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Top Views: The World's Highest Observation Decks

Hamburg, May 2, 2013 – "At the Top" is the name of the observation deck at *Burj Khalifa*, the world's tallest building. Although the name might suggest otherwise, and despite being 452 meters up, "At the Top" does not actually lead its field – and not by some distance. In fact, the 828-meter tall skyscraper in Dubai only makes third place in a list of the world's highest observation decks just compiled by Emporis (www.Emporis.com), the international provider of building data.

Topping the ranking is *Canton Tower*, at 618 meters the world's third-tallest structure, which is home, at 488 meters, to the world's highest publicly-accessible observation deck. The tower not only provides a magnificent view of Guangzhou, but also offers a further attraction to visitors with a particularly good head for heights – the chance to circle the top of tower in glass pods 460 meters above the ground.

The highest observation decks

#	Building Name	City	Country	Building Height	Observation Deck
1.	Canton Tower	Guangzhou	China	618 m	488 m
2.	Shanghai World Financial Center	Shanghai	China	492 m	474 m
3.	Burj Khalifa	Dubai	UAE	828 m	452 m
4.	Tokyo Sky Tree	Tokyo	Japan	634 m	450 m
5.	CN Tower	Toronto	Canada	553 m	447 m
6.	KK100	Shenzhen	China	442 m	427 m
7.	Guangzhou International Finance Center	Guangzhou	China	438 m	415 m
8.	Willis Tower	Chicago	U.S.A.	442 m	413 m
9.	Taipei 101	Taipei	Taiwan	509 m	392 m
10	International Commerce Centre	Hong Kong	China	484 m	388 m

Source: www.emporis.com



The *Shanghai World Financial Center* ranks at similarly dizzying heights. Its Skywalk 100, a 55-meter long glass bridge 474 meters up the tower, puts it in second place in the ranking. It will have to give up its current spot, though, when its neighbor *Shanghai Tower* is completed next year. At the spectacular height of 557 meters, *Shanghai Tower's* observation deck will then far outstrip even the current record-holder.

Also not for the faint-hearted is *Willis Tower*, the tallest skyscraper in the United States. Originally opened as far back as 1974, more recently installed glass balconies with transparent floors on the west side of the building invite visitors to take an unobstructed look down. Here one can experience the unique feeling of hovering 413 meters above the city.

The battle for the world's highest observation deck is set to remain exciting into the future. Last month saw the start of construction work on *Kingdom Tower* in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The megaproject, due to have an overall height of over a kilometer, will put even *Burj Khalifa* in the shade. With an observation deck planned at a height of around 800 meters, it will bring the desert state not only the title of the world's tallest building, but also that of the world's highest observation deck. It will be a few years yet, however, before one can enjoy the view from the king of towers, with opening planned for 2018.



About Emporis

Emporis is a leading database of information about building and construction projects, based in Germany. For over a decade Emporis has helped companies, organizations and individuals stay informed about the building industry. The Emporis Skyscraper Award is the world's most renowned prize for high-rise architecture.

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