

The Great Wall of China

Originally built as a way to defend and protect China's northern borders, the Great Wall of China has been standing since 220-206BC. It is made of stone, brick, earth and wood and runs east-to-west across the country.

The top of the wall is very wide, allowing people, animals and carts to travel along it. Regular towers built into the wall act as watch towers and accommodation for troops. It is also a relatively easy route to travel along the mountainous region, transporting goods for trade. Today, the Great Wall is one of the world's most popular tourist attractions, receiving approximately 10 million visitors per year.

The wall runs for 5,500 miles – this is made up of 3,889 miles of actual wall plus trenches, hills and rivers.

