



The Great Wall of China, one of the most iconic architectural achievements in history, was built over several dynasties to protect Chinese states and empires from invasions. Construction began as early as the 7th century BCE, with the most notable sections built during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644). Stretching over 21,000 kilometers (13,000 miles), the wall is a series of fortifications made of stone, brick, tamped earth, and wood, traversing mountains, deserts, and grasslands. Beyond its defensive purpose, the wall also served as a means of border control, trade regulation, and communication through watchtowers and signaling systems. Today, the Great Wall stands as a symbol of China's strength and ingenuity, attracting millions of visitors annually.