Gustave Eiffel was born in 1832 in Dijon, France. The name Eiffel was adopted by one of his German ancestors in the early 18th century, because the French could not pronounce his actual name of Bönickhausen. After graduating from the École Centrale des Arts et Manufactures, he established an independent practice as an engineer and contractor. Soon after, he rose to the top of his field as a master of metallic structures. He was also an admired mathematical and scientific expert. Among the 700 proposals in the design competition for the tower, his was chosen in an unanimous vote. Under his watchful eye, the distances between the 2,500,000 rivets in the tower were calculated to within one-tenth of a millimeter. How’s that for a perfectionist?

The construction was completed after 2 years, 2 months, and 5 weeks. When the fair opened, almost two million visitors climbed the Eiffel Tower to see a breathtaking view of Paris. As one impressed visitor later wrote, “Many people have laughed at the tower during the past year, but, I think, none who have seen it.”

Why is the Tower Still Standing?

Believe it or not, the Eiffel Tower was supposed to be demolished in 1909, since it was the World’s Fair of years, Parisians appreciate the soon found that it ing, but useful tower’s great nological impor during World War for wireless mili and it could messages from went on, it was ological station, graph, and an laboratory. The as an antenna radio stations be coming early 1900s. transmits and tele

On this graph, you can see what age groups are most likely to be found visiting the Eiffel Tower! Where do you fit in?

216,476,171 tourists have visited the Eiffel Tower from the time of its completion in 1889 to December 31, 2004 (date of the most recent figures).

Three percent of visitors are 17 or younger, 20 percent are 18-24, 16% are 25-34, 21% are 35-49, 25% are 50-64, and 31% are 65 and older.

Gustave Eiffel, the man who created the Eiffel Tower in 1889, also built the metallic structure of the Statue of Liberty in 1886. The Statue was a gift from France to America.

The Eiffel Tower is repainted every 7 years. Each paint job requires 52 tons of paint.

It took 300 steel workers 2 years and 2 months to build the Eiffel Tower.

The height of the Eiffel Tower can vary up to 15 centimeters (6 inches) depending on the weather!

People have done strange things on the Eiffel Tower:

* In 1923, Pierre Labric rode a bicycle down the stairways from the first level of the Tower!
* In 1954, a mountaineer scaled the Tower!


The Eiffel Tower was the tallest structure in the world until the Chrysler Building was erected 41 years later in New York City. The Chrysler Building itself was soon surpassed by the Empire State Building, which was completed in 1931 and is 1,454 feet tall.

On the first floor, you will find the Paris-Tour Eiffel post office. Here you can buy special postage stamps and souvenirs from France. On this floor, you can also watch movies about the history of the Tower in an electronic telescope, you can survey every detail of the entire city of Paris!

On the second floor, dine at Le Jules Verne restaurant (but be sure to make your reservations several months in advance for this popular dining location!) Or, check out animated window scenes that talk about the history of the Tower’s construction and explain its mechanics. From this floor, a special elevator takes visitors straight to the top of the Tower!

On the top floor, be sure to take plenty of pictures of the city of Paris. You can also examine the many viewpoint indicators informing you of the direction and distance to other cities all over the world.

The Tower is the Creator of the Eiffel Tower!

As a Visitor

If you’re planning a visit to the Eiffel Tower, be sure not to miss anything!


Believe it or not, the Eiffel Tower was supposed to be demolished in initially built just for 1889. But after ten began to better Tower—and they were not only stri- lik. Why? The height gave it tech- nological impor- during World War for wireless mili- tions and it could messages from went on, it was ological station, graph, and an laboratory. The as an antenna radio stations be- coming early 1900s. transmits and tele-

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Can you solve the crossword? (all the answers can be found in this brochure!)

DOWN
1. You can buy these in the Eiffel Tower’s post office.
2. The first name of the person who designed and built the Eiffel Tower.
3. The country where the Eiffel Tower is located.
4. Where you can watch movies about the history of the tower.
5. The number of steel workers it took to build the Eiffel Tower.
6. The tower’s height varies depending on the ________.
7. The ________ Building surpassed the Eiffel Tower as the world’s tallest structure in 1930.

ACROSS
8. The man who rode a bike down the first level stairway of the Eiffel Tower.
9. The restaurant on the tower’s second floor.
10. The tower is repainted every______ years.