

Simon's monologue

French announcement and train sound effects

Simon

And here I am deep in the forest, somewhere near Camors in Central Brittany. We were brought here aboard The Napoleon Express and, to all intents and purposes, we could be back in 1952 – for that is when the train first came into service. And it has to be said that our journey was a bit of a time travel.

There are several of us, wandering, lost, looking for the elusive café at Utopia. A very strange couple from 1892, dressed in full hiking gear, ordered us in the wrong direction. But we recovered our position by walking, and walking, and walking, and walking.

Occasionally, in the distance, we saw a cloud of dust as some motor vehicle whizzed along the highroad, trying to find a better way to the café at Utopia. We persevered and we were rewarded with fabulous coffee and, I'm told, excellent food from the café. I had taken precautions and packed my own lunch-box – egg mayonnaise sandwiches and an apple, so I was fine.

Voice 1

Really enjoyed it. A long walk, but it was very pleasant.

Voice 2

Fabulous trip. Lovely hiking. The dog and I enjoyed it. *(Laughter)*

Voice 3

I thoroughly enjoyed the train journey, thank you. Yes.

Voice 4

We three were lucky with the chap who we met in the jungle and told us all about the forest.

Voice 5

I think it's nice for people who haven't seen any trees before really. *(Laughter)*

Voice 6

I'll never look at trees in the same way.