

The Channel Tunnel

The idea of making an undersea tunnel linking France and England was first talked about in 1751. Construction of the Channel didn't start till 1998. It was built under the body of water separating southern England from northern France, called the English Channel. Starting at the Strait of Dover. It took 13,000 workers technicians and engineers six years to build the tunnel. The digging was more difficult in France so the English were making better progress. The total cost of the construction was €15 billion, over four times as much as originally planned. The British decided to build a massive wall in the sea to hold the earth removed from the seabed while the Channel tunnel was being built. The earth was piled higher than sea level about 80 hectares of land was called Samphire Hoe. It's now popular for picnicking, fishing and walking with over 80,000 people visiting it each year. The Channel tunnel is the world's longest sea tunnel. The seikan tunnel in Japan is the world's deepest sea tunnel at 240m deep.



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