

Drake Passage

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Drake Passage Latest News

Recently, a strong earthquake of magnitude 7.5 hit Drake Passage and a tsunami alert was issued briefly.

About Drake Passage

- It is located between **South America's Cape Horn** and the **South Shetland Islands of Antarctica**.
- The passage is **named after Sir Francis Drake**, who was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe.
- It is a deep and wide waterway that connects the **southwestern Atlantic and southeastern Pacific Oceans**.
- It is considered one of **the roughest waterways** in the world because here, layers of cold seawater from the south and **warm seawater from the north collide** to form powerful eddies, which when combined with strong winds and storms can be treacherous for those attempting to navigate it.
- It is also the **narrowest stretch** in the **Southern Ocean and spans** approximately 800 km between the southern tip of South America and the northern tip of the West Antarctic Peninsula

- The Drake Passage defines the **zone of climatic transition** separating the cool, humid, subpolar conditions of Tierra del Fuego and the frigid, polar regions of Antarctica.
- The winds over the Drake Passage are predominantly from the west and are most intense to the north around Cape Horn.
- The Drake Passage played an important part in the trade of the 19th and early 20th centuries before the opening of the Panama Canal.

Source: HT

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