

# Important Straits of the World

The strait is a narrow channel that is navigable and located between two mainlands interconnecting two waterbodies. The important straits of the world are mostly navigable. Some straits are non-passable due to the shallow nature or presence of reefs.

- The straits also play an instrumental role in altering the weather patterns by forming a passage for the ocean currents.
- The isthmus leads to the formation of the straits.
- Human activities lead to the formation of canals. These serve to be the passway for transit and play an instrumental role in the conduction of trade and commerce.

## Important Straits of the World

This table comprises the list of the important straits of the world along with their characteristics. Check here the location of the strait and the waterbodies it is connecting or separating. They are also the channels through which the oceans make their way, henceforth altering the weather patterns.

Sr. No.	Major Straits of the world	Characteristics
1	<b>PALK STRAIT</b>	Linking the Bay of Bengal with the Gulf of Mannar
2	<b>STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR</b>	Linking the Atlantic Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea. The Strait of Gibraltar also plays a role in the separation of the Gibraltar and Spain located in the North from Morocco in the South.
3	<b>DUNCAN PASSAGE</b>	It divides Rutland to the North and Little Andaman to the South.
4	<b>NINE DEGREE CHANNEL</b>	Linking Laccadive islands of Kalapeni, Suheli Par & Maliku Atoll.
5	<b>TEN DEGREE CHANNEL</b>	Divides Andaman Islands from the Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal.

6	<b>STRAIT OF HORMUZ</b>	Located between UAE and Oman on the southwest and Iran in the north-east. Links the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman. It is an essential channel as it majorly governs the oil trade from the Gulf countries.
7	<b>STRAIT OF BAB-EL-MANDAB</b>	Links the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and divides Asia from Africa.
8	<b>MALACCA STRAIT</b>	It divides Peninsular Malaysia from the Sumatra island of Indonesia. It links the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean. It facilitates a shorter route from the Andaman Sea to the South China sea and henceforth is the most engaged waterway of the world.
9	<b>SUNDA STRAIT</b>	It links the Jva Sea to the Indian Ocean and divides the Java island of Indonesia from its Sumatra island.
10	<b>BERING STRAIT</b>	It divides Russia and Alaska and links the East Siberian Sea in the Arctic Ocean with the Bering Sea in the Pacific Ocean.
11	<b>ORANTO STRAIT</b>	It links the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea and divides Italy from Albania.
12	<b>BOSPHORUS STRAIT</b>	The narrowest strait that is navigable linking the Black sea with the sea of Marmara.
13	<b>DARDANELLES STRAIT</b>	It is located between Asian Turkey and European Turkey. This strait also links the Aegean Sea with the Sea of Marmara. It is a pivotal link for the transit between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.
14	<b>LA PAROUSES STRAIT</b>	Located between Sakhalin island and Hokkaido island of Japan. This links the Sea of Okhotsk with the Sea of Japan.

15	<b>STRAIT OF TARTARY/TARTAR</b>	It divides the Russian island Sakhalin from Mainland Asia. This strait links the Sea of Okhotsk in the North to the Sea of Japan in the south.
16	<b>TSUGARU STRAIT</b>	Located between Hokkaido and Honshu in northern Japan and links the Sea of Japan to the Pacific Ocean.
17	<b>TAIWAN STRAIT OR FORMOSA STRAIT</b>	It is located between Taiwan [Republic of China] and Mainland China [People's Republic of China]. It links the South China Sea with the East China Sea.
18	<b>MOZAMBIQUE STRAIT</b>	It is located in the Indian Ocean between Mozambique from Madagascar.
19	<b>YUCATAN STRAIT</b>	It is located between Mexico and Cuba and links the Gulf of Mexico with the Caribbean Sea.
20	<b>FLORIDA STRAIT</b>	It is located between Florida State and the USA and Cuba.
21	<b>HUDSON STRAIT</b>	It links Hudson Bay [Canada] with the Labrador Sea.
22	<b>DAVIS STRAIT</b>	It links Baffin Bay with the Atlantic Ocean.
23	<b>COOK STRAIT</b>	It is located between the North and South islands of New Zealand and links the Tasman Sea with the South Pacific ocean.
24	<b>BASS STRAIT</b>	It divides Tasmania from the Australian mainland.

25	<b>TORRES STRAIT</b>	It is located in the Pacific Ocean, between Cape York Peninsula of Australia and Papua New Guinea.
26	<b>MAGELLAN STRAIT</b>	It divides the Mainland South America from Tierra Del Fuego [an archipelago off the southern-most tip of the South American Mainland]
27	<b>DOVER STRAIT</b>	It is located in the narrowest segment of the English Channel, linking with the North Sea. It divides Britain from Continental Europe.
28	<b>NORTH CHANNEL</b>	It divides Ireland from Scotland and links the Irish Sea with the Atlantic Ocean.

## Important Facts about Straits & Canals

The important facts about the straits and canals have been listed here that can be asked in the UPSC exam. The longest strait, narrowest strait, and other essential straits divide the different water bodies and add to the list of important straits of the world.

- **Longest Straits:** Strait of Malacca (800 km) links the Andaman Sea with the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean).
- **Narrowest Strait:** Strait of Bosphorus linking the Black Sea with the Marmara Sea.
- **Bering Strait:** Divides Asia from America.
- **Bass Strait:** Divides Australia from Tasmania.
- **Gibraltar Strait:** Divides Africa from Europe.

## Significance of Important Straits of the World

It is of high essentiality for the candidates to be completely conversant with the essentiality of the important straits of the world. The straits play an instrumental and important role in determining transit and trade.

- It plays an essential role in geopolitics as it forms the passage for the ocean. It is also essential for matters pertaining to the military and economy.
- The straits are also effective in transit and commuting from the economic zones. They are also essential from the navigation point of view, they provide the path to the numerous ships that cross the way.
- The straits play an essential role in the generation of tidal power.