



Cape of Good Hope

Why in News

Due to the recent blockage of the [Suez Canal](#), the option of **re-routing ships via the Cape of Good Hope** was explored.

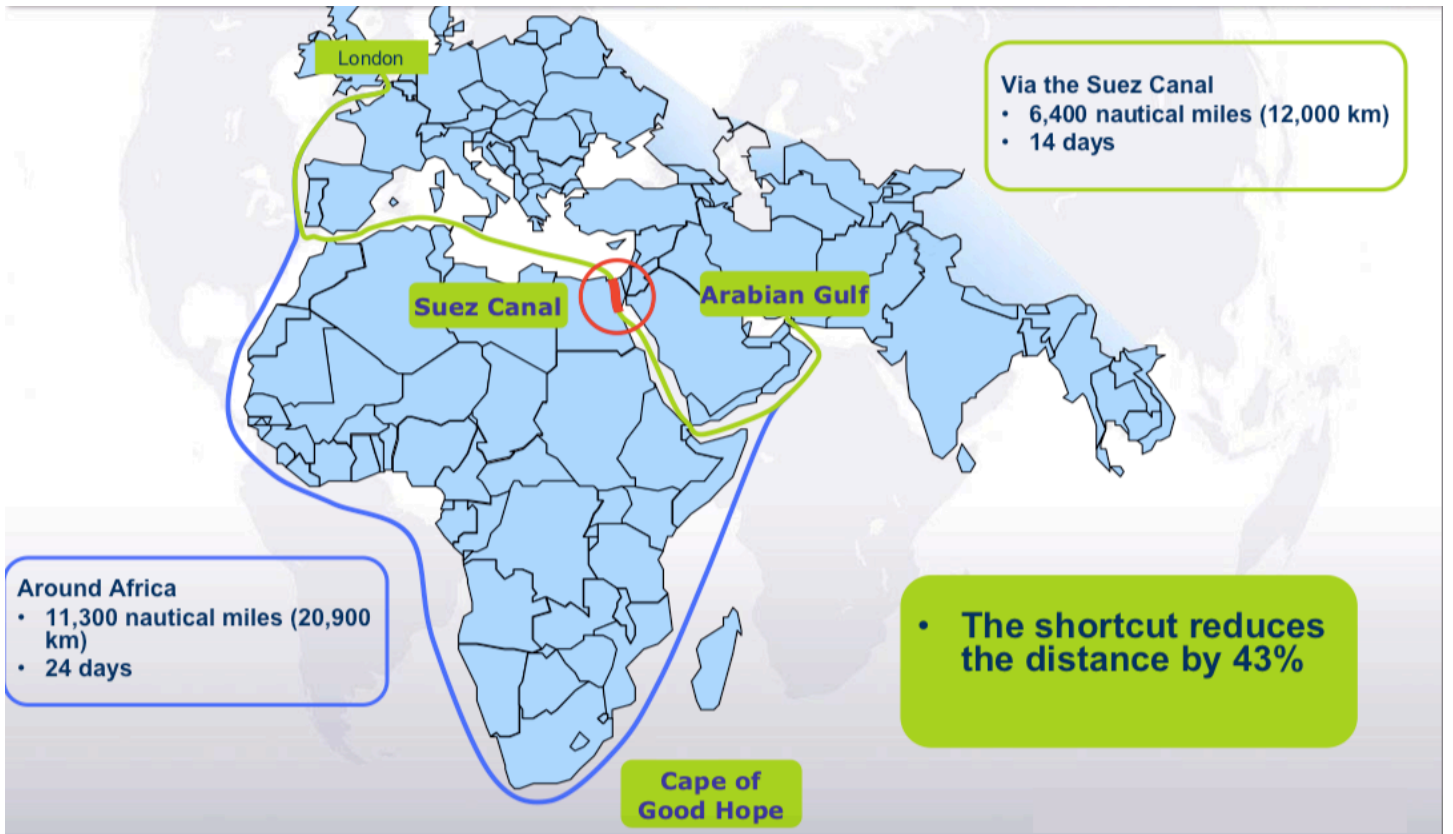
Key Points

▪ About:

- The Cape of Good Hope is a **rocky headland on the Atlantic coast of the Cape Peninsula in South Africa.**
 - A headland is a narrow piece of land which sticks out from the coast into the sea.
- The **Cape of Good Hope route joins Eastern Asia and Europe to southern parts of Africa.**
- The **opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 provided a much shorter route** from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean, making the long trip around Africa inefficient.
 - The **Cape of Good Hope route is 8900 km longer than the Suez canal route and can take additional two weeks.**
- A common misconception is that the Cape of Good Hope is the southern tip of Africa.
 - Contemporary geographic knowledge instead states the **southernmost point of Africa is Cape Agulhas about 150 km to the east-southeast.**
 - The **warm-water Agulhas current (Indian Ocean) meets the cold-water Benguela current (Atlantic ocean)** between Cape Agulhas and Cape Point (about 1.2 km east of the Cape of Good Hope).

▪ History:

- The Cape was **originally named the Cape of Storms in 1488** by the Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias.
- It was **later renamed to Cape Good Hope to attract more people to the Cape Sea Route** that passed the southern coast of Africa.
- The Cape eventually **became a significant port and waypoint** for sailors traveling from Europe to Asia.



Source: TH

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