



The Eiffel Tower, a global icon of France, was completed in 1889 as the centerpiece of the Paris Exposition Universelle, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. Designed by engineer Gustave Eiffel and his team, the iron structure was initially controversial, with critics calling it an eyesore. Standing 330 meters (1,083 feet) tall today, it was the tallest man-made structure in the world until New York's Chrysler Building surpassed it in 1930. Initially intended to be dismantled after 20 years, the tower was saved by its usefulness as a radio transmission station. Now, it is one of the most visited monuments globally, attracting nearly 7 million tourists annually.