

WONDERS OF THE MODERN WORLD

The New 7 Wonders of the World was a fun project that started in 2001. Its goal was to pick seven amazing new "Wonders of the World" from a list of 200 famous places. People voted for their favorites online for free, and some also voted by phone.

A man named Bernard Weber from Switzerland led this big vote. The New 7 Wonders Foundation, based in Switzerland, organized everything. The winners were announced on July 7, 2007, in Lisbon, Portugal. Many people voted, making it one of the biggest polls ever!

Some countries were very excited and encouraged their people to vote for their national landmarks. However, the United Nations' cultural organization, UNESCO, said they were not part of this contest. They explained that their own list of World Heritage Sites is based on scientific and educational reasons, not just a popularity vote.

The seven winners were chosen from 21 places that were picked by a special group in 2006.



1.

It was built over many centuries to protect ancient Chinese states from nomadic groups from the north. The first walls were built as early as the 7th century BC. Over time, different emperors connected and expanded these walls. The most famous and well-preserved sections were built by the Ming dynasty (1368-1644).

Stretching for thousands of kilometers, this is not just one long wall. It is a complex defense system with watchtowers, barracks for soldiers, and signal stations. These were used to spot enemies and send messages using smoke or fire. The wall also served as a form of border control, managing trade along the famous Silk Road.

In total, all the different parts of the wall stretch for 21,196.18 km. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was named one of the New 7 Wonders of the World in 2007. Today, it is considered one of the most amazing building projects in all of history.



2.

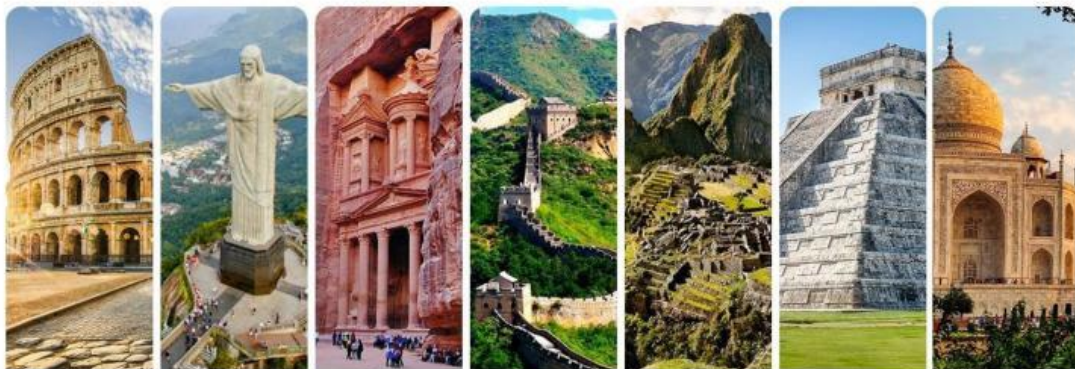
It is an amazing ancient city in southern Jordan. Its original name was Raqmu, given by its first inhabitants, the Nabataeans. This city is famous for its buildings carved right into the rock. It's often called the "Rose City" because of the beautiful pink color of the sandstone cliffs.

This incredible city is one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, meaning it's a very important place for everyone to protect. People have lived in this area since about 7000 BC. The Nabataeans, an ancient Arab people, settled here in the 4th century BC.

It became the capital city of the Nabataean Kingdom around the 2nd century BC. The Nabataeans were smart traders. They used their location on the incense trade routes to become a major trading center. This brought them a lot of wealth. They were also very skilled in farming, stone carving, and collecting rainwater.

This ancient city was at its busiest in the 1st century AD. This is when the famous Al-Khazneh (Treasury) building was made. It might have been a tomb for King Aretas IV. At its peak, about 20,000 people lived in Petra.

Today, this amazing city is a symbol of Jordan. It's also Jordan's most popular tourist spot. Over a million visitors come to see its wonders every year.



3.

This famous Art Deco sculpture of Jesus in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was designed by French-Polish sculptor Paul Landowski and built by Brazilian engineer Heitor da Silva Costa. French engineer Albert Caquot also helped, and Romanian sculptor Gheorghe Leonida created the face.

This huge statue was built between 1922 and 1931. It stands 30 metres tall, not counting its 8-metre base. Its arms stretch 28 metres wide. The statue is made from reinforced concrete and a special kind of stone called soapstone.

Did you know the statue almost looked different? The first idea was for Jesus to hold a globe and a cross. But they changed the plan to the statue we see today, with its arms spread wide open. This pose has become a symbol of peace.

The statue weighs about 635 metric tons. It sits on top of the 700-metre (2,300 ft) Corcovado mountain. This mountain is inside the Tijuca National Park and looks out over the city of Rio de Janeiro. This monument is the largest Art Deco-style sculpture in the world. It is a symbol of Christianity and a major cultural icon for both Rio and Brazil. People even voted it one of the New 7 Wonders of the World.



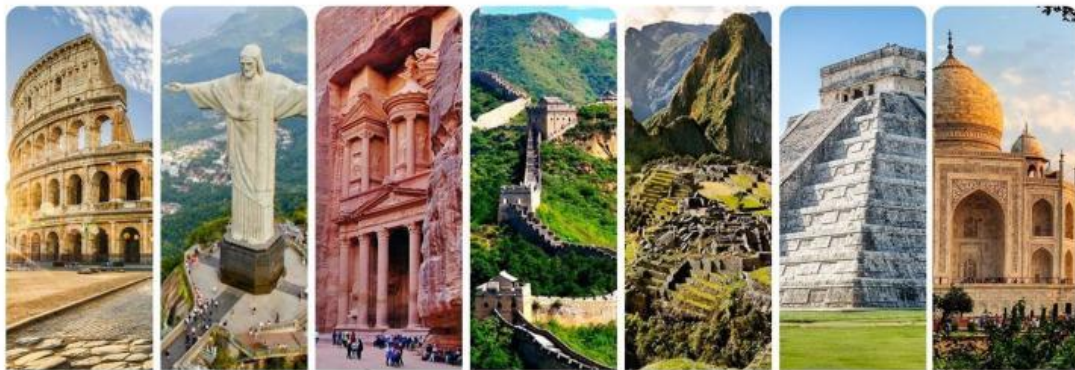
4.

This is an amazing ancient city built by the Inca people in Peru, South America. It was built in the 1400s, long before Europeans arrived.

The Incas built this city high up on a mountain ridge. It sits about 2,430 meters above sea level. People lived there between 1200 and 1450 AD. Some people even lived there before 650 AD.

The Incas were very skilled builders. They shaped the mountain rock to create flat areas for houses, fields, and temples. They even built an Observatory to study the stars.

When the Spanish came to Peru, the Incas left this city. No one is completely sure why they left. Some think it was because of diseases brought by the Europeans. The city was left unfinished. This was likely due to the Spanish invasion or a fight between two Inca brothers, Huascar and Atahualpa. The Spanish never found this amazing place during their time in Peru.



5.

This is an amazing ancient city built by the Maya people long ago. It's located in Yucatán, Mexico. This city was a very important place in the Maya world for hundreds of years.

This city was a big center for the Maya from about 600 AD to 1200 AD. You can see many different building styles there. Some styles are like those found in central Mexico. Others are like the Puuc and Chenes styles from the northern Maya lowlands.

Experts used to think these different styles meant people from central Mexico took over this city. Now, most believe it was more about different cultures sharing ideas. It was one of the largest Maya cities. It might have been one of the famous "great cities" mentioned in old Maya stories.

The city probably had many different kinds of people living there. This mix of cultures could explain why its buildings look so varied. Today, the ruins of this city belong to the Mexican government. It's a very popular place to visit, with millions of tourists each year.



6.

This is a huge, oval-shaped building in the center of Rome, Italy. It is the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built. Even today, it is the biggest standing amphitheatre in the world.

Construction of this building started around 72 AD under Emperor Vespasian. It was finished in 80 AD by his son, Titus. Later, Titus's brother Domitian made more changes.

It was built using strong materials like travertine limestone, tuff (a type of volcanic rock), and concrete. It could hold between 50,000 and 80,000 people. People came to watch gladiatorial fights and other public shows. These shows included animal hunts, punishments, re-enactments of famous battles, and plays based on Roman mythology. For a short time, even mock sea battles were held there.

The building stopped being used for entertainment in the early Middle Ages. Over time, it was used for many different things. It became homes, workshops, a fortress, and even a Christian shrine.

Even though earthquakes and stone robbers damaged it, this building is still a famous symbol of Imperial Rome. It is one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. Today, it is one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions.



7.

This beautiful ivory-white marble building in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India. It sits on the right bank of the Yamuna River.

A powerful ruler named Shah Jahan, the fifth Mughal emperor, ordered its construction in 1631. He wanted to build a special tomb for his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, after she passed away. Shah Jahan's own tomb is also inside the Taj Mahal.

The tomb is the main part of a huge complex that covers about 17 hectares. This area also includes a mosque, a guest house, and lovely gardens. A wall with special designs surrounds the complex on three sides.

The entire complex was likely finished by 1653. At that time, it cost about 5 million rupees, which would be around 35 billion rupees (or 77.8 million US dollars) today.

This building combines different building styles, especially Indo-Islamic and Mughal architecture. It is known for its balanced, symmetrical design. The main tomb is made of white marble with colorful semi-precious stones inlaid into it. Other buildings in the complex use red sandstone. More than 20,000 workers and artists helped build it.

In 1983, this monument became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was called "the jewel of Islamic art in India" and a "masterpiece of the world's heritage." It is a top example of Mughal architecture and a symbol of India's rich history. Millions of people visit it every year. In 2007, it was named one of the New 7 Wonders of the World.

