Around the World – The Sights

Churches

- **St. Paul’s Cathedral, London** (Anglican). Designed by Christopher Wren and completed in 1709.
- **Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France** (Catholic). In the French Gothic style. Completed 1345.
- **Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem** (Catholic / Orthodox). Traditionally believed to be built on the place where Jesus Christ was buried.
- **Ascension Cathedral, Almaty, Kazakhstan** (Russian Orthodox). The second tallest wooden building in the world. Completed in 1907.
- **Basilica of San Sebastian, Manila, the Philippines** (Catholic). An unusual earthquake-resistant steel church, completed in 1891. The prefabricated steel sections were manufactured in Belgium.
- **Scots’ Church, Melbourne, Australia** (Presbyterian). Completed in 1874.

Other Buildings

- **Capitol Building, Washington (DC)**. Meeting place of the US Senate and House of Representatives.
- **Krak des Chevaliers, Syria**. A Crusader castle held by the Knights Hospitaller from 1142 to 1271.
- **Kok Gumbaz Mosque, Qarshi, Uzbekistan** (16th century). The name of the mosque means “blue dome.” The city was a stop on the caravan routes across Central Asia.
- **Taj Mahal, Agra, India** (1653). Commissioned by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his beloved third wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Millions of people visit the Taj Mahal each year.
- **Himeji Castle, Japan**. Perhaps the finest surviving medieval Japanese castle. Made of wood and stone, and completed in 1609.
- **Control tower, McMurdo Station** (US base). McMurdo Station (1956) is the largest scientific base in Antarctica. This portable control tower is part of the airfield set up each year on the ice.

Bridges

- **Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, USA** (1937). One of the world’s most famous suspension bridges.

• **Pont Neuf, Paris, France** (1607). Although the name means “New Bridge,” this is the oldest existing bridge across the Seine River in Paris.

• **Roman Aqueduct, Aspendos, Turkey**. A ruined “bridge” for water, built by the Romans. The ancient city of Aspendos was part of the district of Pamphylia in what was once called “Asia Minor.”

• **Yokohama Bay Bridge, Japan** (1989). A cable-stayed bridge across Tokyo Bay, 860 m (2,820 ft) long.

• **Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney, Australia** (1932). The world’s tallest steel arch bridge. Nicknamed the “Coat-hanger,” this bridge is one of Sydney’s most famous landmarks.

**Statues**

• **Christ the Redeemer** (1931). Standing on the mountain of Corcovado, this 30 m (98 ft) statue of Jesus (named “Cristo Redentor” in Portuguese) overlooks the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

• **Statue of Liberty, New York** (1886). Designed by Frédéric Bartholdi, the statue is 46 m (151 ft) high.

• **Sir Isaac Newton, Trinity College, Cambridge** (1755). This statue of the famous scientist, by Louis-François Roubiliac, stands in the ante-chapel of the college where Newton was a student and Fellow.

• **Rodin’s “The Thinker”** (1903). The bronze cast pictured is at the Musée Rodin, Paris, France.

• **The Sphinx, Giza Plateau, Egypt** (around 2500 BC). The “Great Sphinx” is 20 m (65 ft) high, and located near the Pyramid of Khafre (also pictured).

• **Moai statues, Easter Island** (between 1000 and 1500). The 887 moai of Easter Island stand several metres high, and weigh up to 80 tonnes. Most were toppled during times of social upheaval after 1500.

**Waterfalls**

• **Angel Falls, Venezuela**. The world’s highest waterfall (979 m / 3,212 ft).

• **Yosemite Falls, California, USA**. The highest waterfall in North America (739 m / 2,425 ft).

• **Niagara Falls**, on the border of Canada and the USA. Only 51 m (167 ft) high, but with the world’s highest rate of water flow.

• **Dettifoss, Iceland**. On the Jökulsá á Fjöllum, which carries melted ice from the Vatnajökull glacier. Only 45 m (148 ft) high, but with Europe’s highest rate of water flow.

• **Victoria Falls**, on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe. The world’s largest waterfall, in terms of the size of the falling sheet of water. The height is 108 m (354 ft) and the width 1.7 km (1 mi).

• **Stirling Falls, New Zealand**. One of the waterfalls on Milford Sound (151 m / 495 ft high).
Mountains

- **Sugarloaf Mountain** (396 m / 1,299 ft), overlooking the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Reachable by cable car.
- **Mount St. Helens, Washington (State), USA** (2,549 m / 8,363 ft). A volcano, which erupted on 18 May 1980, killing 57 people.
- **Greater Chimgan, Uzbekistan** (3,309 m / 10,856 ft).
- **Mount Everest**, on the border of Nepal and Tibet (China). The world’s tallest mountain (8,848 m / 29,029 ft), first climbed by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953.
- **Mount Fuji, Japan** (3,776 m / 12,388 ft). A famous Japanese landmark.
- **Asgard Range, Antarctica**. A coastal range separating the Wright and Taylor desert valleys.

Lakes

- **Lake Superior**, on the border between Canada and the USA. The largest of the Great Lakes, it holds 12,000 km³ (2,900 cubic miles) of water – more than the other Great Lakes combined, and more than any other freshwater lake except Lake Baikal and Lake Tanganyika.
- **Loch Ness, Scotland**. Home of the fabled “Loch Ness Monster.”
- **Lake Victoria, Africa** (Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya). The world’s second largest lake by surface area (Lake Superior is the largest).
- **Sea of Galilee, Israel**. Also known as the Sea of Kinneret or Lake Tiberias. Famous for its role in the Bible, and also (at 209 m / 686 ft below sea level) for being the lowest freshwater lake on Earth.
- **Lake Balkhash, Kazakhstan**. One of the largest lakes in Asia.
- **Lake Fryxell, Antarctica**. Located in Taylor Valley, Victoria Land.

Forests

- **Muir Woods, California, USA**. A protected stand of Coast Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Named after Scottish-American naturalist John Muir.
- **Sherwood Forest, England**. Famous for the connection to Robin Hood.
- **Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve, Lebanon**. Created to save the famous Cedars of Lebanon.
- **Lawachara National Park, Bangladesh**. Established in 1996.
- **Japanese forest, Nikkō, Japan.** The forest pictured contains over 100 Japanese temples and shrines.
- **Temperate rainforest, New Zealand.** Such forests are associated with high rainfall but cold weather.

**Other Geological Features**

- **Volcanic eruption, Hawai‘i, USA.** All the Hawaiian islands are volcanic in origin.
- **Big Cub Geyser, Yellowstone National Park, USA.** One of many geysers at Yellowstone.
- **Giant’s Causeway, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.** A collection of thousands interlocking basalt columns, formed from cooling lava.
- **Aletsch Glacier, Switzerland.** The largest glacier in the Alps.
- **Wonder Cave, Kromdraai, South Africa.** One of the largest cave chambers in South Africa.
- **Erebus glacier cave, Antarctica.** A cave in the Erebus Ice Tongue.

**Flowers**

- **Indian Paintbrush, Western USA (Castilleja linariifolia, family Orobancheaceae).**
- **Wood Anemone (Windflower), Europe (Anemone nemorosa, family Ranunculaceae).**
- **Strelitzia (Bird of Paradise), South Africa (Strelitzia reginae, family Strelitziaceae).**
- **Toad Lily, Taiwan (Tricyrtis formosana, family Liliaceae).**
- **Sturt’s Desert Pea, Australia (Swainsona formosa, family Fabaceae).** Floral emblem of South Australia.
- **Pōhutukawa, New Zealand (Metrosideros excelsa, family Myrtaceae).**

**Birds**

- **Toco Toucan, South America (Ramphastos toco).**
- **Blue Jay, Eastern and central USA (Cyanocitta cristata).**
- **Pine Bunting, Central Asia ( Emberiza leucocephalos).**
- **Indian Peafowl (male), India (Pavo cristatus).** The peacock.
- **Galah, Australia (Eolophus roseicapilla).** One of the most common cockatoos.
- **Emperor Penguins, Antarctica (Aptenodytes forsteri).** The largest penguin species.
Mammals and Marsupials

- **Jaguar, South America to Mexico** (*Panthera onca*).
- **Zebras, Africa** (*Equus quagga*).
- **Bactrian Camel, Central Asia** (*Camelus bactrianus*).
- **Indian Elephants, India to Southeast Asia** (*Elephas maximus*).
- **Koala, Australia** (marsupial, *Phascolarctos cinereus*).
- **Weddell Seal, Antarctica** (*Leptonychotes weddellii*).

Reptiles and Amphibians

- **Poison Dart Frog, South America** (amphibian, *Dendrobates tinctorius*).
- **Timber Rattlesnake, Eastern USA** (reptile, *Crotalus horridus*).
- **Near Eastern Fire Salamander, Middle East** (amphibian, *Salamandra infraimmaculata*).
- **Indian Cobra, India** (reptile, *Naja naja*).
- **Saltwater Crocodile, Northern Australia** (reptile, *Crocodylus porosus*).
- **Fiji Crested Iguana, Fiji** (reptile, *Brachylophus vitiensis*).