

THE CORINTH CANAL

The canal, connects the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea. It cuts through the narrow Isthmus of Corinth and separates the Peloponnesian peninsula from the Greek mainland, thus effectively making the former an island. The builders dug the canal through the Isthmus at sea level. No locks are employed. It is 6.4 kilometers in length and only 21.3 meters (70 ft) wide at its base.

The canal was mooted in classical times and an abortive effort was made to build in the 1st century AD. Construction finally got underway in 1881, but was hampered by geological and financial problems that bankrupted the original builders. It was completed in 1893. Due to the canal's narrowness, navigation problems and periodic closures to repair landslips from its steep walls, this, otherwise important work, failed to attract the level of traffic anticipated by its operators. It is now used mainly for tourist traffic.

