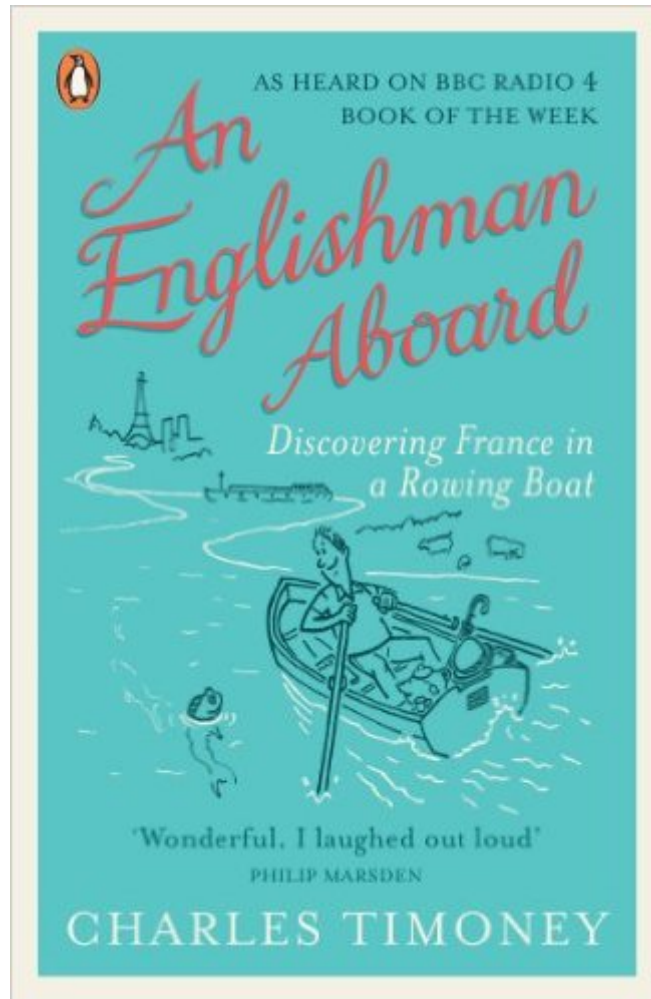


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An Englishman Aboard: Discovering France In A Rowing Boat



Synopsis

From the author of *Pardon My French* and *A Certain Je Ne Sais Quoi*, this is the charming and hilariously funny story of one man's attempt to travel the entire length of the Seine by boat. When Charles shows his friends the rowing boat he has spent the last six months building, he little realizes the adventures that lie ahead. Several glasses of champagne later (it is New Year's Eve), he finds himself betting he will travel the entire length of the Seine from source to the sea in the next year and discover the true France. But the reality proves somewhat more difficult than he had expected. As Charles sets sail into an unvarnished France on a variety of craft from steamers to police patrol boats to inflatables, he encounters truffle-thieving terriers and obsessive fishermen, grapples with strong rapids and stubborn cattle, and is nearly destroyed by a cheese so smelly it comes with its own health warning. This is the charming and often hilarious story of Charles's Quixotic quest and the most unique guide to the true France that you will find.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An Englishman Abroad – *Discovering France in a Rowing Boat* is set along the Seine river from the source to the sea. This is the author's third travelogue – living in France for more than 20 years. Charles took six months to build a 7-foot rowing boat from a kit, with a sudden plan to travel along the Seine in a variety of river transport, with stops and starts throughout the year, taking in the sights, museums, and the French cuisine. The book is written in three parts, representing the three parts of the Seine: (1) source to Paris, (2) the Paris area, and (3) Paris to sea. The Seine is a very bendy and 776 kilometres (470 miles) long – twice the length of The Thames in Britain. His

French wife, Ines, accompanies him on his journey. He begins in his rowing boat from Burgundy on the plateau de Langres (the source of Le Petit Seine). His rowing boat is classified as a menues embarcations â “ a very small craft â “ which is banned on Parisian waters, so in Paris he begins with a shuttle-boat from Maisons-Alfort to Parc de Bercy, a catamaran, and a Batobus (boat-bus). He gets back into his rowing boat from Bougival â ^shaken, but not stirredâ ™ by passing barges. On the third leg to the sea he travels on Sergeâ ™s barge, Dimitriâ ™s small cruiser with a â ^whopping great outboard motor on the backâ ™, Christopheâ ™s 1963 amphicar (that looks like a convertible with propellers), Dominiqueâ ™s large cabin cruiser, Jean-Francoisâ ™ sailing boat, then a bac (river ferry). For the last part he rows to the seaside city of Le Havre and Le Pont de Normandie â “ the 257th and final bridge over the river Seine. I think the title is long and misleading. It is not about discovering France, but about discovering the Seine â “ a very small part of France.

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