

# Great Wall, Great Jump

Daredevil skateboarder Danny Way knows how to jump into the record books. When Way rode his skateboard over a 70-foot-wide section of the **Great Wall of China**<sup>1</sup>, he became the first human to leap over the 2,000-year-old wall. Several people have tried to jump the wall using bicycles, but all have failed. The Chinese built the wall to keep invaders out.

Way made the jump using a Mega Ramp, a 65-foot-high ramp. Way, who is one of the most famous skateboarders in the world, sped down the ramp and over the wall at a blistering speed of about 55 miles an hour.

"I was aware of the dangers, and my heart was pumping in my chest the whole time," Way told *The New York Times*. "But I managed to pull it off."

Way soared over the Great Wall and landed on a 100-foot-long curved ramp. Although Way **botched**<sup>2</sup> the landing on his first attempt, he went on to successfully complete the jump four times. To thrill the cheering crowd, which included Chinese **dignitaries**<sup>3</sup>, thousands of spectators, and his own family, Way tossed in several gravity-defying spins on his last three attempts.

After the jump, the Chinese Minister of Culture presented Way with a small chunk of the wall.

"I came to China with a goal and that was to jump over the Great Wall," Way told reporters. "I have accomplished that and I feel like my job is done. I am honored to have my visions embraced by the people of China."

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<sup>1</sup>**Great Wall of China:** a system of fortified walls with a roadway along the top, built as a defense for China

<sup>2</sup> **botched:** made a mess of; ruined

<sup>3</sup> **dignitary:** a person of high position or honor