1) Si-o-se Pol

Also known as the Allāhverdi Khan Bridge, [Iran](http://theculturetrip.com/middle-east/iran/)’s [Si-o-se Pol](http://www.bridgesdb.com/bridge-list/siosepol-bridge/) (which translates as ‘Bridge of 33 Arches’) dates back to 1602 and stretches across the Zayandeh Rood River in Isfahan, connecting its historical main avenue Chahar Bagh with the neighborhood of New Jolfa. Commissioned by Shah Abbas I of Persia, Si-o-se Pol is almost 300 meters long and 14 meters wide and is considered one of the world’s finest examples of Safavid dynasty era bridge design. Alongside the equally impressive, but slightly younger Pol-e Khaju built in 1650 and the ancient Pol-e Shahrestan, dating back as far as the 3rd century, Si-o-se Pol is one of 11 bridges in Isfahan.

## 2) Charles Bridge

[Charles Bridge](http://www.prague.eu/en/object/places/93/charles-bridge-karluv-most?back=1), Prague’s oldest and most magnificent bridge, was built over the course of 45 years from 1357 into the early 15th century, and is today one of the [Czech](http://theculturetrip.com/europe/czech-republic/) capital’s most visited sights. Flanked on either end by magnificent Gothic bridge towers the 516-meter bridge, which connects Prague’s Old Town with Malá Strana across the Vltava River, is adorned with 30 statues of saints carved between 1683 and 1928. Its most famous statue, that of St John of Nepomuk, is said to bring good fortune to those who touch it – ironic, perhaps, considering the saint was thrown to his death from the Charles Bridge in 1383.

## 3) Brooklyn Bridge

## Designed by German-American engineer John Roebling and spanning 486 meters across New York’s East River, the [Brooklyn Bridge](http://www.nycgo.com/venues/brooklyn-bridge) was officially opened in May 1883 and laid claim to the title of ‘world’s longest suspension bridge’ until it was pipped to the post by the nearby Williamsburg Bridge in 1903, which surpassed its length by two meters. Nevertheless, the Brooklyn Bridge is one of the most iconic architectural features of New York City’s stunning skyline and has been recognized with many accolades including becoming a designated National Historic Landmark in 1964 and a [National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark](http://www.asce.org/landmark-program/) in 1972.

## 4) Tower Bridge

## Part suspension bridge and part bascule – a sophisticated type of drawbridge that gets its name from the French word for ‘see-saw’ – [London](http://theculturetrip.com/europe/united-kingdom/england/london/)’s [Tower Bridge](http://www.towerbridge.org.uk/) was constructed between 1886-94 as a means of cutting congestion in the city without disturbing river traffic below. Though today the bridge is one of the capital’s most quintessentially ‘London’ landmarks, it wasn’t always so loved – in fact, English artist Frank Brangwyn stated in his 1920 publication A Book of Bridges that “a more absurd structure than the Tower Bridge was never thrown across a strategic river.”

## 5) Alcántara Bridge

## Dating back as far as the 2nd century, [Spain](http://theculturetrip.com/europe/spain/)’s [Alcántara Bridge](http://www.spain.info/en/que-quieres/arte/monumentos/caceres/puente_de_alcantara.html" \t "_blank) is a spectacular feat of ancient Roman engineering. Constructed under the orders of Emperor Trajan, the six-arched structure crosses the Tagus River and was built to connect the then Roman settlement of Cáceres with Portugal’s historic Beira Alta province. Over its long, rich history the bridge has sustained considerable damage on a number of occasions – in 1214, Moors destroyed one of its smaller arches and again in 1760, another of it arches was razed by the Spanish to prevent Portuguese invasion – though thanks to several repair efforts, the ancient Alcántara Bridge has managed to withstand the test of time.

## 6) Chengyang Wind and Rain Bridge

## Located in northeastern Guangxi’s Sanjiang Dong Autonomous County, the [Chengyang Wind and Rain Bridge](http://www.chinahighlights.com/sanjiang/attraction/chengyang-wind-rain-bridge.htm" \t "_blank) – so called as it offers a scenic respite from the elements — is 100 years old and among [China](http://theculturetrip.com/asia/china/)’s most famous bridges. Stretching over 60 meters across the Linxi River, the beautiful covered bridge sits on five stone columns each topped with wooden, pagoda-style pavilions. Interestingly, it was built without using a single nail or rivet, with all beams and planks held together by dovetail joints instead. At one end of the Chengyang Wind and Rain Bridge, visitors will find an engraved poem by Chinese writer Guo Moruo, who was enchanted by the structure after first seeing it in the mid-1960s.