

Bridges



Golden Gate Bridge

The golden gate bridge was declared one of the Wonders of the Modern World. It spans the one mile wide stretch of water that links San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean and connects the city of San Francisco to Marin County in California.

The bridge was designed by Joseph B Strauss and the 894,500 tons of steel boasted the longest suspension bridge main span in the world until surpassed by Japan's Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge in 1964. Each tower stands 227 metres above the water and the bridge clearance above the water is 67 metres. The main cables used to suspend the bridge are made of 27,572 stands of wire, totalling some 80,000 miles in combined length. Approximately 112,000 vehicles use the Golden Gate bridge every day and is also popular with cyclists and pedestrians.

The bridge took just over 4 years to construct and opened on 27th May 1937. It cost \$35m to build which is around \$514m in today's money.

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge spans the Thames river, and is situated close to the Tower of London. It took 8 years to build, starting in 1886, and was officially opened on 30th June 1894 by the Prince and Princess of Wales. The bridge design is a combination of a bascule (a type of bridge that opens to allow tall river vessels through) and a suspension bridge. The bridge itself is two towers, joined at the top by two pedestrian walkways and with a road/pedestrian surface at the base.



Two large piers were built into the riverbed to form the base of the towers and more than 11,000 tonnes of steel were used in the construction of the towers and walkways. The towers were then clad in granite and stone to protect the steelwork. The original design was to be brick, but after the death of the architect, Horace Jones, died in 1887, George D. Stevenson took over the project and changed the design to a more ornate gothic style.

The bridge cost £1.2m to build which is the equivalent of £136m today.