The Oldest 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 (Alcántara Bridge)**

The Alcántara Bridge, a stunning testament to ancient Roman engineering, spans the Tagus River in western Spain, connecting the provinces of Cáceres and Portalegre. Constructed in the early 2nd century AD under the rule of Emperor Trajan, this remarkable bridge exemplifies Roman mastery of arch construction. With a length of approximately 194 meters (636 feet) and a height of 61 meters (200 feet), the bridge's massive granite arches have withstood the test of time, serving as a vital transportation link for over two millennia. The Alcántara Bridge's enduring structural integrity and elegant design have made it an enduring symbol of Roman engineering prowess and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today, it continues to awe visitors with its grandeur and serves as a reminder of the rich historical legacy of the Iberian Peninsula.

**No.2 (Pons Fabricius)**

The Pons Fabricius, also known as the Fabricius Bridge, is an ancient Roman bridge located in Rome, Italy, spanning the Tiber River. Constructed in 62 BC, during the Republican period, the bridge connects the Campus Martius with Tiber Island. With a length of approximately 62 meters (203 feet), the Fabricius Bridge is one of the oldest bridges still in use in Rome today. Its enduring structure, consisting of two semicircular arches built of tufa and travertine stones, stands as a testament to ancient Roman engineering expertise. Originally named after its builder, Lucius Fabricius, a Roman magistrate, the bridge has undergone some restorations over the centuries but retains much of its original appearance. The Fabricius Bridge not only serves as a functional transportation link but also stands as a historic landmark, offering visitors a glimpse into Rome's rich architectural and cultural heritage.

**No.3 (Cendere Bridge)**

The Cendere Bridge, also known as the Severan Bridge, is an ancient Roman bridge located near the town of Adiyaman in southeastern Turkey. Constructed during the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus between 193 and 211 AD, the bridge spans the Cendere (Cabinas) River, a tributary of the Euphrates. With a length of approximately 120 meters (394 feet) and a height of 17 meters (56 feet), the Cendere Bridge is a remarkable example of Roman engineering and architecture in the region. Its construction, using large stone blocks and ashlar masonry, demonstrates the Romans' mastery of bridge building techniques. The bridge served as a vital link on the ancient trade routes, connecting the cities of Zeugma and Samosata. Despite centuries of wear and natural disasters, including earthquakes, the Cendere Bridge has endured, standing as a tangible reminder of the Roman Empire's influence in Anatolia and its lasting contributions to infrastructure development. Today, the bridge remains an important cultural and historical landmark, attracting visitors with its ancient allure and scenic surroundings.

**No.4 (Pont Julien, France)**

The Pont Julien is an ancient Roman bridge located near the town of Bonnieux in Provence, southern France. Constructed in the 1st century AD, during the reign of Emperor Augustus, the bridge spans the Calavon River. With a length of approximately 68 meters (223 feet) and a width of 6.2 meters (20 feet), the Pont Julien is a fine example of Roman bridge engineering. It consists of three semicircular arches, built using local limestone blocks and mortar. The bridge served as a vital link on the Roman road from Cavaillon to Apt, facilitating trade and communication between the Roman colonies in the region. Despite centuries of use and occasional floods, the Pont Julien remained in active service until the 20th century when a modern bridge was built nearby to accommodate heavier traffic. Today, the Pont Julien stands as a picturesque landmark, surrounded by scenic countryside, and serves as a testament to the enduring legacy of Roman civilization in France.

**No.5 (Ponte Sant'Angelo Bridge)**

The Ponte Sant'Angelo, also known as the Bridge of Angels, is a historic bridge spanning the Tiber River in Rome, Italy. Constructed between 134 and 139 AD by the Roman Emperor Hadrian, the bridge originally served as a direct link between the city center and his mausoleum, now known as the Castel Sant'Angelo. The bridge features five arches and is adorned with statues of angels designed by the Baroque sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini and his disciples. Originally, these angelic statues were made of marble, but they were later replaced with replicas to preserve the originals.