

Canals

Suez



Panama



Location	Isthmus of Suez – Africa, Middle East	Isthmus of Panama – Americas (North & South Americas)
Seas	The Mediterranean Sea The Red Sea	The Caribbean Sea The Gulf of Panama
Oceans	The Atlantic Ocean The Indian Ocean	The Atlantic Ocean The Pacific Ocean
Shortcut	Shortens water-borne travel between oceans by 6,500 km, by a 1/4 the distance between Rotterdam & Tokyo, compared to the route around Africa	8,000 mile shortcut for cruise & cargo ships instead of the alternative hazardous Cape Horn voyage
Dimensions: Length, Depth, Width	193.3 km long, 24 m deep, 280 – 345 m wide at water level. Cross-Section Area 4,800 – 5,200 sq. m wide at a depth of 11 m	77 km long, 26 m above sea level

Locks	The longest lockless canal The world's third longest canal	3 locks up, 3 locks down per transit. The original locks are 33.53 m wide, 320 m long. A third, wider lane of locks was constructed in 2007 - 2016 to allow greater cargo capacity.
Capacity: Tonnage	Around 201,000 tons	340.8 mln tons of shipping
Ships	18,700 ships passed in 2015. Ships travel in three daily convoys in both directions with speed range of 11- 14 kph. 50 ships pass through its waters every day.	14,702 vessels passed in 2008. 40 ships pass through the canal daily on average. The longest ship to transit the canal was 973 feet. 230 cruise ships passed in 2016.
Trade boundary between	Asia and Africa, international maritime trade	Americas, international maritime trade
Crossing Lakes	Lake Manzala Lake Timsah Bitter Lakes	Gatun Lake (artificial lake – 470 square km)
River	The Nile River	The Chagres River
Main Seaports	Port Said Northern Terminus of the Canal	Port Colon Balboa
City	The City of Suez	Panama City
Transit Fees	The third largest source of the revenue for Egypt's economy Canal receipts reached \$3.4bln in 2005 and are constantly increasing, annually it gets about US\$5bln.	Worth \$1bln to Panama's economy Tolls of the canal are set by the Panama Canal Authority and are based on the ship's capacity. The bill for a single ship could reach \$316,800. Cruise ship Crown Princess paid \$144,344,910 to transit the canal.

Economic & Strategic Value	<p>In 1956, it was at the center of a brief war between Egypt and the combined forces of Britain, France and Israel. The conflict had its origins in Britain's military occupation of the canal zone, which continued after Egypt gained independence. Egyptians resented the colonial influence, tensions finally boiled over in 1956, when Egyptian President nationalized the Suez Canal. In the Suez Crisis, a combined British, Israeli and French force launched an attack on Egypt in 1956. The Europeans succeeded in advancing close to the canal, but later withdrew from Egypt in disgrace following the threat of nuclear defense from the Soviet Union. British Prime Minister resigned and the Suez Canal was left under Egyptian control.</p>	<p>In the 100 years since its opening, the canal continues to enjoy great success. Even though world shipping—and the size of ships themselves—has changed markedly since the canal was designed, it continues to be a vital link in world trade, carrying more cargo than ever before, with fewer overhead costs.</p>
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Origins/ first navigation	<p>"Canal of the Pharaohs" between the Nile and the Red Sea existed in 3rd century BC. In 200 AD the Nile was linked with the Red Sea, after 80 AD it fell into disuse. Napoleon considered building it in 1798. The British Government opposed its construction as it could undermine their dominance of global shipping.</p>	<p>Early proposals to build the canal date back to 1534. Such a route would have given the Spanish military advantage. In 1698 the Kingdom of Scotland wanted to set up a trade route, in 1843 London planned a British endeavor across Mexico's Isthmus. In 1877 two French engineers surveyed the route for the Panama Canal, the success of the Suez Canal encouraged planning for the Panama canal.</p>
Construction Period	Started in 1859	Started in 1881
Commercial Traffic Opening	1869	1914
Labor involved	<p>1.5 mln people Unknown number of workers died due to disease.</p>	<p>27,600 workers died during construction in the sweltering, disease-ridden jungle of malaria and yellow fever.</p>

Overall Cost	Doubled the original estimate. It cost US\$100 million.	The whole project cost \$8.6 billion.
Interesting Facts	<p>The Statue of Liberty was originally intended for the canal at its Mediterranean entrance under the name “Egypt Bringing Light to Asia”, inspired by the ancient Colossus of Rhodes.</p> <p>A fleet of ships was once stranded in the canal for more than 8 years (1967 – 1975).</p>	<p>The opening of the canal in 1914 caused a severe drop in traffic along the Chilean ports due to shifts in the maritime trade routes.</p> <p>The American Society of Civil Engineers has called the Panama Canal one of the seven wonders of the modern world.</p>
Concession	<p>In 1875 the British Government purchased concession into the Suez Canal, in 1882 GB occupied Egypt, the Suez Canal became the main British military & strategic Base in the Middle East.</p> <p>1888 Convention of Constantinople announced the Suez Canal a neutral zone. This document remains in force today.</p>	<p>In 1902 the US bought the venture from the French for US\$40 mln.</p> <p>The total US investments in the canal construction reached US\$8,600,000,000.</p>
Development & Restructuring	<p>The canal is still hampered by its narrow width and shallow depth, which are insufficient to accommodate two-way traffic from modern tanker ships. In 2014, Egypt’s Suez Canal Authority announced an ambitious plan to deepen the canal and create a new 22-mile lane. Preliminary work has already begun on the project, which Egyptian authorities claim could more than double the canal’s annual revenue by 2023.</p>	<p>US\$5.25 bln project doubled the capacity of the newly expanded canal in 2016.</p>