

PLACES IN NEWS: GULF OF EILAT

Gulf of Eilat (Gulf of Aqaba)

Geographical Features and Location

- **Alternative Names:** Known as both the Gulf of Eilat and the Gulf of Aqaba.
- **Position:** This gulf is the northeastern extension of the Red Sea, positioned along the southeastern edge of the Sinai Peninsula and to the west of the Arabian Peninsula.
- **Divisions:** The northern part of the Red Sea is bifurcated by the Sinai Peninsula into two distinct gulfs: the Gulf of Aqaba in the east and the Gulf of Suez in the west.



Geological and Ecological Attributes

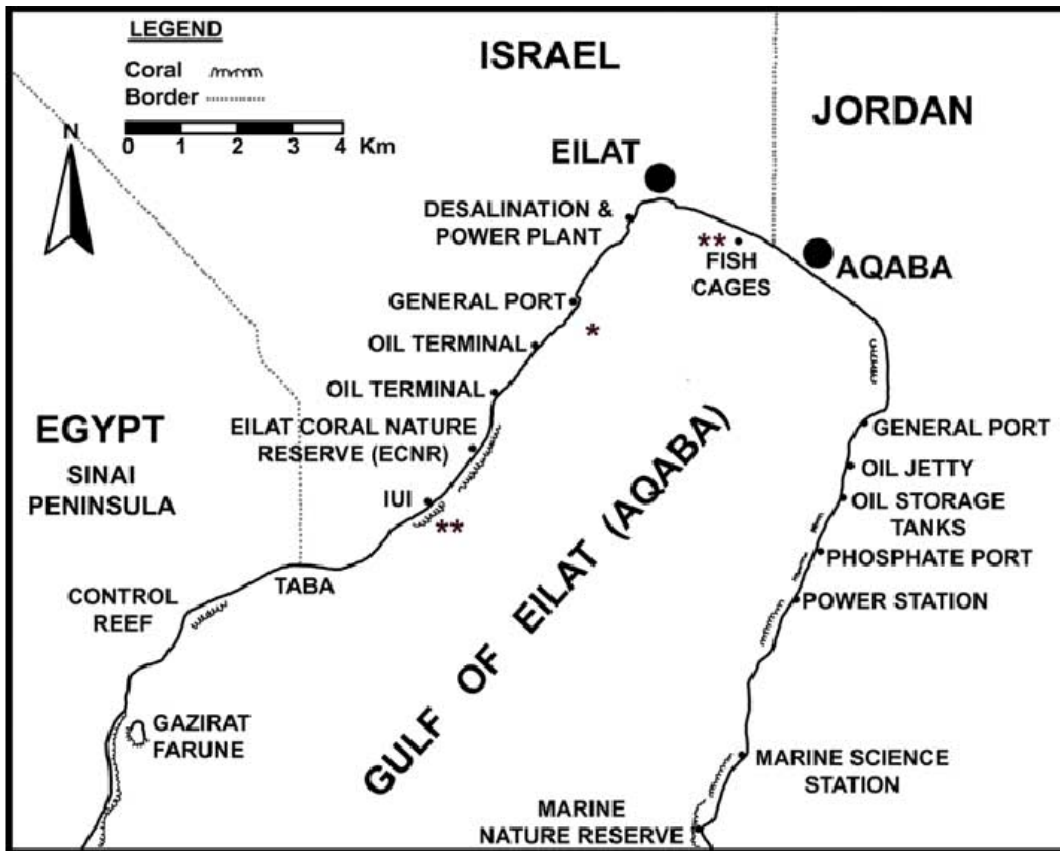
- **Geological Formation:** The Gulf of Aqaba is part of the East African Rift System, created by seismic activities along the Afro-Syrian Rift.
- **Connection to Red Sea:** Connected to the Red Sea through the Tiran Strait, which also acts as a vital link between the continents of Asia and Africa.
- **Coral Ecosystems:** Notable for hosting some of the world's northernmost coral reefs, the gulf supports unique and diverse aquatic ecosystems.

Depth and Contrast

- **Depth Comparison:** The Gulf of Aqaba is significantly deeper, reaching depths of up to 1,850 meters, compared to the much shallower Gulf of Suez, which is about 100 meters deep.

Bordering Countries and Cities

- **Countries:** The Gulf of Eilat is bordered by four countries: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.



Major Cities: Key cities situated on the northern end of the Gulf include Taba (Egypt), Eilat (Israel), and Aqaba (Jordan), each playing a critical role in the region's tourism and economic activities.

Conclusion

The Gulf of Eilat (Gulf of Aqaba) is a geographically and ecologically significant region, distinguished by its deep waters, geological origins, and rich marine biodiversity. This gulf not only serves as an important maritime route but also as a crucial habitat for coral reefs, underpinning its environmental and economic importance to the surrounding nations.