

Persian Gulf vs Arabian Gulf

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Persian Gulf vs Arabian Gulf Latest News

The US President Donald Trump plans to officially rename the 'Persian Gulf' as the 'Arabian Gulf' during a visit to Saudi Arabia, aligning with the preferences of Arab Gulf nations.

Historical Context and Naming Dispute

- The term '**Persian Gulf**' has been used consistently since the **16th century**, widely recognised in **historical records, international treaties, and cartographic references**.
- **Arab states**, especially **Saudi Arabia and the UAE**, prefer the term '**Arabian Gulf**', using it in their **national maps and documents**.
- In **2012**, **Iran threatened to sue Google** for not labelling the water body on its maps, asserting its historical naming rights.

Geographical Features of the Persian Gulf

- The **Persian Gulf** is a **marginal sea of the Indian Ocean**, located in **Western Asia**, and is a **vital geopolitical chokepoint**.
- It is **connected to the Arabian Sea** via the **Strait of Hormuz**, one of the **world's most strategic maritime passages** for **global oil shipments**.
- It spans **~251,000 km²**, with an **average depth of 50 meters** and **maximum depth of 90 meters**.
- The **coastline stretches ~5,117 km**, with **Iran having the longest stretch (~1,536 km)**.
- It is **bounded by**:
 - **North: Iran**
 - **Southwest: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE**
 - **Northwest: Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain**
- **Important Islands: Qeshm Island (Iran)** is the **Largest island in the Persian Gulf**, with an area of **~1,491 km²—about 2.5 times the size of Bahrain**.
 - **Bahrain: A sovereign archipelago state**, comprising **over 50 islands**, and a significant US naval base location.
- **Institutional recognition:** The **International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO)** still recognises the water body as the **Persian Gulf**.
 - Although **countries can use alternative names domestically**, they **cannot impose unilateral changes** in global nomenclature.

Strategic and Economic Importance

- The **Persian Gulf** is **central to global energy security**, with **~30% of the world's oil exports** passing through the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- It is a **theatre of naval deployment** for countries like the **USA, Iran, and Gulf states**, often reflecting **power projection and regional dominance**.
- **Islands like Qeshm (Iran) and Bahrain (a sovereign state)** hold **strategic military and economic value**.

Persian Gulf vs Arabian Gulf FAQs

Q1. What is the Persian Gulf?

Ans. The Persian Gulf is a shallow inland sea in Western Asia, bordered by countries like Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and UAE.

Q2. What is the Strait of Hormuz?

Ans. The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow passage connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, through which a significant share of global oil supply passes, making it a strategic chokepoint.

Source: [IE](#)

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Beta feature

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