

around the world in 72 days nellie bly

Around the world in 72 days is a phrase that resonates with adventure, determination, and the spirit of exploration. It encapsulates the extraordinary journey undertaken by journalist Nellie Bly, who, in 1889, embarked on a mission to circumnavigate the globe in a time frame that challenged the existing records. This remarkable endeavor not only tested her limits but also captured the imagination of people around the world, solidifying Bly's legacy as a pioneering figure in investigative journalism and female empowerment.

The Background of Nellie Bly

Nellie Bly was born Elizabeth Jane Cochran on May 5, 1864, in Cochran Mills, Pennsylvania. Her early life was marked by a strong desire for independence and a passion for writing. After graduating from high school, she began her career in journalism by writing for the Pittsburgh Dispatch, where she adopted the pen name Nellie Bly.

Breaking Barriers

During a time when women's roles were largely confined to the domestic sphere, Bly broke through societal norms by pursuing a career in journalism. She took on various assignments, including exposing the appalling conditions in asylums through her investigative work. Her tenacity and commitment to highlighting social injustices made her a trailblazer in the field.

The Inspiration for the Journey

Nellie Bly was inspired to undertake her around-the-world journey after reading Jules Verne's novel, "Around the World in Eighty Days." Intrigued by the challenge, she sought to beat Phileas Fogg's fictional record of 80 days. Bly proposed her idea to the New York World newspaper, which was owned by Joseph Pulitzer. After some persuasion, Pulitzer agreed to fund her trip, and she set off on November 14, 1889.

The Journey Begins

Bly's journey commenced from New York City, equipped with only a small bag and a spirit of adventure. Her itinerary was meticulously planned, yet she was open to spontaneous changes. The following are some highlights from her trip:

1. **Departure from New York:** Bly began her journey on November 14, 1889, departing from Hoboken, New Jersey.
2. **The First Stop: England:** After a quick transit through the Atlantic Ocean, she arrived in England, where she faced the first of many challenges: time zone differences and cultural adjustments.
3. **Crossing Europe:** Bly traveled through France and Germany, encountering various modes of transportation including trains and boats.
4. **Asia and the Pacific:** Her journey took her through India and Japan, where she documented her experiences and interactions with different cultures.
5. **Return Across the Pacific:** After traversing the Pacific Ocean, she made her way back to the United States, eager to complete her journey.

Challenges Faced on the Journey

Throughout her expedition, Bly encountered numerous challenges that tested her resolve. Some of these included:

- **Weather Conditions:** From storms at sea to extreme weather on land, the unpredictable nature of the journey posed significant risks.
- **Cultural Barriers:** Navigating through various countries meant adapting to different languages and customs, which sometimes created misunderstandings.
- **Travel Logistics:** Coordinating travel schedules and connections between different modes of transportation was crucial. Delays could have derailed her entire plan.
- **Health Issues:** Traveling alone, Bly had to manage her health, including the risk of illness during her journey, especially in regions with different climates.

Documenting the Adventure

Bly maintained a detailed journal throughout her travels, documenting her experiences. Her writings were published in the *New York World*, capturing the attention of readers and creating a sensation back home. Her articles highlighted not only the adventure itself but also the various cultures and peoples she encountered along the way.

The Historic Completion

After an incredible journey filled with adventures, challenges, and discoveries, Nellie Bly returned to New York on January 25, 1890. She completed her journey in an astonishing 72 days, 6 hours, and 11 minutes, shattering the previous record. Her return was met with jubilation and celebration, as crowds gathered to welcome her back.

Celebrating the Achievement

Upon her return, Bly was greeted as a hero. The public was fascinated by her incredible journey, and she became a symbol of female empowerment and courage. Key moments of her celebration included:

- Public Reception: A grand reception was held in her honor, with speeches and festivities celebrating her achievement.
- Media Coverage: Newspapers across the country reported extensively on her journey, highlighting her bravery and the challenges she overcame.
- Legacy: Bly's journey inspired countless individuals, especially women, to pursue their dreams and challenge societal norms.

Impact and Legacy

Nellie Bly's journey around the world in 72 days had a profound impact, not only on journalism but also on the perception of women in society.

Influencing Journalism

- Investigative Reporting: Bly's bold approach to journalism paved the way for future investigative reporters. Her commitment to uncovering the truth and exposing injustices set a new standard for journalistic integrity.
- Cultural Awareness: Through her writings, Bly fostered greater cultural awareness among her readers, allowing them to gain insights into different societies and lifestyles.

Inspiring Future Generations

- Female Empowerment: Bly became a role model for women aspiring to break free from traditional roles. Her achievements encouraged women to pursue careers in fields previously dominated by men.
- Adventure and Exploration: Her journey inspired many to explore the world, fostering a spirit of adventure and curiosity that transcends generations.

Conclusion

Nellie Bly's remarkable journey around the world in 72 days was not just a physical accomplishment; it symbolized the breaking of barriers, the pursuit of dreams, and the power of determination. As one of the first female journalists, Bly proved that women could achieve greatness in any field. Her legacy lives on today, inspiring individuals to pursue their passions and challenge the limits imposed by society. In a world that continues to evolve, the story of Nellie Bly remains a testament to the indomitable spirit of adventure and the quest for knowledge, serving as a reminder that with courage and perseverance, anything is possible.

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 in 1889, inspired by Jules Verne's novel 'Around the World in Eighty Days'.

What motivated Nellie Bly to undertake her journey around the world?

Nellie Bly was motivated by a desire to challenge the prevailing notions of women's abilities and to prove that a woman could accomplish the same feats as men.

What mode of transportation did Nellie Bly use during her journey?

Nellie Bly used various modes of transportation during her journey, including steamships, trains, and even rickshaws, adapting to the available options in different countries.

How did Nellie Bly's journey impact women's rights and journalism?

Nellie Bly's journey showcased women's capabilities and helped pave the way for greater acceptance of women in journalism, inspiring future generations of female reporters.

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

Nellie Bly faced numerous challenges, including harsh weather conditions, cultural barriers, language differences, and the physical toll of constant travel.

How did Nellie Bly's trip around the world compare to Phileas Fogg's journey in 'Around the World in Eighty Days'?

While Phileas Fogg's fictional journey took 80 days, Nellie Bly completed her real-life trip in just 72 days, demonstrating her determination and resourcefulness.

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

The public was captivated by Nellie Bly's journey, following her progress through newspaper articles and updates, and she received a hero's welcome upon her return to New York.

How did Nellie Bly's achievements influence future explorations or adventures?

Nellie Bly's achievements inspired many adventurers and explorers, proving that women could undertake significant challenges and contribute to the fields of exploration and journalism.

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