

Industry Insights | The World's Most Influential Overseas Ports : Tangier Med Port Introduction

According to statistics, there are now more than 2,000 container ports worldwide. Without question, Chinese ports represented by the Port of Shanghai play a pivotal role in the global shipping network. However, for maritime professionals in China, it is equally important to study the operational characteristics and development dynamics of major overseas ports. So as of 2025, which international ports hold the greatest influence within the global shipping industry?

序号	英文名称	中文名称	缩写	国家
1	Port of Singapore	新加坡港	POS	新加坡
2	Busan Port	釜山港	JAP	韩国
3	Jebel Ali Port	杰贝阿里港		阿联酋
4	Port Klang	巴生港		马来西亚
5	Port of Rotterdam	鹿特丹港	POR	荷兰
6	Antwerp-Bruges Port	安特卫普布鲁日港		比利时
7	Port of Tanjung Pelepas	丹戎帕拉帕斯港	PTP	马来西亚
8	Port of Los Angeles	洛杉矶港	POLA	美国
9	Tangier Med Port	丹吉尔地中海港	TMP	摩洛哥
10	Laem Chabang Port	林查班港	LCP	泰国

截止2025年初，除中国外，海外最具行业影响力的十大港口

Africa's Largest Transshipment Hub



Tangier Med Port is widely recognized as the undisputed transshipment leader in Africa. Its strength is supported not only by impressive operational data but also by strong industry reputation.

In 2024, the port handled approximately 10.5 million TEUs in container throughput, representing nearly 20% year-on-year growth. This volume is about 2.5 times that of the Port of Durban in South Africa and accounts for more than 40% of Africa's container market share.

Tangier Med Port also boasts highly competitive infrastructure. Its terminals feature water depths of 16–18 meters, capable of accommodating ultra-large container vessels of up to 24,000 TEU capacity. With 24 berths connected to more than 200 ports worldwide, its shipping routes link Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Asia.

Remarkably, the sailing time from Tangier Med to Europe can be as short as two hours.

To strengthen supply chain efficiency and reliability, the port has invested over USD 500 million to expand its truck terminal and introduce advanced automated management systems. This explains why major global carriers such as Maersk and MSC regard Tangier Med as their key logistics hub in Africa.

Synergy Between Short-Term Efficiency and Long-Term Value



The influence of Tangier Med extends far beyond cargo handling operations. From port operations to industrial development and social impact, the port has become a key driver of regional growth.

Operational data highlights its scale:

In 2024, the port handled

17,400 vessel calls

516,800 TIR trucks

More than 60% of cargo trade between Morocco and Europe passes through Tangier Med. It also functions as a central transshipment hub linking Africa with European and Asian trade networks.

The indirect economic benefits are equally significant. Major multinational companies such as Renault have established manufacturing facilities near the port, forming industrial clusters focused on automotive components and electronics manufacturing. These developments have created over 100,000 jobs.

Through its railway network, the port also connects to sub-Saharan Africa, effectively supporting the development of an “Africa–Europe trade corridor”.

Furthermore, the port's Free Trade Zone combined with “Port + Supply Chain Finance” services provides more than €1 billion in annual financing support, significantly facilitating international trade activities.

Comprehensive Value Creation



The development strategy of Tangier Med demonstrates a balanced approach between immediate operational efficiency and long-term strategic positioning.

In the short term, beyond traditional cargo handling operations, its cold-chain logistics center plays a critical role. The facility processes approximately 500,000 tons of fresh produce annually while maintaining a loss rate of less than 0.5%.

This enables Moroccan citrus fruits and African flowers to reach global markets while maintaining optimal freshness.

From a long-term perspective, international institutions such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) have supported the port's continued expansion. Digitalization and green transformation initiatives are also progressing steadily, which will likely further increase throughput capacity in the future.

As an important node along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Tangier Med continues to strengthen its multimodal transport network and expand its influence within the global maritime industry. In doing so, it is gradually reshaping Africa's role in global supply chains.



Editor's Note

The evaluation of "port influence" in this article is based on four major criteria:

1. A combination of quantitative indicators (container throughput, GDP contribution, number of shipping routes, etc.) and qualitative indicators (supply chain resilience, rule-making influence, industrial impact).
2. Both direct impacts (port operations, trade flows) and indirect impacts (industrial development, social and economic effects).
3. Regional coverage (local and hinterland connectivity) as well as global reach (international shipping networks and resource allocation).

4. A balance between short-term outcomes (cargo movement, employment generation) and long-term value creation (sustainable development and participation in global logistics governance).

