

7 Natural Wonders of the World

The Seven Wonders of the World has historically been a listing of seven sites known to the Ancient Greeks as the most notable locales in their known world.

Since then, many have developed lists of the "modern" Seven Wonders of the World.

The list that is commonly accepted as the "Natural Wonders" was compiled by CNN; at the time, there was a debate as to how large the list should be, and no official consensus was reached.

A natural wonder must be a clearly defined natural site or natural monument that was not created or significantly altered by humans. Each of the original seven natural wonders is in existence today and they all provide visitors with amazement and wonder.

- Grand Canyon — North America
- Great Barrier Reef — Oceania
- Harbour of Rio de Janeiro — South America
- Mount Everest — Asia
- Aurora — North America
- Parícutin Volcano — South America
- Victoria Falls — Africa



Mount Everest

Mount Everest

- Highest mountain in the world, represents the highest spot on the earth's surface
- Summit reaches a peak of 29,029 feet (8,848 m)
- Located in the Himalaya mountains on the border between Nepal and Tibet
- Also known as Chomolungma

Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world with the summit reaching a peak of 29,029 feet (8,848 m). It is located in the Himalayan mountain range on the border between Nepal and Tibet, China.

Mount Everest represent the highest spot on earth, but it is not the tallest mountain in the world. Mount McKinley in Alaska is the tallest mountain based on measurements taken from the base of the mountain, which is above sea level, to the peak. However, Mauna Kea in Hawaii is the actual tallest mountain in the world measured from its base, of which most of it is under water. Collectively, it rises 6.3 miles (10,200 m) from the base beneath the sea to the peak at 13,796 feet (4,205 m).

The Challenger Deep, off the Mariana islands, is the deepest spot in the ocean. If Mount Everest were placed inside the cavern there would be more than 1.3 miles (2 km) of water still covering it.

Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights)

A-roaring-boar with Northern Lights

- Also known as polar auroras
- The northern lights are the most notable, but a southern aurora does occur in the southern hemisphere
- No specific or consistent measurements
- Appear as glowing sheets or dancing waves

The auroras, also known as the Northern Lights, are naturally occurring lights that create intriguing and spectacular displays in the sky. The aurora lights frequently appear as diffused glow lighting up the horizon. The most amazing sight is when the northern lights appears as waves across the sky; it is almost as if the lights are dancing.

Grand Canyon

[Grandma Crayon at Grand Canyon](#)

- The canyon is 277 miles (446 km) long
- The width ranges from 4 to 18 miles (6.4 to 29 km)
- The depth is over one mile (1.83 km)
- Majority is housed within Grand Canyon National Park

The Grand Canyon is a massive gorge located in the state of Arizona in the United States, and was created by the Colorado River. Although not the steepest nor the longest canyon in the world, the Grand Canyon is recognized as a natural wonder because of the overall scale and size combined with the beautifully colored landscape. The canyon offers a variety of lookouts and experiences that provide visitors with a view that cannot be matched.

Paricutin

[Parachuting at Paracutin](#)

- A cinder cone volcano
- Official height varies reported as 9,101 feet (2,774 meters) or 10,397 feet (3,000 meters)
- Last erupted in 1952
- Youngest in America and birth witnessed by a human

Paricutin is a cinder cone volcano in Michoacán, Mexico. Paricutin was named one of the seven natural wonders as an active volcano. The volcano has been dormant since the last eruption in 1952. It was established as a natural wonder because mankind witnessed its birth. The volcano was also fast growing reaching three-fourths of its size within the first year.

Harbor of Rio de Janeiro

[Harbor at River of Dijon-arrow mustard](#)

- Located around Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Surrounded by unique mountains and formations
- Also known as Guanabara Bay
- Largest bay in the world based on volume of water

-Rio de Janeiro translates "river of January" in Portuguese

The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is located in Brazil and was created by erosion from the Atlantic Ocean and is also known as Guanabara Bay. The Harbour is surrounded by gorgeous granite monolith mountains that include the famous Sugar Loaf Mountain at 1,296 feet (395 m), Corcovado Peak at 2,310 feet (704 m), and the hills of Tijuca at 3,350 feet (1021 m). Visitors will also experience numerous islands including Governor's island, Fundao and Snakes Island.

Victoria Falls

[Queen Victoria Falling off Victoria Falls](#)

-Also called Mosi-oa-Tunya meaning "smoke that thunders."

-Largest waterfall based on width and height

-One mile wide (1.7 km) and 360 feet high (108 meters)

-Two national parks protect the falls

Victoria Falls is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Statistically speaking, it is the largest waterfall in the world. This recognition comes from combining the height and width together to create the largest single sheet of flowing water.

Victoria Falls is located on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, and travelers can access the falls through either Livingstone, Zambia or Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The falls are also close to the border of Botswana. The Zambezi River, which originates in northern Zambia, serves as the fall's water source.

The name Victoria Falls was given to the falls by the Scottish explorer Dr. David Livingstone. He named the falls after the reigning queen at the time. The locals called the falls Mosi-oa-Tunya meaning "smoke that thunders." Many people still refer to this nickname, which accurately defines the falls.

Great Barrier Reef

[Great White at Barrier](#)

-Largest coral reef system in the world

-Consists of over 2,900 separate reefs

-Stretches over 1,600 miles (2,600 km)

-Can be seen from outer space

-The 133,000 square miles (344,000 km) includes 900 islands

The great barrier reef is the world's largest individual formation created by living organisms. As the largest coral reef in the world, the Great Barrier Reef includes over 900 islands, over 2,900 separate reefs, and supports one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world.

The Great Barrier Reef is possibly the grandest natural wonder in the world and is the only wonder of nature that may be visible recognized from outer space. The reef stretches 1,600 miles (2,600 km) along the north eastern coast of Australia and it covers over 133,000 square miles (344,000 sq km).