The Longest Bridges in the World

The official list has more than 300 bridges all over the world. As we don't have the space to tell you about all of them (although we wish we could!), we have chosen a small selection of different crossings. Each one is located in a different part of the world so we can show you some of the greatest feats of engineering found across five continents.

**No.1 (Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge)**

The Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge, an engineering marvel, stretches across the vast landscape of China, connecting the cities of Danyang and Kunshan. As part of the Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway, this mammoth structure boasts the title of the longest bridge in the world, spanning approximately 164.8 kilometers (102.4 miles). Constructed over the course of four years and completed in 2010, the bridge traverses varied terrain, including rivers, lakes, and low-lying marshes. Its design incorporates a combination of viaducts, cable-stayed sections, and beam bridges, ensuring stability and endurance against the region's frequent seismic activity and adverse weather conditions. The bridge not only facilitates high-speed rail travel, significantly reducing travel time between Beijing and Shanghai, but also serves as a testament to human ingenuity and engineering prowess on a grand scale.

**No.2 (Incheon Bridge, South Korea)**

The Incheon Bridge stands as a symbol of South Korea's modernization and infrastructure advancement, linking the bustling city of Incheon with the island of Yeongjong and the Incheon International Airport. Spanning approximately 21.38 kilometers (13.28 miles), this impressive structure ranks among the longest cable-stayed bridges in the world. Its construction, completed in 2009, was a feat of engineering, overcoming challenges posed by the region's tidal currents and seismic activity. The bridge's sleek design and innovative engineering techniques not only provide a vital transportation link for residents and visitors but also enhance the aesthetic appeal of the surrounding landscape. Serving as a crucial artery for commerce and tourism, the Incheon Bridge stands as a testament to South Korea's commitment to progress and connectivity.

**No.3 (Vasco da Gama Bridge, Portugal)**

The Vasco da Gama Bridge, a striking feat of modern engineering, spans the Tagus River in Lisbon, Portugal, standing as one of Europe's longest bridges. Named after the legendary Portuguese explorer, it stretches approximately 17.2 kilometers (10.7 miles), making it not only a vital transportation link but also an iconic landmark on Lisbon's skyline. Completed in 1998, just in time for the World Expo hosted by the city, the bridge significantly alleviated traffic congestion in the region by providing a direct route between the north and south of Portugal. Its elegant design, featuring a cable-stayed structure supported by towering pillars, seamlessly integrates with the surrounding landscape. The bridge's construction was a testament to Portugal's engineering prowess and served as a symbol of the nation's modernization and connectivity within Europe. Today, the Vasco da Gama Bridge stands as a proud symbol of Portugal's maritime heritage and technological innovation.

**No.4 (Mackinac Bridge in Michigan, US)**

The Mackinac Bridge, a renowned engineering marvel, spans the Straits of Mackinac in Michigan, United States, connecting the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of the state. Stretching approximately 8 kilometers (5 miles) in length, this suspension bridge is a symbol of Michigan's ingenuity and resilience. Completed in 1957 after three years of construction, the bridge's iconic design features two massive towers rising 169 meters (552 feet) above the water, supporting the roadway suspended by steel cables. Its construction was a monumental undertaking, overcoming challenges posed by the region's harsh weather conditions and the unpredictable currents of the straits. The Mackinac Bridge not only provides a vital transportation link for residents and tourists but also offers breathtaking views of the surrounding Great Lakes region. Serving as a lifeline for commerce and travel, the bridge stands as a testament to human achievement and the enduring spirit of Michigan's people.

**No.5 (Öland Bridge in Sweden)**

The Öland Bridge, a remarkable feat of engineering, spans the Kalmar Strait in Sweden, connecting the mainland city of Kalmar to the island of Öland. Stretching approximately 6.07 kilometers (3.77 miles) in length, this impressive structure is not only the longest bridge in Sweden but also one of the longest in Europe. Completed in 1972, the Öland Bridge has significantly improved accessibility to Öland, a popular tourist destination known for its natural beauty and cultural heritage.