

The River Thames

The Thames flows through London, the capital city, and has played a pivotal role in British history for some 2000 years. From the Roman invasions of 43 BC to the turn of the millennium in AD 2000, some of the most famous events in British history have taken place on or near the Thames. These include the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215, the plot to blow up the houses of Parliament in 1605 and the Great Fire of London in 1666.

The **Thames** is a mere 346 km (215 miles) long. It is England's longest river and the second longest river in the **United Kingdom**.

Source (origin)	Kemble, near Cirencester in Gloucestershire.
Mouth	North Sea
Length	346 km (215 miles)

Twenty-four bridges span the **Thames** in London, from Kew Bridge to Tower Bridge. Some are railway bridges and there is a footbridge, however most are road bridges. The oldest is London Bridge, which was originally made from wood. In 1209 it was replaced by a stone bridge with shops and houses along its sides. This was followed by a granite bridge in 1831, and the present concrete bridge in 1973.

