

NAXOS
AudioBooks

Jules Verne
**Around the World
in Eighty Days**

Read by **Harry Burton**

**CLASSIC
FICTION**



NA203312D

1	No 7 Savile Row, Burlington Gardens	3:53
2	Passepartout settles in	2:17
3	At the Reform Club	8:54
4	Phileas Fogg a bank thief?	7:13
5	Fix digs deeper	3:50
6	Aden and then Bombay – early	6:23
7	An unexpected hiatus	6:10
8	A forest procession	10:51
9	A successful escape	10:44
10	On the <i>Rangoon</i> to Hong Kong	5:21
11	Passepartout waylaid	7:03
12	Departure without Passepartout	6:38
13	A squall on the way to Yokohama	6:04
14	Passepartout alone on the <i>Carnatic</i>	11:31
15	A paddle-wheel steamer to San Francisco	8:50
16	Arrival in America	4:40
17	The Pacific Railroad	6:19
18	Old and new adversaries	7:19
19	Another strange vehicle	3:29
20	The Hudson and the Atlantic	8:24
21	Phileas Fogg lands at Liverpool Pier	2:56
22	A saddened Fogg arrives home	3:09
23	The Reform Club again	1:49
24	Eighty days precisely	6:12

Total time: 2:30:12

Jules Verne

Around the World in Eighty Days

Jules Verne was born in the French seaport of Nantes in 1828. In 1839, he stowed away on the *Coralie*, a ship bound for the West Indies, but was retrieved by his father. His father wanted Jules to become a lawyer – as he himself was – and sent his son to Paris in 1848 to train.

In Paris, Verne became part of the literary circle of Alexandre Dumas. In 1852, he passed his law exams and became Secretary to the Théâtre Lyrique, writing several unsuccessful plays.

In 1856, Verne married a young widow from Amiens, Honorine Morel, who had two children, and they had one son of their own, Michel. In order to support his family, he became a stockbroker on the Paris Bourse.

As well as plays, Verne wrote many poems and stories for magazines and in 1854 he published a fantasy novella, *Master Zacharius*. But his first real success came in 1863, with the publication of *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, followed in 1864 by *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and, in 1865, *From the Earth to the Moon*. *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* was published in two parts, in 1869 and 1870. Like many

of Verne's books, it shows his love of exploration and scientific discovery.

Verne was left crippled in 1886 after being shot by his nephew, Gaston, when he refused him money. But he continued to work, and wrote a total of 67 titles. He died in 1905.

Around the World in Eighty Days was Verne's tenth novel. It was published in 1873, at the height of his powers, and it established his popularity in Britain – and in America, where it was the best-seller of the year, with sales topping a million. It achieved its greatest popularity in the twentieth century through Michael Todd's film with David Niven in the title role.

Around the World in Eighty Days chronicles the dramatic dash from continent to continent by the eccentric Englishman, Phileas Fogg, to win a wager. Fogg is very much a Frenchman's idea of the English gentleman, a figure of extreme punctiliousness who is quite content to 'let his servant do his sightseeing for him'. He is balanced by the excitable and warm-hearted Passepartout – perhaps a Frenchman's idea of the true Frenchman.

The book was written as a serial and ran in the Paris newspaper, *Le Temps*, in real time, the story and the journey ending on the same day at the end of December 1872. Fogg's journey was followed keenly by readers, and episodes were telegraphed across the Atlantic.

It was a time when international tourist travel was becoming increasingly available to a wider section of people, and the details of visas, travelling methods and differing cultural traits was fascinating to the general reader.

The story falls easily into episodes, and the immediacy of the writing, mirroring the fast-moving pace of the action, makes it as gripping today as when it was first written.

Notes by Lesley Young

**The music on this recording is taken from
the NAXOS and MARCO POLO catalogues**

GRIEG THE WEDDING DAY AT TROLHAUGEN BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Jerzy Maksymiuk	8.550864
DVOŘÁK SYMPHONY NO. 9 FROM THE NEW WORLD Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra/Stephen Gunzenhauser	8.550271
D'INDY TABLEAUX DE VOYAGE ETC . Württemberg Philharmonic/Gilles Nopre	8.223659
FLEMISH ROMANTIC MUSIC BRT Philharmonic, Brussels/Rahbari	8.223418

Cover picture: Imperial Federation showing the map of the world and the British Empire,
by Captain J.C. Colombo c.1886. Royal Geographical Society, London.
By courtesy of The Bridgeman Art Library.

Jules Verne

Around the World in Eighty Days

Read by **Harry Burton**

To take on the bet – to go around the world in eighty days, faster than anyone had gone before – was madness. If Phileas Fogg missed a single connection, he would lose £20,000.

Phileas Fogg was an eccentric Englishman who lived a quiet, ordered life and believed that with technology and planning, nothing was unforeseeable. But he could not plan for the ebullient nature of his French servant, Passepartout, for the adventures that crop up on their journey and for the totally unexpected collision with romance.

The humour and freshness of Verne's writing – vivid despatches from a newly accessible world – make *Around the World in Eighty Days* an ideal subject for audiobook. Jules Verne would have approved.



Harry Burton is a highly versatile actor. A familiar figure in British theatre, in London's West End and the Fringe, he has become equally known for taking leading operatic roles including Mozart (Figaro and Leporello) and Rossini (Dandini) at the South Bank, the Vienna Festival and on TV. He is also regularly seen on TV in programmes as varied as *Soldier, Soldier* and *Pinter's Party Time*.

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Total time
2:30:12

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