

# Ports & Ships

## PANAMA CANAL OPENS NEW EXTENSIONS

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The multi-billion dollar extensions to enable the Panama Canal to handle larger than Panamax size ships was officially opened at the weekend, before 25,000 excited and cheering visitors. The expanded canal has the potential of transforming the Central American country, provided profits and other expenses are managed carefully and correctly.

The manner in which the extensions have been built or close to budget, with no huge overruns, promises much for the future.

In the meantime, neopanamax sized ships and LNG tankers are now able to transit the canal, bringing new opportunities and also new challenges to ports along the eastern US and South American seaboards. The next few years promise much of interest to port watchers.

Mention of watching, here are two short YouTube video clips concerning the Panama Canal for you to watch.

Ship transiting the Panama Canal shortly before the official opening of the extensions [3:59].

[EarthCam time lapse view](#) (below) showing the construction phase of the extended Panama Canal locks [2:28]. source: EarthCam / YouTube