

**‘Today is Wednesday 2nd October.
If I am back in this very room in the
Reform Club on Saturday 21st December
by eight forty-five in the evening, I win.’**

Phileas Fogg bets £20,000 that he can go round the world in eighty days – a huge sum of money in 1872, worth more than a million pounds today!

When he sets off on his amazing journey with his clever servant, Passepartout, they cannot afford the slightest delay. Will the two travellers have time to help Princess Aouda, when the brave and beautiful young woman is threatened with a cruel fate?

Detective Fix believes that Mr Fogg is a bank robber, and plans to arrest him. Will that be the end of Phileas Fogg’s chance to save his fortune?



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AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS

JULES VERNE



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THE CHARACTERS

Phileas Fogg

Phileas Fogg is a wealthy gentleman who is calm, clever and usually gets his own way. He bets £20,000 that he can go round the world in eighty days – over a million pounds in today's money. Can he win his huge and risky wager?

Passepartout

Passepartout wants a quiet life. He has just become Phileas Fogg's personal servant. Has he made a big mistake?

Detective Fix

When Detective Fix decides Phileas Fogg is a bank robber, he is determined to arrest him. Will he succeed? And is Phileas guilty?



Princess Aouda

Princess Aouda is intelligent and beautiful. Can Phileas Fogg and his companions rescue her before she suffers a terrible fate?

The Indian Guide

He is young and brave, and an expert elephant driver. He guides the travellers through a dangerous and difficult part of their journey.



Sir Francis Cromarty

Brigadier General Sir Francis Cromarty meets the travellers when they are in India. Can he help them save the princess?



Captain Speedy

The captain refuses to take Phileas Fogg and the others back to England on his steamship. How can they make him change his mind?





AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS

At five minutes past six on the evening of the second of October 1872, Mr Phileas Fogg was sitting in a comfortable leather armchair in the Reform Club. To those who knew him, this would have come as no surprise. He was a gentleman of exact and predictable habits, whose life revolved around his luxurious London club and his large house at number 7 Savile Row. This was the hour at which he always played cards with a group of five other wealthy men, and as usual they were discussing the news of the day before their game began.

Andrew Stuart, the famous engineer, held out a copy of *The Times* and pointed to an article on an inside page.

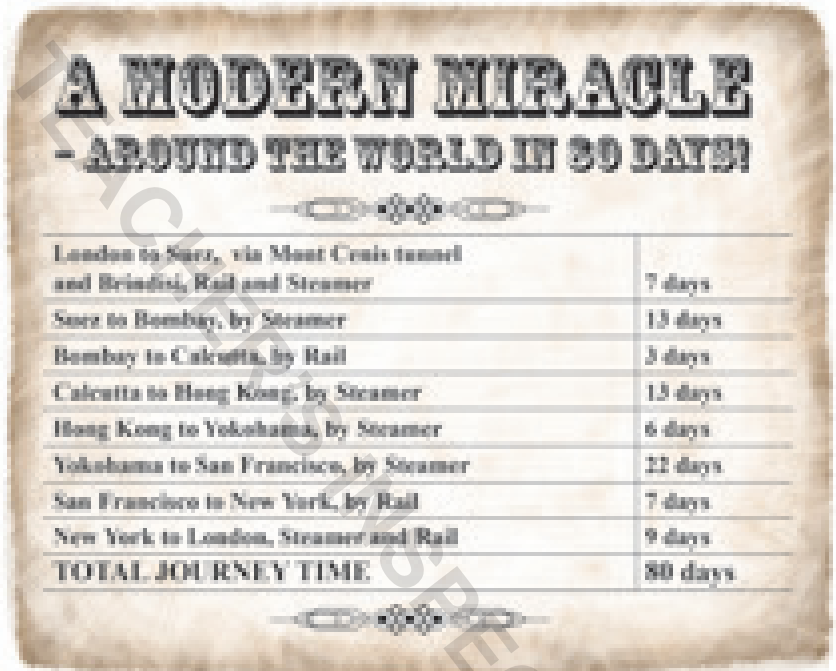
‘It seems that this bank robber has got clean away,’ he said. ‘And with £55,000 in notes! He was a well-dressed gentleman, by all accounts, and simply walked off with the money after distracting the cashier.’

Gauthier Ralph, who was one of the directors of the Bank of England, shook his head. 'He will not get far. The money was taken on 29th September – that is only three days ago. All the ports are being watched by the police.'

'I don't agree,' Stuart said. 'After all, the world is a big place, and with that amount of money he can go anywhere.'

Phileas Fogg raised himself from his chair. 'Perhaps not as big as it was! You can now travel round the world ten times as quickly as you could a hundred years ago. According to today's *Morning Chronicle*, now that the new Indian railway has been completed it is possible to circle the globe in just eighty days.'

Mr Fogg picked up a copy of the *Chronicle* from a side table, and opened it so that his companions could see the chart on the third page.



London to Suez, via Mont Cenis tunnel and Brindisi, Rail and Steamer	7 days
Suez to Bombay, by Steamer	13 days
Bombay to Calcutta, by Rail	3 days
Calcutta to Hong Kong, by Steamer	13 days
Hong Kong to Yokohama, by Steamer	6 days
Yokohama to San Francisco, by Steamer	22 days
San Francisco to New York, by Rail	7 days
New York to London, Steamer and Rail	9 days
TOTAL JOURNEY TIME	80 days

Thomas Flanagan, the brewery owner, chuckled. 'That's all very well, but in real life things would hardly go that smoothly! Why, an accident or some bad weather could easily add a week or more to the journey.'

'I'm afraid that Flanagan is right,' Andrew Stuart said. 'You are a clever man, Mr Fogg, but in this instance you are wrong. I'd bet £4,000 that it couldn't be done.'

Back in time

It is now possible to travel around the world using normal passenger airline routes in less than three days, including stops on the ground. This might make Phileas Fogg's journey seem rather ordinary, but when *Around the World in Eighty Days* was first published in France as a newspaper serial in 1872 its readers were fascinated by Fogg's achievement.

Phileas Fogg's fictional journey was based on real timetables, although a few years earlier it would have been impossible. Before the Suez Canal was opened in 1869, ships from England to India would have had to sail right round the southern tip of Africa, adding five thousand miles to the journey. The railroad linking the west and east coasts of America was also completed in 1869, saving six months of travel, and the Mont Cenis Tunnel under the Alps opened in 1871. It was not until the 1860s that suitable steam engines were developed for ocean crossings. In the days of sail, and before the Suez Canal was opened, a voyage from England to India took at least six months – by 1872 this journey could be done in three weeks.

When *Around the World in Eighty Days* was published in book form in 1873 it quickly became a best-seller, and was translated into many languages. As well as the novelty of fast and

relatively safe travel, readers were gripped by Jules Verne's descriptions of the exotic countries visited by Phileas Fogg and his companions. In the twenty-first century we are used to foreign travel, but when Verne wrote his book most people never left their own country unless they worked abroad. His vivid descriptions of Arabian ports, the Far East and the American West introduced his readers to scenes that few could ever hope to experience in real life.

Finding out more

We recommend the following books and websites to gain a greater understanding of Jules Verne and the world he lived in:

Books

- Arthur C. Clarke and Gonzague Saint Bris, *The World of Jules Verne*, Turtle Point Press, 2007.
- Jules Verne, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*,
- Jules Verne, *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*

Websites

- www.julesverne.ca
This site is aimed at book collectors, but it contains lots of information about the author, including photographs.