

THE OLDEST BRIDGES IN THE WORLD

Arkadiko Bridge, located in Argolida the Oldest bridge in the world

The oldest known bridge is the Kazarma Bridge or Arkadiko Bridge, located in Argolida, in the Peloponnese, Greece, whose construction dates back to the Mycenaean period, around 1300 BC. The Arkadiko Bridge is still used today for local pedestrian and agricultural traffic and has been in service for more than 3,000 years. It was part of the road linking the city-states of Mycenae, Argos and Tirynthos with the port of Palaia Epidavros. This bridge, along with three others from the same period (though less well preserved), was able to accommodate chariots and therefore is proof of the central power that Mycenae exercised over other cities in the region. The Arkadiko Bridge consists of a corbelled arched vault made of Cyclopean blocks stacked without mortar, characteristic of buildings of the period. The bridge spans 1,340 m (4,400 ft) between Xuanwei city, Yunnan and Shuicheng County, Guizhou and shortens the journey between the two places from around five hours' drive to about an hour.[5]

Tarr's Steps is a clapper bridge that crosses the River Barle in Exmoor National Park, Somerset, England. The stone slabs that make up the bridge weigh up to two tonnes each. Whilst some theories place the construction of this bridge in the Bronze Age (3300 to 1200 BC), others date it to around 1400 AD. It has been restored several times following flood damage. Given its architectural interest, we're including it in our list of the world's oldest bridges.