



# Jules Verne's House

In 1882, Jules Verne and his wife Honorine move into this house at the corner of the Rue Charles-Dubois and the Boulevard Longueville (now called Boulevard Jules-Verne). They will rent it till 1900. He is 54 and his fame is at a summit. The kitchen, the stable and the outbuildings take up the large left wing of the building (now, the reception area). A large deep garden continuing the yard disappeared in the 1970s.

The house was built for Jean-Baptiste Gustave Riquier, a notary public, between 1854 and 1858, at the entrance to the Henriville district then in full expansion. The different owners who succeeded one another in this house after Jules Verne's departure have all modified the place.

## The Ground Floor

The ground floor retains much of its original decoration. It is the part of the house that has changed the least since Jules Verne left.

- 1 The Winter Garden** is a bright space with a large glass roof opening onto the tower. The Chinese plates and pottery on the walls are typical of the 19th century taste for exoticism.
- 2 The Dining Room** is the only room in the house to retain its original decoration with a coffered ceiling. The ceremonial dining room suite has been reconstructed in the neo-gothic style of the period. In the cupboards you will see some of the Vernes' belongings
- 3 The Drawing (or Music)**  
Displayed on the walls of this room, are two large portraits of Jules Verne and his wife Honorine, who would regularly organise evening parties for friends here.  
On either side of the mantelpiece, photographs of the Verne family are displayed; among them, Pierre Verne (1799-1871), Jules's father and Sophie Allotte de la Fuÿe (1801-1887), his mother. Pierre and Sophie Verne had five children; two boys, Jules and Paul in 1828 and 1829; then eight years later, three girls, Anna, Mathilde and Marie in 1837, 1839 and 1842. Marie's portrait can be seen in the room
- 4 The Sitting (or Smoking) Room**  
On display in this room is a collection of photographs of the Verne family; among them, Jules and Honorine Verne. You may also see Jules Verne's qualifications, which are displayed in the showcases.
- 5 Jules Verne's Early Literary Career**  
This room is dedicated to Jules Verne's first plays and short stories published in the *Le Musée des familles* journal. Here, you may also learn about his travels, particularly his crossing on board the Great Eastern, the biggest liner of the time. With his brother, Paul, he travelled to the United States in March 1867, where he visited New York and Niagara Falls. This trip would inspire him to write his novel, *A Floating City*.

Please take the spiral staircase to the first floor.

# The First Floor

On the first floor, where the Verne family bedrooms were, there is now a reconstruction of Hetzel's publishing company in Paris and his study.

Born in Chartres in 1814, Pierre-Jules Hetzel became a publisher in 1836. As a proud republican, he gave priority to publishing books for young people and started a journal in 1864: *the Magasin d'éducation et de récréation*.

In 1865, the publication of *Five Weeks in a Balloon* opened the *Extraordinary Voyages* series.

These two men's stories are closely linked. Inspiring, censoring and moralizing, Pierre-Jules Hetzel included Jules Verne in his "education and recreation" programme.

## 6 Hetzel's Publishing Company

Pierre-Jules Hetzel first serialized Jules Verne's texts in *the Magasin d'éducation et de récréation*, then published them in small paperbacks. However, *The Extraordinary Voyages* series is best known for the large grand-octavo (28X20 cm) editions, in grand, hardback covers. *The Extraordinary Voyages* have been published in more than twenty different covers; there is no other example of such lavishness in literature. The popularity of these editions is due to the tremendous success of Jules Verne's novels as well as the attractiveness of the decoration chosen by Hetzel, which he changed according to public taste.

## 7 Room dedicated to temporary exhibitions

## 8 Hetzel's Study

This space is devoted to the publisher and displays some of his belongings, including an armchair from his company's lounge in 18 rue Jacob, Paris and a filing cabinet with index cards from Hetzel's private library, kept up to date until the 1950s. A print on the right side of the room shows the original layout of Hetzel's study. On the walls, are pictures of the Hetzel family.

## 8 Jules Verne's Life in Amiens

The other part of the room is dedicated to Jules Verne's life in Amiens. Jules Verne settled in Amiens in 1871 in order to be closer to his wife's family. In 1873, he purchased a house on Boulevard Longueville (now Boulevard Jules-Verne) which he left in 1882 to rent the house with the tower. However, in 1900, he returned to 44 Boulevard Longueville where he died on the 24th of March 1905. He became involved in local life as early as 1872. He became a member of the local Academy, the Industrial Society and the Horticulture Society to name a few. He was also on the board of the Savings Bank; but, most importantly, he served as a city councillor for 16 years (1888-1904). In this role, he had to deliver many speeches, including upon the inauguration of the Circus on the 24th of June 1889.

Please take the spiral staircase to the second floor.

# The Second Floor

After a detour through Jules Verne's sea world, you will discover his working space; from his sources of inspiration to his writing room.

- 9 Seafaring**

Welcome on board Jules Verne's boat, the Saint-Michel III. This reconstruction transports you into the cabin of a mid-19th century English yacht. There is a view of Le Crotoy where Jules Verne rented a summer home named La Solitude, from 1865 to 1869. In 1869, Jules Verne began to write *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* on the writing case shown in the picture on display.
- 10 The Library**

On this floor, Jules Verne had a library which contained approximately 12,000 books which he would refer to as he wrote his novels. He consulted many authors including Montaigne, Shakespeare, F. Cooper, C. Dickens, Sir Walter Scott, Edgar A. Poe...
- 11 The Study**

In the smallest of all the rooms in the house, Jules Verne wrote his novels. Between 5 and 11 in the morning, he created more than 30 books including *Mathias Sandorf*, *Two Year Holiday* and *The Castle of the Carpathians*. The study was reconstructed exactly as it was in Jules Verne's time with an iron couch, a leather armchair and a desk. The globe on the desk belonged to Jules Verne.
- 12 Around the World in Eighty Days**

An opportunity to walk through Jules Verne's sources of inspiration as well as across the map of the world on the floor. On this map, marked in black, is the route for an aerial tour of the world, drawn by Jules Verne for his novel *Robur the Coqueror*. The crossed out routes show the various changes made by the author.  
Written in 1872, *Around the World in Eighty Days* is still the most translated French novel in the World. This story inspired numerous pieces of merchandise during the writer's time. On display are lotto sets, a snakes and ladders game, figurines, a set of dessert plates, collector's prints and even some wall paper inspired by the novel.
- 13 Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea**

Jules Verne was inspired to create an underwater theme by the 1867 World Fair in Paris which honoured the latest developments in submarines and diving suits. The idea of writing a novel on this theme came from George Sand after she read Jules Verne's early novels.

To continue your visit, take the spiral staircase situated in the *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* exhibition room.

## Jules Verne's Attic

The attic is a place to store our many memories. It is a safe haven for old things; a family attic with trunks full of souvenirs, old photographs, discarded game sets, magic lanterns, posters and other treasures. Jules Verne's attic is also home to the many lives of his novels from their creation to the present day.

*...souvenirs from times past...*

Film posters, a real clapboard, puppet-theatres, models, everything here brings back memories.

- 14 The Extraordinary Machines**  
Hanging from the ceiling are the flying machines which Jules Verne imagined; *The Albatross*, the *Go Ahead* and the *Terror*, as described in *Robur the Conqueror* and *Master of the World*.
- 14 Jules Verne and the Theatre**  
Theatre was one of Jules Verne's passions. For a number of generations before the invention of the cinema, Le Châtelet and La Porte Saint-Martin's lavish productions and puppet shows have reflected Jules Vernes' sense of adventure and imagination.
- 14 Jules Verne and the Cinema**  
Thirty five novels and short stories by Jules Verne have been adapted into over two hundred films from 1901 to 2006. Captain Nemo's odyssey in *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* is the most popular with filmmakers, with thirty one productions to date, far ahead of *Around the World in Eighty Days* with twenty four films and *Michael Strogoff* with twenty three.

This brings to an end your extraordinary voyage through Jules Verne's everyday life and imagination.

Please take the spiral staircase in the tower to the ground floor.

