

Dardanelles Strait

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Dardanelles Strait Latest News

Southbound ship traffic is set to resume in Turkey's Dardanelles Strait after a tanker experienced engine failure recently.

About Dardanelles Strait

- It is a very important **narrow waterway in northwestern Turkey**.
- It **connects** the **Aegean Sea** (an arm of the Mediterranean Sea) to the **Sea of Marmara**.
- This strait acts like a natural border, **separating** the **continent of Asia** on its eastern side **from Europe** on its western side.
- The strait is **named for the ancient city of Dardanus**. In **ancient times** it was **called** the **Hellespont**, meaning "Helle's sea," in memory of Helle, a mythical princess.
- The **Gallipoli Peninsula** lies along the **western side** of the Dardanelles Strait.
- It is one of the **narrowest straits** used for international navigation. It is about 61 kilometers long and only 1.2 to 6 kilometers wide.

- It is **entirely within Turkey**. It forms a key **part of the Turkish Straits**, which **also include the Bosphorus Strait and the Sea of Marmara**.
 - **The Bosphorus connects the Sea of Marmara with the Black Sea.**
 - These waterways are the **only sea route between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea**.
- It is a **vital shipping lane for countries around the Black Sea**, like **Russia and Ukraine**.
- Their **ships must pass through the Dardanelles to reach the Mediterranean Sea** and the rest of the world's oceans.
- **Major ports** along its shores include **Gallipoli, Eceabat, and Çanakkale, all in Turkey**.

Source: REUT

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