

ISTHMUS OF KORINTH

The **Isthmus of Corinth** is the narrow canal separating the Peloponnese peninsula from the rest of the mainland of Greece, near the city of Corinth. At the west of the canal lies the Gulf of Corinth and to the east the Saronic Gulf.

In the past, there was a land of 6.3km long connecting Peloponnese and mainland Greece. The ancient Greeks long considered the idea for a shortcut to save boats sailing all around the Peloponnese. In the 7th century B.C., the tyrant Periander carried out the first attempt to build a canal there. Due to technical difficulties, he abandoned the project and constructed a simpler and less costly overland stone ramp, named **Diolkos**, as a portage road. The Diolkos, meaning “puller of boats” is a paved road used to transport boats by land on a platform.

In the modern era, it was proposed again in the eighties, soon after Greece’s independence from the Ottoman Empire, and was brought to completion in 1893 after eleven years’ work. Ever since the Corinth Canal made the Peloponnese an island which is connected to mainland Greece with two road bridges, two railway bridges and a military emergency bridge.