Tall Buildings in Numbers

Highest Special-Purpose Spaces

Since humans first began constructing tall buildings, history has been cluttered with claims of all manner of “highest” records. In this study, we examine those claims to unconventional or “special-purpose” spaces that would ordinarily be found in shorter, public buildings closer to street level. Though clearly a spectacular experience is the intended effect of many of these spaces, in many ways these are practical accommodations of the need for diverse amenities spread throughout the vertical dimension, just as they are on the ground.

Unless stated otherwise, all measurements were taken from the highest finished floor surface available within each space.

World’s Highest Restaurant
Restaurant: Any space designed as a publicly accessible dining area. Space must include seating for guests and an adjacent full kitchen.

Guangzhou CTF Finance Centre
Guangzhou, 530 m
Completion: 2016

Restaurant: 495 m
(Name TBD)

#2. International Commerce Centre
Hong Kong, 484 m
Completion: 2010
Ozone: 475 m

#3. Burj Khalifa
Dubai, 828 m
Completion: 2010
At.mosphere: 445 m

#4. Tianjin CTF Finance Centre
Tianjin, 530 m
Completion: 2019
Restaurant: 439 m
(Name TBD)

#5. Changsha IFS Tower T1
Changsha, 452 m
Completion: 2018
Niccolo Kitchen, The Tea Lounge, Bar 93: 432 m

World’s Highest Green Space
Green Space: A space in which a permanent majority of the floor area is devoted to the display and enjoyment of plants.

Guangzhou CTF Finance Centre
Guangzhou, 530 m
Completion: 2016

Terrace
495 m

#2. Vincom Landmark 81
Ho Chi Minh, 461 m
Completion: 2018
Terrace: 382 m

#3. Nanning China Resources Tower
Nanning, 403 m
Completion: 2019
Terrace: 312 m

#4. Yuexiu Fortune Center Tower 1
Wuhan, 330 m
Completion: 2017
Terrace: 305 m

#5. Hon Kwok City Center
Shenzhen, 329 m
Completion: 2017
Terrace: 304 m

At a height of 347 meters, the “BMW Rink 354” is the highest ice skating rink in the world, located on the 91st floor of the OKO - Residential Tower in Moscow, Russia.

According to Dubai’s Islamic Affairs office, due to being situated significantly above the ground-level horizon line, Muslim occupants of Burj Khalifa must delay some prayers by up to 3 minutes to accommodate the later sunset.

The highest pool in the world is located at a 469-meter height on level 118 of International Commerce Centre and is accessible to any hotel, spa, or fitness center guests.
World’s Highest Performance Space
Performance Space: A space that includes tiered/raked levels and fixed seating, for the purpose of observing speakers or performers.

One Shenzhen Bay Tower 7
Shenzhen, 341 m
Completion: 2018

Tsinghua University Campus – Z1 Lot
Beijing, 231 m
Completion: 2018

World’s Highest Education Space
Education Space: A space occupied and operated by a formal academic institution and utilized by students and/or employees of said academic institution. Due to limited data availability, this category has been ranked by the floor number of the highest education space.

#2. Mode Gakuen Cocoon Tower
Tokyo, 204 m
Completion: 2008
Tokyo Mode Gakuen, HAL Tokyo, and Shuto Ikō: Floor 50 (181 m)

#3. Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, 163 m
Completion: 1936
University of Pittsburgh: Floor 42 (145–155 m)

#4. Cathedral of Learning
Bangkok, 159 m
Completion: 2002
Assumption University of Thailand: Floor 39 (145–155 m)

#5. Mode Gakuen Spiral Towers
Nagoya, 170 m
Completion: 2008
Mode Gakuen, HAL, ISEN: Floor 38 (145 m)

World’s Highest Religious Space
Religious Space: A space designed and built exclusively for religious purposes (i.e., a refuge floor or break room that may also be used for prayer would not be included).

Makkah Royal Clock Tower Hotel
Mecca, 601 m
Completion: 2012

#2. Burj Khalifa
Dubai, 828 m
Completion: 2010
Prayer Room: 566 m

#3. Great Mosque of Algiers Tower
Algiers, 265 m
Completion: 2019
Minaret Viewing Platform: 224 m

The world’s highest library is inside Tomorrow Square, Shanghai, 228 meters (overall height 285 meters). The world’s tallest library building is the Shanghai Library at 106 meters.

Makkah Royal Clock Tower, Mecca, the world’s third-tallest building, holds top position in three categories, including Highest Astrological Observatory (472 meters), Highest Museum (484 meters), and Highest Religious Space (588 meters).