

Panama Canal

March 24, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Panama Canal Latest News

The Panama Canal is operating at top capacity, as the Iran war triggers more LNG vessel traffic.

About Panama Canal

- It is a **manmade waterway** that connects the **Atlantic and Pacific oceans across the Isthmus of Panama**.
- It is one of the strategic artificial waterways in the world.
- It is **owned and administered by Panama**, and it is 40 miles long from shoreline to shoreline.
- **History**
 - It was **built by the United States** and completed in August 1914,
 - From its opening in 1914 until 1979, the Panama Canal was controlled solely by the United States.
 - In 1979, control of the canal passed to the **Panama Canal Commission**, a joint agency of the **United States and the Republic of Panama**, and complete control passed to Panama at noon on December 31, 1999.

- **Functioning**

- It **uses a system of locks and elevators** to take ships from one end to the other.
- This is needed because the **two oceans that the Panama Canal connects do not lie** at the same elevation, with the **Pacific slightly higher than the Atlantic**.
- For a ship entering the canal through the Atlantic, it needs to gain elevation during its journey to the Pacific.
- This is **achieved using a lock system** which lifts and drops vessels to the required sea level at either end of the canal.
- Basically, locks are either flooded (to gain elevation) or drained (to lose elevation), and act as water elevators.

Source: TH

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-panama-canal/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.