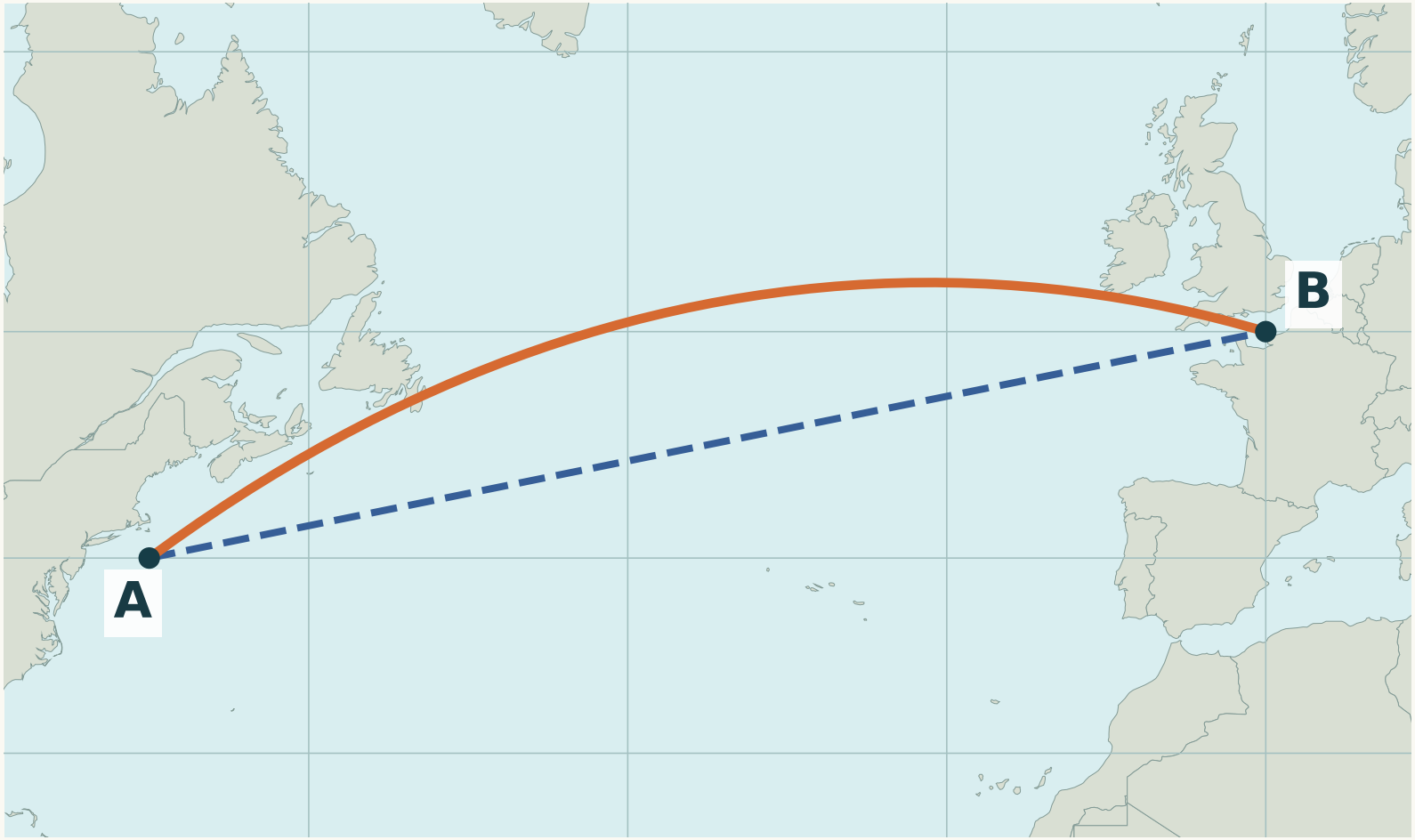
Mercator: the shortest route bends

Same endpoints • same spherical great-circle path



Orange: shortest surface path

Blue dashed: constant-bearing rhumb line

Illustrative points, not a recorded flight

GeographyPin