



Construction of Nicaragua canal begins

Nicaragua's government says the \$40bn canal will boost the country's economy but opponents are alarmed by the environmental impact of the waterway – wider, deeper and 3.5 times the length of the Panama Canal

NICARAGUA CANAL

-  New deep-water ports
-  New tourist resorts

Brito locks

Brito: New free-trade area

San Juan del Sur

New airport

Locks:

Two sets of locks comprising three chambers each

Sea
Chambers

MAX. CAPACITY

PANAMA CANAL

New Panamax

Length: 366m TEU*: 12,000

NICARAGUA CANAL

Triple-E

Length: 400m TEU: 18,000

*TEU = Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (container capacity)

Sources: HKND Group, Panama Canal Authority

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HONDURAS

300km
185 miles

CARIBBEAN SEA

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua Canal

COSTA RICA

Panama Canal

PANAMA

COLOMBIA

PACIFIC OCEAN

Lake Nicaragua

NICARAGUA

COSTA RICA

50km
30 miles

Punta Gorda

Camilo locks

CARIBBEAN

Lake

Atlanta:

New 400-sq. km artificial lake created

Water-saving basins:
Move ships between sea and lake level

Lock gates

Lake

SIZE COMPARED

Panama Canal (expanded)

Nicaragua Canal

Length	77km	278km
Width	218m	230m
Depth	14m	27.6m