

## Timeline of the Panama Canal Chronological Copywork

1513: Vasco Nunez de Balboa crosses Panama by land and sees the Pacific Ocean

1850: American businessmen begin to build a railroad across Panama

1855: The Panama Railroad is finished

1879: French businessmen make an agreement with Columbia to construct a canal across Panama

1881: The French begin work on the canal

1889: The French Panama Canal company goes bankrupt

1902: Theodore Roosevelt is authorized by Congress to buy the French rights to the Panama Canal

1903: The U.S. signs a treaty with the new government of Panama to build a canal

1904: Colonel William C. Gorgas works toward eliminating yellow fever and improving the conditions in the Canal Zone

1906: The type of canal to be built is changed to a lock canal

1906: President Theodore Roosevelt visits the canal

1907: John Stevens quits as chief engineer

1907: Colonel George Goethals is put in charge of the canal project

1913: The Culebra Cut at the southeastern end of Gatun Lake is renamed the Gaillard Cut for David DuBose Gaillard

August 15, 1914: The *Ancon* becomes the first commercial ship to pass through the canal

1935: The Madden Dam is completed

1962: The Bridge of the Americas is completed

1977: The U.S. and Panama sign a treaty to turn control of the Panama Canal back to Panama in the year 2000

1979: Territorial jurisdiction of the canal zone is given to Panama  
December 31, 1999: All operations of the canal zone are given to Panama

2004: The Centennial Bridge is finished across the Gaillard Cut

2007: A third lock is started to allow larger ships to pass through the canal

2016: The third lock is completed

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