

## 1915 Çanakkale Bridge (2)





## Introduction

The 1915 Çanakkale Bridge ([Turkish](#): 1915 Çanakkale Köprüsü), is a road [suspension bridge](#) in the province of [Çanakkale](#) in northwestern [Turkey](#). Situated just south of the coastal towns of [Lapseki](#) and [Gelibolu](#), the bridge spans the [Dardanelles strait](#), about 10 km (6.2 mi) south of the [Sea of Marmara](#).<sup>[2]</sup> The bridge was officially opened by [President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan](#) on 18 March 2022 after roughly five years of construction.<sup>[4]</sup> The year "1915" in the official Turkish name honours an important [Ottoman naval victory](#) against the navies of the [United Kingdom](#) and [France](#) during [World War I](#).

The bridge is the [longest suspension bridge in the world](#)—with a main [span](#) of 2,023 m (6,637 ft), the bridge surpasses the [Akashi Kaikyo Bridge](#) (1998) in Japan by 32 m (105 ft).<sup>[5][6]</sup> It is the centrepiece of the planned 321-kilometre long (199 mi) US\$2.8 billion [Kınalı-Balıkesir Motorway](#), which will connect the [O-3](#) and [O-7](#) motorways in [East Thrace](#) to the [O-5](#) motorway in [Anatolia](#).<sup>[7]</sup>

The bridge is the first [fixed crossing](#) over the Dardanelles<sup>[8]</sup> and the sixth one across the [Turkish Straits](#), after three bridges over the [Bosphorus](#) and two tunnels under it.<sup>[9]</sup>

## History

Proposals for a bridge spanning the [Dardanelles Strait](#)<sup>[14]</sup> have existed since the 1990s. A bridge was proposed again in 2012, and in 2014, it was placed in the Turkish government's future transportation projects list.<sup>[15]</sup> In September 2016, the government officially launched the bridge building project.<sup>[15]</sup> Bids for the contract to construct the bridge were made in 2017.<sup>[16]</sup> The contract was awarded to a consortium containing Turkish companies [Limak Holding](#) and [Yapı Merkezi](#), alongside South Korean companies [DL Holdings](#) and [SK Ecoplant](#).<sup>[17]</sup>

Construction began in March 2017.<sup>[18]</sup> The bridge was initially scheduled for completion in September 2023,<sup>[17]</sup> and later brought forward to March 2022.<sup>[18]</sup> On 16 May 2020, the second tower was completed, on the [Gallipoli](#) side (European coast).<sup>[19]</sup> By 13 November 2021 all block decks were installed.<sup>[4]</sup> The toll bridge opened for traffic on 18 March 2022, with a toll price of 200 [lira](#) (€13.60).<sup>[13]</sup>