



English Channel

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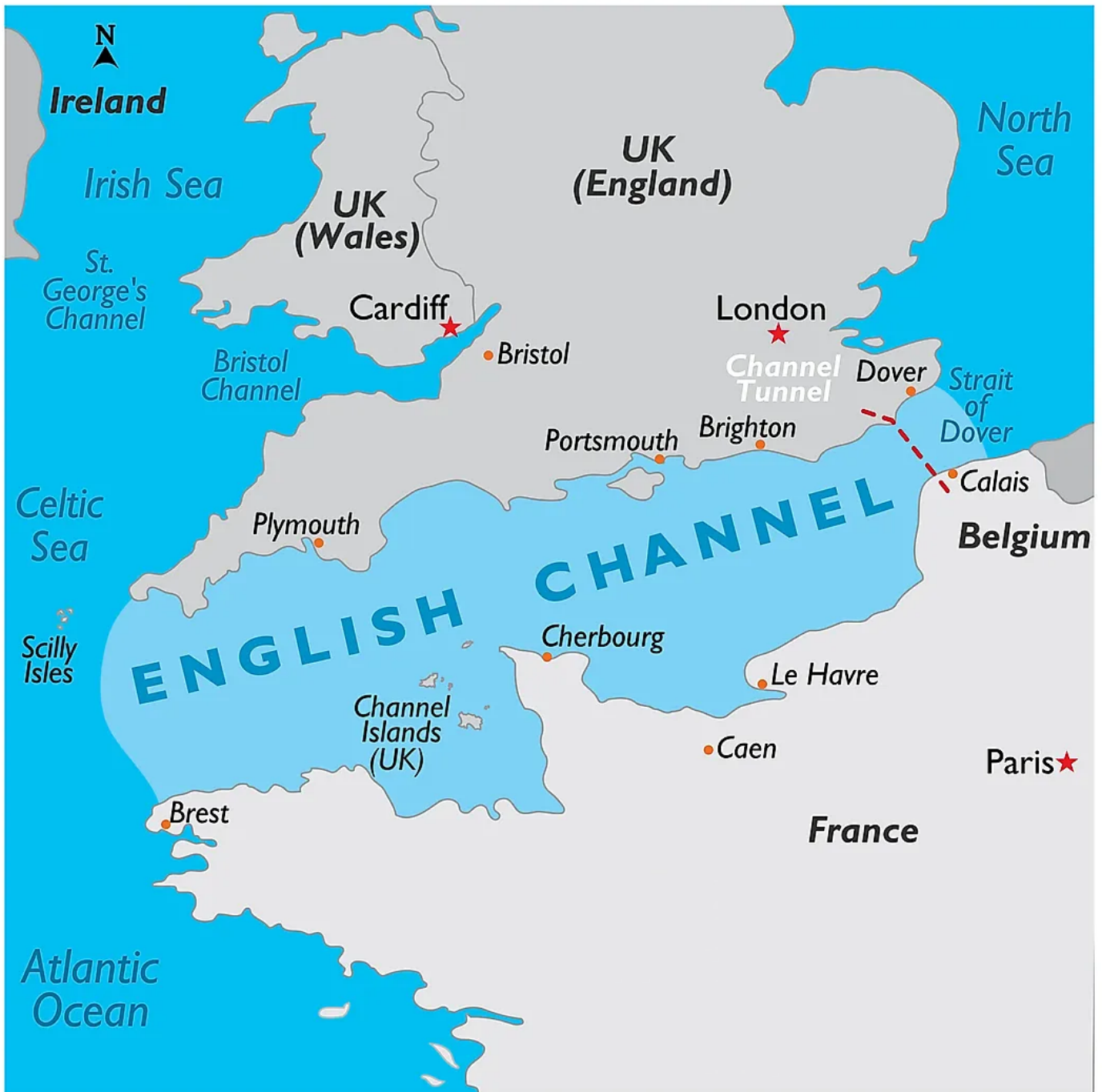
Recently, 5 people died trying to cross the English Channel in a small boat on the backdrop of the [British parliament passing a controversial law](#) that would **permit the deportation of those seeking asylum in the U.K. to Rwanda.**

- According to the UK Government, the new law is needed as a deterrent to migrants and smuggling gangs.

English Channel:

- It is an **arm of the Atlantic Ocean that separates southern England from northern France.**
- It is **connected to the southern part of the [North Sea](#)** through the **Strait of Dover** at its northeastern tip.
- It is about **560 km long** and varies in **width from 240 km** at its widest to 34 km in the Strait of Dover. It is the **busiest shipping area** in the world.
- It was a **key factor** in Britain becoming a **naval superpower** and has been utilised by Britain as a **natural defence mechanism** and prevented invasions, such as the Napoleonic Wars and those of Adolf Hitler in [World War II.](#)
- The two dominant cultures are **English on the north shore** of the Channel, **and French on the south.**
- There is a **50.46-kilometre undersea railway tunnel** known as **Channel Tunnel.**
 - It was **opened in 1994** and connects Folkestone (England) with Coquelles (France) beneath the English Channel at the Strait of Dover.

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Read more: [UK's North Sea Drilling](#)

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