



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per.uthalaivar Kamarajar"

MAP OF THE DAY WORLD 20/02/26

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Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477** / Whatsapp : **09710729833**



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CONTACT US

+91 9840394477 | kamarajiasacademy@gmail.com | www.kamarajiasacademy.com

KAMARAJ K
HONORARY DIRECTOR



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Bosphorus Strait

- The **Bosphorus Strait** (Boğaz, meaning “throat”) connects the **Black Sea** with the **Sea of Marmara**.
- It separates **Asian Turkey (Anatolia)** from **European Turkey**.
- The Bosphorus is approximately **19 miles (30 km)** long.
- The **maximum width** of the strait is **2.3 miles (3.7 km)** at the **northern entrance**.
- The **minimum width** is **2,450 feet (750 metres)** between the **Ottoman fortifications** of **Rumelihisarı** and **Anadoluhisarı**.
- The **depth** of the Bosphorus varies from **120 to 408 feet (36.5 to 124 metres)** in midstream.
- A **rapid current** flows from the **Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara**, while a **counter-current** below the surface carries **saltier water** from the Sea of Marmara back to the Black Sea.
- The name **Bosphorus** comes from Greek **boos poros**, meaning “**ox ford**”, linked to the **legendary figure Io**, who crossed the strait in the form of a **heifer**.
- Due to its **strategic importance** for **defending Constantinople (Istanbul)**, **Byzantine emperors** and later **Ottoman sultans** built **fortifications** along its shores, especially on the **European side**.
- **Anadoluhisarı Castle** was built on the **Asian shore** by **Bayezid I** in **1390–91**.
- **Rumelihisarı Castle** was built across the strait by **Mehmed II** in **1452**.
- After **World War I**, an **international commission** assumed control of the strait following the **Ottoman defeat**.
- The **Boğaziçi (Bosphorus I) Bridge** was completed in **1973**, with a **main span of 3,524 feet (1,074 metres)**.
- The **Fatih Sultan Mehmed (Bosphorus II) Bridge** was completed in **1988**, with a **main span of 3,576 feet (1,090 metres)**.
- The **Yavuz Sultan Selim (Bosphorus III) Bridge** was completed in **2016**, with a **main span of 4,620 feet (1,408 metres)**.

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