



## **My Drift**

**Title: New7Wonders of the World**

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**While researching and writing about the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, I found out that there is another list of wonders called the “New7Wonders of the World”.**

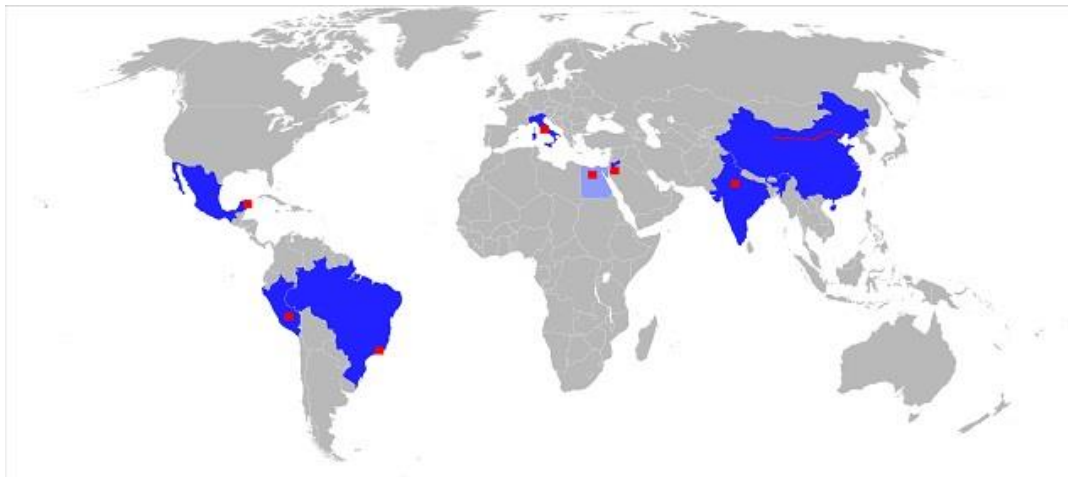


**From left to right, top to bottom: Chichen Itza, Christ the Redeemer, Great Wall of China, Machu Picchu, Petra, Taj Mahal, and Colosseum**

New7Wonders of the World was a campaign started in 2000 to choose Wonders of the World from a selection of 200 existing monuments. The popularity poll was led by Canadian-Swiss Bernard Weber and organized by the New7Wonders Foundation based in Zurich, Switzerland, with winners announced on 7 July 2007 in Lisbon.

The New7Wonders Foundation said that more than 100 million votes were cast through the Internet or by telephone. Voting via the Internet was limited to one vote for seven monuments per person/identity, but multiple voting was possible through telephone. Hence, the poll was considered unscientific and some countries were unhappy about not having their wonder included in the top seven. But, the New7Wonders Foundation said that this was the "the largest poll on record" and they selected the top seven wonders from this poll vote.

The Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt and the only surviving of the original Seven Wonders of the Ancient World was granted honorary status.



**Location of the New7Wonders Winners**

The foundation ran two subsequent programs: New7Wonders of Nature, the subject of voting until 2011, and New7Wonders Cities, which ended in 2014. I don't plan on writing about these wonders, but I will tell you what they are.

#### **New7Wonders of Nature**

**The Amazon rainforest** – South America  
**Hà Long Bay** – Vietnam  
**Jeju Island** – South Korea  
**Iguazu Falls** – Brazil and Argentina  
**Puerto Princesa Subterranean River**  
**National Park** – Philippines  
**Komodo (island)** – Indonesia  
**Table Mountain** – South Africa

#### **New7Wonders Cities**

**Beirut** - Capital of Lebanon  
**Doha** - Capital of Qatar  
**Durban** - City in South Africa  
**Havana** - Capital of Cuba  
**Kuala Lumpur** - Capital of Malaysia  
**La Paz** - City in Bolivia  
**Vigan City** - City in the Philippines

**I'm sure some of you like myself were wondering why all these lists include seven (7) wonders. Right? Well, the number seven was chosen because the Greeks believed it represented perfection and plenty, and because it was the number of the five planets known anciently, plus the sun and moon.**

**Okay, let's take a closer look at the New7Wonders of the World.**



### **#1 The Great Wall of China**

**The Great Wall of China is the collective name of a series of fortification systems built across the historical northern borders of China to protect and consolidate territories of Chinese states and empires against various nomadic groups. Several walls were being built from as early as the 7th century BC by ancient Chinese states. Selective stretches were later joined together by Qin Shi Huang (220–206 BC), the first Emperor of China. Later on, many successive dynasties have built and maintained multiple stretches of border walls. The most well-known sections of the wall were built by the Ming dynasty (1368–1644).**

**Apart from defense, other purposes of the Great Wall have included border controls, allowing the imposition of duties on goods transported along the Silk Road, regulation or encouragement of trade and the control of immigration and emigration. Furthermore, the defensive characteristics of the Great Wall were enhanced by the construction of watch towers, troop barracks, garrison stations, signaling capabilities through the means of smoke or fire, and the fact that the path of the Great Wall also served as a transportation corridor.**



**Collectively, the walls stretch from Liaodong in the east to Lop Lake in the west, from the present-day Sino–Russian border in the north to Taohe River in the south; along an arc that roughly delineates the edge of Mongolian steppe. A comprehensive archaeological survey, using advanced technologies, has concluded that the walls built by the Ming dynasty measure 5,500 miles. This is made up of 3,889 miles sections of actual wall, 223 miles of trenches and 1,387 miles of natural defensive barriers such as hills and rivers.**



## **#2 Christ the Redeemer (Brazil)**

**Christ the Redeemer is an Art Deco statue of Jesus Christ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was created by French sculptor Paul Landowski and built by Brazilian engineer Heitor da Silva Costa. Romanian sculptor Gheorghe Leonida fashioned the face. Constructed between 1922 and 1931, the statue is 98 feet high, excluding its 26 feet pedestal. The arms stretch 92 feet wide. It is made of reinforced concrete and soapstone.**

**The statue weighs 635 tons and is located at the peak of the 2,300-foot Corcovado Mountain in the Tijuca Forest National Park overlooking the city of Rio de Janeiro. A symbol of Christianity across the world, the statue has also become a cultural icon of both Rio de Janeiro and Brazil.**

**The fact that the statue stands on top of a large mountain makes it prone to lightning strikes, and it gets hit several times a year. In 2008, an enormous thunderstorm damaged the head, eyebrows, and fingers. Later, in 2014, lightning hit and broke one of Christ's fingers.**



**#3 Machu Picchu (Peru)**

**Machu Picchu is an Incan city of sparkling granite precariously perched between two towering Andean peaks. It is thought by scholars to have been a sacred archaeological center for the nearby Incan capital of Cusco. Built at the peak of the Incan Empire in the mid-1400s, this mountain citadel was later abandoned by the Incas. The site remained unknown except to locals until 1911 when it was rediscovered by archaeologist Hiram Bingham. The site can only be reached by foot, train or helicopter; most visitors visit by train from nearby Cusco.**



**#4 Chichen Itza (Mexico)**



**Chichén Itzá is a complex of Mayan ruins on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula. A massive step pyramid, known as El Castillo or Temple of Kukulcan, dominates the ancient city, which thrived from around 600 AD to the 1200s. Graphic stone carvings survive at structures like the ball court, Temple of the Warriors and the Wall of the Skulls. Nightly sound-and-light shows illuminate the buildings' sophisticated geometry.**

**With its pleasing radial symmetry, tidy stepped platforms, and crowning temple, El Castillo is one of the most recognizable Mesoamerican pyramids. It was probably built by the Toltec-Maya between 1050 and 1300 AD when the rest of the Maya population was dwindling. It's famous not only for the descent of Kukulcán but also for its relationship to the Maya calendar. Each of the pyramid's four sides has a staircase of 91 steps. The total number of steps, when combined with the temple at its summit, equals 365—the number of days in the Maya solar year. The temple on top was used exclusively by priests who performed sacred rituals at a height that brought them closer to the gods in the sky.**

**Chichen Itza is one of the most visited archaeological sites in Mexico with over 2.5 million tourists yearly.**



**#5 Roman Colosseum (Italy)**

**The Roman Colosseum or Coliseum is an oval amphitheater in the center of Rome, Italy. Built of travertine limestone, tuff (volcanic rock), and brick-faced concrete, it was the largest amphitheater ever built at the time and held up to 80,000 spectators. The Colosseum is situated just east of the Roman Forum. Construction began under the emperor Vespasian in 72 AD and was completed in 80 AD under his successor Titus.**

**The Colosseum was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles such as mock sea battles, animal hunts, executions, re-enactments of famous battles, and dramas based on Classical mythology. The building ceased to be used for entertainment in the early medieval era. It was later reused for such purposes as housing, workshops, quarters for a religious order, a fortress, a quarry, and a Christian shrine.**

**Although substantially ruined because of earthquakes, thieves, and stone-robbers, the Colosseum is still an iconic symbol of Imperial Rome. It is one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions and also has links to the Roman Catholic Church, as each Good Friday the Pope leads a torchlit "Way of the Cross" procession that starts in the area around the Colosseum. In 2018, it was the most popular tourist attraction in the world, with 7.4 million visitors.**



**#6 The Taj Mahal (India)**

**The Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the Indian city of Agra. It was commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (reigned from 1628 to 1658) to house the tomb of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal; it also houses the tomb of Shah Jahan himself. The tomb is the centerpiece of the 42-acre complex, which includes a mosque and a guest house, and is set in formal gardens bounded on three sides by a crenellated wall.**

**Construction of the mausoleum was essentially completed in 1643, but work continued on other phases of the project for another 10 years. The Taj Mahal complex is believed to have been completed in its entirety in 1653 at a cost estimated at the**

time to be around 32 million rupees, which today would be approximately 52.8 billion rupees or \$827 million U.S. dollars. The construction project employed some 20,000 artisans under the guidance of a board of architects led by the court architect to the emperor, Ustad Ahmad Lahauri.

The Taj Mahal was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 for being "the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage". It is regarded by many as the best example of Mughal architecture and a symbol of India's rich history. The Taj Mahal attracts more than 7 million visitors a year.



**#7 Petra (Jordan)**

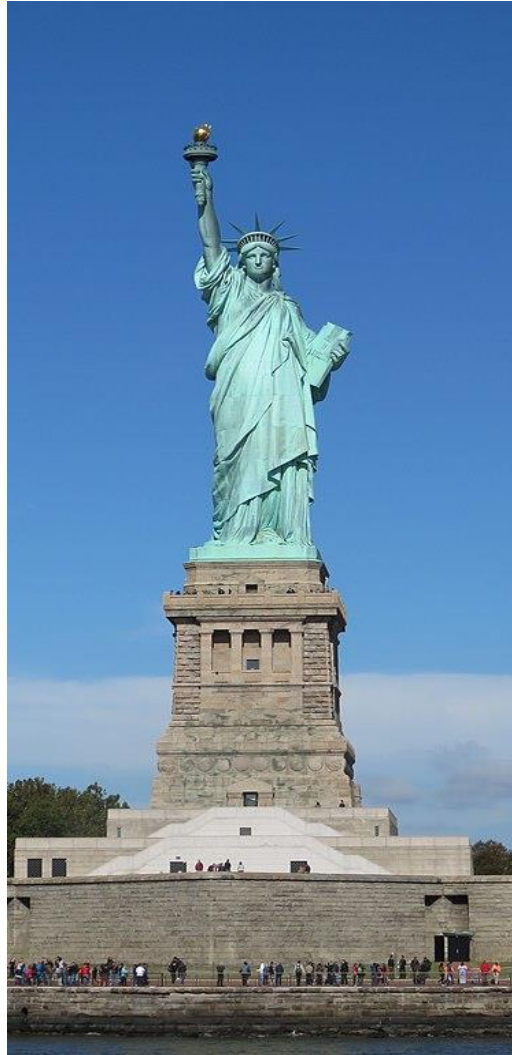
Petra is a famous archaeological site in Jordan's southwestern desert. Dating to around 300 BC, it was the capital of the Nabatean Kingdom. Accessed via a narrow canyon called Al Siq, it contains tombs and temples carved into pink sandstone cliffs, earning its nickname, the "Rose City." Perhaps its most famous structure is 148-foot high Al Khazneh, a temple with an ornate, Greek-style facade, known as The Treasury.

## **Conclusion**

During the history of the world, there have been and still are many interesting wonders. How some of these structures were built is still a mystery. I did notice one thing that got me wondering – on all these “Seven Wonder Lists”, the United States is not mentioned even one time. You would think that the Grand Canyon would make the New7Wonders of Nature at least. But no, it didn't make it! I did a little research and discovered that the Grand Canyon National Park was number 22 on the poll vote. The only U.S. city to make the New7Wonders Cities 28 Official Finalists was Chicago.



**The top United States poll getter on the New7Wonders of the World was the Statue of Liberty at number 18.**



**#18 The Statue of Liberty (New York City, United States)**

**I hope you enjoyed learning about all these “World Wonders” in my last three articles.**

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