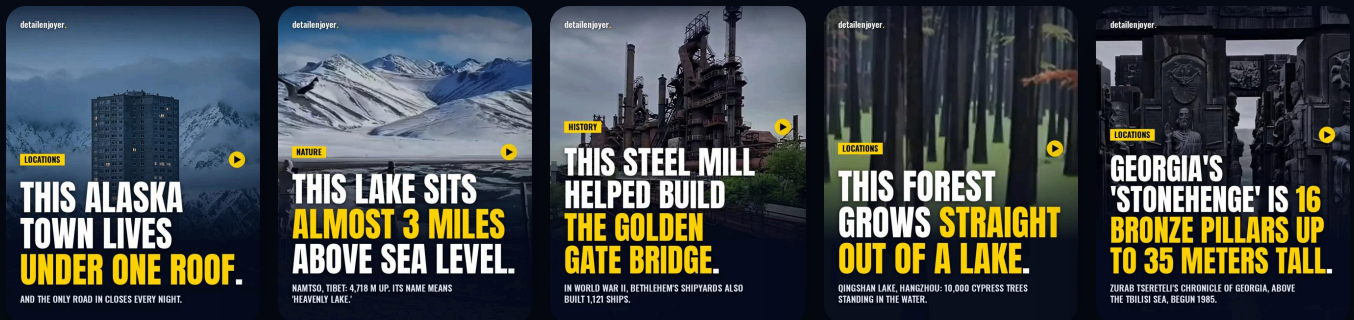




COLLECTION · COL-06

PLACES WITH A STORY

A town in one building, a lake in the sky, a glacier that bleeds, a pyramid hotel in Las Vegas, a Roman arch carved with the Temple's spoils, a bridge that floats on a reservoir, an escalator up granite cliffs, all of the ancient Seven Wonders and the New 7 Wonders, and more.



INSIDE

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| 01 One Roof Town | 43 Buzludza |
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ABOUT THIS COLLECTION

83 case files on places where the setting is the story. Most of Whittier, Alaska's roughly 300 year-round residents live in Begich Towers, a single 14-story building. **DD-008** Namtso in Tibet sits 4,718 m (15,479 ft) above sea level, and its name means 'heavenly lake' in Tibetan. **DD-019**

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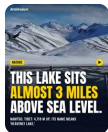
01



One Roof Town

DD-008 · Locations / History · This Alaska town lives under one roof.

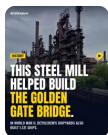
02



Heavenly Lake

DD-019 · Nature / Locations · This lake sits almost 3 miles above sea level.

03



Bethlehem Steel

DD-010 · History / Locations · This steel mill helped build the Golden Gate Bridge.

04



Water Forest Park

DD-027 · Locations / Nature · This forest grows straight out of a lake.

05



The Chronicles of Georgia

DD-028 · Locations / History · Georgia's 'Stonehenge' is 16 bronze pillars up to 35 meters tall.

06



The Line

DD-031 · Locations / Tech · Saudi Arabia's planned 170-km city stopped after 2.4 km of foundations.

07



Winter in Harbin

DD-034 · Locations / People · Every winter, Harbin builds a city out of river ice.

08



Tilted Town

DD-035 · Science / Locations · This Mexican village is built on a tilt to fool your balance.

09



The White Temple

DD-042 · Locations / People · Thailand's White Temple is an artist's work in progress.

10



Coffin Homes

DD-046 · People / Dark Facts / Locations · In Hong Kong, some homes are barely bigger than a single bed.

11



Dead Pools

DD-049 · Nature / Dark Facts · There are lakes at the bottom of the sea.

12



Foreverest

DD-063 · Dark Facts / Locations / Nature · Why many who die on Everest are never brought down.

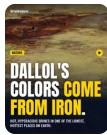
13



The Glacier That Bleeds

DD-725 · Nature / Locations · Antarctica's glacier that seems to bleed.

14



Danakil Depression

DD-055 · Nature / Locations · One of the hottest, driest and lowest places on Earth.

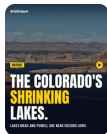
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Plitvice Pure

DD-717 · Locations / Nature · Croatia's lakes, dammed by living stone.

16



Reservoir Ruin

DD-718 · Nature / Locations · Lake Mead and Lake Powell and a shrinking Colorado River.

17



Haus des Glockenspiels

DD-698 · Locations / History · Bells made of porcelain.

18



Three Whale Rock

DD-703 · Locations / Nature · Whales in a sea of forest.

19



Mount Bokty

DD-706 · Locations / Nature · A mountain layered like a pie.

20



The Wailing Wall

DD-673 · Locations / History · Not the Temple, its retaining wall.

21



Siwa Salt Oasis

DD-675 · Locations / Nature · Floating in the Sahara.

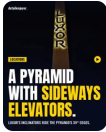
22



One Incense Pillar

DD-682 · Locations / Nature · 150 m tall, 4 m wide.

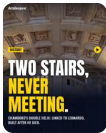
23



Lux or Luxor

DD-686 · Locations / Tech · A pyramid with sideways elevators.

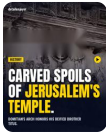
24



da Vinci's Double Helix

DD-688 · History / Locations · Two stairs, never meeting.

25



Arch of Titus

DD-690 · History / Locations · Carved spoils of Jerusalem's Temple.

26



Lingshan Lift

DD-707 · Locations / Tech · 1,236 m of escalator.

27



The Kaaba

DD-655 · Locations / History · The direction of daily prayer.

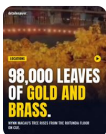
28



Buoyancy Bridge II

DD-658 · Locations / Tech · A road that floats.

29



ProsperiTree

DD-659 · Locations / Tech · 98,000 leaves of gold and brass.

30



BAPS NJ

DD-660 · Locations / History · Carved in India, built in New Jersey.

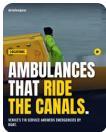
31



Three Gorges

DD-643 · Locations / Tech · The world's biggest power plant.

32



Aquatic Ambulances

DD-644 · Locations / People · Ambulances that ride the canals.

33



Rainbow Mountains

DD-646 · Nature / Locations · Stripes at 5,000 meters.

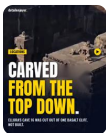
34



Kawah Ijen

DD-600 · Nature / Locations · Blue fire, not blue lava.

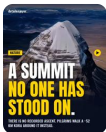
35



Kailasa Temple

DD-605 · Locations / History · Carved from the top down.

36



Mount Kailash

DD-607 · Nature / Locations · A summit no one has stood on.

37



Mercedes Stadium

DD-617 · Locations / Tech · A roof that opens like a camera.

38



The Glades

DD-619 · Nature / Locations · A river made of grass.

39



Hallgrímskirkja

DD-567 · Locations / History · A church shaped like basalt.

40



Baikonur Cosmodrome

DD-570 · Space / History / Locations · The Soviet shuttle left behind.

41



Bunker Valentin

DD-571 · History / Military / Locations · Built by forced labor, never used.

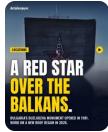
42



Unlimited Bladeworks

DD-572 · History / Locations · A battlefield planted with swords.

43



Buzludzha

DD-573 · Locations / History · A red star over the Balkans.

44



Starbase

DD-582 · Locations / Space · A rocket factory that became a city.

45



The Motherland Calls

DD-590 · Locations / History · Built to stand taller than Lady Liberty.

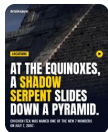
46



Ardabil

DD-620 · Locations / History · A shrine that gave an empire its name.

47



Chichen Itza

DD-120 · Locations / History · At the equinoxes, a shadow serpent slides down a pyramid.

48



The Colosseum

DD-121 · Locations / History · Rome's Colosseum had a retractable roof made of fabric.

49



Taj Mahal

DD-123 · Locations / History · The Taj Mahal's marble shifts color through the day.

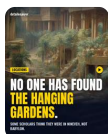
50



The Great Pyramid

DD-092 · Locations / History · The Great Pyramid's survival makes it the benchmark for the whole list of ancient wonders, but its most revealing evidence is mundane: logistics records and quarry routes show it as a state-run construction project rather than a mystery.

51



Hanging Gardens

DD-094 · Locations / History · No one has found the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

52



Zeus @ Olympia

DD-096 · History / Locations · One of the ancient wonders was made of ivory and gold.

53



Temple of Artemis

DD-098 · Locations / History · A man burned an ancient wonder to make himself famous.

54



Mausoleum at Halicarnassus

DD-100 · Locations / History · Every mausoleum is named after one man's tomb.

55



Colossus of Rhodes

DD-102 · History / Locations · One ancient wonder stood for barely half a century.

56



Lighthouse of Alexandria

DD-104 · Locations / History · An ancient lighthouse stood about 100 m tall for over 1,500 years.

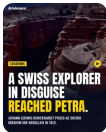
57



The Great Wall

DD-111 · Locations / History · The Great Wall isn't one wall.

58



Petra

DD-114 · Locations / History · A Swiss explorer in disguise reached Petra in 1812.

59



Christ the Redeemer

DD-116 · Locations / History · Rio's Christ the Redeemer is 30 m tall on an 8 m pedestal.

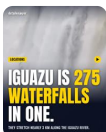
60



Machu Picchu

DD-118 · Locations / History · The Spanish never found Machu Picchu.

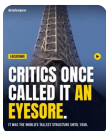
61



Iguazu

DD-153 · Locations / Nature · Iguazu Falls is about 275 separate drops.

62



Eiffel

DD-156 · Locations / History · Leading artists once petitioned against the Eiffel Tower.

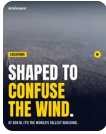
63



Empire State

DD-157 · Locations / History · The Empire State Building went up in about 410 days.

64



Burj Khalifa

DD-158 · Locations / Tech · The Burj Khalifa's setbacks help break up the wind.

65



The City of 10,000 Shrines

DD-195 · Locations / History · Kyoto was Japan's imperial capital for over 1,000 years.

66



Thera

DD-196 · Locations / History · Santorini's crescent shape comes from a volcanic eruption.

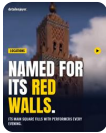
67



Catalan Gothic

DD-197 · Locations / History · The Sagrada Família has been under construction since 1882.

68



The Red City

DD-198 · Locations / History · Marrakech is called the Red City for its red-ochre walls.

69



Soft Coral Capital of the World!

DD-199 · Locations / Nature · Fiji is nicknamed the soft coral capital of the world.

70



Visit This Tropical Paradise

DD-200 · Locations / Nature · Bora Bora's peak is the remnant of an extinct volcano.

71



Life on The Palm

DD-250 · Locations · Palm Jumeirah is built from reclaimed sand and rock.

72



Astonishing Arabian Architecture

DD-251 · Locations · The Burj Khalifa stands 828 meters tall.

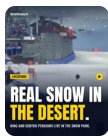
73



Mall of the Emirates

DD-252 · Locations · The Dubai Mall has more than 1,200 shops.

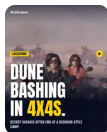
74



A Winter Oasis

DD-253 · Locations · Running a ski slope in the desert is less about snow than about holding an entire mountain at freezing point through the Gulf summer.

75



Wanderlust & Desert Dust

DD-254 · Locations · Dune bashing means driving 4×4s over sand dunes.

76



The Bermuda Triangle

DD-079 · Locations / History · The Bermuda Triangle is not officially recognized as dangerous.

77



Towering Tower

DD-363 · Locations · East Pacific Center Tower A rises about 306 meters over Shenzhen.

78



Maeklong Market

DD-370 · Locations / People · Several times a day, a train rolls straight through this market.

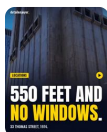
79



Sanctuary of Truth

DD-379 · Locations / History · A 105-meter wooden sanctuary in Pattaya has been under construction since 1981.

80



The Titanpointe

DD-400 · Locations / History · A 550-foot windowless tower stands in lower Manhattan.

81



Enter Sion

DD-406 · Tech / Locations · Sion Airport sits deep in the Rhône Valley, ringed by Alps.

82



Shanghai

DD-430 · Locations · Shanghai is home to about 24 million people.

83



Blood Beach

DD-443 · Locations / Nature · Iron oxide turns some Persian Gulf beaches deep red.



Collection Quiz and Answer Key

166 questions from every case file

Every quick fact has a stable ID (for example DD-008-F01) and comes from a case file with its sources listed. Online edition with videos and slides: <https://detailenjoyer.com/collections/places-with-a-story/>



DD-008 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 1 OF 83

ONE ROOF TOWN

Most of Whittier, Alaska lives in a single 14-story building, and the only road into town is a tunnel that closes every night.

QUICK FACTS

DD-008-F01

Most of Whittier, Alaska's roughly 300 year-round residents live in Begich Towers, a single 14-story building.

DD-008-F02

Begich Towers in Whittier, Alaska was built by the U.S. Army as Cold War barracks; locals moved in after the military left.

DD-008-F03

In Begich Towers, a grocery store, post office and a church are just an elevator ride away.

DD-008-F04

Kids in Whittier, Alaska can walk to school through a tunnel without ever stepping outside.

DD-008-F05

The only road into Whittier, Alaska is the 2.5-mile Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel, the longest highway tunnel in North America.

DD-008-F06

The Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel has a single lane that cars and trains take turns using, with computers making sure they're never inside at the same time.

DD-008-F07

The tunnel into Whittier, Alaska closes overnight; its winter hours are 7 AM to 11 PM.

DD-008-F08

The Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel was the first tunnel designed for -40 °F cold and 150 mph winds.

THE WRITE-UP

Begich Towers. A 14-story tower in Whittier, Alaska that houses most of the town's ~300 year-round residents.

Built for soldiers. The U.S. Army built it as Cold War barracks. Locals moved in after the military left.

A town in a building. Grocery store, post office and a church are just an elevator ride away.

School by tunnel. Kids can walk to school through a tunnel without ever stepping outside.

2.5 miles. The only road in is the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel, the longest highway tunnel in North America.

One lane. Cars and trains.. They take turns. Computers make sure they're never inside at the same time.

Closed at night. The tunnel shuts overnight, cutting the town off until morning. Winter hours: 7 AM to 11 PM.

-40 °F and 150 mph. It was the first tunnel designed for that kind of cold and wind.

SOURCES

1. Anchorage Daily News (2020): In an Alaska town where almost everyone lives under the same roof...: <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2020/04/01/in-an-alaska-town-where-almost-everyone-lives-under-the-same-roof-the-pandemic-threat-feels-different/>
2. CBS News: Whittier, Alaska and Begich Towers: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/whittier-alaska-begich-towers/>
3. CBC News: Most of Whittier's residents live in 1 apartment building: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/whittier-alaska-most-of-town-s-residents-live-in-1-apartment-building-1.2935295>
4. Alaska DOT&PF: Whittier Tunnel accomplishments: <https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/whittiertunnel/accomplishments.shtml>
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6. Alaska DOT&PF: Whittier Tunnel winter schedule (PDF): <https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/whittiertunnel/assets/WhittierWinterSchedule.pdf>
7. Alaska DOT&PF: Whittier Tunnel summer schedule (PDF): <https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/whittiertunnel/assets/WhittierSummerSchedule.pdf>
8. City of Whittier: Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel: <https://www.whittieralaska.gov/community-resources/page/anton-anderson-memorial-tunnel>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/whittier-one-roof/> · Last updated Oct 17, 2026



HEAVENLY LAKE

Namtso (Nam Co) in central Tibet sits 4,718 m (15,479 ft) above sea level, almost 3 miles up. It's often called the world's highest saltwater lake. Its Tibetan name means 'heavenly lake', and it's one of Tibet's sacred lakes, with the snow-capped Nyenchen Tanglha range rising along its southern shore.

QUICK FACTS

DD-019-F01

Namtso in Tibet sits 4,718 m (15,479 ft) above sea level, and its name means 'heavenly lake' in Tibetan.

DD-019-F02

Namtso is often described as the world's highest-altitude saltwater lake.

THE WRITE-UP

4,718 meters up. Namtso's surface is 4,718 m (15,479 ft) above sea level. That's nearly 3 miles, and far higher than Lhasa.

'Heavenly Lake'. 'Namtso' means 'Heavenly Lake' in Tibetan (also rendered 'Gods' Lake' or 'Lake of Immortals'). Its Mongolian name, Tengri Nor, means much the same.

A high salt lake. Namtso is a saltwater lake, described as the highest-altitude salt lake in the world and one of China's largest.

Big as well as high. The lake is about 70 km long and 30 km wide, covering roughly 1,920–1,940 km².

A sacred lake. It is one of Tibet's holy lakes and a major site of Tibetan Buddhism. In legend, the goddess Namtso is the wife of the mountain god Nyenchen Tanglha.

The wall of peaks to the south. The snow-capped Nyenchen Tanglha range rises along the lake's southern shore. Its main peak reaches 7,162 m.

Fed by snow and ice. The lake is fed mainly by melting ice and snow and the streams that drain into it. It lies roughly 190–240 km north of Lhasa.

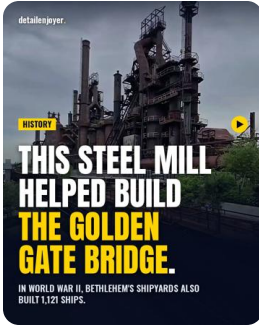
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Imprecise:** 'surrounded by the snow-covered peaks of the Nyenchen Tanglha mountain range'. The range runs along the lake's south and south-east side, with rolling plateau hills to the north, so it doesn't surround the lake. [Tibet Discovery; China Highlights]
- **Confirmed:** 4,718 m = 15,479 ft, and 'heavenly lake' is the standard translation. [CAS IGSNRR; TibetCulture; Lhasa gov't]
- **Context:** 'one of the highest major lakes in the world' is fair. Sources usually call it the highest saltwater lake. [CAS IGSNRR; Xinhua/China Gateway]

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2. Namtso Lake (TibetCulture, China Tibet culture portal): http://en.tibetculture.org.cn/index/lnews/201507/t20150708_3456353.htm
3. Amazing scenery of Namtso Lake, Tibet (Lhasa Municipal People's Government / China Tibet News): <https://www.lasa.gov.cn/lhasa/lsmj/202005/d36e0f03a7ae463b9de0ad1836af8227.shtml>
4. Nine holy lakes in Tibet (China Daily): https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/tibet50years/2015-07/07/content_21246979.htm
5. Namtso no longer Tibet's largest lake: research (Xinhua via China Development Gateway, 2014): http://en.chinagate.cn/2014-07/22/content_33020619_2.htm
6. How to Plan a Trip to Lake Namtso (China Highlights): <https://www.chinahighlights.com/nagqu/attraction/lake-namtso.htm>
7. Namtso Lake photography guide (Tibet Discovery): <https://www.tibetdiscovery.com/namtso-travel/photography/>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/heavenly-lake/> · Last updated Aug 19, 2026



BETHLEHEM STEEL

Bethlehem Steel grew out of the Saucona Iron Company, founded in South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1857. It became Bethlehem Steel Company in 1899 and a corporation in 1904, and was for decades America's second-largest steelmaker. Its wide-flange beams helped make skyscrapers possible. Its steel went into the Golden Gate and George Washington bridges and the Empire State Building. In World War II its shipyards built 1,121 ships, more than any other builder. It went bankrupt in 2001 and was dissolved in 2003.

QUICK FACTS

DD-010-F01

Bethlehem Steel's subsidiary McClintic-Marshall fabricated and erected the Golden Gate Bridge's 67,908 tons of structural steel.

DD-010-F02

In World War II, Bethlehem Steel's 15 shipyards built 1,121 ships, more than any other builder.

THE WRITE-UP

Older than the name. The company's earliest predecessor, the Saucona Iron Company, was formed in South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1857. The name Bethlehem Steel Company dates from 1899, and Charles M. Schwab formed Bethlehem Steel Corporation in 1904.

The beam that built skyscrapers. In 1908, Bethlehem's new Grey mill produced the nation's first wide-flange structural beams. They changed building construction and made the age of the skyscraper possible.

Landmarks in Bethlehem steel. Its steel went into the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center and Madison Square Garden. It also went into the George Washington, Verrazzano-Narrows and Golden Gate bridges.

Golden Gate, from Pennsylvania. Bethlehem's subsidiary McClintic-Marshall fabricated and erected the Golden Gate Bridge's steel: 67,908 tons in all, 45,000 of them in the two towers. The main cables were the one big part it didn't make; Roebling supplied them.

World War I. When WWI began in 1914, Bethlehem could make 1.1 million tons of steel a year. It produced vast amounts of ships, armor, guns and munitions for the US and its allies.

World War II: 1,121 ships. Bethlehem's 15 shipyards built 1,121 ships in WWII, more than any other builder, and nearly a fifth of the Navy's two-ocean fleet. It also made a quarter of the warship armor plate.

Decline. At its peak, Bethlehem Steel was a symbol of American manufacturing. It went bankrupt and was dissolved in 2003.

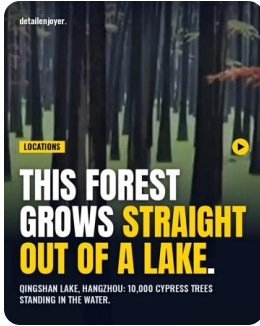
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Imprecise:** 'founded in the late 19th century'. The company's roots go back to the Saucona Iron Company of 1857 (mid-19th century). The Bethlehem Steel name dates from 1899 and the corporation from 1904. [bethsteel.com; Wikipedia]
- **Overstated:** 'much of the US Navy during both World Wars'. In WWII its yards built nearly one-fifth of the Navy's two-ocean fleet (1,121 ships in total, counting merchant ships). In WWI it was a major builder and armorer, but there's no source for 'much of the Navy'. [Wikipedia; FSU thesis; bethsteel.com]
- **Nuance:** Golden Gate Bridge. Bethlehem made the structural steel and its subsidiary McClintic-Marshall erected it, but the main cables came from Roebling. [lehighvalleylive; Golden Gate Bridge District]
- **Confirmed:** one of the largest and most influential US steelmakers, headquartered in Bethlehem, PA, with steel for bridges, skyscrapers, railroads and warships. [Wikipedia; bethsteel.com]

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1. Bethlehem Steel: History timeline (bethsteel.com): <https://www.bethsteel.com/history.html>
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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/bethlehem-steel/> · Last updated May 8, 2026



DD-027 LOCATIONS / NATURE · 4 OF 83

WATER FOREST PARK

At the north end of Qingshan Lake (Qingshanhu) in Hangzhou's Lin'an District, about 10,000 cypress trees stand with roughly two meters of their trunks underwater. The stand covers about 50,000 square meters, and the trees are pond cypress and bald cypress introduced from North America. Visitors walk boardwalks or paddle kayaks between the trunks. In summer, duckweed turns the water bright 'matcha' green, and in late autumn the needles go red and gold.

QUICK FACTS

DD-027-F01

Hangzhou's Qingshan Lake has a forest of about 10,000 cypress trees growing right out of the water, with roughly two meters of each trunk submerged.

DD-027-F02

In summer, duckweed turns the lake under the trees bright green, earning it the nickname 'matcha forest'.

THE WRITE-UP

Where it is. The water forest lies in the northern part of Qingshan Lake ('Qingshanhu', where hu means lake) in Lin'an District, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. It's reachable by Hangzhou Metro Line 16.

Ten thousand trees in a lake. Hangzhou officials count about 10,000 pond cypress and bald cypress trees over roughly 50,000 square meters. The trees average about 30 meters tall, with around two meters of trunk standing in the water.

Imported swamp trees. These are swamp cypresses (*Taxodium*), a North American genus that tolerates flooded ground. Hangzhou Daily says they were introduced in the 1970s. A Chinese travel guide says they were planted in the 1960s to protect embankments from floods.

A matcha-green lake. From about May, floating duckweed carpets the water in bright green, which locals call the 'matcha forest'. In late autumn the cypress needles turn red and yellow.

Ways to see it. A core boardwalk of about 2.2 km winds through the trees, and kayaks and boat tours go between the trunks. A long lakeside greenway circles the lake for cyclists.

A city escape. Hangzhou's own outlets describe it as a fairy-tale or 'surreal movie' landscape that went viral online, a metro ride from downtown.

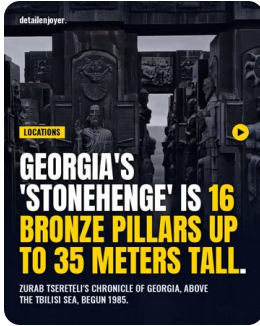
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Confirmed from the frames:** the location is Qingshanhu (Qingshan Lake) Water Forest in Lin'an District, Hangzhou, Zhejiang (captions 0.9–6.9 s). [Hangzhou government; Hangzhou News; Hangzhou Daily]
- **Species:** 'metasequoia and pond cypress trees.' Official Hangzhou sources describe the water forest as pond cypress and bald cypress (*Taxodium*). Metasequoia (dawn redwood) is a different genus. Travel guides mention it along the lakeside greenway, but it isn't the main tree standing in the water. [Hangzhou government; Hangzhou News; Qunar]
- **Nuance:** 'clear lake surfaces.' For much of the warm season the water under the trees is covered in green duckweed, as the Reel's own opening shot shows. [Hangzhou News; Qunar]
- **Confirmed:** 'trees grow directly in shallow lake waters'. About two meters of each trunk is underwater. [Hangzhou government]
- **Source conflict:** the planting date is given as the 1960s (Qunar, for flood control) or the 1970s (Hangzhou Daily). Both are recorded and neither is asserted as the answer. Area figures also differ: 50,000 m² for the core forest versus 'about 1 million m²' in Hangzhou Daily. [Hangzhou government; Hangzhou Daily; Qunar]

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/water-forest-park/> · Last updated Feb 10, 2026



DD-028 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 5 OF 83

THE CHRONICLES OF GEORGIA

On Keeni Hill at the north edge of Tbilisi, above the Tbilisi Sea reservoir, stand 16 bronze-clad pillars 30 to 35 meters tall. Sculptor Zurab Tsereteli began the Chronicle of Georgia (Sakartvelos Matiane) in 1985. Work dragged on through the Soviet collapse until 2003, and the monument was never fully finished. The upper sections show kings, queens and heroes of Georgian history, and the lower sections tell the life of Christ. The hilltop had once been earmarked for a 100-meter statue of Stalin.

QUICK FACTS

DD-028-F01

The Chronicle of Georgia's 16 pillars rise 30 to 35 meters above the Tbilisi Sea. It was begun in 1985 and is still technically unfinished.

DD-028-F02

The hill under the Chronicle of Georgia was once reserved for a 100-meter statue of Stalin.

THE WRITE-UP

On a hill above the 'sea'. The monument stands on Keeni Hill in Tbilisi's Nadzaladevi District, at the top of a long stairway overlooking the Tbilisi Sea. The 'sea' is a reservoir on the city's northern edge.

Begun in 1985, never quite finished. Zurab Tsereteli started the project in 1985. Funding faltered with perestroika and the Soviet collapse, and construction ran in fits and starts until 2003. Some elements were never installed.

Sixteen giant pillars. Sixteen columns between 30 and 35 meters tall rise from a foundation of roughly 80 by 80 meters: 12 form the outer walls and 4 stand inside. Georgia's state art portal lists each at 35 meters.

History on top, Christ below. The upper halves of the pillars show Georgian kings, queens and heroes. The central tier has 64 key historical figures, from King Parnavaz to St. Nino. The lower halves depict the life of Christ.

Bronze, not carved stone. The reliefs are bronze and copper alloy, which gives the monument its greenish tone. Georgia's art portal describes the work as bronze.

A chapel and a vine cross. The grounds also hold the grapevine cross of St. Nino, who brought Christianity to Georgia, and a small chapel.

Stalin's hill. In the 1940s the hilltop was set aside for a 100-meter monument to Stalin, and a foundation was even laid. It was never built, and in 1980 the site went to Tsereteli's project.

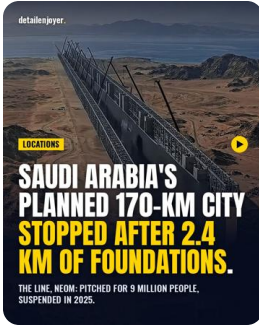
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Confirmed from the frames:** the Reel is about the Chronicle of Georgia (Sakartvelos Matiane) by Zurab Tsereteli, on Keeni Hill above the Tbilisi Sea. [Wikipedia; art.gov.ge]
- **Imprecise:** 'created in 1985.' Construction began in 1985 and continued through 2003, and the monument was never fully finished. [art.gov.ge lists it as 1985–2003; Wikipedia; Dolidoki]
- **Wrong technique:** 'carved with dramatic reliefs.' The reliefs are bronze and copper alloy, not carved stone. [art.gov.ge; Wikipedia; Dolidoki]
- **Confirmed:** 'roughly 30–35 meters high', with 16 pillars. Georgia's state art portal gives 35 m for each. [Wikipedia; art.gov.ge]
- **Context:** 'Georgia's Stonehenge' is a popular nickname, not an official name, and the Tbilisi Sea is a reservoir, not a sea. [Tripadvisor; Wikipedia]

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/chronicles-of-georgia/> · Last updated Mar 6, 2026



THE LINE

The Line was announced by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in January 2021 as the centerpiece of NEOM in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk Province. It was pitched as two mirrored skyscrapers 500 m tall and 200 m apart, running 170 km from the Red Sea coast into the mountains. The plan promised 9 million residents, no cars or streets, and an underground train covering the full length in 20 minutes. Reality fell far short. Costs ballooned, and the first phase was cut to about 2.4 km. Construction was suspended in September 2025 with only foundation work done, and in May 2026 Semafor reported the project was on hold until after 2030.

QUICK FACTS

DD-031-F01

Saudi Arabia's The Line was pitched as a 170-km, 500-m-tall mirrored city for 9 million people, but it was suspended in 2025 after only about 2.4 km of foundations.

DD-031-F02

In The Line's design, two residents would on average be 57 km apart. In a circular city of the same area they'd be just 2.9 km apart.

THE WRITE-UP

The pitch. Announced on January 10, 2021, The Line was to be one of NEOM's regions in Tabuk Province: a linear city with no cars, no streets and no carbon emissions.

Two mirrored walls. The 2022 design put a 200-meter-wide strip of urban 'modules' between two mirrored facades 500 meters tall and 170 km long. They would have run from the Gulf of Aqaba into the Hejaz mountains.

Nine million people. The plan called for up to 9 million residents. That works out to roughly 260,000 people per square kilometer, about six times the density of Manila.

A 20-minute train. Early plans described an underground 'spine' railway with 510 km/h trains running end to end in 20 minutes. In March 2026, NEOM canceled a roughly \$1 billion tunneling contract tied to that rail.

Costs and shrinking scope. Reported cost estimates climbed from hundreds of billions into the trillions. A leaked 2023 draft board presentation put full completion at \$8.8 trillion by 2080. The first phase was cut to about 2.4 km.

Stopped in the sand. Construction was suspended in September 2025 with roughly 2.4 km of foundation work done. In May 2026 Semafor reported the project was on hold until after 2030, and NEOM's own page now describes a 'phased, demand-led approach'.

Why a line?. A 2023 study argued that a circular city of the same area would put far more people within walking distance. In a line, the average distance between two residents is 57 km; in a circle of the same area it's 2.9 km.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Out of date when posted:** the Reel (Apr 1, 2026) calls it a 'proposed' city 'built to house up to 9 million'. Construction had already been suspended in September 2025 after about 2.4 km of foundation work, and in May 2026 the project was reported on hold until after 2030. [MEP Middle East; BrentDesk/Semafor; Wikipedia]
- **Scaled back:** the 9-million figure is the 2021–22 goal. The first phase was cut to about 2.4 km, and NEOM's wider 2030 population target fell to under 300,000 (100,000 in the May 2026 report). [Wikipedia; MEP Middle East; BrentDesk]
- **Context:** the '20 minutes' end-to-end claim comes from early plans for a 510 km/h underground train that never got past the prototype stage. NEOM canceled a roughly \$1 billion tunneling contract in March 2026. [Wikipedia; MEP Middle East]
- **Detail:** 'ultra-narrow' means 200 m wide between two 500-m-tall mirrored facades. [Reuters; Wikipedia]
- **Footage note:** the interior city shots (about 12–20 s) are computer-generated concept renders, not filmed construction. [visual observation; Wikipedia on the renders]

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-line/> · Last updated Apr 1, 2026



DD-034 LOCATIONS / PEOPLE · 7 OF 83

WINTER IN HARBIN

Harbin, the 'Ice City' of China's northeast, began its modern ice festival on January 5, 1985. Its roots go back to a 1963 ice-lantern show and Qing-dynasty lanterns made from blocks of river ice. Each December, workers saw blocks two to three feet thick out of the frozen Songhua River. Sculptors then turn them into palaces, landmark replicas and LED-lit castles. The centerpiece, Harbin Ice and Snow World, opened in 1999, is rebuilt from scratch every year, and holds a Guinness record as the world's largest ice-and-snow theme park.

QUICK FACTS

DD-034-F01

Harbin's ice palaces are cut from the frozen Songhua River in blocks two to three feet thick, and the whole Ice and Snow World is rebuilt every year.

DD-034-F02

Harbin Ice and Snow World holds a Guinness record as the world's largest ice-and-snow theme park.

THE WRITE-UP

From lanterns to palaces. In the Qing dynasty, people in Heilongjiang made ice lanterns by freezing water in buckets and putting a candle inside. Harbin's first government ice-lantern show opened on February 7, 1963, in Zhaolin Park and drew 250,000 visitors in six days.

The festival is born. The first Harbin Ice and Snow Festival opened on January 5, 1985, outside Zhaolin Park. It was China's first local festival built around ice and snow. In 2001 it merged with Heilongjiang's International Ski Festival under its current name.

Cut from the river. Each December, crews use swing saws to cut blocks two to three feet thick from the frozen Songhua River. In 2020 the sculptures used about 220,000 cubic meters of ice.

Ice and Snow World. The headline park opened in 1999 for the millennium and is rebuilt every year. Its 25th edition set a Guinness record as the world's largest ice-and-snow theme park, at 810,000 m² using 250,000 m³ of ice and snow. The 2025 edition covered about 1.2 million m².

In the global top four. The festival is usually ranked alongside Japan's Sapporo Snow Festival, Canada's Quebec Winter Carnival and Norway's Holmenkollen Ski Festival as one of the world's biggest winter events.

Snow, too. Harbin had plenty of ice but few snow sculptures until 1989, when a snow-sculpture fair on Sun Island added 60-plus works. It grew into the Sun Island International Snow Sculpture Art Expo.

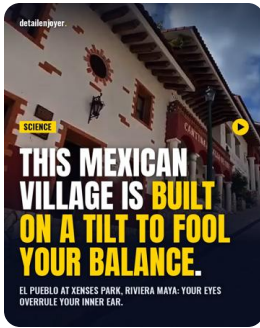
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Confirmed from the frames:** the Reel is about the Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival (captions at 0.8–2.6 s). [Wikipedia; Smithsonian]
- **Imprecise:** 'typically running from early January through February.' The festival officially opens January 5, but Ice and Snow World usually opens in late December and runs to late February. [Wikipedia; Smithsonian; Heilongjiang tourism]
- **Confirmed:** the ice comes from the Songhua River, in blocks two to three feet thick. [Wikipedia; Smithsonian]
- **Context:** 'one of the largest ... in the world' is fair. It's grouped with Sapporo, Quebec and Holmenkollen, and Ice and Snow World holds a Guinness 'largest ice-and-snow theme park' record. [Wikipedia; Heilongjiang tourism]
- **Footage note:** the Reel uses a lower-resolution source, so the cover is softer. The opening aerial shows Ice and Snow World with the Harbin skyline behind it. [visual observation]

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/winter-in-harbin/> · Last updated Mar 10, 2026



TILTED TOWN

At Xenses, a Grupo Xcaret park just south of Playa del Carmen on Mexico's Riviera Maya, 'El Pueblo' (nicknamed the Pueblito al Revés, or Upside-Down Town) is a walk-through tilted-house illusion. It looks like a classic Mexican village, but the whole street sits on a pronounced slope, and the houses, doors and windows are built square to a false horizon instead of true vertical. Your eyes trust the buildings, your inner ear feels the real slope, and the conflict makes you stagger. Psychologists studying 'mystery spots' have found that vision usually wins this tug-of-war over the vestibular sense.

QUICK FACTS

DD-035-F01

Mexico's 'tilted town' at Xenses Park sits on a steep slope with houses built square to a false horizon, so your eyes and your inner ear disagree.

DD-035-F02

In tilted-house illusions, vision usually beats the inner ear: the effect gets two to three times stronger when your body is tilted too.

THE WRITE-UP

Where it is. Xenses is a half-day 'sensory park' run by Grupo Xcaret. It's about 10 km past Playa del Carmen on the highway south from Cancún, next to Xcaret and Xplor, and roughly an hour (about 74 km) from Cancún.

El Pueblo. The tilted village is officially just 'El Pueblo' on Xenses' 'Ruta del Hacer'. It's a white-walled, red-tiled Mexican street where, as the park puts it, you can't tell whether you're walking uphill or down.

How the trick works. The whole village sits on a pronounced slope, but the houses, doors and windows are built square to a false horizon. It's a full-size 'tilted room': the buildings look level, so your brain decides that you're the one leaning.

Eyes vs. inner ear. Berkeley psychologists studying the Santa Cruz Mystery Spot found that when the true horizon is hidden, people take their sense of vertical mostly from the surrounding scene. The tilted-house effect gets two to three times stronger when your body is tilted too.

A hierarchy of senses. Lab work on the 'rod-and-frame' illusion suggests a hierarchy: vision dominates the sense of upright, the vestibular system modulates it, and body sense (proprioception) comes third. A tilted frame is never fully overcome.

Water that runs uphill. Because everything looks level, water and rolling objects seem to move uphill. Visitors tend to stagger and over-correct, which makes it a favorite photo spot.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Confirmed from the frames:** the Reel is about the tilted village ('El Pueblo') at Xenses Park (captions at 0.9–4.9 s). [Xcaret; Alternativo]
- **Location:** 'near Cancun' is a stretch. Xenses is beside Playa del Carmen on the Riviera Maya, about 74 km (an hour) from Cancún. [Xcaret FAQ; Alternativo]
- **Backwards emphasis:** 'buildings ... at sharp angles, while the pathway itself is subtly sloped.' Sources describe a pronounced slope, with houses built square to a false horizon so the ground looks flat. It's the slope that's large, not subtle. [Alternativo; Mexican Routes]
- **Supported:** 'the brain relies heavily on visual cues to determine orientation.' Mystery-spot and rod-and-frame research shows vision is the dominant cue for upright, with the vestibular sense second. [UC Berkeley 1998; UBC thesis]
- **Name:** the attraction is officially 'El Pueblo'. 'Tilted Town' and 'Pueblito al Revés' are nicknames. [Xcaret; Alternativo]

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/tilted-town/> · Last updated Mar 13, 2026



DD-042 LOCATIONS / PEOPLE · 9 OF 83

THE WHITE TEMPLE

Wat Rong Khun, the White Temple, stands about 15 km south of Chiang Rai in northern Thailand. In 1997 the Chiang Rai artist Chalermchai Kositpipat set out to rebuild a run-down local temple entirely at his own expense, and he's still building. White plaster stands for the Buddha's purity, and thousands of mirror chips for the Buddha's wisdom. To reach the white ordination hall (ubosot), visitors cross the 'bridge of the cycle of rebirth' over a pit of hundreds of reaching stucco hands representing desire and suffering. Inside, murals mix flames and demons with Neo, Superman and a Terminator. The site survived a 2014 earthquake, and the nine-building plan may not be finished until about 2070.

QUICK FACTS

DD-042-F01

The White Temple's white plaster stands for the Buddha's purity, and its embedded mirror chips for the Buddha's wisdom.

DD-042-F02

Artist Chalermchai Kositpipat began rebuilding Wat Rong Khun with his own money in 1997, and it isn't expected to be finished until about 2070.

THE WRITE-UP

An artist's rebuild. By the late 20th century the original Wat Rong Khun was in disrepair. Chalermchai Kositpipat, a Chiang Rai-born artist, decided to rebuild it completely and pay for it himself. He began in 1997 and has spent more than 40 million baht.

White and mirrors. The structure is a concrete frame with a wooden roof, finished in white plaster set with mirrored glass. White stands for the Buddha's purity, and the mirrors for the Buddha's wisdom.

The bridge of rebirth. To reach the ubosot you cross a bridge over hundreds of stucco hands reaching up from below. They represent desire and suffering. Crossing means leaving worldly attachment behind on the way toward enlightenment.

Body and mind. A gold-covered building (the restrooms) stands for the body and worldly desire. The white hall stands for the mind.

Pop culture inside. Murals inside the hall set flames and demons beside Michael Jackson, Neo from The Matrix, a Terminator and Superman, alongside images of war and terrorism.

Still under construction. An earthquake centred in nearby Mae Lao damaged the site on May 5, 2014. After engineers found the buildings structurally sound, Chalermchai pledged to restore it. The plan calls for nine buildings, with completion expected around 2070.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Confirmed from the frames:** the Reel is about Wat Rong Khun in Chiang Rai province (captions at 0.8–4.0 s). The symbolism (white = purity, mirrors = wisdom, hands = desire and suffering) matches the artist's and other sources. [Wikipedia; Thai Holiday Guide; Artsy]
- **Missing context:** 'construction began in 1997' leaves out that it's a private rebuild of an older, run-down temple by artist Chalermchai Kositpipat, paid for with his own money. Wikipedia calls it a privately owned art exhibit in the style of a temple. [Wikipedia; Thai Holiday Guide]
- **Missing context:** it's still unfinished. The plan calls for nine buildings, with completion expected around 2070. [Wikipedia; Artsy]
- **Location:** the temple is about 15 km south of Chiang Rai city, not in the city itself. [Artsy; Wikipedia]
- **Style:** 'The Wat Rong Khun' doubles up, since 'wat' already means temple. [frames]

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-white-temple/> · Last updated Mar 16, 2026



COFFIN HOMES

Hong Kong's high housing costs have pushed about 220,000 people into roughly 110,000 subdivided units (SDUs). The median SDU in the 2021 census was 11 m², about 6 m² per person. At the extreme are 'coffin' cubicles: wooden, bed-sized compartments in partitioned flats, with a lockable door and little else. They're too low to stand in, and residents share kitchens and toilets. Per square foot, these tiny spaces rent for more than private flats. Hong Kong has regulated 'cage home' bedspace apartments since 1994. A new Basic Housing Units Ordinance, in force from March 1, 2026, sets minimum standards for subdivided flats (at least 8 m², a window and a toilet), but it doesn't cover bedspace or coffin-cubicle housing.

QUICK FACTS

DD-046-F01

About 220,000 people in Hong Kong live in subdivided flats. The median unit is 11 m², and 'coffin' cubicles are roughly the size of a single bed.

DD-046-F02

Per square foot, Hong Kong's coffin homes rent for about four times the rate of private flats.

THE WRITE-UP

How many people. A government survey counted about 110,400 subdivided units housing about 108,400 households and 220,000 people, close to the 2021 census figures (108,200 units, 215,700 people). The NGO SoCO estimates nearly 250,000.

How small. The median subdivided unit was 11.0 m² in 2021, with 6.0 m² per person. Coffin cubicles are far smaller: wooden pods roughly the size of a single bed, 'not much bigger than a ping-pong table'.

Paying more per foot. A 2022 SoCO survey found subdivided flats rented for a median HK\$50 per sq ft. Coffin homes cost about HK\$140, compared with about HK\$35 for private homes.

Who lives there. Many residents are low-income households who earn just over the limit for public housing or are waiting in its queue. Many spend at least half their income on rent.

Cage homes and the law. After 'cage homes' spread in the 1980s, Hong Kong passed the Bedspace Apartments Ordinance in 1994. Any flat with 12 or more rented bedspaces must be licensed for fire safety, structural safety and hygiene. Only seven are licensed, with about 726 bedspaces.

New minimum standards. The Basic Housing Units Ordinance took effect on March 1, 2026. Subdivided flats must meet minimum standards (at least 8 m², a window and a toilet) to be let legally. Bedspace and coffin-type housing falls outside it.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Confirmed from the frames:** the Reel is about Hong Kong's 'coffin homes' (captions at 0.8–2.4 s). Bed-sized cubicles in partitioned flats exist and offer little room or privacy. [Reuters; SCMP]
- **Conflated:** 'often no more than a few square meters' describes coffin cubicles and bedspaces, not partitioned housing in general. The median subdivided flat is 11 m², so most people in subdivided housing don't live in bed-sized boxes. [2021 Census; Housing Bureau 2021]
- **Misleading on cost:** these spaces are 'for residents who cannot afford' housing, but per square foot coffin homes cost about four times as much as private flats (about HK\$140 vs HK\$35). [Reuters/SoCO]
- **Supported:** 'health risks.' Hong Kong regulates bedspace apartments for fire safety, structural safety and hygiene, and residents report a toll on their mental health. [HKSAR consultation paper; SCMP]
- **Update:** since March 1, 2026 the Basic Housing Units Ordinance sets minimum standards for subdivided flats, but it doesn't cover bedspace or coffin-type housing. [BHU website; HKFP]

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/coffin-homes/> · Last updated Nov 23, 2025



DEAD POOLS

Brine pools are lakes on the seafloor: pockets of brine so dense they don't mix with the seawater above, complete with shorelines and even waterfalls. They form where seawater dissolves salt deposits buried under the seabed, such as the layers left when the ancient Gulf of Mexico evaporated, or the evaporites of the Red Sea rift. The best-known example, the Gulf of Mexico's 'Jacuzzi of Despair', lies about 1,000 m down and is about 30 m around. Its brine runs 80 to 110 psu (normal seawater is about 35). It's warm, nearly oxygen-free and charged with methane and hydrogen sulfide. Crabs, isopods and fish that wander in die, and their bodies are preserved along its rim.

QUICK FACTS

DD-049-F01

The Gulf of Mexico's 'Jacuzzi of Despair' is a lake on the seafloor, about 1,000 m down, four to five times saltier than the ocean around it.

DD-049-F02

Animals that stray into seafloor brine pools die from the salt, low oxygen and toxic gases, and their bodies are preserved along the rim.

THE WRITE-UP

Lakes under the sea. Brine is so much denser than seawater that it pools on the seabed with its own shoreline. The Jacuzzi of Despair is a crater-like pool that rises 3 m above the seafloor and spills brine over one edge in a 'waterfall'.

Where the salt comes from. Millions of years ago the Gulf of Mexico was shallower, and evaporation left thick salt layers that were later buried. As those layers shift and crack, seawater dissolves the salt, and the brine collects on the seafloor along routes also used by rising oil and gas.

How salty. The top 3 m of the Jacuzzi of Despair measured 80 to 110 psu, about four to five times saltier than the surrounding ocean (about 35 psu). Beneath it was hydrocarbon-charged fluid mud at 19 °C.

What makes them deadly. It isn't only the salt. The brine has little or no oxygen and is rich in methane and hydrogen sulfide.

Pickled remains. Researchers found dead isopods and crabs preserved along the pool's edge. In the words of Woods Hole scientist Scott Wankel, creatures that fall in 'die and get pickled and preserved.'

Bottomless. A sensor lowered about 19 m into the pool never reached a hard bottom, and methane bubbles were seen rising from inside.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Confirmed from the frames:** the Reel is about seafloor brine pools (captions at 0.8–2.4 s). They're dense, have sharp shorelines and are deadly to animals that fall in. [Oceanography 2016; CSM]
- **Incomplete:** the Reel blames salinity alone, but the brine also has little or no oxygen and carries methane and hydrogen sulfide. [VOA; Discovery]
- **Vague:** 'salt-rich fluids seep out of the Earth's crust.' More precisely, seawater dissolves ancient buried salt layers (in the Gulf of Mexico, left by an evaporated shallow sea), and the brine rises along cracks with oil and gas. [Discovery; Oceanography 2016; CSM]
- **Confirmed with numbers:** 'several times higher' salinity. The Jacuzzi of Despair measured 80 to 110 psu, about four to five times seawater's 35. [Oceanography 2016; CSM]
- **Footage note:** the Reel doesn't name a site. Its opening pool with a shoreline and the crab beside the brine look like Gulf of Mexico survey imagery, but that's unconfirmed. [frames]

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/dead-pools/> · Last updated Jan 19, 2026



FOREVEREST

More than 300 people have died in the Everest region in a century of climbing, and more than 200 bodies are thought to remain on the mountain. Above about 8,000 m, the so-called death zone, the air holds roughly a third of the oxygen at sea level, and summit temperatures average about -36 °C in January. Bringing someone down from there takes a large team, bottled oxygen and a short weather window, so many of the dead have stayed where they fell. Since 2019, Nepal-funded clean-up campaigns have started to bring some of them home: in 2024 a team of soldiers and Sherpa climbers recovered four bodies and a skeleton.

QUICK FACTS

DD-063-F01

More than 200 climbers' bodies are thought to remain on Everest, mostly because recovering them above 8,000 m is so dangerous and costly.

DD-063-F02

Nepal's clean-up campaigns since 2019 have brought 14 bodies down, including four bodies and a skeleton in 2024.

THE WRITE-UP

How many remain. More than 300 people have died in the Everest region over about a century of climbing. More than 200 bodies are believed to still be on the mountain, and some have become grim landmarks along the routes.

The death zone. Above about 8,000 m, the air holds roughly a third of the oxygen available at sea level. Climbers there are slowly weakened even with bottled oxygen, and that leaves little strength to carry anyone else.

Colder than the Reel says. Summit temperatures average about -36 °C in January and about -19 °C in July, and they can fall to about -60 °C. Winds can top 100 km/h.

What a recovery takes. Nepal set aside about Rs5 million (\$37,400) for each body in 2024. A single recovery can need around 12 people, each with several oxygen cylinders costing more than \$400 apiece, and one body took two days to cut out of the ice.

Bringing them home. Since 2019, government-funded clean-ups have removed tonnes of rubbish and 14 bodies. The 2024 campaign, a 54-day operation that ended June 5, recovered four bodies and a skeleton. Melting ice is now exposing more remains.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Confirmed:** many of the dead do stay on Everest. More than 200 bodies are believed to remain, and the death zone is generally placed above about 8,000 m. [BBC; Phys.org]
- **Not always permanent:** Nepal-funded clean-ups since 2019 have recovered 14 bodies, including four and a skeleton in a 54-day 2024 operation that ended June 5. Melting ice is exposing more. [BBC; NPR; Phys.org]
- **Understated cold:** '-30 °C' is on the mild side. Summit temperatures average about -36 °C in January and can drop to about -60 °C; July averages about -19 °C. [Britannica]
- **Missing context:** 'expensive' means about Rs5 million (\$37,400) budgeted per body in 2024, with teams of about 12 and bottled oxygen at more than \$400 a cylinder. [BBC; NPR]
- **Footage note:** the Reel shows real human remains on the mountain. My cover and poster use a plain illustrated mountain instead of any frame from the video. [frames]

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/foreverest/> · Last updated Jul 15, 2025



DD-725 NATURE / LOCATIONS · 13 OF 83

THE GLACIER THAT BLEEDS

Blood Falls is a sporadic outflow of brine at the snout of Taylor Glacier in the McMurdo Dry Valleys, where the glacier ends at ice-covered Lake Bonney. Griffith Taylor found it in 1911, and its color was first blamed on red algae. The source is ancient seawater, concentrated by freezing and sealed beneath the glacier. Estimates range from about 1.5 million years of isolation (for the microbes living in it) to a Pliocene origin about 5 million years ago. The brine is salty, iron-rich and has no detectable oxygen. When it reaches the air, dissolved ferrous iron oxidizes into iron-rich nanospheres that stain the ice red as the brine drops 60 to 80 feet to the lake shore. A 2017 radar survey traced a brine pathway more than 300 feet long inside the glacier, making Taylor the coldest known glacier with persistently flowing water.

QUICK FACTS

DD-725-F01

Blood Falls is red because iron-rich, oxygen-free brine from beneath Taylor Glacier oxidizes the moment it meets the air.

DD-725-F02

The brine stays liquid inside a glacier whose mean temperature is about -17°C , because salt lowers its freezing point and freezing releases heat.

THE WRITE-UP

Where it is. Blood Falls is at the snout of Taylor Glacier, an outlet of the East Antarctic Ice Sheet that ends in Lake Bonney in the McMurdo Dry Valleys. The red brine drops 60 to 80 feet to the shore of the frozen lake.

Not algae. Griffith Taylor discovered it in 1911, and the color was first attributed to red algae. It actually comes from iron in brine that reacts on contact with air.

Ancient seawater. The brine's chemistry matches seawater concentrated by freezing. It's thought to be a remnant of a Pliocene marine incursion about 5 million years ago, and its microbes have been isolated for an estimated 1.5 million years.

No oxygen. At its source the outflow is iron-rich (3.8 mM total iron) and has no detectable oxygen. Microbes inside it survive by cycling iron and sulfur compounds.

Why red. A 2023 analysis found no strong evidence of crystalline rust minerals. Instead, the color comes from amorphous, iron-rich nanospheres that form as dissolved iron oxidizes in air.

Liquid inside a cold glacier. Radar traced a brine pathway more than 300 feet long inside the glacier. The brine stays liquid because salt lowers its freezing point and freezing releases latent heat, making Taylor the coldest known glacier with persistently flowing water.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Confirmed from the frames:** the Reel is about Blood Falls at Taylor Glacier (captions at 0.8–4.0 s). Iron-rich, hypersaline, oxygen-free brine emerges and turns red on contact with air. [Mikucki & Priscu 2007; UAF]
- **Missing detail:** it doesn't flow constantly. Blood Falls releases brine sporadically, and the red stain persists between releases. [Badgeley et al. 2017; Cambridge]
- **Refined:** it isn't simply 'rust'. A 2023 study found no strong evidence of crystalline iron oxide; the red comes from amorphous iron-rich nanospheres that form as the dissolved iron oxidizes. [Frontiers 2023; Johns Hopkins]
- **Roughly right:** 'trapped for millions of years.' Estimates range from about 1.5 million years of isolation to a seawater origin about 5 million years ago, and UAF says 'more than 1 million years'. [NASA Astrobiology; Mikucki & Priscu 2007; UAF]
- **Footage note:** the wide shots of a towering ice wall and branching red veins across a frozen plain appear dramatized and may be AI-generated or heavily edited. The real feature is a rust-red stain where brine drops 60 to 80 feet to the shore of Lake Bonney. [frames; Cambridge]

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-glacier-that-bleeds/> · Last updated Jul 1, 2026



DD-055 NATURE / LOCATIONS · 14 OF 83

DANAKIL DEPRESSION

The Danakil Depression in Ethiopia's Afar region lies mostly about 100 m below sea level, reaching around 124 m. It has a mean annual temperature of about 35 °C. The colorful terrain in the Reel's footage is the Dallol hydrothermal field. There, hot, hyperacidic, iron-rich brines rise through a thick salt deposit, and the iron oxidizes into yellow, green and orange crusts.

QUICK FACTS

DD-055-F01

Dallol's springs have measured pH values as low as about -1.7.

DD-055-F02

Most of the Danakil Depression lies about 100 m below sea level, reaching around 124 m.

THE WRITE-UP

Below sea level. The Danakil Depression is a narrow lowland about 250 km long. Most of it lies about 100 m below sea level, and it reaches around 124 m below at Lake Assale and near Dallol. That makes it one of the lowest land areas in Africa and in the world. Its northern part is a salt plain of about 4,000 square km.

Hot and dry. The area has a hot desert climate. Mean annual temperature is about 35 °C, and annual rainfall is usually below 50 mm. More than 2 km of evaporite salts were laid down by repeated incursions of the Red Sea, the most recent about 32,000 years ago.

Dallol's brines. At Dallol, basaltic magma heats the buried salts. The result is a hydrothermal system with springs at up to 108 °C. They are supersaturated with salt, contain no oxygen, have pH values from about 0.1 down to -1.7, and carry up to 150 g of iron per liter.

Where the colors come from. The researchers found that the colorful pools and crusts come from slow oxidation of dissolved ferrous iron, from iron-chloride and iron-sulfate complexes, and from evaporation. Together these precipitate jarosite-group minerals and iron oxyhydroxides over salt. They conclude that life, if present, does not play a dominant role in this mineral cycling.

The lava lake is elsewhere. Dallol itself is a low dome with a summit crater about 100 m wide, last shaped by a phreatic eruption in 1926. The Depression's lava lake belongs to Erta Ale, a volcano farther south on the same rift segment that hosts a perennial lava lake.

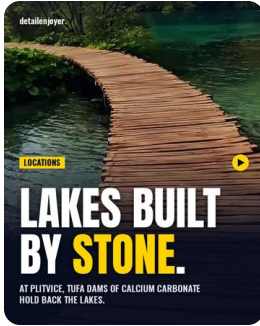
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Colors:** the Reel credits 'blue or green' salts to mineral-rich brines. Studies show Dallol's colors come mainly from iron, as dissolved ferrous iron oxidizes and precipitates over salt. The Reel's own footage is mostly yellow, green and orange.
- **Lava lakes:** there is no lava lake at the colorful Dallol site shown. The Depression's lava lake is at Erta Ale, farther south.
- **Note:** 'Acidic' undersells it: Dallol's springs reach pH about 0.1 to -1.7 and up to 108 °C. They are also oxygen-free and carry up to 150 g/L of iron.
- **Note:** 'Lowest': the Depression lies mostly about 100 m below sea level, reaching around 124 m. It is one of the lowest land areas in Africa and in the world, not the single lowest.
- **Missing context:** the 'salt flats' sit on more than 2 km of evaporites left by repeated Red Sea incursions, the most recent about 32,000 years ago.

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/danakil-depression/> · Last updated May 30, 2025



DD-717 LOCATIONS / NATURE · 15 OF 83

PLITVICE PURE

Plitvice Lakes, in Croatia's Dinaric karst, are a chain of lakes linked by waterfalls. The water is supersaturated with calcium carbonate, which settles out with help from mosses, algae and bacteria to build porous tufa (travertine) barriers that dam the lakes. These barriers are the park's UNESCO 'outstanding universal value'. The water is clear and low in nutrients (oligotrophic), and tufa forms only when dissolved organic carbon stays low. Croatia proclaimed Plitvice its first national park on April 8, 1949, UNESCO inscribed it on October 26, 1979, and the park was enlarged in 1997 to just under 300 km².

QUICK FACTS

DD-717-F01

Plitvice's lakes are held back by tufa barriers of calcium carbonate.

DD-717-F02

Plitvice became Croatia's first national park on April 8, 1949.

THE WRITE-UP

Lakes built by stone. Water flowing over limestone and dolomite has deposited tufa (travertine) barriers over thousands of years, creating natural dams that hold back a chain of lakes, caves and waterfalls. The process is still going on.

Chemistry plus life. The water is supersaturated with calcium carbonate. Calcite crystals stick to the sticky secretions of algae and bacteria living on mosses, and the barriers grow from there.

Conditions. The park lists the requirements for tufa to form: strong carbonate supersaturation, a pH above 8, and dissolved organic carbon below 10 mg per liter.

Why it's clear. The lake water is low in nutrients, and the system deposits roughly 10,000 tonnes of calcium carbonate a year as tufa and lake-bottom marl. Fine particles settle or are trapped, which keeps the water clear.

Protection. Croatia made Plitvice its first national park on April 8, 1949. UNESCO inscribed it in 1979, and in 1997 it was expanded to cover the lakes' catchment, just under 300 km².

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Mechanism:** clarity and tufa are linked, but the main point is that the deposits build the dams that form the lakes. Mosses, algae and bacteria drive the deposition, not chemistry alone.
- **Terminology:** the park and UNESCO call the deposit 'tufa' (porous travertine). It's deposited on lake bottoms as marl and on barriers.
- **Missing context:** tufa forms only in clean water, with a pH above 8 and low dissolved organic carbon, which is why protecting the catchment matters.
- **Missing context:** Plitvice became Croatia's first national park in 1949 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979.
- **Precision:** the Reel doesn't say how clear the water is. Clarity varies by lake and season, and the water is described as clear and oligotrophic.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/plitvice-pure/> · Last updated May 13, 2026



RESERVOIR RUIN

Lake Mead (behind Hoover Dam) and Lake Powell (behind Glen Canyon Dam) are the two largest reservoirs in the United States, and both are fed by the Colorado River. The 1922 Colorado River Compact divided the river's water based on early-20th-century flows that later proved unusually wet. After a long drought, the Bureau of Reclamation declared the first-ever Lower Basin shortage in 2021. The 2007 operating guidelines expired at the end of 2026, and in August 2026 Reclamation adopted a new 2027-2036 framework, though the basin states didn't reach consensus. As of October 16, 2026, gauge data put Mead at about 26% full (1,037.43 ft, a record low) and Powell at about 23% full. Deliveries to the Lower Basin states will be cut by 1.25 million acre-feet in 2027.

QUICK FACTS

DD-718-F01

Lake Mead fell to a record low of 1,037.43 ft on October 16, 2026, per Reclamation gauge data.

DD-718-F02

The 1922 Colorado River Compact was based on unusually wet years.

THE WRITE-UP

Two buckets, one river. Lake Powell, behind Glen Canyon Dam, stores Upper Basin runoff and releases it through the Grand Canyon to Lake Mead, behind Hoover Dam. Mead then supplies Arizona, Nevada, California and Mexico. They're the two largest U.S. reservoirs by capacity.

A wet-year deal. The 1922 Colorado River Compact split the river between the Upper and Lower Basins using flows from a period now known to be unusually wet. That's why allocations exceed what the river reliably carries.

New rules. The 2007 Interim Guidelines and the 2019 Drought Contingency Plans expired at the end of 2026. Reclamation issued a Record of Decision on August 21, 2026, adopting a 2027-2036 Decision Framework after the states failed to reach consensus on long-term operations.

2027 cuts. Under the 2027-2028 guidelines, Powell began the water year in its lowest 'infrastructure protection' range, aiming to stay at or above 3,510 ft. Deliveries from Mead to the Lower Basin states are cut by 1.25 million acre-feet for 2027.

Record lows. On October 16, 2026, Mead stood at 1,037.43 ft (about 26% full), its lowest on record in that dataset. Powell was at 3,520.02 ft (about 23% full) after a record low of 3,516.62 ft on September 15, 2026.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Current status:** the Reel's 'historically low' has deepened since it was posted. Both reservoirs hit new record lows in September and October 2026, with Mead about 26% full.
- **Missing context:** the old rules expired at the end of 2026. In August 2026, Reclamation adopted a 2027-2036 framework without basin-state consensus and cut 2027 Lower Basin deliveries by 1.25 million acre-feet.
- **Missing context:** the allocation problem dates to the 1922 Colorado River Compact, which divided the river using unusually wet early-20th-century flows.
- **Missing context:** Lake Mead and Lake Powell are the two largest U.S. reservoirs, behind Hoover Dam (1935) and Glen Canyon Dam (1963).
- **Missing context:** Powell is managed to stay above about 3,510 ft to protect Glen Canyon Dam's infrastructure, including its hydropower.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/reservoir-ruin/> · Last updated May 22, 2026



DD-698 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 17 OF 83

HAUS DES GLOCKENSPIELS

The Haus des Glockenspiels (Glockenspiel House) is at Böttcherstraße 4 in Bremen, northern Germany, not in Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Coffee merchant Ludwig Roselius, who first marketed decaffeinated coffee, had two old warehouses there rebuilt in 1922 as offices for a bank, with gabled red-brick facades. In 1934 a carillon of 30 Meissen porcelain bells was hung between the gables. While the bells play sea shanties and folk songs, a tower beside them turns to show 10 carved wooden panels. They depict people who crossed the ocean by sea or air, including Columbus, Lindbergh, and Zeppelin and Eckener. They're carved panels, not life-sized moving figures, and they don't show local history. The bells play at noon, 3 pm and 6 pm from January to March, and hourly from noon to 6 pm from April to December, except in frost.

QUICK FACTS

DD-698-F01

The glockenspiel has 30 Meissen porcelain bells.

DD-698-F02

It doesn't play in frost, to protect the porcelain.

THE WRITE-UP

Bremen, not Rothenburg. The building is at No. 4 Böttcherstraße in Bremen's old town. It was rebuilt in 1922 for Ludwig Roselius, with Neo-Renaissance gabled brick facades by Eduard Scotland and Alfred Runge.

Porcelain bells. The 30 bells, made by the Meissen porcelain manufactory, were added in 1934. Porcelain bells are much lighter than bronze ones, so they can hang between the gables, and their tone is soft but carries well.

Ocean crossers. As the bells play, a tower turns to show 10 carved wooden panels, designed by Bernhard Hoetger, of people who crossed the ocean. They include Columbus, Lindbergh, Köhl, Fitzmaurice and von Hünefeld, and Zeppelin and Eckener.

Three sets of bells. The original 1934 bells were replaced in 1954, and the current set has played since 1990, now from computer-controlled MIDI files.

When to hear it. From January to March it plays at 12, 3 and 6 pm, and from April to December hourly from 12 to 6 pm. It doesn't play in frost, because the porcelain bells aren't built for it.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Wrong town:** the Haus des Glockenspiels is on Böttcherstraße in Bremen, not in Rothenburg ob der Tauber.
- **Wrong display:** there are no life-sized moving figurines. A turning tower shows 10 carved wooden panels.
- **Wrong theme:** the panels don't show local festivals or trades. They honor ocean crossers by sea and air, such as Columbus, Lindbergh, and Zeppelin and Eckener.
- **Missing detail:** the bells are made of Meissen porcelain, not metal. They were added in 1934, and the current set has played since 1990.
- **Schedule:** it doesn't play all day. It plays at 12, 3 and 6 pm from January to March, hourly from 12 to 6 pm from April to December, and not at all in frost.

SOURCES

1. Bremen.de: Glockenspiel in der Böttcherstraße: <https://www.bremen.de/tourismus/glockenspiel>
2. Wikipedia: Glockenspiel House: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glockenspiel_House
3. Archiv Böttcherstraße: Das Glockenspiel in der Bremer Böttcherstraße (flyer): https://www.archiv-boettcherstrasse.de/sites/default/files/2022-10/BOE_rz_200916_Flyer_Glockenspiel_99x210.pdf
4. Böttcherstraße Bremen (Jan 14, 2025): Glockenspiel wieder stündlich zwischen 12 und 18 Uhr: <https://www.boettcherstrasse.de/node/58>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/haus-des-glockenspiels/> · Last updated Feb 12, 2026



DD-703 LOCATIONS / NATURE · 18 OF 83

THREE WHALE ROCK

Hin Sam Wan ('Three Whale Rock') is a group of sandstone outcrops on a cliff edge in the Phu Sing National Reserved Forest, Bueng Kan province, near the Mekong River and the border with Laos. Seen from above, the three elongated rocks look like a whale family: father, mother and calf. Tourism sources and Wikipedia call the formation 75 million years old. A geology write-up identifies the rock as quartz-rich sandstone of the Phu Phan Formation, laid down by rivers in the Early Cretaceous, about 125 to 113 million years ago. It suggests the 75-million figure more likely reflects later uplift and exposure. Only two of the 'whales' can be reached on foot, and the 'baby' can't. The Tourism Authority of Thailand singles out early-winter sunrises, especially in November.

QUICK FACTS

DD-703-F01

Only two of the three 'whales' can be reached on foot.

DD-703-F02

The rock belongs to the Early Cretaceous Phu Phan Formation, according to a geology write-up.

THE WRITE-UP

Where. Hin Sam Wan is in the Phu Sing National Reserved Forest in Bueng Kan, Thailand's northeasternmost province, near the Mekong and the Lao border.

A whale family. From above, the three elongated outcrops look like father, mother and baby whales emerging from a 'sea' of forest. Only the father and mother can be reached on foot.

How old?. Tourism sources and Wikipedia say 75 million years. A geology write-up places the sandstone in the Early Cretaceous Phu Phan Formation (about 125-113 million years) and suggests the 75-million figure reflects uplift and exposure.

Shaped by weathering. The resistant quartz sandstone was exposed by the gradual uplift of the Khorat Plateau and then rounded by weathering and erosion.

The view. On clear early-winter mornings, especially in November, sunrise lights up the forest toward Phu Wua, the Mekong and the mountains of Laos.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Age:** sources disagree. Tourism sources cite 75 million years, while a geology write-up dates the sandstone to the Early Cretaceous (about 125-113 million years) and ties 75 Ma to later uplift.
- **Access:** visitors can't walk across all three rocks. The 'baby whale' can't be reached.
- **Location:** it's officially the Phu Sing National Reserved Forest, in Bueng Kan province.
- **Missing context:** the views reach across the Mekong to the mountains of Laos, which the TAT highlights at sunrise in November.
- **Precision:** the rocks are outcrops on a cliff edge, not separate boulders sitting on top.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Hin Sam Wan: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hin_Sam_Wan
2. TAT Newsroom (2018): The Seasons Episode 2, The End of the Cliff: <https://www.tatnews.org/2018/12/the-seasons-episode-2-the-end-of-the-cliff/>
3. Geology In (2025): Three Whale Rock (Hin Sam Wan): <https://www.geologyin.com/2025/09/three-whale-rock-hin-sam-wan.html>
4. Wikipedia: Phu Phan Formation: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phu_Phan_Formation

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/three-whale-rock/> · Last updated Mar 2, 2026



DD-706 LOCATIONS / NATURE · 19 OF 83

MOUNT BOKTY

Bokty is an isolated, trapezoid-shaped remnant mountain (an inselberg) in Kazakhstan's Mangystau region, about 90 km from Zhanaozen. It's protected within the Mangystau State Historical and Cultural Reserve. Local tourism sources say it stands 165 m high and that its name means 'pie' in Kazakh, after its cake-like layers. The bands are marine sediments laid down on an ancient sea floor and later carved by wind and water. The white layers are chalk, and the red and brown ones are colored by iron. Nearby, the Kyzylkup tract shows the same striping and is nicknamed 'Tiramisu'. The mountain looks like an upturned boat from one side and a striped pyramid from another, and it appears on Kazakhstan's 1,000-tenge banknote.

QUICK FACTS

DD-706-F01

Bokty's name is usually translated as 'pie' in Kazakh.

DD-706-F02

Its white bands are chalk and its red bands are iron-rich.

THE WRITE-UP

Where. Bokty is in the Mangystau region, within the Mangystau State Historical and Cultural Reserve, about 90 km from the town of Zhanaozen.

The 'pie'. Its Kazakh name is usually translated as 'pie', after the cake-like layers. Seen from different sides, it looks like an upturned boat or a striped pyramid.

Sea-floor layers. The mountain formed from sediments on the floor of an ancient sea. White chalk alternates with iron-rich red and brown bands, which wind and water erosion later exposed.

Neighbors. The nearby Kyzylkup tract shows the same chalk-and-iron striping, which earned it the nickname 'Tiramisu'.

Height. Tourism sources give its height as 165 m, an isolated inselberg rising from a salt flat (sor).

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Missing composition:** the white layers are chalk and the red and brown layers are iron-rich marine sediments, laid down on an ancient sea floor.
- **Missing name:** 'Bokty' is usually translated as 'pie' in Kazakh, after its layered look.
- **Missing context:** it's a protected site within the Mangystau State Historical and Cultural Reserve, about 90 km from Zhanaozen.
- **Shape:** it's best known for its trapezoid, 'upturned boat' profile, not just the stripes.
- **Size:** tourism sources give a height of 165 m, and it rises from a salt flat (sor).

SOURCES

1. Visit Mangystau: Mount Bokty: <https://visitmangystau.kz/en/places/mount-bokty>
2. Eurasia Travel: Bokty Mountain: <https://eurasia.travel/kazakhstan/mangystau/bokty-mountain/>
3. Welcome.kz: Kyzylkup Tract: <https://welcome.kz/en/info-cities/mangystau/urochishhe-kyizyilkup>
4. Kazakhstan.travel: Bokty Mountain: <https://kazakhstan.travel/en/attractions/297>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/mount-bokty/> · Last updated Mar 20, 2026



DD-673 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 20 OF 83

THE WAILING WALL

The Western Wall (Hebrew HaKotel HaMa'aravi, 'the Kotel') is a limestone wall in Jerusalem's Old City. It's the more common name. 'Wailing Wall' comes from European descriptions of Jews mourning the Temple's destruction there, and in Arabic it's called al-Buraq Wall. The wall isn't part of the Temple building. It's a stretch of the western retaining wall that Herod the Great built, starting around 19 BCE, when he enlarged the platform of the Temple Mount. The Romans destroyed the Second Temple in 70 CE, but the retaining wall survived. The full wall is about 488 m long, with roughly 19 m exposed above the prayer plaza. The lowest visible courses are Herodian, and the upper layers were added in later periods. Because of restrictions on prayer on the Temple Mount itself, the Wall is the holiest place where Jews are permitted to pray. The site sits beside the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif compound, which is also sacred to Muslims, and it's religiously and politically sensitive.

QUICK FACTS

DD-673-F01

The Western Wall is part of the retaining wall Herod built around the Temple Mount.

DD-673-F02

Herod's Temple Mount expansion began around 19 BCE.

THE WRITE-UP

Names. Western Wall (HaKotel HaMa'aravi, or simply 'the Kotel') is the usual name in Hebrew and English. 'Wailing Wall' comes from European travelers' accounts of mourning prayers, and the Arabic name is al-Buraq Wall.

A retaining wall, not the Temple. The Wall is part of the western retaining wall of the enlarged Temple Mount platform that Herod the Great began around 19 BCE. The Temple itself stood on the platform above.

Destroyed and survived. Roman forces destroyed the Second Temple in 70 CE, during the First Jewish-Roman War. The massive retaining walls of the platform largely survived.

Layers of history. The full wall is about 488 m long, and about 19 m is exposed above the plaza. The lower above-ground courses are Herodian ashlar, with smaller stones added in later periods.

A place of prayer. Because prayer on the Temple Mount itself is restricted, the Wall is the holiest place where Jews are permitted to pray. Visitors traditionally tuck written prayers into its cracks. The adjoining compound is also sacred to Muslims.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Not the Temple itself:** the Wall isn't 'a section of the Second Temple'. It's part of the retaining wall around Herod's enlarged Temple Mount platform, as the Reel's own next sentence says.
- **Name:** 'Western Wall' (Hebrew HaKotel HaMa'aravi, 'the Kotel') is the more common name. 'Wailing Wall' is an older European name, and in Arabic it's al-Buraq Wall.
- **Missing date:** Herod the Great began the Temple Mount expansion that produced this wall around 19 BCE, about 90 years before the Romans destroyed the Temple in 70 CE.
- **Scale and layers:** the full western wall runs about 488 m, and about 19 m is exposed above the plaza. Only the lower courses are Herodian; the upper layers came later.
- **Missing context:** the Wall is the holiest place where Jews are permitted to pray, because prayer on the Temple Mount above is restricted. The adjoining compound (Haram al-Sharif) is also holy to Muslims.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Western Wall: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Wall
2. Encyclopaedia Britannica: Western Wall: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Western-Wall>
3. The Western Wall Heritage Foundation: <https://english.thekotel.org/>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-wailing-wall/> · Last updated Nov 19, 2025



DD-675 LOCATIONS / NATURE · 21 OF 83

SIWA SALT OASIS

Siwa is an oasis town in Egypt's Matrouh Governorate, in a depression that reaches about 19 m below sea level. It lies about 50 km east of the Libyan border and 560 km from Cairo, and about 25,000-30,000 people live there. It has roughly 200 natural springs (one study counts 226) and several large salt lakes. Most springs draw on a shallow limestone aquifer, the Tertiary Carbonate Aquifer, which is moderately to highly saline. A 2026 study found that the shallow aquifer is recharged mainly by upward flow from the deep Nubian Sandstone Aquifer, whose 'fossil' paleowater is about 4,300 to 14,200 years old. Because Siwa is a closed basin, excess irrigation and drainage water has nowhere to go. The salt lakes grew from about 23 km² in 1990 to about 61 km² in 2020, and Egypt's water ministry calls waterlogging and salinity chronic problems. The vivid turquoise pools that visitors float in are very salty. The oasis was also home to the ancient oracle of Amun, which Alexander the Great visited.

QUICK FACTS

DD-675-F01

Siwa has roughly 200 natural springs.

DD-675-F02

Siwa's salt lakes grew from about 23 km² in 1990 to about 61 km² in 2020.

THE WRITE-UP

Where. Siwa lies in a depression in Egypt's Western Desert, about 50 km east of the Libyan border and 560 km from Cairo. The depression reaches about 19 m below sea level.

Springs. There are roughly 200 natural springs. A 2015 soil-science study counted 226, tapping a shallow aquifer with moderate to high salinity, plus about 150 deeper wells with fresher water.

Fossil water. The deep Nubian Sandstone Aquifer holds paleowater about 4,300 to 14,200 years old. A 2026 study found it supplies most of the shallow aquifer's recharge through faults, so the springs are partly 'fossil' water.

Growing salt lakes. Siwa is a closed basin with no outlet, so irrigation drainage collects in its lakes. Salt-lake area grew from about 22.6 km² in 1990 to about 60.6 km² in 2020, and waterlogging has damaged farms and buildings.

Management. Egypt's water ministry has raised embankments around Lake Siwa, drilled deep wells to blend fresher water with saline water, and started building a 33.7 km canal to carry drainage water to a depression east of the oasis.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Health claims:** 'therapeutic qualities' is a tourism claim. I found no rigorous medical evidence for it, and this case gives no health advice.
- **Water source:** most springs discharge from a shallow, increasingly saline limestone aquifer. That aquifer is largely recharged by the deep Nubian Sandstone Aquifer, whose paleowater is about 4,300-14,200 years old (Hydrogeology Journal, 2026).
- **Count:** the oasis has about 200 springs. One study counts 226, so 'over 200' is reasonable but varies by source.
- **Missing problem:** Siwa is a closed basin, so excess drainage water has expanded the salt lakes from about 23 km² (1990) to about 61 km² (2020), causing waterlogging and soil salinization.
- **Not renewable:** the deep 'fossil' water is non-renewable, and modeling projects 30-40 m of drawdown by 2100 at current pumping rates (Hydrogeology Journal, 2026).

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Siwa Oasis: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siwa_Oasis
2. Hydrogeology Journal (2026): Groundwater salinity sources and inter-aquifer mixing dynamics in Siwa Oasis, Egypt: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-026-03078-3>
3. Egyptian Journal of Soil Science (2015): Assessment of drainage water quality in Siwa Oasis: <https://doi.org/10.21608/ejss.2015.1568>
4. ESS Open Archive preprint (2024): Sustainable development of the water resources in Siwa, Western Desert, Egypt: <https://doi.org/10.22541/essoar.170542141.14906606/v1>
5. Egypt Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation: Siwa Oasis Development Project: https://www.mwri.gov.eg/?lang=en&page_id=34022

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/siwa-salt-oasis/> · Last updated Nov 29, 2025



DD-682 LOCATIONS / NATURE · 22 OF 83

ONE INCENSE PILLAR

One Incense Pillar (Yizhuxiang, 'one stick of incense') is a limestone karst pillar in the Enshi Grand Canyon, a national 5A scenic area and geopark in Enshi, western Hubei. Scenic-area descriptions give it a height of 150 m, a base diameter of 6 m and a minimum diameter of 4 m. They attribute its stability to flat-lying Triassic limestone beds with high compressive strength. Tourism and media sources say it has withstood several major earthquakes, though I found no independent geological documentation of specific quakes. Local Tujia legend says a deity gave the pillar to the people as an incense stick to light in times of disaster. The canyon itself runs about 108 km.

QUICK FACTS

DD-682-F01

One Incense Pillar is about 150 m tall and 4 m wide at its narrowest.

DD-682-F02

It's made of horizontally bedded Triassic limestone.

THE WRITE-UP

Where. The pillar stands among the cliffs and peaks of the roughly 108 km Enshi Grand Canyon in western Hubei, a national 5A scenic area and geopark.

Size. Scenic-area descriptions give it a height of 150 m, a base diameter of 6 m and a minimum diameter of 4 m.

Why it stands. It's made of Triassic limestone in horizontal beds with high compressive strength. With no tilting or slipping layers, it resists wind and rain.

Earthquakes. Travel and media sources say it has survived several major earthquakes. I found no independent geological record of which ones.

The legend. Tujia legend says a deity gave the people the pillar as an incense stick to light in times of disaster, and it's also been called the 'razor stone'.

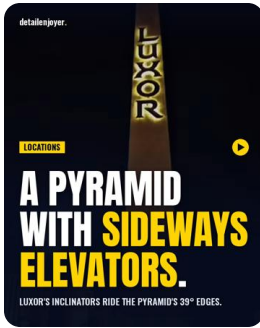
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Missing base width:** it's about 6 m across at the base and 4 m at its narrowest (scenic-area figures).
- **Unclear:** 'defies earthquakes' comes from tourism and media sources. I found no independent record of specific earthquakes it survived.
- **Missing explanation:** its stability is attributed to horizontal, strong Triassic limestone beds, not to defying gravity.
- **Missing name:** in Chinese it's Yizhuxiang ('one stick of incense'), a name tied to a Tujia legend about a gift from a deity.
- **Unclear age:** sources differ ('over a thousand years' vs 'tens of millions of years'). The rock is Triassic, but the pillar's age as a landform isn't documented.

SOURCES

1. CGTN: One Incense Pillar wows tourists in Enshi Canyon in central China: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d514e7a416a4e79457a6333566d54/index.html>
2. China Top Trip: Enshi Grand Canyon: <https://www.chinatoptrip.com/enshi-grand-canyon.html>
3. Trip.com: One Incense Pillar (Yizhuxiang) attraction guide: <https://qa.trip.com/moments/poi-yizhuxiang-column-20963182/>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/one-incense-pillar/> · Last updated Dec 21, 2025



LUX OR LUXOR

Luxor Las Vegas opened on October 15, 1993, as a 30-story, 350 ft (106.7 m) pyramid clad in dark glass. Circus Circus Enterprises built it. At opening the pyramid held 2,526 rooms. Guests reach them by 'inclinator', elevators that run diagonally up the pyramid's corners at a 39-degree angle, around what Luxor promotes as one of the world's largest atriums. Two 22-story ziggurat-shaped hotel towers added in 1997 brought the resort to about 4,400 rooms, so not all of Luxor's rooms are in the pyramid. The sphinx at the entrance is a stylized, roughly 10-story version, taller than the Great Sphinx at Giza. At the apex, the Luxor Sky Beam shines straight up and has been promoted as the strongest beam of light in the world, which may be the 'lux' in the title.

QUICK FACTS

DD-686-F01

Luxor's elevators, called inclinator, run at a 39-degree angle.

DD-686-F02

The pyramid opened with 2,526 rooms on October 15, 1993.

THE WRITE-UP

Opening day. Luxor opened on October 15, 1993, a 30-story pyramid built by Circus Circus Enterprises, with tens of thousands of visitors on its first day.

Height. The pyramid stands 350 ft (106.7 m), and the Skyscraper Center lists it as 30 floors.

Inclinator. Its elevators, called inclinator, travel at a 39-degree angle up the pyramid's corners, moving riders sideways as well as up.

Rooms. The pyramid opened with 2,526 rooms. Two hotel towers added in 1997 brought the resort to about 4,400.

The sphinx and the beam. The entrance sphinx is about 10 stories tall. At the apex, the Sky Beam shines straight up into the night sky.

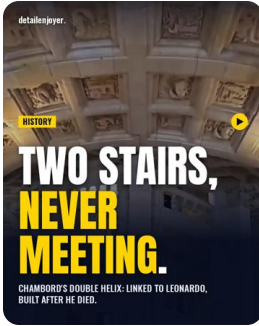
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Rooms:** the pyramid opened with 2,526 rooms. Luxor's total of about 4,400 includes two 22-story towers added in 1997, so the rooms aren't all 'along the sloped sides'.
- **Missing name:** the 'elevators on the angled walls' are inclinator, which run diagonally at 39 degrees.
- **Note:** 'Replica sphinx' overstates it: Luxor's sphinx is a stylized, roughly 10-story version, taller than the Great Sphinx at Giza (about 66 ft).
- **Materials:** the structure is steel-framed and clad in dark glass. That part is fine, but the Reel leaves out its 30-story count and huge central atrium.
- **Missing:** the Sky Beam at the apex, the likely 'lux' in the title, isn't mentioned in the Reel.

SOURCES

1. Las Vegas Sun (Oct 15, 1993): Resort opens a new era in LV: <https://lasvegassun.com/news/1993/oct/15/resort-opens-new-era-lv/>
2. The New York Times (Nov 7, 1993): Travel advisory, imagination runs wild at Las Vegas resorts: <https://www.nytimes.com/1993/11/07/travel/travel-advisory-imagination-runs-wild-at-las-vegas-resorts.html>
3. CTBUH Skyscraper Center: Luxor Pyramid: <https://www.skyscrapercenter.com/building/luxor-pyramid/13708>
4. Las Vegas Sun (Apr 18, 1997): Luxor unveils \$300 mil. expansion: <https://lasvegassun.com/news/1997/apr/18/luxor-unveils-300-mil-expansion/>
5. MGM Resorts: Luxor fact sheet 2026: https://filecache.mediaroom.com/mr5mr_mgmresorts/182111/download/Luxor%20Fact%20Sheet%202026.pdf

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/lux-or-luxor/> · Last updated Dec 30, 2025



DD-688 HISTORY / LOCATIONS · 24 OF 83

da Vinci's Double Helix

The staircase in the footage is the double-helix staircase at the heart of the Château de Chambord in the Loire Valley, France. Two independent flights wind around each other and a hollow, partly open core, so people on one flight can see people on the other through the openings but never meet them. Leonardo da Vinci lived in France from 1516 as François I's 'first painter, architect and engineer of the king', and his notebooks include central-plan palaces and double and quadruple spiral stairs. Chambord itself says the staircase was 'inspired by' Leonardo and its architecture 'influenced' by him. No surviving document names him as the architect, and most art historians see him as an adviser whose ideas were developed with Domenico da Cortona and the master builders. Leonardo died on May 2, 1519, and construction at Chambord officially began on September 6, 1519, four months later.

QUICK FACTS

DD-688-F01

Chambord's construction officially began on September 6, 1519, four months after Leonardo died.

DD-688-F02

The two flights of Chambord's staircase wind around a hollow core and never meet.

THE WRITE-UP

Where. The staircase stands at the center of Chambord's keep, where four large rooms meet. It runs from the ground floor to the roof terraces, then continues as a single spiral up the lantern tower.

How it works. Two flights twist one above the other around a hollow core. People on different flights can glimpse each other through the openings but never meet.

Leonardo's link. François I brought Leonardo to France in 1516. Chambord points to his notebook sketches of central plans and spiral stairs as evidence of his influence.

The open question. No surviving document names Leonardo as Chambord's architect. Most historians see him as an adviser whose ideas were carried out with Domenico da Cortona and master builders.

The timing. Leonardo died on May 2, 1519. Records date the start of construction at Chambord to September 6, 1519.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Attribution is unproven:** no document names Leonardo as the designer. Chambord itself says the staircase was 'inspired by' him, and historians treat him as an adviser.
- **Missing location:** the staircase in the footage is at the Château de Chambord, France, not a standalone 'Leonardo staircase'.
- **Timing:** the Chambord staircase was built after Leonardo died (May 2, 1519). Construction started on September 6, 1519.
- **Unclear:** 'several of his helix staircases' refers to notebook designs for double and quadruple spirals. There's no record of Leonardo building one himself.
- **Accurate but incomplete:** two people can climb at once without meeting, though they can see each other through the openings in the central core.

SOURCES

1. Domaine national de Chambord: Architecture, the influence of Leonardo da Vinci: <https://www.chambord.org/en/history/the-chateau/architecture/>
2. Domaine national de Chambord (2023): Press kit: <https://cdn1.chambord.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/04/DP-2023-CHAMBORD-ENGL.pdf>
3. Domaine national de Chambord: Exhibition Chambord, 1519-2019: <https://www.chambord.org/en/500-years-anniversary/exhibition-chambord-1519-2019/>
4. Leonardo da Vinci, Architect of Chambord? (journal article, JSTOR): <https://doi.org/10.2307/1483458>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/da-vincis-double-helix/> · Last updated Jan 3, 2026



DD-690 HISTORY / LOCATIONS · 25 OF 83

ARCH OF TITUS

The Arch of Titus stands on the Velia at the eastern edge of the Roman Forum, where the Via Sacra climbs toward the Palatine. Its dedication (CIL VI 945) honors 'divus' Titus, meaning Titus after his death and deification. So it's dated after Titus died in 81 CE, to the early reign of his brother Domitian, around 81-82 CE. Its reliefs celebrate the Roman triumph that Titus and his father Vespasian held in 71 CE after the Judaeen War, in which Roman forces captured Jerusalem and destroyed the Second Temple in 70 CE. The south panel shows soldiers carrying the Temple's spoils, including the seven-branched menorah. The north panel shows Titus in his chariot, crowned by Victory, and the vault shows his apotheosis. The arch is mostly Pentelic marble. In the Middle Ages it was built into a fortress, and Giuseppe Valadier restored it in the 1820s, filling missing parts with travertine. Its menorah image was later chosen as the basis for the emblem of the State of Israel.

QUICK FACTS

DD-690-F01

The arch's inscription honors Titus as 'divus', after his death and deification.

DD-690-F02

The south relief shows the menorah carried among the Temple's spoils.

THE WRITE-UP

Built for a deified emperor. The inscription honors 'divus' Titus, meaning Titus after his death in 81 CE, so the arch is dated to Domitian's early reign, around 81-82 CE.

The war it marks. The reliefs celebrate the 71 CE triumph of Titus and Vespasian after the Judaeen War, in which Jerusalem and its Second Temple were destroyed in 70 CE.

The spoils panel. The south panel shows the Temple's spoils carried in procession, including the seven-branched menorah. The north panel shows Titus in his chariot, crowned by Victory.

Marble and restoration. The arch is mostly Pentelic marble. After centuries inside a medieval fortress, Giuseppe Valadier restored it in the 1820s, filling missing parts with travertine.

A lasting image. The arch's menorah was later chosen as the basis for the emblem of the State of Israel.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Timing nuance:** Domitian built the arch after Titus died in 81 CE, to honor his deified brother. It's dated to around 81-82 CE.
- **Missing context:** it commemorates the 71 CE triumph after the Judean War, in which Roman forces destroyed the Second Temple in 70 CE.
- **Note:** 'White marble' is simplified: it's mostly Pentelic marble, and Valadier's 1820s restoration filled missing sections with travertine.
- **Footage:** some opening shots show a three-bay arch (likely the Arch of Septimius Severus or Constantine), not the single-bay Arch of Titus. The relief and vault shots do match.
- **Label:** the Colosseum Archaeological Park notes that a separate arch for Titus stood at the Circus Maximus, and the Forum arch may not have served as a triumphal gateway.

SOURCES

1. Parco archeologico del Colosseo: Arch of Titus: <https://colosseo.it/en/restauri/arch-of-titus/>
2. Judaism and Rome: Arch of Titus, Roman Forum (81-82 CE): <https://www.judaism-and-rome.org/arch-titus-roman-forum-81-82-cearchitecture>
3. Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies: Arch of Titus: <https://www.yu.edu/cis/activities/arch-of-titus>
4. Urbem Hierusolymam delevit: The Arch of Titus in the Circus Maximus (York University): <http://hdl.handle.net/10315/38137>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/arch-of-titus/> · Last updated Jan 7, 2026



DD-707 LOCATIONS / TECH · 26 OF 83

LINGSHAN LIFT

The Reel mixes up two different Lingshans. The footage shows the new cliffside escalator at Lingshan Scenic Area in Shangrao, Jiangxi Province, a national 4A scenic area of granite peaks whose highest point, Tianti Peak, reaches 1,496 m. According to the scenic area as reported by Chinese media, the escalator line is 1,236 m long with a vertical rise of about 256 m, built as 10 sections in 5 groups. It can carry about 3,600 people per hour each way, turning a climb of 3-4 hours on foot into about 30 minutes. It went into trial operation in August 2025, and international outlets reported it open in October 2025. The 'Grand Buddha at Lingshan' and Taihu Lake belong to a different place: the Lingshan Scenic Area in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, where an 88 m bronze Buddha completed in the 1990s stands on the north shore of Lake Tai. The escalator in the footage doesn't serve that Buddha or overlook Taihu Lake.

QUICK FACTS

DD-707-F01

Shangrao Lingshan's escalator line is reported at 1,236 m long.

DD-707-F02

The Grand Buddha at Lingshan is in Wuxi, Jiangsu, not Shangrao.

THE WRITE-UP

Which Lingshan. The escalator is at Lingshan in Shangrao, Jiangxi, a national 4A scenic area of granite peaks with a highest peak of 1,496 m.

The numbers. As reported in Chinese media, the line is 1,236 m long with about 256 m of vertical rise, built as 10 escalator sections in 5 groups.

Capacity. It's reported to carry about 3,600 people per hour each way and to cut a 3-4 hour climb to about 30 minutes.

Timeline. The escalator entered trial operation in August 2025, with the scenic area still deciding how to charge for it.

The other Lingshan. The Grand Buddha at Lingshan, an 88 m bronze statue on Lake Tai, is in Wuxi, Jiangsu, a separate scenic area that the Reel's caption mixes in.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Wrong place:** the Grand Buddha at Lingshan and Taihu Lake are in Wuxi, Jiangsu. The escalator in the footage is at Lingshan in Shangrao, Jiangxi, a different scenic area.
- **Wrong reason:** the escalator wasn't built for Grand Buddha visitors. It replaces a 3-4 hour climb up Shangrao Lingshan's granite peaks.
- **Missing scale:** the line is reported at 1,236 m long with about 256 m of vertical rise, built as 10 sections in 5 groups.
- **Unclear:** 'landscaped gardens and temple structures' doesn't match the footage, which shows escalators on bare granite cliffs. Shangrao Lingshan does have Taoist and Buddhist sites.
- **Missing timing:** trial operation began in August 2025. Opening reports followed in October 2025, and 'Asia's longest' is a promotional claim.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/lingshan-lift/> · Last updated Mar 24, 2026



DD-655 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 27 OF 83

THE KAABA

The Kaaba stands at the center of the Masjid al-Haram (the Sacred Mosque, often called the Great Mosque) in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and is the most sacred site in Islam. Islamic tradition holds that the Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and his son Ismail (Ishmael) built it as a house for the worship of one God. It's roughly cube-shaped, about 13.1 m high, 12.8 m long and 11.03 m wide. The structure has been rebuilt several times in its history, and the 1629 reconstruction used large granite blocks. The Black Stone is set in its eastern corner. The Kaaba is the qibla, the direction Muslims face in prayer. During Hajj and Umrah, pilgrims perform tawaf, walking around it seven times counterclockwise. Its covering, the Kiswah, is made each year at the King Abdulaziz Complex for the Holy Kaaba Kiswa in Mecca. It's black natural silk embroidered with Qur'anic verses in silver thread plated with gold, weighs around 1,400 kg, and in recent years has been changed at the start of the Islamic new year, on 1 Muharram.

QUICK FACTS

DD-655-F01

Muslims around the world face the Kaaba in prayer: it's the qibla.

DD-655-F02

During tawaf, pilgrims walk around the Kaaba seven times counterclockwise.

THE WRITE-UP

Where it stands. The Kaaba is at the center of the Masjid al-Haram in Mecca and is Islam's most sacred site. Islamic tradition holds that Ibrahim and Ismail built it for the worship of one God.

Size and stone. It's about 13.1 m high, 12.8 m long and 11.03 m wide. Rebuilt several times, it took its present granite form largely in a 1629 reconstruction.

The qibla and tawaf. Muslims everywhere face the Kaaba in prayer. During Hajj and Umrah, pilgrims walk around it seven times counterclockwise, starting from the Black Stone in its eastern corner.

The Kiswah. The Kiswah is black natural silk embroidered with Qur'anic verses in gold-plated silver thread. It's made each year by Saudi artisans at a dedicated complex in Mecca.

A yearly change. In recent years the Kiswah has been replaced at the start of the Islamic new year, as on 1 Muharram 1447 (June 26, 2025).

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Shape:** it's 'cube-shaped' only roughly, at about 13.1 m high, 12.8 m long and 11.03 m wide.
- **Missing history:** the Kaaba has been rebuilt several times, and its present granite structure largely dates from a 1629 reconstruction.
- **Kiswah detail:** the embroidery is silver thread plated with gold (with some silver thread), on black natural silk, and the Kiswah is replaced each year.
- **Name:** the 'Great Mosque' is the Masjid al-Haram, also called the Sacred Mosque or Grand Mosque.
- **Missing context:** during Hajj and Umrah, pilgrims perform tawaf, walking around the Kaaba seven times counterclockwise from the Black Stone in its eastern corner.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-kaaba/> · Last updated Sep 29, 2025



DD-658 LOCATIONS / TECH · 28 OF 83

BUOYANCY BRIDGE II

The Shiziguan floating bridge, nicknamed 'Langqiao Yimeng' after the Chinese title of 'The Bridges of Madison County', is in the Shiziguan Scenic Area, Zhushan Town, Xuan'en County, Enshi Prefecture, Hubei. It sits on water held back by the Shiziguan hydropower project, which since 2002 has dammed the Hongjia River (Hongjiahe), between steep hills. The deck has no fixed foundation. Pine joists and treated wooden planks sit on plastic floats and are held in place by underwater anchoring. Construction began in early 2015 and it opened in 2016. Scenic-area material gives its length as 400 m, while the official accident investigation gives 318 m, with a 4.5 m width and a 20 km/h speed limit. On May 16, 2023, a nine-seat van carrying eight people skidded through the railing on a bend and fell into the water, and five people died. Investigators found the van was going over the speed limit on a wet deck and that the scenic area had let vehicles above its size limit onto the bridge. The scenic area closed and reopened on December 28, 2024, after upgrades.

QUICK FACTS

DD-658-F01

The Shiziguan floating bridge opened in 2016.

DD-658-F02

The official investigation lists the bridge at 318 m long and 4.5 m wide.

THE WRITE-UP

Where. The bridge is in the Shiziguan Scenic Area of Xuan'en County, Enshi, Hubei, on water held back by a 2002 hydropower project on the Hongjia River.

How it floats. Wooden decking on pine joists sits on plastic floats with no fixed foundation, held in place by underwater anchoring.

Size. Scenic-area material says 400 m long and 4.5 m wide. The official investigation gives 318 m long, with a 20 km/h limit.

The 2023 accident. On May 16, 2023, a van carrying eight people skidded off the wet deck on a bend, and five people died. Investigators cited speeding and lax safety management.

Reopened. The scenic area closed after the accident and reopened on December 28, 2024, after upgrades.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **River:** I found no source naming a 'Hongshui River'. Chinese sources put the scenic area on the Hongjia River (Hongjiahe) reservoir created by the 2002 Shiziguan hydropower dam.
- **Unclear count:** 'hundreds of interconnected pontoons' isn't documented. Official accounts describe plastic floats under pine joists and planks, anchored underwater.
- **Length varies:** scenic-area material says 400 m, while the official accident investigation says 318 m.
- **Missing safety context:** a van fell from the bridge on May 16, 2023, and five people died. The scenic area closed and reopened on December 28, 2024.
- **Wording:** 'is a stunning engineering' is missing a word, and the 'liquid glass' feel comes from the deck rising and falling under vehicles.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/buoyancy-bridge-ii/> · Last updated Oct 6, 2025



PROSPERITREE

The Tree of Prosperity is a free kinetic show in the Rotunda of Wynn Macau, on the Macau peninsula. It isn't at Wynn Palace, the company's newer resort in Cotai. Macao's tourism office and Wynn describe an 11 m (about 38 ft) tree with 60 main limbs, more than 2,000 branches and 98,000 leaves made of 24-karat gold leaf and brass leaf, so the leaves aren't solid gold. During each show, a Chinese zodiac ceiling opens like an iris to reveal a 20 m LED screen and a crystal chandelier, and the tree rises from below the floor and turns to music while lights cycle through the seasons. A 2008 trade report credits mechanical engineering to McLaren Engineering, fabrication to Show Canada in Montreal and automation to Stage Technologies. The show's integrator dates the Tree of Prosperity show to 2006 and says a Dragon of Fortune show was added in 2010; the two alternate in the Rotunda. I found no source naming a designer 'Kevin McCurdy' or giving a cost of 'HKD 2 billion'.

QUICK FACTS

DD-659-F01

The Tree of Prosperity is about 11 m (38 ft) tall.

DD-659-F02

Its 98,000 leaves are 24-karat gold leaf and brass leaf.

THE WRITE-UP

Where it is. The Tree of Prosperity is in the Rotunda of Wynn Macau on the Macau peninsula, not at Wynn Palace in Cotai.

The numbers. Macao's tourism office lists an 11 m tree with 60 main limbs, more than 2,000 branches and 98,000 leaves.

Gold and brass. The leaves are 24-karat gold leaf and brass leaf, not solid gold.

The show. A zodiac ceiling opens to reveal an LED screen, and the tree rises and turns to music. Show Canada fabricated it, and McLaren Engineering did the mechanics.

A second act. The Tree of Prosperity show dates to 2006. A Dragon of Fortune show was added in 2010, and the two alternate.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Wrong resort:** the Tree of Prosperity is at Wynn Macau (the peninsula resort), not Wynn Palace in Cotai.
- **Overstated:** the leaves are 24-karat gold leaf and brass leaf over a structure, not leaves 'made of 24 karat gold'.
- **Unverified designer:** I found no source linking a 'Kevin McCurdy' to the tree. Trade press credits McLaren Engineering (mechanics), Show Canada (fabrication) and Stage Technologies (automation). Roger Thomas led Wynn's interior design.
- **Unverified cost:** no source gives 'over HKD 2 billion' for the installation. For scale, that's about US\$257 million.
- **Missing context:** the tree is one of two alternating Rotunda shows, and a Dragon of Fortune show was added in 2010.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/prosperitree/> · Last updated Oct 10, 2025



BAPS NJ

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, in Robbinsville Township, New Jersey, was built by the Hindu organization Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS). It was formally dedicated on October 8, 2023, and opened to the public on October 18. The AP called it the largest Hindu temple built outside India in the modern era, and NBC News called it the largest in the U.S. The 183-acre figure (NBC also cites 185) is for the whole campus, not the mandir building. Work began in 2011, so construction took about 12 years. BAPS says about 12,500 volunteers took part. About 2 million cubic feet of stone was used, and a 2023 report counted about 4.7 million hours of artisan and volunteer work. The stone came from several countries, including Bulgarian and Turkish limestone, marble from Italy, Greece and Turkey, granite from India and China, and Indian sandstone. It was carved by artisans in India, dry-fitted there, then shipped about 8,000 miles to New Jersey for assembly. A 2021 federal lawsuit by workers who came on religious visas alleged forced labor and very low pay. BAPS says the artisans were religious volunteers. Twelve of the original plaintiffs withdrew their claims in October 2023, and the lawsuit is ongoing.

QUICK FACTS

DD-660-F01

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham was dedicated on October 8, 2023.

DD-660-F02

About 12,500 volunteers took part in building it.

THE WRITE-UP

Dedication. BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham was dedicated on October 8, 2023, and opened to the public on October 18.

How big. The 183-acre figure is the whole campus. The AP called it the largest Hindu temple outside India in the modern era.

Who built it. BAPS says about 12,500 volunteers took part in work that began in 2011.

Stone from many countries. The stone included Bulgarian limestone, marble from Italy, Greece and Turkey, and Indian sandstone. It was carved in India and dry-fitted there before shipping.

The lawsuit. A 2021 lawsuit alleged forced labor of workers on religious visas, and BAPS says they were volunteers. Twelve plaintiffs withdrew in 2023, and the case is ongoing.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Timeline:** work began in 2011, so it took about 12 years, not 'nearly a decade'.
- **Area:** 183 acres (some reports say 185) is the whole campus, not the size of the temple building.
- **Carving:** the stone was carved by artisans in India, dry-fitted there, then shipped about 8,000 miles to New Jersey and assembled, so it wasn't carved on site.
- **Stone:** the list is incomplete. Reports cite Bulgarian and Turkish limestone, marble from Italy, Greece and Turkey, granite from India and China, and Indian sandstone.
- **Missing context:** a 2021 federal lawsuit alleged forced labor and pay of about \$1.20 an hour, and BAPS says the artisans were volunteers. Twelve plaintiffs withdrew in 2023, and the case resumed after a federal probe closed in 2025.

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/baps-nj/> · Last updated Oct 12, 2025



THREE GORGES

The Three Gorges Dam crosses the Yangtze at Sandouping, near Yichang in Hubei province, China. By installed capacity it's the world's largest power station: 22,500 MW from 32 main 700 MW generators plus two 50 MW units that power the plant itself. The concrete gravity dam is about 2.3 km long, 2,309.5 m along its axis or 2,335 m by another measure. Its maximum height is 181 m, and its crest sits at 185 m above sea level, which is where the Reel's '185 m' comes from. The reservoir normally holds water at 175 m.

Construction formally began in December 1994. The dam body was finished in 2006, and Guinness dates the last main generator to July 4, 2012. The whole project wasn't certified complete until 2020, after the ship lift and other works. Output depends on river flow. The design target is 88.2 TWh a year, and in 2020 it set a world record of 111.8 TWh for a single hydropower plant. Besides power, the project is meant for flood control and navigation, through a five-step double ship lock and a ship lift that raises vessels up to 113 m. According to Reuters, about 1.3 million people were relocated to make way for the reservoir.

QUICK FACTS

DD-643-F01

Three Gorges has 22,500 MW of installed capacity.

DD-643-F02

It generated a record 111.8 TWh in 2020.

THE WRITE-UP

Biggest by capacity. Thirty-two 700 MW generators and two 50 MW units add up to 22,500 MW, the most of any power station.

How tall. The dam's maximum height is 181 m. Its crest is at 185 m above sea level.

When it was finished. The last main generator came online in 2012, but the whole project was certified complete in 2020.

Record output. In 2020 it generated a record 111.8 TWh, against a design target of 88.2 TWh a year.

The human cost. About 1.3 million people were relocated to make way for the reservoir, according to Reuters.

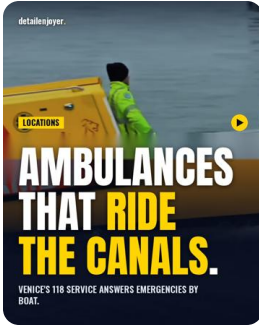
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Standing 185 m tall': 185 m is the crest's elevation above sea level. The dam's maximum height is 181 m (about 594 ft).
- **Note:** 'Completed in 2012': the last main generator came online in 2012 (Guinness gives July 4, 2012). The dam body was finished in 2006, and the whole project was certified complete in 2020.
- **Note:** 'Nearly 100 TWh annually': output varies with river flow. The design target is 88.2 TWh, and the record is 111.8 TWh (2020).
- **Note:** 'Largest hydroelectric power station': true by installed capacity (22,500 MW). Itaipu held the annual-output record until Three Gorges passed it in 2020.
- **Missing:** the dam is also built for flood control and shipping, and about 1.3 million people were relocated for its reservoir (Reuters).

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/three-gorges/> · Last updated Aug 26, 2025



DD-644 LOCATIONS / PEOPLE · 32 OF 83

AQUATIC AMBULANCES

In Venice's historic center and the islands of its lagoon, emergency calls to Italy's 118 number are answered by idroambulanze, water ambulances run by the local emergency medical service SUEM 118. The boats in the footage are yellow, with red-and-yellow checks and the word 'AMBULANZA'. They are fast motorboats with a covered cabin for a stretcher patient and equipment much like a land ambulance: oxygen, a monitor and defibrillator, and stretchers. Italian sources describe the usual crew as a boat pilot, two healthcare workers and a nurse, with an emergency doctor joining for the most serious ('red code') calls. Italy has no separate 'paramedic' profession like the U.S. or UK, so nurses lead the clinical care. Local reporting has put the service at about 18,000 call-outs a year across the lagoon. It has run seven boats, with several on standby at once, based at the city's main hospital, the Ospedale Civile (SS. Giovanni e Paolo). Getting a patient from a narrow canal or a house without a nearby landing usually means carrying them by stretcher through the streets to the boat. A 2023 paper in the European Journal of Emergency Medicine described the service's unusual conditions.

QUICK FACTS

DD-644-F01

Venice's water ambulances are run by SUEM 118.

DD-644-F02

The service handles about 18,000 call-outs a year.

THE WRITE-UP

Run by 118. Venice's water ambulances belong to SUEM 118, the local branch of Italy's emergency medical system.

Who's aboard. Usually a pilot, two healthcare workers and a nurse, with a doctor for the most serious calls.

What's aboard. The boats carry equipment comparable to land ambulances, including oxygen, monitors, defibrillators and stretchers.

Busy waters. Local reporting has put the service at about 18,000 call-outs a year across the lagoon.

Home base. The boats are based at the Ospedale Civile, Venice's main hospital.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Staffed with paramedics': Italy doesn't have a separate paramedic profession. Crews are typically a boat pilot, two healthcare workers and a nurse, plus an emergency doctor for the most serious calls.
- **Note:** 'Navigate quickly through the narrow waterways': many canals are too narrow or low for the boats, so patients are often carried by stretcher through the streets to a landing.
- **Missing:** the service is SUEM 118 (Italy's emergency number is 118), based at the Ospedale Civile, and it covers the whole lagoon, including islands like Lido, Murano and Burano.
- **Note:** 'Specially designed motorboats': yes, they have a covered patient cabin and equipment comparable to a land ambulance, including oxygen, a monitor and defibrillator, and stretchers.
- **Scale:** local reporting has put the service at about 18,000 call-outs a year, from a fleet of seven boats with several on standby at a time.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/aquatic-ambulances/> · Last updated Aug 28, 2025



DD-646 NATURE / LOCATIONS · 33 OF 83

RAINBOW MOUNTAINS

Peru's best-known 'rainbow mountain' is Vinicunca (Winikunka), also called Montaña de Siete Colores ('Mountain of Seven Colors'). It's in the Vilcanota range of the Cusco region, about 100 km southeast of the city of Cusco, between the districts of Pitumarca and Cusipata. Peru's official tourism inventory gives an altitude of 5,036 m, and the top viewpoint is listed at over 5,200 m. The stripes are tilted layers of marine, lake and river sediments laid down roughly 65 to 2 million years ago, then folded and lifted as the Andes rose. Erosion exposed them, and oxidation brought out their colors. The Cusco cultural landscape office, as reported by BBC Mundo, matches each color to its rock. Pink comes from red clay, mudstone and sand. White is quartz sandstone and limestone or marl. Red is iron-bearing claystone. Green is clay rich in iron and magnesium. Mustard yellow is calcareous sandstone rich in sulfur minerals. Brown is magnesium-rich fanglomerate, a rock made of cemented fan gravel. BBC Mundo also mentions copper oxide in the green layers, but neither source mentions copper sulfates. The mountain sits in lands of the Quechua farming communities of Pampachiri and Chillihuani and is regarded locally as a sacred apu (mountain spirit). The footage shows drone views of the striped slopes in mist.

QUICK FACTS

DD-646-F01

Vinicunca rises to about 5,036 m.

DD-646-F02

Its sediments are about 65 to 2 million years old.

THE WRITE-UP

Where it is. Vinicunca stands in the Vilcanota range, about 100 km southeast of Cusco, at about 5,036 m.

Old layers. Its stripes are marine, lake and river sediments laid down roughly 65 to 2 million years ago.

Lifted and tilted. The rise of the Andes folded and lifted the layers, and erosion exposed them.

What makes the colors. Red comes from iron-bearing claystone, green from clay rich in iron and magnesium, and yellow from sulfur-bearing sandstone.

A sacred peak. Local Quechua communities regard the mountain as an apu, a guardian mountain spirit.

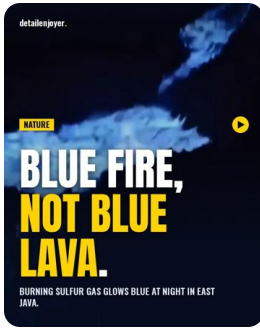
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Copper sulfates, the greens': Peruvian sources attribute the green to clays and phyllites rich in iron and magnesium. BBC Mundo also mentions copper oxide, but neither source mentions copper sulfates.
- **Altitude:** Peru's tourism inventory lists Vinicunca at 5,036 m, and its top viewpoint at over 5,200 m. 'Over 5,000 m (16,400 ft)' is right.
- **Note:** 'Rainbow Mountains' (plural): the famous one is Vinicunca. Other colorful peaks nearby, such as Palccoyo, are also marketed as rainbow mountains.
- **Missing detail:** the yellow layers are sandstones rich in sulfur minerals, the white is quartz sandstone and marl, and the brown is magnesium-rich fanglomerate.
- **Note:** 'Oxidized over millions of years': the sediments are roughly 65 to 2 million years old, and their colors come out as the exposed minerals oxidize and weather.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/rainbow-mountains/> · Last updated Sep 1, 2025



KAWAH IJEN

Kawah Ijen is the crater of the Ijen volcano in East Java, Indonesia. It holds a turquoise lake rich in sulfuric and hydrochloric acid. Its famous 'blue fire' (locally api biru) isn't lava. Photographer Olivier Grunewald, who documented it for years, told National Geographic and Smithsonian that the glow comes from burning sulfur-rich gases. These leave cracks at high pressure and temperatures up to 600 °C and ignite in air above about 360 °C, with flames up to about 5 m high. Some of the gas condenses into liquid sulfur that keeps burning as it runs downhill, which looks like flowing blue lava. The flames are faint, so they show only at night. USGS geologist John Pallister told National Geographic that miners sometimes light the sulfur themselves, which adds to the flames in night photos. Ijen is also a working sulfur mine. Ceramic pipes channel gas from a vent by the lake, and it condenses into molten sulfur that hardens yellow. Miners break off chunks and carry them out in baskets. Wikipedia, citing several reports, puts typical loads at 75 to 90 kg, carried up about 300 m to the crater rim and then about 3 km down, often twice a day. A 2024 study measured sulfur dioxide along the miners' path at 3.14 to 18.24 mg/m³, above the US EPA's 1.97 mg/m³ guideline. Miners reported eye irritation, coughing, headaches and shortness of breath. The footage shows bright blue flames and burning streams against the dark night slopes.

QUICK FACTS

DD-600-F01

Kawah Ijen's blue glow is burning sulfur, not lava.

DD-600-F02

Ijen's sulfur miners carry loads of about 75 to 90 kg.

THE WRITE-UP

Not lava. The blue glow is burning sulfur-rich gas, not blue lava.

Hot gas meets air. Gas emerges at up to 600 °C and ignites in air, with flames up to about 5 m high.

Burning rivers. Some gas condenses into liquid sulfur that keeps burning as it flows downhill.

A working mine. Miners carry loads of about 75 to 90 kg up to the crater rim, often twice a day.

Toxic air. A 2024 study measured sulfur dioxide on the miners' path above the US EPA guideline.

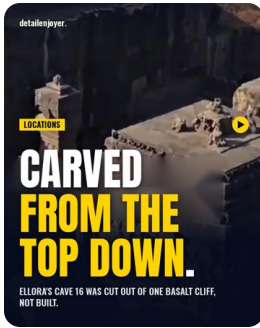
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Renowned for its striking blue lava': the Reel itself corrects this. The lava isn't blue; the color comes from burning sulfur gas and liquid sulfur.
- **Note:** 'Combustion of sulphuric gases': more precisely, sulfur-rich volcanic gases and sulfur vapor. Sulfuric acid is in the crater lake, not what burns.
- **Note:** 'Visible only at night': the flames are there by day but too faint to see in daylight.
- **Note:** 'A rare geological phenomenon': Ijen is the largest known blue-flame area. Blue sulfur fire has also been reported at Dallol in Ethiopia.
- **Missing:** Ijen is a working sulfur mine. Miners haul sulfur out by hand through sulfur dioxide levels a 2024 study found above the US EPA guideline.

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/kawah-ijen/> · Last updated Jun 19, 2025



DD-605 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 35 OF 83

KAILASA TEMPLE

The Kailasa temple is Cave 16 of the Ellora Caves in Maharashtra, India, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983. UNESCO calls it the largest monolithic temple of the 34 caves, which were cut into a basalt cliff between about AD 600 and 1000. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) calls it the largest single monolithic excavation and attributes it to the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I (c. 757–783), citing a copper-plate inscription of c. 812–813. The temple is dedicated to Shiva and named after Mount Kailash, which Hindu tradition holds to be Shiva's home. Rather than being built up from blocks, it was cut downward from the top of a sloping rock face into a free-standing shrine, with a gateway, a Nandi pavilion and a surrounding courtyard. Wikipedia, citing published estimates, puts the stone removed at about 85,000 m³, weighing about 200,000 tonnes, and the courtyard at about 82 by 46 m. Those figures are modern estimates, not records. The court elephants and an elephant-and-lion frieze around the base are among the parts the historian M. K. Dhavalikar attributes to Krishna I. Other parts, including the sculpture of Ravana shaking Mount Kailasa, appear to be later additions. The footage is aerial and close-up drone video of the temple and its carved walls.

QUICK FACTS

DD-605-F01

The Kailasa temple at Ellora was carved downward out of a single basalt cliff.

DD-605-F02

UNESCO calls the Kailasa temple the largest monolithic temple at Ellora.

THE WRITE-UP

Cave 16. Kailasa is Cave 16 of Ellora's 34 caves, and UNESCO calls it the largest monolithic temple there.

Top down. It was cut downward from the top of a sloping basalt cliff, not built from blocks.

Krishna I. The ASI attributes it to the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I (c. 757–783), citing an inscription of c. 812–813.

How much stone?. About 200,000 tonnes removed is a modern estimate, not a recorded figure.

Not all at once. The court elephants date to Krishna I's reign, and some sculptures were added later.

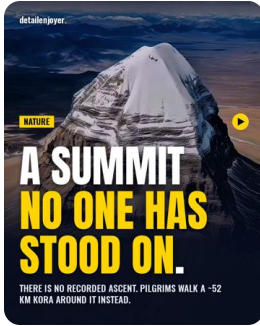
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'In the 8th century': the main temple is attributed to Krishna I (reigned c. 757–783), but some parts appear to have been finished later, under his successors.
- **Note:** 'Removing over 200,000 tons of stone': the figure is a modern estimate, about 85,000 m³ weighing roughly 200,000 tonnes, not a recorded amount.
- **Note:** 'A 100-foot tall central tower': the main tower rises about 32.6 m (107 ft) above the courtyard.
- **Note:** 'Rastrakuta dynasty': the usual spelling is Rashtrakuta. Wikipedia also notes Chalukya and Pallava styles in the temple, likely the work of artists from those regions.
- **Missing:** Kailasa is Cave 16 of the Ellora Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983 whose 34 caves include Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/kailasa-temple/> · Last updated Jun 28, 2025



MOUNT KAILASH

Mount Kailash is a 6,638 m (21,778 ft) peak in the Gangdise (Kailash) Range of the Transhimalaya, in Ngari Prefecture in western Tibet, China. It is sacred in four religions. Hindus regard it as the home of Shiva. Buddhist texts describe it as the mythological Mount Meru. According to Jain scriptures, Rishabhadeva, the first Tirthankara, attained liberation there. It is also sacred in Bon, Tibet's pre-Buddhist tradition. There is no recorded ascent. The Chinese government prohibits climbing it because of its religious significance. A Spanish expedition was refused permission in 2001, and the mountaineer Reinhold Messner turned down an offer from the Chinese government in the mid-1980s. Instead, pilgrims walk a circuit (kora or parikrama) around the mountain, about 52–53 km long and with its highest point at the Drölma pass, about 5,650 m. Hindus and Buddhists walk it clockwise and Bon followers counterclockwise. Sources disagree about Jains: Wikipedia says they walk clockwise, while Britannica says they go counterclockwise. The sources of four rivers lie nearby: the Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra and Ghaghara (Karnali). Britannica notes that pilgrimage access reopened in 1981, that Indian pilgrimages paused for about five years from 2020 and that they resumed in June 2025. The footage shows aerial views of the snow-capped peak.

QUICK FACTS

DD-607-F01

Mount Kailash has no recorded ascent.

DD-607-F02

Mount Kailash is sacred in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Bon.

THE WRITE-UP

The peak. Mount Kailash stands 6,638 m (21,778 ft) in the Gangdise Range of the Transhimalaya in western Tibet.

Four faiths. It is sacred in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Bon, and many traditions link it to Mount Meru.

Never climbed. There is no recorded ascent, and The Chinese government prohibits climbing it because of its religious significance.

The kora. Pilgrims walk a circuit of about 52 km. Hindus and Buddhists go clockwise, and Bon followers go counterclockwise.

Pilgrimage. Indian pilgrimages resumed in June 2025 after a pause of about five years that began in 2020.

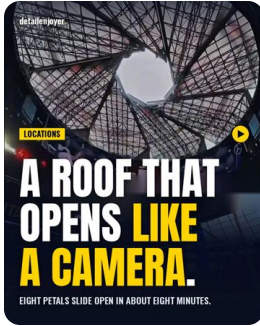
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Climbing the mountain is forbidden out of respect for its sanctity': respect for the mountain is the reason usually given, but the ban is enforced by the Chinese authorities. A Spanish team was refused permission in 2001.
- **Note:** 'A 52 km circumambulation': sources give about 50–53 km. The route's highest point is the Drölma pass, at about 5,650 m.
- **Note:** 'Pilgrims instead perform a Kora': the direction depends on the tradition. Hindus and Buddhists walk clockwise and Bon followers counterclockwise, and sources differ on Jains (clockwise per Wikipedia, counterclockwise per Britannica).
- **Note:** 'Standing about 6,638 m': correct. Mount Kailash is in the Gangdise (Kailash) Range of the Transhimalaya, in Ngari Prefecture, Tibet.
- **Missing:** the sources of the Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra and Ghaghara rivers lie near Kailash, and nearby Lake Manasarovar is part of the pilgrimage.

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1. Wikipedia: Mount Kailash: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Kailash
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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/mount-kailash/> · Last updated Jul 4, 2025



MERCEDES STADIUM

Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta opened on August 26, 2017, replacing the Georgia Dome as home of the NFL's Atlanta Falcons and MLS's Atlanta United FC. It is owned by the state of Georgia through the Georgia World Congress Center Authority and operated by the Falcons' parent company, AMB Group. Its construction cost was estimated at \$1.6 billion in 2016. The architects, HOK, designed it from the top down. The roof has eight translucent ETFE "petals", each about 220 feet long. They appear to rotate like a camera aperture but actually slide in unison along 16 straight tracks, and HOK says they open in eight minutes and close in seven. Its circular opening was inspired by the oculus of Rome's Pantheon. The roof wasn't finished when the stadium opened. At a July 2018 demonstration, about 11 months after the first event, it opened in 8 minutes 10 seconds, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Below it hangs the Halo, a ring-shaped video board 58 feet tall and 1,100 feet around. The master plan set a regular capacity of 71,000, expandable to 75,000 for events such as the Super Bowl. On November 15, 2017, it became the first professional sports stadium to earn LEED Platinum certification, with 88 points. The stadium credits that to 4,000 solar panels producing about 1.6 million kWh a year, a 680,000-gallon rainwater cistern and a 2.1-million-gallon stormwater system. It hosted Super Bowl LIII in 2019. The footage looks up through the open roof from the field, then pans around the seating bowl and the Halo board.

QUICK FACTS

DD-617-F01

Mercedes-Benz Stadium opened on August 26, 2017.

DD-617-F02

Mercedes-Benz Stadium was the first professional sports stadium to earn LEED Platinum certification.

THE WRITE-UP

Opened 2017. The stadium opened on August 26, 2017, replacing the Georgia Dome.

The petals. Eight ETFE petals slide along 16 straight tracks, opening in about eight minutes.

The Halo. A ring-shaped video board 58 feet tall and 1,100 feet around circles the opening.

Capacity. It seats 71,000, expandable to 75,000 for events such as the Super Bowl.

LEED Platinum. It was the first professional sports stadium certified LEED Platinum, in November 2017.

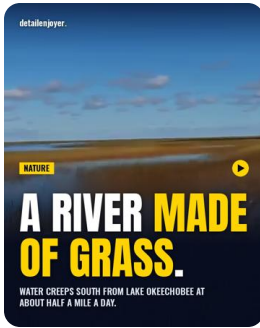
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Opens in under eight minutes': HOK says the roof opens in eight minutes and closes in seven. At its July 2018 demonstration it opened in 8 minutes 10 seconds.
- **Note:** 'Retractable "camera shutter" roof': the eight petals look as if they rotate like an aperture, but they actually slide in straight lines along 16 tracks.
- **Note:** 'Opened in 2017': the stadium opened on August 26, 2017, but the roof wasn't fully working until July 2018, about 11 months later.
- **Note:** 'Solar panels, and LEED Platinum certification': there are 4,000 panels, mostly on entry canopies and parking areas rather than the roof. In November 2017 it became the first professional sports stadium to reach LEED Platinum, with 88 points.
- **Missing:** the roof's opening was inspired by Rome's Pantheon, and the stadium hosted Super Bowl LIII in 2019.

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2. Mercedes-Benz Stadium: Sustainability & LEED Platinum: <https://www.mercedesbenzstadium.com/sustainability>
3. Mercedes-Benz Stadium: First professional sports stadium to receive LEED Platinum certification (November 15, 2017): <https://www.mercedesbenzstadium.com/news/mercedes-benz-stadium-becomes-first-professional-sports-stadium-to-receive-leed-platinum-certification>
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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/mercedes-stadium/> · Last updated Jul 19, 2025



THE GLADES

The Everglades is a region of flooded grasslands in southern Florida. It forms the southern half of the Kissimmee–Okeechobee–Everglades watershed, which begins near Orlando with the Kissimmee River. That river drains into shallow Lake Okeechobee. In the wet season, water spilling south from the lake spreads into a sheet about 60 miles wide and over 100 miles long. It moves about half a mile a day across a limestone shelf toward Florida Bay, and can take months or years to get there. Marjory Stoneman Douglas called it a "river of grass" in her 1947 book. Wikipedia notes the phrase captures only part of the system. Its main feature is sawgrass marsh, broken up by deeper sloughs, tree islands, cypress domes, and mangroves and coastal prairie where it meets the sea. The National Park Service calls the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) a keystone species of the Everglades. In the winter dry season, alligators dig "alligator holes" that hold water when the surrounding marsh dries out, becoming refuges for fish, turtles and wading birds. About half of the original Everglades has been converted to farms and cities. Canals and levees were built from the late 1800s, including 1,400 miles under a 1948 federal flood-control project. Congress approved the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan in 2000. Everglades National Park was dedicated by President Truman on December 6, 1947. The footage shows open sawgrass water under a blue sky, then close-ups of marsh plants, an alligator and cypress trunks.

QUICK FACTS

DD-619-F01

Water in the Everglades flows south at about half a mile a day.

DD-619-F02

The NPS calls the American alligator a keystone species of the Everglades.

THE WRITE-UP

Starts upstream. The system begins near Orlando with the Kissimmee River, which feeds Lake Okeechobee.

Sheet flow. Water spreads south in a sheet about 60 miles wide, moving roughly half a mile a day.

River of grass. Marjory Stoneman Douglas coined the phrase in 1947. Sawgrass marsh is the main habitat.

Alligator holes. Alligators dig holes that keep water through the dry season and shelter other wildlife.

Half gone. About half the original Everglades has been developed. Restoration was approved in 2000.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Its freshwater system begins with rainfall and overflow from Lake Okeechobee': the watershed starts farther north, near Orlando, with the Kissimmee River feeding the lake.
- **Note:** 'A vast, slow-moving river of grass': about 60 miles wide and over 100 miles long, moving roughly half a mile a day. Marjory Stoneman Douglas coined the phrase in 1947.
- **Note:** 'Alligator holes': the NPS explains that alligators dig them in the winter dry season. They hold water when the marsh dries and shelter fish, turtles and birds.
- **Note:** 'Feeding a shallow sheet flow of water southward': toward Florida Bay. The water can take months or years to get there, and canals and levees now divert much of it.
- **Missing:** about half the original Everglades has been converted to farms and cities. Everglades National Park was dedicated on December 6, 1947, and Congress approved a restoration plan in 2000.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-glades/> · Last updated Jul 21, 2025



DD-567 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 39 OF 83

HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA

Hallgrímskirkja is a Lutheran parish church of the Church of Iceland, on the Skólavörðuholt hill near the center of Reykjavík. At 74.5 m (244 ft), it is the largest church in Iceland and the second-tallest building in the country. It is named after Hallgrímur Pétursson (1614–1674), the poet and pastor who wrote the Passion Hymns. State Architect Guðjón Samúelsson was commissioned to design it in 1937. He is said to have modeled it on Iceland's landscape, especially columnar basalt formations like those at Svartifoss. Architectural historians usually classify it as Expressionist, and Copenhagen's Grundtvig's Church is often cited as an influence. Building it took 41 years. Construction began in 1945, the crypt beneath the choir was consecrated in 1948, and the tower and its wings were finished in 1974. The nave was consecrated on October 26, 1986. The nave is plain and pale, and a lift takes visitors up the tower to a viewing deck. The main concert organ was built by Johannes Klais of Bonn and inaugurated in December 1992. It is 15 m tall, weighs about 25 tonnes and has 72 stops and 5,275 pipes. The statue of Leif Erikson in front of the church is older than the building: the United States gave it to Iceland for the 1930 millennium of the Althing, Iceland's parliament. The footage shows the tower at dusk with the statue, the main doors, the façade against a sunrise, and a winter aerial view.

QUICK FACTS

DD-567-F01

Hallgrímskirkja was consecrated on October 26, 1986, 41 years after construction began.

DD-567-F02

Hallgrímskirkja's Klais organ has 5,275 pipes.

THE WRITE-UP

Named for a poet. The church is named after Hallgrímur Pétursson, the 17th-century pastor who wrote the Passion Hymns.

Basalt in concrete. Guðjón Samúelsson's design is said to evoke Iceland's columnar basalt.

41 years. Construction began in 1945, and the church was consecrated on October 26, 1986.

Tallest church. At 74.5 m, it is Iceland's largest church and second-tallest building.

The Klais organ. The organ, inaugurated in 1992, has 5,275 pipes and stands 15 m tall.

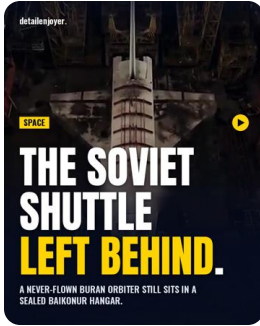
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Completed in 1986 after decades of construction': 41 years. Construction began in 1945, the crypt was consecrated in 1948, the tower and wings were finished in 1974, and the nave was consecrated on October 26, 1986.
- **Note:** 'Was inspired by Iceland's basalt lava columns': that's how the design is usually described (Guðjón Samúelsson is said to have drawn on columnar basalt such as at Svartifoss). He was commissioned in 1937 and died before the church was finished.
- **Note:** 'A dramatic modernist appearance': architectural historians usually call it Expressionist and point to Copenhagen's Grundtvig's Church as a likely influence.
- **Note:** 'A massive pipe organ with over 5,000 pipes': the Klais organ, inaugurated in December 1992, has 5,275 pipes and 72 stops, stands 15 m tall and weighs about 25 tonnes.
- **Missing:** at 74.5 m, it is Iceland's largest church and second-tallest building. The Leif Erikson statue in front, seen in the footage, was a US gift for the Althing's 1930 millennium and predates the church.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/hallgrimskirkja/> · Last updated May 10, 2025



DD-578 SPACE / HISTORY / LOCATIONS · 40 OF 83

BAIKONUR COSMODROME

Buran was the Soviet Union's reusable spaceplane, built in response to the US Space Shuttle and launched on the Energia rocket. The orbiter Buran (1K) flew once, uncrewed, on November 15, 1988. It lifted off from Baikonur, circled Earth twice in 3 hours 25 minutes and landed automatically on the cosmodrome's runway. Funding dried up as the Soviet Union broke apart, and the program was suspended in 1993. The flown orbiter didn't survive. It was stored in Baikonur's main assembly building, MIK 112, which was originally built for the N1 Moon rocket. On May 12, 2002, the roof collapsed during repair work, killing eight workers and destroying Buran along with Energia hardware. The craft in the famous photos are two others, kept in a separate Assembly and Fueling Complex (MZK) at Site 112A. According to RussianSpaceWeb, the MZK is 150 m long, 80 m wide and 70 m high. Inside are orbiter 1.02, the second flight article, which was about 95–97% complete and never flew, and OK-MT, an engineering mockup. Both were moved there in 1995. Their doors later jammed, and RussianSpaceWeb calls the building a sarcophagus for both vehicles. Wikipedia, citing CNN, reports that a Russian-Kazakh company, Aelita, has owned them since 2005. Baikonur is in Kazakhstan. Under a 1994 agreement, Russia leases the whole Baikonur complex for \$115 million a year, and the lease has since been extended to 2050. The footage looks down on an orbiter between rusting work platforms in the MZK, then shows the hall and the vehicles from the side.

QUICK FACTS

DD-578-F01

The Buran orbiter made one uncrewed flight, on November 15, 1988.

DD-578-F02

Russia leases Baikonur from Kazakhstan until 2050.

THE WRITE-UP

One flight. Buran flew once, uncrewed, on November 15, 1988, and landed automatically.

Suspended. The program was suspended in 1993 as the Soviet Union broke apart.

Roof collapse. The flown orbiter was destroyed when the MIK 112 roof collapsed on May 12, 2002.

In the MZK. The orbiters in the famous photos are 1.02, which never flew, and the OK-MT mockup.

Leased land. Russia leases the Baikonur complex from Kazakhstan for \$115 million a year until 2050.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Two Buran orbiters and several prototypes were left': the orbiter that flew in 1988 was destroyed in the May 12, 2002 roof collapse of MIK 112, which killed eight workers. The two in the famous photos are orbiter 1.02, which never flew, and the OK-MT engineering mockup.
- **Note:** 'With one inside the MZK assembly building': both are inside the MZK, Baikonur's Assembly and Fueling Complex at Site 112A, where they were moved in 1995.
- **Note:** 'Often called the world's largest hangar': the MZK is about 150 by 80 by 70 m (RussianSpaceWeb). That's huge, but the 'world's largest' label isn't supported.
- **Note:** 'Cancelled in the early 1990s': the program was suspended in 1993. The second and third flight orbiters were never completed.
- **Missing:** the one flight lasted 3 hours 25 minutes, with two orbits and a fully automatic landing. Baikonur is in Kazakhstan, and Russia leases the complex for \$115 million a year under a lease extended to 2050.

SOURCES

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Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/baikonur-cosmodrome/> · Last updated May 14, 2025



BUNKER VALENTIN

Bunker Valentin is a bomb-proof U-boat factory that the German navy (Kriegsmarine) built on the Weser River at Bremen-Farge, in Bremen's Reum district. With Allied bombers pounding open shipyards, the plan was to assemble Type XXI submarines there from prefabricated sections, on an assembly line. Construction ran from 1943 to March 1945. The memorial says it was the second-largest above-ground bunker in Europe. Wikipedia gives its size as about 426 m long and up to 97 m wide, with a height of 22.5 to 27 m. Its walls are about 4.5 m thick, and its roof is 4.5 m thick, rising to 7 m in one section. According to the memorial, up to 10,000 forced laborers built it: civilians from across Europe, Soviet prisoners of war, Italian military internees, concentration-camp prisoners from the nearby Neuengamme subcamp at Farge, and Gestapo labor-camp inmates. They worked 12-hour shifts day and night. The memorial puts the death toll at about 1,600, from hunger, disease and arbitrary killings, and 1,144 victims are known by name. On March 27, 1945, RAF 617 Squadron bombed the bunker with Grand Slam and Tallboy bombs. Two Grand Slams broke through the thinner western roof. Building stopped soon afterwards, and no submarine was ever finished there. After the war it was used for bomb tests. From the 1960s to 2010, the German navy (Bundesmarine) used it as a depot. A memorial sculpture, 'Vernichtung durch Arbeit' ('Extermination through Labour'), was erected in 1983. The bunker opened as the Denkort Bunker Valentin memorial on November 8, 2015. The footage shows the overgrown exterior walls and the dim interior bays behind fencing.

QUICK FACTS

DD-571-F01

Up to 10,000 forced laborers built Bunker Valentin.

DD-571-F02

No submarine was ever built in Bunker Valentin.

THE WRITE-UP

Assembly line in concrete. Type XXI U-boats were to be assembled in sections, safe from Allied bombing.

Forced labor. Up to 10,000 forced laborers from across Europe built it in 12-hour shifts.

About 1,600 dead. The memorial estimates about 1,600 deaths, and 1,144 victims are known by name.

Never finished. RAF Grand Slam bombs broke through the roof in March 1945, and no submarine was built.

A memorial. After decades as a navy depot, it opened as a memorial on November 8, 2015.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Using forced labor from concentration camps and prisoners of war': these groups and more. The memorial lists civilian forced laborers from Eastern and Western Europe, Soviet POWs, Italian military internees, concentration-camp prisoners and Gestapo labor-camp inmates, up to 10,000 in all. About 1,600 died.
- **Note:** '33 m high': Wikipedia gives a height of 22.5 to 27 m. The 426 m length and 97 m maximum width match.
- **Note:** 'Concrete walls and ceilings up to 7 m thick': the walls are about 4.5 m. The roof is mostly 4.5 m, and only one section reaches 7 m.
- **Note:** 'Intended to produce U-boats in secret': it was a high-priority project but no secret to the Allies. RAF 617 Squadron bombed it on March 27, 1945, and two Grand Slam bombs broke through the thinner western roof.
- **Missing:** the bunker was never finished and no submarine was built there. It was a German navy depot until 2010, and the Denkort Bunker Valentin memorial opened on November 8, 2015.

SOURCES

1. Denkort Bunker Valentin (English): <https://www.denkort-bunker-valentin.de/sprachen/english>
2. Denkort Bunker Valentin: Opening ceremony, November 2015 (in German): <https://www.denkort-bunker-valentin.de/news/rueckblick-eroeffnungsveranstaltung>
3. Wikipedia: Valentin submarine pens: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentin_submarine_pens
4. Bremen.de: Denkort Bunker Valentin (in German): <https://www.bremen.de/kultur/museen-und-wissenswelten/denkort-bunker-valentin>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/bunker-valentin/> · Last updated May 15, 2025



UNLIMITED BLADEWORKS

The Didgori memorial stands on the meadows of Mount Didgori, about 40 km west of Tbilisi in the Trialeti Range. It marks the Battle of Didgori, fought on August 12, 1121. King David IV of Georgia, known as David the Builder, defeated a much larger Muslim coalition led by the Artuqid commander Ilghazi, acting for the Seljuk sultan. Medieval chroniclers gave wildly inflated figures for Ilghazi's army. Modern Georgian historians estimate 100,000 to 250,000 men, against roughly 55,000 on David's side, a force that included Kipchak allies and a small number of Frankish knights. Accounts credit David's victory to surprise and the terrain. The Georgian Chronicles call it the 'miraculous victory'. The next year, 1122, David took Tbilisi and made it his capital. The battle is traditionally seen as opening Georgia's medieval golden age. Sculptor Merab Berdzenishvili and architect Tamaz Gabunia designed the memorial, which went up in the early 1990s and won them the State Prize of Georgia in 1995. Dozens of giant swords are driven into the ground like crosses. Colossal sculptures of warriors lie scattered across the meadows, and at the center stands a concrete column shaped like a *deda bodzi*, the central pillar of a traditional Georgian house. Since 1997, a commemoration called Didgoroba has been held at the monument every August 12. The footage shows the swords against a blue sky and spread across the grassy ridges, with wildflowers in the foreground.

QUICK FACTS

DD-572-F01

The Battle of Didgori was fought on August 12, 1121.

DD-572-F02

The Didgori memorial was designed by Merab Berdzenishvili and Tamaz Gabunia.

THE WRITE-UP

August 12, 1121. King David IV defeated a much larger Seljuk-backed coalition at Didgori, west of Tbilisi.

Miraculous victory. The Georgian Chronicles call it the 'miraculous victory', and Tbilisi fell to David in 1122.

Golden age. The battle is traditionally seen as opening Georgia's medieval golden age.

Swords as crosses. The memorial's giant swords stand in the meadows like crosses, among sculptures of warriors.

State Prize. Berdzenishvili and Gabunia won Georgia's State Prize for the memorial in 1995.

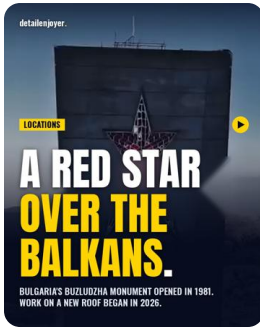
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Victory over the Seljuk Turks': more precisely, a Muslim coalition led by the Artuqid commander Ilghazi on behalf of the Seljuk sultan. Modern Georgian historians estimate it at 100,000–250,000 men, against roughly 55,000 Georgians and allies.
- **Note:** 'Securing Georgia's independence': the victory let David take Tbilisi in 1122 and make it his capital. It's traditionally seen as opening the golden age, rather than a single act of independence.
- **Note:** 'Near Tbilisi': about 40 km west of the capital, on Mount Didgori in the Trialeti Range.
- **Note:** 'Along with stone commemorative plaques': the main elements are giant swords standing like crosses, colossal sculptures of warriors in the meadows and a central concrete column shaped like a deda bodzi, a traditional house pillar.
- **Missing:** the memorial was designed by sculptor Merab Berdzenishvili and architect Tamaz Gabunia, who won the State Prize of Georgia for it in 1995. The Didgoroba commemoration has been held there every August 12 since 1997.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Battle of Didgori: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Didgori
2. Wikipedia: Mount Didgori: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Didgori
3. art.gov.ge (Georgian Ministry of Culture): Merab Berdzenishvili: <https://art.gov.ge/en/portfolio/berdzenishvili-merab/>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/unlimited-bladeworks/> · Last updated May 16, 2025



DD-573 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 43 OF 83

BUZLUDZHA

The Monument House of the Bulgarian Communist Party stands on Buzludzha Peak in the Balkan Mountains (Stara Planina) of central Bulgaria, near the Shipka Pass. Bulgaria's communist government built it to commemorate an 1891 meeting nearby. There, socialists led by Dimitar Blagoev founded the party that became the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, a forerunner of the Bulgarian Communist Party. Architect Georgi Stoilov designed it. Construction began on January 23, 1974, after the summit was leveled with explosives, lowering it from 1,441 m to 1,432 m. Party leader Todor Zhivkov opened it on August 23, 1981. The building is a circular, saucer-shaped hall of concrete, steel and glass beside a 70 m tower set with red-glass stars. Inside, about 937 m² of mosaics depicted the party's history and figures such as Marx and Lenin. Maintenance stopped after communism ended in 1989, and the building was stripped and left open to the weather, so part of the mosaic art has been lost. Wikipedia notes that earlier rescue proposals were mostly political and tied to the Bulgarian Socialist Party. In 2018, Europa Nostra listed it among Europe's seven most endangered heritage sites. The Buzludzha Project Foundation, founded in 2015 by architect Dora Ivanova, received a Getty Foundation grant in 2019 for a conservation management plan. A second grant in 2020 paid for emergency stabilization of the mosaics. The foundation describes the building today as a symbol of conflict between people with different views of the past. The footage shows the frost-covered peak, the saucer roof and the tower's red star at sunrise.

QUICK FACTS

DD-573-F01

The Buzludzha monument opened on August 23, 1981.

DD-573-F02

Work on a new roof and windows for Buzludzha officially began in August 2026.

THE WRITE-UP

The 1891 meeting. It commemorates the 1891 founding of the party that preceded the Bulgarian Communist Party.

Opened 1981. Georgi Stoilov's saucer-and-tower building opened on August 23, 1981.

Abandoned. Maintenance stopped after 1989, and part of the interior mosaics has been lost.

Endangered. Europa Nostra listed it among Europe's seven most endangered heritage sites in 2018.

A new roof. In August 2026, work officially began on a new roof and windows. The building remains closed.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'To commemorate the founding of Bulgaria's Socialist Movement': specifically the 1891 meeting nearby at which Dimitar Blagoev's group founded the forerunner of the Bulgarian Communist Party.
- **Note:** 'Completed in 1981': construction began on January 23, 1974, and the building opened on August 23, 1981. The peak was lowered by about 9 m to make room for it.
- **Note:** 'Once illuminated and visible for miles': the tower carries red-glass stars. The visibility claim is popular lore and is kept as the Reel's description.
- **Note:** 'Served as a conference and ceremonial center': until 1989. Maintenance then stopped, the building was stripped and left open to the weather, and part of its 937 m² of mosaics has been lost.
- **Note:** Missing (status as of October 18, 2026): the regional administration and the Buzludzha Project Foundation officially started work on a new roof and windows in August 2026, a project of over €3.5 million over about three years. Entry is still strictly forbidden.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Buzludzha monument: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buzludzha_Monument
2. Buzludzha Project Foundation (in Bulgarian): <https://buzludzha-project.com/>
3. BTA (in Bulgarian): Buzludzha consolidation project to be completed within 36 months (October 10, 2025): <https://www.bta.bg/bg/news/bulgaria/985378-do-36-mesetsa-tryabva-da-priklyuchat-deynostite-po-proekta-za-konsolidatsiya-na->
4. Dnes.bg (in Bulgarian): Reconstruction of the Buzludzha monument begins, over €3.5 million (June 21, 2026): <https://www.dnes.bg/a/1-bulgaria/725747-zapochva-rekonstruktsiya-na-pametnika-buzludzha-za-nad-35-mln-evro>
5. BG NES (in Bulgarian): Buzludzha welcomes thousands, roof repair starts (August 15, 2026): <https://www.bgnes.bg/buzludja-p-osreshta-hilqdi-s-3d-maping-i-digitalen-dvoynik-startira-remontat-na-pokriva>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/buzludzha/> · Last updated May 17, 2025



STARBASE

Starbase is SpaceX's Starship build, test and launch site on the Boca Chica peninsula in Cameron County, Texas, about 20 miles east of Brownsville and close to the Mexican border. The area began as Kennedy Shores, a small subdivision founded in 1967 and later renamed Kopernik Shores; by the 2000s it was better known as Boca Chica Village and had only a handful of permanent residents. SpaceX started buying land there in 2012 and announced in August 2014 that Boca Chica would be its South Texas launch site, with limited construction that year and much larger work from about 2018. Prototype flight testing began in 2019. Elon Musk announced plans for a city called Starbase in March 2021, and SpaceX petitioned Cameron County for an incorporation vote in 2024. On May 3, 2025, voters approved incorporation 212 to 6, according to Cameron County's election results, and Bobby Peden, SpaceX's vice president of Texas test and launch, was elected mayor unopposed. The county commissioners court certified the result on May 20, 2025, making Starbase a Type C general-law city with a mayor and two commissioners. Supporters, including local economic development officials, point to jobs and tourism; some residents and conservation groups have raised concerns about land use, launch effects and the nearby wildlife refuge. The footage shows Starship hardware and the tall assembly buildings at the site.

QUICK FACTS

DD-582-F01

Starbase voters approved incorporation 212 to 6 on May 3, 2025.

DD-582-F02

Cameron County certified Starbase as a city on May 20, 2025.

THE WRITE-UP

From Kennedy Shores. The settlement began in 1967 as Kennedy Shores, later Kopernik Shores, then Boca Chica Village.

A launch site from 2014. SpaceX picked Boca Chica for its South Texas launch site in August 2014. Flight testing began in 2019.

The vote. Voters approved incorporation 212 to 6 on May 3, 2025.

A city on May 20. Cameron County certified the result on May 20, 2025, creating a Type C general-law city.

SpaceX leadership. Mayor Bobby Peden, elected unopposed, is SpaceX's vice president of Texas test and launch.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Originally established in 2014 as a private launch site': I'd put it slightly differently. SpaceX began buying land at Boca Chica in 2012, chose it as its South Texas launch site in August 2014 and started limited construction that year. The site wasn't called Starbase until 2021.
- **Note:** 'In May 2025, Starbase was officially incorporated as a city, following a local vote': correct. The vote was on May 3, 2025, and the county certified it on May 20, 2025.
- **Note:** 'Leadership positions filled by SpaceX employees': accurate as far as I can tell. Mayor Bobby Peden is a SpaceX vice president, and he ran unopposed; Wikipedia reports that the two commissioners also have SpaceX ties.
- **Missing:** the place was a small subdivision long before SpaceX. It was founded in 1967 as Kennedy Shores.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Starbase, Texas: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starbase,_Texas
2. KUT / The Texas Newsroom: City of Starbase becomes official (May 20, 2025): <https://www.kut.org/politics/2025-05-20/elon-musk-texas-spacex-starbase-city-official-election-certification>
3. Cameron County Elections: City of Starbase summary results, May 3, 2025: <https://www.cameroncountytexas.gov/elections/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/City-of-Starbase-Summary.pdf>
4. City of Starbase: City Commission and Staff: <https://www.starbase.texas.gov/city-commission-and-staff>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/starbase/> · Last updated May 27, 2025



DD-590 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 45 OF 83

THE MOTHERLAND CALLS

The Motherland Calls is a reinforced-concrete war memorial on Mamayev Kurgan, a hill in Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad), Russia. It is the centerpiece of a memorial complex to the Battle of Stalingrad, fought between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany from July 1942 to February 1943 and won by the Soviets at enormous cost. Sculptor Yevgeny Vuchetich designed it with architect Yakov Belopolsky, and structural engineer Nikolai Nikitin led construction, which began in 1963. The statue shows a female personification of the homeland striding forward with a sword raised in her right hand and her left arm outstretched, a design inspired by the ancient Greek Winged Victory of Samothrace. The figure itself is 52 meters tall; with its pedestal and sword it reaches 85 meters (279 feet). Wikipedia, citing historian Scott Palmer, reports that Nikita Khrushchev wanted it taller than the Statue of Liberty. The sword caused trouble: the original stainless-steel blade swayed in the wind and was replaced in 1972 with a slotted steel version. The complex was dedicated on October 15, 1967, timed for the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution. It was the world's tallest statue until 1989, and Wikipedia describes it as still the tallest statue in Europe when the pedestal is counted. A major restoration was finished in 2020, and the complex has been on UNESCO's tentative list since 2014. The footage shows the statue on its hilltop above the city and the Volga.

QUICK FACTS

DD-590-F01

The Motherland Calls reaches 85 meters (279 feet) from the pedestal base to the sword tip.

DD-590-F02

The memorial was dedicated on October 15, 1967.

THE WRITE-UP

On Mamayev Kurgan. The statue tops Mamayev Kurgan in Volgograd, a hill fought over during the Battle of Stalingrad.

Vuchetich and Nikitin. Yevgeny Vuchetich designed it, and engineer Nikolai Nikitin led construction from 1963.

85 meters. The figure is 52 meters tall, or 85 meters (279 feet) including pedestal and sword.

Dedicated in 1967. The memorial complex was dedicated on October 15, 1967.

A troublesome sword. The first sword swayed in the wind and was replaced in 1972 with a slotted steel blade.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Designed by sculptor Yevgeny Vuchetich and engineer Nikolai Nikitin': right, and I'd add architect Yakov Belopolsky. Vuchetich led the design, and Nikitin led the structural engineering and construction.
- **Note:** 'Completed in 1967': yes. It was dedicated on October 15, 1967.
- **Note:** 'Tallest statue in the world at the time': it held that title from 1967 until 1989. The 'tallest in Europe' claim depends on counting the pedestal, as Wikipedia notes.
- **Missing:** the figure itself is 52 meters tall. The 85 meters includes the pedestal and the sword.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: The Motherland Calls: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Motherland_Calls
2. Palmer, How Memory Was Made: The Construction of the Memorial to the Heroes of the Battle of Stalingrad, The Russian Review (2009): <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9434.2009.00530.x>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-motherland-calls/> · Last updated Jun 6, 2025



DD-628 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 46 OF 83

ARDABIL

Ardabil is the capital of Ardabil province in northwestern Iran, near the border with Azerbaijan, with about 588,000 people in the 2022 census. It lies on an open plain just east of Mount Sabalan, a 4,811-meter dormant stratovolcano. Wikipedia lists the city's elevation as about 1,350 meters, with an average altitude of 1,263 meters. Local historical research puts its origins 4,000 to 6,000 years back, and Muslim historians credit its founding as a city to the Sasanian king Peroz I in the fifth century. Ardabil's fame comes from Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili, a Sufi master who died in 1334. His followers, the Safaviyya order, stayed loyal to his family. In 1501 a descendant, Ismail I, seized power, united Iran and made Shi'a Islam the state religion; the Safavid dynasty took its name from Sheikh Safi. Ismail I is buried at the shrine too. The Safavids promoted the shrine as a pilgrimage site, and in the late 1530s Shah Tahmasp enlarged it and commissioned the famous pair of Ardabil carpets, one now at London's V&A and the other at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. UNESCO inscribed the Sheikh Safi al-Din Khānegāh and Shrine Ensemble as a World Heritage Site in 2010. Its route to the shrine has seven segments, mirroring the seven stages of Sufi mysticism. The footage shows the shrine's tiled tower, facades and dome interiors.

QUICK FACTS

DD-628-F01

The Safavid dynasty is named after Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili.

DD-628-F02

The Sheikh Safi al-Din shrine ensemble became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2010.

THE WRITE-UP

Below Mount Sabalan. Ardabil lies on a plain just east of Mount Sabalan, a 4,811-meter dormant volcano.

Sheikh Safi. Sufi master Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili, who died in 1334, founded the Safaviyya order.

Ismail I, 1501. His descendant Ismail I took power in 1501 and founded the Safavid dynasty, named after Safi.

Seven stages. The route to the shrine has seven segments, mirroring the seven stages of Sufi mysticism.

UNESCO, 2010. UNESCO inscribed the shrine ensemble as a World Heritage Site in 2010.

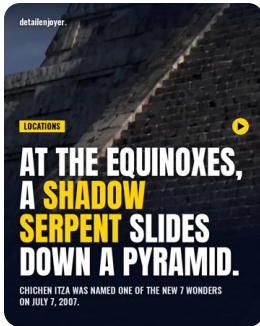
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'The Safavid dynasty, founded by Sheikh Safi al-Din in the 13th century': I'd separate the order from the dynasty. Sheikh Safi (who died in 1334) founded the Safaviyya Sufi order. His descendant Ismail I founded the Safavid state in 1501, named after him. UNESCO calls Safi the dynasty's founder in the eponymous sense.
- **Note:** 'At approximately 1,400 m elevation': Wikipedia gives about 1,350 meters for the city, with an average altitude of 1,263 meters. I treat 1,400 as a round-up.
- **Note:** 'Roots that stretch back 4,000 to 6,000 years': this matches local historical research cited by Wikipedia. Muslim historians date its founding as a city to the Sasanian king Peroz I in the fifth century.
- **Note:** 'Richly endowed shrine complex now recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site': correct, since 2010.

SOURCES

1. UNESCO World Heritage Centre: Sheikh Safi al-din Khānegāh and Shrine Ensemble in Ardabil: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1345/>
2. Wikipedia: Ardabil: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ardabil>
3. Wikipedia: Safavid Iran: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safavid_Iran

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/ardabil/> · Last updated Jul 22, 2025



CHICHEN ITZA

Chichen Itza is a large pre-Columbian Maya city on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1988. Its central pyramid, the Temple of Kukulcán, also called El Castillo, has a stairway on each side. Around the spring and autumn equinoxes, the late-afternoon sun casts triangles of light and shadow from the pyramid's stepped corner onto the northern stairway's balustrade, which ends in carved serpent heads; the effect looks like a serpent descending. Chichen Itza was among the New 7 Wonders of the World announced on July 7, 2007, in a popular vote run by the New7Wonders Foundation. The footage shows the pyramid, the serpent heads and the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-120-F01

Chichen Itza became a World Heritage Site in 1988.

DD-120-F02

The equinox shadow looks like a serpent descending.

THE WRITE-UP

Maya city. Chichen Itza is a pre-Columbian Maya city on the Yucatán Peninsula.

World Heritage. UNESCO listed it as a World Heritage Site in 1988.

El Castillo. Its central pyramid, the Temple of Kukulcán, is also called El Castillo.

Equinox shadow. Around the equinoxes, light and shadow on the northern stairway look like a descending serpent.

New 7 Wonders. It was named one of the New 7 Wonders on July 7, 2007.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'No. 5': the New 7 Wonders aren't ranked; I read the number as his own series order.

SOURCES

1. UNESCO World Heritage Centre: Pre-Hispanic City of Chichen-Itza: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/483/>
2. Wikipedia: El Castillo, Chichen Itza: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Castillo,_Chichen_Itza
3. Wikipedia: New 7 Wonders of the World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_7_Wonders_of_the_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/chichen-itza/> · Last updated Dec 14, 2023



DD-121 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 48 OF 83

THE COLOSSEUM

The Colosseum (Flavian Amphitheatre) in Rome was completed in AD 80 under Emperor Titus and could hold tens of thousands of spectators for gladiator fights and animal hunts. It had a velarium, a retractable awning of canvas or sailcloth that could shade much of the seating. It was hung from ropes and masts set in brackets around the top of the outer wall; sailors specially enlisted from the Roman naval headquarters at Misenum and housed nearby worked it. Historians debate how it was rigged. The Colosseum is part of the Historic Centre of Rome World Heritage Site and was named one of the New 7 Wonders in 2007. The footage shows a reconstruction of the arena and its seating, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-121-F01

The Colosseum was completed in AD 80.

DD-121-F02

Sailors from Misenum worked the velarium.

THE WRITE-UP

Completed in AD 80. The Colosseum was completed in AD 80 under Emperor Titus.

The velarium. A retractable awning, the velarium, shaded much of the seating.

Ropes and masts. It hung from ropes and masts around the top of the outer wall.

Navy sailors. Sailors from the naval base at Misenum worked the awning.

World Heritage. It's part of the Historic Centre of Rome World Heritage Site.

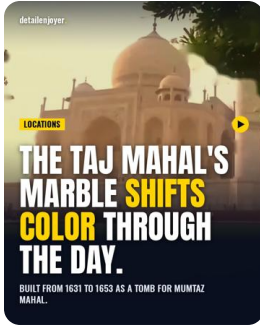
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'No. 6': the New 7 Wonders aren't ranked; I read the number as his own series order.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Colosseum: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colosseum>
2. Wikipedia: Velarium: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Velarium>
3. UNESCO World Heritage Centre: Historic Centre of Rome: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/91/>
4. Wikipedia: New 7 Wonders of the World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_7_Wonders_of_the_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-colosseum/> · Last updated Dec 14, 2023



DD-123 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 49 OF 83

TAJ MAHAL

The Taj Mahal in Agra, India, is a white marble mausoleum that Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built for his wife Mumtaz Mahal; construction ran from about 1631 to 1653. Its polished white marble reflects the color of the light falling on it, so visitors often describe it as pinkish at dawn, bright white or golden by day and soft or silvery by moonlight. It's been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983 and was named one of the New 7 Wonders in 2007. The footage shows the Taj Mahal and its gardens at different times of day, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-123-F01

The Taj Mahal was built as a tomb for Mumtaz Mahal.

DD-123-F02

UNESCO listed it in 1983.

THE WRITE-UP

A mausoleum. Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal as a tomb for Mumtaz Mahal.

1631 to 1653. Construction ran from about 1631 to 1653.

Reflective marble. Its white marble takes on the color of the light.

World Heritage. UNESCO listed it in 1983.

New 7 Wonders. It was named one of the New 7 Wonders in 2007.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'No. 7': the New 7 Wonders aren't ranked; I read the number as his own series order. The color descriptions are commonly reported impressions of the light, which I kept as such.

SOURCES

1. UNESCO World Heritage Centre: Taj Mahal: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/252/>
2. Wikipedia: Taj Mahal: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taj_Mahal
3. Wikipedia: New 7 Wonders of the World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_7_Wonders_of_the_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/taj-mahal/> · Last updated Dec 15, 2023



DD-092 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 50 OF 83

THE GREAT PYRAMID

Built for Khufu around 2600 BC over roughly 26 years, the Great Pyramid was the tallest human-made structure for more than 3,700 years. Papyri found at Wadi al-Jarf record the logistics of moving Tura limestone, and much of the casing was later stripped for building material in Cairo after earthquakes.

QUICK FACTS

DD-092-F01

The Great Pyramid is the oldest ancient wonder.

DD-092-F02

It is the only one still largely intact.

THE WRITE-UP

Tallest for millennia. Built around 2600 BC over about 26 years, it originally stood 146.6 metres (481 ft) and was the world's tallest human-made structure for more than 3,700 years.

Six million tonnes. Builders quarried an estimated 2.3 million large blocks weighing about 6 million tonnes in total, while granite blocks of up to 80 tonnes for the King's Chamber came by boat from Aswan.

The oldest papyri. In 2013 excavators at Wadi al-Jarf found the Diary of Merer, papyrus logs by an official who supervised limestone deliveries from Tura to Giza in the 27th year of Khufu's reign.

Where the casing went. After earthquakes in northern Egypt, workers stripped many outer casing stones, reportedly carted away in 1356 for building in nearby Cairo.

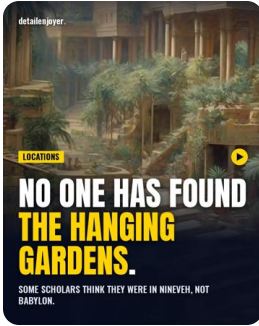
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'The ancient nickname Glorious Light': I couldn't verify that. The attested ancient name is Akhet Khufu, 'Horizon of Khufu'.
- **Note:** 'No. 1' is the order of his own series, not an official ranking.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Great Pyramid of Giza: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Pyramid_of_Giza
2. UNESCO World Heritage: Memphis and its Necropolis: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/>
3. Wikipedia: Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-great-pyramid/> · Last updated Nov 25, 2023



DD-094 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 51 OF 83

HANGING GARDENS

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon are the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World whose location has never been established. Classical Greek and Roman writers describe terraced gardens and credit them to Nebuchadnezzar II, who reigned c. 605-562 BC and was said to have built them for his wife, Amytis. No Babylonian text mentions them, and excavations at Babylon haven't found definitive evidence. One theory, argued by Stephanie Dalley, places them at Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, built under Sennacherib. Others think they may be legendary. The footage shows renderings of terraced gardens and Babylonian scenes, with the presenter. This is No. 2 in his Seven Wonders of the Ancient World series.

QUICK FACTS

DD-094-F01

The gardens' location has never been confirmed.

DD-094-F02

One theory places them at Nineveh.

THE WRITE-UP

Location unknown. Their location has never been definitively established.

Classical accounts. Greek and Roman writers describe terraced gardens.

Nebuchadnezzar II. Tradition credits Nebuchadnezzar II, building for his wife.

No Babylonian record. No Babylonian text mentions the gardens.

Nineveh theory. One theory puts them at Nineveh under Sennacherib.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'No. 2' is the order of his own series, not an official ranking.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Hanging Gardens of Babylon: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanging_Gardens_of_Babylon

2. Wikipedia: Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/hanging-gardens/> · Last updated Nov 26, 2023



DD-096 HISTORY / LOCATIONS · 52 OF 83

ZEUS @ OLYMPIA

The Statue of Zeus at Olympia was a giant seated figure, about 12.4 m tall, made by the Greek sculptor Phidias around 435 BC for the Temple of Zeus at Olympia. It was chryselephantine: ivory plates for the flesh and gold for the robes, over a wooden framework, and it sat on an ornate throne. It was lost in the 5th century AD. One tradition says it was taken to Constantinople and destroyed in the fire of the Palace of Lausus in 475 AD. Another says it perished with the temple, which was badly damaged by fire in 425 AD. The footage shows renderings of the statue, the temple and a fire. This is No. 3 in his Seven Wonders of the Ancient World series.

QUICK FACTS

DD-096-F01

Phidias made the statue around 435 BC.

DD-096-F02

It was made of ivory and gold.

THE WRITE-UP

Phidias. Phidias made the statue around 435 BC.

Seated giant. Zeus sat on an ornate throne, about 12.4 m tall.

Ivory and gold. It was chryselephantine: ivory flesh and gold robes.

Lost. It was lost in the 5th century AD.

Two traditions. One says a fire in Constantinople in 475; another says the temple fire of 425.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Likely destroyed in a fire in the 5th century AD': fair. Sources give two accounts, Constantinople in 475 AD or the temple fire of 425 AD.
- **Note:** 'No. 3' is the order of his own series, not an official ranking.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Statue of Zeus at Olympia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statue_of_Zeus_at_Olympia
2. Wikipedia: Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/zeus-at-olympia/> · Last updated Nov 27, 2023



DD-098 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 53 OF 83

TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, near modern Selçuk in Turkey, was rebuilt several times. The great marble temple funded in part by Croesus of Lydia, begun around 550 BC, was burned by the arsonist Herostratus in 356 BC. A larger replacement followed, and that later temple is the one counted among the Seven Wonders. Pliny the Elder gave it 127 columns, each 60 feet high. It was plundered by the Goths in 262 AD and finally destroyed in 401 AD. One reconstructed column stands at the site today. The footage shows renderings of columns, statues and a fire. This is No. 4 in his Seven Wonders of the Ancient World series.

QUICK FACTS

DD-098-F01

Herostratus burned the temple in 356 BC.

DD-098-F02

The rebuilt temple lasted until 401 AD.

THE WRITE-UP

Rebuilt several times. The temple at Ephesus was rebuilt several times.

Croesus temple. The marble temple begun around 550 BC was funded partly by Croesus.

Herostratus. Herostratus burned it in 356 BC.

127 columns. Pliny gave the rebuilt temple 127 columns, each 60 feet high.

Final end. The Goths plundered it in 262 AD; it was destroyed in 401 AD.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'The final version, completed around 550 BC... destroyed by arson in 356 BC': the temple burned in 356 BC was the Croesus-era one begun around 550 BC. It was then rebuilt, and that last temple stood until it was destroyed in 401 AD.
- **Note:** 'Statues by Phidias': ancient accounts tie Phidias to an Amazon statue at the temple. I kept it attributed.
- **Note:** 'No. 4' is the order of his own series, not an official ranking.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Temple of Artemis: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_Artemis

2. Wikipedia: Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/temple-of-artemis/> · Last updated Nov 28, 2023



DD-100 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 54 OF 83

MAUSOLEUM AT HALICARNASSUS

The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus (modern Bodrum, Turkey) was a tomb about 45 m high, completed around 351 BC. It was built for Mausolus, a satrap of Caria under the Persian Achaemenid Empire, and his sister-wife Artemisia II, who oversaw the work after his death. Its architects were Satyros and Pythius of Priene, and its sculpture is credited to leading Greek sculptors. It was so famous that 'mausoleum' became the general word for a grand tomb. A series of earthquakes between the 12th century and 1402 wrecked it, and the Knights of St John reused its stones; demolition was complete by 1494. The footage shows renderings of the tomb and its ruins, with the presenter. This is No. 5 in his Seven Wonders of the Ancient World series.

QUICK FACTS

DD-100-F01

Mausolus was a satrap of Caria.

DD-100-F02

Earthquakes destroyed the tomb in the Middle Ages.

THE WRITE-UP

Satrap of Caria. Mausolus ruled Caria as a Persian satrap.

Artemisia II. His sister-wife Artemisia II oversaw the tomb after his death.

About 45 m. The tomb stood about 45 m high.

A new word. 'Mausoleum' came to mean any grand tomb.

Earthquakes. Earthquakes between the 12th century and 1402 wrecked it.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'His wife Artemisia': she was also his sister, Artemisia II of Caria.
- **Note:** 'No. 5' is the order of his own series, not an official ranking.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Mausoleum at Halicarnassus: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mausoleum_at_Halicarnassus
2. Wikipedia: Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/mausoleum-at-halicarnassus/> · Last updated Nov 29, 2023



DD-102 HISTORY / LOCATIONS · 55 OF 83

COLOSSUS OF RHODES

The Colossus of Rhodes was a bronze statue of the sun god Helios, about 33 m (108 ft) tall, built by Chares of Lindos to celebrate Rhodes surviving a siege in 305-304 BC. Completed around 280 BC, it was made of bronze plates over an iron framework. An earthquake in 226 BC snapped it at the knees, and it lay where it fell for centuries; Pliny the Elder reported that even fallen it was a marvel. In 653 AD an Arab force under Muawiya took Rhodes and, by later accounts, sold the remains for scrap. The famous image of the statue straddling the harbor entrance is a medieval idea; modern scholars think it stood on land, as ships could not have passed under it and the harbor would have been blocked during construction. The footage shows renderings of the statue and harbor. This is No. 6 in his Seven Wonders of the Ancient World series.

QUICK FACTS

DD-102-F01

It was a bronze statue of the sun god Helios.

DD-102-F02

It stood about 33 m (108 ft) tall.

THE WRITE-UP

Helios. It was a bronze statue of the sun god Helios.

About 33 m. It stood about 33 m (108 ft) tall.

Iron and bronze. It was built of bronze plates over iron.

Toppled in 226 BC. An earthquake toppled it in 226 BC.

Sold in 653. Its remains were reportedly sold for scrap after 653 AD.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Ships would pass between its legs': that pose is a later legend. Modern scholars think it stood on land, not across the harbor.
- **Note:** '56 years after its completion': it was finished around 280 BC, so about 54 years; the exact date is uncertain.
- **Note:** 'Nearly 900 years': 226 BC to 653 AD is about 880 years, fair.
- **Note:** 'No. 6' is the order of his own series, not an official ranking.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Colossus of Rhodes: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colossus_of_Rhodes
2. Wikipedia: Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World





DD-104 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 56 OF 83

LIGHTHOUSE OF ALEXANDRIA

The Lighthouse of Alexandria, often called the Pharos, was built on the island of Pharos at Alexandria during the reign of Ptolemy II, completed around 280 BC. Estimates put its height above 100 m (330 ft), making it one of the tallest human-made structures for centuries. A fire at the top, reflected by a mirror according to later accounts, guided ships into the harbor. Three earthquakes between 956 and 1303 AD badly damaged it and it became a ruin; in 1480 the Citadel of Qaitbay was built on its site using some of its stone. Its name lives on in the word for lighthouse in several languages, such as French phare. The footage shows renderings of the lighthouse and harbor. This is No. 7 in his Seven Wonders of the Ancient World series.

QUICK FACTS

DD-104-F01

It was built on the island of Pharos under Ptolemy II.

DD-104-F02

Estimates put it above 100 m.

THE WRITE-UP

Built on Pharos. It was built on the island of Pharos under Ptolemy II.

Over 100 m. Estimates put it above 100 m.

A beacon fire. A fire at the top guided ships.

Earthquakes. Earthquakes between 956 and 1303 AD ruined it.

Qaitbay. The Citadel of Qaitbay was built on its site in 1480.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Symbolic representation of the eternal flame of knowledge': I couldn't find a source for that symbolism; the fire was a practical beacon.
- **Note:** 'No. 7' is the order of his own series, not an official ranking.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Lighthouse of Alexandria: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lighthouse_of_Alexandria
2. Wikipedia: Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/lighthouse-of-alexandria/> · Last updated Dec 2, 2023



DD-111 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 57 OF 83

THE GREAT WALL

The Great Wall of China is a series of fortifications built across northern China over roughly two millennia, from the 7th century BC through the Ming dynasty, to guard against raids from the steppe. After unifying China in 221 BC, Qin Shi Huang connected and extended earlier walls. Much of what stands today dates from the Ming (1368-1644). Builders included soldiers, conscripted peasants and convicts. A 2012 survey by China's State Administration of Cultural Heritage measured all its branches at about 21,196 km. UNESCO listed it as a World Heritage Site in 1987, and it was named one of the New 7 Wonders of the World in 2007. The footage shows renderings of the wall, workers and Qin Shi Huang, with the presenter. This is No. 1 in his Seven Wonders of the New World series.

QUICK FACTS

DD-111-F01

It's a series of walls built over about 2,000 years.

DD-111-F02

Qin Shi Huang connected earlier walls after 221 BC.

THE WRITE-UP

Many walls. It's a series of walls built over about 2,000 years.

Qin Shi Huang. Qin Shi Huang connected earlier walls after 221 BC.

Ming walls. Much of what stands today is Ming.

Builders. Soldiers, peasants and convicts built it.

21,196 km. A 2012 survey measured all branches at about 21,196 km.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'No. 1' is the order of his own series; the New 7 Wonders aren't ranked.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Great Wall of China: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Wall_of_China
2. UNESCO World Heritage: The Great Wall: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/438/>
3. Wikipedia: New7Wonders of the World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New7Wonders_of_the_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-great-wall/> · Last updated Dec 8, 2023



DD-114 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 58 OF 83

PETRA

Petra, in southern Jordan, was the capital of the Nabataean kingdom, known for its rock-cut facades and water-conduit system. It remained known to local Bedouin, but was largely unknown to Europeans after the Crusades. In 1812 the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, traveling as 'Sheikh Ibrahim ibn Abdallah', persuaded a guide to take him there on the pretext of sacrificing a goat at the tomb of Aaron nearby. UNESCO listed Petra as a World Heritage Site in 1985, and it was named one of the New 7 Wonders of the World in 2007. It's Jordan's most visited tourist attraction. The footage shows renderings of Petra's facades and Burckhardt, with the presenter. This is No. 2 in his Seven Wonders of the New World series.

QUICK FACTS

DD-114-F01

Petra was the Nabataean capital.

DD-114-F02

It's known for rock-cut architecture and water conduits.

THE WRITE-UP

Nabataean capital. Petra was the Nabataean capital.

Rock-cut. It's known for rock-cut architecture and water conduits.

Burckhardt, 1812. Burckhardt reached Petra in 1812 in disguise.

World Heritage. UNESCO listed it in 1985.

New 7 Wonders. It was named a New 7 Wonder in 2007.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Lost' to the western world: local Bedouin always knew it, so 'rediscovered' only applies to Europeans.
- **Note:** 'Burkhardt' in one caption; the usual spelling is Burckhardt.
- **Note:** 'No. 2' is the order of his own series; the New 7 Wonders aren't ranked.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Petra: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petra>
2. UNESCO World Heritage: Petra: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/>
3. Wikipedia: Johann Ludwig Burckhardt: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Ludwig_Burckhardt

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/petra/> · Last updated Dec 10, 2023



DD-116 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 59 OF 83

CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Christ the Redeemer is an Art Deco statue of Jesus Christ on Corcovado mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was designed by French sculptor Paul Landowski and Brazilian engineer Heitor da Silva Costa, with French engineer Albert Caquot; Romanian sculptor Gheorghe Leonida sculpted the face. Built of reinforced concrete with a soapstone skin, it was constructed between 1922 and 1931 and dedicated on October 12, 1931. It stands 30 m (98 ft) tall, excluding its 8 m (26 ft) pedestal, with arms 28 m (92 ft) wide. It was named one of the New 7 Wonders of the World on July 7, 2007. The footage shows the statue, Rio and portraits, with the presenter. This is No. 3 in his Seven Wonders of the New World series.

QUICK FACTS

DD-116-F01

It stands on Corcovado mountain in Rio de Janeiro.

DD-116-F02

Paul Landowski and Heitor da Silva Costa designed it.

THE WRITE-UP

Corcovado. It stands on Corcovado mountain in Rio de Janeiro.

Designers. Paul Landowski and Heitor da Silva Costa designed it.

1922-1931. It was built between 1922 and 1931.

30 m plus pedestal. It's 30 m tall on an 8 m pedestal.

New 7 Wonders. It was named a New 7 Wonder in 2007.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'The initial design... around 46 m... the winning design was much larger': I couldn't verify this, and the Reel's own numbers contradict it (46 m initial, 30 m final).
- **Note:** 'Construction took place between 1926 and 1931': Wikipedia gives 1922 to 1931.
- **Note:** Paul Landowski was French, of Polish descent; I kept the Reel's 'Polish-French' in the transcript.
- **Note:** 'No. 3' is the order of his own series; the New 7 Wonders aren't ranked.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Christ the Redeemer (statue): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_the_Redeemer_%28statue%29
2. Wikipedia: New7Wonders of the World: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New7Wonders_of_the_World

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/christ-the-redeemer/> · Last updated Dec 11, 2023



DD-118 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 60 OF 83

MACHU PICCHU

Machu Picchu is a 15th-century Inca citadel on a mountain ridge above the Urubamba valley in Peru. Most archaeologists think it was built as an estate for the Inca emperor Pachacuti, around 1450. It was abandoned about a century later, around the time of the Spanish conquest, and there's no record of the Spanish ever reaching it. Local farmers knew the site; the American historian Hiram Bingham brought it to international attention in 1911. UNESCO listed it as a World Heritage Site in 1983, and it was named one of the New 7 Wonders of the World in 2007. The footage shows Machu Picchu and Inca-style portraits, with the presenter. This is No. 4 in his Seven Wonders of the New World series.

QUICK FACTS

DD-118-F01

Machu Picchu is a 15th-century Inca citadel in Peru.

DD-118-F02

Most think it was an estate for Pachacuti.

THE WRITE-UP

Inca citadel. Machu Picchu is a 15th-century Inca citadel in Peru.

Pachacuti. Most think it was an estate for Pachacuti.

Abandoned. It was abandoned around the Spanish conquest.

Bingham, 1911. Hiram Bingham publicized it in 1911.

World Heritage. UNESCO listed it in 1983.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'No definitive evidence': most archaeologists accept the royal-estate idea, though details are debated.
- **Note:** 'Rediscovery': local farmers knew it before Bingham.
- **Note:** 'No. 4' is the order of his own series; the New 7 Wonders aren't ranked.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Machu Picchu: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machu_Picchu

2. UNESCO World Heritage: Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/274/>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/machu-picchu/> · Last updated Dec 12, 2023



DD-153 LOCATIONS / NATURE · 61 OF 83

IGUAZU

Iguazu Falls are waterfalls on the Iguazu River, on the border between Argentina's Misiones Province and Brazil's Paraná state. The system is made up of about 275 individual falls along roughly 2.7 km (1.7 miles) of the river's edge. The largest, the Devil's Throat, is a U-shaped chasm. The falls sit within two national parks, Iguazú in Argentina and Iguaçu in Brazil, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites, surrounded by subtropical Atlantic Forest. The footage shows the falls from above and from viewpoints, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-153-F01

The falls lie on the Argentina-Brazil border.

DD-153-F02

There are about 275 individual falls.

THE WRITE-UP

Border falls. The falls lie on the Argentina-Brazil border.

275 drops. There are about 275 individual falls.

2.7 km. They stretch about 2.7 km.

Devil's Throat. The largest is the Devil's Throat.

World Heritage. Both national parks are UNESCO sites.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Iguazu Falls: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iguazu_Falls

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/iguazu/> · Last updated Dec 31, 2023



DD-156 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 62 OF 83

EIFFEL

The Eiffel Tower is a wrought-iron lattice tower on the Champ de Mars in Paris, built by Gustave Eiffel's company as the entrance arch to the 1889 World's Fair. During construction, a group of artists and intellectuals published a protest against it. It was the world's tallest structure until the Chrysler Building in New York was completed in 1930. It stood 324 m (1,063 ft) with its antennas; new antennas brought it to about 330 m in 2022. It has become a global symbol of Paris and France. The footage shows the tower and a portrait of Gustave Eiffel, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-156-F01

It was built for the 1889 World's Fair.

DD-156-F02

It's a wrought-iron lattice tower.

THE WRITE-UP

1889. It was built for the 1889 World's Fair.

Wrought iron. It's a wrought-iron lattice tower.

Artists' protest. Artists and intellectuals protested it.

Tallest until 1930. It was the tallest structure until 1930.

Height. It's about 330 m with antennas since 2022.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Standing at 324 meters': that was its long-standing height; new antennas raised it to about 330 m in 2022.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Eiffel Tower: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eiffel_Tower

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/eiffel/> · Last updated Jan 2, 2024



DD-157 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 63 OF 83

EMPIRE STATE

The Empire State Building is a 102-story Art Deco skyscraper in Midtown Manhattan, New York City. Designed by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, with William F. Lamb as chief designer, it was built during the Great Depression and opened on May 1, 1931, about 410 days after construction began. Its roof is 381 m (1,250 ft) high, and its tip reaches 443 m (1,454 ft). It was the world's tallest building until the North Tower of the World Trade Center topped out in 1970. The footage shows the building and city views, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-157-F01

It's a 102-story Art Deco skyscraper.

DD-157-F02

Shreve, Lamb & Harmon designed it.

THE WRITE-UP

Art Deco. It's a 102-story Art Deco skyscraper.

Designers. Shreve, Lamb & Harmon designed it.

1931. It opened on May 1, 1931.

410 days. It took about 410 days to build.

Tallest until 1970. It was tallest until 1970.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Empire State Building: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire_State_Building

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/empire-state/> · Last updated Jan 2, 2024



DD-158 LOCATIONS / TECH · 64 OF 83

BURJ KHALIFA

The Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is the world's tallest building at 828 m (2,717 ft). It was designed by Adrian Smith while at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), and it opened in January 2010. Its Y-shaped plan and spiraling setbacks are partly inspired by Islamic architecture and a regional desert flower, and they help 'confuse the wind' by stopping organized vortices from forming. The exterior is clad in reflective glass and aluminum and textured stainless steel panels. The footage shows the tower from the air and from below, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-158-F01

It's the world's tallest building at 828 m.

DD-158-F02

It stands in Dubai, UAE.

THE WRITE-UP

828 m. It's the world's tallest building at 828 m.

Dubai. It stands in Dubai, UAE.

Adrian Smith. Adrian Smith designed it at SOM.

2010. It opened in January 2010.

Setbacks. Its setbacks reduce wind forces.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Burj Khalifa: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burj_Khalifa

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/burj-khalifa/> · Last updated Jan 3, 2024



DD-195 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 65 OF 83

THE CITY OF 10,000 SHRINES

Kyoto was Japan's imperial capital from 794 until 1868, when the emperor moved to Tokyo. The city has around 1,600 Buddhist temples and hundreds of Shinto shrines, and 17 of its sites are part of a UNESCO World Heritage listing. Fushimi Inari Taisha is known for thousands of vermilion torii gates lining trails up Mount Inari. Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion, is a Zen temple whose upper floors are covered in gold leaf. Kyoto is also known for its wooden machiya townhouses, the Arashiyama bamboo grove, tea culture and geiko (geisha) districts such as Gion. The footage shows Kyoto's shrines, temples and streets, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-195-F01

Kyoto was the imperial capital from 794 to 1868.

DD-195-F02

It has about 1,600 Buddhist temples.

THE WRITE-UP

794 to 1868. Kyoto was the imperial capital from 794 to 1868.

Temples. It has about 1,600 Buddhist temples.

Torii. Fushimi Inari has thousands of torii.

Golden Pavilion. Kinkaku-ji's upper floors are gold-leafed.

Geisha districts. Gion is a famous geiko district.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Kyoto: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto>
2. Wikipedia: Fushimi Inari-taisha: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fushimi_Inari-taisha
3. Wikipedia: Kinkaku-ji: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinkaku-ji>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-city-of-10000-shrines/> · Last updated Jan 22, 2024



DD-196 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 66 OF 83

THERA

Santorini, officially Thira (ancient Thera), is a Greek island group in the southern Aegean Sea. Its crescent shape is the rim of a flooded caldera left mainly by the Minoan eruption, about 3,600 years ago, one of the largest volcanic eruptions in human history; it buried the Bronze Age town of Akrotiri. The towns of Fira and Oia sit on the caldera cliffs, known for whitewashed houses and blue-domed churches. The island's volcanic soil supports vineyards growing native grapes such as Assyrtiko. The footage shows Santorini's cliffs, villages and sunsets, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-196-F01

Santorini is in the southern Aegean.

DD-196-F02

Its crescent is a flooded caldera.

THE WRITE-UP

Aegean. Santorini is in the southern Aegean.

Caldera. Its crescent is a flooded caldera.

Minoan eruption. The eruption was about 3,600 years ago.

Akrotiri. It buried the town of Akrotiri.

Assyrtiko. Native grapes such as Assyrtiko grow there.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Santorini: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santorini>
2. Wikipedia: Minoan eruption: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minoan_eruption
3. Wikipedia: Akrotiri (prehistoric city): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akrotiri_\(prehistoric_city\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akrotiri_(prehistoric_city))

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/thera/> · Last updated Jan 22, 2024



DD-197 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 67 OF 83

CATALAN GOTHIC

Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia, Spain. Its best-known building, the *Basílica de la Sagrada Família*, designed by Antoni Gaudí, has been under construction since 1882. Gaudí worked on it until his death in 1926. The Gothic Quarter (Barri Gòtic) preserves narrow medieval streets around Barcelona Cathedral, a Catalan Gothic church built mainly from the 13th to 15th centuries, with its facade finished in the late 19th century. La Rambla is a tree-lined boulevard running from the city center to the old port. The footage shows Barcelona's streets and churches, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-197-F01

Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia.

DD-197-F02

The Sagrada Família has been under construction since 1882.

THE WRITE-UP

Catalonia. Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia.

Since 1882. The Sagrada Família has been under construction since 1882.

Gaudí. Antoni Gaudí designed it.

Gothic Quarter. The Gothic Quarter keeps medieval streets.

Cathedral. Barcelona Cathedral is Catalan Gothic.

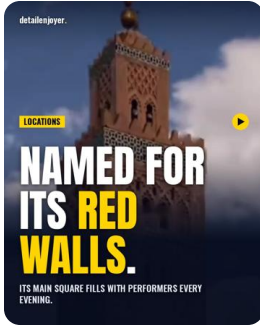
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed. The voiceover says 'Antony'; the architect's name is Antoni Gaudí.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Barcelona: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barcelona>
2. Wikipedia: Sagrada Família: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sagrada_Fam%C3%ADlia
3. Wikipedia: Barcelona Cathedral: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barcelona_Cathedral

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/catalan-gothic/> · Last updated Jan 23, 2024



DD-198 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 68 OF 83

THE RED CITY

Marrakech is a city in western Morocco, founded around 1070 by the Almoravids. It's nicknamed the Red City for the red-ochre color of its walls and buildings. Its medina, the walled old city, has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985 and is known for its souks selling spices, textiles and crafts. Jemaa el-Fnaa, the main square, fills each evening with food stalls, musicians and storytellers, and UNESCO lists its cultural space as intangible heritage. The footage shows the Koutoubia minaret, souks and the square, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-198-F01

Marrakech was founded around 1070.

DD-198-F02

It's named for its red-ochre walls.

THE WRITE-UP

Founded c. 1070. Marrakech was founded around 1070.

Red City. It's named for its red-ochre walls.

UNESCO 1985. The medina was listed in 1985.

Souks. Its souks sell spices and crafts.

Jemaa el-Fnaa. The square fills with performers.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Marrakesh: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marrakesh>
2. Wikipedia: Jemaa el-Fnaa: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jemaa_el-Fnaa

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-red-city/> · Last updated Jan 23, 2024



DD-199 LOCATIONS / NATURE · 69 OF 83

SOFT CORAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD!

Fiji is an island country in Melanesia in the South Pacific, made up of more than 330 islands, about 110 of them permanently inhabited. Its largest island is Viti Levu, home to the capital, Suva, and to the Coral Coast, a stretch of the south shore lined with fringing reefs and resorts. Fiji's reefs are famous for soft corals, earning it the nickname 'soft coral capital of the world', with sites such as the Rainbow Reef. The interior of Viti Levu has rainforest, waterfalls and traditional villages. The footage shows Fiji's beaches, reefs, waterfalls and villages, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-199-F01

Fiji has more than 330 islands.

DD-199-F02

Viti Levu is the largest island.

THE WRITE-UP

330 islands. Fiji has more than 330 islands.

Viti Levu. Viti Levu is the largest island.

Suva. The capital is Suva.

Coral Coast. The Coral Coast lies on Viti Levu.

Soft corals. Fiji is known for soft corals.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Fiji: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiji>
2. Wikipedia: Viti Levu: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viti_Levu

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/soft-coral-capital-of-the-world/> · Last updated Jan 24, 2024



DD-200 LOCATIONS / NATURE · 70 OF 83

VISIT THIS TROPICAL PARADISE

Bora Bora is an island in the Leeward Islands of French Polynesia, an overseas collectivity of France in the South Pacific. A central island of volcanic origin, topped by Mount Otemanu (727 m), the eroded remnant of an extinct volcano, sits inside a lagoon ringed by a barrier reef and motu (small islets). The island is known for luxury resorts with overwater bungalows, and for snorkeling and diving among coral, reef fish, rays and sharks. The footage shows the lagoon, bungalows and reef life, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-200-F01

Bora Bora is in French Polynesia.

DD-200-F02

Mount Otemanu rises 727 m.

THE WRITE-UP

French Polynesia. Bora Bora is in French Polynesia.

Otemanu. Mount Otemanu rises 727 m.

Extinct volcano. It's the remnant of an extinct volcano.

Lagoon. A barrier reef rings the lagoon.

Bungalows. It's known for overwater bungalows.

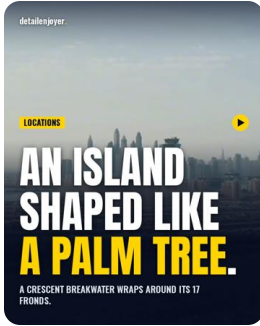
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** 'Mount Otemanu, a dormant volcano': it's the eroded remnant of an extinct volcano.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Bora Bora: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bora_Bora
2. Wikipedia: Mount Otemanu: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Otemanu

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/visit-this-tropical-paradise/> · Last updated Jan 26, 2024



DD-250 LOCATIONS · 71 OF 83

LIFE ON THE PALM

Palm Jumeirah is an artificial archipelago off Dubai, built by land reclamation shaped like a palm tree with a trunk, 17 fronds and an encircling crescent breakwater. Construction began in 2001, using about 94 million cubic meters of sand and 7 million tonnes of rock. It holds hotels such as Atlantis The Palm, villas and apartments, and is served by the Palm Jumeirah Monorail, opened in 2009. The footage shows aerial views of the island and its buildings, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-250-F01

The island is reclaimed land.

DD-250-F02

Construction began in 2001.

THE WRITE-UP

Reclamation. The island is reclaimed land.

2001. Construction began in 2001.

17 fronds. It has a trunk and 17 fronds.

Breakwater. A crescent protects it.

Monorail. A monorail opened in 2009.

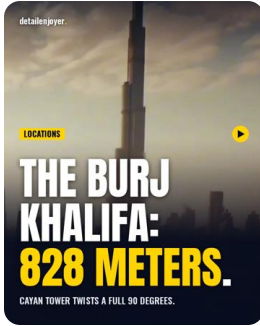
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Palm Jumeirah: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_Jumeirah

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/life-on-the-palm/> · Last updated Jun 13, 2024



DD-251 LOCATIONS · 72 OF 83

ASTONISHING ARABIAN ARCHITECTURE

Dubai's skyline includes the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building at 828 m since 2010; the Burj Al Arab, a sail-shaped hotel opened in 1999 and often marketed as 'seven-star'; the Cayan Tower, a residential tower that twists 90 degrees over its height; and the Dubai Frame, a 150 m picture-frame structure opened in 2018 with views of old and new Dubai. The planned Dubai Creek Tower was meant to exceed the Burj Khalifa, but construction stopped around 2020. The footage shows Dubai's buildings, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-251-F01

The Burj Khalifa is 828 m tall.

DD-251-F02

The Burj Al Arab is shaped like a sail.

THE WRITE-UP

828 m. The Burj Khalifa is 828 m tall.

Sail shape. The Burj Al Arab is shaped like a sail.

Twist. Cayan Tower twists 90 degrees.

Frame. The Dubai Frame opened in 2018.

Creek Tower. Dubai Creek Tower's construction stalled.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** The Reel calls Dubai Creek Tower 'upcoming'; construction stopped around 2020 and its future is uncertain.
- **Note:** 'Seven-star' is a marketing label, not an official hotel rating.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Burj Khalifa: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burj_Khalifa
2. Wikipedia: Burj Al Arab: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burj_Al_Arab
3. Wikipedia: Cayan Tower: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cayan_Tower
4. Wikipedia: Dubai Frame: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubai_Frame
5. Wikipedia: Dubai Creek Tower: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubai_Creek_Tower

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/astonishing-arabian-architecture/> · Last updated Jun 15, 2024



DD-252 LOCATIONS · 73 OF 83

MALL OF THE EMIRATES

Despite the title, the Reel's voiceover describes the Dubai Mall in Downtown Dubai, opened in 2008 and one of the largest malls in the world by total area, with more than 1,200 shops, the Dubai Aquarium and Underwater Zoo with its walk-through tunnel, an Olympic-size ice rink and a multi-level waterfall. It connects to the Burj Khalifa and sits beside the Dubai Fountain. The Mall of the Emirates, a separate mall opened in 2005 in Al Barsha, is home to Ski Dubai. The footage shows the Dubai Mall and other Dubai malls, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-252-F01

The Dubai Mall has over 1,200 shops.

DD-252-F02

It has an aquarium with a tunnel.

THE WRITE-UP

1,200 shops. The Dubai Mall has over 1,200 shops.

Aquarium. It has an aquarium with a tunnel.

Ice rink. It has an Olympic-size ice rink.

Burj Khalifa. It connects to the Burj Khalifa.

Two malls. Mall of the Emirates is a separate mall.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** The caption says Mall of the Emirates, but the voiceover describes the Dubai Mall, a different mall. Mall of the Emirates is home to Ski Dubai.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: The Dubai Mall: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dubai_Mall
2. Wikipedia: Mall of the Emirates: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mall_of_the_Emirates

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/mall-of-the-emirates/> · Last updated Jun 16, 2024



DD-253 LOCATIONS · 74 OF 83

A WINTER OASIS

Ski Dubai, built by the developer and operator of the Mall of the Emirates, opened in November 2005 as an artificial indoor mountain. It holds the hall at about -1 to 2 °C all year and claims the world's first indoor black diamond run.

QUICK FACTS

DD-253-F01

Ski Dubai opened in 2005.

DD-253-F02

It covers 22,500 square meters.

THE WRITE-UP

A 25-storey mountain. The indoor mountain is 85 metres high, roughly the height of a 25-storey building.

Held below freezing. The park keeps a temperature of -1 to 2 °C (30 to 36 °F) throughout the year, despite the desert climate outside.

A first for indoor skiing. Ski Dubai's runs include what is described as the world's first indoor black diamond run, with boxes, rails and kickers that are changed regularly.

Built by the mall's owner. The resort was developed by Majid Al Futtaim Group, the same company that operates the Mall of the Emirates.

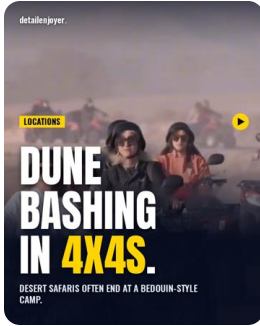
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Ski Dubai: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ski_Dubai

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/a-winter-oasis/> · Last updated Jun 18, 2024



DD-254 LOCATIONS · 75 OF 83

WANDERLUST & DESERT DUST

Desert safaris are among Dubai's most popular tourist activities. Tours typically include dune bashing, driving 4×4 vehicles over the dunes of the Arabian Desert, or riding dune buggies, along with camel rides, sandboarding and an evening at a Bedouin-style camp with a barbecue dinner and entertainment. Many tours run in conservation areas such as the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve. The footage shows dune buggies, 4×4s and desert camps, with the presenter.

QUICK FACTS

DD-254-F01

Dune bashing is driving 4×4s over dunes.

DD-254-F02

Dune buggies are popular.

THE WRITE-UP

Dune bashing. Dune bashing is driving 4×4s over dunes.

Buggies. Dune buggies are popular.

Camels. Tours include camel rides.

Camps. Evenings end at Bedouin-style camps.

Arabian Desert. Dubai sits in the Arabian Desert.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Dune bashing: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_bashing
2. Wikipedia: Arabian Desert: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Desert

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/wanderlust-desert-dust/> · Last updated Jun 19, 2024



DD-079 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 76 OF 83

THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE

The Bermuda Triangle, also called the Devil's Triangle, is a loosely defined area of the western North Atlantic roughly bounded by Miami, Bermuda and Puerto Rico. It became famous for stories of ships and aircraft that vanished, often with supernatural explanations. The U.S. Coast Guard does not recognize it as a special hazard, and studies have found that losses there are not more frequent than in other busy waters.

QUICK FACTS

DD-079-F01

It lies in the western North Atlantic.

DD-079-F02

Miami, Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

THE WRITE-UP

Location. It lies in the western North Atlantic.

Bounds. Miami, Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

Nickname. It is also called the Devil's Triangle.

Not recognized. The Coast Guard does not recognize it.

Normal rate. Losses are not unusually frequent.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Bermuda Triangle: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda_Triangle

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-bermuda-triangle/> · Last updated Nov 13, 2023



DD-363 LOCATIONS · 77 OF 83

TOWERING TOWER

East Pacific Center Tower A in Shenzhen, completed in 2013, is about 306 meters (1,004 feet) tall and contains apartments within a mixed-use complex. The Reel calls it China's tallest residential building; I attributed that ranking to the Reel. The tower is in Futian District. The footage shows the tower and the city skyline.

QUICK FACTS

DD-363-F01

Shenzhen.

DD-363-F02

About 306 m.

THE WRITE-UP

City. Shenzhen.

Height. About 306 m.

Completed. 2013.

Use. Residential within a mixed-use complex.

District. Futian.

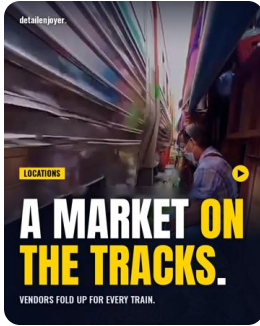
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** The speech-to-text gave the district as 'Nanzhen'; the tower is in Futian District.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: East Pacific Center: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Pacific_Center

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/towering-tower/> · Last updated Nov 8, 2024



DD-370 LOCATIONS / PEOPLE · 78 OF 83

MAEKLONG MARKET

The Maeklong Railway Market in Samut Songkhram Province, Thailand, sits on the tracks of the Maeklong Railway. When a train approaches, vendors fold their awnings and pull goods back from the rails; once it passes, they reopen within moments. The market sells fresh produce, seafood and local food and is a popular tourist stop. The footage shows a train passing through the market.

QUICK FACTS

DD-370-F01

Samut Songkhram Province.

DD-370-F02

Trains pass several times daily.

THE WRITE-UP

Location. Samut Songkhram Province.

Trains. Trains pass several times daily.

Awnings. Vendors fold awnings.

Goods. Seafood and produce.

Tourism. Popular with visitors.

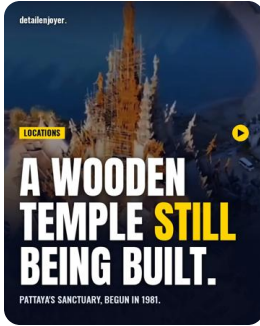
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Maeklong Railway Market: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maeklong_Railway_Market

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/maeklong-market/> · Last updated Nov 13, 2024



DD-379 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 79 OF 83

SANCTUARY OF TRUTH

The Sanctuary of Truth in Pattaya, Thailand, is a carved wooden structure about 105 meters tall, built with wooden joinery rather than metal nails. Thai businessman Lek Viriyaphant began it in 1981, and carving and restoration continue; the Reel puts completion around 2050. Its design mixes Thai, Khmer, Chinese and Indian styles with Hindu and Buddhist imagery. The footage shows the sanctuary and its carvings.

QUICK FACTS

DD-379-F01

Pattaya, Thailand.

DD-379-F02

About 105 m.

THE WRITE-UP

Location. Pattaya, Thailand.

Height. About 105 m.

Started. 1981.

Founder. Lek Viriyaphant.

Joinery. Wood, no metal nails.

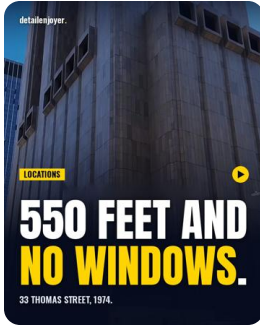
REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Sanctuary of Truth: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanctuary_of_Truth

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/sanctuary-of-truth/> · Last updated Nov 19, 2024



DD-400 LOCATIONS / HISTORY · 80 OF 83

THE TITANPOINTE

The AT&T Long Lines Building at 33 Thomas Street in Manhattan is a 550-foot (168 m) windowless brutalist tower completed in 1974, designed by John Carl Warnecke & Associates to house long-distance telephone switching equipment and to withstand disasters, including nuclear fallout. In 2016, The Intercept reported that documents linked it to a National Security Agency surveillance site code-named Titanpointe; AT&T and the NSA did not confirm. The footage shows the building from street level.

QUICK FACTS

DD-400-F01

33 Thomas Street.

DD-400-F02

550 ft.

THE WRITE-UP

Address. 33 Thomas Street.

Height. 550 ft.

Completed. 1974.

Architect. John Carl Warnecke.

2016 report. The Intercept linked it to Titanpointe.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** The speech-to-text rendered the architect as 'John Karl Wernicke'; the firm was John Carl Warnecke & Associates.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: 33 Thomas Street: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/33_Thomas_Street

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/the-titanpointe/> · Last updated Nov 30, 2024



DD-406 TECH / LOCATIONS · 81 OF 83

ENTER SION

Sion Airport (LSGS) lies in the Rhône Valley in Switzerland's canton of Valais, surrounded by high Alpine terrain. According to the Reel, its instrument approach to Runway 25 uses an instrument guidance system with an initial 6-degree glide slope that eases to 4 degrees, much steeper than the standard 3 degrees, and pilots need special authorization to fly instrument approaches there. The footage shows an approach into the valley.

QUICK FACTS

DD-406-F01

Rhône Valley, Valais.

DD-406-F02

LSGS.

THE WRITE-UP

Location. Rhône Valley, Valais.

Code. LSGS.

Terrain. Surrounded by Alps.

Steep. Steeper than 3 degrees, per the Reel.

Authorization. Special approval, per the Reel.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Sion Airport: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sion_Airport

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/enter-sion/> · Last updated Dec 3, 2024



DD-430 LOCATIONS · 82 OF 83

SHANGHAI

Shanghai, on China's east coast where the Yangtze River meets the East China Sea, has about 24 million residents and is a major center of finance and trade. It grew as an international port after 1842. The Bund waterfront is lined with early 20th-century buildings, while Pudong across the Huangpu River holds modern skyscrapers. The footage shows the Shanghai skyline.

QUICK FACTS

DD-430-F01

About 24 million.

DD-430-F02

Yangtze delta.

THE WRITE-UP

Population. About 24 million.

Location. Yangtze delta.

Port. Opened after 1842.

Bund. Historic waterfront.

Pudong. Modern skyline.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Shanghai: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai>

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/shanghai/> · Last updated Dec 17, 2024



DD-443 LOCATIONS / NATURE · 83 OF 83

BLOOD BEACH

Hormuz Island in Iran's part of the Persian Gulf is known for red soil and sand rich in iron oxide, mainly hematite, which washes onto its beaches and colors the surf red. Locals use the red earth, called gelak, in cooking and crafts. The footage shows the island's red soil and sand.

QUICK FACTS

DD-443-F01

Hormuz Island.

DD-443-F02

Iron oxide.

THE WRITE-UP

Place. Hormuz Island.

Cause. Iron oxide.

Mineral. Hematite.

Surf. Waves turn red.

Local use. Gelak in food.

REEL VS. RECORD

- **Note:** None needed.

SOURCES

1. Wikipedia: Hormuz Island: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hormuz_Island

Permalink: <https://detailenjoyer.com/case/blood-beach/> · Last updated Dec 30, 2024

COLLECTION QUIZ

Test Your Knowledge: 166 questions from Places With a Story. Answers are on the next page.

1. How many stories tall is Begich Towers, home to most of Whittier, Alaska? (DD-008 · One Roof Town)

- A. 4
- B. 14
- C. 40
- D. 104

2. What was Begich Towers originally built as? (DD-008 · One Roof Town)

- A. A luxury hotel
- B. A hospital
- C. Cold War Army barracks
- D. A prison

3. Roughly how high above sea level is Namtso's surface? (DD-019 · Heavenly Lake)

- A. 1,718 m
- B. 3,812 m
- C. 4,718 m
- D. 6,718 m

4. What does the Tibetan name 'Namtso' mean? (DD-019 · Heavenly Lake)

- A. Heavenly lake
- B. Black water
- C. Salt sea
- D. Mirror of the moon

5. What was the name of Bethlehem Steel's earliest predecessor, formed in 1857? (DD-010 · Bethlehem Steel)

- A. Saucona Iron Company
- B. Carnegie Steel
- C. Lehigh Iron Works
- D. Pittsburgh Forge

6. What 1908 Bethlehem product made the skyscraper age possible? (DD-010 · Bethlehem Steel)

- A. Stainless steel
- B. The wide-flange structural beam
- C. Steel cable
- D. Rebar

7. In which Chinese city is Qingshan Lake's water forest? (DD-027 · Water Forest Park)

- A. Chengdu
- B. Guilin
- C. Hangzhou
- D. Kunming

8. About how many trees stand in the water forest? (DD-027 · Water Forest Park)

- A. 100
- B. 1,000
- C. 10,000
- D. 1 million

9. Which sculptor created the Chronicle of Georgia? (DD-028 · The Chronicles of Georgia)

- A. Zurab Tsereteli
- B. Niko Pirosmani
- C. Elguja Amashukeli
- D. Merab Berdzenishvili

10. What body of water does the monument overlook? (DD-028 · The Chronicles of Georgia)

- A. The Black Sea
- B. The Caspian Sea
- C. The Tbilisi Sea reservoir
- D. Lake Sevan

11. How long was The Line planned to be? (DD-031 · The Line)

- A. 17 km
- B. 70 km
- C. 170 km
- D. 1,700 km

12. How many residents was The Line originally pitched to house? (DD-031 · The Line)

- A. 90,000
- B. 900,000
- C. 9 million
- D. 90 million

13. Which river supplies the ice for Harbin's festival? (DD-034 · Winter in Harbin)

- A. Yangtze
- B. Yellow River
- C. Songhua River
- D. Amur

14. When did the modern Harbin Ice and Snow Festival begin? (DD-034 · Winter in Harbin)

- A. 1963
- B. 1985
- C. 1999
- D. 2008

15. Which park is home to Mexico's 'tilted town'? (DD-035 · Tilted Town)

- A. Xcaret
- B. Xplor
- C. Xenses
- D. Xel-Há

16. What city is Xenses actually right next to? (DD-035 · Tilted Town)

- A. Mexico City
- B. Playa del Carmen
- C. Tulum
- D. Mérida

17. Who created the White Temple? (DD-042 · The White Temple)

- A. The Thai government
- B. Artist Chalermchai Kositpipat
- C. A Japanese architect
- D. Buddhist monks in 1890

18. What do the mirror chips in the plaster represent? (DD-042 · The White Temple)

- A. Water
- B. The Buddha's wisdom
- C. Wealth
- D. Stars

19. About how many people live in Hong Kong's subdivided units? (DD-046 · Coffin Homes)

- A. About 2,000
- B. About 220,000
- C. About 2 million
- D. About 7 million

20. What was the median size of a subdivided unit in the 2021 census? (DD-046 · Coffin Homes)

- A. 2 m²
- B. 11 m²
- C. 45 m²
- D. 100 m²

21. Why doesn't brine mix with the seawater above it? (DD-049 · Dead Pools)

- A. It's colder
- B. It's much denser
- C. It's magnetic
- D. It's frozen

22. About how much saltier is the 'Jacuzzi of Despair' than the surrounding ocean? (DD-049 · Dead Pools)

- A. The same
- B. About 10% saltier
- C. Four to five times
- D. 100 times

23. About how many bodies are thought to remain on Everest? (DD-063 · Foreverest)

- A. About 20
- B. More than 200
- C. More than 2,000
- D. None

24. Above what altitude does the 'death zone' begin? (DD-063 · Foreverest)

- A. 5,000 m
- B. 6,500 m
- C. About 8,000 m
- D. 8,849 m

25. Which glacier is Blood Falls on? (DD-725 · The Glacier That Bleeds)

- A. Thwaites
- B. Taylor
- C. Beardmore
- D. Lambert

26. What was the red color first blamed on? (DD-725 · The Glacier That Bleeds)

- A. Volcanic ash
- B. Red algae
- C. Blood from seals
- D. Paint

27. What mainly gives Dallol's pools and crusts their colors? (DD-055 · Danakil Depression)

- A. Iron oxidizing and precipitating
- B. Algae blooms
- C. Copper salts
- D. Reflected sky

28. Roughly how acidic can Dallol's springs get? (DD-055 · Danakil Depression)

- A. pH 4
- B. pH 2.5
- C. pH about -1.7
- D. pH 6

29. What forms the natural dams at Plitvice? (DD-717 · Plitvice Pure)

- A. Tufa barriers
- B. Ice
- C. Lava
- D. Beaver dams

30. When did Plitvice become a national park? (DD-717 · Plitvice Pure)

- A. 1872
- B. 1949
- C. 1979
- D. 1997

31. Which dam holds back Lake Mead? (DD-718 · Reservoir Ruin)

- A. Hoover Dam
- B. Glen Canyon Dam
- C. Grand Coulee Dam
- D. Shasta Dam

32. In what year was the Colorado River Compact signed? (DD-718 · Reservoir Ruin)

- A. 1902
- B. 1922
- C. 1963
- D. 2007

33. Which city is the Haus des Glockenspiels in? (DD-698 · Haus des Glockenspiels)

- A. Bremen
- B. Rothenburg ob der Tauber
- C. Munich
- D. Hamburg

34. What are its bells made of? (DD-698 · Haus des Glockenspiels)

- A. Porcelain
- B. Bronze
- C. Glass
- D. Steel

35. What is Three Whale Rock called in Thai? (DD-703 · Three Whale Rock)

- A. Hin Sam Wan
- B. Wat Rong Khun
- C. Phi Phi
- D. Doi Suthep

36. Which province is it in? (DD-703 · Three Whale Rock)

- A. Bueng Kan
- B. Phuket
- C. Chiang Mai
- D. Bangkok

37. What does 'Bokty' usually translate to? (DD-706 · Mount Bokty)

- A. Pie
- B. Mountain
- C. Whale
- D. Snow

38. What are the white layers made of? (DD-706 · Mount Bokty)

- A. Chalk
- B. Salt
- C. Snow
- D. Granite

39. What is the more common name for the Wailing Wall? (DD-673 · The Wailing Wall)

- A. The Western Wall
- B. The Eastern Gate
- C. The Golden Wall
- D. The Herod Gate

40. What was the Wall originally part of? (DD-673 · The Wailing Wall)

- A. The Temple Mount's retaining wall
- B. The Temple's inner sanctuary
- C. A Roman fort
- D. A city aqueduct

41. In which country is Siwa Oasis? (DD-675 · Siwa Salt Oasis)

- A. Egypt
- B. Libya
- C. Morocco
- D. Sudan

42. Roughly how many natural springs does Siwa have? (DD-675 · Siwa Salt Oasis)

- A. About 20
- B. About 200
- C. About 2,000
- D. About 20,000

43. In which Chinese province is One Incense Pillar? (DD-682 · One Incense Pillar)

- A. Hubei
- B. Yunnan
- C. Sichuan
- D. Guangxi

44. About how tall is the pillar? (DD-682 · One Incense Pillar)

- A. About 150 m
- B. About 15 m
- C. About 1,500 m
- D. About 50 m

45. When did Luxor Las Vegas open? (DD-686 · Lux or Luxor)

- A. October 1993
- B. October 1983
- C. October 2003
- D. October 1973

46. How tall is the Luxor pyramid? (DD-686 · Lux or Luxor)

- A. 350 ft
- B. 550 ft
- C. 150 ft
- D. 1,050 ft

47. Which château has the famous double-helix staircase? (DD-688 · da Vinci's Double Helix)

- A. Chambord
- B. Versailles
- C. Chenonceau
- D. Fontainebleau

48. What happens to two people on different flights? (DD-688 · da Vinci's Double Helix)

- A. They can see each other but never meet
- B. They meet at each floor
- C. They share one landing
- D. They can't see each other at all

49. Which emperor built the Arch of Titus? (DD-690 · Arch of Titus)

- A. Domitian
- B. Nero
- C. Augustus
- D. Hadrian

50. When did Roman forces destroy the Second Temple in Jerusalem? (DD-690 · Arch of Titus)

- A. 70 CE
- B. 30 CE
- C. 135 CE
- D. 312 CE

51. In which province is the escalator in the footage? (DD-707 · Lingshan Lift)

- A. Jiangxi
- B. Jiangsu
- C. Sichuan
- D. Yunnan

52. How long is the escalator line reported to be? (DD-707 · Lingshan Lift)

- A. 1,236 m
- B. 123 m
- C. 12,360 m
- D. 236 m

53. What is the Kaaba's role in daily prayer? (DD-655 · The Kaaba)

- A. It's the qibla, the direction of prayer
- B. It's where the call to prayer is broadcast
- C. It's the only place prayer is allowed
- D. It sets the prayer times

54. What is the Kaaba's black covering called? (DD-655 · The Kaaba)

- A. The Kiswah
- B. The Mihrab
- C. The Minbar
- D. The Qubba

55. Which province is the Shiziguan floating bridge in? (DD-658 · Buoyancy Bridge II)

- A. Hubei
- B. Guangdong
- C. Yunnan
- D. Hebei

56. What holds up the bridge deck? (DD-658 · Buoyancy Bridge II)

- A. Plastic floats
- B. Concrete piers
- C. Steel towers
- D. Suspension cables

57. Which resort has the Tree of Prosperity? (DD-659 · ProsperiTree)

- A. Wynn Macau
- B. Wynn Palace
- C. Wynn Las Vegas
- D. Encore Boston Harbor

58. About how tall is the tree? (DD-659 · ProsperiTree)

- A. 11 m (38 ft)
- B. 3 m (10 ft)
- C. 50 m (164 ft)
- D. 110 m (360 ft)

59. In which New Jersey township is BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham? (DD-660 · BAPS NJ)

- A. Robbinsville
- B. Edison
- C. Princeton
- D. Hoboken

60. When was it dedicated? (DD-660 · BAPS NJ)

- A. October 8, 2023
- B. July 4, 2021
- C. January 1, 2015
- D. May 1, 2019

61. What is Three Gorges' installed capacity? (DD-643 · Three Gorges)

- A. 22,500 MW
- B. 2,250 MW
- C. 225 MW
- D. 225,000 MW

62. What is the dam's maximum height? (DD-643 · Three Gorges)

- A. 181 m
- B. 81 m
- C. 281 m
- D. 18 m

63. What number do Italians call for an ambulance? (DD-644 · Aquatic Ambulances)

- A. 118
- B. 911
- C. 999
- D. 000

64. Who usually leads clinical care on a Venice water ambulance? (DD-644 · Aquatic Ambulances)

- A. A nurse
- B. A firefighter
- C. A police officer
- D. A gondolier

65. What is Peru's best-known rainbow mountain called? (DD-646 · Rainbow Mountains)

- A. Vinicunca
- B. Machu Picchu
- C. Huascarán
- D. Misti

66. About how high is Vinicunca? (DD-646 · Rainbow Mountains)

- A. About 5,036 m
- B. About 503 m
- C. About 8,848 m
- D. About 1,500 m

67. What makes Kawah Ijen's blue glow? (DD-600 · Kawah Ijen)

- A. Burning sulfur
- B. Blue lava
- C. Bioluminescent algae
- D. Copper minerals

68. Up to what temperature does the gas emerge? (DD-600 · Kawah Ijen)

- A. About 600 °C
- B. About 60 °C
- C. About 6,000 °C
- D. About 6 °C

69. Which cave number is the Kailasa temple at Ellora? (DD-605 · Kailasa Temple)

- A. Cave 16
- B. Cave 1
- C. Cave 34
- D. Cave 10

70. In which direction was the temple carved? (DD-605 · Kailasa Temple)

- A. From the top down
- B. From the bottom up
- C. From the inside out
- D. Assembled from blocks

71. How tall is Mount Kailash? (DD-607 · Mount Kailash)

- A. 6,638 m
- B. 8,849 m
- C. 4,810 m
- D. 7,200 m

72. How many recorded ascents does Mount Kailash have? (DD-607 · Mount Kailash)

- A. None
- B. One
- C. About 50
- D. Hundreds

73. How many petals make up the stadium's roof? (DD-617 · Mercedes Stadium)

- A. Eight
- B. Four
- C. Twelve
- D. Two

74. When did Mercedes-Benz Stadium open? (DD-617 · Mercedes Stadium)

- A. August 2017
- B. August 2007
- C. August 2021
- D. August 1997

75. Who called the Everglades a 'river of grass'? (DD-619 · The Glades)

- A. Marjory Stoneman Douglas
- B. John Muir
- C. Rachel Carson
- D. Ernest Hemingway

76. About how fast does Everglades sheet flow move? (DD-619 · The Glades)

- A. Half a mile a day
- B. Half a mile an hour
- C. 50 miles a day
- D. An inch a year

77. Who is Hallgrímskirkja named after? (DD-567 · Hallgrímskirkja)

- A. Hallgrímur Pétursson
- B. Leif Erikson
- C. Guðjón Samúelsson
- D. Snorri Sturluson

78. When was Hallgrímskirkja consecrated? (DD-567 · Hallgrímskirkja)

- A. 1986
- B. 1945
- C. 1930
- D. 2001

79. When did Buran make its only spaceflight? (DD-570 · Baikonur Cosmodrome)

- A. November 1988
- B. April 1981
- C. July 1969
- D. October 1957

80. How did Buran land after its flight? (DD-570 · Baikonur Cosmodrome)

- A. Automatically
- B. With two cosmonauts flying
- C. By parachute into the sea
- D. It didn't land

81. Which river does Bunker Valentin stand beside? (DD-571 · Bunker Valentin)

- A. Weser
- B. Rhine
- C. Elbe
- D. Danube

82. About how many forced laborers built the bunker? (DD-571 · Bunker Valentin)

- A. Up to 10,000
- B. About 100
- C. About 500
- D. Over a million

83. When was the Battle of Didgori fought? (DD-572 · Unlimited Bladeworks)

- A. 1121
- B. 1453
- C. 1066
- D. 1812

84. Which Georgian king won at Didgori? (DD-572 · Unlimited Bladeworks)

- A. David IV
- B. Tamar
- C. Vakhtang I
- D. George V

85. When did the Buzludzha monument open? (DD-573 · Buzludzha)

- A. 1981
- B. 1891
- C. 1944
- D. 1999

86. In which mountain range does Buzludzha stand? (DD-573 · Buzludzha)

- A. The Balkan Mountains
- B. The Alps
- C. The Carpathians
- D. The Urals

87. In which Texas county is Starbase? (DD-582 · Starbase)

- A. Cameron County
- B. Harris County
- C. Travis County
- D. El Paso County

88. When did SpaceX choose Boca Chica for its South Texas launch site? (DD-582 · Starbase)

- A. 2014
- B. 2002
- C. 2008
- D. 2020

89. On which hill does The Motherland Calls stand? (DD-590 · The Motherland Calls)

- A. Mamayev Kurgan
- B. Sparrow Hills
- C. Poklonnaya Hill
- D. Mount Elbrus

90. Which sculptor designed The Motherland Calls? (DD-590 · The Motherland Calls)

- A. Yevgeny Vuchetich
- B. Vera Mukhina
- C. Zurab Tsereteli
- D. Auguste Rodin

91. Which mountain rises west of Ardabil? (DD-620 · Ardabil)

- A. Mount Sabalan
- B. Mount Damavand
- C. Mount Ararat
- D. Mount Elbrus

92. What did Sheikh Safi al-Din found? (DD-620 · Ardabil)

- A. The Safaviyya Sufi order
- B. The city of Tabriz
- C. The Ottoman Empire
- D. A carpet factory

93. Where is Chichen Itza? (DD-120 · Chichen Itza)

- A. Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula
- B. Peru
- C. Guatemala's highlands
- D. Egypt

94. When did it become a World Heritage Site? (DD-120 · Chichen Itza)

- A. 1988
- B. 2007
- C. 1950
- D. 2015

95. When was the Colosseum completed? (DD-121 · The Colosseum)

- A. AD 80
- B. 500 BC
- C. AD 1200
- D. AD 30

96. What was the velarium? (DD-121 · The Colosseum)

- A. A retractable awning
- B. A water tank
- C. An elevator
- D. A gate

97. Who was the Taj Mahal built for? (DD-123 · Taj Mahal)

- A. Mumtaz Mahal
- B. Akbar
- C. Queen Victoria
- D. Ashoka

98. When was it built? (DD-123 · Taj Mahal)

- A. About 1631 to 1653
- B. 1200s
- C. 1850s
- D. 1920s

99. Which pharaoh was the pyramid built for? (DD-092 · The Great Pyramid)

- A. Khufu
- B. Ramesses II
- C. Tutankhamun
- D. Cleopatra

100. Where does it rank in age among the ancient wonders? (DD-092 · The Great Pyramid)

- A. Oldest
- B. Youngest
- C. Third
- D. Unknown

101. What's unusual about the Hanging Gardens among the wonders? (DD-094 · Hanging Gardens)

- A. Their location is unconfirmed
- B. They still stand
- C. They were underwater
- D. They were in Rome

102. Who described the gardens? (DD-094 · Hanging Gardens)

- A. Greek and Roman writers
- B. Babylonian scribes only
- C. Medieval monks
- D. No one

103. Who sculpted the statue? (DD-096 · Zeus @ Olympia)

- A. Phidias
- B. Praxiteles
- C. Michelangelo
- D. Myron

104. What pose was Zeus in? (DD-096 · Zeus @ Olympia)

- A. Seated on a throne
- B. Standing
- C. Riding a horse
- D. Lying down

105. Was the temple rebuilt? (DD-098 · Temple of Artemis)

- A. Yes, several times
- B. Never
- C. Only once in 1900
- D. It still stands whole

106. Which king helped fund the temple begun around 550 BC? (DD-098 · Temple of Artemis)

- A. Croesus
- B. Khufu
- C. Mausolus
- D. Nebuchadnezzar II

107. What was Mausolus? (DD-100 · Mausoleum at Halicarnassus)

- A. A Persian satrap of Caria
- B. A Roman emperor
- C. An Egyptian pharaoh
- D. A Greek poet

108. Who oversaw the tomb after his death? (DD-100 · Mausoleum at Halicarnassus)

- A. Artemisia II
- B. Cleopatra
- C. Croesus
- D. Phidias

109. Which god did the Colossus depict? (DD-102 · Colossus of Rhodes)

- A. Helios
- B. Zeus
- C. Poseidon
- D. Apollo of Delphi

110. About how tall was it? (DD-102 · Colossus of Rhodes)

- A. 33 m
- B. 3 m
- C. 300 m
- D. 100 m

111. Where was the lighthouse built? (DD-104 · Lighthouse of Alexandria)

- A. The island of Pharos
- B. Rhodes
- C. Crete
- D. Sicily

112. About how tall was it? (DD-104 · Lighthouse of Alexandria)

- A. Over 100 m
- B. 10 m
- C. 500 m
- D. 30 m

113. Is the Great Wall a single continuous wall? (DD-111 · The Great Wall)

- A. No, many walls
- B. Yes
- C. It's one tower
- D. It's underground

114. Who connected earlier walls after 221 BC? (DD-111 · The Great Wall)

- A. Qin Shi Huang
- B. Kublai Khan
- C. Confucius
- D. Mao

115. Whose capital was Petra? (DD-114 · Petra)

- A. The Nabataeans'
- B. The Romans'
- C. The Persians'
- D. The Ottomans'

116. What is Petra known for? (DD-114 · Petra)

- A. Rock-cut architecture
- B. Glass towers
- C. Ice palaces
- D. Wooden temples

117. Where does the statue stand? (DD-116 · Christ the Redeemer)

- A. Corcovado, Rio de Janeiro
- B. Lisbon
- C. Buenos Aires
- D. Mexico City

118. Which sculptor designed it? (DD-116 · Christ the Redeemer)

- A. Paul Landowski
- B. Phidias
- C. Rodin
- D. Michelangelo

119. Which civilization built Machu Picchu? (DD-118 · Machu Picchu)

- A. The Inca
- B. The Maya
- C. The Aztecs
- D. The Romans

120. Whose estate is it thought to be? (DD-118 · Machu Picchu)

- A. Pachacuti's
- B. Atahualpa's
- C. Montezuma's
- D. Pizarro's

121. Which countries share Iguazu Falls? (DD-153 · Iguazu)

- A. Argentina and Brazil
- B. Chile and Peru
- C. Canada and US
- D. Kenya and Tanzania

122. About how many drops are there? (DD-153 · Iguazu)

- A. 275
- B. 2
- C. 27,000
- D. 12

123. For which event was the tower built? (DD-156 · Eiffel)

- A. The 1889 World's Fair
- B. The 1900 Olympics
- C. A royal wedding
- D. WWI

124. What is it made of? (DD-156 · Eiffel)

- A. Wrought iron
- B. Concrete
- C. Steel and glass
- D. Stone

125. What style is the building? (DD-157 · Empire State)

- A. Art Deco
- B. Gothic
- C. Brutalist
- D. Baroque

126. When did it open? (DD-157 · Empire State)

- A. May 1, 1931
- B. 1901
- C. 1951
- D. 1971

127. How tall is the Burj Khalifa? (DD-158 · Burj Khalifa)

- A. 828 m
- B. 443 m
- C. 330 m
- D. 1,000 m

128. Where is it? (DD-158 · Burj Khalifa)

- A. Dubai
- B. Doha
- C. Riyadh
- D. Cairo

129. Until when was Kyoto the imperial capital? (DD-195 · The City of 10,000 Shrines)

- A. 1868
- B. 1945
- C. 1600
- D. 2000

130. About how many Buddhist temples does Kyoto have? (DD-195 · The City of 10,000 Shrines)

- A. About 1,600
- B. About 16
- C. About 160,000
- D. None

131. Which sea is Santorini in? (DD-196 · Thera)

- A. The Aegean
- B. The Baltic
- C. The Red Sea
- D. The Caribbean

132. What shaped its crescent? (DD-196 · Thera)

- A. A volcanic eruption
- B. A glacier
- C. A meteor
- D. People

133. Which region's capital is Barcelona? (DD-197 · Catalan Gothic)

- A. Catalonia
- B. Andalusia
- C. Galicia
- D. Basque Country

134. Who designed the Sagrada Família? (DD-197 · Catalan Gothic)

- A. Antoni Gaudí
- B. Le Corbusier
- C. Gustave Eiffel
- D. Frank Gehry

135. Which country is Marrakech in? (DD-198 · The Red City)

- A. Morocco
- B. Egypt
- C. Tunisia
- D. Spain

136. Why is it the Red City? (DD-198 · The Red City)

- A. Red-ochre walls
- B. Red flowers
- C. Red flags
- D. Sunsets only

137. About how many islands make up Fiji? (DD-199 · Soft Coral Capital of the World!)

- A. More than 330
- B. 3
- C. 3,000
- D. 30

138. What is the largest island? (DD-199 · Soft Coral Capital of the World!)

- A. Viti Levu
- B. Vanua Levu
- C. Tahiti
- D. Bora Bora

139. Where is Bora Bora? (DD-200 · Visit This Tropical Paradise)

- A. French Polynesia
- B. Hawaii
- C. The Maldives
- D. Fiji

140. What is Mount Otemanu? (DD-200 · Visit This Tropical Paradise)

- A. An extinct volcano's remnant
- B. An active volcano
- C. A glacier
- D. A coral reef

141. What shape is Palm Jumeirah? (DD-250 · Life on The Palm)

- A. A palm tree
- B. A star
- C. A circle
- D. A map of the world

142. When did construction begin? (DD-250 · Life on The Palm)

- A. 2001
- B. 1995
- C. 2010
- D. 2015

143. How tall is the Burj Khalifa? (DD-251 · Astonishing Arabian Architecture)

- A. 828 m
- B. 541 m
- C. 1,000 m
- D. 452 m

144. What shape is the Burj Al Arab? (DD-251 · Astonishing Arabian Architecture)

- A. A sail
- B. A pyramid
- C. A sphere
- D. A palm

145. How many shops does the Dubai Mall have? (DD-252 · Mall of the Emirates)

- A. Over 1,200
- B. About 100
- C. Over 10,000
- D. About 500

146. What does its aquarium have? (DD-252 · Mall of the Emirates)

- A. A walk-through tunnel
- B. A shark pool on the roof
- C. No glass
- D. A river

147. Where is Ski Dubai? (DD-253 · A Winter Oasis)

- A. Mall of the Emirates
- B. The Dubai Mall
- C. Burj Khalifa
- D. Palm Jumeirah

148. When did it open? (DD-253 · A Winter Oasis)

- A. 2005
- B. 2015
- C. 1999
- D. 2010

149. What is dune bashing? (DD-254 · Wanderlust & Desert Dust)

- A. Driving 4×4s over dunes
- B. Building sandcastles
- C. Camel racing
- D. Digging wells

150. Which animal can tourists ride? (DD-254 · Wanderlust & Desert Dust)

- A. Camels
- B. Horses only
- C. Elephants
- D. Llamas

151. Which ocean is it in? (DD-079 · The Bermuda Triangle)

- A. The North Atlantic
- B. The Pacific
- C. The Indian Ocean
- D. The Arctic

152. Which is a corner? (DD-079 · The Bermuda Triangle)

- A. Bermuda
- B. Cuba
- C. Iceland
- D. Bahrain

153. Which city? (DD-363 · Towering Tower)

- A. Shenzhen
- B. Beijing
- C. Shanghai
- D. Hong Kong

154. How tall? (DD-363 · Towering Tower)

- A. About 306 m
- B. About 100 m
- C. About 828 m
- D. About 50 m

155. Which country? (DD-370 · Maeklong Market)

- A. Thailand
- B. Vietnam
- C. India
- D. Peru

156. What passes through? (DD-370 · Maeklong Market)

- A. A train
- B. A river
- C. A parade
- D. Buses

157. Where is it? (DD-379 · Sanctuary of Truth)

- A. Pattaya, Thailand
- B. Bangkok
- C. Angkor
- D. Bali

158. When was it begun? (DD-379 · Sanctuary of Truth)

- A. 1981
- B. 1781
- C. 2001
- D. 1945

159. Where is it? (DD-400 · The Titanpointe)

- A. Manhattan
- B. Chicago
- C. Boston
- D. Washington

160. How tall? (DD-400 · The Titanpointe)

- A. 550 ft
- B. 1,776 ft
- C. 200 ft
- D. 1,000 ft

161. Which country? (DD-406 · Enter Sion)

- A. Switzerland
- B. Austria
- C. Italy
- D. France

162. Which valley? (DD-406 · Enter Sion)

- A. Rhône
- B. Rhine
- C. Po
- D. Danube

163. Which river meets the sea at Shanghai? (DD-430 · Shanghai)

- A. Yangtze
- B. Mekong
- C. Ganges
- D. Nile

164. Population? (DD-430 · Shanghai)

- A. About 24 million
- B. About 2 million
- C. About 100 million
- D. About 500,000

165. What makes the sand red? (DD-443 · Blood Beach)

- A. Iron oxide
- B. Blood
- C. Algae only
- D. Paint

166. Which island? (DD-443 · Blood Beach)

- A. Hormuz
- B. Bali
- C. Crete
- D. Fiji

ANSWER KEY

1. **B. 14** Now You Know: Begich Towers is a 14-story tower housing most of Whittier's ~300 year-round residents. (DD-008)
2. **C. Cold War Army barracks** Now You Know: The U.S. Army built it as Cold War barracks. Locals moved in after the military left. (DD-008)
3. **C. 4,718 m** Now You Know: Namtso sits at 4,718 m (15,479 ft), nearly 3 miles up. (DD-019)
4. **A. Heavenly lake** Now You Know: Namtso means 'Heavenly Lake' in Tibetan; its Mongolian name, Tengri Nor, means the same. (DD-019)
5. **A. Saucona Iron Company** Now You Know: The Saucona Iron Company was formed in South Bethlehem, PA, in 1857. (DD-010)
6. **B. The wide-flange structural beam** Now You Know: Its Grey mill rolled the nation's first wide-flange structural sections. (DD-010)
7. **C. Hangzhou** Now You Know: It's in Lin'an District of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. (DD-027)
8. **C. 10,000** Now You Know: Hangzhou officials count about 10,000 pond cypress and bald cypress trees. (DD-027)
9. **A. Zurab Tsereteli** Now You Know: Zurab Tsereteli began the monument in 1985. (DD-028)
10. **C. The Tbilisi Sea reservoir** Now You Know: It stands on Keeni Hill above the Tbilisi Sea, a reservoir on the city's northern edge. (DD-028)
11. **C. 170 km** Now You Know: It was planned as 170 km from the Red Sea coast into the mountains. (DD-031)
12. **C. 9 million** Now You Know: The 2021–22 plan called for up to 9 million people. (DD-031)
13. **C. Songhua River** Now You Know: Crews cut blocks two to three feet thick from the frozen Songhua every December. (DD-034)
14. **B. 1985** Now You Know: It opened on January 5, 1985. The 1963 event was an ice-lantern show. (DD-034)
15. **C. Xenses** Now You Know: El Pueblo is part of Xenses, Grupo Xcaret's sensory park. (DD-035)
16. **B. Playa del Carmen** Now You Know: It's just past Playa del Carmen, about 74 km from Cancún. (DD-035)
17. **B. Artist Chalermchai Kositpipat** Now You Know: He began rebuilding it in 1997 with his own money. (DD-042)
18. **B. The Buddha's wisdom** Now You Know: White stands for purity, mirrors for wisdom. (DD-042)
19. **B. About 220,000** Now You Know: A government survey counted about 220,000 people. (DD-046)
20. **B. 11 m²** Now You Know: That's about 6 m² per person. (DD-046)
21. **B. It's much denser** Now You Know: It sits on the seabed with its own shoreline. (DD-049)
22. **C. Four to five times** Now You Know: It measured 80 to 110 psu vs about 35 for seawater. (DD-049)
23. **B. More than 200** Now You Know: More than 300 people have died in the region over a century. (DD-063)
24. **C. About 8,000 m** Now You Know: The air there holds about a third of sea-level oxygen. (DD-063)

25. **B. Taylor** Now You Know: It's in the McMurdo Dry Valleys, ending at Lake Bonney. *(DD-725)*
26. **B. Red algae** Now You Know: Griffith Taylor found the falls in 1911. *(DD-725)*
27. **A. Iron oxidizing and precipitating** Now You Know: The researchers attribute the colors to progressive oxidation of dissolved ferrous iron. *(DD-055)*
28. **C. pH about -1.7** Now You Know: Measured pH ranges from about 0.1 down to -1.7. *(DD-055)*
29. **A. Tufa barriers** Now You Know: Tufa (travertine) barriers of calcium carbonate. *(DD-717)*
30. **B. 1949** Now You Know: April 8, 1949. *(DD-717)*
31. **A. Hoover Dam** Now You Know: Hoover Dam. *(DD-718)*
32. **B. 1922** Now You Know: 1922. *(DD-718)*
33. **A. Bremen** Now You Know: Bremen, on Böttcherstraße. *(DD-698)*
34. **A. Porcelain** Now You Know: Meissen porcelain. *(DD-698)*
35. **A. Hin Sam Wan** Now You Know: Hin Sam Wan means 'three whales rock'. *(DD-703)*
36. **A. Bueng Kan** Now You Know: Bueng Kan. *(DD-703)*
37. **A. Pie** Now You Know: 'Pie', after its layers. *(DD-706)*
38. **A. Chalk** Now You Know: Chalk. *(DD-706)*
39. **A. The Western Wall** Now You Know: The Western Wall, or 'the Kotel'. *(DD-673)*
40. **A. The Temple Mount's retaining wall** Now You Know: It's part of Herod's retaining wall around the Temple Mount. *(DD-673)*
41. **A. Egypt** Now You Know: Egypt, about 50 km east of the Libyan border. *(DD-675)*
42. **B. About 200** Now You Know: About 200. *(DD-675)*
43. **A. Hubei** Now You Know: Hubei, in the Enshi Grand Canyon. *(DD-682)*
44. **A. About 150 m** Now You Know: About 150 m. *(DD-682)*
45. **A. October 1993** Now You Know: October 15, 1993. *(DD-686)*
46. **A. 350 ft** Now You Know: 350 ft (106.7 m). *(DD-686)*
47. **A. Chambord** Now You Know: The Château de Chambord. *(DD-688)*
48. **A. They can see each other but never meet** Now You Know: They glimpse each other but never meet. *(DD-688)*
49. **A. Domitian** Now You Know: Domitian, Titus's brother. *(DD-690)*
50. **A. 70 CE** Now You Know: 70 CE. *(DD-690)*
51. **A. Jiangxi** Now You Know: Shangrao, Jiangxi. *(DD-707)*
52. **A. 1,236 m** Now You Know: 1,236 m. *(DD-707)*
53. **A. It's the qibla, the direction of prayer** Now You Know: Muslims face it in prayer. *(DD-655)*
54. **A. The Kiswah** Now You Know: The Kiswah. *(DD-655)*

55. **A. Hubei** Now You Know: Hubei (Enshi Prefecture). *(DD-658)*
56. **A. Plastic floats** Now You Know: Plastic floats, with no fixed foundation. *(DD-658)*
57. **A. Wynn Macau** Now You Know: Wynn Macau, on the Macau peninsula. *(DD-659)*
58. **A. 11 m (38 ft)** Now You Know: About 11 m. *(DD-659)*
59. **A. Robbinsville** Now You Know: Robbinsville, Mercer County. *(DD-660)*
60. **A. October 8, 2023** Now You Know: October 8, 2023. *(DD-660)*
61. **A. 22,500 MW** Now You Know: 32×700 MW plus 2×50 MW. *(DD-643)*
62. **A. 181 m** Now You Know: Its crest is at 185 m above sea level. *(DD-643)*
63. **A. 118** Now You Know: 118, the emergency medical service. *(DD-644)*
64. **A. A nurse** Now You Know: Doctors join for the most serious calls. *(DD-644)*
65. **A. Vinicunca** Now You Know: Also called Montaña de Siete Colores. *(DD-646)*
66. **A. About 5,036 m** Now You Know: Its top viewpoint is listed at over 5,200 m. *(DD-646)*
67. **A. Burning sulfur** Now You Know: Sulfur-rich gas burns blue. *(DD-600)*
68. **A. About 600 °C** Now You Know: It ignites on contact with air. *(DD-600)*
69. **A. Cave 16** Now You Know: Of 34 caves at the site. *(DD-605)*
70. **A. From the top down** Now You Know: Cut down into a sloping basalt cliff. *(DD-605)*
71. **A. 6,638 m** Now You Know: About 21,778 ft. *(DD-607)*
72. **A. None** Now You Know: Climbing is prohibited. *(DD-607)*
73. **A. Eight** Now You Know: Each about 220 feet long. *(DD-617)*
74. **A. August 2017** Now You Know: On August 26, 2017. *(DD-617)*
75. **A. Marjory Stoneman Douglas** Now You Know: In her 1947 book. *(DD-619)*
76. **A. Half a mile a day** Now You Know: It can take months or years to reach Florida Bay. *(DD-619)*
77. **A. Hallgrímur Pétursson** Now You Know: The poet and pastor who wrote the Passion Hymns. *(DD-567)*
78. **A. 1986** Now You Know: On October 26, 1986, 41 years after construction began. *(DD-567)*
79. **A. November 1988** Now You Know: On November 15, 1988, with no crew aboard. *(DD-570)*
80. **A. Automatically** Now You Know: On Baikonur's runway, after two orbits. *(DD-570)*
81. **A. Weser** Now You Know: At Bremen-Farge. *(DD-571)*
82. **A. Up to 10,000** Now You Know: According to the memorial. *(DD-571)*
83. **A. 1121** Now You Know: On August 12, 1121. *(DD-572)*
84. **A. David IV** Now You Know: He's known as David the Builder. *(DD-572)*
85. **A. 1981** Now You Know: On August 23, 1981. *(DD-573)*
86. **A. The Balkan Mountains** Now You Know: Also called Stara Planina. *(DD-573)*

87. **A. Cameron County** Now You Know: On the Boca Chica peninsula east of Brownsville. *(DD-582)*
88. **A. 2014** Now You Know: It announced the choice in August 2014. *(DD-582)*
89. **A. Mamayev Kurgan** Now You Know: In Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad. *(DD-590)*
90. **A. Yevgeny Vuchetich** Now You Know: Nikolai Nikitin led the engineering. *(DD-590)*
91. **A. Mount Sabalan** Now You Know: A 4,811-meter dormant volcano. *(DD-620)*
92. **A. The Safaviyya Sufi order** Now You Know: He died in 1334. *(DD-620)*
93. **A. Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula** Now You Know: It was a major Maya city. *(DD-120)*
94. **A. 1988** Now You Know: UNESCO listed it in 1988. *(DD-120)*
95. **A. AD 80** Now You Know: Under Emperor Titus. *(DD-121)*
96. **A. A retractable awning** Now You Know: It shaded the seating. *(DD-121)*
97. **A. Mumtaz Mahal** Now You Know: Shah Jahan built it for his wife. *(DD-123)*
98. **A. About 1631 to 1653** Now You Know: It took about 22 years. *(DD-123)*
99. **A. Khufu** Now You Know: A Fourth Dynasty king. *(DD-092)*
00. **A. Oldest** Now You Know: It predates the others by far. *(DD-092)*
01. **A. Their location is unconfirmed** Now You Know: No site has been confirmed. *(DD-094)*
02. **A. Greek and Roman writers** Now You Know: Classical accounts. *(DD-094)*
03. **A. Phidias** Now You Know: Around 435 BC. *(DD-096)*
04. **A. Seated on a throne** Now You Know: Enthroned. *(DD-096)*
05. **A. Yes, several times** Now You Know: At least three phases. *(DD-098)*
06. **A. Croesus** Now You Know: King of Lydia. *(DD-098)*
07. **A. A Persian satrap of Caria** Now You Know: He ruled Caria for the Achaemenids. *(DD-100)*
08. **A. Artemisia II** Now You Know: His sister and wife. *(DD-100)*
09. **A. Helios** Now You Know: The sun god. *(DD-102)*
10. **A. 33 m** Now You Know: About 108 ft. *(DD-102)*
11. **A. The island of Pharos** Now You Know: At Alexandria. *(DD-104)*
12. **A. Over 100 m** Now You Know: One of the tallest of its age. *(DD-104)*
13. **A. No, many walls** Now You Know: Built over centuries. *(DD-111)*
14. **A. Qin Shi Huang** Now You Know: China's first emperor. *(DD-111)*
15. **A. The Nabataeans'** Now You Know: In southern Jordan. *(DD-114)*
16. **A. Rock-cut architecture** Now You Know: And water conduits. *(DD-114)*
17. **A. Corcovado, Rio de Janeiro** Now You Know: Overlooking the city. *(DD-116)*
18. **A. Paul Landowski** Now You Know: With Heitor da Silva Costa. *(DD-116)*

19. **A. The Inca** Now You Know: In the 15th century. *(DD-118)*
20. **A. Pachacuti's** Now You Know: Around 1450. *(DD-118)*
21. **A. Argentina and Brazil** Now You Know: On the Iguazu River. *(DD-153)*
22. **A. 275** Now You Know: Individual falls. *(DD-153)*
23. **A. The 1889 World's Fair** Now You Know: The entrance arch. *(DD-156)*
24. **A. Wrought iron** Now You Know: A lattice. *(DD-156)*
25. **A. Art Deco** Now You Know: With setbacks. *(DD-157)*
26. **A. May 1, 1931** Now You Know: During the Depression. *(DD-157)*
27. **A. 828 m** Now You Know: 2,717 ft. *(DD-158)*
28. **A. Dubai** Now You Know: In the UAE. *(DD-158)*
29. **A. 1868** Now You Know: From 794. *(DD-195)*
30. **A. About 1,600** Now You Know: Plus shrines. *(DD-195)*
31. **A. The Aegean** Now You Know: Southern Aegean. *(DD-196)*
32. **A. A volcanic eruption** Now You Know: A flooded caldera. *(DD-196)*
33. **A. Catalonia** Now You Know: In Spain. *(DD-197)*
34. **A. Antoni Gaudí** Now You Know: He died in 1926. *(DD-197)*
35. **A. Morocco** Now You Know: Western Morocco. *(DD-198)*
36. **A. Red-ochre walls** Now You Know: Its buildings. *(DD-198)*
37. **A. More than 330** Now You Know: About 110 inhabited. *(DD-199)*
38. **A. Viti Levu** Now You Know: Home to Suva. *(DD-199)*
39. **A. French Polynesia** Now You Know: South Pacific. *(DD-200)*
40. **A. An extinct volcano's remnant** Now You Know: 727 m. *(DD-200)*
41. **A. A palm tree** Now You Know: Trunk and fronds. *(DD-250)*
42. **A. 2001** Now You Know: Land reclamation. *(DD-250)*
43. **A. 828 m** Now You Know: Since 2010. *(DD-251)*
44. **A. A sail** Now You Know: Opened 1999. *(DD-251)*
45. **A. Over 1,200** Now You Know: Plus attractions. *(DD-252)*
46. **A. A walk-through tunnel** Now You Know: 270 degrees. *(DD-252)*
47. **A. Mall of the Emirates** Now You Know: Al Barsha. *(DD-253)*
48. **A. 2005** Now You Know: Indoors. *(DD-253)*
49. **A. Driving 4×4s over dunes** Now You Know: Off-road. *(DD-254)*
50. **A. Camels** Now You Know: Classic. *(DD-254)*

- 51. **A. The North Atlantic** Now You Know: Western part. *(DD-079)*
- 52. **A. Bermuda** Now You Know: Plus Miami and Puerto Rico. *(DD-079)*
- 53. **A. Shenzhen** Now You Know: Southern China. *(DD-363)*
- 54. **A. About 306 m** Now You Know: 1,004 ft. *(DD-363)*
- 55. **A. Thailand** Now You Know: Southeast Asia. *(DD-370)*
- 56. **A. A train** Now You Know: On the tracks. *(DD-370)*
- 57. **A. Pattaya, Thailand** Now You Know: Coastal city. *(DD-379)*
- 58. **A. 1981** Now You Know: Ongoing. *(DD-379)*
- 59. **A. Manhattan** Now You Know: Lower Manhattan. *(DD-400)*
- 60. **A. 550 ft** Now You Know: Windowless. *(DD-400)*
- 61. **A. Switzerland** Now You Know: Valais. *(DD-406)*
- 62. **A. Rhône** Now You Know: River. *(DD-406)*
- 63. **A. Yangtze** Now You Know: Delta. *(DD-430)*
- 64. **A. About 24 million** Now You Know: Megacity. *(DD-430)*
- 65. **A. Iron oxide** Now You Know: Hematite. *(DD-443)*
- 66. **A. Hormuz** Now You Know: Persian Gulf. *(DD-443)*

NOW YOU KNOW!