

## Panama Canal Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Panama Canal trivia explores the 82-kilometer waterway in Panama that cuts across the Isthmus of Panama and connects the Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean. Opened in 1914, the canal transformed maritime trade by dramatically shortening routes between the Atlantic and Pacific. From lock operations to historic expansion, it remains one of the world's most consequential feats of infrastructure.

### HARD PANAMA CANAL TRIVIA

1. Which chief engineer is noted for reorganizing the U.S. canal effort before stepping down in 1907?

Answer: John Frank Stevens

2. Who became the leading builder overseeing the canal through to completion?

Answer: George W. Goethals

3. Name the physician who led sanitation campaigns that reduced yellow fever and malaria in the Canal Zone.?

Answer: William C. Gorgas

4. What treaty, signed in 1903, granted the United States rights to build the canal?

Answer: The Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty

5. In what year did the French canal company effort in Panama collapse?

Answer: 1889

6. The United States recognized Panama shortly after its separation from Colombia in what year?

Answer: 1903

7. Give the formal inauguration date of the Panama Canal.?

Answer: August 15, 1914

8. What was the name of the landslide that repeatedly disrupted excavation in the Culebra Cut?

Answer: Cucaracha Slide

9. At Culebra Cut, workers carved through what major geographic barrier on the canal route?

Answer: The continental divide

10. Was the Panama Canal ultimately built as a sea-level canal or a lock canal?

Answer: A lock canal

11. About how wide are the canal's new locks?

Answer: About 55 meters

12. What is the approximate length of the new locks?

Answer: About 427 meters

13. What was the expansion project's larger-lock component called?

Answer: The third set of locks

14. The third set of locks was designed to accommodate larger container ships and what other type of vessel?

Answer: LNG carriers

#### FUNNY PANAMA CANAL TRIVIA

1. Which Panama Canal lock complex has a name that basically tells you to stop and admire the landscaping?

Answer: Miraflores

2. Before taking on Panama, which French builder was already famous for the Suez Canal?

Answer: Ferdinand de Lesseps

3. True or false: The canal once had a hand-operated swing bridge crossing at Gatun.?

Answer: True

4. If a ship enters the canal from the Pacific and exits to the Atlantic, what general direction can it travel instead of due east?

Answer: Northwest

5. What part of the canal can make giant ships look like they accidentally wandered into a model village?

Answer: The lock chambers

6. The original canal lock gates were built as what kind of structures so they could be enormous yet still move?

Answer: Hollow steel structures

7. What was the name of the U.S. territory-like strip that ran beside the canal?

Answer: The Panama Canal Zone

8. Who holds the oddball distinction of making the shortest paid transit on record by swimming the canal in 1928?

Answer: Richard Halliburton

9. How much did Richard Halliburton pay in tolls for his 1928 canal swim—less than a sandwich, even by old prices?

Answer: 36 cents

10. During canal construction, which tiny pest became one of the most feared enemies on the isthmus?

Answer: Mosquitoes

11. What nickname makes the Panama Canal sound less like a masterpiece of engineering and

more like a very ambitious shovel project?

Answer: Big Ditch

12. For crews treating a canal crossing like the world's best shortcut, what continent are they glad they do NOT have to sail all the way around?

Answer: South America

13. The canal's lock doors close like what familiar household feature if your house happened to be built by giants?

Answer: Double doors

#### FUN PANAMA CANAL TRIVIA

1. If the Panama Canal's original locks were a closet measurement, how wide would they be?

Answer: 110 feet wide.

2. Stretch one original Panama Canal lock chamber from end to end about how long is it?

Answer: 1,000 feet long.

3. What does the original lock system use to lift ships: giant pumps or gravity-fed water?

Answer: Gravity-fed water.

4. About how much freshwater does one full transit of the original lock system use?

Answer: Roughly 52 million gallons of freshwater.

5. The electric towing locomotives that guide ships beside the locks have what stubbornly memorable nickname?

Answer: Mules.

6. What name was given to the maximum ship size that could fit the original Panama Canal locks?

Answer: Panamax.

7. After the 2016 expansion, what larger ship standard became the new buzzword?

Answer: Neopanamax.

8. True or false: the new Panama Canal locks use rolling gates rather than the original miter gates.?

Answer: True

9. Which vessel had the honor of opening the expanded canal to commercial traffic?

Answer: COSCO Shipping Panama.

10. At Gatun Locks in the original canal, ships go up like an elevator ride broken into how many consecutive steps?

Answer: Three consecutive steps.

11. Which original lock does its raising or lowering in just one step, keeping things refreshingly simple?

Answer: Pedro Miguel Locks.

12. How many chambers does Miraflores Locks have in the original canal system?

Answer: Two chambers.

13. What year did Panamanian voters approve the canal expansion project in a referendum?

Answer: 2006.

#### PANAMA CANAL FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What was the name of the first ship to officially travel through the Panama Canal?

Answer: SS Ancon

2. Which cut carried the canal to the Pacific and is also known as Gaillard Cut?

Answer: Culebra Cut

3. What dam helped create Gatun Lake for the canal system?

Answer: Gatun Dam

4. About how high above sea level is Gatun Lake, where ships are lifted?

Answer: About 26 meters above sea level

5. In what year did the French begin construction on the canal?

Answer: 1881

6. What year did the United States take over canal construction?

Answer: 1904

7. Which U.S. president visited the canal works in 1906?

Answer: Theodore Roosevelt

8. What railroad crossed the isthmus before the canal existed?

Answer: Panama Railroad

9. For part of its path, the canal follows the valley of which river?

Answer: Chagres River

10. What name is commonly used for the treaties signed by the U.S. and Panama in 1977?

Answer: Carter Treaties

11. On what date did full control of the canal transfer to Panama?

Answer: December 31, 1999

12. Using the canal can save ships about what compared with longer ocean routes?

Answer: Thousands of nautical miles

#### EASY PANAMA CANAL TRIVIA

1. In what country is the Panama Canal located?

Answer: Panama

2. Which body of water does the Panama Canal connect to the Pacific Ocean on one side?

Answer: The Caribbean Sea

3. What kind of waterway is the Panama Canal: natural or artificial?

Answer: Artificial waterway

4. About how long is the Panama Canal in kilometers?

Answer: About 82 kilometers

5. The Panama Canal cuts across what narrow land bridge?

Answer: The Isthmus of Panama

6. The canal helps ships avoid the long trip around which cape?

Answer: Cape Horn

7. Near which city is the Atlantic-side entrance of the Panama Canal?

Answer: Colón

8. Near which city is the Pacific-side entrance of the canal?

Answer: Panama City

9. In what year did the Panama Canal officially open?

Answer: 1914

10. What does the Panama Canal use to raise and lower ships?

Answer: Locks

11. Which lake is part of the Panama Canal route?

Answer: Gatun Lake

12. How many main lock complexes are on the original canal route?

Answer: Three

13. Which original lock complex is on the Atlantic side of the canal?

Answer: Gatun Locks

Source: <https://triviagong.com/trivia/panama-canal-trivia>