

Millau Viaduct



The **Millau Viaduct** ([French](#): *Viaduc de Millau*, IPA: [\[vja.dyk də mi.jo\]](#)) is a Multiplan [cable-stayed bridge](#) completed in 2004 across the [gorge valley](#) of the [Tarn](#) near (west of) [Millau](#) in the [Averno](#) department in the [Occitanie](#) Region, in [Southern France](#). The design team was led by engineer [Michel Virlogeux](#) and [English](#) architect [Norman Foster](#).^{[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)} As of September 2020, it is the [tallest bridge in the world](#), having a structural height of 336.4 meters (1,104 ft.)

History

- The Millau Viaduct is a cable-stayed bridge that spans the Tarn River in southern France. It is the tallest bridge in the world, with its highest pylon reaching 343 meters (1,125 feet) above the river.
- The bridge was designed by French engineer Michel Virlogeux and British architect Norman Foster. Construction began in December 2001 and was completed in December 2004.
- The bridge was opened to the public on December 16, 2004. It cost €394 million to build.

Construction

- The Millau Viaduct is made of concrete and steel. The concrete piers are hollow shafts that were built layer by layer. The steel deck was constructed in sections and then lifted into place.
- The seven pylons are the tallest structures in France. They are made of steel and concrete. The cables that support the deck are anchored to the pylons.

- The bridge was built using a variety of techniques, including traditional construction methods and innovative new technologies.

Design

- The Millau Viaduct is a graceful and elegant structure. The pylons are slender and tapered, and the cables are thin and delicate. The bridge blends in with the natural landscape, and it does not dominate the surrounding area.
- The design of the bridge was inspired by the surrounding mountains. The pylons are shaped like mountain peaks, and the cables resemble waterfalls.
- The Millau Viaduct is a marvel of engineering and design. It is a symbol of modern France and a testament to the ingenuity of its builders.