

# Istanbul's massive new canal

Work is due to start on the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken in Turkey – a waterway to bypass the congested Bosphorus Strait. Critics fear an ecological disaster



**Bosphorus:** One of world's busiest waterways with 53,000 vessels passing through in 2017 – compared with 17,000 in Suez Canal and 12,000 in Panama Canal

5km  
3 miles



Three groups of islands will be built from earth dug for canal

## CANAL ISTANBUL

Length	45km
Width:	250m-1,000m
Depth:	25m
Capacity:	160 vessels per day
Cost:	\$10-\$20 billion
Completion:	2023

■ **Enviroment:** Project could displace thousands of people, destroy forests, threaten city's fresh water supply and increase oxygen levels in Black Sea, impacting wildlife

■ **Legality:** Fee for transit through new canal could violate 1936 **Montreux Convention** that ensures free passage through Bosphorus