GENERAL

a round the world in 80 days

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction: The Allure of a 80 Day World Tour

There's something almost mythic about the idea of circumnavigating the globe in a single, unbroken stretch of time. The notion of a round the world adventure that lasts exactly eighty days has captured the imagination of travelers, writers, and dreamers for more than a century. From the daring protagonist of Jules Verne's classic novel to modern explorers who tackle the same challenge with today's technology, the concept remains a compelling benchmark for anyone who wants to test the limits of speed, culture, and endurance.

In this guide we'll explore why the 80 day benchmark is so iconic, how you can plan a realistic itinerary, what budget you'll need, and what practical tips will help you stay safe and energized on the road. Whether you're a seasoned globetrotter or a first time adventurer, this article offers a comprehensive roadmap to turning the dream of an 80 day world tour into a tangible reality.

The Classic Inspiration: Jules Verne's "Around the World in 80 Days"

Jules Verne's 1873 novel introduced the world to Phileas Fogg, a London gentleman who wagers that he can travel around the globe in just eighty days. The story, while a work of fiction, was grounded in the transportation technologies of the era—steamships, railways, and the newly constructed Suez Canal. Verne's narrative combined adventure with a detailed portrayal of the places he visited, making the book a cultural touchstone for wanderlust.

Verne's work remains relevant because it set a precedent: the idea that the world could be traversed quickly, provided you had the right planning and a bit of luck. His novel also introduced the concept of "time zones" and the practical challenges of coordinating travel across continents, themes that resonate with modern travelers planning an 80 day circumnavigation.

Modern-Day 80 Day Adventures: From Reality to Reality Check

Since the 19th century, many travelers have attempted to replicate or improve upon Fogg's feat. Some have completed the journey in less than 80 days by exploiting high speed flights and chartered vessels. Others have embraced the challenge of traveling by the same modes of transport that were available in Verne's time—steamships, trains, and early aircraft—adding an element of historical authenticity to their trip.

Today's 80 day world tour is often a blend of the old and the new. Travelers might start their journey with a trans Atlantic flight to Europe, switch to a high speed train across the continent, hop on a ferry to the Middle East, and finish with a flight to the Americas. This hybrid approach allows for a more realistic schedule while still offering the excitement of rapid travel.

Planning Your 80 Day World Tour: Step by Step Guide

1. Define Your Objectives and Priorities

Before you book a ticket, decide what you want to get out of your trip. Are you looking for a cultural deep dive, a high speed adventure, or a mix of both? Identifying your priorities will help shape your itinerary, budget, and travel style.

2. Create a Rough Itinerary

Start by listing the continents and major countries you wish to visit. Then, use a world map or an online route planner to sketch a logical path that minimizes backtracking. For example:

1. Start in North America (e.g., New York).
2. Fly to Europe (London or Paris).
3. Take a high speed train across Western Europe.
4. Cross the Mediterranean by ferry or flight to the Middle East.
5. Fly to Africa, exploring a few key destinations.
6. Cross the Atlantic again to finish in the Americas.

3. Calculate Travel Time and Layovers

Use flight calculators and train schedules to estimate the total travel time. Don't forget layovers, customs processing, and potential delays. Aim for a buffer of at least 5–10% to keep your schedule realistic.

4. Secure Visas and Travel Documents

Visas can be a major bottleneck in a tight schedule. Research each country's visa requirements and apply well in advance. Consider e visas where available, and keep copies of all documents in both physical and digital formats.

5. Choose Your Transportation Mix

Decide which segments will be flown, which will be taken by train, and where you'll use ferries or buses. High speed rail in Europe and Asia can save days, while long haul flights are essential for crossing oceans.

6. Book in Advance, but Stay Flexible

Early bookings often yield better prices, especially for flights and trains. However, keep at least one or two legs of your itinerary flexible to accommodate unexpected delays or opportunities.

Budgeting for an 80 Day Journey

Budgeting is one of the most critical aspects of a rapid world tour. The cost can vary dramatically based on your travel style, the time of year, and the countries you visit.

- Flights and Long Haul Transport: $3,000–$6,000 depending on class and route.
- High Speed Trains: $1,000–$2,500 for Europe and Asia.
- Accommodation: $20–$150 per night (hostels to mid range hotels).
- Food and Daily Expenses: $15–$50 per day.
- Visas and Travel Insurance: $200–$800.
- Contingency Fund: 10–15% of total budget.

For a conservative estimate, a budget of $25,000–$35,000 can cover a comfortable 80 day tour, especially if you opt for a mix of hostels, budget hotels, and local eateries.

Sample 80 Day Itinerary: A Balanced Blend of Speed and Experience

Below is a sample itinerary that showcases how you can cover a wide range of cultures while staying within an 80 day window. Adjust dates, cities, and activities to match your personal interests.

1. Day 1–5: New York City, USA – Explore Manhattan, Brooklyn, and nearby attractions.
2. Day 6: Flight to London, UK – 7 hour flight, quick layover in a nearby hub.
3. Day 7–10: London & Oxford – Sightseeing, museums, and a day trip to Oxford.

4. Day 11–13: Paris, France – Train to Paris, visit Eiffel Tower, Louvre.
5. Day 14–17: Rome, Italy – Fly to Rome, explore ancient ruins.
6. Day 18–20: Istanbul, Turkey – Fly to Istanbul, experience Bosphorus.
7. Day 21–24: Cairo, Egypt – Fly to Cairo, visit the Pyramids.
8. Day 25–27: Nairobi, Kenya – Fly to Nairobi, safari short tour.
9. Day 28–30: Johannesburg, South Africa – Fly to Johannesburg, city tour.
10. Day 31–34: Cape Town, South Africa – Fly to Cape Town, Table Mountain.
11. Day 35–38: São Paulo, Brazil – Fly to São Paulo, experience carnival season.
12. Day 39–41: Buenos Aires, Argentina – Short flight to Buenos Aires, tango show.
13. Day 42–45: Santiago, Chile – Flight to Santiago, explore Andes.
14. Day 46–48: Lima, Peru – Flight to Lima, visit Machu Picchu.
15. Day 49–52: Tokyo, Japan – Fly to Tokyo, explore Shibuya, Kyoto.
16. Day 53–55: Seoul, South Korea – Short flight to Seoul, K pop culture.
17. Day 56–58: Beijing, China – Fly to Beijing, Great Wall tour.
18. Day 59–61: Bangkok, Thailand – Fly to Bangkok, temples and street food.
19. Day 62–65: Singapore – Short flight, Marina Bay, Gardens by the Bay.
20. Day 66–68: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Flight to Kuala Lumpur, Petronas Towers.
21. Day 69–71: Manila, Philippines – Flight to Manila, island hopping.
22. Day 72–75: Auckland, New Zealand – Flight to Auckland, adventure sports.
23. Day 76–78: Sydney, Australia – Flight to Sydney, Opera House.
24. Day 79–80: Return to New York – Long haul flight back home.

Travel Tips for a Successful 80 Day World Tour

- Health & Vaccinations: Check WHO recommendations for each country; stay updated on COVID 19 protocols.
- Pack Light: Use a carry on bag for most items; keep a small backpack for daily use.
- Travel Insurance: Ensure it covers medical evacuation, trip cancellation, and lost luggage.
- Connectivity: Buy a global SIM or portable Wi Fi device to stay connected.
- Time Management: Use a digital calendar to track flights, check ins, and local events.
- Local Currency: Carry a small amount of local cash for each country; use ATMs for larger amounts.
- Language Basics: Learn a few key phrases in each country's primary language.
- Safety: Keep copies of passports and visas; register with your embassy when possible.
- Rest & Recovery: Schedule downtime between long flights to avoid jet lag.
- Eco Friendly Practices: Reduce waste, support local businesses, and respect cultural norms.

Why 80 Days Still Matters in the Digital Age

In a world where instant communication and rapid transport have become the norm, the 80 day benchmark remains a symbolic challenge that tests one's commitment to planning, resilience, and curiosity. It forces travelers to confront logistical hurdles, cultural differences, and the sheer scale of our planet—all within a compressed timeframe.

Moreover, the 80 day journey encourages a deeper engagement with each destination. Instead of a superficial "tourist" pass, travelers often find themselves immersing in local customs, trying regional cuisines, and building connections with people across continents. The speed of travel amplifies the sense of urgency, making every moment count and every encounter memorable.

Conclusion: Turning the Dream into Reality

Embarking on a round the world tour in eighty days is a formidable yet attainable goal for those who combine meticulous planning, flexible budgeting, and an adventurous spirit. By learning from the legacy of Jules Verne, studying modern travel routes, and applying practical tips, you can design an itinerary that balances speed with cultural depth.

Remember, the essence of the journey lies not only in the destinations you visit but in the stories you gather, the people you meet, and the personal growth you experience. Whether you fly in a commercial jet or ride a high speed train

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