

Twelve most amazing bridges ever built

IN-DEPTH STUDY

▶ 12 Most Amazing Bridges Ever Built *posted by Wacky Universe*

Videoscript.

These are 12 of the coolest bridges in the world.

12. **Royal Gorge Bridge** – The Royal Gorge Bridge is located near Canon City, Colorado. The bridge spans the Royal Gorge 955 feet above the Arkansas River and held the record for the highest bridge in the world for over 72 years, from 1929 until it was overtaken by the Liuguanghe Bridge in China in 2001. It remains the highest bridge in the United States and the 12th highest in the world. The bridge is 1,260 feet long and 18 feet wide. The Royal Gorge Bridge took six months to build in 1929 at a cost of \$350,000 and was designed as a tourist attraction not as a true road. It would cost twenty million dollars to replace the bridge today.
11. **Crab bridge** – The Crab Bridge on Christmas Island in Australia is the world's only bridge specifically designed and built for use by crabs. Once a year, tens of millions of crabs need to make their way from their forest habitats to the ocean to breed. After mating, the male crabs return to the forest with the females following suit a couple of weeks later after laying their eggs. All this back and forth presents a potential danger for these crabs as their route to and from the forest to the ocean crosses a major roadway. To prevent unnecessary road kills, the Australian government commissioned a special bridge which would allow the crabs to safely climb up and over the roadway.
10. **Mathematical Bridge** – The Mathematical Bridge is a wooden footbridge that connects two parts of Queens College located in Cambridge, England. The bridge was designed by William Etheridge and built by James Essex in 1749. The bridge gets its name from the sophisticated engineering design which allowed the curved bridge to be built out of straight timbers. The

timbers form a series of tangents which tie together making it rigid and self-supporting. Some believe the bridge was assembled without any nuts and bolts since none are visible from the outside but iron spikes were actually used to hold it together. They were driven from the interior of the bridge to preserve its aesthetic. Another popular myth ascribes his design and construction of the bridge to Sir Isaac Newton but he died 22 years before the bridge was constructed.

9. **Slauerhoffbrug Bridge** – The Slauerhoffbrug Bridge also known as the 'flying bridge' is a bridge located in the city of Leeuwarden in the Netherlands. What's unique about this bridge is it's not permanently fixed in place. It consists of a large section of roadway connected to a machine that raises and lowers it in place. The flying bridge is similar to a drawbridge but is much more efficient and can quickly and easily allow waterborne traffic to pass and have normal traffic resumed in a short period of time.
8. **The Living Roots Bridge** – Don't have the necessary materials to build the bridge? No problem, let Mother Nature do it for you. The Living Roots Bridge actually refers to a series of bridges in the Northeast Indian state of Meghalaya that would grow in place rather than assembled. They were created by the indigenous Kazi people who manipulated the roots from rubber trees to form the bridges. These bridges can take up to 15 years to complete, but can theoretically last hundreds of years, as long as the trees they are formed from remain healthy. A side benefit from this type of construction is that the bridges strengthen over time as the tree roots grow thicker.
7. **Storseisundet Bridge** – The Storseisundet Bridge connects the municipalities of Norway and it's also the longest of eight bridges that make up the Atlantic Road linking the mainland to the islands of the

archipelago. It's 850 feet long and stands at a height of 75 feet above the water. Construction of the bridge started in 1989 and took six years to build, primarily due to the fact that construction was halted twelve times due to hurricanes. It cost 120 million Krone or almost 1.5 million dollars. The toll bridge was projected to recoup the capital costs to build it within 15 years but it actually paid for itself in ten.

6. **Rakotz Bridge** – The Rakotz Bridge is located in Kromlau Park in Germany. Built in 1860, the thin arched bridge was commissioned by the Knight of the local town and built of stone from a nearby quarry. It's known as a *Devil's Bridge* because the people thought the bridge's sinister-looking design must have been built by Satan himself. What's unique about this bridge is that its curved span was designed to form a perfect half circle and when viewed with its reflection in the lake appears to form a perfect circle. Visitors can still enjoy the sight of this unique bridge but none are allowed to cross it for fear the span may collapse.
5. **U Bein Bridge** – The U Bein Bridge, named after the mayor who built it, spans Taungthaman Lake in Myanmar. It's believed to be the longest teakwood bridge in the world. Constructed in 1850, the bridge consists of 1,086 pillars that support 482 separate spans that comprise the bridge's length. The teakwood that was used in the building of the bridge was reclaimed from the former Royal Palace in Inwa. The bridge also has nine passageways where the weight can be removed to let barges and large boats through. Despite its age, it is still in use by both locals and tourists today.
4. **Arch Triumph Inflatable Bridge** – An inflatable bridge was an unusual entrance by a Paris based architecture group into a French competition to design a new contemporary bridge across the river Sein in Paris. This bold yet elegant bridge was specifically designed to differentiate itself from the other 37 bridges in Paris and the inflatable bridge is no mere footbridge, it actually makes the use of giant trampolines to shuttle pedestrians to the other side. It was also designed to be temporary like the Eiffel Tower which was supposed to be dismantled 20 years after the 1889 World Expo. The designers of the Inflatable Bridge can only hope that their bridge will last as long.
3. **Kawarau Gorge Suspension Bridge** – The Kawarau Gorge Suspension Bridge, located in the Otago region of New Zealand, has an interesting claim to fame. It was the first bridge to be used as a commercial bungee jumping site. The bridge was built in 1880 to provide access to the Central Otago Gold Fields but now is part of the Queenstown Trail which allows pedestrians and bikers to safely cross the Cowell River. The bridge is still used by the AJ Hackett Bungee Company for bungee jumping and is also listed as a category 1 Historic Place by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.
2. **Hanging Bridge of Gasha** – The Hanging Bridge is located high up in the Himalayan mountains in Gasha, Nepal. The bridge spans the Kali Gandaki River Valley and was actually built for a very practical reason: to ease the congestion caused by local animal herds. While the bridge appears dangerous at first sight, it has stood the test of time and is currently still in use. Local herders and farmers use it every day to transport their goods and livestock to the local market.
1. **Shaharah Bridge** – The Shaharah Bridge, also known as the 'Bridge of Sighs' is a stone bridge located at the top of the 8,530 foot-tall Jabal Shaharah mountain in Yemen. It was built in the 17th century to connect the village of Shaharah with other villages in the area. It was also designed to be easily destroyed in case of attack by Turkish invaders. The bridge spans a 300-foot deep canyon high up in the mountains and is popular with both locals and tourists alike. It can be reached by climbing the many steps carved into the steep mountainside.

1 Choose the right option.

12. Royal Gorge Bridge is a *true road/tourist attraction*.
11. Crab bridge was built to help crabs to safely move *from the forest to the ocean and vice versa/ from a river to the ocean and vice versa*.
10. Mathematical Bridge in Cambridge is made from *curved timbers/straight timbers*.
9. Slauerhoffbrug Bridge is a *movable part of a road/a pedestrian bridge*.
8. Khasi people in India can build bridges using *roots from rubber trees/branches from rubber trees*.
7. Storseisundet Bridge in Norway connects the *mainland to the islands of Archipelago/each other the islands of the Archipelago*.
6. Rakotz Bridge appears like a perfect *square/circle* when it reflects in the water.
5. The teak wood used to build the U Bein Bridge comes from the former *Royal Palace/Temple* in Inwa.
4. Arch Triumph Inflatable Bridge was built to be *permanent/temporary*.
3. Kawarau Gorge Suspension Bridge was the first bridge *used/built* to practise bungee jumping.
2. Hanging Bridge of Gasha is still used *by local people to transport their goods and livestock/by tourists to climb the mountain*.
1. Shaharah bridge was built to *connect villages in the same area/to attack the Turkish invaders*.



Crab Bridge, Australia

2 What bridge would you like to see if you were

WHO	WHICH BRIDGE
1. a lover of extreme sports	
2. a zoologist	
3. an architect looking for innovative projects	
4. interested in Far East cultures	
5. looking forward to visiting the United States	
6. passionate about legends	



U Bein Bridge, Myanmar



Shaharah Bridge, Yemen