



The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal

Did you know that the longest artificial waterway in the world is made by humans? The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal runs across China and connects many rivers and cities.

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How Ancient Engineers Overcame a Mountain

More than 1000 years ago, ancient Chinese engineers faced a big challenge while building the canal. The mountains in Shandong Province made Nanwang town become the highest section of the whole canal, and that could be a big problem. But they didn't give up!

1

The Problem

Nanwang town became the highest section of the whole canal due to the mountains in Shandong Province.

2

The Solution

Engineers built a dam to divert the river toward the canal ridge so that the summit turned into a water source.

3

The Result

The river pours down from the summit to the north and south, making the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal truly unique.

Cities Connected by the Canal

The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal connects many cities along the way. Here are some of them:

Beijing

This starting point of the Beijing-Hangzhou Canal.

Suzhou

Important trading areas connected by the Beijing-Hangzhou Canal.

Hangzhou

The final focus.



The Canal's Unique Direction

Have you ever heard of a north-south river? Most rivers in China flow from west to east, but the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal is different!

1 The Only One

The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal is the only north-south river among all the east-flowing rivers in China.

2 Connecting More

Thanks to its unique direction, the canal connects more rivers and cities along the way.

3 Made by Human

The canal is the longest artificial waterway in the world, measuring over 1,700 km.

How the Canal Helped with Transport and Trade

The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal was not just a beauty, but also an important way of transport and trade throughout history.

Transportation

- Ships and boats could travel along the canal quickly and easily.
- Much faster than travelling overland, and it's not affected by the weather like the sea.

Trade and Culture

The canal helped spread culture, ideas and trade goods throughout the region.

- Merchants could use the canal to trade between cities, particularly grain from the south to the north.
- The people from different parts of China could interact and share their ideas and cultures.

The Canal's Legacy and Future Development

The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal is a symbol of ancient Chinese wisdom and engineering skills. It's also a testimony to the exchange and communication of people, technology, and cultures.

The Canal's Legacy	The Canal's Future
The canal has been listed as a World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO.(UN Educational Scientific and Cultural organization)	The Chinese government has launched projects to preserve and promote the canal, aiming to create a green and modern transportation system.
The canal has inspired many poems, paintings, and songs in ancient and modern times.	More and more tourists visit the canal every year, and new attractions and facilities have been developed along the canal.