



# 80+1 A Journey Around the World

*"... The world is big enough." "It was once," said Phileas Fogg in a low tone. "What do you mean by 'once'? Has the world grown smaller?" "Certainly," returned Gauthier Ralph. "I agree with Mr. Fogg. The world has grown smaller, since a man can now go round it ten times more quickly than a hundred years ago." "You have a strange way, Mr. Ralph, of proving that the world has grown smaller. So, because you can go round it in three months..." "In eighty days," interrupted Phileas Fogg. (Jules Verne: Around the World in 80 Days)*

(Linz, September 7, 2008) Inspired by Jules Verne's world-famous classic, Ars Electronica, voestalpine and Linz09 are sending Europe's 2009 Capital of Culture on a 'round-the-world journey. "80+1 – A Trip Around the World" is the title of this globe-spanning expedition into the future. But it won't entail any physical travel; the mode of transportation will be satellite hook-up and fiber optic cable. It will last 80 days plus one—from June 18 to September 6, 2009—and its itinerary will include 20 locations, each one of which stands for a theme of crucial importance to our future. On the 81<sup>st</sup> and final day, we'll present the results of this global fieldwork at a conference that will be one of the highlights of the 2009 Ars Electronica Festival.

## **80+1 A Journey Around the World**

When	June 18 to September 6, 2009
Where	Ars Electronica Center and Linz's Main Square (Hauptplatz)
Idea & Concept	Ars Electronica Linz, voestalpine AG and Linz09
Project Staff	Michael Naimark, Sonja Bettel, Martin Heller, Michael Sterrer-Ebenführer, Hannes Leopoldseder, Gerfried Stocker, Manuela Pfaffenberger

A project for Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture.

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**Press Conference**  
Sunday, 07.09.2008, 06:00 PM  
Ars Foyer Stage, Brucknerhaus  
Untere Donaulände 7  
A-4010 Linz



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## 80+1 – A Trip Around the World

In 1872, Jules Verne dispatched a gentleman named Phileas Fogg on his “Journey Around the World in 80 Days.” At the time, this was an ambitious undertaking, one in which an eccentric who enjoyed nothing more than an intriguing wager placed his bet on steam power, the Industrial Age’s defining form of mobility. With his servant Passepartout in tow, Phileas Fogg ventured along the traffic arteries, shipping lanes and railroad lines that spanned the globe in his day and age, his gaze fixed on schedules and the dial of his pocket watch... Almost a century and a half later, the world has become significantly smaller than it was even in Mr. Fogg’s day. The longings that were projected into technological form by men like Jules Verne are today’s reality. At the outset of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, everyone is interconnected in an ever-more-tightly-knit network. 24/7/365, worldwide. What Ars Electronica, voestalpine and Linz09 aim to achieve by embarking on this virtual trip around our planet is to make these global interlinkages visible. 80+1 is thus a search for traces that will proceed serially through an amazing itinerary and a fascinating array of issues. One that will be taking journalistic, scientific and scholarly approaches to the core questions of our future.

Through the Gotthard Tunnel, atop the Mount of Olives, to the North Pole and onto the Internet ...

80+1 won’t be coming up with obscure new issues that impact our future. The key challenges of our age are quickly identified. 80+1 is a matter of surprising perspectives and uncommon strategies, and of scrutinizing possible answers. Answers that—depending on where and, above all, to whom they’re proposed—will never be the same. Answers whose range and diversity clearly illustrate how differently we human beings think about our future... 80+1 will be traveling to the Arctic climes of the North Pole (*Resources*) and the tropical beaches of Gadani, Brazil (*Recycling*). Dining in Chaco Province, Argentina, in Banaue in the Philippines, and Berkeley, California (*Food*). Taking expeditions to Dampier Archipelago, Australia, the Burrup Peninsula of Greenland, Jakobshavn in Polynesia and the glaciers of Switzerland in search of the explosive consequences of global warming (*Climate Change*). Investigating the aboriginal populations of Australia and Singapore (*Cultural Diversity / First Nations*). Going shopping in Dhaka, Bangladesh (*Markets*) and seeking bliss in Thimpu, Bhutan (*Happiness*). Marveling at the incredible array of species that populate the Brazilian rain

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forest (*Bio-diversity – Bio-technology*). Strolling across the Three Gorges Dam in Chongqing and visiting Solar City Baoding (*Energy*). Plowing through Switzerland's Gotthard Tunnel (*Traffic*). Learning about educational initiatives with great promise for the future in Alexandria, Egypt and Ulan Bator, Mongolia (*Education*). Getting a close-up view of the rapid rise of Bangalore, India and worried miens in Silicon Valley (*Progress*). Sniffing out revolutionary activities in Teheran and megalomania in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (*Revolution & Growth*). Following the path of human cultural history in Jerusalem and Istanbul (*Cultural Heritage*). Inquiring into the reasons for the failure of European immigration on the Italian island of Lampedusa (*Migration*) and paying a call on the world's oldest people on the Japanese island of Okinawa (*Aging*). Exercising the civil rights recently achieved in Mali (*Democracy & Civil Society*) and then traveling on to Kisoro, Uganda (*Water*). Commuting between the worlds of the townships and the gated communities of Johannesburg, South Africa (*Neighborhood & Coexistence*). Taking the plunge into weightlessness aboard the International Space Station (*Exploration*) and finally dematerializing into the virtuality of the WorldWideWeb...

## Window on the World – Linz's Main Square (*Hauptplatz*)

The information hub of this project will be the Hauptplatz in Linz. An architectural intervention will transform the Trinity Column into a signaling mast that makes the incoming and outgoing communication flows visible. A large-scale panorama screen will serve as a window on the world that enables people in Linz to see and communicate with their counterparts at the other locations (and vice versa). Both in Linz and simultaneously at the respective current stop on the trip's itinerary, moderators will be getting people involved in conversations and discussions about our future. Interpreters will be on hand to assist whoever takes a seat on the "red sofa." At regular intervals, the Hauptplatz will also serve as a setting for discussions, artistic projects, messages and feasts. Equipped with telematic installations and interfaces that appeal to and activate the senses, Linz's Hauptplatz will transcend geographical boundaries in hosting a direct, simultaneous conclave of human beings.

## Geo-Observatory in the New Ars Electronica Center

The point of departure and the final destination of this virtual journey is the new Ars Electronica Center, the site of the Geo-Observatory in which all data and communiqués

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flow together. Here, information about the locations and their themes, journalistic texts, films, pieces of music, interviews, photos and much more will be archived and visualized using state-of-the art technology. This 400-m<sup>2</sup> map room and knowledge storehouse will offer an impressive setting in which to experience our networked, globalized world.

## Traveling Companion: voestalpine

With its regional roots and worldwide network of associates, voestalpine doesn't just provide pleasant company on this trip; it embodies the spirit of 80+1. As the single most important factor in our local economy, voestalpine has essentially endowed Linz's identity; at the same time, it's a perfect example of a successful global player. When Ars Electronica, voestalpine and Linz09 set off together on this joint journey of discovery, not the least of what they'll be scrutinizing is the reality of life in Linz.

## Future Upload

Last stop on 80+1's itinerary is the virtual world of the internet—epitome of the broadband link-up of our world and, at the same time, the platform upon which this journey is taking place. One that enables anyone to join the globetrotting. All are invited to contribute to this effort: thoughts and questions about the future, hopes for and fears of the future, pictures of what the future might hold. Here, 80+1 acknowledges no difference between big and small issues, important and unimportant ones. After all, each one of us considers, sees and evaluates the future differently. Here, it takes imagination to draw portraits of the world. These are pictures in constant flux that will never be complete because the world around us is changing and we're changing along with it.

## Open Call for Proposals

80+1 is now inviting artists, scientists and scholars to submit an idea for a "telematic window." The mission is to set up fruitful, productive exchanges among people thousands of kilometers apart from each other. The only basic requirement for such a "telematic window" is that a "live element" (i.e. real-time communication) should be designed into it. Regardless of the scope: feasibility, needless to say, counts! Other media, pre-existing data/files, and physical material can be integrated into this set-up.

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To check out a list of all currently planned locations (subject to change) and additional information about 80+1, log on to [www.80plus1.org](http://www.80plus1.org). 80+1 plans to grant several commissions in the amount of 10,000 euros. This budget is meant to cover all costs associated with the particular project: research, production, technical support, travel expenses associated with production and presentation, rental of equipment and facilities, project materials, artists' fees, installation and documentation. The commissioned projects will be produced in conjunction with 80+1, a Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture project. They'll be set up and exhibited on Linz's Main Square (*Hauptplatz*).

## **Deadline and other important dates:**

- Submission deadline: October 31, 2008 (date of postmark)
- Announcement of the winners: November 30, 2008
- Development and production: January to June 2009
- Exhibition and Presentation: To be announced

## **All submissions must contain the following:**

- Contact information: name, address, phone number and e-mail address
- Project proposal and artist's statement (limit: 1,000 words); enclosed sketches
- Budgetary projections
- Up-to-date CV/résumé
- Examples of previous work (CD, DVD or website)

Proposals can be submitted via e-mail or regular mail to the addresses listed below. Please note that material submitted cannot be returned.

## **Addresses:**

Ars Electronica Linz GmbH  
Hauptstraße 2-4  
4040 Linz, Austria  
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[proposals@80plus1.org](mailto:proposals@80plus1.org)

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