

Salar de Uyuni - Bolivia

Why a wonder: It's the world's largest salt flat, turning into a giant natural mirror during the rainy season.

How nature carved it: A prehistoric lake dried up thousands of years ago, leaving behind a thick layer of salt that cracked into perfect geometric patterns.

Scale: Formed 30,000-40,000 years ago, it stretches over 10,000 sq km and holds billions of tonnes of salt.

Legendary tale: Andean myths say that the salt flat was formed from the tears of a heartbroken mountain goddess.



Eye of the Sahara - Mauritania

Why a wonder: Circular pattern in the desert that looks like a bull's - eye from the sky.

How nature carved it: It began as a raised geological dome that gradually eroded, exposing its layers in perfect rings.

Scale: About 40 km wide and millions of years old.

Legendary tale: Its said to be the location of the lost city of Atlantis - a mystery that still sparks debate.



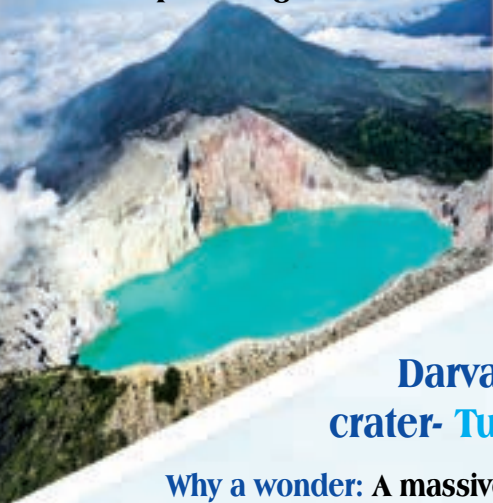
Kawah Ijen (Blue Volcano) - Indonesia

Why a wonder: It glows with bright blue flames at night, just like the Tri-wizard Cup from Harry Potter.

How nature carved it: The "blue fire" comes from sulphuric gases catching fire as they escape through cracks around the crater.

Scale: Part of a large volcanic complex, it also holds the biggest acidic crater lake.

Legendary tale: As per the folklore, the blue flames are the spirits of the mountains protecting the land.



Cueva de los Cristales - Mexico

Why a wonder: The 'Crystal cathedral' contains some of the largest crystals ever found with translucent beams.

How nature carved it: Hot mineral water gradually fills the cave, growing selenite crystals.

Scale: Crystals reach 12 metres long in a chamber at 45-50°C with utmost humidity.

Legendary tale: Locals view its crystals as ancient guardians.



Nature's wild CARVINGS

The Earth hosts some of the most extraordinary geological marvels, shaped by elemental forces over eons. From fiery craters to crystal caverns, they reveal nature's raw power and hidden beauty. Join **Aditya Gururaj & Aditi Gururaj, AGS Noida, A2** on this global journey to six awe-inspiring wonders.

Darvaza gas crater- Turkmenistan

Why a wonder: A massive fiery crater that's been burning nonstop for more than 50 years - it looks like the earth opened up and set itself alight.

How nature carved it: A natural gas field collapsed, creating a huge pit. Scientists set it on fire to stop methane from leaking, expecting it to burn out... but it never did.

Scale: The crater, formed in 1971, is about 70 metres wide and 20 metres deep, glowing day and night in the Karakum desert.

Legendary tale: Locals call it the 'Shining of Karakum' & say spirits keep the flames alive.



Shilin Stone Forest - China

Why a wonder: Limestone pillars, some 20-50 metres high, rise like a forest turned to stone.

How nature carved it: Millions of years of slightly acidic rain slowly shaped the limestone over time into tall 'stone trees' and narrow pathways.

Scale: Stretches across nearly 500 sq km and started forming around 270 million years ago.

Legendary tale: Locals say each pillar has a story. The best-known is Ashima, a young woman who turned to stone after being denied her true love.

