



Panama Canal Zone

An unorganized territory of the United States from 1903 to 1979, centered on the Panama Canal in the Republic of Panama. The zone comprised the canal and an area around 8 kilometres on each side of the centre line, excluding Panama City and Colón.



On February 26, 1904, in the [Isthmian Canal Convention](#), the Republic of Panama granted to the United States in perpetuity the use, occupation, and control of a zone of land and land under water for the construction, maintenance, operation, sanitation, and protection of the canal. The United States, which had financed and built the canal, controlled the territory from 1903 to 1979.

The Panama Canal Zone first issued postage stamps on 24 June 1904. Initially they were the current stamps of Panama overprinted or (less often) the US, [overprinted](#) with "CANAL ZONE".

1909 Panama - Overprint Reading Down

Justo Arosemena



1909 -21 Panama - Overprint Reading Up

Type I Overprint



Balbao



Fernandez de Cordoba

Type II Overprint



Balbao

1927-31 USA



Franklin

1928 A **definitive series** inscribed "CANAL ZONE POSTAGE" was issued depicting various persons involved in the canal construction, as well as a 5c value showing the **Gaillard Cut**.



General Gorgas



H.F Hodges



Admiral Rousseau

1934-5 20th anniversary of canal opening. General George Washington Goethals, Chief Engineer of the Isthmian Canal Commission.



1931-49 AIR



1946-9



1951 AIR



1965-67 AIR



The [Canal Zone](#) was abolished on October 1, 1979 as a term of the 1977 [Torrijos–Carter Treaties](#); the canal itself was under joint U.S.–Panamanian control from 1979 until fully turned over to Panama on December 31, 1999.