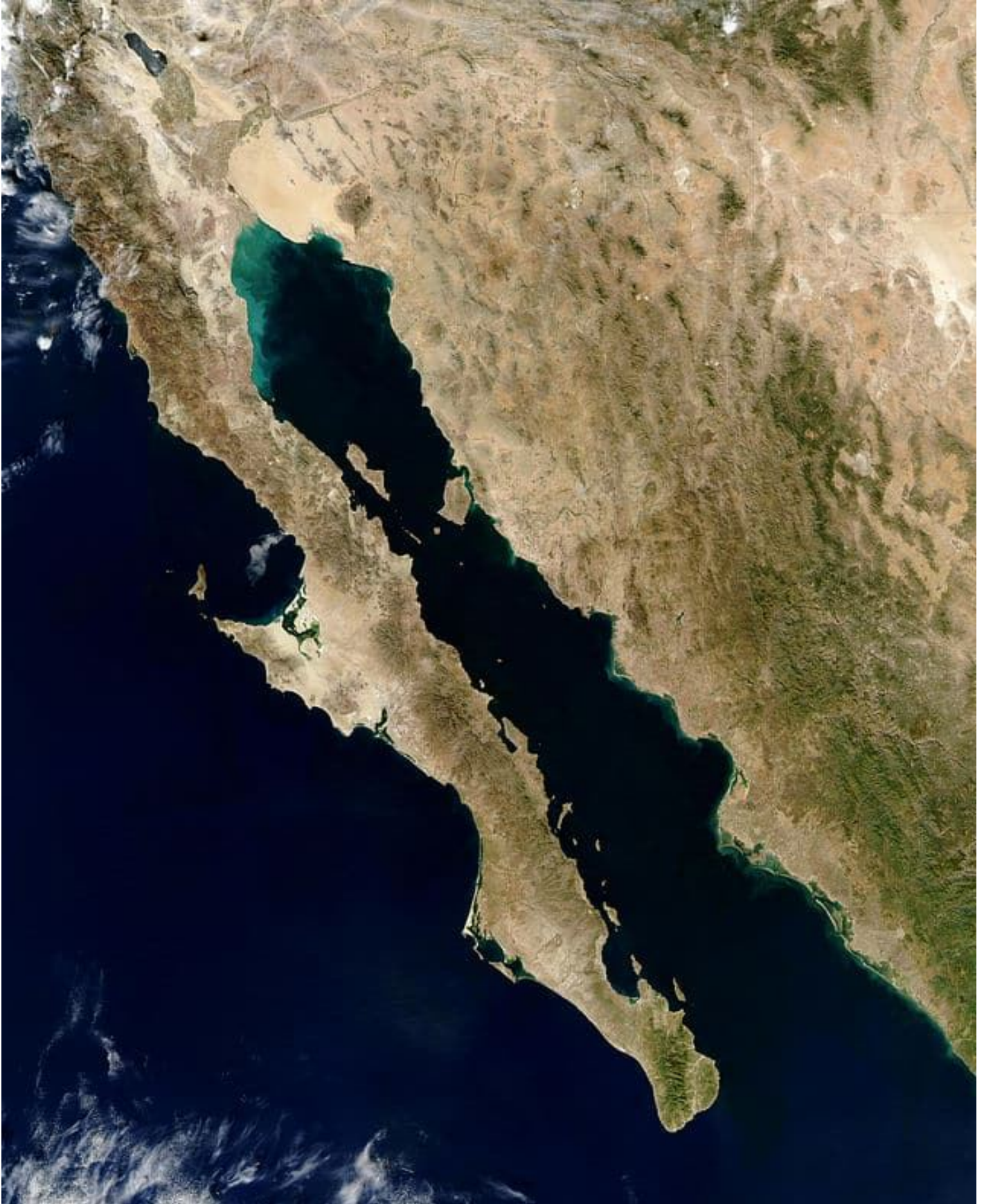


Gulf of California

June 19, 2023 • vajiramandravi.com



About Gulf of California:

- The Gulf of California, **also called the Sea of Cortez** is a **large inlet of the eastern Pacific Ocean** along the **northwestern coast of Mexico**.

- It **separates the mountainous Lower California Peninsula/Baja California Peninsula in the west from the states of Sonora and Sinaloa on the mainland of Mexico in the east.**
- **Geography:**
 - It covers an **area of 160,000 sq. km** and has a **long coastline of approximately 4,000km.**
 - It is **about 1,126km long** and has a **maximum width ranging between 48 to 241km.**
 - The Gulf is **divided into two portions** and is **separated by a narrowing that is marked by the islands of Tiburón and Angel de la Guarda.**
 - The **northern portion is relatively shallow**, with a mean depth of 180m, while the **southern portion contains many depressions and the deepest** of these depressions **reaches a maximum depth of over 3,000m.**
 - The **head of the gulf is dominated by the large Colorado River Delta** through which the **Colorado River drains into the Gulf.**
 - The **long coastline** of the gulf is **extremely irregular and forms numerous small bays.**
- **Geology:** The Gulf of California was **created around 5.3 million years ago due to the movement of tectonic plates** that separated the Baja California Peninsula from the North American Plate.
- **Islands:**
 - There are about **37 major islands** in the Gulf of California that is **mostly located on its western side.**
 - It is believed that these **islands were created due to volcanic eruptions** and several of these **islands are home to volcanoes.**
 - Some of the **major islands include the Isla Ángel de la Guarda, Isla Tiburón, Islas Marías, Isla Partida, Islas San Francisco, Isla Coronados, etc.**
- **Climate:** Due to the presence of an uninterrupted chain of mountains on the Baja California Peninsula, the Gulf of California **experiences a ‘continental’ climate rather than an ‘oceanic’ climate.**

Q1) What is a Gulf?

The Gulf is a portion of the sea that is almost surrounded by land except one narrow opening. Gulfs are formed when a giant rock collapses or when a piece of land sinks. This causes a big indentation in the area, and the water eventually fills it up. Gulfs are also formed through a natural process of erosion.

Source: [Earthquake of magnitude 6.4 jolts Gulf of California, no damage reported](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/gulf-of-california/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.