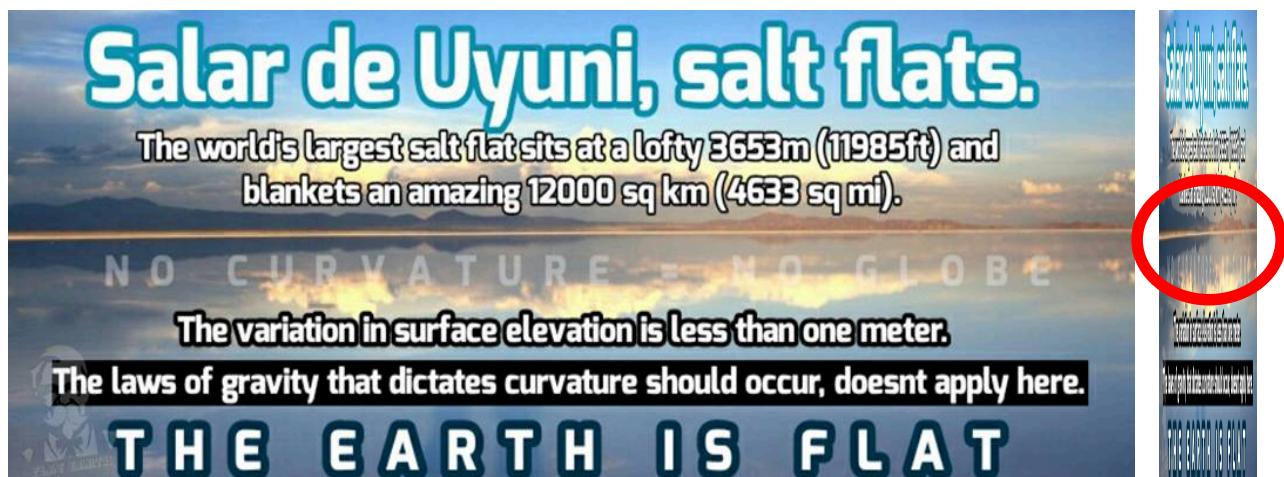


# Why any Photo of a Flat Horizon (Taken from the Surface) Proves Nothing

Photos of a flat horizon, taken from the surface are bad evidence of flat Earth and Round Earth theories. They prove nothing. But some examples, such as this are bad examples of bad evidence.



The right is an exact copy of the left image compressed horizontally. It's not even a flat horizon.



So, let's start with a GOOD example of bad evidence. [This beautifully flat horizon](#) is taken from just above the surface. Let's say it's in a boat, 10 feet above sea level. Let's also say it's a rectilinear 50mm lens, which is as close to the human eye as can be done in photography. It passes the compression test.

Is it even possible to show curvature from the surface. Actually not, it's impossible, and can be proven by anyone with basic math, provided conveniently to us in the form of theory-agnostic tools. Let's say one degree of curvature is

barely enough to prove a spherical earth. Five degrees would be a slam dunk, but let's assume one degree is enough. What is the length of a 1-degree arc, assuming an [earth radius of 67,371 km](#). This is conveniently provided by this [handymath.com calculator](#).

## handymath.com Solutions For Technicians

[Home](#)   [Calculators](#)   [Guidelines](#)   [Contact](#)

### The Complete Circular Arc Calculator

Color Code		Entered Values					Calculated Values	
Radius of Arc (m)	Length of Arc (ft)	Width of Arc (ft)	Height of Arc (ft)	Apothem (ft)	Angle Subtended by Arc (deg)	Area of Segment (ft <sup>2</sup> )		
67371000	3857761.71378	3857712.74974	8416.27705	221025048.28981	1.0	1645135263.71925		

Google

All Maps Shopping News Videos More Settings Tools

About 161,000 results (0.67 seconds)

Length	=	730.6367424
3857762		
Foot	Mile	

[More info](#) [Feedback](#)

Horizon Length = 3858km = 731 miles. Our eye-replicating 50mm rectilinear lens has a [horizontal field of view](#) of 39.6 degrees. We'll use half the field of view (19.8 deg and 365 mi) to form a right triangle, and then [calculate our distance from the arc](#). Distance = 1014 miles.

This is a problem. We have to be over a thousand miles away to see a barely sufficient 1 degree arc of curvature. Maybe on a flat earth one can see 1000 miles, [but on a round earth](#), the actual horizon is about four miles.

This app calculates how much a distant object is obscured by the earth's curvature, and makes the following assumptions:

- the earth is a convex sphere of radius 6371 kilometres
- light travels in straight lines

The source code and calculation method are [available on GitHub.com](#)

Units  Metric  Imperial

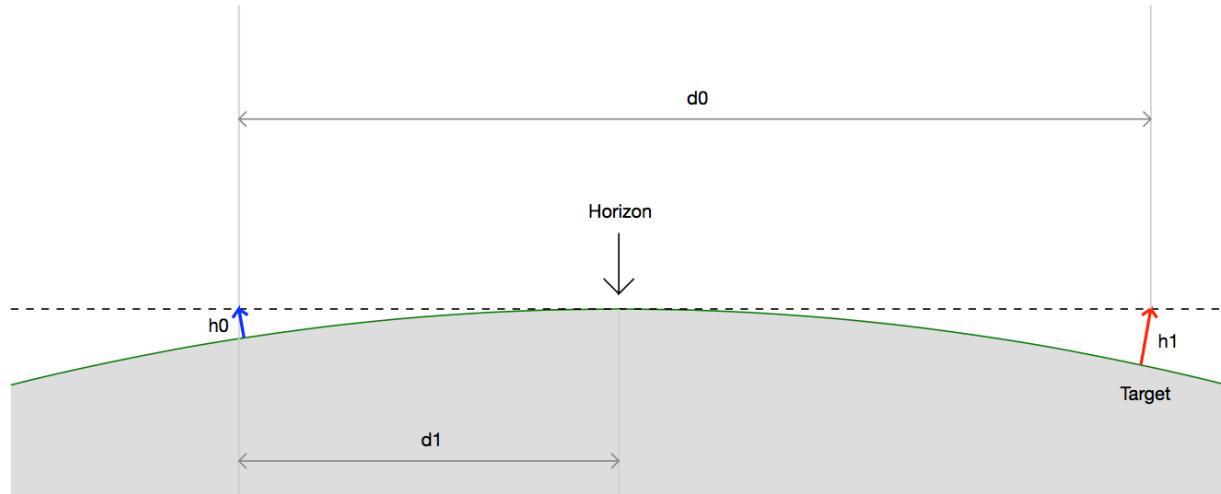
**h<sub>0</sub> = Eye height**  feet **On a small boat**

**d<sub>0</sub> = Target distance**  miles **Dist to 1-deg curvature**

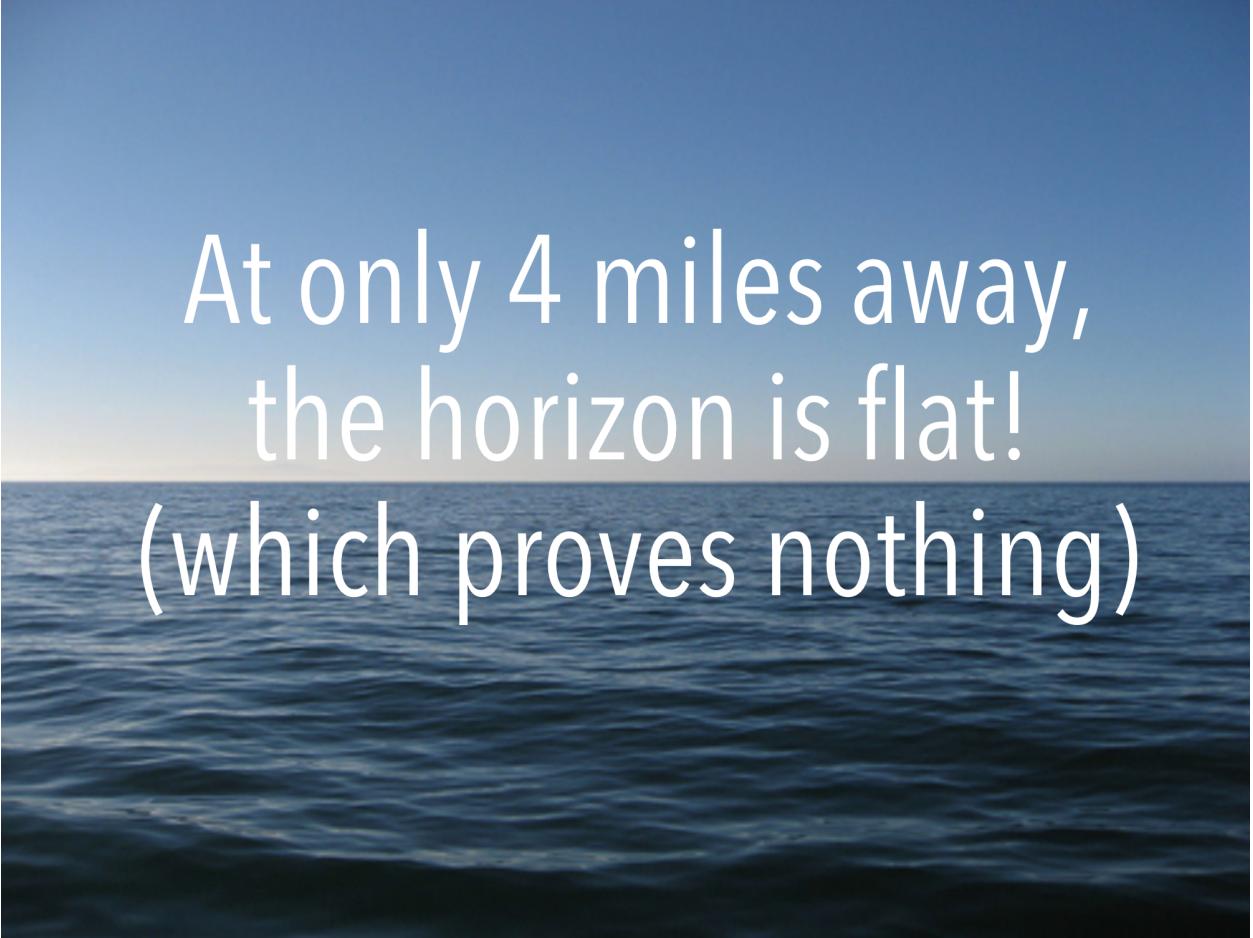
**Calculate**

**d<sub>1</sub> = Horizon distance** 3.872399 miles **The real horizon 4 mi away**

**h<sub>1</sub> = Target hidden height** 669714.9374 feet **Curvature hidden from view**



Conclusion: do not use photos of a horizon 4 miles away to support either theory.

A photograph of the ocean under a clear blue sky. The horizon is visible in the distance, where the dark blue water meets a lighter blue sky. The water in the foreground has small, dark ripples.

At only 4 miles away,  
the horizon is flat!

(which proves nothing)