



Strait of Malacca



Key Points

- **Physical Geography:**
 - Connects the **Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean)** and the **South China Sea (Pacific Ocean)**.
 - Runs between the Indonesian island of Sumatra to the west and peninsular (West) Malaysia and extreme southern Thailand to the east.
- **Strategic Importance:**
 - **Shortest sea route between the Middle East and East Asia**, helping to reduce the time and cost of transportation among Asia, the Middle East and Europe.
 - Through this corridor, approximately 60% of the world's maritime trade transits, and is the **main source of oil supply for two of the main Asian consumers: the People's Republic of China and Japan**.
 - The **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) was created in 2001** to safeguard India's strategic interests in Southeast Asia and the Strait of Malacca by increasing rapid deployment of military assets in the islands.

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