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**Longest sea bridge links Hong Kong to China – 24th October, 2018**

## **Level 0**

The world's longest sea bridge has opened. It links Hong Kong and mainland China. It is 55 kilometres long and took 10 years to build. Special islands in the river support the bridge. There is also a 6.7-kilometre tunnel for ships to sail over. The travel time between mainland China and Macau will be cut by two-and-a-half hours.

China's president was at the opening ceremony. The bridge will link 68 million people. Up to 29,000 cars will cross the bridge every day. A trade expert said the bridge will help China. Tourists can drive across the bridge, but local car owners need a permit. Most drivers will take a shuttle bus. This will cost \$8-\$10.

## **Level 1**

The world's longest sea bridge has opened. It links Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China. It is 55 kilometres long and took 10 years to build. There are special islands in the river to support the bridge. There is also a 6.7-kilometre tunnel in the middle. This is for ships to sail over. The new bridge is longer than 14 Golden Gate Bridges. The bridge will cut the travel time between mainland China and Macau by two-and-a-half hours.

China's president attended the opening ceremony. He hopes the bridge will connect 68 million people. Up to 29,000 cars will cross the bridge every day. A trade expert said the increase in goods and passengers will benefit China. Tourists can drive across the bridge, but local car owners must have a special permit. Most drivers will take a shuttle bus across the bridge. This will cost about \$8-\$10 per trip.

## **Level 2**

The world's longest sea bridge has opened. It links Hong Kong, Macau and China's mainland. It is 55 kilometres long. The bridge took a decade to build. Builders made special islands in the river to provide supports for the bridge. There is also a 6.7-kilometre underwater tunnel in the middle of the bridge. This is for ships to sail over. The new bridge is longer than 14 Golden Gate Bridges. The bridge will cut the time it takes to travel from mainland China to Hong Kong and Macau. The journey time to Macau has been cut from three hours to just 30 minutes.

China's president attended the opening ceremony on Thursday. He hopes the bridge will connect 68 million people in 11 cities. Up to 29,000 cars will cross the sea link daily by 2030. A trade and tourism expert said: "This makes Hong Kong a lot more accessible for goods, passengers and trade, so this is a benefit from the economic perspective." Tourists will be able to drive across the bridge, but local car owners will have to buy a special permit. Most drivers will take a shuttle bus to make the journey. The shuttle buses will cost \$8-\$10 per trip.

## **Level 3**

The world's longest sea bridge has opened. It links Hong Kong and Macau to mainland China. The bridge is called the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and is 55 kilometres long. The bridge took over a decade to construct. Builders had to make artificial islands in the Pearl River Delta to provide the supports for the bridge. There is also a 6.7-kilometre underwater tunnel in the middle of the bridge. This is to allow ships to sail through the Delta. The new bridge stretches longer than 14 Golden Gate Bridges lined up end to end. The bridge will greatly cut the time it takes to travel from mainland China to Hong Kong and Macau. The journey time to Macau has been cut from over three hours to just 30 minutes.

Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony of the bridge on Thursday. He hopes the new crossing will help to connect 68 million people in 11 different cities. China's government believes that up to 29,000 cars will cross the sea link daily by the year 2030. An trade and tourism expert said: "This makes Hong Kong a lot more accessible for goods, passengers and trade, so this is a benefit from the economic perspective." The bridge will be open to tourists to drive across it. However, local car owners will not be able to cross the bridge unless they have a special permit. Most drivers will take a shuttle bus to make the journey. The shuttle buses will cost \$8-\$10 for a single trip.

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