

Taiwan Strait

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Taiwan Strait Latest News

China's military recently said its forces had followed and warned a Canadian and an Australian warship, which were sailing through the sensitive Taiwan Strait, in a move it criticised as a provocation.

About Taiwan Strait

- Taiwan Strait, also called **Formosa Strait**, separates **continental Asia** and the island of **Taiwan**.
- It **extends from the South China Sea** in the southwest **to the East China Sea** in the northeast.
- It **runs between the coast of the Fujian (Fukien) Province** and the **island of Taiwan**.
- It has an **average width of 180 km**, while its narrowest part is 130 km wide.
- It **sits on Asia's continental shelf** that runs along the entire stretch of the strait.
- It is **relatively shallow**. It has an average depth of about 490 ft and a minimum depth of 82 ft.
- **Ports**: The chief ports are **Amoy in mainland China** and **Kao-hsiung in Taiwan**.
- **Rivers**: Several rivers, including the **Jiulong and Min rivers from China's Fujian Province**, drain into the Taiwan Strait.

- **Islands:**

- **Kinmen and Matsu** are two of the largest and most significant islands in the strait located off the **Fujian coast of China**.
- The biggest islands **along the Taiwan side** include **Penghu (or Pescadores), Xiamen, and Pingtan**.
- The **Xiamen and Pingtan** Islands are **administered by the People's Republic of China**, while the other three islands: **Penghu (or Pescadores), Kinmen, and Matsu** are **under the administration of the Republic of China (Taiwan)**.
- **Penghu** (or Pescadores) Island is the **largest and most populous island** in the Taiwan Strait.
- It serves as a **busy navigational waterway**, on which millions of tons of cargo are ferried annually.
- The strait is also one of the most **important fishing grounds in China**, and more than a hundred economically important fish species are found here.

Source: REUT

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