

# The Seven Wonders of the World

A stylized illustration of the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. The central focus is the large white dome with a finial, set against a blue sky. The main structure is flanked by two tall, slender minarets. The building features intricate arched windows and doorways. In the foreground, a long, narrow reflecting pool is flanked by two rows of tall, thin, green cypress trees. The overall style is clean and illustrative.

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# Chichén Itzá, Mexico



Chichén Itzá was a city built by the Mayan tribe over 1500 years ago. The city was an important political and economic centre for the Mayans.

The photograph shows the Temple of Kukulcan, sometimes known as El Castillo. It has 91 steps on each of its four sides. Added to the final step at the top of the temple, this totals 365 steps - one for each day of the year.

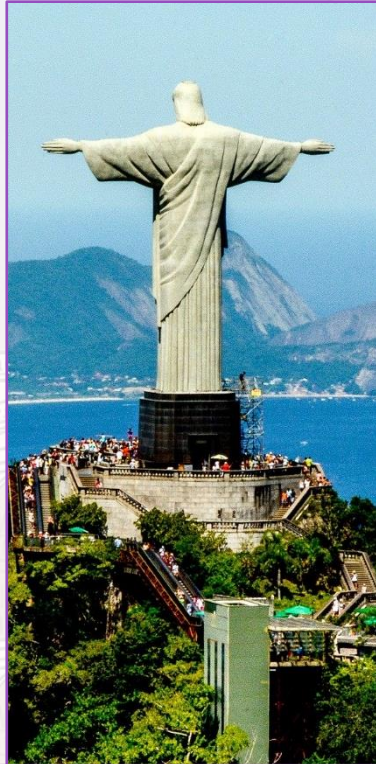
# Machu Picchu, Peru



Machu Picchu is the ruins of a city from the Incan empire that was built in the 15th century. The ruins are in the Andes Mountains, over 2000 metres above sea level. It is not certain why the city was first built. Gradually, over time, the city was abandoned.



# Christ the Redeemer, Brazil



Christ the Redeemer is a 30 metre tall statue that is at the summit of Corcovado Mountain overlooking Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue shows Jesus Christ with his arms spread out over the city. The arm span of the statue is 28 metres. The statue was completed in 1931.

# The Colosseum, Italy



The Colosseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, was built between AD 70 and AD 80. It was used for gladiator fights, animal hunts and public executions. The floor of the Colosseum could be flooded in order to stage sea battles. Although some of the Colosseum was destroyed in the great earthquake in 1349, it remains a popular tourist attraction.



# Petra, Jordan



Petra is an ancient city carved into rock. It is thought that it was built over 2000 years ago by a group of people called the Nabateans. However, not much is known about the Nabateans. An earthquake in AD 363 damaged the city and it eventually fell into disuse. The city ruins were rediscovered in 1812 by a Swiss explorer called Johann Burckhardt.



# Taj Mahal, India



In 1632, Emperor Shah Jahan commissioned the Taj Mahal to be built to house the tomb of his wife, Mumtaz. In the morning sun, the white marble looks a shade of pink. During the evening, it looks the colour of milk and looks golden at night when lit by the moon. Because the Taj Mahal commemorates Shah Jahan's love for Mumtaz, couples like to have their photographs taken with the building in the background.

# The Great Wall, China



The Great Wall of China is the longest wall in the world. It was built by several different dynasties (ruling families) over several hundred years, starting in about 220 BC. The wall was built to defend areas from invasions and had watch towers built on the highest places.



