



## PANAMA CANAL

The Panama Canal cuts through the narrowest section of Panama, from Colon on the Caribbean Sea to the east to Balboa on the Pacific Ocean to the west. The canal serves as a shortcut for ships between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans via the Gatun Lake. 5% of the world's trade passes through the Panama Canal.

The canal, which was constructed between 1902-14 by the United States following an unsuccessful attempt by France, measures 81.6 km in length and has two channels, allowing ships to pass in both directions simultaneously. Six sets of double locks can let ships of up to 40,000 register tons pass through the canal.

The largest ships that pass through the canal are known as Panamax.





## CAPE HORN

Cape Horn is named after the city of Hoorn in the Netherlands and is the southernmost headland of the Tierra del Fuego archipelago of southern Chile. Cape Horn, commonly known to sailors simply as “The Horn”, is the most southerly of the great capes, and marks the northern boundary of the strait between South America and Antarctica, also known as the Drake Passage.

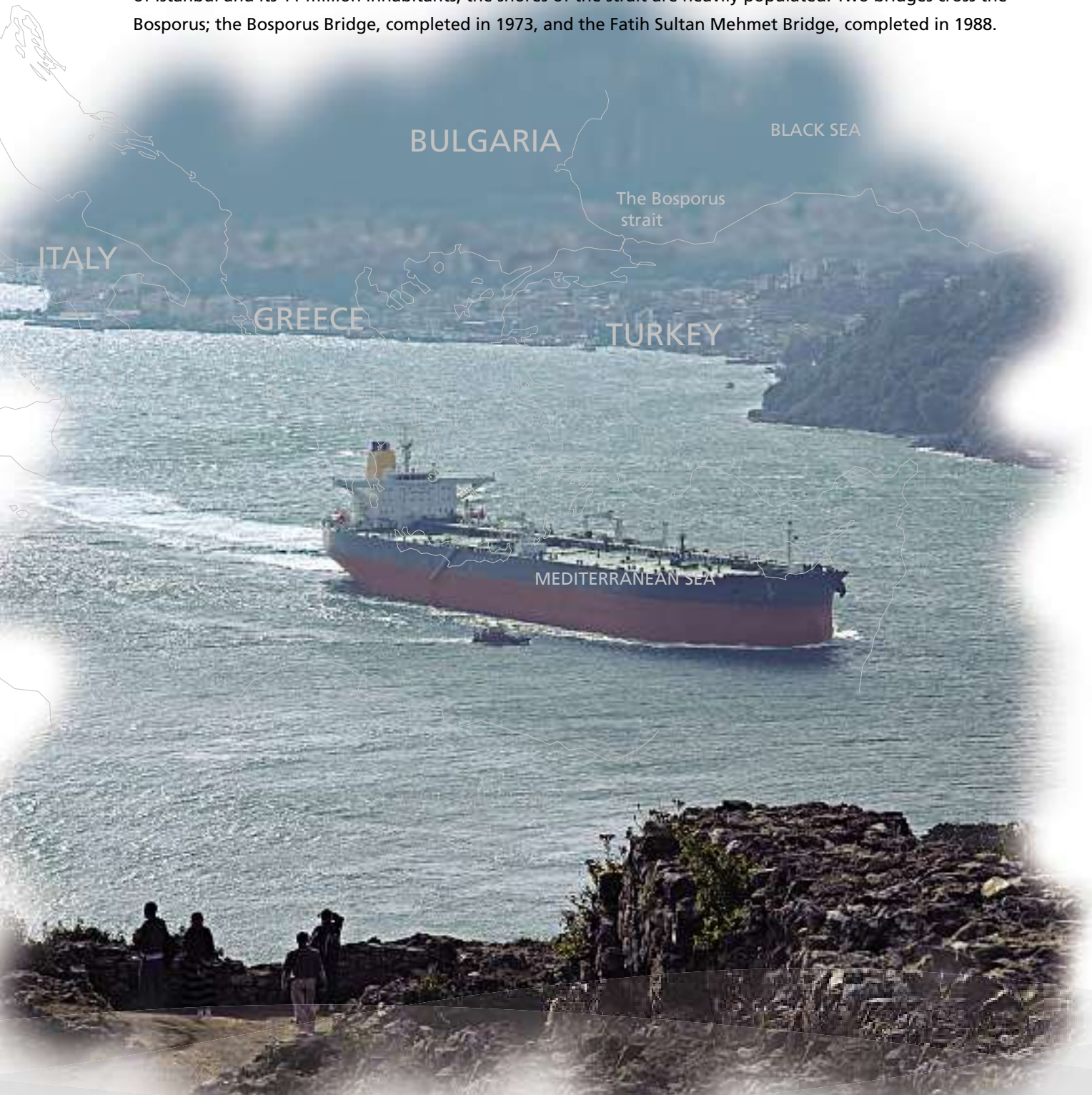
For many years Cape Horn was a major milestone on the clipper route, by which sailing ships carried trade around the world. Today the Panama Canal has reduced the need for cargo ships to travel via the Horn.





## BOSPORUS

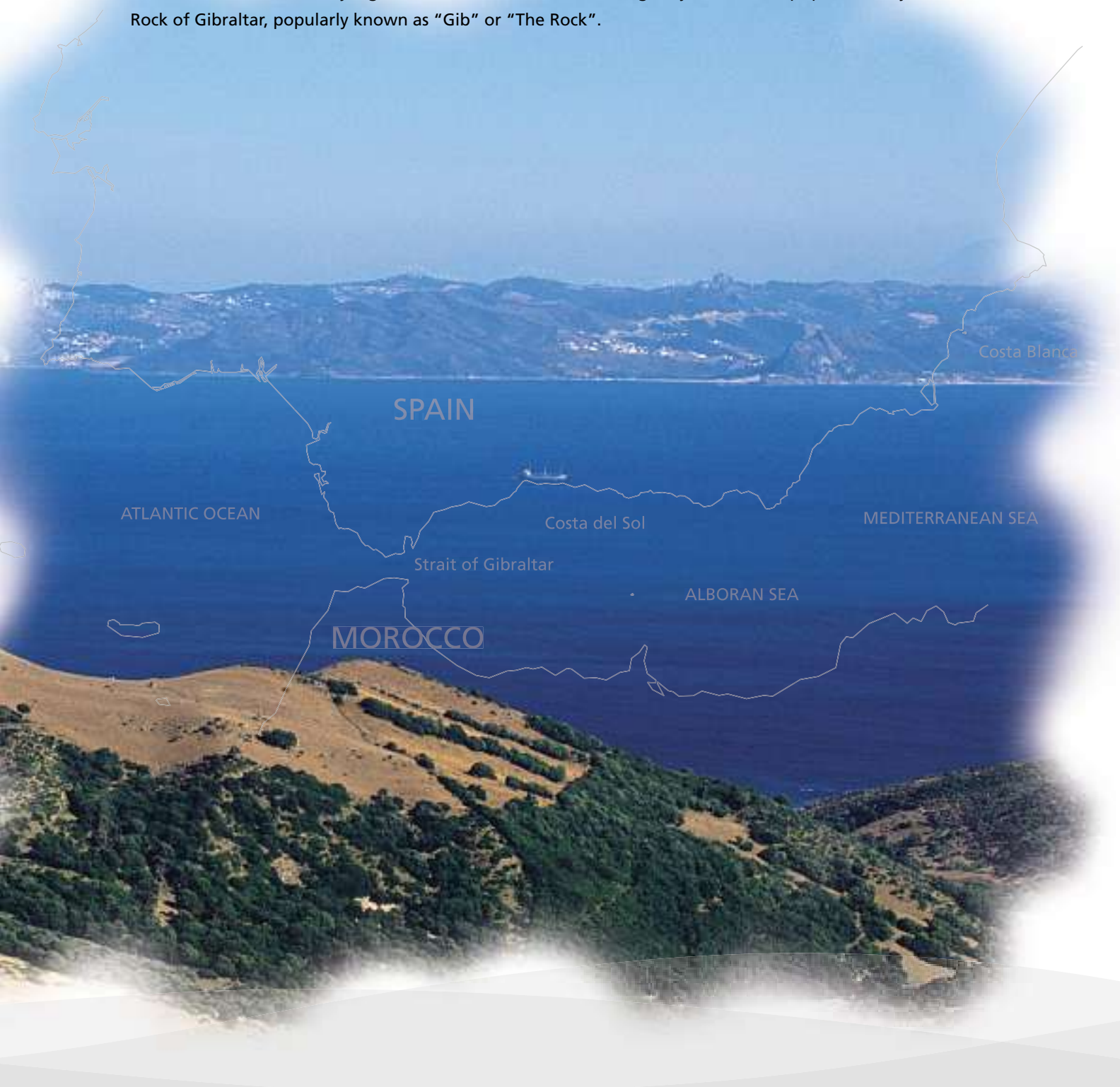
The Bosphorus, also known as the Istanbul Strait, forms the boundary between the European and Asian parts of Turkey. It is the world's narrowest strait used for international navigation and connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara. It is approximately 30 km long with a maximum width of 3700 m at the northern entrance and a minimum width of 700 m. The depth varies between 36-124 m in midstream. Straddled as it is by the city of Istanbul and its 11 million inhabitants, the shores of the strait are heavily populated. Two bridges cross the Bosphorus; the Bosphorus Bridge, completed in 1973, and the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge, completed in 1988.





## STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

The continents of Africa and Europe meet at the Strait of Gibraltar. This narrow stretch of water separating Spain and Gibraltar in the north and Morocco and Ceuta in the south is the seaway between the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Mediterranean to the east. The Gibraltar Strait is 300 m deep and 15 km wide at its narrowest point. Because the strait hinders the flow of water between the two oceans, the salt content of the Mediterranean is extremely high. The Strait of Gibraltar is strategically situated. Ships pass directly below the Rock of Gibraltar, popularly known as "Gib" or "The Rock".





## THE SUEZ CANAL

The Suez Canal (Arabic: Quana al-Suways) runs from Port Said on the Mediterranean in the north to Suez on the Red Sea in the south. The canal, which is the longest in the world for large ships, is 171 km long, and makes water transportation between Europe and Asia possible without circumnavigation of Africa. The canal, which passes through several lakes, can take fully laden ships of up to 150,000 tons and ships in ballast of up to 370,000 tons. The largest ships that pass through the canal are known as Suezmax.

The canal was constructed by the French engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps between 1859-69 and has since been extended several times. The British had control over the canal until 1956, when it was turned over to the Egyptians. A tunnel running under the canal was opened in 1980.

