

# The Colosseum of Rome



The Colosseum's original Latin name was *Amphitheatrum Flavium*, often anglicized as *Flavian Amphitheater*. This name is still used in modern English, but generally the structure is better known as the Colosseum. The name Colosseum has long been believed to be derived from Nero.

## History

Construction of the Colosseum began under the rule of the Emperor Vespasian in around 70–72 AD. The Colosseum was constructed at the heart of Rome. The top level was finished and the building inaugurated by his son, Titus, in 80. In 217, the Colosseum was badly damaged by a major fire. An inscription records the restoration of various parts of the Colosseum under Theodosius II and Valentinian III.

By the late 6th century a small church had been built into the amphitheatre. Severe damage to the Colosseum was caused by the great earthquake in 1349. In 1749, Benedict XIV endorsed as official Church policy the view that the Colosseum was a sacred site where

early Christians had been martyred. The Colosseum is today one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions, receiving millions of visitors annually.

## Description and Use

The Colosseum is an entirely free-standing structure. It derives its basic exterior and interior architecture from that of two Roman theatres back to back. It is 189 meters long, and 156 meters wide, with a base area of 6 acres. The height of the outer wall is 48 meters. The remainder of the present-day exterior of the Colosseum is in fact the original interior wall. The Colosseum could accommodate 87,000 people (modern estimates around 50,000).

They were seated in a tiered arrangement that reflected the rigidly stratified nature of Roman society. The arena comprised a wooden floor covered by sand, covering an elaborate underground structure called the hypogeum. It consisted of a two-level subterranean network of tunnels and cages beneath the arena where gladiators and animals were

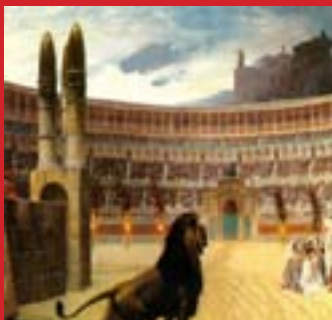
held before contests began. The Colosseum was used to host gladiatorial shows as well as a variety of other events such as shows that have strong religious element.

## Christians and the Colosseum

In the Middle Ages, the Colosseum was clearly not regarded as a sacred site. Later however the Colosseum was part of the structure was inhabited by a Christian order. It appears to have been only in the 16th and 17th centuries that the Colosseum came to be regarded as a Christian site.

Fioravante Martinelli, who listed the Colosseum at the head of a list of places sacred to the martyrs. Several 19th century popes funded repair and restoration work on the Colosseum, and it still retains a Christian connection today. Benedict XIV forbade the quarrying of the Colosseum and erected Stations of the Cross around the arena. However, Crosses stand in several points around the arena and every Good Friday the Pope leads a Via Crucis procession to the amphitheatre.

## Unique Features



*Last Prayer*



*Inside View*



*Whole View*



*City Street*

# The Great Wall of China



An interesting fact on the Great Wall: the name, The Great Wall, is derived from the Chinese name, 'the great number of li-long wall' which literally means 10,000 li, or approximately 5,000 kilometers. This was eventually shortened to "The Great Wall".

## History

During the Warring States Period from the 5th century BCE to 221 BCE, the states of Qin, Wei, Zhao, Qi, Yan and Zhongshan all constructed extensive fortifications to defend their own borders. Qin Shi Huang built the Great Wall to protect the empire against intrusions by the Xiongnu people from the north. Later, the Han, Sui, and Northern dynasties all repaired, rebuilt, or especially to expanded sections of the Great Wall at great cost to defend themselves against northern invaders (Mongol).

The Great Wall concept was revived again during the Ming Dynasty and Ming construction. However, Ming construction was stronger and more elaborate due to the use of bricks and stone instead of rammed earth.

North Pass" of Juyongguan pass, "West Pass" of Jiayuguan (pass), "Pass" of Shanhaiguan, South East of Jinshanling, is the Mutianyu are all the Notable areas.

## Characteristics & Visibility

The Great Wall of China, known as "long Wall of 10,000 Li" in China, extends about 8,850 kilometers (5,500 miles). It is one of the largest building construction projects ever completed. It stretches across the mountains of northern China, winding north and northwest of Beijing. Before the use of bricks, the Great Wall was mainly built from rammed earth, stones, and wood. Later however, bricks were heavily used in many areas of the wall, as were materials such as tiles, lime, and stone.

Consequently, stones cut in rectangular shapes were used for the foundation, inner and outer brims, and gateways of the wall. One of the earliest known references to this myth appears in a letter written in 1754 by the English antiquary William Stukeley. The claim the Great Wall is visible has been debunked many times, but is still ingrained in popular

culture. The apparent width of the Great Wall from the moon is the same as that of a human hair viewed from 2 miles (3.2 km) away. However, astronaut has ever claimed to have seen the Great Wall from the moon.

## Meng Jiang Nü

The story of Meng Jiangnu is perhaps the most popular folklore, which talks about the heart-breaking tragic ending as a result of building the Wall. It took place in Qin Dynasty, a young man called Fan Qi Liang get married with Meng Jiang Nü. Fan Qi Liang was taken away to build the Great Wall. Meng Jiang Nü waited at home. Winter came but Fan Qi Liang did not return.

So she got to the construction site but Fan Qi Liang was nowhere to be found. She was then told that Fan Qi Liang had died. Meng Jiang Nü cried night and day. Her sorrow was so deep that the Great Wall broke down and exposed the bones and bodies of many dead men. Many people have given their lives building the Great Wall, and many more defending the Wall.

## Unique Features



Shanhaiguan



Mutianyu



Jiayuguan



Jinshanling