



The Great Wall of China



The official length of the Great Wall of China is 21 196.18 km

The Great Wall is not a continuous line: there are side walls, circular walls, parallel walls, and sections with no wall (high mountains or rivers form a barrier instead).

Rumours that astronauts can see the Great Wall of China from the Moon with the naked eye are untrue.

According to legend, a helpful dragon traced out the course of the Great Wall for the workforce. The builders subsequently followed the tracks of the dragon.

Watchtowers were built at regular intervals along the Great Wall and could be up to 12 metres tall. They were used as lookouts and fortresses as well as for housing for troops and stockpiled supplies. They were also signal stations, where beacons, smoke, or flags were used for messages.



Photos courtesy of Shawn McGrath (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

