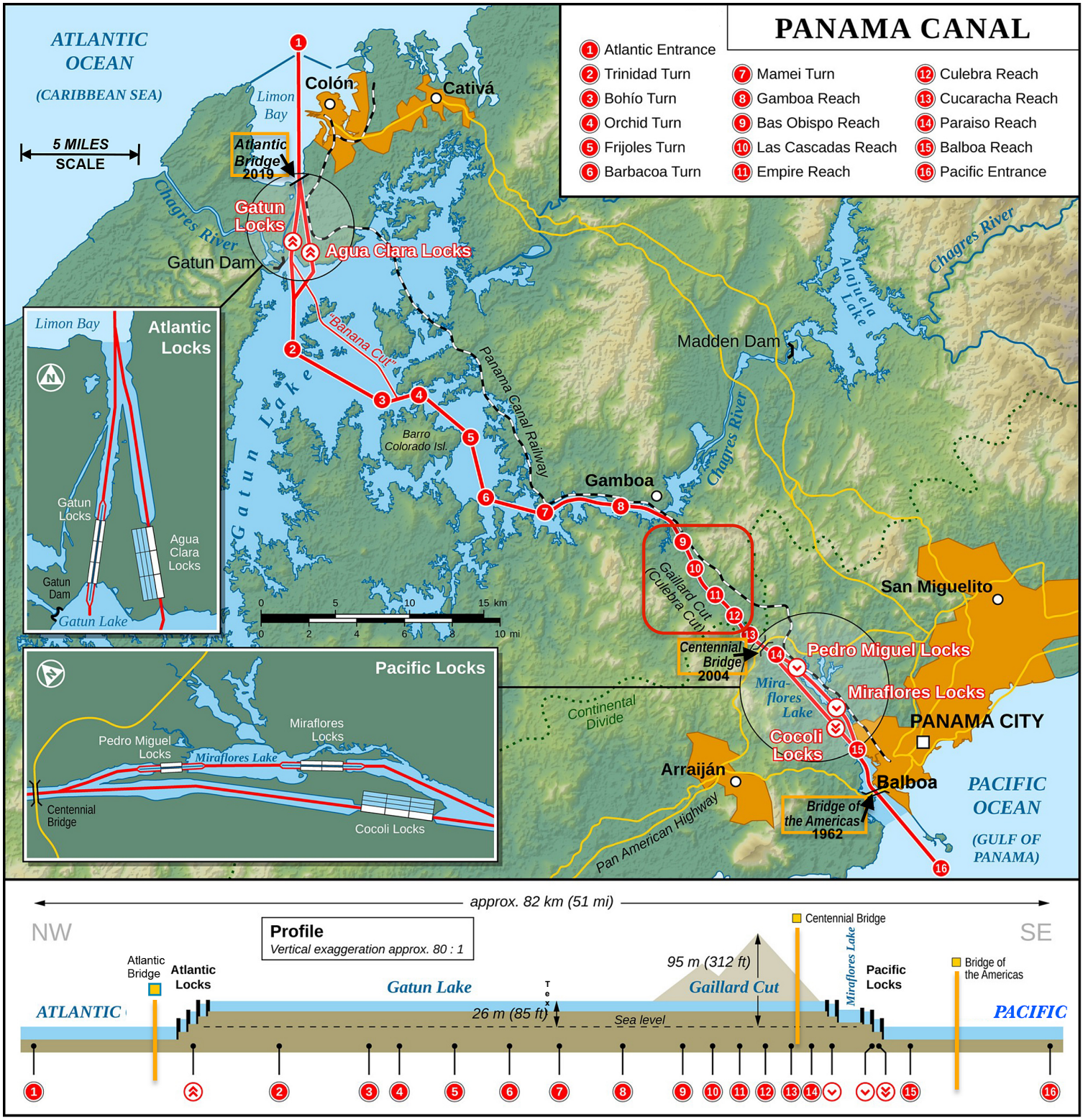


Total Length of Panama Canal Transit: 51 miles (82 km)
Length of Limon Bay to Gatun Locks: 7 miles (11 km)
Height of Gatun Lake: 85 ft above sea level
Depth of Gatun Lake: Varies from 46 to 85 ft (14-26 m)
Width of Gatun Lake: Varies 500 -1000 ft (150-300 m)
3 Gatun Locks lift/lower by approximately 28 ft each - 3x28 = 84 ft (26 m)
Gatun Lake transit distance to Gamboa: 23 miles (37km)
Length of Gaillard/Culebra Cut: 8 miles (13 km)
1 Pedro Miguel lock lifts/lowers vessel by approximately 28 ft (8.5 m)
Distance from Pedro Miguel Locks to Miraflores Locks: 1.2 miles (2 km)
2 Miraflores Locks lift/lower vessel by 2x28 ft = 56 ft (17 m)
Distance from Miraflores Locks to Panama Bay ('Pacific Passage'): 7 miles (11 km)
Average total transit time: 8-10 hrs
Locks are 40 ft (12 m) deep, 1000 ft (300m) long, 110 ft (33m) wide
Each lock lifts/lowers vessel by about 28 feet (8.5 m)
Lock Gates: Each leaf 65 ft (20m) wide and 6.5 ft (2m) thick, Leaf heights range 46-82 ft (14-25 m), Leaf weight >600 tons (hinges alone over 18 tons)

Each lock holds 26 million gallons (101 million L) of water.
Every complete transit transfers 52 million gallons of water from the lake to the ocean, by gravity. Rainfall has always

Rainfall has always sufficiently replenished the lake to keep the Canal operational - until 2023 when El Niño-related drought resulted in disruptic of shipping and decreased transits from the usual average of 36 per day to a nadir of 22 per day. Conditions improved in 2025 and transits per da recovered to typical averages, but another predicted El Niño-related drought in 2026 resulted in reinstatement of transit limits.

Top 5 Canal Users: USA > China > Japan > Chile > South Korea