

Around the World in 80 Days



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Author's Note

Around the World in 80 Days, by Jules Verne, was published in 1873. Verne was inspired to write the story by the rapidly changing transportation methods around him. In Verne's lifetime, transportation evolved and travel became easier—though not as easy as it is today. Traveling around the world was a bold notion, and to circle the globe in 80 days was an outrageous thought. It would take an adventurer like Phileas Fogg to get the job done!

Verne's book is filled with twists and turns and plenty of detail. This highly abridged version focuses on just a few highlights of the nearly 24,000-mile journey in Verne's novel. It also alters some of the nineteenth-century perspectives on the British colonial lands that are apparent in the original.



CHAPTER ONE



Race Against Time

Phileas Fogg, a wealthy English gentleman and loner, spent his days like clockwork. He woke, shaved, and ate breakfast at the same time each day. He spent afternoons at the Reform Club, where he ate his lunch and dinner, read his papers, and spent his evenings playing the game whist with the same

group of other wealthy gentlemen. After whist, he went home, went to sleep, and woke to do it all again the next day. Fogg's manners were perfect and his habits predictable. Everyone knew exactly what to expect from Phileas Fogg.

Perhaps Fogg's lone servant, James Foster, should not have been surprised when he was immediately fired for the offense of providing shaving water that was two degrees too cold. Unforgivable! Fogg needed a new servant right away.

Enter Jean Passepartout (pass-par-TOO), a Frenchman with a wild past. He had been a fireman, a clown, a gymnast, and a singer. Now, he needed a new job. He hoped Fogg's quiet lifestyle and regular schedule would offer the calm his own life had been missing. Fogg thought Passepartout would suit him well and hired him on the spot. Passepartout got right to work.

But that very day, everything changed.

The gentlemen of the Reform Club enjoyed whist—in part because it was a game of bets and wagers. They appreciated a good gamble; therefore, they were thrilled when the opportunity to make an exciting bet arose.

“Have you heard about this abominable bank robbery?” a portly brewer named Flanagan began their conversation.

“I have, indeed. Do they know the identity of the robber?” asked a heavily mustachioed engineer named Stuart, glancing up from his cards and sipping his tea.

“It is no robber. It is a gentleman!” a gray-haired fellow by the name of Ralph added. He served as director of the very bank that had been robbed.

“He’ll never get away with it!” Sullivan and Fallentin, both bankers, declared in unison.

“It’s a big world,” Ralph offered dejectedly. “He’ll manage someplace to hide.”

“Not so big as it once was,” Fogg added matter-of-factly, setting aside the newspaper he’d been reading.

“Whatever do you mean, sir?”
Ralph countered.

“The final section of railway between Rotherham and Allahabad in India has been completed, or so the news reports,” Fogg informed the group. “All the world is now easily connected, and by my calculations, the globe can be completely circumnavigated in just 80 days. That is a small world indeed. The gentleman will be discovered and delivered to justice in no time.”

“Eighty days, you say?” spluttered Stuart, dribbling tea into his mustache.

“You may be correct in theory, Fogg,” Flanagan challenged, “but in practical purposes, no one can travel the world in 80 days.” The whist players chuckled at the absurdity of the notion, but Fogg’s ears perked up. He heard a challenge!

“You think not, do you?” Fogg asked, eyes gleaming. “I wager it can be done;

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