



Florence Chadwick, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 1966



Personal Website (None known)

Florence Chadwick was a typist and swimming coach from California. At 32 years old, she became the first woman to swim from England to France in 1951. A year earlier, she swam from Cap Gris Nez, France to South Foreland, England. Her three England-to-France swims each set a record for the fastest time, including her 16 hours and 22 minutes crossing in 1951, her 1953 crossing and her 13 hours and 55 minutes crossing in October 1955. On her last three successful swims she also attempted over-and-back routes but gave up on the return leg on each occasion. In 1952, she also successfully crossed the Catalina Channel in 13 hours and 45 minutes.

She is also an inductee in the International Swimming Hall of Fame (1970).

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)