



Bridges

A Photo Essay On The Bridges You Love

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Triboro Bridge



- The Triboro Bridge was opened on July 11th, 1936. The reason it is called the Triboro Bridge is because it connects three boroughs. These are The Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens. It was renamed the RFK Bridge in 2008. It receives a daily amount of traffic of 164,116 per day.
- What is a Bridge?

Queensboro Bridge



- The Queensboro Bridge opened on March 30th, 1909. Renamed to be the Ed Koch Bridge this bridge receives a daily traffic of 141,150 people per day.
- It's a span.

Williamsburg Bridge



- The Williamsburg Bridge opened on December 19th, 1903. About 110,000 cross the bridge per day.
- A connector.

Manhattan Bridge



- The Manhattan Bridge opened on December 31st, 1909. About 150,000 people cross the bridge per day.
- A structure built to stand tall in times of need.

Brooklyn Bridge



- The Brooklyn Bridge was the first suspension bridge ever, opening on May 24th, 1883. About 120,000 people cross the bridge per day.
- Carrying the population to their destination.

George Washington Bridge



- Named after the first president, this bridge opened on October 25th, 1931. It gets about 310,000 people per day, and 106 million per year, making it the world's busiest bridge.
- A symbol of hope. A supporter.

Tappan Zee Bridge



- The Tappan Zee Bridge is in Tarrytown and Nyack NY. Although it is in upstate New York, it is technically in New York City. This bridge is being rebuilt as you can see on the right, because the bridge on the left received too much traffic per day (138,000).
- A great bridge in the making...

Bridges

The supporters of the city are bridges. As an important part of everyday life and the glue that keeps this city together, it's not a huge mystery why we have so many of them.

At first, in the middle of the nineteenth century, New York City had no bridges at all. The reason was, people were afraid they would fail and cause a catastrophe. They weren't wrong. Plenty of bridges before had failed. But, Manhattan being the first most populous city in the country, and Brooklyn being the third (Chicago was the second) it was a problem when the only way to access the two cities was by ferry. Then, in the winter of 1867, the east river froze over. This was the last straw for the two cities. Although the ice was thick enough to skate across, not everyone was able bodied. Manhattan and Brooklyn decided they needed a backup plan. They brought in the German Engineer John Roebling. He made his living in the steel cable business. He proposed the first suspension bridge ever. It would connect the Brooklyn city hall and the Manhattan city hall. Construction began in 1869. People thought it was safe, because it was held up by towers so humongous, that they were the second tallest structures in present day New York City. Caissons dug so deep that they hit bedrock. Finished in 1883 under budget and time people *still* didn't think it was safe. So, P. T Barnum led 21 elephants across the bridge to prove it was safe. People believed it was safe and stable.

Now, bridges have spread like a wild fire around the city having more than 25 built in New York City from the Brooklyn Bridge to present day. And, the construction of the Tappan Zee Bridge is going on as you read.