

# Jeanne Calment , the oldest person in history

Jeanne Louise Calment had the \_\_\_\_\_ confirmed human lifespan on record: 122 years and 164 days. It seems that fate strongly approved of the way Madam Calment lived her life.

Jeanne was born in Arles, France, \_\_\_\_ 21st February 1875. When the Eiffel Tower \_\_\_\_\_, she was 14 years old. It was at this time that she \_\_\_\_\_ Vincent van Gogh. 'He was dirty, badly dressed and disagreeable' she recalled in \_\_\_\_ interview given in 1988.



When she was 85, she \_\_\_\_\_ fencing, and she \_\_\_\_\_ on her bike when she reached 100. When Jeanne was 114, she starred in a film about her life; at 115 she had an \_\_\_\_\_ her hip, and at 117 she gave up \_\_\_\_\_ (having started at the age of 21 in 1896). Apparently, she didn't give up for health reasons, but because she didn't like \_\_\_\_\_ to ask someone to help her light a cigarette as she could not \_\_\_\_\_ well.

In 1965, Jeanne was 90 years old and had no heirs. She signed a deal to sell her apartment to a 47-year-old lawyer called André-François Raffray. He agreed \_\_\_\_\_ her a monthly sum of 2,500 francs on the condition that he would inherit her apartment after she died. \_\_\_\_\_, Raffray not only ended up paying Jeanne for 30 years, but died \_\_\_\_\_ she did at the age of 77. His widow was legally obliged to continue paying Madam Calment.

Until the end of her days, Jeanne retained sharp mental faculties. When she \_\_\_\_\_ on her 120th birthday what kind of future she expected to have, she replied: 'a very short one.'

## Quotes and rules of life from Jeanne Calment:

- 'Being young is a state of mind, it doesn't depend on one's body. I'm actually still a young girl, it's just that I \_\_\_\_\_ so good for the past 70 years.'
- 'I've only got one wrinkle, and I'm sitting on it.'
- 'I've been forgotten by our good lord.'
- 'Always keep your smile. That's how I explain my long life.'
- 'If you can't change something, don't worry about it.'
- 'I have a huge desire to live and a big appetite, especially for sweets.'
- 'I never wear mascara; I laugh until I cry too often.'
- 'I see badly, I hear badly, and I feel bad, but everything's fine.'
- 'I think I \_\_\_\_\_ of laughter.'
- 'I have legs of iron, but to \_\_\_\_\_ you the truth, they're starting to rust a bit.'
- (At the end of one interview, in response to a journalist \_\_\_\_\_ said he hoped they would meet again the following year): 'Why not? You're not that old, you'll still be here.'