

# Egypt's big dig

Egypt is banking on its multi-billion-dollar expansion of the Suez Canal to boost the economy and raise employment; hoping that a doubling of shipping traffic will fill the government's coffers. The government hopes the lure of faster transit times will attract more shipping, but some analysts have questioned Cairo's lofty forecasts.



- Built in 1869
- Connects the Mediterranean and the Red seas
- Allows ships to go between Asia and Europe without travelling around Africa
- Canal length: 193.3km
- Ships per year: 18,000, forecast to double by 2023
- Distance from Singapore to Rotterdam via Africa: 11,755 nautical miles
- Distance from Singapore to Rotterdam via Suez Canal: 8,288 nautical miles



- Existing canal
- Proposed canal and western bypasses
- The canal's own land

## THE NEW CANAL

**Cost:** US\$8.5 billion (\$\$11.5 billion)

**Time to build:** 12 months

**Length:** 72km

**Traffic:** Doubling of average of transiting vessels to 97 ships by 2023, up from 49 ships now

**Completion date:** Aug 6

Fish farm basins

Residential areas/  
tourist resorts

Sinai  
Peninsula