**River Thames**

**Length**: 346 km (215 miles)

**Source**: Thames Head, Gloucestershire (England)

**Mouth**: Thames Estuary (North Sea)

**Other Facts About The River Thames**

* The River Thames is the second longest river in the UK.
* It is the most well-known of Britain’s rivers because it flows through central London. It also flows through (or really close by) some other important towns and cities in England, such as: Richmond, Kingston upon Thames, Windsor, Henley-on-Thames, Oxford and Reading.
* The Thames is tidal when it flows through London.
* More than 80 islands are contained in the River Thames. These include: the Isle of Sheppey, Canvey Island and Rose Isle.
* The Celts referred to the Thames as Tamesas (or Tamesis), which meant ‘dark’.
* About two thirds of London’s drinking water comes from the Thames.
* The River Thames has several tributaries, including: the River Churn, Windrush, Cherwell, Thame, Loddon and Mole. Several rivers also join the Thames after it has become tidal. These include: the River Brent, Effra, Westbourne and Fleet.
* The Thames becomes tidal below Teddington Lock. This is just over 50 miles from the Thames Estuary (and the river’s mouth).
* The Thames is the home to many different types of creatures. Lots of birds can be found at different points along the course of the Thames from source to mouth (such as herons, moorhens, grebes, kingfishers and coots). The Thames supports lots of different fish species too, including: trout, chub, roach, pike and many more.
* John Burns (a Battersea MP) famously described the Thames as ‘liquid history’. He meant that River Thames was responsible for supporting settlements upon its banks through British history, from Neolithic times to today. The Thames has witnessed the birth of London and many of the key events in Britain’s history.
* The Thames has been bridged more than 200 times and it has been tunnelled under more than 15 times. Many of today’s bridges have been built on the site of much earlier crossing points.

**Major landmarks along the Thames River (London):**

* Hampton Court Palace
* Tate Britian and Tate Modern
* The Palace of Westminster
* The London Eye
* Tower of London

# **River Danube: Facts and Information**

**Here are some facts about the River Danube.**

**Source:** Donaueschingen, Germany

**Mouth:** The Black Sea

* Danube is Europe’s second longest river, after the [River Volga](http://primaryfacts.com/1859/volga-river-facts/). It flows for 1,785 miles from the Black Forest in Germany to the Black Sea.
* The Danube flows through or flows along the borders of 10 countries: [Germany](http://primaryfacts.com/5354/germany-facts-and-information/), [Austria](http://primaryfacts.com/4913/austria-facts-and-information/), Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Moldova, [Ukraine](http://primaryfacts.com/5387/ukraine-facts-and-information/) and [Romania](http://primaryfacts.com/5400/romania-facts-and-information/). It also flows through four capital cities: Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade.
* The Danube has a drainage area of about 315,000 square miles. It has about 300 tributaries, of which about 30 are navigable.
* The Danube’s delta is the second largest in the world and it is still growing. It is also Europe’s largest wetlands reserve and is home to about 5000 species of plants, birds and animals.
* About a third of the river’s total length is in Hungary. Hungary’s capital, Budapest is one of Europe’s most beautiful cities and is sometimes called Queen of the Danube.
* During the 7th century BC, Greek sailors were navigating the river. During Roman times, the Danube River served as the northern boundary of the vast Roman Empire.
* The first river cruises on the River Danube were in the early 19th century. Today, Danube river cruises are still incredibly popular.
* Although some people still fish in the Danube, fishing has declined over the last few centuries.
* About 10 million people in Europe get their drinking water from the Danube.
* Over the centuries, the River Danube has inspired artists, writers and composers. One of the most famous works is a piece of music called The Blue Danube by Johann Strauss.
* There are hiking trails and bike trails along much of the Danube’s length. The hiking trail runs for about 600 miles, while the cycle trail covers the entire length of the river.

**Landmarks along the Danube River:**

* Budapest
* Vienna
* Passau
* Melk Abbey
* The Iron Gates
* Esztergom Cathedral