



**08 July 2025**

**Context:** For the first time since 1923, France has reopened the River Seine for public swimming, following extensive clean-up efforts ahead of the Paris Olympics.



## About the Seine River:

### What it is?

- One of Europe's major historic rivers and a vital inland waterway.
- **Located in Northern France**, traversing key regions including Île-de-France and Normandy.

### Origin and Course:

- **Source:** Rises at Mont Tasselot in the Côte d'Or region of Burgundy at an altitude of 1,545 feet.
- **Length:** Extends 780 km (485 miles).
- **Mouth:** Empties into the English Channel at Le Havre.

**08 July 2025**

### **Geography and Flow:**

- Flows northwest through Paris, joining several tributaries—Aube, Yonne, Marne, and Oise.
- Features sluggish flow and navigability due to low elevation gradient (only 80 feet above sea level at Paris).
- Experience a tidal bore (mascaret) at an estuary, although this has lessened due to dredging.

### **Economic Significance:**

- Major commercial navigation route, especially below Paris, linking to Le Havre and Rouen.
- Connects to the Rhine, Belgian, Loire, and Saône-Rhône waterways.
- Recent upgrades made the river swimmable again, promoting tourism and ecological restoration.