



Key dates – the history of Madame Tussaud

Learn more about the woman behind the world famous attraction

- 1761:** Marie Gosholtz, later known as Madame Tussaud, is born in Strasbourg.
- 1770s:** Marie learns to model wax likenesses under the tutelage of her mentor, Dr Philippe Curtius.
- 1777:** Marie makes a model of the famous writer and philosopher, Francois-Marie Arouet Voltaire.
- 1780:** Marie becomes art teacher of Louis XVI's sister and goes to live at the Royal court in Versailles.
- 1789:** Marie returns to Paris. Later, together with Curtius, she makes impressions of the heads of executed people – including some of her acquaintances from Versailles.
- 1794:** Marie Gosholtz inherits Curtius' collection of figures.
- 1795:** She marries engineer François Tussaud, but leaves him eight years later and goes on a tour of the British Isles with her collection.
- 1802:** In the following 33 years, Marie leads the hard-working and demanding life of a travelling show woman. She travels from town to town with her caravans, organises advertising and supplies the newspapers with anecdotes and arranges charity campaigns, where she appeals for donations.
- 1835:** Madame Tussaud moves into her future exhibition rooms "The Baker Street Bazaar" in Baker Street, London.
- 1846:** Punch Magazine coins the term "Chamber of Horrors" for the room at Madame Tussauds in which victims of the French Revolution are displayed.
- 1850:** With the support of her two sons, she was destined for great success in her old age. She successfully opposed a sale to prospective buyers from America, published her memoirs, sat for a portrait by a court painter and was immortalised by Charles Dickens as Mrs. Jarley in his novel "The Old Curiosity Shop" and by the caricatures of Cruikshank. Madame Tussaud dies.
- 1884:** Madame Tussaud's nephew Joseph Randall moves the exhibition into its present premises in Marylebone Road.
- 1925:** The entire building falls victim to a fire, which destroys all the wax figures and costumes, as well as valuable furniture, painting and art objects.

- 1928:** Luckily, most of the old moulds are rescued and used to restore the exhibition, which opens its doors again three years later, extended to include a large cinema and a restaurant.
- 1940:** A German bomb destroys the cinema. Ironically, Hitler's figure is one of the few left unscathed. In all, 352 heads were destroyed.
- 1958:** Madame Tussauds opens the first planetarium in the Commonwealth, on the site of the former cinema.
- 1971:** Madame Tussauds opens a new branch in Kalverstraat in Amsterdam and can be seen on the continent again for the first time since 1817.
- 1981:** Madame Tussauds Amsterdam extends its collection and moves to the famous Dam Square in the heart of the city.
- 1999:** Opening of the attraction in Las Vegas with American superstars and Hollywood legends.
- 2000:** Madames Tussauds opens in New York, where fans meet international stars and the 'movers and shakers' of the metropolis. In Hong Kong, Madame Tussauds opens its doors with more than 100 wax figures of international stars and local celebrities.
- 2006:** Opening of Madame Tussauds in Shanghai. The exhibition shows a whole host of Chinese personalities and stars.
- 2007:** Opening of Madame Tussauds in Washington DC. The exhibition is mainly devoted to American politicians and presidents – but of course, all in the unique style of Madame Tussauds.
- 2008:** Madame Tussauds Berlin opens its doors on the illustrious boulevard "Unter den Linden" and displays masses of German personalities and international stars.
- 2009:** Madame Tussauds Hollywood opens its doors right on the Walk of Fame and, as well as Hollywood legends, also displays the greatest stars of today.
- 2010:** Madame Tussauds opens its tenth post in the Siam Discovery Center in Bangkok. Unique to this attraction is the "Royal Room".
- 2011:** Madame Tussauds Vienna opens and Madame Tussauds Blackpool opens on the Promenade.
- 2012:** Madame Tussauds Sydney opens its doors.
- 2013:** Madame Tussauds Tokyo opens in Decks Tokyo Beach Island Mall and Wuhan opens on Han Street.
- 2014:** Madame Tussauds Beijing opens, and Madame Tussauds San Francisco opens