

Date	Life	Times
1844	Henri-Julien-Félix Rousseau is born to petit-bourgeois parents on May 21 in Laval, a market town in North-West France	 <p data-bbox="882 544 1326 633">Deroy Isidore-Laurent <i>Laval, view of the cathedral and the Beucheresse gate</i> Cliché Musée de Vieux-Château, Laval</p>
1847		Richard Burton's expedition to the equatorial lakes of Africa
1848	<p data-bbox="379 779 632 813">Enters local school</p> <p data-bbox="379 853 834 925">Rousseau is reasonably educated, studying until the age of seventeen</p>	<p data-bbox="882 779 1318 851">Republican Revolution in France: the 'June Days'</p> <p data-bbox="882 891 1254 925">Start of the Second Republic</p>
1852		Start of the Second Empire
1855		Paris World's Fair
1861	Rousseau's family moves to Angers	
1862		France takes control of Saigon, Mytho and Bien-Hoa
1863	<p data-bbox="379 1294 847 1395">The artist avoids compulsory military service and finds work as a scribe for a local solicitor</p> <p data-bbox="379 1435 815 1581">He cheats his employer out of a small sum of money and some stamps and enrolls in the military, perhaps to evade punishment</p>	<p data-bbox="882 1294 1241 1328">France colonises Cambodia</p> <p data-bbox="882 1368 1278 1435">The review <i>Le Petit Journal</i> is founded</p>
1864	Rousseau spends one month in prison for his crime	

<p>1868</p>	<p>Marries Clémence Boitard, his landlord's daughter</p> <p>Rousseau's father dies during the same year and the artist moves to Paris</p>	 <p>Photo of Clémence Boitard, Rousseau's first wife Private collection, copyright unknown</p>
<p>1870</p>	<p>Birth of Rousseau's first son who dies within months</p>	<p>Start of Franco-Prussian War Napoléon III abdicates</p> <p>Formation of the German state</p>
<p>1871</p>	<p>Rousseau secures a job as a clerk in the Paris toll service (the <i>Octroi</i>), imposing duty on goods entering the city</p> <p>This job earns him the widely-used nickname, 'Le Douanier', meaning 'the customs officer'</p>	<p>Siege of Paris (1870-1)</p>  <p>Henri Rousseau <i>The Customs Post</i> 1890 The Samuel Courtauld Trust, Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery</p>
<p>1872</p>	<p>Rousseau's son, Antoine, is born</p>	
<p>1873</p>		
<p>1874</p>		<p>Expeditions into the Congo by Stanley begin (end 1877)</p> <p>First Impressionist exhibition in Paris</p>
<p>1875</p>		<p>Birth of the Third Republic</p>

		Indian Empire proclaimed
1876	Birth of daughter, Julia	
1877		First 'living' exhibition in the Jardin d'Acclimatation, Paris
1878		Paris World's Fair
1879		
1880	 <p>Rousseau as a young man, c.1880 Bibliothèque Kandinsky, Centre Pompidou, Paris</p>	Significant education reforms in France take place between 1880 and 1882
1881		<p>First of the two Boer War conflicts</p> <p>The Bardo Treaty: the French colonise Tunisia</p>
1882	<p>It is likely that Rousseau begins to paint during his late thirties or early forties. He is self-taught but claims that he receives advice from popular painters from the Academy, such as Jean-Léon Gérôme, whom he greatly admired</p>	 <p>Portrait of Jean-Léon Gérôme in his studio by Dornac (fl.1890-1910) Archives Larousse, Paris, France. Giraudon. Bridgeman Art Library</p>
1883		
1884	Rousseau meets the painter Félix Clément and perhaps with Clément's help, obtains a permit to copy works of art at the Louvre	First Salon des Indépendants, a jury-free Salon in which independent artists showed their work

He makes his debut and is rejected by the official Salon, showing his work instead with the 'Groupe des Indépendants'



Permit for copying in state-run museums granted to Rousseau, 1884  
DuMont Literatur und Kunst Verlag GmbH &Co KG

1885

Rousseau probably sees exhibition of Eugène Delacroix's work in Paris

He had a deep admiration for the painter's work and often used Delacroix's animals as models for his own paintings



Eugène Delacroix *Tiger and Lion* 1828-9  
Národní galerie v Praze, Czech Republic.  
Giraudon. Bridgeman Art Library

1886

Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London

1887

Binger's mission from the Niger to Gulf of Guinea begins (ends 1889)

1888

Rousseau's wife, Clémence, dies of tuberculosis

1889

He visits the 1889 Paris World's Fair and is inspired to write a play on the subject, a light comedy entitled *A Visit to the 1889 Exhibition*

He also paints *Myself, Portrait-Landscape* in which he features the Eiffel Tower, the famous Paris landmark built for the 1889 Exhibition

Paris World's Fair



Henri Rousseau  
*Myself: Portrait Landscape* 1890  
Národní galerie v Praze

1890

The artist Paul Gauguin is reportedly one of the admirers of *Myself, Portrait-Landscape*, 1890



Photo of Paul Gauguin, 1891  
Photo: akg-images

1891

Paints *Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)*, 1891, which receives positive reviews from the young painter Félix Vallotton

First mass-produced petrol car



*Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)*  
1891  
The National Gallery, London

1892

Rousseau exhibits *Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)*, 1891 and *A Centennial of Independence*, 1892 at the Salon des Indépendants, provoking both astonishment and sarcasm

Binger's mission to the Ivory Coast

1893	<p>Rousseau retires early from the Octroi in order to paint full time</p> <p>In the same year he enters a competition to decorate the town hall in Bagnolet but is unsuccessful</p>	
1894	<p>Rousseau's large-scale, ambitious painting, <i>War</i>, 1894 is exhibited</p>  <p>Henri Rousseau <i>War</i> 1894 Musée d'Orsay, Paris © Photo RMN-Droits réservés</p>	<p>The Ivory Coast, Dahomey and Guinea become French colonies</p> <p>Ministry of Colonies established</p>
1895		<p>First public film projection, by the Lumière brothers, in Paris</p> <p>First metal-framed building constructed in Chicago</p>
1896	<p>Rousseau experiences financial problems and runs up debts with a supplier of artist's materials</p>	<p>France annexes Madagascar</p>
1897	<p>His son Henri-Anatole dies</p>	<p>Spain and America at war over Cuba</p>
1898	<p>Rousseau offers his 1897 painting, <i>The Sleeping Gypsy</i>, to the Mayor of Laval for purchase, seeking official patronage, but is turned down</p> <p>He hires a studio opposite Gauguin's in the rue Vercingétorix</p>	<p>Severe tensions between England and France due to conflicting colonial interests in the Sudan lead to the Fashoda incident</p>
1899	<p>Marries his second wife, Joséphine Noury</p>	<p>Dreyfus's retrial begins.</p> <p>Second of the Boer War conflicts.</p> <p>Colonial exhibition in London</p>



Henri Rousseau *Portrait of the Artist's Second Wife* 1900-1903  
Musée Picasso, Paris  
© Photo RMN / © René-Gabriel Ojéda

1900	Works as a part time sales rep for the magazine, <i>Le Petit Journal</i>	The <i>Interpretation of Dreams</i> by Sigmund Freud is published  Ferdinand Zeppelin constructs his first dirigible and the first metro line opens in Paris
1901	Rousseau is listed as a teacher of drawing and ceramic painting in the handbook of a Paris city adult educational centre   Rousseau in front of his painting <i>Forest Landscape with Setting Sun</i> 1910 © Collection Roger-Viollet	Death of Queen Victoria  Picasso's first exhibition is held in Paris
1902		Charcot Antarctic expedition begins (ends in 1905)
1903	His second wife, Joséphine, dies	The artist Paul Gauguin dies.  The first Tour de France takes place and the Wright brothers make the first flights  A Brazilian named Santos-Dumont



Henri Rousseau *To celebrate the baby*  
1903  
Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Inv. Nr. 1103.  
Presented by the heirs of Olga Reinhart-Schwarzenbach, 1970

makes a round flight from Saint-Cloud to the Eiffel Tower in less than thirty minutes

1904

Rousseau returns to the jungle painting genre with his *Scouts Attacked by a Tiger*

His financial debts continue to mount

Entente Cordiale between France and England

1905

The artist participates in the Salon d'Automne and his painting *The Hungry Lion throws itself on the Antelope* is reproduced in the magazine, *L'Illustration*

Becomes a music and drawing teacher for his neighbours

Laws are passed in France separating the Church from the State



Henri Rousseau *The Hungry Lion Throws itself on the Antelope* 1905  
Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel

1906

Rousseau moves to his final studio in Montparnasse, at 2 bis rue Perrel

He is introduced to the poet Guillaume Apollinaire and the painter Robert Delaunay, both of whom will become the artist's faithful friends and supporters

Dreyfus is pardoned and reinstated in the army

The artist Paul Cézanne dies

1907

*The Snake Charmer*, 1907, a commission from Robert Delaunay's mother, Berthe

Picasso paints *Les Desmoiselles d'Avignon*

Comtesse de Delaunay, is exhibited at the Salon d'Automne. Rousseau is persuaded by a musician friend to collaborate in a bank fraud

The crime is soon discovered and announced in the press; Rousseau writes letters protesting his innocence from prison

At his trial, the artist's naivety is his major defence and is demonstrated in court using his pictures

Colonial exhibition in the bois de Vincennes



Henri Rousseau *The Snake Charmer* 1907  
Musée d'Orsay, Paris. Bequest of Jacques Doucet, 1936

1908

Picasso and Apollinaire hold a legendary banquet at Picasso's studio in honour of Rousseau, perhaps to celebrate his eventual acquittal of bank fraud charges

Pathé's cinema, Le Métropole, opens

Charcot Antarctic mission begins (ends 1909)



Photo of Rousseau in in his studio at rue Perrel, Paris, 1907 by Dornac (fl.1890-1910)

Archives Larousse, Paris. Photo: Bridgeman Art Library

1909

Rousseau hosts soirées in his studio during the last few years of his life, entertaining important patrons of the arts, men of letters and avant-garde artists

Robert E Peary reaches the North Pole

Anarchist rebellion in Barcelona



Social gathering in Rousseau's apartment in rue Perrel, Paris, 1909-10. Rousseau is seated on the left. Bibliothèque Kandinsky, Centre Pompidou, Paris.

1910

*The Dream*, 1910, is exhibited at the Salon des Indépendants to general acclaim

Rousseau sells works to prominent artists and collectors

He falls in love with a middle-aged shop assistant, Léonie, who rejects him despite his elaborate efforts to impress her

Suffering from an infected leg wound, he dies heartbroken and impoverished in September

Only a few close friends attend his funeral

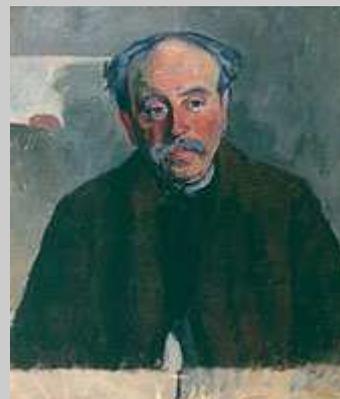
Major flooding of the Seine

Death of Edward VII and coronation of George V

Start of the Five Nations tournament

1911

The Salon des Indépendants pays homage to Rousseau with an exhibition of over forty works



Robert Delaunay *Portrait of Douanier Rousseau* c.1913-14

L&M services B V. Paris, Musée National d'Art Moderne - Centre Georges Pompidou  
© Photo CNAC/MNAM Dist.RMN / ©  
Droits reserves

1912

1913

Apollinaire's memorial inscription for Rousseau is engraved by the sculptor Constantin Brancusi and Ortiz de Zarate on a headstone purchased by Delaunay and Picasso



Rousseau's grave with poem by Apollinaire  
Photo: Cliché Musée de Vieux-Château,  
Laval