



## **Puma Yumco** **China**

Several hundred lakes dot the expansive Tibetan Plateau. With the average elevation exceeding 4,500 meters (14,800 feet) above sea level, these lakes are among the highest in the world.

Recent research suggests that the number and surface area of lakes on the Tibetan Plateau has increased significantly since the 1990s.

Puma Yumco is one of the larger lakes in southern Tibet. Tuiwa, a small village along the eastern edge of the lake, is reportedly one of the highest settlements in the world. Every winter, Tuiwa villagers herd thousands of sheep across the lake's frozen surface to two small islands, where the soil is more fertile and the forage is better.