

LA SEINE

The Seine basin comprises of the river and its tributaries, l'Yonne, l'Oise, La Marne et l'Aisne and extends under 17 departments and 5 regions. It represents 1500km of navigable waterway namely a quarter of the navigable french network. The Seine cross 25 locks.

This page covers our presentation of the navigation of the Seine without mentioning the tributaries.

From Marcilly to the sea, the Seine takes successive names:

- Petite Seine
- Haute Seine
- Basse Seine
- Seine Maritime

Travelling from Marcilly to the sea the Seine has sufficient high water for navigation every day for inflatable boats, you will find a minimum depth of 1.2m.

Attention: As insurance is not obligatory for boats it is demanded for stopping in the majority of ports.

Attention: Fuel stops are not very numerous on the Seine.

In case of accidents you must call no. 18 on the telephone.

The Seine is managed by Les Voies Navigables de France and all navigation is controlled by buying a vignette. It is obligatory to have a vignette on board the boat.

It is possible to subscribe to the VNF by email.

THE SEINE AVAL

The Seine Aval extends from Paris to the sea with a distance of 355km. Rouen marks the limit of tidal navigation. The maritime section starts at the bridge Jeanne d'Arc at Rouen. There are 7 locks present on the Seine Aval.

The journey on the Seine is punctuated by two large ports:

- Port Autonome of Rouen
- Port de Plaisance of Havre

Locks in service between Paris and the sea:

- PK 16,800 Lock de Suresnes
- PK 44,600 Lock de Chatou
- PK 48,700 Lock de Bougival
- PK 72,700 Lock d'Andrézy
- PK 120,580 Lock de Méricourt
- PK 161,100 Lock de Dame de la Garenne
- PK 202,350 Lock de Poses Amfreville

The Tancarville Canal

The canal is 25m long and is accessible by pleasure boat but is used a lot for commercial traffic.

Speeds on the Seine

- Between the lock of the English port and the bridge de Sevres (PK12) – 18km per hour
- Between Le Pont de Sevres (PK12 and PK233) – 20km per hour
- Between PK233 and the bridge Jeanne d'Arc at Rouen (PK242) – 18km per hour
- Between the bridge Jeanne d'Arc at Rouen (PK242) and La Bouille (PK260) – 14km per hour
- Downstream from La Bouille (PK260) – 28km per hour

Speed limit of 12km per hour in the surroundings of the working sections of navigation, less than 20m from the shore and in the secondary arms.

Speed limit of 60km per hour in the basins of speed.

Regulations on the Seine

For pleasure boats navigation at night is authorised between Rouen and the sea from the hour of sunrise minus 30 minutes to the hour of sunset plus 30 minutes.

The wearing of a life jacket is obligatory during all times and manoeuvres in the locks.

Stopping on the Seine

For pleasure boats stopping is authorised amongst others,

- At Rouen at the pleasure river stop, Ile Lacroix, on the left bank of the side of pré du Loup.
- For a short time at the pleasure stops of Limay, Meulan, Andrésy, Conflans Sainte Honorinen, La Frette, Bougival, Chatou.

Hours of Functioning of the Locks (from the sea up to the lock of Port à l'Anglais)

- Free passage every day between 7:00am and 7:00pm except public holidays: 1 January, Easter Sunday and the Pentecost, 1 & 8 May, 14 July, 15 August, 1 & 11 November, 25 December.

Lock Usage

- Pleasure boats enter at the rear in the lock.
- Pleasure boats are locked if possible at the same time as professional boats.
- If after waiting 20 minutes in front of a lock there is no professional boat arriving the pleasure boat is locked through.
- Boats showing a red flag at the front have priority to the locks.
- The lock is contactable on Channel 9 VHF.

Pleasure Navigation in Paris

Attention: Commercial navigation and tourist boats have priority. Les bateaux mouches are very numerous and all boats carrying passengers have right of passage under the central arches of the bridge.

All nautical sports are prohibited in Paris.

The wearing of a life jacket is obligatory for all travel through Paris.
VHF is obligatory on each boat (Channel 10).

Warning for the periods of flooding.

Speed

There is limit of 18km per hour for pleasure in Paris.

Beyond 12km per hour pleasure boats must not approach less than 20m of the banks.

From bridge Sully to bridge Neuf (crossing the island Saint-Louis and the city) the speed minimum must be 6km per hour for the montants (?) and of 8km per hour for the avalants (?)

Stopping

Stopping in the commercial ports is forbidden by all pleasure boats.

In Paris the only stopping point for pleasure boats is le port de l'Arsenal on the canal Saint-Martin after passage through the lock Saint-Martin.

Navigation at night in Paris

Navigation at night in Paris is authorised. ??

VHF on the Seine

- Captain of the port du Havre: call on 16 with traffic on 12 or 20
- Captain of the port of Rouen: call and traffic on 73 (eventually 11).
- Pleasure port in Paris: 9
- National Marine canal and security of Paris: 10

PETROL ON THE SEINE

The availability of petrol is a difficult point on the Seine for boats of small range.
Advice – if you see the possibility of refuelling, take it, do not wait a second.

On the Seine Aval

No port exists on the Seine which permits refueling from quay or barge. This operation is possible on leaving la Seine in Le Havre, but it must not be at low tide as the pump hoses will not reach the boat.
The solution consists of using cans or jerricans and finding a station in the towns.

There are amongst other:

Caudebac - some tens of metres of boat pontoon for short stay with 2 stations in the town open 24-7.

Duclair - some tens of metres of boat pontoon for short stay with 1 station in the town open 24-7

Rouen – beneath the dyke du Pre au Loup there is found a station open during the day. This station is found hundreds of metres if you pull up alongside du Pre au Loup. (Difficult to see and strong currents).
If you arrive at the pleasure stop of Rouen under the L'île Lacroix, and you pass the bridge Corneille it is little more than 1km.

Contrary to what most think, it is best and easiest with cans from stations in the towns. which are not more than tens of metres from the banks.

There is for example a station at Levallois Perret.