

General Rafael Urdaneta Bridge (4)



INTRODUCTION

General Rafael Urdaneta Bridge (Spanish: Puente General Rafael Urdaneta) is located at the entrance of Lake Maracaibo in the northwest of Venezuela. It crosses the Tablazo Strait and connects Santa Rita and Maracaibo. It is also called Maracaibo Bridge.

The length of the bridge is 5.4 mi (8.7 km) and the Length over water is 5.3 mi (8.6 km). The height of the bridge tower is 284 ft (86.6 m).

The bridge was built in 1958 and opened for use on August 24, 1962. It cost 350 million bolívar soberano (US \$100 million). It is named after the Venezuelan independent hero General Rafael Urdaneta.

History

1957: The bridge design competition started, and the bridge design of Italian engineer Riccardo Morandi won.

1958: Construction of the bridge began.

August 24, 1962: The General Rafael Urdaneta Bridge opened. The then Venezuelan President Romulo Betancourt attended the opening ceremony.