

PERSIAN GULF

Why is it called the "Persian Gulf"?

The Persian Gulf takes its name from Persia, the civilization that has bordered its northern shores for over 2,500 years.

Etymology in a nutshell

The name traces back through Latin, Greek, and ancient Persian languages, maintaining remarkable consistency across millennia.

PERIOD	LANGUAGE	TERM	DESCRIPTION
c. 1500 BC	Proto-Indo-Iranian	"Pārsa"	The ancient root word in early Indo-Iranian languages, referring to the Persian people and their homeland. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Indo-Iranian_language
550–330 BC	Old Persian	"Pārsa"	The Achaemenid Empire called their heartland Pārsa (modern Fars province in Iran). Greeks transliterated this as "Persis," giving us the name "Persia." en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Persian_language
5th c. BC	Ancient Greek	"Persikós Kólpōs" (Περσικός Κόλπος)	Greek historians, including Herodotus, documented the waterway as the "Persian Gulf" when writing about the Achaemenid Empire. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Gulf#Name
1st c. AD	Latin	"Sinus Persicus"	Roman geographers like Pliny the Elder adopted the Greek name, standardizing it as "Sinus Persicus" (Persian Gulf) in Latin. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pliny_the_Elder
16th c. onward	Modern English	"Persian Gulf"	European cartographers and the International Hydrographic Organization maintain this historical name, which appears in UN documents and maps worldwide. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Gulf_naming_dispute

