

Arch Bridges

What Is an Arch Bridge?

An arch bridge uses a curved shape to spread the weight from the bridge over the curve, rather than the weight bearing straight down. The arch has supports at either end of the bridge to keep it from spreading out. These supports are built into the ground to provide additional support. The arch is usually a semi-circular shape.

Famous Arch Bridges

The Chaotianmen Bridge in China is the longest steel arch bridge in the world. The whole arch stretches over 1800 feet. It stretches over the Yangtze river and opened in 2009. It carries six lanes of traffic!



The Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia is a very famous tourist attraction. It is an arch bridge, nicknamed 'The Coathanger'. You can drive, walk, cycle or even take a train over it.



Did You Know...?

The arch bridge design is over 3000 years old.



More Arch Bridge Facts

Arch bridges in the past were traditionally made of stone, brick or wood. More modern arch bridges are usually reinforced with steel or concrete. The supporting pillars that are at either end of the arches are called abutments. The Zhaozhou Bridge in China was opened in the year AD 605 and is still standing today. The Zhaozhou Bridge is also known as the Anji Bridge. It is the world's oldest open-spandrel arch bridge.

