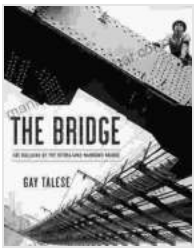
The Building of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge

A Story of Innovation and Triumph

The Verrazano Narrows Bridge is one of the most iconic bridges in the world. Spanning the Narrows between Staten Island and Brooklyn, it is a marvel of engineering and a testament to the human spirit. The bridge was built in the 1960s, and at the time it was the longest suspension bridge in the world. It remains one of the longest suspension bridges in the world today.



The Bridge: The Building of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge by Gay Talese

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The bridge was designed by Othmar Ammann, a Swiss-American engineer who also designed the George Washington Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge. Ammann was a pioneer in the field of suspension bridge design, and the Verrazano Narrows Bridge is considered one of his greatest achievements.

The construction of the bridge was a massive undertaking. It took over a decade to complete, and it cost over $300 million. The bridge was built using a variety of innovative techniques, including a new type of steel cable that was stronger and more flexible than any previous cable. The bridge was also built with a unique system of wind baffles that helped to reduce the effects of wind on the bridge.

The Verrazano Narrows Bridge was opened to traffic in 1964. It quickly became one of the busiest bridges in the world, and it has played a vital role in the transportation system of New York City. The bridge is also a popular tourist destination, and it offers stunning views of the New York Harbor.

The Verrazano Narrows Bridge is a testament to the human spirit. It is a symbol of innovation and triumph, and it is a reminder of what can be achieved when people work together.

The Design of the Bridge

The Verrazano Narrows Bridge is a suspension bridge, which means that it is supported by cables that are suspended from two towers. The bridge has two main cables, each of which is made up of over 26,000 individual wires. The main cables are supported by two towers, each of which is over 690 feet tall. The towers are made of steel, and they are anchored into the bedrock below the Narrows.

The deck of the bridge is made of steel, and it is supported by a series of suspender cables that are attached to the main cables. The deck is over 4,200 feet long, and it is wide enough to accommodate six lanes of traffic.

The Verrazano Narrows Bridge is a marvel of engineering. It is a testament to the skill and ingenuity of the engineers who designed and built it.

The Construction of the Bridge

The construction of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge was a massive undertaking. It took over a decade to complete, and it cost over $300 million. The bridge was built using a variety of innovative techniques, including a new type of steel cable that was stronger and more flexible than any previous cable. The bridge was also built with a unique system of wind baffles that helped to reduce the effects of wind on the bridge.

The first step in the construction of the bridge was to build the two towers. The towers were built using a technique called caisson construction. Caissons are large, watertight boxes that are sunk into the ground. The caissons were filled with concrete, and they were then used to support the towers.

Once the towers were complete, the next step was to spin the main cables. The main cables were spun by a machine that was mounted on top of the towers. The machine spun the wires together, and the wires were then bundled together to form the main cables.

Once the main cables were in place, the next step was to build the deck of the bridge. The deck was built using a technique called cantilever construction. Cantilever construction involves building the deck from both ends of the bridge, and then meeting in the middle. The deck was built using steel beams, and it was supported by a series of suspender cables that were attached to the main cables.

The construction of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge was a complex and dangerous undertaking. However, the engineers who built the bridge were able to overcome all of the challenges that they faced. The bridge was completed in 1964, and it has been a vital part of the New York City transportation system ever since.

The Impact of the Bridge

The Verrazano Narrows Bridge has had a significant impact on the New York City area. The bridge has helped to connect Staten Island to the rest of the city, and it has made it easier for people to travel between Staten Island and Brooklyn. The bridge has also helped to boost the economy of Staten Island.

The Verrazano Narrows Bridge is also a popular tourist destination. The bridge offers stunning views of the New York Harbor, and it is a popular spot for photographers and tourists alike.

The Verrazano Narrows Bridge is a symbol of New York City. It is a reminder of the human spirit, and it is a testament to what can be achieved when people work together.

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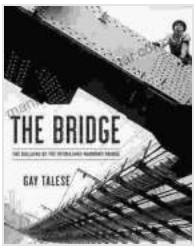

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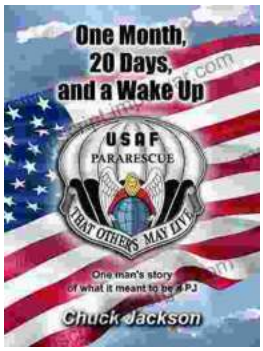

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