

The port of Rouen: more than two thousand years of history

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- **Around 50 BCE**, Greek geographer Strabo wrote that Rouen was a major hub for maritime dealings with England. In Strabo's view, the Seine was "one of the most beautiful thoroughfares for commerce formed by nature".
- Rotomagus (the Gallo-Roman name for Rouen) was the base for trade transshipments between the Roman Empire and its Britannia province (present-day Great Britain). However, this era ends when the Vikings reduce the city to ashes (**841-842**).
- **911**: The river now becomes a source of prosperity once again: Rollo and the Plantagenets build warehouses in Rouen for cargo arriving from the Baltic and Mediterranean.
- **From the close of the Middle Ages**, the port of Rouen also begins to develop direct seagoing trade with Italy.
- **From the 15th to the 18th centuries**: shipowners and navigators participate, departing from the ports of Rouen and Honfleur, in epic ocean explorations, establishing trade ties with the entire world.
- **31 May 1846**: A law is passed for the commencement of works on the Seine navigation channel and estuary. The port's capacity to accommodate shipping expands.
- **1816**: the Elise, the first steamship, calls at the port.
- **1885**: the Statue of Liberty is loaded at Rouen for its journey to New York.
- **1918**: port traffic expands rapidly during the First World War. At over 10Mt, Rouen becomes France's biggest port.
- **1941 to 1943**: the Second World War reduces port traffic to zero and bombing raids destroy virtually all the port's infrastructure.
- **In the 1950s**, a number of port facilities are set up:
 - 1958: Simarex begins operations, and the first Rouen grain export silo is built,
 - 1968: Soufflet,
 - 1971: MRM (now Sénalia),
 - 2016: Beuzelin (now BZ Group).
- **1960**: development of a new navigation channel in the Seine estuary.
- **1974**: entry into service of the Radicatel quay.
- **1981**: entry into service of Grand-Couronne Quay.
- **2006**: launch of the Rouen sea access improvement programme to enable the port to accommodate the latest generation of bulk carriers.
- **2008**: Rouen Port Authority is now designated as "Rouen Major Seaport".
- **2012**: creation of HAROPA as an Economic Interest Grouping comprising the ports of Le Havre, Rouen and Paris.
- **1 June 2021**: creation of HAROPA PORT.



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