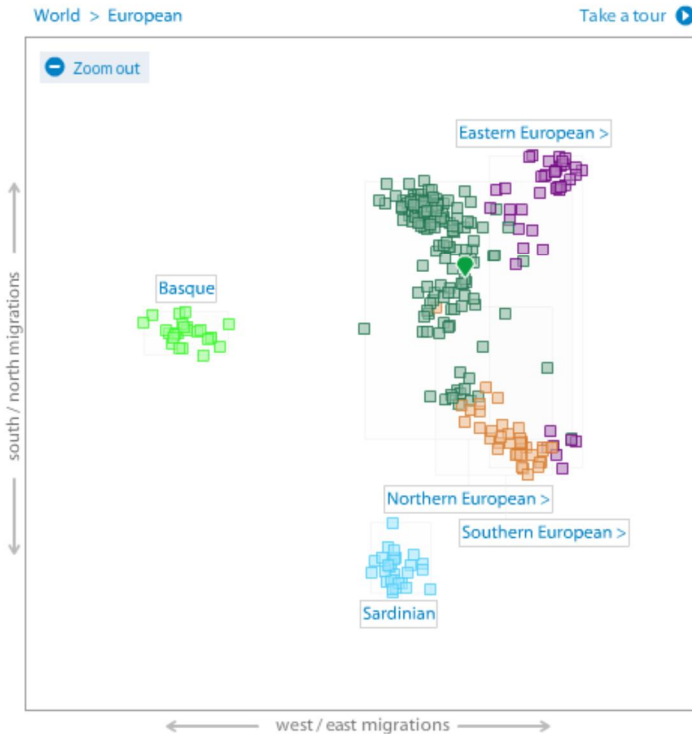
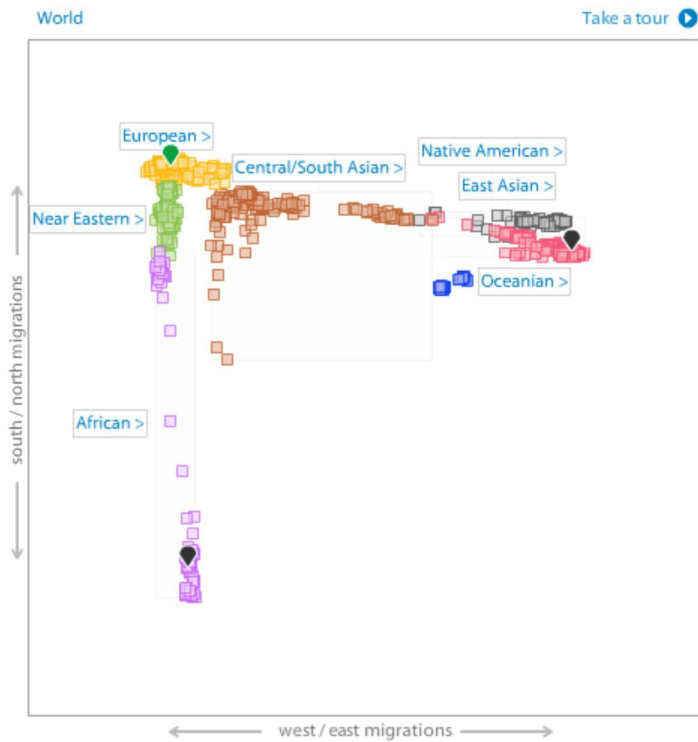
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Orcadian

The Orkney Islands lie off Scotland's northern coast, at about the same latitude as Stockholm, Sweden. The people of the Orkneys, who are known as Orcadians, consider themselves distinct from the Scottish even though the Scottish county of Caithness lies only 10 miles across the Pentland Firth.

People first took up residence on the cold, rocky islands roughly 5,500 years ago. Historically the Orcadians are known for their aggressive seamanship and exploratory spirit, characteristics that led to a highly dispersed set of descendants. At the end of the first millennium AD the

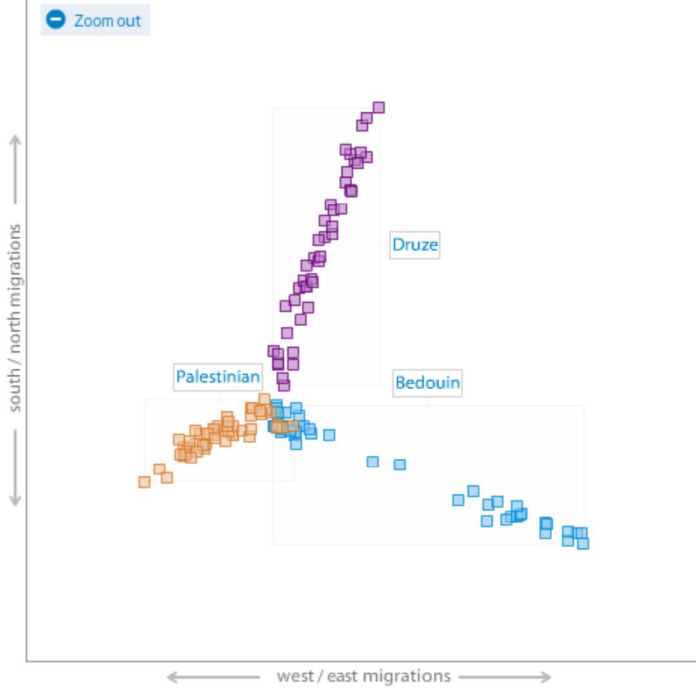
From Global to European



Selected Other

World > Near Eastern

Take a tour



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Palestinian

Palestinians trace their origins to the lands between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, a territory that has long been a migration corridor between Arabia and Egypt to the south and Anatolia and the Balkans to the north. As a result, the Palestinian people have a diverse and complex ancestry.

Genetic studies suggest that the Palestinians share a Near Eastern origin with Israeli, Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews.

Of today's 10 million Palestinians, about half can be considered stateless. The

World > Native American

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Native American

People first set foot in the Americas during the peak of the Last Ice Age. Between 20 and 15,000 years ago, massive glaciers covered much of the Eurasian continent. But some hardy migrants did reach northeastern Siberia. From there, it was a relatively short journey to the Americas. People probably reached South America by 12,000 years ago. Archaeological evidence suggests that the early arrivals spread rapidly southward along the western coast. The interior of North America was settled slightly later, as glaciers initially prevented people from expanding too far inland.