

Cathedral conflagration

The centuries-old Notre-Dame cathedral was nearly consumed in a devastating fire on Monday. Rebuilding the world heritage monument could take decades.

TIMELINE

Monday, April 15

Around 6.50pm

Fire starts in the roof of Notre-Dame cathedral, according to firefighters

7.40pm

Fire spreads to the giant spire of the cathedral

7.53pm

Cathedral's spire collapses

8.07pm

Entire roof collapses

8.20pm

French President Emmanuel Macron visits the scene

8.25pm

Paris' Ile de la Cite, the island on which Notre-Dame sits, is evacuated by police

8.30pm

The fire spreads to one of the church's landmark rectangular towers; firefighters move inside the cathedral

8.30pm

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo says firefighters are optimistic they can salvage Notre-Dame's main towers from flames

Tuesday, April 16

8am

The Paris Fire Service says Notre-Dame's structure and artworks have been saved, with two police officers and one firefighter slightly wounded

8.45am

Paris firefighters confirm that the blaze at the cathedral has been fully extinguished

BY THE NUMBERS

850 years

Age of the cathedral

1991

The cathedral is designated a Unesco World Heritage site

400

Number of firefighters

Entire roof was engulfed in flames

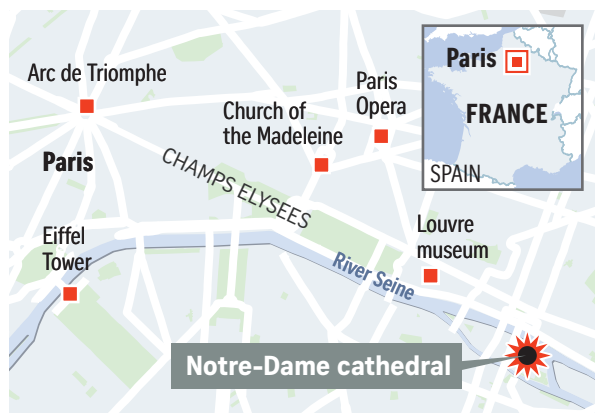
High altar

30,000

visitors per day on average

12m-14m

visitors per year



Height of spire
96 metres

Spire collapsed in the fire

Scaffolding was in this area

Flying buttresses

North Rose window



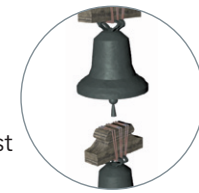
The treasury

Keeps objects (vases, ornaments, books) intended for liturgy of the Catholic Church



The Great Organ

Around 8,000 pipes, 5 keyboards of 56 notes, a 32-note pedalboard, and 109 stops



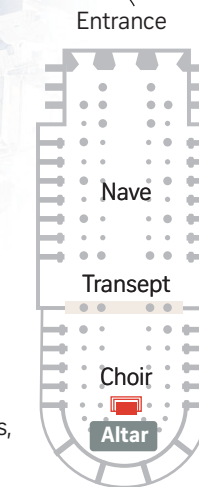
South Tower
(built 1220-40)

A second grand bell (13 tonnes) was added, dating back from 15th century, and recast in 1681 upon the order of King Louis XIV



North Tower
(1235-50)

The four bells in 1856 were withdrawn and replaced by eight new ones in 2013



HISTORY

1163 Laying of the first stone in the presence of Pope Alexander III

1163-1250

Construction of the choir, the nave, the transept, the portals, the facade and the two towers

1250-1345

2nd phase of construction, incorporating Gothic elements, widening of transepts, layout of the choir chapels

1572 Wedding of Henry of Navarre, future Henry IV, with Marguerite de Valois

1730 Installation of the Great Organ

1792 The cathedral is renamed "Temple of Reason" by rioters of the Revolution who shoot down the statues from the King's Gallery and dismantle the spire

1804 Napoleon crowns himself in the presence of Pope Pius VII

1831 Victor Hugo publishes Notre-Dame de Paris (The Hunchback of Notre-Dame)

1843-1864

Restoration work by Jean-Baptiste-Antoine Lassus and Eugene Viollet-le-Duc

HISTORICAL LANDMARKS DESTROYED BY FIRES



Windsor Castle (built 1070)
Britain
Nov 1992

Venice opera house (1792)
Venice, Italy
1996

Gran Teatre del Liceu (1847)
Barcelona, Spain
1994

Grand Theatre of Geneva
(19th century)
Switzerland
1951



National Museum (1818)
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Sept 2018



National Library (1896)
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Aug 1992