

# around the world in 72 days nellie bly

**around the world in 72 days nellie bly** is a remarkable historical journey that captured the imagination of readers and adventurers alike in the late 19th century. Nellie Bly, a pioneering journalist, undertook an ambitious trip to circumnavigate the globe in a record-breaking time, inspired by Jules Verne's fictional character Phileas Fogg from "Around the World in Eighty Days." Her real-life journey not only showcased her courage and determination but also highlighted the possibilities of modern transportation and communication. This article delves into the details of Nellie Bly's groundbreaking trip, the challenges she faced, and its lasting impact on journalism and travel. Explore the itinerary, the significance of the journey, and how it influenced society's view of women and adventure during that era. The following sections provide a comprehensive overview of Nellie Bly's around the world in 72 days adventure.

- Background and Inspiration
- The Journey Begins: Key Destinations
- Challenges and Obstacles Faced
- Impact on Journalism and Society
- Legacy of Nellie Bly's Journey

## Background and Inspiration

The story of around the world in 72 days nellie bly is rooted in the spirit of adventure and journalistic innovation. Nellie Bly, whose real name was Elizabeth Cochran Seaman, was a trailblazing investigative journalist working for the New York World newspaper. Inspired by Jules Verne's popular novel "Around the World in Eighty Days," Bly proposed to her editor that she attempt to beat the fictional record by traveling the world in less time. At a time when global travel was still a major feat, her plan was both daring and unprecedented for a woman journalist. The editorial team supported her idea, setting the stage for one of the most famous journeys in travel and media history.

## The Role of Jules Verne's Novel

Jules Verne's 1873 novel "Around the World in Eighty Days" popularized the idea of circumnavigating the globe quickly. The protagonist Phileas Fogg's race against time captured public imagination worldwide. Nellie Bly's around the world in 72 days endeavor was a real-life attempt to challenge this fictional feat by shaving off eight days from the journey. Her trip was a testament to the advancements in steamship and railway travel during the late

19th century, proving that such global expeditions were becoming increasingly feasible.

## **Nellie Bly's Background as a Journalist**

Before her famous journey, Nellie Bly had already established herself as a fearless investigative reporter. Known for her undercover work, including exposing conditions in mental institutions, Bly was recognized for her determination and resourcefulness. This background equipped her with the skills necessary to navigate the logistical and social challenges of traveling alone as a woman in the 1890s. Her around the world in 72 days journey was not just a stunt but a professional assignment intended to boost her newspaper's readership and showcase her journalistic prowess.

## **The Journey Begins: Key Destinations**

Nellie Bly's around the world in 72 days trip started from New York City on November 14, 1889. Her route was carefully planned to take advantage of the fastest available transportation options of the time, including steamships and trains. This section outlines the major stops and modes of travel that defined her historic expedition.

### **Starting Point: New York City**

New York City was the bustling hub from which Nellie Bly embarked on her journey. Departing from this major port ensured access to the fastest transatlantic steamers bound for Europe. The city's prominence in global travel infrastructure was crucial in setting the pace for her ambitious schedule.

### **Europe and the Suez Canal**

After crossing the Atlantic, Bly traveled through England and France, making use of railroads to speed her progress. A critical part of her journey was passing through the newly opened Suez Canal, which significantly shortened the sea route between Europe and Asia. This canal was an engineering marvel of the time and instrumental in reducing travel time, enabling Bly to maintain her fast pace.

### **Asia and the Pacific Crossing**

Upon reaching Asia, Bly continued her travels through stops in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), and Hong Kong. The Pacific crossing was undertaken on a fast steamship bound for San Francisco, where she completed the final leg of her trip across the United States by railway. Each segment was carefully coordinated to minimize delays and keep her on schedule.

## **Final Destination: Return to New York**

After traveling approximately 24,899 miles, Nellie Bly arrived back in New York City on January 25, 1890. Her total travel time was 72 days, 6 hours, and 11 minutes, beating the fictional 80-day record and setting a new real-world benchmark for circumnavigation. Her triumphant return was met with widespread public acclaim and media attention.

## **Challenges and Obstacles Faced**

Despite careful planning, Nellie Bly's around the world in 72 days journey was fraught with numerous challenges. From logistical hurdles to social prejudices, her expedition tested her resilience and adaptability at every turn.

### **Transportation Delays and Mechanical Issues**

Travel in the late 19th century was inherently unpredictable. Bly encountered delays caused by late trains, rough seas, and mechanical failures. For instance, some steamships experienced engine troubles, forcing unplanned stops or slower speeds. These disruptions threatened to derail her timeline but were managed through quick decision-making and alternative arrangements.

### **Social and Gender Barriers**

As a young woman traveling alone, Nellie Bly faced significant social obstacles. Victorian-era norms often restricted women's freedom, and her journey challenged contemporary gender roles. She encountered skepticism and sometimes hostility, but her determination and professionalism helped her overcome these societal barriers, making her journey an early example of women's empowerment.

### **Health and Physical Hardships**

The physical toll of constant travel was considerable. Bly endured cramped quarters on ships, limited and sometimes poor-quality food, and the strain of continuous movement across multiple time zones. Maintaining her health and energy was essential to completing the journey within her targeted timeframe.

## **Impact on Journalism and Society**

Nellie Bly's around the world in 72 days trip had a profound impact on both journalism and societal perceptions about women and travel. Her accomplishment resonated far beyond the immediate news cycle, influencing public opinion and inspiring future generations.

## **Advancement of Investigative and Immersive Journalism**

Bly's journey exemplified immersive journalism, where reporters actively participate in the events they cover. This approach added authenticity and immediacy to her reporting, setting new standards for journalistic storytelling. Her dispatches from around the globe captivated readers and demonstrated the power of first-person narrative in news media.

## **Changing Views on Women's Capabilities**

The success of a solo female traveler undertaking such a demanding challenge challenged prevailing stereotypes about women's roles and abilities. Bly's journey contributed to the growing movement advocating for women's independence and equality. It showed that women could perform feats traditionally dominated by men, including exploration and adventure.

## **Public Fascination with Global Travel**

The widespread coverage of Bly's circumnavigation fueled public interest in international travel and exploration. It highlighted the shrinking world due to technological advances in transportation and communication. This fascination helped lay the groundwork for the modern travel industry and encouraged curiosity about different cultures and distant places.

## **Legacy of Nellie Bly's Journey**

The legacy of around the world in 72 days nellie bly endures in multiple dimensions—from journalism to cultural history and women's rights. Her journey remains a symbol of courage, innovation, and the transformative power of determination.

## **Influence on Future Travelers and Explorers**

Nellie Bly's record-breaking trip inspired countless adventurers and journalists to push boundaries. Her example demonstrated that with courage and resourcefulness, seemingly impossible goals could be achieved. This spirit of exploration continues to motivate travelers and storytellers worldwide.

## **Recognition in Popular Culture and Media**

Bly's journey has been commemorated in books, documentaries, and exhibitions. Her story is often cited in discussions about pioneering women and the history of travel journalism. The phrase "around the world in 72 days" remains synonymous with her extraordinary accomplishment.

## **Contribution to Women's Empowerment**

By defying conventions and succeeding in a male-dominated sphere, Nellie Bly helped pave the way for future generations of women in journalism and beyond. Her journey is celebrated as a landmark achievement that expanded the possibilities available to women in society.

1. Published detailed travel reports during and after the journey
2. Set a new world record for circumnavigation by a woman
3. Advanced journalistic practices with immersive reporting
4. Challenged gender norms and inspired women's rights movements
5. Highlighted advancements in global transportation and communication

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who was Nellie Bly and why is she famous?**

Nellie Bly was a pioneering American journalist known for her record-breaking trip around the world in 72 days, inspired by Jules Verne's novel "Around the World in Eighty Days."

### **When did Nellie Bly complete her trip around the world?**

Nellie Bly completed her trip around the world in 72 days in the year 1889-1890.

### **What was the purpose of Nellie Bly's around the world trip?**

The purpose of Nellie Bly's trip was to beat the fictional record set in Jules Verne's novel and to demonstrate that such a journey was possible for a woman traveling alone.

### **How did Nellie Bly manage to travel around the world in 72 days?**

Nellie Bly used a combination of steamships and trains, carefully coordinating her travels and overcoming numerous challenges to complete the journey in 72 days.

## **What challenges did Nellie Bly face during her trip around the world?**

Nellie Bly faced challenges such as rough seas, delays, language barriers, and skepticism from others about a woman traveling alone on such a long journey.

## **How did Nellie Bly's trip impact journalism?**

Nellie Bly's trip showcased investigative journalism and adventure reporting, inspiring future journalists and proving the power of immersive, first-person storytelling.

## **Did Nellie Bly break any records with her trip?**

Yes, Nellie Bly broke the unofficial record for the fastest trip around the world, completing it in 72 days, beating the fictional 80-day record from Jules Verne's novel.

## **What was the public reaction to Nellie Bly's journey?**

The public was fascinated and inspired by Nellie Bly's journey, which received widespread media coverage and made her a celebrated figure in journalism and women's history.

## **Are there any books or films about Nellie Bly's 72-day trip?**

Yes, there are several books and documentaries about Nellie Bly's journey, recounting her adventure and highlighting her contributions to journalism and women's rights.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. Around the World in Seventy-Two Days: The Adventures of Nellie Bly*

This book chronicles the incredible journey of Nellie Bly as she attempts to circumnavigate the globe in just 72 days, inspired by Jules Verne's fictional character Phileas Fogg. It details the challenges she faced, the innovative transportation methods of the late 19th century, and her determination to break records. The narrative offers a vivid glimpse into the era's travel and social conditions.

### *2. Nellie Bly: Daredevil Reporter*

A biography of Nellie Bly that highlights her fearless journalism career, including her famous undercover investigation in a mental institution and her record-setting trip around the world. The book explores her trailblazing

spirit and her impact on investigative journalism. Readers gain insight into the life of a woman who broke barriers in a male-dominated field.

### 3. *Globe-Trotting Women: Female Pioneers of Travel*

This collection profiles pioneering women travelers like Nellie Bly, who challenged societal norms by embarking on extraordinary journeys. It examines the historical context of women in travel and the obstacles they overcame. The book celebrates their adventurous spirits and contributions to travel literature.

### 4. *The Race Around the World: The Story Behind Nellie Bly's Journey*

Focusing on the competitive aspect of Nellie Bly's trip, this book delves into the rivalry inspired by Jules Verne's novel and how Bly set out to prove that a woman could match and surpass the fictional 80-day journey. It provides detailed accounts of her travel logistics, encounters, and the media frenzy that followed. The narrative captures the excitement of the era's global race.

### 5. *Victorian Travel and Adventure: Journeys of the 19th Century*

This book contextualizes Nellie Bly's journey within the broader scope of Victorian-era exploration and travel. It covers advancements in transportation, the rise of tourism, and notable expeditions of the time. Bly's story is featured as a highlight of female-led adventure during this transformative period.

### 6. *Breaking Boundaries: Women Who Changed the World*

Highlighting influential women from various fields, this book includes a chapter on Nellie Bly's groundbreaking journey and her fearless approach to reporting. It celebrates women who defied societal expectations to leave lasting legacies. Bly's story is presented as an inspiring example of courage and innovation.

### 7. *The Golden Age of Travel: From Steamships to Railroads*

This historical overview explores the technologies and infrastructures that made rapid global travel possible in the 19th century. Nellie Bly's 72-day journey is used as a case study to illustrate the era's travel possibilities and limitations. The book offers readers an understanding of how travel evolved during this dynamic period.

### 8. *Adventures in Journalism: Stories of Courage and Discovery*

Focusing on journalists who took risks to uncover the truth, this book features Nellie Bly's undercover work and her round-the-world trip. It highlights the role of investigative reporting in shaping public opinion and social reform. Bly's contributions are showcased as pioneering examples of immersive journalism.

### 9. *Around the World in Eighty Days: The Real-Life Inspirations*

This book explores the real people and events that inspired Jules Verne's classic novel, including Nellie Bly's journey which came after the book but echoed its adventurous spirit. It compares fictional and actual circumnavigations, analyzing the cultural impact of the story. The narrative

connects literature with historical feats of travel and exploration.

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