

Chapter 1 : Great Wall Facts: The Top 20 Amazing Things You Should Know

Grandfather Christmas is his name in The Great Walled Country; no doubt we should call him Santa Claus here. At any rate, he is the same person, and, best of all the children in the world, he loves the children behind the great wall of ice.

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The Great Wall of China: But with such easy access, they can get very busy with day trippers. A couple of hours from the city is the Huangyaguan section, which sees fewer visitors. Constructed more than 1, years ago, during the Northern Qi dynasty, it was extensively restored at the time of the Ming dynasty under the instruction of General Qi Jiguang, who added battlements and further reinforcements. Another alternative, and my personal preference, is the Jinshanling section. About a two-hour drive northeast of Beijing, it offers a much more peaceful and atmospheric experience. Constructed during the early Ming dynasty and renovated in , it snakes for Arriving at Jinshanling felt completely different from my prior visits to the wall. I spent the best part of a day there and only saw about 15 other visitors. Though parts of it have crumbled away, Jinshanling is one of the best-preserved sections, with much of its original walls and watchtowers still intact. Watchtower and lanterns

Spending the day at Jinshanling You can easily visit Jinshanling on a full-day outing from Beijing, with most people spending around four hours at the wall. The day is whatever you make of it: I was picked up by my private driver-guide in the morning for the km 93 mile journey. Once out of the city, we wound through mountainous landscapes that began to set the scene for what was to come. Stepping onto the wall felt surreal as I took in the empty pathway stretching before me. About 3 m 9. Made of sandy bricks and stone, they rise like giant chess pieces on the hillsides. Jinshanling You can venture inside these towers “ some have English inscriptions telling you about their historic significance. I climbed to the top of one and sat alone simply to enjoy a few moments of peace and contemplation. The green farmland and forest stretched for miles below me, with the wall disappearing off into the distance. Walking the Great Wall of China While you may be content in taking short, slow strolls along the immediate section of the wall, there is the option to walk farther. I chose to walk for a couple of hours, following a circular route. From there you can follow the valley back to the car park. With the wall meandering over hills and twisting through valleys, I was granted different views every few minutes. I was also able to distinguish between the older and newer sections of the wall, based on how eroded they were and the shade of their stone. Being accompanied by a guide gives you the advantage that you can take your time and choose which parts to explore in-depth. Inscription on the Great Wall of China Parts of the wall were built by soldiers. One of the more unusual features that my guide pointed out were the Barrier Walls “ secondary walls within the wall that soldiers would have used to protect themselves when under attack. I also came across bricks bearing engravings, which my guide explained marked the time when they were made and which battalion made them. Where to stay when visiting the Great Wall As most people visit the wall as a day out from Beijing, there are plenty of accommodation options to choose from. One of the oldest parts of the capital, the area is made up of narrow, labyrinthine lanes and adjoining courtyard houses known as hutongs, where people have lived since the medieval Yuan dynasty. Among them is the Shichahai Shadow Art Hotel , a modern hotel designed with Chinese elements in mind. Staying overnight at the Great Wall It is, in fact, possible to stay at the Great Wall itself, but only at the busy Mutianyu section. The advantage it gives you is being able to experience the wall in the evening once everyone else has left, and early in the morning before the masses of visitors arrive. You can also watch the sun rising and setting over the wall with no one else around, and with little to no light pollution, the night skies are clear for stargazing. Shichahai Shadow Art Hotel Brickyard at Mutianyu is a former brick factory, turned hotel, situated in a small village at the base of the wall. During these months, temperatures are comfortable, rain is less likely and the scenery is at its best. The landscape either comes to life in vivid greens or takes on the red, orange and gold tones of autumn. April is particularly pretty as the slopes are carpeted in apricot flowers. For something different, visit during the winter, when the hills are blanketed in snow. Avoid visiting during national breaks, when domestic tourists flock to the site. Practicalities of visiting the Great Wall of

China Due to its proximity to Beijing, a trip to the wall can be slotted into almost any China itinerary. The sections built during the Ming dynasty stretch over 6,300 km, 3,916 miles. Claims that you can see the Great Wall of China from space have been disputed, though sections of it have been captured using radar imagery. When was the Great Wall of China built? The workforce was primarily made up of soldiers, criminals, slaves and peasants. Most of the wall that still exists today was built during the Ming dynasty, when watchtowers and fortresses were added to strengthen its defence. Stone statues of guards Why was the Great Wall of China built? During the Zhou dynasty, China was made up of different states, with battles often breaking out between them. They built separate defensive walls for protection against each other. These walls also acted as a barrier against nomadic tribes that attempted raids and invasions from the north. This was to strengthen the defence further against the northern tribes, particularly the Mongolians. Even today, the wall is actually more like a network of walls than one long structure. Over the years, the wall has also acted as a border control for regulating immigration and protecting trade along the Silk Route, providing barracks for soldiers, and acting as a transportation and information corridor. Seeing it still standing reminds you of the power that the various emperors once held, as well as the pressure they were under from their enemies. Start planning your trip to China.

In the Great Walled Country, by Raymond Macdonald Alden Away at the northern end of the world, farther than men have ever gone with their ships or their sleds, and where most people suppose that there is nothing but ice and snow, is a land full of children, called The Great Walled Country.

In the Great Walled Country [] A WAY at the northern end of the world, farther than men have ever gone with their ships or their sleds, and where most people suppose that there is nothing but ice and snow, is a land full of children, called The Great Walled Country. This name is given because all around the country is a great wall, hundreds of feet thick and hundreds of feet high. It is made of ice, and never melts, winter or summer; and of course it is for this reason that more people have not discovered the place. The land, as I said, is filled with children, for nobody who lives there ever grows up. The king and the queen, the princes and the courtiers, may be as old as you please, but they are children for all that. But they make excellent rulers, and the other children are well pleased with the government. There are all sorts of curious things about the way they live in The Great Walled Country, but this story is only of their Christmas season. One can imagine what a fine thing their Christmas must be, so near the North Pole, with ice and snow everywhere; but this is not all. Grandfather Christmas lives just on the north side of the country, so that his house leans against the great wall and would tip over if it were not for its support. At [] any rate, he is the same person, and, best of all the children in the world, he loves the children behind the great wall of ice. One very pleasant thing about having Grandfather Christmas for a neighbor is that in The Great Walled Country they never have to buy their Christmas presents. Every year, on the day before Christmas, before he makes up his bundles for the rest of the world, Grandfather Christmas goes into a great forest of Christmas trees, that grows just back of the palace of the king of The Great Walled Country, and fills the trees with candy and books and toys and all sorts of good things. So when night comes, all the children wrap up snugly, while the children in all other lands are waiting in their beds, and go to the forest to gather gifts for their friends. Each one goes by himself, so that none of his friends can see what he has gathered; and no one ever thinks of such a thing as taking a present for himself. The forest is so big that there is room for every one to wander about without meeting the people from whom he has secrets, and there are always enough nice things to go around. So Christmas time is a great holiday in that land, as it is in all the best places in the world. They [] have been celebrating it in this way for hundreds of years, and since Grandfather Christmas does not seem to grow old any faster than the children, they will probably do so for hundreds of years to come. But there was once a time, so many years ago that they would have forgotten all about it if the story were not written in their Big Book and read to them every year, when the children in The Great Walled Country had a very strange Christmas. There came a visitor to the land. He was an old man, and was the first stranger for very many years that had succeeded in getting over the wall. He looked so wise, and was so much interested in what he saw and heard, that the king invited him to the palace, and he was treated with every possible honor. When this old man had inquired about their Christmas celebration, and was told how they carried it on every year, he listened gravely, and then, looking wiser than ever, he said to the king: You tell me that you all go out on Christmas Eve to gather presents to give to one another the next morning. Why take so much trouble, and act in such a round- [] about way? Why not go out together, and every one get his own presents? That would save the trouble of dividing them again, and every one would be better satisfied, for he could pick out just what he wanted for himself. No one can tell what you want as well as you can. This seemed to the king a very wise saying, and he called all his courtiers and counselors about him to hear it. The wise stranger talked further about his plan, and when he had finished they all agreed that they had been very foolish never to have thought of this simple way of getting their Christmas gifts. We will make a proclamation, and always after this follow the new plan. Every one had at some time been a little disappointed with his Christmas gifts; now there would be no danger of that. On Christmas Eve they always had a meeting at the palace, and sang carols until the time for going to the forest. When the clock struck ten every one said, "I wish you a Merry Christmas! On this particular night it seemed to the king that the music was not quite so merry as usual, and that when the children spoke to one another their eyes did not shine as gladly as he had

noticed them in other years; but there could be no good reason for this, since every one was expecting a better time than usual. So he thought no more of it. There was only one person at the palace that night who was not pleased with the new proclamation about the Christmas gifts. This was a little boy named Inge, who lived not far from the palace with his sister. Now his sister was a cripple, and had to sit all day looking out of the window from her chair; and Inge took care of her, and tried to make her life happy from morning till night. He had always gone to the forest on Christmas Eve and returned with his arms and pockets loaded with pretty things for his sister, which would keep her amused all the coming year. And although she was not able to go after presents for her brother, he did not mind that at all, especially as he had other friends who never forgot to divide their good things with him. For the king had ordered that no one should gather any presents except for himself, or any more than he could carry away at once. After thinking about it a long time, Inge decided that it would not be wrong if, instead of taking gifts for himself, he took them altogether for his sister. This he would be very glad to do; for what did a boy who could run about and play in the snow care for presents, compared with a little girl who could only sit still and watch others having a good time? Inge did not ask the advice of any one, for he was a little afraid others would tell him he must not do it; but he silently made up his mind not to obey the proclamation. And now the chimes had struck ten, and the children were making their way toward the forest, in starlight that was so bright that it almost showed their shadows on the sparkling snow. As soon as they came to the edge of the forest, they separated, each one going by himself in the old way, though now there was really no reason why they should have secrets from one another. For as they looked eagerly about them to the low-bending branches of the evergreen trees, they saw nothing hanging from them that could not be seen every day in the year. High and low they searched, wandering farther into the forest than ever before, lest Grandfather Christmas might have chosen a new place this year for hanging his presents; but still no presents appeared. The king called his counselors about him, and asked them if they knew whether anything of this kind had happened before, but they could tell him nothing. So no one could guess whether Grandfather Christmas had forgotten them, or whether some dreadful accident had kept him away. As the children were trooping out of the forest, after hours of weary searching, some of them came upon little Inge, who carried over his shoulder a bag that seemed to be full to overflowing. When he saw them looking at him, he cried: I think Grandfather Christmas was never so good to us before. Then the children begged him to tell them in what part of the forest he had found his presents, and he turned back and pointed them to the place where he had been. I can see some of the things shining on the trees even from here. Perhaps he had filled his bag with the cones from the evergreen trees. The king held a council in the palace, and appointed a committee of his most faithful courtiers to visit Grandfather Christmas, and see if they could find what was the matter. In a day or two more the committee set out on their journey. They had very hard work to climb the great wall of ice that lay between their country and the place where Grandfather Christmas lived, but at last they reached the top. And when they came to the other side of the wall, they were looking down into the top of his chimney. It was not hard to go down this chimney into the house, and when they reached the bottom of it they found themselves in the very room where Grandfather Christmas lay sound asleep. It was hard enough to waken him, for he always slept one hundred days after his Christmas work was over, and it was only by turning the hands of the clock around two hundred times that the committee could do anything. When the clock had struck twelve times two hundred hours, Grandfather Christmas thought it was time for his nap to be over, and he sat up in bed, rubbing his eyes. The presents were there. The presents were there, but they were never intended for children who were looking only for themselves. I am not surprised that you could not see them. Remember that not everything that wise travelers tell you is wise. The king did not tell all the children of the land what Grandfather Christmas had said, but, when the next December came, he made another proclamation, bidding every one to seek gifts for others, in the old way, in the Christmas-tree forest. So that is what they have been doing ever since; and in order that they may not forget what happened, in case any one should ever ask for another change, they have read to them every year from their Big Book the story of the time when they had no Christmas gifts. Hundreds of additional titles available for online reading when you join Gateway to the Classics.

Chapter 3 : 15 Colossal Facts About the Great Wall of China | Mental Floss

WAY at the northern end of the world, farther than men have ever gone with their ships or their sleds, and where most people suppose that there is nothing but ice and snow, is a land full of children, called The Great Walled Country.

Scully March 04 San Gimignano, Italy Sunflowers grow on a hillside near San Gimignano, a medieval walled town famous for its 15 towers that loom over the town. The town was originally an Etruscan village that grew in prominence and wealth in the 12th century. Today, many of these impressive cities have endured the test of time. In Yemen, preservation involves constantly applying fresh layers of mud, while in France it required the hiring of an architect to conduct an expensive renovation. For cities, like Dubrovnik, preservation involved rebuilding after numerous sieges and two earthquakes. Here are 15 surviving fortified cities across the globe.

San Gimignano, Italy Located in Italy, San Gimignano is a medieval walled city perched on a hill that famous for 15 tall towers that loom over the town and make the city resemble a medieval Manhattan. The town was originally an Etruscan village that grew in prominence and wealth in the 12th century, before its population was decimated by a plague. Today, it is an extremely popular tourist destination in Tuscany. Itchan Kala has a history that city that spans over years, and its walls - built of clay and brick - are feet-high in places. Most of the surviving only date back to the seventeenth century. Still, according to the Organization of World Heritage Cities, it represents one of the best-preserved examples of Muslim architecture in Central Asia and it is well known for its Djuma Mosque , mausoleums, madrasas and palaces.

Carcassonne, France Set high on a hill in the Languedoc region of Southern France , the ancient walled city of Carcassonne is the largest former fortress in Europe. The hill on which Carcassonne stands has been a fortified settlement for centuries. Later, it was transformed into a Roman town in the first century BCE. The Visigoths ruled it in the fifth century, and it invaded first by Arabs then Charlemagne in the eighth century. Due to its geographical location, it played an important role throughout French history. It is in such good condition, according to the organization, because the famous architect Viollet-le-Duc restored it in the 19th century. It is one of the four ancient capitals of China, ruled for over a thousand years by several dynasties. It was also an eastern terminal of the Silk Road , but it is perhaps best known for being the site of the 8, buried terra-cotta warriors. The wall has been restored three times throughout its history: The red brick walls fortifying of the Kremlin of Novgorod still standing today were built in the 15th century and enclose St. Shibam, Yemen Surrounded by a fortified clay wall, Shibam is a city located on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen. The walled city is built on a hillock, allowing it to escape floods. Most of the building date back to the 16th century , but there are some older houses and monuments remaining, such as the Friday Mosque dating back to Fresh layers of mud are constantly applied to the walls. The walls span over 8, feet and feature 88 semi-circular watchtowers, more than turrets, and nine gates.

Pingyao, China Humans have settled the Pingyao region of China since Neolithic times, but the walled city still standing today was founded in the 14th century. The fortified city was laid out according to the principles of feng shui , reports The Telegraph, and it remains one of the best-preserved cities in the country. Its walls were built of grey bricks and were constructed under the Emperor Hongwu. These fortifications span about four miles in circumference and include 72 watchtowers, six gates and a moat outside them.

Dubrovnik, Croatia Situated on the beautiful Dalmatian Coast, Dubrovnik is a walled city founded in the seventh century by refugees from Epidaurum, an ancient Greek colony. Once an independent State and an important seaport in the 13th century, this UNESCO World Heritage site remains remarkably well preserved despite two earthquakes in and and being heavily shelled during the Yugoslavia war in the early s.

Gradara, Italy Located along the border of Le Marche and Emilia Romagna in Italy, Gradara is a medieval walled city that is home to one of the best preserved castles in Italy. The city walls were built between the 13th and 14th centuries by the Malatestas , a family who ruled over the city until The city is also home to one of the best preserved castles in the country. Today, the city is a popular destination for tourists.

Harar, Ethiopia The historic walled city of Harar formerly written as Harrar lies in the eastern part of Ethiopia, surrounded by deserts and savannah on a plateau with deep gorges. This UNESCO World Heritage Site packs alleyways into just 1 square kilometer , according to Lonely Planet, and its walls were built between the 13th and the 16th

century to protect its inhabitants from harm. Although it is believed that the first stronghold existed there in the 10th or 11th century, the city developed between the 13th and 16th centuries. Over its history, the city saw many battles and wars, but it was when it fell under Swedish rule between the 16th and 18th century that its defensive walls were established. Today, many of the walls and gates to the old town are still standing, making it an interesting visit. Obidos, Portugal Located on a hill about 62 miles north of Lisbon, Obidos is an eighth century Moorish fortified town that was conquered by the first king of Portugal, King Alfonso Henriques in 1147. The walled city remained the property of the queens of Portugal until 1581, according to Fodors. Obidos was also once a strategic seaport, but today, because of the silting of the harbor, the former docks are dry and filled with cottages and cultivated fields. Located in the middle of a valley, it is located south of the snow-peaked High Atlas Mountains and about 50 miles away from Agadir. The fortified-walls are about 3. This story does not necessarily represent the position of our parent company, IBM.

Chapter 4 : Great Wall of China - Wikipedia

The Great Wall stretches across North China from east to west for over 6, kilometers. It extends from the shanghai pass at the seaside in the Hebei province in the east to the Jiayu pass in Gansu province in the west.

Families were separated, and many workers died and were interred as part of the Great Wall itself. See who the workers were, their construction techniques, and how they moved the huge amount of materials. How Tall Is the Great Wall? It was designed to be at least three times the height of a man. Some of the Wall was built along ridges, which make it look taller. It was an integrated military defensive system with watchtowers for surveillance, fortresses for command posts and logistics, beacon towers for communications, etc. In the Ming Dynasty “ , the Great Wall was reconstructed to be stronger and more sophisticated, due to better construction techniques being developed. The Ming Great Wall usually had battlements 1. Every meters or less 1, feet on the Great Wall there was a flanking tower allowing defenders to shoot arrows at attackers at the face of the wall. There were many archery windows and gates on the forts. The fortress gatehouses were the strongest and most impregnable structures on the Great Wall. Laws to protect the Great Wall Funds for protection, restoration, and maintenance As individuals, we can do the follows to protect the Great Wall: The Great Wall is a China icon. Perhaps the most powerful advertising words in history come from the poetic pen of Chairman Mao: See more Great Wall Sayings. After the Great Wall opened to the public as a tourist attraction, hundreds of millions of visitors have been to its various sections. Badaling section is the most visited section 63,, visitors in In peak seasons, the visitor flow can be up to 70, per day! The Great Wall is the building project with the longest duration and greatest cost in human lives, blood, sweat and tears. Over the years, many national leaders and celebrities have been to the Great Wall Barack Obama, President of the U. Mutianyu “ the most magnificent fully-restored Great Wall section Jinshanling “ the most popular Great Wall hiking route, with most beautiful original architecture Jiankou “ the section that appears on most postcards, steep and perilous However, we recognize your individual choice will be based on your own personal interests and requirements. See our Great Wall sections comparison for more information to base your choice on. Or see our recommended tours for inspiration:

Chapter 5 : COMPLETE The Knights of the Silver Shield by Alden -ck - LibriVox Forum

The Great Wall of China is a series of fortifications made of stone, brick, tamped earth, wood, and other materials, generally built along an east-to-west line across the historical northern borders of China to protect the Chinese states and empires against the raids and invasions of the various nomadic groups of the Eurasian Steppe with an eye to expansion.

They were usually massive structures, punctuated with guard towers. Some were built on hills, making invasions more difficult, while others fronted seas and oceans to protect the towns from invaders in ships or, in some cases, pirates. Today well preserved walls bring tourist from the whole world to wonder around these medieval walled cities. Znojmo Znojmo is one of the most historic cities in the Czech Republic, with the city wall one of the key elements to see. This medieval wall is actually several walls with ditches or moats in between. Znojmo visitors recommend walking around the wall, using a map obtained from the city tourist office. The four-mile-long wall has five gates, 16 keeps and 82 watchtowers. The fortifications, which are up to 11 meters 36 feet high and 3 to 5 meters 9 to 15 feet wide, are considered a good example of Middle Ages military architecture. The old town is heavily fortified with a wall built in the 17th century to protect the region from Austrian invaders and to guard the road to Italy, less than 16 km 10 miles away. The Fort des Tetes is the most important part of the wall. Its city wall, however, is only a few hundred years old, built by the Venetians in the Middle Ages to protect the city from Ottoman invaders. Only one side of the wall faces the sea today; the other sides have been incorporated into the old and new towns. Within the walls, travelers can find narrow cobblestone streets and stone buildings. Great sea and Old Town views can be seen from atop the wall. The Caribbean Sea port became a favorite target for pirates, who attacked it one after another. The Spanish fought back by erecting a sea wall that is up to 18 meters 60 feet wide in some places. Fortifications began in the late 16th century, with the initial walls enclosing what is now San Diego and El Centro. Much of the original wall, built in the late 3rd century by the Romans, is still intact, though the moat is missing. The wall originally had five gates; today it has 10 to accommodate the increased need to get from the old town to the new. The original city wall was about 6 meters 18 feet high and did not have towers. The oldest part is a citadel where gun powder was kept. A 13th century war provided the impetus for Visby citizens to continue working on the wall, when extra height and towers were added; 27 of the 29 towers remain today. Only 5 feet wide then, the wall was widened and enlarged over the years. In the 14th century, Tallinn residents were required to do guard duty on the wall, most of which, along with its gates, is still intact today. The city was founded by the Romans, taken over by the Angles, captured by the Vikings and finally incorporated in the Kingdom of England in It boasts the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe. Since Roman times, the city has been defended by walls of one form or another. The majority of the remaining walls, which encircle the whole of the medieval city, date from the 12th to 14th century. For centuries, Harar has been a major commercial center, linked by the trade routes with Africa and Arabia. With 82 mosques, three of which date from the 10th century, and shrines it is one of the most important cities of Islam. Harar was part of the Adal Sultanate, a medieval muslim state located in the Horn of Africa. In the 16th century the city was encircled with a wall including five gates. This wall, called Jugol, is still intact, and has become the symbol of the city. The walls were constructed in the 16th century under the Saadi Dynasty. Today the town is a market town and has a souk near each of its two main squares. The history of Toledo dates back to Roman times. The city is surrounded by the River Tajo on three sides and two medieval walls on the fourth side. The majestic wall, which includes six major gates and 72 watchtowers, encircles an old city which has little changed architecturally over the past years. In , part of the southern walls collapsed but were reconstructed. However, the rest of the city walls are still largely intact and Pingyao is considered to be one of best-preserved walled cities in the world. In the 8th century the Moors established a fortification on top of the hill. The walls are made out of local limestone and marble. The village was also enlarged around this time, with settlements created outside the city walls. The well-preserved mediaeval look of its streets, squares, walls and its massive castle have turned the picturesque village into a popular tourist attraction in Portugal. For 1, years, the city was

the capital for 13 dynasties, and a total of 73 emperors ruled here. A well-preserved city wall, which was re-constructed in the 14th century during the early Ming Dynasty, surrounds the city. The old town retains many historic monuments and old houses, dating primarily from the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries. The most spectacular features of Itchan Kala are its sun-dried brick walls and four gates at each side of the rectangular fortress. The city walls were destroyed several times, but they were always rebuilt. The ramparts have nine gates and 88 towers many topped with stork nests. The city walls were primarily constructed in the 11th and 12th centuries.

Carcassonne The French city of Carcassonne is one of the most perfectly preserved walled cities of the world and the largest walled city in Europe. The fortification consists of two outer walls, towers and barbicans built over a long period of time. One section is Roman and is notably different from the medieval walls with the red brick layers and the terracotta tile roofs. It is a fascinatingly unique place where the first century ruins shoulders with the twenty-first century, and where picturesque old neighborhoods nestle against glistening office towers and high-rise apartments. The walled city of Jerusalem, which until the late nineteenth century formed the entire city, is now called the Old City. It is divided into four quarters: Jerusalem has been surrounded by walls for its defense since ancient times. In the 16th century, during the reign of the Ottoman empire in the region, it was decided to fully rebuild the city walls on the remains of the ancient walls. The construction lasted from and these walls are the walls that exist today. The walled city was built on maritime trade. In the Middle Ages it became the only city-state in the Adriatic to rival Venice and achieved a remarkable level of development during the 15th and 16th centuries. The world famous walls surround the old city. Constructed mainly during the 12th–17th centuries, they have been well preserved to the present day.

You Might Also Like.

Chapter 6 : History of the Great Wall of China - Wikipedia

The Great Wall of China's history stretches back more than 2,000 years, to a time before China was even a unified country. But the Great Wall of China isn't really a single great wall. "The

Built to withstand the attack of small arms such as swords and spears, these walls were made mostly by stamping earth and gravel between board frames. Intending to impose centralized rule and prevent the resurgence of feudal lords, he ordered the destruction of the sections of the walls that divided his empire among the former states. Stones from the mountains were used over mountain ranges, while rammed earth was used for construction in the plains. There are no surviving historical records indicating the exact length and course of the Qin walls. Most of the ancient walls have eroded away over the centuries, and very few sections remain today. The human cost of the construction is unknown, but it has been estimated by some authors that hundreds of thousands, [24] if not up to a million, workers died building the Qin wall. The Ming had failed to gain a clear upper hand over the Mongolian tribes after successive battles, and the long-drawn conflict was taking a toll on the empire. The Ming adopted a new strategy to keep the nomadic tribes out by constructing walls along the northern border of China. Unlike the earlier fortifications, the Ming construction was stronger and more elaborate due to the use of bricks and stone instead of rammed earth. Up to 25,000 watchtowers are estimated to have been constructed on the wall. Sections near the Ming capital of Beijing were especially strong. Similar in function to the Great Wall whose extension, in a sense, it was, but more basic in construction, the Liaodong Wall enclosed the agricultural heartland of the Liaodong province, protecting it against potential incursions by Jurchen-Mongol Oriyangan from the northwest and the Jianzhou Jurchens from the north. While stones and tiles were used in some parts of the Liaodong Wall, most of it was in fact simply an earth dike with moats on both sides. Even after the loss of all of Liaodong, the Ming army held the heavily fortified Shanhai Pass, preventing the Manchus from conquering the Chinese heartland. Before this time, the Manchus had crossed the Great Wall multiple times to raid, but this time it was for conquest. The gates at Shanhai Pass were opened on May 25 by the commanding Ming general, Wu Sangui, who formed an alliance with the Manchus, hoping to use the Manchus to expel the rebels from Beijing. On the other hand, the so-called Willow Palisade, following a line similar to that of the Ming Liaodong Wall, was constructed by the Qing rulers in Manchuria. Its purpose, however, was not defense but rather migration control. Possibly one of the earliest European descriptions of the wall and of its significance for the defense of the country against the "Tartars" is in the travelogues of the later 19th century further enhanced the reputation and the mythology of the Great Wall, [48] such that in the 20th century, a persistent misconception exists about the Great Wall of China being visible from the Moon or even Mars. Although Han fortifications such as Yumen Pass and the Yang Pass exist further west, the extant walls leading to those passes are difficult to trace. From Jiayu Pass the wall travels discontinuously down the Hexi Corridor and into the deserts of Ningxia, where it enters the western edge of the Yellow River loop at Yinchuan. Here the first major walls erected during the Ming dynasty cut through the Ordos Desert to the eastern edge of the Yellow River loop. There at Piantou Pass.

Chapter 7 : Where is the Great Wall of china located

This is a short story, reprinted with permission from The King of Lighting Fixtures, by Daniel Olivas, , University of Arizona Press. Rogelio stood in the long line that snaked from the.

In the Great Walled Country Author: Raymond Macdonald Alden, Genre: Fairy Tale, 20th Century Reading Time for story text: It included fictional stories, illustrations, news of new inventions, and updates on missionary endeavors. In , Alden graduated from the University of Pennsylvania as valedictorian. He obtained an M. In , Alden was hired to teach at Stanford, and with the exception of a three year-leave when he headed the English department at the University of Illinois, he remained at Stanford throughout his career. Despite the demands of a large family, Alden excelled in his work. He wrote more than a dozen scholarly works and was recognized as an authority on Shakespeare, Tennyson and Thoreau. None of his qualities were more conspicuous than his courage, which was put to a severe test during the suffering tedium and discouragement of long and distressing illnesses. However, his legacy in literature remains alive and well. His writing continues to inspire a variety of readers, from children to scholars. Edited by Grace Livingston Hill. Most of the basic biographical data for Alden is drawn from this source. Away at the northern end of the world, farther than men have ever gone with their ships or their sleds, and where most people suppose that there is nothing but ice and snow, is a land full of children, called The Great Walled Country. This name is given because all around the country is a great wall, hundreds of feet thick and hundreds of feet high. It is made of ice, and never melts, winter or summer; and of course it is for this reason that more people have not discovered the place. The land, as I said, is filled with children, for nobody who lives there ever grows up. The king and the queen, the princes and the courtiers, may be as old as you please, but they are children for all that. But they make excellent rulers, and the other children are well pleased with the government. There are all sorts of curious things about the way they live in The Great Walled Country, but this story is only of their Christmas season. One can imagine what a fine thing their Christmas must be, so near the North Pole, with ice and snow everywhere; but this is not all. Grandfather Christmas lives just on the north side of the country, so that his house leans against the great wall and would tip over if it were not for its support. At any rate, he is the same person, and, best of all the children in the world, he loves the children behind the great wall of ice. One very pleasant thing about having Grandfather Christmas for a neighbor is that in The Great Walled Country they never have to buy their Christmas presents. Every year, on the day before Christmas, before he makes up his bundles for the rest of the world, Grandfather Christmas goes into a great forest of Christmas trees, that grows just back of the palace of the king of The Great Walled Country, and fills the trees with candy and books and toys and all sorts of good things. So when night comes, all the children wrap up snugly, while the children in all other lands are waiting in their beds, and go to the forest to gather gifts for their friends. Each one goes by himself, so that none of his friends can see what he has gathered; and no one ever thinks of such a thing as taking a present for himself. The forest is so big that there is room for every one to wander about without meeting the people from whom he has secrets, and there are always enough nice things to go around. So Christmas time is a great holiday in that land, as it is in all the best places in the world. They have been celebrating it in this way for hundreds of years, and since Grandfather Christmas does not seem to grow old any faster than the children, they will probably do so for hundreds of years to come. But there was once a time, so many years ago that they would have forgotten all about it if the story were not written in their Big Book and read to them every year, when the children in The Great Walled Country had a very strange Christmas. There came a visitor to the land. He was an old man, and was the first stranger for very many years that had succeeded in getting over the wall. He looked so wise, and was so much interested in what he saw and heard, that the king invited him to the palace, and he was treated with every possible honor. When this old man had inquired about their Christmas celebration, and was told how they carried it on every year, he listened gravely, and then, looking wiser than ever, he said to the king: You tell me that you all go out on Christmas Eve to gather presents to give to one another the next morning. Why take so much trouble, and act in such a round about way? Why not go out together, and every one get his own presents? That would save the trouble

of dividing them again, and every one would be better satisfied, for he could pick out just what he wanted for himself. No one can tell what you want as well as you can. The wise stranger talked further about his plan, and when he had finished they all agreed that they had been very foolish never to have thought of this simple way of getting their Christmas gifts. We will make a proclamation, and always after this follow the new plan. Every one had at some time been a little disappointed with his Christmas gifts; now there would be no danger of that. On Christmas Eve they always had a meeting at the palace, and sang carols until the time for going to the forest. On this particular night it seemed to the king that the music was not quite so merry as usual, and that when the children spoke to one another their eyes did not shine as gladly as he had noticed them in other years; but there could be no good reason for this, since every one was expecting a better time than usual. So he thought no more of it. There was only one person at the palace that night who was not pleased with the new proclamation about the Christmas gifts. This was a little boy named Inge, who lived not far from the palace with his sister. Now his sister was a cripple, and had to sit all day looking out of the window from her chair; and Inge took care of her, and tried to make her life happy from morning till night. He had always gone to the forest on Christmas Eve and returned with his arms and pockets loaded with pretty things for his sister, which would keep her amused all the coming year. And although she was not able to go after presents for her brother, he did not mind that at all, especially as he had other friends who never forgot to divide their good things with him. But now, said Inge to himself, what would his sister do? For the king had ordered that no one should gather any presents except for himself, or any more than he could carry away at once. After thinking about it a long time, Inge decided that it would not be wrong if, instead of taking gifts for himself, he took them altogether for his sister. This he would be very glad to do; for what did a boy who could run about and play in the snow care for presents, compared with a little girl who could only sit still and watch others having a good time? Inge did not ask the advice of any one, for he was a little afraid others would tell him he must not do it; but he silently made up his mind not to obey the proclamation. And now the chimes had struck ten, and the children were making their way toward the forest, in starlight that was so bright that it almost showed their shadows on the sparkling snow. As soon as they came to the edge of the forest, they separated, each one going by himself in the old way, though now there was really no reason why they should have secrets from one another. Ten minutes later, if you had been in the forest, you might have seen the children standing in dismay with tears on their faces, and exclaiming that there had never been such a Christmas Eve before. For as they looked eagerly about them to the low-bending branches of the evergreen trees, they saw nothing hanging from them that could not be seen every day in the year. High and low they searched, wandering farther into the forest than ever before, lest Grandfather Christmas might have chosen a new place this year for hanging his presents; but still no presents appeared. The king called his counselors about him, and asked them if they knew whether anything of this kind had happened before, but they could tell him nothing. So no one could guess whether Grandfather Christmas had forgotten them, or whether some dreadful accident had kept him away. As the children were trooping out of the forest, after hours of weary searching, some of them came upon little Inge, who carried over his shoulder a bag that seemed to be full to overflowing. When he saw them looking at him, he cried: I think Grandfather Christmas was never so good to us before. Then the children begged him to tell them in what part of the forest he had found his presents, and he turned back and pointed them to the place where he had been. I can see some of the things shining on the trees even from here. Perhaps he had filled his bag with the cones from the evergreen trees. The king held a council in the palace, and appointed a committee of his most faithful courtiers to visit Grandfather Christmas, and see if they could find what was the matter. In a day or two more the committee set out on their journey. They had very hard work to climb the great wall of ice that lay between their country and the place where Grandfather Christmas lived, but at last they reached the top. And when they came to the other side of the wall, they were looking down into the top of his chimney. It was not hard to go down this chimney into the house, and when they reached the bottom of it they found themselves in the very room where Grandfather Christmas lay sound asleep. It was hard enough to waken him, for he always slept one hundred days after his Christmas work was over, and it was only by turning the hands of the clock around two hundred times that the committee could do anything. The presents were there. The presents were there, but they were never intended for children who were looking only for themselves. I am not

surprised that you could not see them. Remember that not everything that wise travelers tell you is wise. The committee returned silently to The Great Walled Country, and told the king what they had heard. The king did not tell all the children of the land what Grandfather Christmas had said, but, when the next December came, he made another proclamation, bidding every one to seek gifts for others, in the old way, in the Christmas-tree forest. So that is what they have been doing ever since; and in order that they may not forget what happened, in case any one should ever ask for another change, they have read to them every year from their Big Book the story of the time when they had no Christmas gifts. We welcome your ideas! If you have suggestions on how to improve this page, please contact us. You May Also Like:

Chapter 8 : Great Wall of China - HISTORY

The Great Wall of China is a barrier fortification in northern China running west-to-east 13, miles (21, km) from the Jiayuguan Pass (in the west) to the Hushan Mountains in Liaoning Province in the east, ending at the Bohai Gulf. It crosses eleven provinces/municipalities (or ten, according).

Manchuria , unmarked, is to the east of Inner Mongolia. The conflict between the Chinese and the nomads, from which the need for the Great Wall arose, stemmed from differences in geography. The 15" isohyet marks the extent of settled agriculture, dividing the fertile fields of China to the south and the semi-arid grasslands of Inner Asia to the north. Although this allowed them to expand into the lower reaches of the Yellow River valley, [8] such extensive waterworks on an ever-increasing scale required collective labour, something that could only be managed by some form of bureaucracy. Walled cities grew up around the granaries for reasons of defence along with ease of administration; they kept invaders out and ensured that citizens remained within. Likewise, according to this model, walls not only enveloped cities as time went by, but also lined the borders of the feudal states and eventually the whole Chinese empire to provide protection against raids from the agrarian northern steppes. As animal herds are migratory by nature, communities could not afford to be stationary and therefore evolved as nomads. According to the influential Mongolist Owen Lattimore this lifestyle proved to be incompatible with the Chinese economic model. For these needs, the nomads had to turn to the settled societies to get grains, metal tools, and luxury goods, which they could not produce by themselves. If denied trade by the settled peoples, the nomads would resort to raiding or even conquest. Mongolia to the north, Manchuria to the northeast, and Xinjiang to the northwest. On the southern side Inner Mongolia , this pressure brought the nomads into contact with China. Although the Yellow River formed a theoretical natural boundary with the north, such a border so far into the steppe was difficult to maintain. As such, control of the Ordos remained extremely important for the rulers of China: When Chinese state control became weak, at various points in history Manchuria fell under the control of the forest peoples of the area, including the Jurchens and the Manchus. The most crucial route that links Manchuria and the North China Plain is a narrow coastal strip of land, wedged between the Bohai Sea and the Yan Mountains , called the Shanhai Pass literally the "mountain and sea pass". In addition to the Shanhai Pass, a handful of mountain passes also provide access from Manchuria into China through the Yan Mountains , chief among them the Gubeikou and Xifengkou Chinese: China proper is connected to this area by the Hexi Corridor , a narrow string of oases bounded by the Gobi Desert to the north and the high Tibetan Plateau to the south. One of the first mentions of a wall built against northern invaders is found in a poem, dated from the seventh century BC, recorded in the Classic of Poetry. The poem tells of a king, now identified as King Xuan r. The rule of the Eastern Zhou dynasty was marked by bloody interstate anarchy. With smaller states being annexed and larger states waging constant war upon one another, many rulers came to feel the need to erect walls to protect their borders. However the Chu border fortifications consisted of many individual mountain fortresses; they do not constitute to a lengthy, single wall. The State of Qi also had fortified borders up by the 7th century BC, and the extant portions in Shandong province had been christened the Great Wall of Qi. In the process, he constructed the northernmost fortified frontier deep in nomadic territory. In the north, the state of Wei and the Yiqu built walls to protect themselves from Qin aggression, but were still unable to stop Qin from eating into their territories. During the reign of King Zhaoxiang r. Where natural barriers like ravines and rivers sufficed for defence, the walls were erected sparingly, but long fortified lines were laid where such advantageous terrains did not exist. Often in addition to the wall, the defensive system included garrisons and beacon towers inside the wall, and watchtowers outside at regular intervals. Nicola Di Cosmo points out that the northern frontier walls were built far to the north and included traditionally nomadic lands, and so rather than being defensive, the walls indicate the northward expansions of the three northern states and their desire to safeguard their recent territorial acquisitions. These conquests, combined with the Legalist reforms started by Shang Yang in the 4th century BC, transformed China from a loose confederation of feudal states to an authoritarian empire. With the transformation, Qin became able to command a far greater assembly of labourers to be used

in public works than the prior feudal kingdoms. General Meng Tian erected walls beyond the northern loop of the Yellow River, effectively linking the border walls of Qin, Zhao, and Yan. Concurrent to the building of the frontier wall was the destruction of the walls within China that used to divide one warring state from another—contrary to the outer walls, which were built to stabilize the newly united China, the inner walls threatened the unity of the empire. Although the walls were rammed earth, so the bulk of the building material could be found in situ, transportation of additional supplies and labour remained difficult for the reasons named above. The sinologist Derk Bodde posits in *The Cambridge History of China* that "for every man whom Meng Tian could put to work at the scene of actual construction, dozens must have been needed to build approaching roads and to transport supplies. At the time, the young men being drafted were forced to haul boats and barges loaded with baggage trains upstream to sustain a steady supply of food and fodder to the front. When the populace had become tired and weary they started to dissipate and abscond. The orphans, the frail, the widowed and the seniors were desperately trying to escape from their appallingly derelict state and died on the wayside as they wandered away from their home. People started to revolt. Before killing himself, Meng Tian expressed regret for his walls: This then was my offense. Owen Lattimore concluded that the whole project relied upon military power to enforce agriculture on a land more suited for herding, resulting in "the anti-historical paradox of attempting two mutually exclusive forms of development simultaneously" that was doomed to fail. Unable to address the problem of the resurgent Xiongnu in the Ordos region through military means, Emperor Gaozu was forced to appease the Xiongnu. In exchange for peace, the Han offered tributes along with princesses to marry off to the Xiongnu chiefs. These diplomatic marriages would become known as heqin, and the terms specified that the Great Wall determined to be either the Warring States period Qin state wall [52] or a short stretch of wall south of Yanmen Pass [53] was to serve as the line across which neither party would venture. By the reign of Emperor Wu r. After a botched attempt at luring the Xiongnu army into an ambush at the Battle of Mayi in BC, [58] the era of heqin-style appeasement was broken and the Han—Xiongnu War went into full swing. In this way, Wei Qing reconquered the irrigable lands north of the Ordos and restored the spur of defences protecting that territory from the steppe. The garrisons of the watchtowers on the wall were supported by civilian farming and by military agricultural colonies known as tuntian. Behind this line of fortifications, the Han government was able to maintain its settlements and its communications to the Western Regions in central Asia, generally secure from attacks from the north. Despite high tensions between the Xin and the Xiongnu resulting in the deployment of , men on the Great Wall, no major fighting broke out beyond minor raids. The civil war ended with the Liu clan on the throne again, beginning the Eastern Han dynasty 25— Defense works were established to the east of the Yanmen Pass, with a line of fortifications and beacon fires stretching from Pingcheng County present-day Datong through the valley of the Sanggan River to Dai County, Shanxi. The Ordos region, northern Shanxi, and the upper Luan River basin around Chengde [69] were abandoned and left to the control of the Xiongnu. There are ambiguous accounts of the Jin rebuilding the Qin wall, [72] but these walls apparently offered no resistance during the Wu Hu uprising, when the nomadic tribes of the steppe evicted the Chinese court from northern China. What followed was a succession of short-lived states in northern China known as the Sixteen Kingdoms, until they were all consolidated by the Xianbei-led Northern Wei dynasty — The two walls formed the basis of the double-layered Xuanfu — Datong wall system that protected Beijing a thousand years later during the Ming dynasty. Two stretches of the stone-and-earth Qi wall still stand in Shanxi today, measuring 3. The route of the Qi and Zhou walls would be mostly followed by the later Ming wall west of Gubeikou, [76] which includes reconstructed walls from Qi and Zhou. The new walls proved insufficient in when Ishbara Qaghan avoided them by riding west to raid Gansu and Shaanxi with , archers. In as many as , men are recorded as involved in the construction. In — he sent over a million men to build a wall from Yulin to near Huhhot [72] to protect the newly refurbished eastern capital Luoyang. With the economy strained and the populace resentful, the Sui dynasty erupted in rebellion and ended with the assassination of Emperor Yang in Taizong scoffed at the suggestion, alluding to the Sui walls built in vain: History of the Song dynasty Han Chinese power during the tumultuous post-Tang era was represented by the Song dynasty —, which completed its unification of the Chinese states with the conquest of Wuyue in Turning to the north after this

victory, in the Song eliminated the Northern Han , ultimate successors to the Later Jin, but were unable to take the Sixteen Prefectures from the Liao dynasty. This agreement, among other things, required the Song to pay tribute to the Liao, recognized the Song and Liao as equals, [90] and demarcated the Songâ€™Liao border, [91] the course of which became more clearly defined in a series of subsequent bilateral agreements. This trench, between 15 and 20 metres 49 and 66 feet in width and depth, proved an effective defence, but in the Tanguts caught the Song patrollers off guard and filled the trench to cross the Old Wall. For the next two and a half centuries, the Great Wall played no role in Han Chinese geopolitics. After the Tang dynasty ended in , the northern frontier area remained out of Han Chinese hands until the establishment of the Ming dynasty in . During this period, non-Han " conquest dynasties " ruled the north: Liao dynasty frontier[edit] In , the Khitan chieftain Abaoji succeeded in getting himself appointed khaghan of all Khitan tribes in the north, laying the foundations to what would officially become the Liao dynasty. The benefits will be everlasting" â€™ and so construction continued unabated. Radiocarbon analysis showed that they were constructed from to . The walls were as tall as 2. They were built with mud and saxaul a desert shrub in one section, and dark basalt.

Chapter 9 : The Baldwin Project: Why the Chimes Rang by Raymond Macdonald Alden

The Great Wall of China is one of the greatest sights in the world – the longest wall in the world, an awe-inspiring feat of ancient defensive engineering. The winding path over rugged country and steep mountains takes in some great scenery.

As far back as the 8th century BCE, barriers were going up to repel nomadic armies. When Qin Shi Huang seized power of a collection of neighboring principalities in BCE and kicked off the Qin Dynasty, he began construction on a kilometer wall to safeguard his territory. Later dynasties continued this work and added their own flourishes. While construction began under the Qin Dynasty, the recognizable segments that we think of when we visualize the Great Wall were largely the handiwork of the Ming Dynasty, which created these facets between the 14th and 17th centuries CE. In fact, the Wall is more accurately described as a 20,000 kilometer network of walls spanning the northern border of Ancient and Imperial Chinese territories. The Great Wall is largely crafted from unremarkable building materials like earth and stone. In a particularly extreme version of modern community service, Great Wall construction, maintenance, and surveillance were regular duties of convicted criminals during the Qin Dynasty. Transgressions ranging from homicide to tax evasion were all punishable with Wall duty. The work was dangerous – some estimates state that 1 million workers perished while building the wall. With so many lives lost during construction, grieving family members feared that the spirits of their loved ones would be forever trapped within the structure that cost them their lives. In an effort to grant deceased laborers spiritual emancipation, a mourner would cross over the Wall with a rooster in tow. This tradition was believed to help guide a soul away from the fortification. Lining the Great Wall are shrines and tributes to figures from Chinese history. Guan Yu, a third-century general who served during the Han dynasty, is honored with temples built on the Wall. Manchurian invasion through the Wall in the 17th century resulted in the fall of the Ming dynasty. Travelers and merchants returned to their home countries with stories they translated into art and print, creating an enchantment with the Great Wall that helped spark Chinese appreciation for the structure. One good sign that this claim is specious lies in the fact that it dates back two centuries before mankind mastered space travel. English scholar William Stukeley outlined the idea in his *Family Memoirs*, written in 1724. More reliable sources – astronaut Neil Armstrong among them – assert that the Great Wall is by no means visible from space, much less the moon. At best, the Wall can be spotted from a low orbit, sunlight and weather permitting. Today, the surviving elements of the Great Wall of China stretch to a whopping 13,170 miles. During the 20th century sociopolitical movement known as Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the Chinese government did quite a bit of damage to the Great Wall. Mao Zedong and the Red Guard recognized the Wall as little more than a relic whose materials would better serve in the development of contemporaneous housing. Between 1966 and 1968, 100 miles of the Wall were stripped of bricks and repurposed to build civilian homes. Natural weathering and human-imparted erosion may result in the disappearance of certain parts of the Wall before they are even discovered. Portions of the Wall in the Gansu province are thought to be in particular jeopardy. Previously unknown stretches of the Great Wall have been discovered as recently as 2013. In the past decade, archaeologists have located some of the northernmost sections yet to be identified, standing in and on the border of present day Mongolia.