

# TOP 10 LARGEST SQUARES WORLDWIDE



Europe is renowned for its iconic and visually stunning squares, such as St. Peter's Square in Rome and Trafalgar Square in London. However, none of them rank among the largest squares in the world by surface area. Instead, expansive esplanades can be found in countries like China, Brazil, and Mexico, many of which are relatively unknown to the general public. The 10 largest squares in the world, from the immense Xinghai Plaza in China to the Quezon Memorial Circle in the Philippines are presented by Tourism Review.

## Xinghai Square: The Largest Square in the World

Xinghai Square, located in Dalian - a port city in Liaoning Province, China - is recognized as the largest square in the world, covering an area of 1.76 million square meters. Its name, "Sea of Stars," reflects the celestial inspiration behind its design and was chosen to commemorate the centenary of the city's founding in 1998.

These monumental squares feature landscaped areas and open spaces ideal for significant events such as cultural festivals and open-air concerts. Additionally, their location on Dalian Bay provides a stunning natural setting, offering panoramic sea views that harmonize with the modern urban landscape. Xinghai Square symbolizes the city's development and innovation, serving as a vibrant meeting point for many locals and tourists.

## Times Square (China): Larger Than Its Famous Namesake in New York

Located in Daqing, Heilongjiang province, this square covers an impressive area of 1.4 million square meters, surpassing its famous namesake in New York. Despite sharing the same name, Times Square has its unique character, reflecting this industrial city's dynamic and functional nature in northeastern China.

With its modern design, the square provides ample space for strolls, civic events, and recreational activities. It is especially popular in the winter when its open areas transform into an ideal ice skating venue, and in the summer, when fairs and markets bring the city to life. Although it may be lesser-known outside of China, it exemplifies its large-scale urban development.

## Merdeka Square: A Square Kilometer of History in Jakarta

In the heart of Jakarta, Indonesia, lies Merdeka Square, a vast public space covering 1 square kilometer that exudes monumentality and history. Its centerpiece is the imposing National Monument, known as Monas, a 132-meter tower symbolizing the country's independence, visible from various points throughout the city.

Notable government buildings and green spaces surround the square, creating an inviting atmosphere for rest and contemplation, balancing the monumental and the everyday. The name "Merdeka," meaning "independence," underscores the square's significance as the epicenter of civic and patriotic events, ranging from celebrations to demonstrations. This emblematic site is a must-

visit for anyone seeking to understand Indonesia's history, as it reflects a sense of pride and solemnity.

## **Sunflower Square: Monumentality in Brazil**

In Palmas, the capital of Brazil's state of Tocantins, lies the Plaza de los Girasoles (Sunflower Square), a vast 570,000-square-meter esplanade that ranks among the largest in the world. The square features a quadrangular design adorned with sculptures and fountains that reflect the region's cultural and religious identity, including the Monument to the Bible and the Luminous Fountain.

Despite being one of the youngest cities in Brazil, Palmas has made this square a source of pride for its residents. Girasoles Square serves not only for cultural and community events but also as a space that harmonizes urban living with nature. It provides recreational areas surrounded by lush vegetation that complements its modern design.

## **Rizal Park: The Historic Heart of Manila**

Popularly known as "Luneta," this 566,560-square-meter plaza holds significant historical importance for the Philippines. It is part of Rizal Park, which pays tribute to José Rizal, a national hero whose monument and funerary urn are located at the plaza's center.

In addition to its symbolic value, Luneta has been the site of historic events, including the 1946 Declaration of Independence and various uprisings and demonstrations. Surrounded by gardens, fountains, and tree-lined walkways, the plaza provides a serene environment for leisure and reflection. Its proximity to Manila's waterfront makes it an ideal location for recreational and cultural activities, attracting locals and tourists.

## **Huacheng Square: The Modernity of Canton**

Huacheng Square, also known as Flower City Square, is located in Guangzhou, China, and covers an area of 560,000 square meters. This modern space symbolizes the city's growth and serves as the heart of its financial and cultural district. Surrounded by some of Guangzhou's most iconic buildings, such as the Guangdong Opera House and Museum, the square is a popular meeting point for residents and visitors.

Its wide esplanades are complemented by gardens and pathways that invite strolls, while the night lighting system enhances the beauty of the surrounding architecture. Huacheng Square is a venue for events and sporting activities and offers a spectacular view of the iconic Canton Tower.

## **Tiananmen Square: A Historical and Political Symbol**

Tiananmen Square in Beijing spans 440,000 square meters, making it one of China's most iconic landmarks due to its size and historical significance. The square is home to the Great Hall of the People, the seat of the Chinese government, and the Tiananmen Gate, which leads to the Forbidden City.

Tiananmen Square has been the site of important events, including Mao Zedong's funeral and the student protests 1989. In addition to its political importance, the square attracts thousands of tourists each year who come to learn about its history and admire its vastness. Its monumental design serves as an enduring symbol of Chinese culture and politics.

## **Macroplaza: The Largest Square in Mexico**

The Macroplaza in Monterrey, Mexico, is a versatile space covering 400,000 square meters, blending modern elements with historical features. Constructed in the 1980s, its development involved the demolition of significant historical buildings, which sparked controversy then. However, today, it is a focal point for the city's cultural and social life.

The Macroplaza is home to notable museums, including the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Metropolitan Museum. It also features gardens, sculptures, and fountains that add vibrancy to the area. This space frequently hosts public events, festivals, and outdoor activities, making it a popular gathering place that embodies the lively spirit of Monterrey.

## **India Gate Complex: A Tribute to the Fallen in New Delhi**

In the heart of New Delhi, India, lies a 306,600 square meter plaza surrounding the iconic India Gate. This monument was erected in tribute to the fallen soldiers of World War I and served as a symbol of respect and remembrance.

The square features beautifully maintained gardens, shaded walkways, and the Amar Jawan Jyoti, an eternal flame honoring the military's sacrifices. This area invites reflection and is a popular spot for families and tourists to enjoy the urban landscape and outdoor activities. Its grandeur makes it an architectural and cultural landmark of the Indian capital.

## **Quezon Memorial Circle: A Tribute in the Philippines**

Located in Quezon City, Philippines, this 271,139-square-meter plaza is conceived as a park, shrine, and place of remembrance. The Quezon Memorial Shrine, a mausoleum that houses the remains of President Manuel Luis Quezon, dominates the landscape with its imposing design.

Surrounded by gardens, fountains, and recreational areas, this plaza blends solemnity with vitality, serving as a historical reflection and recreation site. The attached museum offers a detailed look at President Quezon's life and legacy, making it an attractive point for visitors interested in exploring Philippine history.

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