

# Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne (1873)

This fictional novel is based on the true adventure of George Francis Train. Phileas Fogg was a predictable man who lived routinely to the minute. He had just hired a new servant, Passapartout (we'll just call him "P"), that morning and was discussing a newspaper article with friends at the club that stated man could circumnavigate the world in 80 days (but he would have to make every connection). In an unpredictable manner he bet 20,000 pounds that he could do it.

So, on 1Feb1872 at 8:45 pm he left London with the proposed itinerary of: by train, then boat across the English Channel & train again through Paris to Brindisi, Italy. Take a steam ship from Italy to Suez Canal & then Bombay, India (20 days to this point). Take rail from across India to Calcutta (3 days), then a steamer to Hong Kong (13 days). Take another steam ship to Yokohama, Japan (6 days); then to San Francisco (22 days). Take the new trans-continental train to New York (7 days). And last another steamer (& some train) to London (9 days). He should arrive back on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>.

A few days before he left there was a bank robbery of 55,000 pounds & some detective thought it might be him since he left in such haste (& took with him 20,000 pounds). Detective Fix was on the chase, but the warrant couldn't keep up with their pace. In Bombay, "P" wore shoes in a temple (a serious offense). Fix extracted info from "P" to gain on Fogg.

The first steamer put him 2 days ahead of schedule. This was helpful because the railroad tracks in India were 50 miles short of connecting in the middle. He had to buy an elephant to make the connection. In route they came across a widow (Aouda) who was going to be burned with her dead husband. They rescued her by pretending the husband came back to life & ran off with her. They arrived in Calcutta back on schedule. A judge sentenced them to a week in jail for the temple offense, but he posted bail & left town.

He took Aouda to her uncle in Hong Kong, but found he moved to Europe so she stayed with Fogg back to London. On the ship to Hong Kong he lost 1 day due to weather, but his connecting boat was also delayed for repairs. "P" found out the ship would leave early, but Fix got him drunk & drugged him to cause a delay & not expose the detective. "P" somehow found his way onboard & passed out.

Fogg missed the boat & hired another to Shanghai to catch the ship they were to meet in Japan. Fogg not knowing who Fix was, offered him a free ride. "P" arrived in Japan with no money & joined a circus to eat & get a ride to CA in hopes to find his master. Ironically his mater came to the show & they found each other & arrived in CA on schedule.

They took the train from San Francisco heading east. 100,000 buffalo caused a 3-hour delay. They came to an unsafe bridge & the engineer decided to 'fly' over it at great speed. The bridge collapsed behind them. The train was attacked by Indians & "P" was taken prisoner. Fogg paid some army troops to help him retrieve the prisoners, but by then the train had left.

He hired a local to take them by sailing sled across the snow to Omaha. He got back on the train, but arrived 45 minutes after the steam ship left for England. He hired a freighter that said

he was fast. They arrived in Queenstown, Ireland & took the express train (& high-speed boat) to Liverpool where Fix served him his warrant. But then found they already caught the real robber and soon released him. He thought he arrived in London 5 minutes late & he was ruined. By then Aouda fell in love with him & they decided to get married. They had actually arrived 1 day early since traveling east saves a day. He had won the bet.

Books: Journey to the Center of the Earth & 20,000 Leagues under the Sea (Jules Verne);  
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Arthur Doyle)