

World's tallest bridge opens in China

29th September 2025



A record-breaking bridge opened to traffic on Sunday in China. The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge in mountainous Guizhou Province is now the world's tallest bridge. It stands at a lofty height of 625 metres above the Beipan River. The feat of engineering also has the

longest span of any bridge that has been constructed in rugged terrain. The bridge is 2,890 metres long, with the main span stretching 1,420 metres. The crossing will have a significant impact on the economy, logistics, and travel times in the region. It will slash the travel time between the two sides of the Beipan River from two hours to just two minutes. A spokesperson said it would revitalize rural areas.

China is displaying an impressive level of prowess in bridge-building. The website highestbridges.com lists the 18 tallest bridges in the world, all of which have been constructed or are under construction in China. The top three are in Guizhou, which also boasts a further 32,000 spans. Nearly half of the 100 highest bridges in the world are located there. The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge is also full of cutting-edge engineering features in its wind-resistant design and high-altitude construction. The spokesperson expects the bridge will become a sightseeing spot and attract more than a million visitors a year. It has a cafe, a geological museum, and a bungee-jumping centre.

Sources:
news.cn / newsweek.com / wikipedia.org / highestbridges.com

Writing

We should look at building bridges across oceans.
Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

record / bridge / mountainous / height / feat / engineering / terrain / travel time / impressive / prowess / construction / cutting edge / high altitude / sightseeing / cafe

True / False

- 1) The record-breaking Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge is a footbridge. T / F
- 2) The main support of the bridge is 625 metres tall. T / F
- 3) The bridge has the longest span of any bridge in the world. T / F
- 4) The bridge cuts travel time across the river from 2 hours to 2 minutes. T / F
- 5) The world's 18 tallest bridges are in China. T / F
- 6) There is a total of 32,000 bridges in China. T / F
- 7) The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge is expected to be a tourist spot. T / F
- 8) People will be able to bungee jump from the Huajiang Canyon Bridge. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. lofty | a. possesses |
| 2. feat | b. countryside |
| 3. slash | c. location |
| 4. revitalize | d. tall |
| 5. rural | e. cut |
| 6. prowess | f. entice |
| 7. boasts | g. skill |
| 8. cutting edge | h. achievement |
| 9. spot | i. innovative |
| 10. attract | j. reinvigorate |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of bridges?
- b) What kinds of bridges are there in your country?
- c) Should there be bridges across oceans and seas?
- d) How great is it that engineers can create amazing bridges?
- e) What is the greatest ever feat of engineering?
- f) What impact do bridges have on local economies?
- g) Would you worry about being on a high bridge?
- h) Where would you like to see a bridge built?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. A record-breaking bridge opened | a. of engineering |
| 2. The feat | b. resistant design |
| 3. have a significant | c. revitalize rural areas |
| 4. It will slash | d. construction |
| 5. A spokesperson said it would | e. the travel time |
| 6. China is displaying an impressive | f. museum |
| 7. under | g. level of prowess |
| 8. full of cutting- | h. to traffic on Sunday |
| 9. its wind- | i. impact on the economy |
| 10. a geological | j. edge engineering features |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Which country is best at building things?
- Why are all of the world's highest bridges in China?
- Are bridges or tunnels better?
- What are the most beautiful bridges in the world?
- What bridges in your country are sightseeing spots?
- What do you think of bungee jumping off the world's highest bridge?
- What questions would you like to ask bridge builders?

Spelling

- It stands at a folty height of 625 metres
- teaf of engineering
- constructed in grdegu terrain
- The crossing will make a icsfiigntna impact
- ociqlsits, and travel times
- it would tizveerial rural areas
- an impressive level of srsoewp
- sbstoa a further 32,000 spans
- cutting-edge engineering urfeseat
- in its wind-raestntis design
- high-luetdiat construction
- a gagecooill museum

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. e	4. j	5. b
6. g	7. a	8. i	9. c	10. f

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What did the bridge open to in Sunday?
2.	How high above a river is the bridge?
3.	How long is the bridge's main span?
4.	How much time has the bridge saved to cross the Beipan River?
5.	What did a spokesperson say the bridge would revitalize?
6.	How many of the tallest bridges in the world are in China?
7.	How many of the tallest bridges in the world are in Guizhou Province?
8.	What is the Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge full of?
9.	How many visitors are expected to visit the bridge each year?
10.	What kind of museum is there at the bridge?

Speaking – Infrastructure

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important infrastructure at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|---------------------|
| • Bridges | • Hospitals |
| • Dams | • Sewage systems |
| • Tunnels | • Electricity grids |
| • Airports | • Rail networks |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.